



# Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism



**Volume 3; Issue 2  
February 2012**

## Beth Ami Happenings

### You're invited to Beth Ami's Family Tu B'Shevat Seder Sunday, Feb. 5th 11:00am

On Sunday, February 5th, Beth Ami's Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education join together to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees at Countryside Rec, 10470 Oak, Westminster.

Tu B'Shevat is a time to have conversations on sustainability and environmental awareness. Hazon, an organization promoting the intersection of Judaism and environmentally sound practices, suggests beginning our Seder with a story about two men fighting over a piece of land. The story explains that we have to listen to the land and realize that the land belongs to no one; instead we belong to the land. Come and learn what this means and how you can take care of the earth.

For more info and to RSVP: [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

*Beth Ami is a welcoming community where we connect to Jewish past, celebrate Jewish present and link to Jewish future through a humanistic philosophy*

**Beth Ami means:  
House of my people**

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### Beth Ami Book Club



Our first meeting on Thursday January 12th 11:00am at Brio's near Cherry Creek Mall was a lot of fun. We discussed *All Other Nights* by Dara Horn, the One JCC Read for Boulder JCC in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Everyone loved the author's writing style and selected another Dara Horn book, *In the Image* for our next luncheon meeting at Brio's on Feb. 23rd at 11:00am.

Please join us even if you haven't read the book. RSVP to: [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

### Preschool Mitzvah Project

Katya Hirsch and Julia Litz, our preschool teachers, and their students filled snack baggies and announced a JCS kid friendly Mitzvah project. Keeping these treats handy as they travel around Boulder and Denver, our students and parents will hand them to people asking for help. These snacks are nutritious and non-perishable. Rabbi Will Berkowitz of Repair the World, a Jewish volunteer service and social action organization, led an educators' workshop and shared this idea. Feed the hungry is a mitzvah. Recognizing and performing mitzvahs are an integral part of our Jewish Cultural School.

### Winter Beach Volleyball

Saturday, February 11  
Sports Oasis, 2400 Midway Blvd. Broomfield  
6:30-9:30pm - \$18 (Includes pizza, drinks, and volleyball)  
Transportation NOT included - Registration Deadline February 8

We are hoping to send a group of Beth Ami **5th graders and middle schoolers** to this event. Please let Lenore at [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) know ASAP if you are interested.

**See page 4 for information on how to submit an article for future newsletters!**

## Jewish Community Centers – South and North

The Denver Jewish Community Center (350 South Dahlia Street, Denver, CO 80246) offers a wide array of activities for all ages. If you are interested in signing up for E-Chailights, a biweekly email with events and information especially for young families, please contact [mgruenwald@jccdenver.org](mailto:mgruenwald@jccdenver.org). For all events, including the upcoming Denver Jewish Film Festival, go to [www.jccdenver.org](http://www.jccdenver.org). All films will be screened at the Denver Film Center/Colfax, 2510 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206.

**The Boulder JCC** (3800 Kalmia Ave., Boulder, CO 80301) is the center of Jewish life in the Boulder area, housing pre-school through adult programs. Winter events can be found online at [www.boulderjcc.org](http://www.boulderjcc.org) or in the Winter Center Point magazine. The Menorah Adult Education programs, many planned in conjunction with Jewish Studies at C.U. Boulder, are especially high quality.

At this time, Beth Ami is an active member of the Boulder JCC, listed in its media and co-sponsoring many events. If anyone would like to “pioneer” similar involvement with the Denver JCC, please contact Sheila.

## Beth Ami Shabbat Services

Beth Ami continues to celebrate monthly Shabbat services at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. in Denver. The January service included inspirational words and music from the Civil Rights Movement in honor of Martin Luther King’s birthday. Join us on February 10 when we’ll celebrate our first “Adoption” Ceremony for Emily Brockmeier in preparation for her marriage to Mitchell Gomez. Emily and Mitch live in Denver and will be married in March in Florida. On March 9, Beth Ami member Gordon Gamm will offer a presentation on Humanism, including his own involvement locally, nationally and internationally. After each Shabbat service and presentation, we gather over drinks and snacks. Please volunteer to Adopt an Oneg by offering to bring food to share for each Shabbat. Contact Sheila at [sheilamalcolm@comcast.net](mailto:sheilamalcolm@comcast.net).

## IISHJ Colloquium 2012 - “Half-Jewish?” The Heirs of Intermarriage

**How will ‘half-Jewish’ change Judiaims? Can you be ‘Jewish and’ rather than ‘Jewish or’? Can the world handle ‘half-Jewish’?**

**April 20-22, 2012 at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois**

In cooperation with Newberger Hillel at the U. of Chicago and Fledler Hillel at Northwestern. The Heirs of Intermarriage will speak to a crucial issue for the future of the American Jewish community. For the last two decades, half of marriages involving Jews have been intercultural. The children of those relationships are coming into their own as young adults. Who are they? How do they define their own identities?

**The online registration is available NOW! at <http://halfjewish.eventbrite.com>.** Lodging and Registration information is available at [www.iishj.org](http://www.iishj.org), the website for the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Michelle and Sheila will be ordained during the Saturday evening Havdala ceremony.

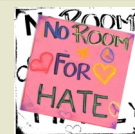
## The Reason Rally

Cary Shaw, from the Society for Humanistic Judaism Board and Connecticut affiliate member, has sent an encouraging invitation to attend The Reason Rally, an event sponsored by many of the country’s largest and most influential secular organizations. It will be free and will take place in Washington, D.C. on March 24th, 2012, from 10:00AM – 4:00PM at the National Mall. There will be music, comedy, speakers, and so much more. We hope you can join us! The Society for Humanistic Judaism and Machar, the D.C. Affiliate, will be well represented! Learn more at [reasonrally.org](http://reasonrally.org).

EXHIBIT Holocaust Remembrance Quilt Project  
REMEMBERING THE PAST — ACTING ON THE PRESENT

January 27 - February 6, 2012

Robert E. Loup JCC, Lobby 350 S. Dahlia Denver, Colorado 80246



Beth Ami is a participating organization! Events are held in Boulder, usually at the BJCC. [www.jewishmovers.org](http://www.jewishmovers.org)

# February 2012

| Sun                          | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri                                     | Sat                        |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----------------------------|
|                              |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3                                       | 4                          |
| 5 JCS & Adult Ed Tu'B'Shevat | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10 Shabbat Services & Adoption Ceremony | 11 Family Dinner POSTPONED |
| 12 Theatre                   | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17                                      | 18                         |
| 19 Board Mtg                 | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24                                      | 25                         |
| 26 JCS & Adult Ed            | 27  | 28  | 29  |     |   |                            |

## March:

Sunday 3/4 10:00am JCS/Adult Ed Countryside, Westminster

Sunday 3/4 10am-2pm Boulder JCC Purim carnival, Boulder JCC  
(Beth Ami will have a booth)

Friday 3/9 7:30pm Shabbat Service Montview, Denver

Saturday 3/17 9:30am Katya Hirsch Bat Mitzvah, East Boulder Community Center, Beth Ami is invited to attend the service and Oneg.  
Please RSVP to: [marti.hirsch@mail.com](mailto:marti.hirsch@mail.com)

Sunday 3/18 10:00am JCS/Adult Ed Countryside, Westminster

Sunday 3/25 10:00am Board Meeting Karasik, Arvada

## April:

Sunday 4/8 4:00pm 3rd night Passover Seder at JUC, Golden

Sunday 4/15 10:00am JCS/Adult Ed Countryside, Westminster

Fri/Sat/Sun 4/20-22 International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism Bi-Annual Colloquium Chicago IL Ordination of Madrikhot Sheila Malcolm and Michelle Davis

Sunday 4/29 10:00am JCS/Adult Ed Countryside, Westminster

Sunday 4/29 11:00am Celebrate Israel Independence Day, Countryside, Westminster

## May:

Sunday, 5/6 12:00pm Family field trip, Wild Animal Sanctuary, Keenesburg, CO

RSVP [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

Learn about Alex Litz's Mitzvah project.

## June:

6/10 11:00am Beth Ami booth, Boulder Jewish Festival

## Adult Education 2012

**Feb. 5** Learn about the background of TuB'Shevat from a Humanist perspective and lunchtime seder.

**Feb. 26** Ernestine Rose is the HJ Role Model of the Year. Through video and research, we'll discover the story of this 19<sup>th</sup> C feminist, abolitionist and atheist daughter of an Orthodox rabbi.

**Mar. 4** Explore feminist themes in the Purim *megillah*, or story, and compare Esther's dilemmas to modern events. (WWED?)

No charge! All welcome! Bring a friend! **Facilitator:** Sheila Malcolm, Madrikha/Leader-in-Training, 303-499-5933 or [sheilamalcolm@comcast.net](mailto:sheilamalcolm@comcast.net)

## Schedule of Events

### February:

5– 10am Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed at Countryside Rec Center, Westminster

5– 11am Tu B'Shevat Community Seder, Countryside Rec Center. Westminster—with JCS & Adult Ed

10– 7:30pm Shabbat service & Adoption Ceremony—Montview, Denver

11– **Sorry, the dinner event is POSTPONED**

12– 3:30 *Two Things You Don't Talk About At Dinner*, see side bar for more info\*

19-10:am Board Mtg at Karasik's

26– 10am Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed at Countryside Rec Center in Westminster



**Beth Ami Adult Ed is going to the theatre**

\*Hopefully you already bought your tickets to see

*Two Things You Don't Talk About at Dinner*

With Beth Ami at 3:30 on **Feb. 12th**. Email Laura at [laura.m.1520@gmail.com](mailto:laura.m.1520@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



Phone: 720-748-1533  
Email: info@bethami.com  
www.bethami.com

Board members:

Jon Budoff-President  
Ron Kingston-Treasurer  
Sheila Malcolm-Madrikha, Secretary,  
Adult Ed Director  
Maida Deborah-Membership  
Lenore Kingston -JCS Director  
Michelle Davis-Madrikha

Members at large:

Terry Fleisher Elaine Bloch  
Gerrie Karasik Kathy Kane  
Barry Levene

Newsletter Editor:

Katrina Miller

Webmaster:

Christie Gosch

## The Funny bone submitted by Steven Langer, Ph.D., SPHR FAVORITE QUICKIES



- Shul committees should be made up of three members, two of whom should be absent at every meeting.
- Sign over the urinal in a bathroom at Hebrew University: "The future of the Jewish people is in your hands."
- Any time a person goes into a delicatessen and orders a pastrami on white bread, somewhere a Jew dies
- It was mealtime during a flight on El Al. "Would you like dinner?," the flight attendant asked Moshe, seated in front. "What are my choices?," Moshe asked. "Yes or no," she replied.
- An elderly Jewish man is knocked down by a car and is brought to the local hospital. A pretty nurse tucks him into bed and says, "Mr. Gevarter, are you comfortable?" Gevarter replies, "I make a nice living..."

### Adult Ed Recommends...

*"The Infidel" is a funny and well made film about a moderate Muslim man who discovers that he was adopted and his birth parents are Jewish. Omid Djalili is genuinely funny and his internal struggle is brilliantly acted. This movie is entertaining but also offers a fresh look at Muslim and Jewish tension and shows common ground shared with both groups of people.*

Netflix Review:

This 2010 film was made in the UK and is available on Netflix as a CD or instant download. We enjoyed a short clip of the main character, Mahmood, learning how to act Jewish in preparation for attending a bar mitzvah.

We also recommend books and articles by the late Christopher Hitchens. Terry Fleisher shared a review of God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything, which is probably Hitchens' best known book. We discussed the work of several "new atheists," including Hitchens, Sam Harris and Richard Dawkins. "Take the risk of thinking for yourself, much more happiness, truth, beauty, and wisdom will come to you that way." — Christopher Hitchens

### Get Well

Speedy get-well wishes to Terry Fleisher, who is recovering from unexpected surgery. Join us very soon, Terry!



### Want to see your name in print?

Send your article, announcement, thoughts to our editor at [katrina\\_miller@hotmail.com](mailto:katrina_miller@hotmail.com). Be sure to put Beth Ami in the subject and have your submission in by the 15th of the prior month.

### February Birthdays And Anniversaries

Happy birthday to:

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Sam Budoff     | 2  |
| Tom Margolis   | 18 |
| Ren Margolis   | 18 |
| Dawn Anderson  | 12 |
| Suzy Wilson    | 21 |
| Sheila Malcolm | 22 |
| Travis Miller  | 23 |



Happy Anniversary to:

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Tim & Katrina Miller  | 18 |
| James and Suzy Wilson | 19 |



### Mazel tov!

Michelle Davis and Ben Stafford are the proud parents of David Gabriel Stafford, born Dec. 29. The family, including big sister Calla, is resting comfortably at home.

Remember to buy your King Sooper's Cards!

### Do you shop at King Soopers?

Maida Deborah is now selling \$100 King Soopers cards. If you shop at King Soopers, please see her to purchase your cards. Just bring a check made out to Beth Ami. It makes shopping easy, and every \$ you spend at King Soopers benefits Beth Ami. No extra cost to you!