



Machar Stays Busy to End the Year!

We have a lot of activities still ahead of us as 2013 comes to a close:

Machar's Book Club meets on November 10 at 3:00 at the home of Judith Wiesberg to discuss *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe;

Our Neighborhood Havurot continue on November 15 with Eva and Bert Shankman hosting a Friday Shabbat in their home;

Women in Transition will gather on November 20 at the home of Darlene Basch to share food and life's journeys;

On November 17, Machar's own Nadine Bloch will lead our adult ed program with a talk on "Creative Cultural Resistance." Following her talk, she will lead us in a hands-on, creative activity for all ages at 11:45;

Machar member Danielle Leff will lead a congregational Autumn Shabbat dinner on November 22 at Cedar Lane, accompanied

by Naomi Gamoran's guitar and singing (see below for more information);

Machar's Hanukkah Party is December 8 at Schweinhaut Center with our Teen group planning a great event for us with latkes, dreidels, and games;

For our December 15 adult education program, Machar member Abigail Smith, District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Education, will discuss "Education Reform at the National, Local, and Classroom Levels: Ideals, Data, and Practical Realities of Closing the Gaps in Educational Achievement." This will be followed by Machar's popular Book Sale.

I hope to see you at these wonderful events!

Darlene Basch
Machar President

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Join Us for an Autumn Shabbat Dinner

Friday, November 22

6:45 p.m. (dinner begins at 7 p.m.)

Cedar Lane UU Church Lounge
9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda MD 20814

Machar member Danielle Leff, who did such an impressive job assisting Michael Prival with our Rosh Hashanah service, has graciously agreed to lead a Shabbat service for us on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving weekend. Naomi Gamoran, who led us in singing at our Sukkot celebration, will be at the Shabbat with her

guitar. Machar will provide a delicious Mediterranean dinner from Yekta. We'll ask those who can to bring "extras" such as appetizers, beverages, fruit, and desserts. This is a free, family-friendly event for members of all ages. We also welcome prospective members.

A registration page for the event is available on the website home page; call Kelly to register if you do not use the Internet. Because of the limited seating capacity of the lounge (the area in between the chapel and the sanctuary), we expect to cap registration at approximately sixty people.

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.

Scenes From Machar's Creek Cleanup



Two great opportunities for Machar high school and college students

Marlene Cohen

The Secular Student Alliance is a very strong organization which supports the creation and growth of high school and college clubs around the US. If you check their website, www.secularstudents.org, you'll see chapters all over the country, including many high school clubs, even in some very religious areas.

If you and some friends would like to start an SSA chapter at your school, you can write their website and they will assign a person to help you get started. They have flyers already designed, materials to give out, answers to frequently-asked questions, speakers who would come to your school...they are very helpful. I'm happy to help too—I am the adviser of the Secular Student Alliance of Prince George's Community College, and it's a lot of fun.

A wonderful opportunity for Washington DC area Jewish high school juniors is the Operation Understanding program. Their website is OUDC.org. They are an award-winning nonprofit, bringing together a group of young Jews and African Americans to build awareness of history and mutual appreciation. Their website says:

OUDC's program begins in January of a student's junior year of high school. During the first six months of the program, students participate in workshops, meetings, lectures and activities, learning about the religions, histories, and cultures of African Americans and Jews. They build the trust necessary for true understanding through honest introspection and interaction, experiential learning and time in each others' homes, most notably for Passover seders and Easter. This part of the program is based on the Sankofa/Never forget principle: without a firm grounding in the past, we cannot move forward.

In the fall of senior year, students learn to take leadership roles in promoting diversity by giving speeches in houses of worship, facilitating workshops about stereotyping and discrimination, etc.

The deadline for applying is November 20!

Hanukkah and Thanksgiving...Turkey and Latkes. What a great combination!

We will be celebrating the first night of Chanukah on Thanksgiving, so expect turkey and latkes on the table.

Hanukkah will be on Thanksgiving this year! Thanksgiving is set as the fourth Thursday in November, meaning the latest it can be is 11/28. 11/28 is also the earliest Hanukkah can be...

The Jewish calendar repeats on a 19 year cycle, and Thanksgiving repeats on a 7 year cycle. You would therefore expect them to coincide roughly every $19 \times 7 = 133$ years. Looking back, this is approximately correct – the last time it would have happened is 1861. However, Thanksgiving was only formally established by President Lincoln in 1863. So, it has never happened before.

Why won't it ever happen again? The reason is because the Jewish calendar is very slowly getting out of sync with the solar calendar, at a rate of 4 days per 1000 years!

This means that while presently Hanukkah can be as early as 11/28, over the years the calendar will drift forward, such that the earliest Hanukkah can be is 11/29. The next time Hanukkah falls on 11/28 is 2146, which is a Monday. Therefore, 2013 is the only time Hanukkah will ever overlap with Thanksgiving!!!

Of course, if the Jewish calendar is never modified in any way, then it will slowly move forward through the Gregorian calendar, until it loops all the way back to where it is now.

So, Chanukah would again fall on Thursday, 11/28...in the year 79,811. Given our trajectory with global warming, it is fair to say humans won't be here then. And if there are no humans, the holidays will be cancelled.

So on November 28th 2013, enjoy your turkey and your latkes. It has never happened before, and it will never happen again.

—Compliments of Barry Swan from Beth Haskalah in Rochester NY

JCS News

Debby Brennan

On November 3, the Machar community was treated to poetry that all of the students in JCS wrote, with the guidance of Rosanne Singer, our poet in residence. This project was funded by our ICE (Initiative in Congregational Education) Grant from The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. The students wrote poetry that drew on the subject matter in their classes. The Kindergarten class wrote a class poem about what they are thankful for; the first/second grade class wrote a poem about chesed; the third graders wrote about their lives, and what they particularly loved; the fourth graders wrote poetic letters since they are reading Letters from Rifka, the fifth/sixth graders wrote bio poems about famous Jewish personalities, and the b'nei mitzvah class wrote poems about important social and community efforts.

We want to thank Steve Samuels for speaking to the b'nei mitzvah class and many of the b'nei mitzvah parents.

We also want to thank Kara Blank-Gonzalez's father, Howard, for speaking with our third and fourth grade students about their family's immigration to America.

We want to thank our teens for helping with so many of our activities at Machar, including the mini walk for the homeless, which raised over \$500 for CIHN.

We look forward to a special Shabbat service on November 22 and our wonderful Hanukkah party on December 8! Get ready to eat some latkes and spin some dreidels!



Above: Poetry teacher Rosanne Singer works with the kindergarten class.

Below: Howard Blank speaks to third and fourth graders on Nov. 3 about his family's immigration to America.



Kindergarten

Ben Lauing

It was so wonderful to see the entire class this morning! In honor of the arrival of November, we focused today on the upcoming holiday of Thanksgiving. While it is not typically considered a Jewish holiday, it certainly embodies many of our Jewish cultural values; recognizing what we are thankful for and expressing that gratitude are two very important Jewish practices.

After some initial coloring and a now standard game of switch if (I'm going to need to start preparing better - they always want to play and I'm running out of things to call out!), we sat down to make our own place mats for the Thanksgiving meal. First, we chose strips of paper and drew a picture on each one of something for which we are thankful. This included family, food, TV, and even Mason's chalkboard wall (which sounds awesome).

Then, we wove the paper strips together and stapled them in place. I was impressed to see that many students knew all about weaving and didn't even need my help! In the end, we created some beautiful place mats that will remind us as we eat the Thanksgiving meal that we have so much to be grateful for.

After a very brief runaround outside, we were joined by Machar's poet-in-residence. She continued our theme of giving thanks and taught us one way to express gratitude - through poetry. We read a poem by Anne Porter called "A List of Praises," and identified many of the things that the author is thankful for.

Then, after picking out some poetry journals to take home, we went around and shared things that we are all thankful for. Rebecca is thankful for her nearby park with a swing, Mason is thankful for a big owl that he's seen outside his window, and Mischa Blue is thankful for all animals and every type of meat and her whole family! Finally, each student wrote down something for which s/he is grateful, and placed it in a little treasure chest to take home.

I'm so glad many of you were able to stay a little bit late this morning to hear the students' poem about the many things they are thankful for.

I look forward to seeing you again in a couple weeks, when we will learn all about a holiday that, for the only time in our lives, overlaps with Thanksgiving: Hanukkah!



Above and below: The kindergarten class makes place mats for Thanksgiving.



Machar Adult Education and Community Sundays

Sundays 10–11:45 a.m. Sessions are open to all. There is parking on 16th Street and in the back. All sessions are held in the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW, DC 20012

November 17

Nadine Bloch – Creative Cultural Resistance

Machar member Nadine Bloch is a nonviolent political organizer, strategic facilitator, direct-action trainer, innovative artist, and puppetista. She combines the principles and strategies of nonviolent civil resistance with creative use of culture and arts. She has worked creatively for more than 30 years on the front lines of environmental, peace, and economic justice activism. Join her for an interactive workshop exploring strategic use of creative cultural resistance.

Community Sunday: Following her talk, Nadine will lead us in a hands-on, creative activity for all ages at 11:45.

December 8

Hanukkah Party at Schweinhaut Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD, 10 a.m. to noon

December 15

Abigail Smith – Education Reform at the National, Local, and Classroom Levels: Ideals, Data, and Practical Realities of Closing the Gaps in Educational Achievement.

District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Education and Machar member Abby Smith will draw on her extensive work with school administration under both Superintendent Michelle Rhee and Mayor Vincent Gray and as an independent consultant. She will discuss how DC fits into the broader picture of education reform in the United States.

Community Sunday: Book Sale and Community Music

Jewish Folk Song, Ben Stonehill, and the Hotel Marseilles: Collecting Cultural Treasures in a Post-WWII New York Lobby — Miriam Isaacs, Sociolinguist & Yiddish Scholar

Wednesday, November 13, 12:00 noon,
Whittall Pavilion, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress

During the summer of 1948, only three years after the end of WWII, Ben Stonehill, a man devoted to Jewish culture, recorded recently-arrived Jewish survivors of WWII who were temporarily housed in a hotel in upper Manhattan. The singers included men, women, and children. Stonehill collected over a thousand songs of many kinds: joyful as well as sad, mainly in Yiddish but also Hebrew, Polish, and Russian. These songs are musical testimonies to the resilience of the survivors, a direct link to pre-war Jewish life in Eastern Europe, and a cultural treasure. The music and chatting that went on in between the songs tell not only of the singers' terrible traumas but also of their hopes and reflect the sheer pleasure of reconnecting with others through song. In this talk, Dr. Isaacs describes the role of the Library of Congress in preserving this unique musical treasure.

She will play some of these almost forgotten recordings and talk about the collector, the singers, and their times.

Dr. Isaacs holds a doctorate in linguistics and has an extensive background as a scholar and educator, including serving for sixteen years as Professor of Yiddish Language and Culture at the University of Maryland, College Park. A native Yiddish speaker, she was born in a German DP camp and raised in the multi-ethnic cities of Montreal and Brooklyn. Specializing in sociolinguistics, she has published widely on aspects of Yiddish among Hasidim in Israel and America, as well as on questions of language function and loyalty in the post-WWII Displaced Persons Camps. Presently, she is completing a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on the Stonehill Collection.

This event is co-sponsored by the American Folklife Center and the Hebraic Section of the Library of Congress.

Havurot/Social Events

Laurie Miller

This autumn, Machar has been hopping with events. Nancy Harris hosted our first Shabbat for the season on October 4th. Nearly a dozen members attended. The Shankmans will be hosting the next in-home Shabbat on **Friday, November 15th**. These are usually smaller affairs than the events held at Cedar Lane or the Schweinhaut Center. They make great opportunities for members to socialize and get to know each other while eating homemade food.

We are always searching for volunteers to host events. Hosting is fun and easy. Select your preferred date and event type then sit back and let others bring the food to you. OK, there is a little more to it than that—but not much. If you are interested in hosting or helping to coordinate a Shabbat, potluck, or any other style of event, please contact me at LAURIE.MILJAZI@gmail.com

WITs

Renée Weitzner

The wonderful women of Machar enjoyed a terrific repast at the home of Eva Shankman during the month of October. In November we will be meeting at the home of Darlene Basch on Wednesday, **November 20, 2013 at 7 pm**. Please let me know that you are coming and what you are bringing so that I can let our group and our host know our menu for the night, as well as how many people to expect. I will need this information by November 18, 2013.

I hope to see many of you in November at Darlene's. If you need a ride or need further information, please let me know by phone or by email at rwcats@aol.com.

Book Club

Renée Weitzner and Darlene Basch

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 3 p.m.** at the home of Judith Wiesberg. We will discuss *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart* tells two intertwining stories, both centering on Okonkwo, a "strong man" of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first story relates the memorial conflict between the individual and society, tracing Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world. The second concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world with the arrival of European missionaries. These harmonized twin dramas are told with an awareness that encompasses at once the roles of nature and the human condition.

We hope to see you in November! Please let me know if you are able to come. You may reach me by phone or by email: rwcats@aol.com

Evening Study Group

Michael Prival

The Machar Study Group on Jewish religious texts continues to meet every other Monday evening at my home. We are reading and discussing texts from the Bible, the Talmud, and other rabbinic sources. In this way we are learning not only about the Hebrew Bible but also many fascinating and surprising things about traditional Judaism as it existed before the Jewish Enlightenment began in the 18th century. All Machar members, at any level of prior knowledge, are invited to join us. If you'd like more information about this study group, please send me a note: mprival@aol.com.

Young Adult Havurah

Danielle Leff

Join our listserv at groups.google.com/group/macharyah or join our group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/macharyah to get the details. YAH events are open to all regardless of membership status in Machar, and participants are encouraged to bring friends who may be curious about our movement.

Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area Jewish Synagogues Combined Choirs

Strathmore Hall
November 10, 2013; 7:30 pm

Pre-concert discussion with Composer Sheridan Seyfreid at 6:30 pm, included in ticket price.

Voices of the Holocaust, a concert presented by the DC Metropolitan Area Jewish Synagogues featuring combined choirs and an ensemble of local Cantors and Music Directors from Reform and Conservative Jewish congregations. This spectacular choral work highlights melodies from the ghettos and concentration camps of Europe. It is a tribute to all who endured the devastation and turmoil of the Holocaust. Songs in Yiddish and English reflecting life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

Tickets are \$36 to \$54 - at the Strathmore Box Office or online <http://www.strathmore.org/eventstickets/calendar/view.asp?id=9788>



Machar is a member of SHJ, the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

An SHJ Schools' Curriculum for our children—at last!

Marlene Cohen

It was a task that took most of 2013 for five members of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, but it has resulted in a secular humanistic school curriculum that offers topics at appropriate grade levels to help new communities start schools more easily and to help existing SHJ school directors to review their curricula for possible alterations.

Walter Hellman, SHJ Board representative from Portland Oregon's Kol Shalom, lined up some grant money and dedicated himself to making the project a reality; Machar's Deb Godden, former SHJ Executive Board member, helped invite the school directors, Marlene Cohen, Machar's SHJ Board representative, served as facilitator of the group, and Machar's own school director Debby Brennan joined school directors B.J. Saul from Boca Raton FL's Congregation Beth Adam and Dawn Friedman

from Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation in Lincolnshire IL to make up the team. All existing curricula were consulted for ideas and the school directors labored long to create their draft documents. The many years of teaching and school directing brought to bear by these five people made the work exciting!

Following the August 1, 2013 weekend working meeting that created the full curriculum, this fall the draft got final suggestions and finally approval from three SHJ rabbis. Then October 26, 2013, the full SHJ Board in Birmingham, Michigan voted to accept this curriculum by a vote of 21-1-1.

We're proud of an important product that will serve SHJ for years to come. The final version will be published in January 2014.

Mini Colloquium at the Birmingham Temple, Michigan November 15–17, 2013

*Are we one people?
Is cultural Judaism enough?
How can we thrive in a multicultural world?
What must change for the next 50 years?*

Twenty-five years ago, a revolutionary statement on "Who is a Jew?" was adopted by Secular Humanistic Judaism. Its ringing endorsement of Jewish self-identification still resonates for all of us.

"A Jew is a person of Jewish descent or any person who declares himself or herself to be a Jew and who identifies with the history, ethical values, culture, civilization, community, and fate of the Jewish people."

On Sunday, November 17, the Global Day of Jewish Learning, the International Institute for Secular Humanis-

tic Judaism will host a morning of learning, debate and discussion on The Future of Jewish Peoplehood. Colloquium 2013 will be held in suburban Detroit at The Birmingham Temple, 28611 West Twelve Mile Road in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Colloquium 2013 is part of an exciting weekend celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Birmingham Temple, which was the world's first Humanistic Jewish congregation. From the Fiftieth Anniversary Shabbat celebration on Friday, November 15, to the seventh IISHJ Rabbinic ordination/Havdallah ceremony on Saturday, November 16, to Colloquium 2013, we anticipate a fascinating, thought-provoking weekend.

Colloquium 2013 also will be live webcast through www.IISHJ.org

News from the SHJ Meeting

Larry Lawrence

Macharniks Marlene Cohen and Larry Lawrence attended the recent board meeting of our Society for Humanistic Judaism – an energetic, productive two-day, nearly continual(!) conversation. We met with the SHJ staff and folks from about 25 other SHJ congregations. We remind you that you can keep up with SHJ news as you automatically receive the monthly e-mail, “On the Move with SHJ,” or as you find the latest month’s issue at SHJ’s Facebook site. All the board members conducted a phone-a-thon, calling previous donors to again ask them to support secular humanistic Judaism with a generous contribution. Macharniks: Don’t wait for our call—give now! Or you can respond to SHJ’s letter in a month—but why wait?

Highlights of the board meeting:

- Machar, assisted by Liz Pomper, is attracting on-line attention with the help of SHJ’s pilot Web Outreach and Adwords programs.
- Look for a new SHJ member newsletter, “Keshet” (Connection) in your e-mail inbox soon. The Humanorah is also being sent electronically, unless you request a printed copy.
- “Let’s Eat” is the theme of the next issue of Humanistic Judaism, SHJ’s Journal. You’ll enjoy it!
- Following her inspiring visit here on Yom Kippur, Rabbi Miriam Jerris is working to help our communities retain members. She can tailor a plan for Machar if requested.
- In March, Rabbi Miriam plans to visit our neighbor, the Baltimore Jewish Cultural Chavurah. We might be able to coordinate a joint Machar-Baltimore event.
- As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, SHJ approved a resolution supporting physician-assisted death.
- The Teen & College Conclave in Boston this March will have “Connections” as its theme—March 28–30. Will it be as exciting as the 2012 Conclave, held here? Come and find out!
- SHJ is within a couple of months of distributing a short video, featuring a young interfaith couple telling their compelling story of overcoming personal, religious and family obstacles in order to arrive as newlyweds to Humanistic Judaism. Machar will be able to use this to attract young people to our community and to the Movement.
- We continue to honor Maurice Sendak, Humanistic Jewish Role Model for 2013-2014. Next year’s role model is a modern woman. SHJ invites your suggestions for the following year.

SHJ 2014 HuJews Conclave Is Coming to Boston March 28–30

(see the ad on page 12)

Encourage your Humanistic Jewish teens and college students to attend HuJews Conclave 2014. They will have an opportunity to meet teens and college students (8th grade thru college seniors) with similar backgrounds and values from SHJ communities around North America. Teens and college students can register here for a weekend filled with fun, friendship, and service to the community.

The Conclave will begin on Friday night with a Shabbat service led by Eva Goldfinger, this year’s rabbi-in-residence coming to us all the way from Toronto, and continue with dinner and community-building activities and discussion. Saturday activities will include opportunities to get to know each other better, while also learning about historical Boston through a fun-filled scavenger hunt, and a community service activity plus a fun evening activity. Sunday activities will bring participants together to reflect on their experiences, and to discuss how to put some of the values they have developed into action once they return home.

Here’s what one attendee of Conclave 2013 had to say: “Conclave is always an amazing experience. I come back every year to meet new amazing people and see all my old amazing friends. I love being with a group of teens who have experienced what I have experienced, have the same values as me, and just have a lot in common with me.”

Teens and college students can register here. Registration fees are: Teen or College Student (member) \$230; Teen or College Student (non-member) \$255; Chaperone \$290. Registration with payment is due by January 31. Scholarships are available.

If you have questions about conclave, please contact Miriam Rubin (857-472-0525) or the SHJ (248-478-7610) for further information.

The Machar Family

Birthdays

November 2: Alison Barnes
November 4: Keith Campbell- Rosen
November 5: Julia Pastreich
November 6: Vicki Wallshein
November 8: Emily Ratay
November 9: Henry Zamore
November 10: Mary Perica
November 10: Myrna Frank
November 13: Avi Weiss
November 13: Rose Levine
November 17: Kara Blank-Gonzalez
November 17: Sarah Kirkell
November 18: Carla Kopell
November 21: Charles Franklin
November 22: Jill Grant
November 23: Allie Liberman
November 25: Andy Royle
November 26: Kathy Hudson
November 27: Jacob Hudson
November 27: Cole Taliesin Kirkell
November 30: Eileen Heaps

Anniversaries

November 3: Laurie Miller and Ahmed Al-Hujazi
November 25: Joyce and Greg Rosenthal
November 27: Polina and Lev Tomashevsky

Yarhzeits: We remember...

November: Anita Dubowitz, mother of Howard Dubowitz
November 3: Pedro Rodriguez, father of Pedro Rodriguez
November 16: Arthur H. Cohen, father of Marlene Cohen
November 18: Meyer Weisberg, father of Judith Weisberg
November 19: Harriet Hall, mother of Norman Hall

Machar is so fortunate to have a community of people willing to share their expertise. Three of our members are therapists or social workers and are willing to be contacted by any members who may need someone to talk to about any personal trauma or other issues that come up. These volunteers will plan to have an initial discussion with the member and/or family, to listen and to help direct them to more support or services in the area. Please contact Renee Weitzner, rwcats@aol.com, for information. All discussions are entirely confidential.

Whaddaya Talkin'?

Marlene Cohen

plotz \plots\, verb: dictionary.com

To collapse or faint, as from surprise, excitement, or exhaustion.

Plotz is an Americanism that first arose in the 1940s. It comes from the Yiddish word *platsn* which meant "to crack, split, burst." That word in turn originated in the German word *blatzen* or *platzen*.

Yiddish Glossary <http://www.pass.to/glossary/gloz2.htm#letm>

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!

As in, "That low-cut blouse you're wearing? You know Mom will plotz when she sees it!"

Urban Dictionary points to The Simpsons, 2000, for with this one:

Krusty: I opened for The Who at Woodstock. I came out in a Beatle wig with a ukulele. Hendrix said he almost plotzed – his exact words.

Staff, Board of Directors, and Leadership

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Congregational Administrator
Kelly Hand

Jewish Cultural School Director
Debby Brennan

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Peter Kahn
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Jules Abrams
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Ann Black
Joe Goodman
Millie Goodman
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Nadine Wettstein

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Membership Directory
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Sunday Refreshments
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Book Club
Darlene Basch
Renée Weitzner

Neighborhood Havurot
Laurie Miller

Wimmin' In Transition (WITs)
Renée Weitzner

Young Adult Havurah
Danielle Leff

SHJ Reps from Machar

Machar Rep to SHJ
Marlene Cohen

SHJ Board of Directors Members
Larry Lawrence (Vice President)
Rick Gold

Machar Trained Leaders

Michael Prival, Madrikh
Deb Godden, Madrikha
Dan Tobocman, Spokesperson

Join us at the HuJews Conclave 2014!



Are you or is someone
you know a Humanistic
Jew between the ages of
13 and 21?

Are you interested in
meeting other HuJews
from around North
America?

**Then the SHJ Conclave
is the event for you!**

Highlights:

- Make new friends!
- Work to develop your
Humanistic Jewish
Identity!
- Participate in Community
Service Projects!
- Explore a new city!



When: March 28th-30th, 2014

Where: Boston, Massachusetts

How to Register: Online Registration coming soon.

Registration Deadline: January 31st, 2014

Member Fee: \$230 **Non-Member Fee:** \$255 **Chaperones:** \$290

Late Registration Fee: \$25

*Scholarships available for those who qualify. Please contact
Miriam Rubín for details.

**Questions: Contact Miriam Rubín, hujews@shj.org,
857-472-0525, or SHJ, info@shj.org, 248-478-7610**

Columbia Jewish Congregation's 22nd Annual Jewish Film Series!

5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-6044



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.

www.columbiajewish.org/film_series

January 18, 2014

David

2011 – USA – English/Arabic – 80 min. Eleven-year-old David, the son of a religious imam in Brooklyn, NY, is mistaken for a Jewish boy. He becomes conflicted after befriending Jewish kids his age, and the longer he plays out his double life, the more he risks driving a wedge within his family. Ultimately, David's honesty and accessibility trigger a response of tolerance and compassion.

February 22, 2014

The Matchmaker

2012 – Israel – Hebrew with English subtitles – 118 min. Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, gets a job working for Yankele Bride, a matchmaker. Yankele, a mysterious Holocaust survivor, has an office in back of a movie theater, situated in the seedy area of the port. The theater, run by a family of seven Romanian dwarves, shows only love stories. Yankele introduces Arik to a new world built on the ruins of the old one. Arik learns the mysteries of the human heart when he falls in love with Tamara, who has just returned from America with different views of life.

March 29, 2014

Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray

2011 – USA – English – 86 min. This film reveals the little known struggles facing American Jews, both in battle and on the home front, during the Civil War. The film presents unknown chapters in American history, when allegiances during the war deeply split the Jewish community. Approximately 10,000 Jewish soldiers fought on both sides. They were, at times, honored, but also criticized by the anti-semitic policies of the time.

April 26, 2014

Mahler on the Couch

2010 – Germany – German with English subtitles – 98 min. Gustav Mahler snatched Alma from under the noses of Vienna's artistic elite, but ten years of marriage and the death of one child have exacerbated the strains caused by both the nineteen-year gap in their ages and Mahler's refusal to allow Alma to write music. "I need a wife, not a colleague," he said. While staying at a spa resort, Alma falls in love with Walter Gropius, five years her junior. Tormented, Mahler seeks advice from Sigmund Freud. The encounter of the two giants in their respective fields of music and psychoanalysis is bumpy, temperamental, and not without humor.

Have any questions? Call (410) 997-0694, Tom Laufer. Preferred closing signup: December 10, 2013

Please return this form by **December 10**, 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



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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, plus 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 on the “Machar Community” list at any time.

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

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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.

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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! .