



## Celebrate the High Holidays with Machar!



Soon-to-be Machar  
Rabbi, Jeremy Kridel

### Rosh Hashanah

*Thursday, September 21*

*Children's service 9:30 a.m.*

*Main service 10:30 a.m.*

### Tashlich

*Thursday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m.*

*Location TBA*

### Kol Nidre

*Friday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m.*

### Yom Kippur

*Saturday, September 30*

*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

### Reminders

Machar members will receive two free tickets for non-member family guests for the High Holidays. Please [register family members here](#).

Machar members receive a discounted rate on child care for the main High Holiday services. Please [register here](#).

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# Machar News/Clubs & Activities

## Machar Membership Renewal 2017-18

The membership renewal process for the upcoming 2017-18 membership year and the 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](mailto:administrator@machar.org).

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Machar.

## Machar Member News

On July 29, Joy Markowitz and Rick Eisen celebrated the marriage of their son, Jack Eisen-Markowitz, and Nora Toiv. Jack was a member of the 2000 Machar B'nei Mitzvah group. Both Jack and Nora grew up in Takoma Park, Maryland, although they did not know each other until about four years ago. The couple will continue to reside in Washington, D.C.



Congratulations to Amit of Machar, who won gold in the junior fencing competition at the 20<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah games in Israel as part of team USA.

## Donations in Honor of

Lisa B Morenoff, in honor of Kate's bat mitzvah.

Karen E. Townsend, in honor of Larry Lawrence's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## WITs

In June, the wonderful women of WITs met at the home of Carole Leblanc and, as always, enjoyed a delicious meal and lively conversation. In July, we met at Marlene Cohen's home where some of us enjoyed a dip in the pool before dinner.

On Wednesday, August 16th, we will meet at the home of Katie Wittenberg. I will send out an email closer to the date to remind everyone of the upcoming event. Our September location is yet to be determined, but I will let everyone know our meeting place as soon as possible.

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](mailto:jay3026@msn.com).

## Machar's Nature Lovers Group



*Alberto Grosmark*

This is the group photo that we took at the Monocacy River Ford on our 4<sup>th</sup> walk on Sunday, July 16, 2017. This is the point where the Confederates tried to cross to invade Washington, D.C. (The photo is taken from the south bank closer to D.C.). This reminds us how fragile can be the defense of the democracy that we all treasure!

## Rabbi Nehama's Goodbye Speech

*For those of you who were not able to attend the June 4 farewell and thank-you event for Nehama, below are Nehama's words to the Machar membership:*

As I thought about what to do or say leading up to today, I started thinking about this as the “so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye” event.

Just like the children saying goodbye in *The Sound of Music*, my process of saying goodbye here at Machar has been multifaceted.

In rabbinical school, we used to talk about the “rabbi/congregational relationship” so I regularly use relationship metaphors to talk about the experience of being a rabbi. Thus here I am, ending this relationship and wishing you well as you forge a relationship with your new rabbi.

I’ve realized a flaw in this idea. This isn’t a single relationship. What I’ve actually learned in the last few months is that I have over 300 relationships here. Starting in December, when I first announced my decision not to renew my contract with Machar, I have slowly said goodbye to many of you. Today is the formal moment of goodbye, but I haven’t yet had the opportunity to have an individual goodbye with many of you. Each goodbye is a chance to remember our relationship. And the memories of the experiences we have shared together will stay with me, as I hope they will also stay with you.

What’s nice about having multiple ways of saying goodbye and multiple opportunities to say goodbye is that it gives us the chance to say auf wiedersehen, or in Hebrew, *l’hitraot*. Until we see each other again.

There is a saying from Pirkei Avot, which is one of the central places to go if you’re looking for a good Jewish aphorism.

**עשה לך רב וקנה לך חבר  
והוי דן את כל האדם על כף זכות**

Make yourself a rabbi, acquire yourself a friend and judge each person meritoriously.

There have been many interpretations of this text. Some of the traditional commentators seem to separate this into three distinct pieces of advice.

1. Make someone your rabbi by choosing to let someone be your teacher.
2. Acquire a friend by investing in the relationship and making it valuable to you.
3. Judge each person on their merits and give them the benefit of the doubt by assuming they have the best intentions.

I had always learned the first two together—make yourself a rabbi and acquire yourself a friend. The liberal interpretation and experience of a rabbi opens up the possibility of a causative link

between the two halves.

When you make someone your rabbi, you’re investing and trusting in a relationship. What you end up with, when you invest in that relationship, is a lifelong friend.

The most heartbreaking part of leaving Machar has been the reality that I won’t be the lifelong rabbinic companion for all of you. Through my years here I have been there for much of the regular life of our community—JCS, adult ed programs, holiday celebrations—at especially the high holidays. And of course who can forget our infamous board meetings.

But the chances to really get to know families better have been around lifecycle events, particularly the *b’nei mitzvah* ceremonies and also the baby namings, weddings, and funerals of the last three and a half years. As we have gotten to know each other better, those lifecycle events have been even more moving and meaningful for me.

So, as I move into new adventure, which has changed form from synagogue, to family foundation work, to food truck and plenty of fantasy pipe dream visions in between, I hope to weave what I have learned here into my next chapter.

My mussar teacher, Rabbi Ira Stone, taught us about character development and spiritual practice. One of the character traits we worked on throughout our studies was humility. He defined humility as approaching each person you meet as a teacher. The word *rav*, or rabbi, in Hebrew is most simply translated as teacher. In that way, you have each been my teachers, as I hope to have been yours.

**עשה לך רב וקנה לך חבר  
והוי דן את כל האדם על כף זכות**

Make yourself a rabbi, acquire yourself a friend and judge each person meritoriously.

I made many teachers here at Machar, and acquired many friendships, and I have always seen each of you for your merits and the ways you can each bring so much value to this community.

I hope that each of you will engage in this same process with your new rabbi, Jeremy Kridel. I have been lucky enough to have already made him one of my rabbis and one of my friends at our Association for Humanistic Rabbis meetings and at the teen conclaves and I look forward to the ways he will share his teaching, his friendship and his merits with the Machar community.

I printed these cards to give out today so that each of you can have a link to your old rabbi in your pocket. I hope that we stay in touch with each other’s lives and that our paths cross often.

Maybe by the next Machar field trip to Philadelphia I can invite you all to lunch. And if I don’t have a food truck, we can just meet at my home.

Thank you.



# Machar News/Clubs & Activities

## Machar Plays Key Role in Washington, D.C. Refugee Vigil on June 6, 2017

*Marlene Cohen*

Over 160 people from 13 D.C. Jewish congregations and others attended the June 6 Capitol Hill Refugee Vigil, commemorating the anniversary in 1939 of over 900 Jews aboard the SS St. Louis denied entrance to the United States as they tried in vain to flee the Nazis.

Guest speakers included Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia, Representative Bradley Schneider of Illinois, and Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida as well as modern-day refugees and family members of those who were on the SS St. Louis.

Marlene Cohen represented Machar on the planning committee and read a Humanistic Kaddish as part of the program. Machar Teen Group co-chair and SHJ Board teen representative Areya Campbell-Rosen read one of the 10 scenarios, telling the true stories of refugees then and now; each reader held a yahrzeit candle. The event, coordinated nationwide by HIAS, included Refugee Vigils from Albany to San Francisco on June 6.



This was good opportunity for Machar to share cause with other small and large congregations who also do social action on refugee issues. We look forward to finding more ways to work with other Jewish communities where our priorities match. Machar's immigrant issues social action contact is Sara Baum.

## Scenes from Machar



- 1) May 27 Bat Mitzvah ceremony.
- 2) May 28 B'nei Mitzvah ceremony.
- 3) June 17 B'nei Mitzvah ceremony.
- 4) Soon-to-be Machar Rabbi, Jeremy Kridel, and other SHJ guests with Machar members.

## Machar's Larry Lawrence Won Society for Humanistic Judaism's Highest Award

On Friday, April 21, 2017, in Farmington Hills, Michigan, Larry M. Lawrence, past president of the national Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) and member of Machar, The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism was named the 2017 recipient of the Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Lawrence received the award at the Friday evening Shabbat Celebration of the SHJ's biannual Board of Directors Meeting.

### Info about the Award

The Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to individuals who have "over the years, exemplified extraordinary dedication, devotion, adherence to, and activity in the Secular Humanistic Judaism Movement and the philosophical doctrines enunciated by the Movement's founder, Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine. The award, established by SHJ and Kol Hadash, Northern California, past president Bert Steinberg in 2003 in honor of Wine's 75th birthday, represents Steinberg's heartfelt gratitude at finding a Humanistic Jewish community that reflected his lifelong philosophy and unfulfilled need. Steinberg joined SHJ and became bar mitzvah at the age of 72 under Wine's tutelage.

A permanent plaque bearing the image of Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine is on display at the SHJ's headquarters in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A smaller replica is given each year to the recipient, along with a personal gift of Judaica.

Larry M. Lawrence, a member of Machar, The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism in D.C., served on the SHJ Board and Executive Committee since 2010, as a Member at-large, Vice President, President and Past President. He currently serves as the chair of the Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee. Larry served the SHJ during very challenging times. His dedication and commitment to transparency and financial integrity are the hallmarks

of his tenure on the SHJ Board. In her presentation Rabbi Miriam Jerris proclaimed that Larry Lawrence demonstrated incomparable dedication and commitment to the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the movement and exemplified serious preparation and unmitigated competency in the work he did for the Society, making him a most worthy recipient of this award.

### Quote from Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Ph.D. from the award ceremony:

2017 RECIPIENT OF THE  
RABBI SHERWIN T. WINE  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Because Larry Lawrence demonstrated incomparable dedication and commitment to the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the movement,

Because Larry continued to serve as Vice President and President of the SHJ during some of its most difficult and challenging times,

Because he took responsibility for thoughtful, clear financial management and reporting,

Because Larry seriously pursued his commitment to transparency and increased board participation,

Because he exemplified serious preparation and unmitigated competency in the work he did for the Society,

Because Larry walks the talk,

We, the leaders and members of the Society for Humanistic Judaism are thrilled to name Larry M. Lawrence the 2017 recipient of the Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award.

*Granted by the Society for Humanistic Judaism  
April 21, 2017, Farmington Hills, Michigan*

## Volunteer Podcast Producer Wanted

Do you have experience producing podcasts, including recording, editing, adding music, uploading, and coordinating? Are you involved in a local Humanistic Judaism community or interested in learning more about Humanistic Judaism?

If yes to both, the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) would love to hear from you. We are looking to create a Humanistic Judaism

podcast, either monthly or twice-monthly, and need an experienced podcaster to volunteer to lead the endeavor.

If interested, please be in touch with SHJ executive director Paul Golin at [paulgolin@shj.org](mailto:paulgolin@shj.org), or if you know someone who might be interested please forward this on to them, thank you!

# The Machar Family

## Birthdays

August 7: Benjamin Topa  
August 8: Lola Ehart Rogin  
August 8: Jamie Lewis  
August 9: Miriam Lyons  
August 10: Sara Baum  
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 24: Mischa Blue Ehart Rogin  
August 28: Jennifer Arney  
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 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 22: Dunya Hecht  
September 24: Rob Goor  
September 25: Jessica Ratay  
September 27: Daniel DeMocker  
September 28: Deb Godden  
September 30: Logan Eliot  
September: Kuba Goldman  
September: Monica Zamisch

## 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 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 20: Albert Warshauer, father of Susan Warshauer Kahn  
  
September 2: Martha Cohen, mother of Marlene Cohen  
September 8: Harold Black  
September 19: Phillip Gould  
September 19: Morris Skolnik, father of Dunya Hecht  
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

### **Soon-to-be Machar Rabbi**

Jeremy Kridel

### **Congregational Administrator**

Jane Christenson

### **Jewish Cultural School Director**

Heather Gale

## Board of Directors

### **President**

Joy Markowitz

### **Co-Vice Presidents**

Miriam Gitler & Nadine Wettstein

### **Treasurer**

Ester Rozenblum

### **Secretary**

Holly Campbell-Rosen

### **Past President**

Rahel Hanadari

### **At-Large**

David Abramson

Sara Baum

Debby Brennan

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

### **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**

Darlene Basch

### **Reduced Fees**

Miriam Gitler

### **Social Action**

Michael Freedman

### **Sunday Refreshments**

Ami Argaman

## Clubs and Havurot Chairs

### **Book Club**

*Vacant*

### **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**

Darlene Basch

### **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

*Norm Hall*

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 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. If you would like to be added to either list, removed from either list, or if we are not using your preferred e-mail addresses, please send a note to [administrator at machar.org](mailto:administrator@machar.org).

## 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, 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](https://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](https://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!

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