



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 7; Issue 1

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

January 2016

Calendar grid for January 2016 with days of the week and dates.

Beth Ami Event Schedule

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 if interested in dinner following performance (2:30pm, 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/Adult Ed with a presentation on “Carl Sagan: Humanistic Jewish Role Model” including readings, video and discussion. RSVP to sheila@bethami.com. (2-5pm, Levene home, 695 Fairfax St., Denver 80220)

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

Upcoming Events

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)

Friday 2/12 – Sunday 2/14 – Zionism, Anti-Zionism, and Antisemitism Seminar (see more below)

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)

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1/2 – Kathy Kane
1/8 – Helen Apthorp
1/13 – James Wilson
1/16 – Stan Gosch, Stu Budoff
1/18 – Macy Gosch
1/22 – Steve Litz
1/25 – Lenore Kingston

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 1/22



## Reflections

By Sheila Malcolm

May I re-visit Chanukah for just a moment? The Festival of Light arrived at both a literal and figurative dark time of the calendar and our lives. Many of us are still mourning the loss of two unique and gifted members of Beth Ami – Ely Karasik and Steve Langer – and other family and friends. The life light of hundreds of innocents has been extinguished through senseless acts of extremist violence in the U.S. and around the world. Our local schools are closed today due to snow, but in L.A., children are home due to threats of more violence. I cringe for parents sending their children off each day to schools that used to be considered safe zones. We live in a time of darkness.

I recently attended a solstice concert in Boulder. The choir director explained that several songs were chosen specifically to embrace the darkness of these pre-solstice days. I heard these words as an affirmation to hunker down in early night, relish the joys of home,

read and bake and sing along to oldies whose words we'll always remember. Respond to the barrage of charitable requests the best we can. Think more closely about human nature, pondering our personal evolutions and reactions to the darkness. I choose to embrace these dark times, both in community (Beth Ami's Chanukah Party, menorah lighting on Pearl St., Jewish ice skating in Louisville) and quietly at home. I'm having a hard time celebrating a violent Maccabee victory and a divine miracle, and prefer to acknowledge our Chanukah holiday as a time of reflection and change, focusing on what's important, and lighting more candles. Shalom.

These blog entries may be of interest to you:

<http://www.interfaithfamily.com/blog/iff/december-holidays/the-real-story-of-hanukkah/>

<http://www.interfaithfamily.com/blog/iff/december-holidays/finding-the-light-this-hanukkah/?>

## 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.

## Beth Ami Arts Group Event Info

### **Funny Girl: the Musical**

**Saturday, Jan 16 – 2:30pm**

Vintage Theatre Productions, 1468 Dayton St.  
Aurora CO.

Laughter and lovely lyrics will wash over you as you watch this delightful musical about the great Broadway entertainer Fanny Brice, a Jewish woman born on the Lower East Side of New York. This musical contains familiar songs such as "Don't Rain on My Parade" and "People". Beth Ami Arts Group will be attending the Vintage Theater performance on January 16 at 2:30.

Purchase tickets on their website:

<http://www.vintagetheatre.org/>.

RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) so we know to look for you at the show.

### **Vera Rubin: Bringing the Dark**

**Sunday, Jan 31 – 1:00-1:35pm**

Fiske Planetarium, 2414 Regent Dr. Boulder CO.

Join us at the world premiere of "Vera Rubin:

Bringing the Dark to Light" by William C. Kovacsik at Fiske Planetarium on January 31 at 1:00. This unique 35 minute show which combines live performance and planetarium projection is suitable for both children and adults.

Jewish American Vera Rubin, born in 1928, earned a degree in astronomy at Vassar, the only astronomy major that year. After being denied entrance to Princeton because she was a woman, she continued her education at Cornell and later Georgetown where she became a true pioneer in her field. Her work on the "clumping" of galaxies in the universe as well as that on galaxy rotation rates were both first dismissed then later confirmed.

Tickets to the performance are available through The Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

<http://www.betc.org/verarubin>.

We are hoping some of you will want to join us at a coffee shop after the show to chill and schmooze. Email [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) after you purchase your tickets!

## Zionism, Anti-Zionism, and Anti-Semitism Seminar

February 12-14, 2016 – International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism

Organized by Or Adam Congregation, Presented by Rabbi Adam Chalom

Anti-Semitism and Israel have been intertwined since Theodor Herzl witnessed the Dreyfus Trial in 1894, sparking his book The Jewish State and modern Zionism. Today's conflicts in Europe, the Middle East and on college campuses are a bewildering, even disturbing, combination of legitimate criticism and irrational hatred. How should American Jews respond?

### **Registration – Register by February 5, 2016**

Or Adam & SHJ members:

\$15/session, \$40/seminar

IISHJ students for course credit:

\$140 for complete seminar

General Public:

\$20/session, \$50/seminar reg.

Includes bagels on Saturday & Sunday

Full registration includes Saturday lunch

### **Arizona Jewish Historical Society**

Cutler & Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center

122 East Culver Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

(602) 241 – 7870

<https://azjhs.org/>

For more info, contact [oradaminfo@gmail.com](mailto:oradaminfo@gmail.com)

### **Friday, February 12**

NO CHARGE, ALL ARE WELCOME

7:00pm Shabbat Celebration – “Being Jewish in a Non-Jewish World”

### **Saturday, February 13**

I) 9:00am-Noon “Diaspora, Diversity and

Discrimination: Ancient and Medieval Origins”

II) 1:00pm-4:00pm “Founding, Fighting and Final Solutions: 1870-1948”

### **Sunday, February 14**

III) 9:00am-Noon “Reacting to Reality: The World Today”

## News From National

Rabbi Jeff Falick of the Birmingham Temple in MI was invited to the White House for Chanukah? Know who sent the invitation? Read about it here!

<http://forward.com/news/326097/meet-the-presidents-jewish-flack-catcher/?attribution=home-hero-item-text-2>

From the Desk of  
Jeffrey L. Falick  
Secular Humanistic Rabbi

From the State House to the White House

One of the great privileges of serving our congregation is when I am presented with the honor of bringing our message and presence to the world.

This week I had one such outstanding opportunity when I opened a session of the Michigan State House of Representatives at the gracious invitation of Rep. Robert Wittenberg.

Next week Arthur and I will also proudly represent our wonderful congregation and our movement as the guests of President and Mrs. Obama at the annual White House Chanukah celebration.

Here is the text of my address to the State House this past Tuesday:

<https://drive.google.com/.../0B15c0U2VIK8HMmZpNzIwOwRUN.../view...>



## 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

- Rachel Hirsch is continuing her summer internship at Terma Software Labs with a short winter stint. She is working on documentation and quality assurance.

- Troy & Dawn Anderson are new Foster Parents!

## 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.

- Barry and Donna Levene honor the memory of Ely Karasik 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