



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 5; Issue 2

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

February 2014

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	

Beth Ami Event Schedule

Saturday 2/8 – Shabbat, potluck and group discussion honoring the “Jewish Day of Constructive Criticism” (*more info below*)

Sunday 2/9 – JCS Session 11 & Adult Ed (10am)

Sunday 2/23 – JCS Session 12 & Adult Ed (10am)

Thursday 2/27 – Beth Ami Book Club Reads *The Happy Atheist* by CZ Myers (11am at Brio's – *see more info below*)

Other Community Events

2/5 - 16 – Denver Jewish Film Festival (MACC at the JCC, 350 Dahlia St, Denver 80246 – [see more](#))

2/27 - 3/9 – Boulder Jewish Film Festival (Dairy Center's Boedecker Theater, 2590 Walnut St, Boulder 80302 – [see more](#))

Celebrations

Birthdays

2/2 – Sam Budoff

2/12 – Dawn Anderson

2/18 – Tom & Ren Margolis

2/21 – Suzy Wilson

2/22 – Sheila Malcolm

Upcoming Events

March

3/1 – Havdalah and dinner (*see more info below*)

3/1 - “When Comedy Went to School” (*leave from the Malcolms' at 6:45 for Boedecker Theater – order tickets [here](#)*)

3/9 – JCS Session 13 & Adult Ed (10am)

3/16 – Community Purim Celebration (*see Adult Ed agenda below*)

April

4/5 – Macy Gosch's Bat Mitzvah

4/6 – JCS Session 14 & Adult Ed (10am)

4/13 – Community Passover Celebration – please bring beer bottle caps for musical instruments to make on the retreat (4pm, JUC)

4/27 – JCS Session 15 & Adult Ed (10am)

May

5/16-5/18 – YMCA Family Retreat registration is now open. Please email Lenore with questions and to register (*more info below*)

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 2/21



2014 Beth Ami Family Retreat Info

A JEWISH MUSICAL JOURNEY

May 16-18, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park CO

- Stay in a spacious room with 2 queen beds, private bath in an 8-bedroom lodge with modern kitchen, dining & living rooms – and breathtaking views!
- Share healthy, organic and local community meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast.
- Enjoy quality music and entertainment, heartfelt services, fun games and growing friendships as we build our Beth Ami community.
- Explore the Y-camp, Rocky Mt. National Park and the town of Estes Park.

The Retreat begins Friday evening as we check in and prepare for 6:00 dinner followed by a roaring bonfire and brief Shabbat service. Saturday offers a full day of program options. Picnic lunches can be enjoyed indoors or out. Sheldon will join us for afternoon and evening programs. Sunday breakfast will include a community meeting, followed by closing activities and departure.

- Reserve your room/weekend now with a \$75 deposit check to “Beth Ami” sent to Ron Kingston, 1395 James Way, Erie, CO 80516.
- Cost per room is \$250 plus \$150 for food/entertainment. Full payment due by Mar. 1. Late deposits may result in placement in nearby cabins.
- Options for 1 night stay - email Lenore at bethamicolorado@gmail.com

With Guest Presenter Sheldon Sands
www.sheldonsands.com



Beth Ami Book Discussion Group

Our February pick is The Happy Atheist, by CZ Myers. Join us at Brio's near Cherry Creek Mall on Feb 27th 11:00am. for a lively discussion.

RSVP to bethamicolorado@gmail.com

Here is a summary from good reads: “From the author of one of the web's most popular science blogs, The Happy Atheist takes on religious fanaticism with all the gleeful disrespect it deserves. A small, fearless book that takes aim at big, stupid targets - and nails them.”

Vocami

Bringing People Face to Face

Julia Genyuk needs people who like a good conversation to test her new website vocami.com. It helps people to find conversation partners in their area who share their interests. Please sign up and tell your friends if you like the idea! Send feedback to contact@vocami.com.



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

- Elaine Block, longtime Beth Ami member, is on the road to recovery. She is at Springbrooke Assisted Living, 6800 Leetsdale Drive, Denver, CO 80224. She has her own phone 303-321-3276.
- Ben and Michelle are happy to announce that Leah Elizabeth Stafford arrived on January 8th. She came quite early, at only 32 and a half weeks gestation, so she is enjoying a long stay in the NICU until she is strong enough to take the bottle all the time and come home. She is healthy and growing, already having gained a full pound, and is doing very well. Calla and David are excited to have a little sister and we all look forward to having her come home. We do not know when that will be, hopefully before her due date of March 1st.



- Macy Gosch solo at Celebrity performance. She received a Platinum for her solo. We're all proud of Macy!



- Laura Moin's mother is spending a lot of time in Colorado to get away from the high temperatures in her home country of Argentina. Laura's mom and her grandson Eitan cooked a wonderful gluten-free pasta dish at our Jewish Cultural School on Sunday, January 26th.



Local News

The new Boulder Jewish "Commons" received unanimous final approval from City Council on Jan. 21. Beth Ami will have an opportunity to participate in the new facility as it evolves and eventually opens its doors to the whole Jewish community.

See more at:

<http://boulderjewishnews.org/2014/boulder-city-council-unanimously-approves-jcc-building-project/>

Beth Ami Mitzvah Project Committee

On January 12th, Don Griss and Lenore Kingston met with Nancy Benyamin, CVA, Director of Volunteer Services and Shelly Hines, director of the Family Safety Net Department at Jewish Family Service, 3200 S. Tamarac Drive, Denver. Guided by the Jewish values of g'milut chasadim (acts of loving kindness) and tikkun olam (repairing the world) Jewish Family Service operates the Harry and Janette Weinberg Food Pantry. The pantry serves more than 1,800 individuals from a variety of religious and racial backgrounds. In addition, the pantry also is helping clients apply for food stamps, navigate Medicaid and find jobs programs.

During the month of February, Beth Ami members will be preparing and donating bags to Weinberg Pantry filled with all the things a family needs to celebrate a child's birthday. Shelly told us about a recent Weinberg Pantry visit of a family with a young girl. While the family was shopping at the pantry, Shelly gave the girl a birthday bag. Shelly described the surprise and joy she observed when the girl received the birthday bag.

Please email Lenore at bethamicolorado@gmail.com or Don at dongriss@yahoo.com if you would like to be part of this project.

Beth Ami supports JCS preschool teacher Katya Hirsch's February tzedakah project

Katya Hirsch's Girl Scout troop (Troop #441) is collecting cookie donations for EFAA (Emergency Family Assistance Association). Because of the Boulder floods, EFAA has a particular need this year for things that brighten people's spirits.

Katya's girl scout troop is trying to collect 200 boxes of cookies to donate to the EFAA food pantry. Each box

costs \$4. The troop will accept donations of any amount, small or big. Even 25 cents brings them that much closer to another box.

Please donate throughout the month of February whenever you see Katya.

Katya, the Girl Scouts, EFAA and their clients thank you very much

Shabbat Celebrations in Denver and Boulder

Feb. 8 – In Denver, 11 am at the home of Barry and Donna Levene, 695 Fairfax St., Denver 80020 Heartfelt Shabbat, nourishing potluck and group discussion honoring the "Jewish Day of Constructive Criticism"

Really! For this event RSVP to bflevene@gmail.com or 303-750-4317 by Feb. 6.

Mar. 1 – In Boulder, 5:00 pm at the home of Sheila and John Malcolm, 280 S. 39th St., Boulder 80305. A brief Havdalah service will be followed by a dinner of hearty stews, salads and dessert. For this event RSVP to smalcolm280@gmail.com or 303-499-5933 by Feb. 28. Schmooze and go, or...

Mar. 1 (cont) – Depart at 6:45 for the Boulder Jewish Film Festival at the Dairy Center for the Arts, Boedecker Theater, 2590 Walnut St. (26th & Walnut), Boulder 80302 to view "When Comedy Went to School".

This show will sell out so if you plan to go, please order tickets here today:

<http://www.boulderjcc.org/events/1692/2014/03/01/boulder-jcc-events-calendar/when-comedy-went-to-school/>

Building community across the miles, sharing food, drink and conversation, creating Jewish traditions that have meaning for today ~ reach out and give Beth Ami a try!

Beth Ami Adult Ed Schedule

JCS: <http://www.bethami.com/JCS.html>

Adult Ed: <http://www.bethami.com/AdultEd.html>

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. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Feb. 9 – The 50 Year Legacy of the Birmingham Temple and Secular Humanistic Judaism, recorded during Colloquium 2013, reviews Rabbi Wine's vision for SHJ and how it has evolved. (Presenters include Rabbis Chalom, Maas and Falick.)

Feb. 23 – "What's in a Name?" Julia Genyuk will explain how your ancestors got their last names, and also discuss news out of Russia.

Mar. 9 – "Exploring Argentina" with Laura Moin, sharing highlights of her journey "home" this past November, including Buenos Aires and points south.

Mar. 16 – No session at Countryside! All are invited to the Boulder JCC Purim Carnival!

Apr. 6 – "Reading Village: Tikkun Olam at Work in Guatemala" by Larry Dressler and Jan Snooks

Apr. 27 – "A Matter of Life or Death" Dawn Anderson facilitates a presentation about youth depression and suicide with volunteers from The Second Wind Fund.

May 16-18 – This year's Beth Ami Retreat is called "A Jewish Musical Journey." (*see more info above*)

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 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