



P.O. Box 42014
Washington, DC
20015
202-686-1881
www.machar.org

An affiliate of the
Society for
Humanistic Judaism



& the International
Federation of Secular
Humanistic Jews

Machar

The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism

July 31, 2022

Dear Machar Members and friends,

With the end of summer comes the time to renew your Machar membership and to register your eligible children for the coming year of the Jewish Cultural School (JCS).

This is our chance to reflect on last year and preview the next for returning members and potential new members. Hearty thanks to all for helping to make 2021-22 such a successful year despite ongoing challenges and ever-changing circumstances. We have been able to safely maintain a full slate of activities as well as offer some new ones, including holiday celebrations, special events, JCS and Adult Education – and we welcome the new year with hopes for continued growth.

Last year brought a return to in-person learning and gathering, while still maintaining a robust online presence, offered a broad range of opportunities for engagement among all members and guests. Adult Education programming attracted many members for provocative conversations throughout the year, and our Sunday School (JCS) continued to reach a range of age groups for engaged learning under the inspired leadership of Rabbi Jeremy as he expanded his work within the community to become the Cultural School Director as well as Rabbi. Our holiday commemorations also attracted large audiences for meaningful and timely celebrations in the two different beautiful outdoor setting options, as well as the online services made available to all.

While we continue to be concerned about the ongoing public health crisis, there is good reason for optimism about moving forward. We are planning another year of in-person JCS classes and we are confident that with appropriate precautions this will continue to be manageable and safe. Rabbi Jeremy will continue to broaden our access to new and engaging ways to delve ever deeper into Jewish history and culture by offering an optional Hebrew Class to our JCS students this year and, if there is enough interest, possibly creating a cohort for adults as well! Also, Cedar Lane Unitarian Church is receptive to our return for High Holidays services, with appropriate Covid precautions of course.

By renewing your membership you are helping to build a strong Jewish secular humanist movement both in the Greater Washington area and nationally. Having survived and thrived as a community during the past few years, we plan to continue to build on what we have learned about our community's strengths as a guide to the expansion of our community.



Machar

The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism

MACHAR BOARD

Elaine Dancis
President

Joyce Rosenthal
Vice President

Will David
Treasurer

Larry Lawrence
Past President

Emily Levinson
Secretary

Nadine Wettstein
At-large Board Member

Myrna Frank
At-large Board Member

Dunya Hecht
At-large Board Member

Jon Desenberg
At-large Board Member

Alberto Grosmark
At-large Board Member

Marc Mauer
At-large Board Member

Josh Rogin
At-large Board Member

Louisa Kuljurgis
At-large Board Member

Membership registration is due by August 31, 2022. Please also enroll your children in JCS as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly for the number of students.

Our congregation depends on the generosity and commitment of its membership to sustain our staff and programming activities. While Machar maintains a basic dues level, please consider donating at a higher rate based on your household income (as noted on the [website](#)). And finally, in regard to basic dues and tuition levels, we all realize that Machar has not been spared the effects of inflation. Our costs have increased in many areas – including rental fees, security measures both in-person and online, as well as for online services and supplies. Therefore, **the Board of Directors are instituting our first dues and tuition increase since the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. Effective for the 2022-23 membership year, dues and tuition will increase by 3%.** If you have any questions regarding this, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact Elaine Dancis, President (<mailto:elainedancis@gmail.com>) or Tara Newhouse, Congregational & JCS Administrator (<mailto:administrator@machar.org>).

We thank you greatly for your understanding and continued support.

Best wishes to a successful, safe and healthy year!

On behalf of Machar Board of Directors,

Elaine Dancis

President and Chair of the Board

~

To renew or join Machar:

[Continuing Members - please click HERE to renew.](#)

[New Members - please click HERE to join.](#)