



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 4; Issue 4

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

April 2013

Calendar grid for April 2013 with highlighted dates (4, 7, 11, 13, 21, 25, 28).

Beth Ami Event Schedule

Thursday 4/4 – Book Club (11am at Brio's in Denver – discussing The Septembers of Shiraz by Dalia Sofer – Please RSVP to bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

Sunday 4/7 – JCS Session 7 & Adult Ed (See More Below)

Saturday 4/13 – Shabbat Morning Celebration - Aaron Ney from Ekar Farms will speak (10am – See More Below)

Sunday 4/21 – JCS Session 8 & Adult Ed, Open House and Finale! (See More Below)

Other Community Events

Sunday 4/28 – Hazon Food Festival, Rocky Mountain Region (10am-5pm, Denver Jewish Day School – See more to the side)

Upcoming Events

May

5/3 – 5/5 – Beth Ami Retreat to Estes Park (See More Below – with AE information)

June

6/9 – Boulder Jewish Festival (11 am, Pearl Street Mall – Community Help Needed!)

Hazon Food Festival Information:

A day of learning, celebration, and hands-on doing at the intersection of food, the environment, and Jewish tradition.

For more info and to register, visit: http://www.hazon.org/programs/foodfestival/colorado-jewish-food-festival/.

Beth Ami is the proud recipient of a Hazon grant.

Celebrations

Birthdays

4/4 – Stephen Greenspan & DeShawn Anderson

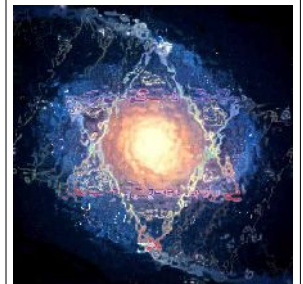
4/25 – Ely Karasik

Anniversaries

4/11 – Emily Brockmeier & Mitch Gomez

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Shabbat Service Featuring Ekar Farms

April 13

Ekar Farms and Community Garden is located at 6825 E. Alameda Ave. in Denver. Ekar is a volunteer farm growing thousands of pounds of produce for the Jewish Family Service Weinberg Food Pantry.

Aaron Ney, Executive Director of Ekar will inspire us to be a part of the Jewish Food Movement.



Grow. Learn. Sustain. Enjoy. Repeat.

Passover – Come and Gone

By Sheila Malcolm

What a thrill it was to join together on Sunday before Passover to such a large, *haimish* and responsive group!

Thanks to all who braved sloppy roads and chill evening air to warm up together at Jefferson Unitarian. Our multi-generational and international group truly felt like extended family.

On my drive home, under an astonishingly beautiful sky and scattered snow flurries, I thought about the teamwork that goes into each Beth Ami event, the camaraderie generated, the genuine welcome to guests who we hope return and become friends, and the

anticipation over future events - holidays, Shabbats, hikes, book club, upcoming *b'nai mitzvot*, and the retreat in May. We share concerns about elders, pride in our children, joy in our community.

We held a Seder whose theme was "Questions" and answered those many questions in various ways. Along with the traditional Four Questions, we discussed a bit of the WHY of our Secular Humanistic Jewish beliefs. The answers are elusive, like those blowing snowflakes and billowing clouds, but I hope we continue to gather as often as possible to try to figure it all out.



Beth Ami Retreat (YMCA of the Rockies)

We will experience nature through a Humanistic Jewish lens. Our Retreat begins on Friday, May 3rd at 6 pm with a Shabbat dinner, service, and campfire. All day Saturday programming will include options for children and adults. There will be six meals served throughout the weekend. Our retreat concludes after lunch on Sunday, May 5th at 12 pm.

- Enjoy classes with our Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Jeffrey Falick, Secular Humanist Rabbi.
- Doug Hill will be teaching ancient outdoor education for children of all ages.
- Saturday evening will feature Havdala, a music program, and community games.

Stay in a spacious room with two queen-size beds and private bath. Rooms cost \$250 for two nights plus \$150 for food and entertainment. There will be six meals plus snacks throughout the weekend. Food will be organic, local, fair trade, and healthy.

RSVP to bethamicolorado@gmail.com by May 1st. Questions? Contact Sheila at smalcolm280@gmail.com.

Our retreat is supported in part by a grant from Hazon, encouraging Jewish sustainable communities.

(Click title to view flyer)

April-May Adult Ed Schedule

April 7 – What's happening in Israel as we approach Israeli Independence Day? Increase your understanding of Gaza and the West Bank, their history, and implications for the peace process.

May 3-5 – Beth Ami Retreat to Estes Park YMCA of the Rockies with Adult Ed offerings by Rabbi Jeff Falick

April 21 – Open House and Season Finale for JCS/AE with a year in review, survey for the future, and hands-on sharing of recommended books and films. Local author presentation!

Adult Ed meets at Countryside Rec Center in Westminster, 10470 Oak St, Westminster Co 80021 – Home of the Jewish Cultural School – from 10:00 - 11:45 am. There is a community potluck lunch after each session.

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Hi, all. I'm Rachel Hirsch. I was a student at the Beth Ami JCS until I had my Bat Mitzvah in 2008.

I am the editor of the Beth Ami newsletter this year, and plan on continuing for as long as possible (I graduate at the end of this school year).

I welcome any input you have, so feel free to email me any articles or information that you want to see in next month's newsletter.

-Rachel

Submission Deadline:

12am (midnight), Saturday 4/27