



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 6; Issue 12

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

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Beth Ami Event Schedule

**Saturday 12/5** – Beth Ami Book Club (11am at Brio's – see more below)

**Sunday 12/6** – Chanukah Party (3:30pm, Boulder JCC – **TIME CHANGE**)

**Sunday 12/13** – JCFS Session (10am), Colorado Jewish Summer Camp Fair – Come learn more about Jewish Summer camps! Sponsored by Boulder Educator's Team (2-5pm, Boulder JCC)

**Thursday 12/31** – New Year's Party – All are welcome! (7pm, Hirsch home)

## Celebrations

### Anniversaries

- 12/8 – Gordon & Grace Gamm
- 12/27 – Sheila & John Malcolm

### Birthdays

- 12/1 – Ashlynn Anderson
- 12/4 – Michelle Davis
- 12/6 – Evan Wilson
- 12/12 – Herb Josepher
- 12/13 – Michael Hirsch
- 12/20 – Calla Stafford, Laura Moin
- 12/21 – Bill Baum
- 12/25 – Don Griss, Vic Goldberg

## Upcoming Events (cont.)

### March

- Saturday 3/12** – Shabbat Celebration
- Sunday 3/13** – annual Purim Carnival (Boulder JCC)

### April

- Saturday 4/24** – Community Passover Seder (Boulder JCC, 3800 Kalmia, Boulder – see more below)

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Submission Deadline  
**11:59pm, Fri 12/25**



## Upcoming Events

### January

**Sunday 1/10** – JCFS Session – hands-on activities presented by Becca Weaver, Farm and Sustainability Director at Boulder JCC (10am, Boulder JCC)

**Saturday 1/16** – Beth Ami Arts Group event, “Funny Girl” – purchase own tickets and RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) if interested in dinner following performance (2pm, Vintage Theatre Productions, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora CO – see more below)

**Sunday 1/24** – Tu B'Shevat Celebration (3-5pm, Boulder JCC, 3800 Kalmia Ave. Boulder 80301 - \$5 per person – see more below)

**Saturday 1/30** – Shabbat Celebration

**Sunday 1/31** – Beth Ami Arts Group event, “Vera Rubin: Bringing the Dark to Light” - purchase own tickets (2pm, Fiske Planetarium, 2414 Regent Dr. Boulder CO – see more below)

### February

**Sunday 2/7** – JCFS Session – Sheila Malcolm, Beth Ami Madrikha, will lead a lesson to learn about Jewish world food traditions (10am, Boulder JCC)

**Saturday 2/13** – Shabbat Celebration

## SHJ October 2015 Board Meeting from Kathy Kane

I really enjoy going to the semi annual SHJ Board meetings in Michigan because I have met Humanistic Jews from all over the U.S. and Canada. While I am there, I am also glad I have an opportunity to visit with my family.

The primary focus for this meeting was working with the SHJ consultant Alan Levy who is helping SHJ move into the future. SHJ is compiling duties/responsibilities for its new Executive Director. Alan is guiding a committee of volunteers from the Board to decide next steps.

Alan has already compiled information from the questionnaires SHJ members completed. He organized the information into four categories: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. I am including a few examples from each category.

Input? Questions? Email Kathy [kkane7403@aol.com](mailto:kkane7403@aol.com)

**SHJ Strengths:** Members feel passionate about Humanistic Judaism and like SHJ's vision and mission. Members are supporting their local organizations.

**SHJ Weaknesses:** SHJ receives annual fees from local communities. Fundraising is primarily dues-based and is declining.

SHJ members don't know what the national organization does or could do.

**Opportunities (Something to be explored):** SHJ members need to think why Humanistic Judaism is important to them. What services do they receive when they pay dues? How do SHJ members support our movement?

SHJ members can become involved in central decision making, especially on social actions.

**Threats:** SHJ is not attracting new members. Volunteer-based national and local structures are stretched thin.

## Jewish Cultural Family School November Report

First, families learned about homelessness thru a Reading Rainbow video based upon the children's book, Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting. Then families read another story choosing between Snow in Jerusalem by Deborah da Costa, a story about a homeless cat in Jerusalem and It Could Always be Worse, retold and illustrated by Margot Zemach, a Yiddish folktale about a family living in a very small home.

Our November Mitzvah was donating items necessary for a birthday party to EFAA (Emergency Family Assistance Association) EFAA supports 58 families currently living in transitional housing.

We are buying birthday bag items at Dollar Tree:



We are making tags for the 15 birthday bags we donated at the Wilson house



Arielle Wildau, Interim children's Program Caseworker at EFAA is very happy with our donation. She said she will use one of the bags immediately.



## Program Committee Report

Marti Hirsch, Sheila Malcolm, Lenore Kingston, Michelle Davis

The Program Committee met on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Our Beth Ami community Hanukkah Party will be Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm-5:30pm followed by the Jewish community menorah lighting on Pearl Street Mall at 5:45pm. RSVP to Lenore [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

On November 14<sup>th</sup> Beth Ami members and guests celebrated Shabbat at the Malcolm home featuring Steve Greenspan's research on the death penalty.

On October 17<sup>th</sup> Beth Ami members and guests celebrated Shabbat at the Levene home in Denver featuring Jewish Colorado Pink Shabbat for breast

cancer awareness.

Here's an article summarizing Steve's 7 points: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/incompetence/201303/foolish-and-barbaric-practice>

We are scheduling future Shabbats in Boulder/Denver for 2016: January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 13, and March 12<sup>th</sup>. These Shabbats are opportunities for Adult Education. Please contact Sheila Malcolm at [sheila@bethami.com](mailto:sheila@bethami.com) with suggestions for possible topics.

## Beth Ami Receives Hazon Grant

Hazon awarded Beth Ami \$650 to foster the building of a community that wants to celebrate its Jewish identity and its commitment to environmental sustainability through sharing healthy, delicious, seasonal, local and organic Shabbat meals prepared by the participants. Our family school will host these Shabbat meals. The grant will pay for speakers, food, and compostable products.

Becca Weaver, Farm and Sustainability Director at the Boulder JCC. "Milk & Honey Farm at the J will be a two acre educational sustainable farm that brings the greater community together via experiential programs and activities designed to ignite wonder and discovery, grounded in vast Jewish heritage, tradition, and values." On January 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-12:00pm Becca will lead hands-on environmental activities for our family school at the Boulder JCC. The community is welcome to attend. RSVP [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com).

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Sheila Malcolm Beth Ami Madrikha, will lead a lesson to learn about Jewish world food traditions. There will be a discussion of "what is kosher?" as well as an exploration of "what is 'kosher' to a Humanist?"

We are in the process of deciding when our Shabbat celebration(s) will be.



## Beth Ami Arts Group Event Info

### Funny Girl

Vintage Theatre Productions, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora CO.

"Funny Girl" is a delightful musical adaptation of the story of Fanny Brice.

RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) if interested in dinner after the performance.

### Vera Rubin: Bringing the Dark

Fiske Planetarium, 2414 Regent Dr. Boulder CO.

This half-hour performance is suitable for theatre-goers of elementary-school age and older. Vera's story will resonate with people of all ages.

Vera Rubin is an astronomer, fascinated by the curious things she sees among the stars. One night, Vera confronts the mysteries of galaxies in a dream encounter with Sir Isaac Newton. She comes up with a thrilling idea that solves one of the astrophysics' biggest puzzles.

## Tu B'Shevat Experience – Save the Date!

Join us for a dynamic event celebrating Tu Shevat, the new year of the trees! Taste a new exotic fruit, sip on some “fruit of the vine”, and get active and interactive as we learn about and celebrate the Jewish Earth Day.

There will be separate, age-appropriate programming for kids under 13 (kids under 5 need at least one parent/guardian present). The main program will be loved by all ages 13 – 103.

Sunday, January 24, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Boulder JCC, 3800 Kalmia Avenue, Boulder, 80301. \$5/person. Doors open at 2:45. This event is expected to sell out, so advance registration is strongly encouraged.

Co-sponsored by: Beth Ami, B'nai Torah, Boulder Center for Judaism, Boulder JCC, Boulder Jewish Teen Initiative, Congregation Bonai Shalom, Congregation Har HaShem, Hazon, JEWISHcolorado, Judaism Your Way, Nevei Kodesh, and Tuv Ha'aretz Interfaith CSA



## Passover Seder – LOCATION CHANGE

We discussed a change of venue for our Passover Seder on April 24<sup>th</sup> to the Boulder JCC, 3800 Kalmia, Boulder. Our family school is currently meeting there and we have two new families attending bringing our total to eight school families. We have a drop-in policy and accept new families throughout the school year. Having our Passover Seder in Boulder is an opportunity

to attract more families to our Beth Ami community.

Some of you may know that the Boulder JCC will be opening a new JCC on Arapahoe and Cherryvale this June. Many of our Beth Ami members have donated funds for this project. Gordon and Grace Gamm are a major contributor and hope that Humanistic Judaism will have a presence in the new building.

## News From National

With the very disturbing response of limiting Syrian refugee immigration following the tragic shootings in Paris, the Ethical Concerns Committee, with the approval of the SHJ Executive Committee, have issued a statement. Thank you so much Stephanie Blum and the members of the ECC for your responsiveness and your excellent work.

You will find the statement listed in Issues and Resolutions (under Humanistic Jewish Life) and under

Recent News on the SHJ website at this link:

<http://www.shj.org/humanistic-jewish-life/issues-and-resolutions/shj-joins-jewish-community-in-speaking-out-about-syrian-refugees/>.

The November/December issue of Moment Magazine offers

similar views from a range of rabbis:

<http://www.momentmag.com/ask-the-rabbis-refugees/>.

## Tributes & Donations

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.

- Don and Barb Griss honor the memory of Ely Karasik with a donation to Beth Ami.

- Lenore and Ron Kingston honor the memory of Steve Langer with a donation to Beth Ami.
- Sheila and John honor the memory of Steve Langer with a donation to Beth Ami.

## Contact Information

### Beth Ami Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

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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 Mathematics & Computer Science student at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA).

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