MACHAR ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUNDAY CALENDAR—SPRING 2020
Adult Education sessions are on select Sundays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

***Due to COVID-19 all events will be on-line via Zoom until further notice
Please contact Tara Newhouse at administrator@machar.org for assistance

We share details by email, newsletter, and at www.machar.org.

Sessions are open to all members and first-time visitors.
Entrance to the school is through the rear parking lot door only.
Parking is available in the rear parking lot and on 16th and nearby streets.
All talks will be in the multi-purpose room on the second floor, accessible by stairs or elevator.

January 12  BDS – Understanding Arguments for and against Economic Pressure on Israel
This will be a community-led discussion of the arguments for and against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement’s economic pressure on Israeli policies towards Palestinians. Among other questions, we will address: Why Israel? Is the campaign working? Is it too broad, punishing communities within Israel that are critical of their government’s policies? How does BDS compare to a similar campaign against South Africa’s system of apartheid?

January 26  James Millward – China’s Mass Incarceration of Its Muslim Minorities
During the past few years China has incarcerated more than one million Muslims living in its western province of Xinjiang. Georgetown Professor of History James Millward will tell the story of one of the most extensive and egregious cases of state policies targeting a religious/ethnic minority since Nazi Germany. Author of several books on China, Millward will also discuss the challenges of raising awareness of and publicly criticizing Beijing’s actions.

February 9  Charles King – Race, Gender, Sexuality, and the Search for a Science of Humanity
Author of the New York Times bestselling Gods of the Upper Air and Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown Charles King will speak on the discovery of cultural difference in the twentieth century, especially the relationship between science and morality in matters of race, sex, and gender. Franz Boas, a secular German-Jewish immigrant and one of the founders of American anthropology, figures prominently in the book for his arguments against race as a biological category.

February 23  Michael Prival – The Early History of Humanistic Judaism and Machar
When Rabbi Sherwin Wine told his congregation at Hanukkah that the Maccabees were intolerant religious bigots, the Detroit Free Press reported outrage over the local atheist rabbi. The Council of Orthodox Rabbis denounced him. Today our movement is accepted as part of Jewish life. We will review the early history and philosophy of Humanistic Judaism and the story of the brilliant and funny Rabbi Wine, who enabled us to be what we are today. Machar member and madrikh Michael Prival will lead this discussion.
March 22  Wendi Eldh, Richard Juhnke – The Reality of Climate Change and What We Can Do About It
Graduate of the Climate Reality Project leader training Wendi Eldh will discuss the far-ranging effects of climate change, patterns of fossil fuel usage, and actions people can take to help solve the global warming crisis. For example, passage of a carbon pricing bill, such as H.R. 763, would rapidly phase down emissions. Richard Juhnke, a member of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, will explain how this bill would address this crisis.

April 5  Noah Novogrodsky – Preventing 16 Deaths Per Day in a Place that Resists Change
Noah Novogrodsky is a Professor of Law at the University of Wyoming and directs the Center for International Human Rights Law & Advocacy. He has collaborated with organizations supported by American Jewish World Service, which has helped strengthen women’s rights groups and the struggling LGBTQ community in Uganda and offered an alternative to evangelical and mission-based advocacy in the country.

April 19  Annual Meeting

May 3  Amanda Poppei – Courage for the Resistance...and the Relationships
Many of us are engaged in social justice work, or political action, seeking to change the recent direction of our country. How do we maintain hope and build up our bravery for that work? And, at the same time, how do we stay true to our humanist principles? Guest speaker Amanda Poppei, who will lead us in a discussion of these questions, has served as Senior Leader at the Washington Ethical Society for the past eleven years.

May 17  Rabbi Jeremy Kridel – Making Meaning through Humanistic Judaism
Secular Humanistic Judaism emphasizes a life of personal conscience—“independent of divine authority”—as Rabbi Sherwin Wine put it. But living that kind of life means accepting that the traditional explanations for “why” often don’t ring true. Rabbi Jeremy will lead an exploration of the tools Secular Humanistic Judaism provides for making meaning in our lives and in our world.