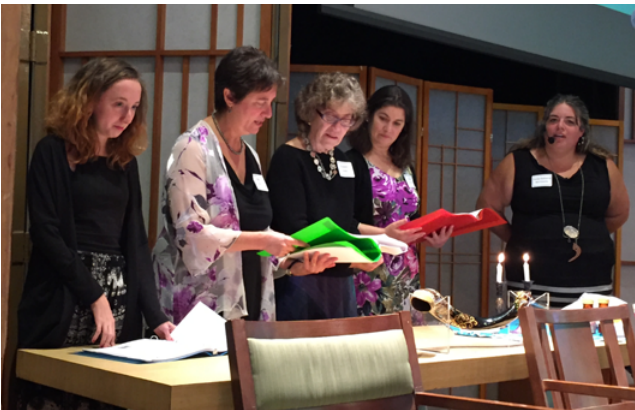




Bringing in a new year:

Photos from Rosh Hashanah



Photos by Josh Rogin and Marlene Cohen

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Secular Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with a celebration of Jewish culture and identity.

We affirm the power and responsibility of human beings to shape their own lives independent of supernatural authority.

Machar is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews.

"Non-Belief and Non-Believers" at the Muslim Community Center

Larry Lawrence

On September 18, I was a panelist in an interesting program at the [Muslim Community Center](#) in Silver Spring on the topic of "Non-Belief and Non-Believers." The mission of the Center is to promote brotherhood and dignity and to represent the Muslim community in a positive manner in interfaith circles and society at large.

The panel had two other speakers besides myself. The first, Gideon Amir, a computer scientist by profession, has studied and taught Jewish topics over the past one or two decades at various adult education institutes, including area synagogues, churches and other adult education outlets. He summarized evolving concepts of "being Jewish" from the stories of the Torah to today. He indicated that, rather than being Jewish by paternity as in the Torah, or by maternity as in rabbinic Judaism, increasingly today we are considered Jewish based on our behaviors, belief and affiliation.

As the second speaker, I summarized my path from my Conservative bar mitzvah, through years being totally

non-affiliated, to my reconnection with the non-theist community of Machar and SHJ. To the audience's question of "what do Jews do, who are not believers?" I described our vibrant Jewish secular services, holiday celebration and education program.

The final speaker was Imam Haytham Younis, an American Muslim and professional architect. From 1990 to 2002, he studied Arabic and Islamic Law at the Islamic University of Medinah and thereafter has been involved in various other interfaith projects. Imam Younis presented a fundamentalist reading of the Koran, asserting that the Koran clearly calls for its followers to believe, to expect judgment in the afterlife and not to question the basic principle of submission to the word of the prophet. This portion of the program was more a presentation of contrasting viewpoints than an interfaith dialog. There were lively inquiries from many audience members, leading to an increased degree of understanding of the nature of belief and non-belief today.

New Books from Macharniks

Congratulations to Rob Goor on the publication of his book *Dear Andrew*, a chronicle of love and grief as expressed through letters from a father to his deceased eight-year-old son. *Dear Andrew* is available on [Amazon](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#).

Congratulations to Pete Wolf on the publication of his new book *Alexander Hamilton: His Early Financial Thinking*, which is based on Alexander Hamilton's writings and follows the development of his financial thinking. It is now available at [Politics and Prose](#).

Congratulations to Howard Dubowitz on Alumni Award

Howard Dubowitz, husband of Myrna Frank, received the Harvard Chan Alumni Award of Merit this September in recognition of his significant contribution to the study and prevention of child abuse and neglect.



Macharniks Harry Appelman and Evan Samuels performed together on August 28 at the D.C. Jazz Jam at Brixton on U Street in Washington, D.C.

Harry, a Grammy award-winning jazz pianist, was featured as the Monthly Master Jazz Artist. Evan plays guitar in the Brixton House Band.

Machar News/Clubs & Activities

New Reports on Teens and Food Insecurity Led by Macharnik Sue Popkin

Norm Hall

While the subject of her work is truly sad, I am proud of the fact that Sue Popkin, my wife of 33 years, has led a major effort at the Urban Institute to uncover new findings about hunger in America among youth.

Sue has given me permission to share the reports on Teens and Food Insecurity that the Urban Institute released this September in conjunction with Feeding America. The Feeding America report, [Bringing Teens to the Table](#), focuses on teens' experience of food insecurity and the food system. The Urban report, [Impossible Choices](#), highlights how food insecurity drives some teens to risky behavior. This work has truly been a team effort, and Sue is proud that they have

presented these sensitive findings in a way that respects and avoids stigmatizing the teens.

She is also delighted that, thanks to the efforts of the amazing Communications teams at both the Urban Institute and Feeding America, they are getting the media's attention! For example, [this Marketplace story](#) aired in September. It's also been in the Guardian, USA Today, lots of smaller places, and the Washington Post is doing a story. Read the CityLab story [here](#).

I thought the community would want to know about this and share ideas about ways to respond.

Donations in Honor & Memory of:

Diane and Neil Rosen, "In honor of our kids, Keith, Holly and Areya Campbell Rosen, as well as the Machar High Holiday ticketing policy making visiting out of state relatives feel welcomed."

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.



We welcome to Machar active Society for Humanistic Judaism members Bert Steinberg and LeAnne Seymour Steinberg. They moved to D.C. this summer from San Francisco.

Bert is an SHJ past president from 1998-2000 and the founder of the Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award, named for the founder of Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Pictured from left: Le Anne, Bert, Larry Lawrence, Michael Prival and Marlene Cohen

Clubs & Activities

Machar's Nature Lovers Group

Alberto M. Grosmark

First I want to thank you for your support for the first half of 2016 Nature Discovery activities. The communal exploration of uncharted terrains that finally conform who we are is part of the culture of Machar. The Nature Lovers' Group has continued this exploration now into the confines of nature, history, and why not, food!

On June 12, the Machar Nature Lovers Group had the first walk and nature discovery of the year. In this occasion, nature and history merged thanks to the re-enactment of a barge trip done by actors of the National Park Service (NPS). We also had the opportunity of joining the 100th celebration of the NPS!

The day, was perfect, the incredible amount of water took our breath away, and the NPS and their reactors were happy to answer our questions about the C&O Canal and life in the 1830s.

On July 24, we explored the south bank of the Potomac with a walk shared by Myrna, Howard, Mimi, Ester and I. We met at the Mount Vernon trail which we followed west.

We watched some beautiful white egrets nesting on marshes of the Potomac and visited a Catholic cemetery founded in 1789. Then, we stopped at the Freeman and Contrabands Cemetery (right on the east end of Alexandria), which was the first cemetery of freed slaves, with shocking and poetical monuments and inscriptions.

Then, we visited Jones Point Lighthouse which was one of the four points of the historical Washington, D.C. demarcation.

What is today Jones Point Park, was also the first plantation owned by a woman, a remarkable point considering that it was around the 1760s.

We ended up in Alexandria, where we had a lunch at a great restaurant: Virtue Feed and Grain. The return to the parking lot was gratefully granted by a Pakistani Uber driver, who took us back to the starting point after lunch!

Overall, it was very hot but enjoyable. Mimi recommended that the Machar school should pay a visit to the Freeman and Contrabands Cemetery as a milestone of African American community building, even facing harsh segregation policies of the Alexandria population.



The Nature Lovers Group in front of a monument at the Freeman and Contrabands Cemetery in Alexandria.

WITs

Rose Levine

The wonderful women of WITs met at the home of Vicki Wallshein in August and the home of Eva Shankman in September. Thank you, Vicki and Eva for inviting us into your homes. As always, delicious food and stimulating conversation were enjoyed by all.

On Friday, October 21, we will meet at the home of Nancy Harris and on Wednesday, November 16 at the home of Katie Wittenberg. 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.



Columbia Jewish Congregation's 25th Annual Jewish Film Series!

5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.6044

www.columbiajewish.org/content/jewish-film-series-5

Four evenings of thought-provoking, varied, entertaining films, including refreshments & optional discussion

Showings: Saturdays, 8:00pm, Room 200, The Meeting House in Oakland Mills, Columbia, MD 21045

\$32 for 4-film series, \$27 for 3-film series, \$19 for 2-film series. (\$10.00 for single ticket: Sold at door only)

(Choice of films is yours and you need not choose in advance.)

TICKET SALES WILL BEGIN AND DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7:30pm

(If a movie is cancelled because of snow, that movie will be shown at the end of the season – May or early June. Date will be announced later, if needed.)

Each of the films being presented has been shown, or will be shown, at multiple Jewish film festivals around the country.

All films are subject to change based upon availability.

January 14, 2017

Rosenwald

2015 – U.S.A. – English – 100 min. In the early 1900s, businessman and philanthropist, Julius Rosenwald, who, with Richard Sears built Sears Roebuck and Company, uses his considerable wealth to build more than 5,000 schools to help African-Americans in the south. Rosenwald isn't just a portrait of a great American or his powerful company, but an excavation of an ugly stain on our history and a reminder of what one person can do to uproot it.

February 18, 2017

The Kind Words

2016 – Israel – French and Hebrew with English subtitles – 118 minutes. This film follows three Israeli Jewish siblings who, in the wake of their mother's death, learn that the man who raised them is not their biological father. This sends them on a road trip from Israel to France in search of the truth about their real father. This greatest secret shows that life is complex and closure, at times, is elusive.

March 18, 2017

The Farewell Party

2012 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 95 minutes. This film is a unique, compassionate and funny story of a group of friends at a Jerusalem retirement home who decide to help their terminally ill friend. When rumors of their assistance begin to spread, more and more people ask for their help and the friends are faced with a life and death dilemma.

April 22, 2017

Deli Man

2014 – U.S.A. – English – 91 minutes. Jewish culture reflects the heart of a vital ethnic history. As that culture continues to shift and adapt alongside mainstream America, delicatessen food, as its name suggests, remains a beloved communal delicacy. In Houston, Texas, third generation deli man, Ziggy Gruber, has built, arguably, the finest delicatessen-restaurant in U.S. history. His story - augmented by the stories of other iconic delis, such as Katz's, Second Avenue Deli, Nate and Al, Carnegie and the Stage - embodies a tradition indelibly linked to savory, nostalgic foods.



Have any questions? Call 410-997-0694, Tom Laufer. Preferred closing signup: December 10, 2016

Please return this form by **December 10, 2016** together with your check (made payable to CJC)

AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to:

CJC Jewish Film Series, c/o B. Belin, 10365 Blue Arrow Ct., Columbia, MD 21044



Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Series: Full _____ 3-Film _____ 2-Film _____ Subscriber: New _____ Renewal _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Where/how did you learn about our series? _____

Thank You to New JCS Classroom Parents

Shel Lyons

A huge shout-out to our new room parents:

Tots: New Member Jenn Arney
jarney@savechildren.org
(with Scott Lyons at Scottwlyons@yahoo.com)

Pre-k/K: Jon Desenberg
jondes@hotmail.com

1st/2nd: Marina Broitman
marinabroit4@gmail.com

3rd: New Member Sharyn Rosenberg
sharyn_rosenberg@hotmail.com

4th: New Member Sara Baum
baum.sara@gmail.com

5th: Marty David
martydvd@yahoo.com

6th: Kara Gonzalez
karabgonzalez@gmail.com

Scenes from Machar

1) Thank you to our Jewish Cultural School children for the beautiful Jewish New Year cards they each made. One card was given to each Machar family without children in the school.

Photo by Marlene Cohen

2 and 3) Sukkah building

Photo by Shel Lyons



The Machar Family

Birthdays

October 2: Hannah Figueredo
October 3: Julia Williamson
October 4: Bridget Ehart
October 9: David Goldberg
October 10: Isabel Franklin
October 12: Anna Cohen
October 14: Ronni Schwartz
October 15: Gary Peck
October 16: Livia Rosenberg
October 16: Henrietta Wexler
October 17: Mark Swartz
October 18: Sadie Delicath
October 20: Hannah Goor
October 20: Ester Rozenblum
October 22: Olivia Kahn
October 23: Faith Lewis
October 24: Shel Lyons
October 25: Elena Pastreich
October 26: Frida Siegel
October 29: Eva Shankman
October 30: Scott Lyons
October 30: Samantha Walker
October: Madeline Henley

November 2: Alison Barnes
November 2: Harriet Peck
November 3: Ruth Lyons
November 4: Keith Campbell-Rosen
November 5: Julia Pastreich
November 5: Maya Szymanski
November 5: Ken Walker
November 6: Vicki Wallshein
November 8: Emily Ratay
November 9: Henry Zamore
November 10: Myrna Frank
November 10: Mary Perica
November 11: Brian Pujanauski
November 13: Rose Levine
November 17: Kara Blank-Gonzalez
November 18: Carla Kopell
November 19: Sorenson Jay
November 21: Charles Franklin
November 22: Jill Grant
November 23: Allie Liberman
November 26: Kathy Hudson
November 26: Eliza Walker
November 27: Jacob Hudson
November 30: Eileen Heaps

Anniversaries

October 2: Lauren Brown & Charles Franklin
October 8: Kara Blank-Gonzalez & Marco Gonzalez
October 15: Linda Tebelman & Rob Goor
October 16: Brenda Platt & Daniel DeMocker
October 18: Michal Freedman & Jack Schwartz
October 22: Amy Kotkin & Larry Lawrence
October 27: Rebecca & Jon Desenberg
November 5: Carole & Stephen Leblanc
November 25: Joyce & Greg Rosenthal

Yarheits: We remember...

October 6: Esther Copeland, mother of Donna Copeland
October 23: Gertrude Zinnerman Harris, aunt of Hank Prensky
October 28: Harold Hartogensis, father of Deb Godden
October 30: Marta Marks, sister of Alberto Grosmark

November 3: Pedro Rodriguez, father of Pedro Rodriguez
November 14: Sam Lederman, relative of Kenneth Lederman
November 16: Ann Black
November 16: Arthur H. Cohen, father of Marlene Cohen
November 18: Meyer Weisberg, father of Judith Weisberg
November 19: Harriet Hall, mother of Norm Hall
November 26: Betty Frieden, mother of Joyce Rosenthal
November: Anita Dubowitz, mother of Howard Dubowitz
November: Phyllis Hodes, mother of Elizabeth Hodes

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

Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Ester Rozenblum

Secretary

Holly Campbell-Rosen

Past President

Darlene Basch

At-Large

Marlene Cohen

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 Liaison

Norm Hall

Madrikhim

Michael Prival

Deb Godden

Machar Committee Chairs

Adult Ed

David Abramson

Myrna Frank

Communications

Joyce Rosenthal

Community Service

Vacant

Education

Norm Hall

Email Lists Manager

Norm Hall

Fundraising

Donna Bassin

High Holidays

Nadine Wettstein

Liturgy

Vacant

Membership

Marlene Cohen

Membership Directory

Miriam Gitler

Mishpachah

Renée Weitzner

Newsletter Editor

Vacant

Nominating

Nadine Wettstein

Passover Seder

Vacant

Play Reading

Marlene Cohen

Rabbi Committee

Joy Markowitz

Reduced Fees

Miriam Gitler

Social Action

Peter Kahn

Sunday Refreshments

Ami Argaman

Clubs and Havurot Chairs

Book Club

Nature Club

Alberto Grosmark

Neighborhood Havurot

Darlene Basch

Volunteer Coordinator

Marina Broitman

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)

Rose Levine

Young Adult Havurah

Vacant

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ

Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members

Larry Lawrence (Immediate Past 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](http://info.at.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.at.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.

Support Machar by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile).

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 is a Web search tool for organizations such as ours to raise money each time someone uses it. Simply go to 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!