



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 8; 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 2017

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 2/4 – Tu B'Shevat celebration (10am – noon, Boulder Public Library – Meadows Branch – 4800 Baseline Road, Boulder)

Saturday 2/18 – International Dinner Out (6 – 8pm, Golden Sun Chinese Restaurant – 1635 28th St Boulder, 80301 – RSVP to bethamiRSVP@gmail.com – see details of the dinner below)

Sunday 2/19 – Islamic Center Open House (1 – 3pm, Islamic Center of Boulder, 5495 Baseline Rd – see more below)

Upcoming Events

March

Saturday 3/4 – Community Shabbat celebration (10am)

Sunday 3/12 – Save the date for Purim!! (9:30am – 2pm, Boulder JCC – see more below)

Thursday 3/16 – “Freedom Runners” Movie at the Boulder Jewish Film Festival (5pm, Boedecker Theater, Dairy Center for the Arts – see summary below)

April

Monday 4/10 – Passover begins

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11:59pm, Fri 2/24

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2/2 – Sam Budoff
- 2/12 – Dawn Anderson
- 2/21 – Suzy Wilson
- 2/22 – Sheila Malcolm

Beth Ami Tu B'Shevat Celebration

Our Jewish “Earth Day” on February 4 will include a brief Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat Seder with a tasty light lunch!

We'll experience an interactive presentation focused on climate and sustainability, complete a mitzvah project, and enjoy socializing before closing.

Dr. Jeff Bennett will present on “Global Warming Demystified” in a talk and Q & A suitable for all ages. See his extensive biography at:

<http://www.jeffreybennett.com/about/>.

In addition, Dr. Bennett will present at Fiske Planetarium on the CU campus on February 2 and 10.

<http://www.colorado.edu/fiske/2017/01/09/live-talk-global-warming-demystified-february-2nd-10th-7pm>

Join Beth Ami on Saturday, February 4 from 10am – noon in the Meadows Library Community Room – 2400 Baseline Road, Boulder

RSVP to bethamirsvp@gmail.com for attendance and handouts.

Free to Beth Ami Members – \$10 donation for each adult guest

Bring donations for the Boulder-Dushanbe Sister City Project – including youth and young adult fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, CDs – anything that will help Tajik youth learn English!

Questions? Contact Sheila Malcolm at sheila@bethami.com

Women's March on Denver – January 21, 2017

Beth Ami was represented at the Women's March on Denver. We made our way by car and by bus from all parts of the Boulder/Denver area to join with thousands of others marching in solidarity for human rights and advocating for the marginalized members of our society.

The weather was chilly but the hearts were warm as we followed the procession to Civic Center park. People, mostly women, many wearing pink hats with ears, peacefully demonstrated, waving hand made signs and listening to the inspirational speakers and performers.



Beth Ami Sponsors “Freedom Runners” at the Boulder Jewish Film Festival

Boulder Jewish Film Tickets go on Sale February 1st
<http://www.boulderjcc.org/evets/boulder-jcc-events-calendar/09/8353/03/detail/boulder-jewish-film-festival/2017/>

Beth Ami will be a non-profit sponsor of the movie “Freedom Runners” on Thursday, March 16 at 5pm, at

the Boedecker Theater in the Dairy Center for the Arts.

An Israeli high school teacher establishes a running team for young African refugees that helps them take the first steps toward a better future. Directed by David Wachsmann in Hebrew with English subtitles, the movie is 50 minutes.

Beth Ami International Dinner Out

Saturday, February 18, 6 – 8pm

Have you ever eaten real Chinese food? Golden Sun Chinese Restaurant has an extensive Chinese menu. The problem is, it is written all in Chinese and you will not see it on their website. Here is your golden opportunity to try some of those exotic dishes, plus a few familiar standards.

The upcoming Beth Ami International Dinner Out will be a family style banquet with a fixed price, drinks

will be extra. At this time the exact price is still in negotiation, however we expect it to be no more than \$20 per adult and \$10 per child 12 and under. In order to facilitate this amazing feast we must have RSVP's by February 15!! The event will be posted as a Beth Ami MeetUp. To RSVP or for more information about the event, please contact Marti on MeetUp or by emailing at BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com.

Save the Date for Purim!!

From the Boulder JCC

Purim is on its way and the Boulder JCC is hosting the community-wide Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 12th. Once again, we plan to offer a "sensory-friendly hour" from 9:30am – 10:30am in order to help accommodate families with children who have a tough time in a carnival setting. Our sensory-friendly hour will

feel exactly like our regular Purim carnival, but more calm, relaxed, and the games will be easier.

From 10:30 to approximately 11:00 am, we will have a Purim play and parade, and then from approximately 11 am to 2 pm we will host all of your carnival favorites: games, food, crafts, prizes, and more!

American Humanist Association Successfully Lobbies Congress in Historic Law

By Grace Gamm

I am calling my members of Congress every day at their DC offices and have invariably been greeted warmly by a staffer who is interested. Did you know Republicans abandoned their plan to change their Ethics office rules etc, following a barrage of calls?

Here are two great resources:

- www.indivisibleguide.com Provides a protocol for influencing Congress based on the experiences of former staffers.

- www.dailyaction.org Provides a daily text notifying you of an urgent issue to speak about with your reps.

Political divisions in our country were recently united over religious freedom. On December 16, 2016, President Obama signed into law the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA). This law makes history by including protection for the non-religious. Notably, the law passed Congress unopposed.

The new law is an improvement of the 1998 IRFA, and intensifies advocacy of religious freedom in US foreign policy. The improved legislation supports freedom of thought and religion and protects both theistic and non-theistic beliefs "as well as the right not to profess or practice any religion." It is the first law that includes the term "non-theist."

An AHA press release announced the event (edited for brevity):

The AHA lobbied both Democrats and Republicans for inclusive language in HR 1150 that would recognize the rights of humanists, atheists and other nonreligious individuals, in addition to defending theistic religious minorities. The Act states that "the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs as well as the right not to profess or practice any religion." The Act also condemns "specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs" and attempts to forcibly compel "non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert."

The IRFA is the result of extensive advocacy efforts from the humanist community and the support of our religious allies," said Matthew Bulger, legislative director of the AHA. "Religious freedom for all people, theists and non-theists, is an American value we must protect."

The AHA press release is available at <https://americanhumanist.org/category/press-releases/> and includes a link to the full text of the new law, as well as press releases regarding other important AHA news.

Islamic Center of Boulder Open House

Join Beth Ami in showing support for the local Muslim community by attending the Islamic Center Open House. The event is February 19 at 1 – 3pm, 5495 Baseline Road, Boulder.

They would greatly appreciate their neighbors and community joining them. In light of current events, the Beth Ami Planning committee feels this will be an important and meaningful outreach.

News From National

The Community Development and Enrichment Committee of the Society for Humanistic Judaism is compiling a resource list of members and professionals involved in Humanistic Judaism with certain expertise. If you are willing to serve as a resource to members of SHJ either affiliated with other communities or at-large members, please by return email indicate in which areas you are willing to provide support.

1. General Community Support
2. Administration & Management Support
3. Finance
4. Marketing, Communications and Publicity
5. Children's School
6. Programming
7. Rituals and Life Cycles

Thanking you in advance for your willingness to help others dedicated to creating a meaningful Humanistic Judaism for others who share your passion.

Reply to Rabbi Mirian Jerris at rabbi@shj.org.



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.

- Here's the latest from our own Dr. Steve Greenspan: Here for your information is a new column, published in the online website of Psychology Today.
 - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/incompetence/201701/the-gullibility-donald-trump>

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. 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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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