



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 8; Issue 8

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

August 2017

Calendar grid for August 2017 with dates 1-31 and highlighted days (2, 16, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27).

Beth Ami Event Schedule

Saturday 8/19 – South Denver Shabbat (11am, Garden Shelter in Civic Green Park, Highlands Ranch – see more below)

Thursday 8/24 – Sunday 8/27 – Paul Golin's (SHJ Executive Director) visit with Beth Ami! (see full schedule below)

Upcoming Events

September

Friday 9/8, Saturday 9/9 – Eve Orenstein performs in "Death Goes on Strike"

April (2018)

Friday 4/13 – Sunday 4/15 – Shalom Y'all IISHJ tour (Savannah to Charleston – see more below)

Celebrations

Birthdays

8/27 – Len Karasik

Anniversaries

8/2 – Brian Shucker & Darby Odell

8/16 – Michelle Davis and Ben Stafford

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 8/25

Shabbat in South Denver

By Michelle Davis

After years of thinking about it, I am finally organizing Humanistic Jewish events in South Denver! Under the name South Denver Humanistic Judaism, I have created a Meetup group and a Facebook page.

Meetup:
https://www.meetup.com/South-Denver-Humanistic-Judaism/

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/SouthDenverHumanisticJudaism/

There will be one more Shabbat in the Park event this summer on August 19th at 11am at the Garden Shelter in Civic Green Park, located in Highlands Ranch.

Join us in celebrating Shabbat! Bring a picnic lunch and experience a humanistic, cultural celebration of Shabbat. We will share challah and grape juice, sing songs and have a good time! Please share these events with anyone you know who would be interested and live in the Denver/South Denver area.

If you have questions or ideas for future South Denver events please contact Madrikha Michelle Davis at madrikhadavis@gmail.com or 720-294-2231.



## A Weekend with Paul Golin

August 24 – 27

Join Beth Ami for a weekend with Paul Golin, the executive director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. Golin has two decades of experience working on the issues around Jewish intermarriage as an advocate for inclusion, and is himself one of the few intermarried executive directors of a Jewish communal organization.

Come learn more about Humanistic Judaism! Explore with us the relationship between religion, humanism, and our choices as we shape our community and how our response to intermarriage is integral to the future of Judaism.



Please RSVP for seating and handouts to [BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com)

Here is the schedule for Paul's visit:

**Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 5pm** – Welcome Dinner at Sheila's Home in Boulder, 280 S 39th Street.

**Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am** – “What's New at the Society for Humanistic Judaism? What's New with Beth Ami?” Planning lunch and discussion at Gordon Biersch Flatirons Crossing, 1 W Flatiron Crossing Dr, Broomfield, CO 80021

**Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 6pm** – Under the Trees: A Humanistic Shabbat Service at Harlow Platts Park, 1360 Gillaspie Dr, Boulder 80305. Join us for an open air service and oneg to follow. Guests are asked to bring cookies to share!

**Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 3pm** – “Throwing Out the Bathwater but Keeping the Baby: Religion, Humanism and Community” presentation at the Secular Hub, 3100 Downing Street, Unit C, Denver 80205

**Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm** – Dinner with Paul at Racines, 650 Sherman, Denver 80203

**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am** – “Who's a Jew? Intermarriage and the Future of Judaism” presentation and brunch at the Boulder JCC, 6007 Oreg Avenue, Boulder 80303. Pre-register at [boulderjcc.org](http://boulderjcc.org)

## Shalom Y'all IISHJ Tour

Colonial Savannah & Historic Charleston – April 13-15, 2018

Colonial Savannah & Historic Charleston: the home of revolutionary statesman, early Jewish communities, slavery, and freedoms. Join us as Rabbi Adam Chalom's thoughtful perspective brings the antebellum South to life.

This IISHJ tour includes daily opening lectures and concluding discussions with Rabbi Adam Chalom, four nights accommodations, daily breakfast, Shabbat dinner, Savannah to Charleston transportation, lunch at Magnolia Plantation, and all tour entrance fees and gratuities.

Fee per person: \$950

Booking deadline: January 31, 2018

Highlights include:

- Two of the oldest Jewish congregations in North America
- The streets of historic Savannah, saved from destruction after General Sherman's infamous march to the sea
- Magnolia Plantation and Gardens to experience the beauty and challenges of the antebellum American South
- Charleston, the “Holy City” of religious tolerance, home to Jewish settlement since 1965, exporting cotton and importing slaves

Register at <https://iishj.org/shalom-yall>

## Eve Orenstein in “Death Goes on Strike”

Beth Ami opera star Eve Orenstein will be singing in a puppet adaptation of "Death Goes on Strike" – an opera written in the Terezin concentration camp and prohibited from performing until after the Holocaust.

Eve posts the following:

Here is information about the opera:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der\\_Kaiser\\_von\\_Atlantis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Kaiser_von_Atlantis)

And here is information on the production:

<https://www.facebook.com/ptdenver/>

Tickets are \$10 so hopefully a group can come see it on September 7 or 8 in Denver!

## News From National

SHJ has issued a statement responding to recent violence. A special thanks to Stephanie Blum and the Ethical Values in Action committee for responding to this significant issue. The full statement is on the web at this link: <http://www.shj.org/humanistic-jewish-life/issues-and-resolutions/shj-calls-for-civil-dialogue-not-violence/>

The statement begins with these paragraphs:

“As Jews and Humanists, we abhor violent extremism. The Society for Humanistic Judaism therefore condemns the June 24, 2017 shootings of Republicans in Alexandria, VA, who were apparently targeted deliberately and because they were

Republicans. This is a reprehensible act in any rational view of the world and of our politics. We abhor it just as we abhor the hate crimes of white nationalists and white supremacists.

“While we may disagree very strongly with many of the policies of the current administration and condemn discriminatory comments and generalizations made about Muslims, Mexicans, and others, we believe in the tenets of democracy – that differences ought to be addressed and resolved through reasoned argument among informed citizens and their freely elected representatives, and by civil discourse as the means of conducting that argument.”

## Family News and Events

If you or someone you know is experiencing important and life-altering events, please share the news with Beth Ami. In times of need, Beth Ami members can offer support. In times of happiness, we can help celebrate. To share your news, please contact Sheila Malcolm, Madrikha, or Michelle Davis, Madrikha.

## Support Beth Ami With An Honorary Donation

To honor or remember family or friends with a donation to Beth Ami, please email our treasurer at [treasurer@bethami.com](mailto:treasurer@bethami.com). A notice of the contribution will be sent to the honoree or family. Our congregation will express its gratitude in the newsletter for donations received in the previous month.

## Contact Information

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Hi, all. I'm Rachel Hirsch. I was a student at the Beth Ami JCS until 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 am currently a Computer Science Master's student at Colorado State University).

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

-Rachel