



We Remember Them:

A message from Rabbi Benmosche

As many of you know, this will be my second High Holidays without my father. The year that he was dying, each one of us asked him for something special — my brother asked for a week of wine tasting in California, my mother spent the summer with him in our home in Dubrovnik, and I decided to ask him to give the *d'var Torah* at Machar on Kol Nidre. He was also at the service that I helped write and put together for Yom Kippur morning. I remember his reaction to this passage from the poem I wrote called, "Come, Unity":

We are in this place
Forming this community today
And these exact people
Will never be together again
Someone will be missing
Someone is already walking in late
Some of us won't be able to join this group
This time
Next year

He turned to my mother and whispered to her, "Oh. She's talking about me." And he was right. I was. And I was right. He died six months later.

This year, I will focus on the theme of rituals of dying and mourning. There are several ways that I hope to achieve this.

First, on Yom Kippur this year, after our regular service ends, there will be a *Nizkor* service. In Hebrew, *Nizkor* means, we remember. It is modelled after the traditional service called *yizkor*, which means he shall remember. We will gather together, and remember the loved ones we have lost — this month, this year, this season in years past and all the losses of our lives. I'd like to ask you to bring something tangible — a photo, a memento — and a story, to share with the group.

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Also, my adult education session, November 6, will be a survey of the practices for dying and mourning from other SHJ communities. We will also introduce to the community the discounted funeral rate that we recently acquired by joining the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington.

Finally, I'd like to start a text messaging group for those Machar members who are in mourning. It will be a virtual group of individuals who are just there to support each other. I hope those who join the texting group will be able to get together in person for *nizkor* observances throughout the year as well. *Yizkor* is traditionally recited on Yom Kippur, Shmini Atzeret (the end of Sukkot), the end of Passover, and Shavuot. Since there are no formal communal celebrations for these other groups, hopefully those who are interested will gather in room 7 at Cedar Lane or at member's homes throughout the year for these times to remember.

The photo I added with this letter is from my trip to Israel this summer. Elie and I went to visit the grave of my great-grandfather in Jerusalem during our trip. He died in 1949 while he was visiting his brother. There is so much history in the people of our lives. In their stories. According to my great-aunt, my great-grandfather used to say:

"One day, Hannelore, I won't be here anymore. But you see that clock up there on the wall. It keeps going whether I'm here or not. Time goes on. Life goes on. And you will live without me."

My great-aunt is 92 today. She goes on without him, even though there was a time in her young life that she couldn't imagine a day without him. After hiding from the Nazis in



the woods for months at the end of the war and living off raw potatoes when you are only 14 years old, it feels impossible to imagine life without the father who saved you.

My father saved me many times, though not in the ways my aunt needed help to survive. We all have stories of the humanity of those we lost.

The choir will sing a new song during Kol Nidre called, "We Remember Them." I will end as it does:

"For as long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us as we remember them."

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

MACHAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2016-17

The membership renewal process for the upcoming 2016-17 membership and Jewish Cultural School year is now underway. Please [click here](#) to renew your membership and enroll in our Jewish Cultural School via the [Machar website](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, or have not yet received your renewal information via mail, please feel free to contact Jane at administrator@machar.org.

Please also take a moment to review our [volunteer list](#) to see where you are able to contribute to your community.

Machar News/Clubs & Activities



Celebrate the High Holidays with Machar!



Rabbi Nehama
Benmosche

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, October 3

Children's service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 12

Children's service 9:30 a.m.; Main service 10:30 a.m.

All services at Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Special offer to local Machar members: Invite two non-member relatives to attend High Holidays free of charge. Request admission at least one week in advance at www.machar.org.

40th Year of Machar

Machar starts its 40th Year of Secular Humanistic Judaism for all ages in DC, MD and VA!

Join us on Sunday, September 11, at 10 a.m. to reconnect and re-energize for the coming year. Find your focus in Machar activities in the coming year; learn about upcoming events, adult education programs and social havurah; and join in the fun.

Children will also have their first day of Jewish Cultural School that day under the leadership of Shel Lyons.

Playreaders Wanted!

A group of us will be meeting on a few evenings to plan an oral interpretation presentation to Machar this fall of a play written by one of Machar's founders, Jules Abrams. We will be honoring Jules, who died in May 2016.

Contact Marlene or Donna if you'd like to be a reader:

MarleneCCohen@comcast.net

bassin.donna@gmail.com

WITs

Rose Levine

In June, the wonderful women of WITs met at the home of Darlene Basch and in July, enjoyed a pool party and lovely dinner at the home of Marlene Cohen. Thank you, Darlene and Marlene, for your gracious hospitality. As always, delicious food and loving camaraderie were enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, August 17, we will be meeting at the home of Vicki Wallshein, and on Wednesday, September 21, Eva Shankman will be our hostess. I will send out a group email well before the dates to remind everyone of the upcoming meetings and to see how many we expect so I may let our hosts know.

WITs is open to all female members of Machar and we are always delighted to welcome new members. If you would like more information about WITs, or to have your name added to our email list to keep abreast of our happenings, please contact me, Rose Levine, jay3026@msn.com.

Donations in Honor & Memory of:

Renee Weitzner, a donation for the Adult Education Committee, in honor of Marlene Cohen for all the wonderful work she has done for our community.

Kosher Cocktails with Machar: A liquid seder to remember

On July 8, the Machar Young (at heart) Havurah group got together for Passover-themed cocktails at Jon and Rebecca Desenberg's house in Arlington. The theme was a Friday evening mixology event that captured the flavors of Judaism in a glass. With a great crowd of both current and prospective congregation members it was a chance to explore the fun side of our heritage with good conversation, music and laughter.

The menu of three drinks kicked off with a short glass of homemade beet and horseradish infused vodka, inspired by an old Russian recipe and packing a punch with bright purple beet shade and all the flavor of the favorite sinus clearing bitter herb.

Many guests chose the Karpas Cocktail for their next drink, which blended famed Plymouth Gin with fresh parsley, lime, and a few secret ingredients for an invigorating springtime elixir.

Perhaps the night's favorite was the Ten Plagues Punch, guaranteed to make the Egyptians forget all about enslaving anyone. Starting with a homemade Iced Tea, a 10-year aged Kentucky Bourbon, simple syrup and a few other proprietary herbs and ingredients, the Ten Plagues Punch was served on ice with a lemon wedge.

At sunset David and Katie Wittenberg presented their incredible homemade loaf of Challah for a humanistic Shabbat blessing of the bread. Also many thanks to Liz Pomper, for her unflagging support of Machar social events, including this one.

Planning for Kosher Cocktails was inspired by Joshua and Tricia Schnell's wonderful Machar family hike in 2015 and the hope is for further events in Northern Virginia in the future for families and adults of all ages.

Whaddaya Talkin'?

Marlene Cohen

In which Machar's newsletter will provide you with your monthly word in Yiddish — use it ten times this month and you won't forget it!

mishigas / michegoss / mishegaas

Pronounced "mish eh GOSS"

This word derives from the Hebrew word for insane, *meshuga*. But it isn't usually used to say someone is literally insane, but rather shows a sense of craziness, or engagement in senseless activity, as for some of the following complaints:

- Your comment was absurd, nonsense.
- The situation we are in is so unreal as to defy explanation (Rosten, "The Joys of Yinglish").
- She's clowning around.
- He keeps talking about the same thing for far too long.

So we might ask ourselves, "What is the mishigas of this crazy Presidential election?"

Learning Tour of Philadelphia

Oct 28-30, 2016

**Jewish
Secular and Humanistic
American**

**International Institute for Secular Humanistic
Judaism**

Highlights Include:

- Private tours of historic synagogues
- Walking Tour of Colonial Jewish Philadelphia
- Custom tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History
- Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and other American icons
- Many more stops in the City of Brotherly Love/Sisterly Affection
- Discussions led by IISHJ Dean for North America Rabbi Adam Chalom

**Complete Itinerary and Registration at
<http://learningphilly.eventbrite.com>**

**For more information contact IISHJ Operations Manager Kate Forest
operations@iishj.org (847) 383-6330**

JCS 2016-2017 Update

Shel Lyons

We have an amazing group of teachers, including five returning teachers. After years as the JCS Director, Debby will be leading the B'nei Mitzvah class. Sarah, well-loved last year, will be returning to 6th grade. Noa will move up with last year's 4th grade class to teach 5th grade. Heather will be teaching tots (her passion!) after leading our 5th grade class last year. Scott will be coming back as a music leader. While we were sad when Terry decided to take this year as a sabbatical from teaching, we hope he'll substitute when available.

In addition, we have brand new amazing teachers with lots of experience leading our first Pre-K/K class, our 1st/2nd grade class, our 3rd grade class and our 4th grade class — I look forward to introducing them to the

community via the new JCS blog at MacharDC.blogspot.com and in person on September 11!

Teens!!! There will be a very interactive teen session on September 11 led by yours truly, after the shared experience scheduled for 10 a.m. prompt — teens who show up will give input on choosing a teen leader for this year.

Following JCS classes, Adult Ed, and the teen program, the 2016 Camp Expo for Humanist Jews from ages 2-18, will be held in our lobby with camp representatives from around the country. The Expo will run from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 11. I invite you to find out more by following my blog at MacharDC.blogspot.com.

JCS Directors Past & Present



The 411 on Machar 911

In the event of a personal emergency, please contact:

Rabbi@machar.org / 215.475.2814

Administrator@machar.org / 202.686.1881

President@machar.org

Due to the fact that we are a volunteer organization and our staff members are employed part-time, please contact more than one person in the event of an immediate need or concern. This will help ensure that all requests are responded to in a timely manner.

The Machar Family

Birthdays

August 1: Hank Prensky
August 7: Benjamin Topa
August 8: Lola Ehart Rogin
August 8: Jamie Lewis
August 9: Miriam Lyons
August 11: Jon Desenberg
August 14: Joseph Goodman
August 16: Douglas Ratay
August 17: Willow Theresa Sandra Rogin
August 19: Cassia Block
August 19: Brenda Platt
August 22: Donna Copeland
August 23: Liz Pomper
August 24: Mischa Blue Ehart Rogin
August 26: Andrew Weiss
August 29: Ellen Rosenthal
August 30: Erik Kjeldgaard

September 1: Stephen Leblanc
September 2: Caroline Simon
September 2: Jason Lubin
September 3: Ana Schnell
September 3: Billy Schnell
September 9: Mimi Brody
September 11: Carole Leblanc
September 13: Ari Schwartz
September 14: Hazel Hand
September 14: Sol Prensky
September 15: Amit Handari-Levy
September 16: Mitchell Rosenthal
September 17: Sue Popkin
September 18: Debra DeRuyver
September 19: Marty David
September 19: David Godden
September 21: Anna Greenberg
September 23: Rachel Epstein-Shuman
September 24: Rob Goor
September 25: Jessica Ratay
September 26: Julia Dancis
September 27: Daniel DeMocker
September 28: Deb Godden
September 28: Jacob Kaster
September 30: Logan Eliot

Anniversaries

August 2: Faith & Mark Lewis
August 3: Hildie & Joel Block
August 5: Patricia Meeks Schnell & Joshua Schnell
August 7: Debra DeRuyver & Dan Tobocman
August 30: Eva & Bert Shankman
August 31: Marty & Will David
August: Abigail Smith & Michael Zamore
September 1: Alison Barnes & Stephen Cohen
September 2: Marlene Cohen & Michael Kidwell
September 11: Kathy Hudson & Joe Palca
September 13: Mildred & Joseph Goodman
September 16: Shelly & Dick Schwab
September 20: Claire Huson & David Goldberg
September 30: Jennifer Guilfoyle & Mark Swartz

Yarhzeits: We remember...

August 4: Beatrice Basch, mother of Darlene Basch
August 19: Dyna Kaplan, grandmother of Leah Kaplan
August 20: Albert Warshauer, father of Susan Warshauer Kahn
August: Jayne Friedman, great-aunt of Danielle Leff

September 2: Martha Cohen, mother of Marlene Cohen
September 8: Harold Black
September 19: Phillip Gould
September 20: Mori Basch, father of Darlene Basch
September 22: Ruth Hartogensis, mother of Deb Godden
September 24: Jean Martinez, mother of Holly Cambell-Rosen
September 29: I. James Weitzner, father of Renee Weitzner

Staff, Board of Directors and Leadership

Staff

Rabbi

Nehama Benmosche

Congregational Administrator

Jane Christenson

Jewish Cultural School Director

Shel Lyons

Board of Directors

President

Rahel Hanadari

Treasurer

Ester Rozenblum

Secretary

Past President

Darlene Basch

At-Large

Myrna Frank

Norm Hall

Joyce Rosenthal

Jack Schwartz

Honorary Directors

Jules Abrams (*deceased*)

Harold Black (*deceased*)

Ann Black (*deceased*)

Joe Goodman

Millie Goodman

Mary Perica

Michael Prival

Henrietta Wexler

Board Liaisons

B'nei Mitzvah

Norm Hall

Newsletter

Rabbinic

Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed

David Abramson

Myrna Frank

Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service

Barbara Francisco

Education

Email Lists Manager

Michael Prival

Fundraising

High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

Liturgy

Membership

Darlene Basch

Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

Mishpahah

Renée Weitzner

New Members

Marlene Cohen

Newsletter Editor

Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

Passover Seder

Rabbi Committee

Joy Markowitz

Social Action

Peter Kahn

Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club

Darlene Basch

Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot

Donna Copeland

Volunteer Coordinator

Marina Broitman

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Rose Levine

Young Adult Havurah

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (President)

Rick Gold

Machar Trained Leaders

Michael Prival, Madrikh

Deb Godden, Madrikha

Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson



Directions to Machar

“Cedar Lane” events are held at Cedar Lane UU Church. 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD.

From DC, go north on Wisconsin Ave. (Rt. 355), pass the Naval Hospital, right on Cedar Lane, cross Beach Dr., 2nd entrance on right. From 495, Rockville, etc., take Rockville Pike (Rt. 355) S to left on Cedar to 9601. Metro: Red Line to Medical Center. Walk ½ mile north on 355, right on Cedar, 0.7 miles, or Ride-On Bus #34 (ask the driver).

“JPDS” is the site of our Jewish Cultural School (JCS). 6045 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Metro: Red Line to Silver Spring. S-2 or S-4 bus to Federal Triangle to Military Road and cross 16th Street. JCS and Adult Ed begin promptly at 10 a.m.; please arrive early.

For meetings in private homes, contact hosts for directions.

Machar E-mail Lists for Members and Nonmembers

Michael Prival

There are two different e-mail lists that Machar members can join. The first, the “Machar” list, enables members to receive the monthly Newsletter, event reminders by email and announcements of program changes that may occur

Interested in Advertising with Machar? Contact [info at machar.org](mailto:info@machar.org)

between printed newsletters. Almost all Machar members are already on this list. The second list is “MacharCommunity.” Members of this list can share information about local, non-Machar cultural, educational, social action or community service events and activities. Any list member can post a note to the “Machar Community” list at any time.

If you would like to be added to either list, or if we are not using your preferred e-mail addresses for them, please send a note to [Email at machar.org](mailto:Email@machar.org). Of course you can get off these lists at any time.

Shop with AmazonSmile and Contribute to Machar at the Same Time

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Machar – the Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism whenever you shop using [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile).

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

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Earn for Machar Jewish Cultural School with Service Magic and DriversEd.com!

Get Matched to Pre-screened Home Improvement Contractors and Earn Up to \$6!*

Service Magic is a FREE service that matches you to pre-screened, customer-rated service professionals: maids, painters, remodelers, plumbers, roofers and more! *Earnings depend on the type

of project and range from \$2–\$6.

Your Teen Can Start Earning a Driver's License Today!

With DriversEd.com, your teen can complete the required drivers education online — without ever stepping in a classroom.

Their quality course provides everything needed to prepare for the DMV permit and driver's license exams. Sign up, and DriversEd.com will contribute 5% of the tuition amount to Machar's Jewish Cultural School.

Help Machar as You Shop

Larry Lawrence

Machar participates in the eScrip (Electronic Scrip) program, a fundraising organization in which participating business partners contribute a percentage of your purchases to our Jewish Cultural School. Some participating businesses in the Mid-Atlantic are Safeway (which contributes 1-3% of your purchase value) and American Airlines (3%). To sign up for eScrip, go to <http://www.eScrip.com> and choose “Machar–Jewish Cultural School” as the benefiting group.

Raise Money for SHJ While You Surf

Use GOODSEARCH.COM to Search on the Web and Raise Money for SHJ

[GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) is a Web search tool for organizations such as ours to raise money each time someone uses it. Simply go to [goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), key in “humanistic Judaism,” and type in whatever you are searching for. You can even see how much we have raised—and imagine the potential if all of us use it!