



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 5; Issue 7

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

July 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	29	30	31		

Beth Ami Event Schedule

Saturday 7/12 – Community Conversation at Malcolm home (10am – see more below)

Sunday 7/13 – Community Conversation at Griss home (1pm – see more below)

Upcoming Events

August

Thursday 8/7 – Book Club reads Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews by James Carroll (11am – Brio's in Denver - see book summary below)

Saturday 8/9 – Beth Ami Family Shabbat Hike (10am - South Mesa Trailhead on Eldorado Springs Drive, Boulder - Details to follow!)

September

Sunday 9/7 – JCS session 1 (10am – see more info below)

Sunday 9/21 – JCS session 2, Family School Mitzvah Project (10am at Ekar Farms, RSVP to bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

Friday 9/26 – Rosh Hashana 5775 service and potluck (4pm – Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden)

October

Friday 10/3 – Kol Nidre Service

Sunday 10/5 – JCS session 3

Sunday 10/12 – Community Sukkot celebration (more info later)

Sunday 10/19 – JCS session 4

Celebrations

Birthdays

7/5 – Noah Gosch

7/8 – Janelle Goldberg

7/11 – Hillel Segal

7/16 – Gerrie Karasik

7/17 – Ben Stafford

7/22 – Aubrey Anderson

7/25 – Alexi Budoff, Elia Gorokhovsky

7/28 – Terry Fleisher

Anniversaries

7/1 – Jon and Toni Budoff

7/14 – Marti and Michael Hirsch

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 7/25



Jewish Cultural School

Our Jewish Cultural School meets on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10:00am-12:00pm for the first semester. For the second semester, the day switches to the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Other arrangements are made when Jewish or American holidays conflict. Beth Ami member families participate in an eight session semester. Non-Beth Ami member families participate per session by attending the session(s) as their schedules permit.

Each family is a learning group, or havruta, that listens to each other's ideas and works together to accomplish a project. Our curriculum features an understanding of Humanistic Jewish values through games, stories, and projects plus monthly real world experiences when we live these values. Our goal is to help families plan their Jewish journey.



JCS meets at Countryside Rec Center in Westminster, 10470 Oak St, Westminster Co 80021 from 10:00 - 11:45 am. There is a community potluck lunch after each session.

See schedule at <http://www.bethami.com/JCS.html>

RSVP to bethamicolorado@gmail.com

What are the values of Humanistic Judaism?

Truth אמת

Rely on what we know about human experience and needs
Discover new, powerful truths about our history and present
Advance ethical and moral goals

Integrity יושר

Say what we mean and mean what we say
Welcome all who seek connections with Jewish culture and history

Dignity כבוד

Embrace the joy, power and responsibility to shape our own lives
Our dignity goes hand in hand with the dignity of all peoples

Reality מציאות

Employ reason, observation, experimentation and creativity to
address questions and understand experiences in this world

Judaism יהדות

Recognize that the Jewish people created Jewish culture
To be a Jew is to identify with the Jewish people

These values define our existence as Humanistic Jews



Thanks to Rabbi Adam Chalom
Dean of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism

Boulder Jewish Festival



The weather was looking a little iffy as we set up our booth at the Boulder Jewish Festival. The clouds were forming but so were our smiles.

We were worried that the crowd would be small, however we found that the people who dropped by the booth were genuinely interested in finding out what humanistic Judaism is. A number of people signed our email sheet, showing that they wanted to hear more from us. Many kids hung out at our craft table watercoloring beautiful hamsa paintings.

When the rain started to fall we huddled under our tent enjoying the music from the bandstand nearby that continued even as the thunder rumbled.

Hazon Food Festival

Beth Ami registered as a partner of the Hazon Jewish Food Festival held this year at the Denver JCC. The event location alternates annually between Denver and Boulder. Sheila Malcom, Lenore Kingston and Marti Hirsch volunteered at and attended workshops at the full day event. Before the festival the three took advantage of the festival continental breakfast at Ekar farms where they had a farm tour and harvested a little fresh organic produce to be donated to local a food bank.

The workshops at the festival ranged from the active "Healthy Smoothie Spin Class" to the more sedate "Real Change in the Food Justice Movement", but the big excitement was the locust tasting. Yes, that's right, bugs! Apparently some locust are kosher; they taste like sunflower seeds and are high in protein and iron. We hope next year a few more Beth Ami members join us at this delightful event.

Marti entered and won the festival's hummus contest! She made a recipe handed down to her from her

husband's grandmother Valia who found it in the cook-book pamphlet, "What's cooking in Israel", published by the Embassy of Israel in honor of Israel's 13th anniversary.



Upcoming Community Conversations in Denver and Boulder!

Let's continue the courageous conversations started at the May retreat. This is an invitation to all Beth Ami members to have a voice in our future.

Learn about the exciting Jewish Cultural School revisions! Help plan celebrations of Shabbat/Havdalah, major Jewish holidays, arts and cultural events and social gatherings! We can do so much more with everyone's input. Bring your pet peeves and creative suggestions. We'll provide snacks, drinks and stimulating discussion about our future.

Saturday 7/12 at 10 am – Malcolm home at 280 S. 39th St., Boulder 80305

RSVP to smalcolm280@gmail.com or 303-499-5933

Sunday 7/13 at 1 pm – Griss home at 2763 S. Krameria St., Denver 80222

RSVP to bgriss@yahoo.com or 303-757-3544

Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews

a book by James Carroll

“A rare book that combines searing passion with a subject that has affected all of our lives.”

– Chicago Tribune

Novelist, cultural critic & former priest James Carroll marries history with memoir as he maps the 2000-year course of the Church's battle against Judaism & faces the crisis of faith it has sparked in his own life.

“Fascinating, brave & sometimes infuriating” (*Time*), this dark history is more than a chronicle of religion. It's the central tragedy of Western civilization, its fault lines reaching deep into our culture to create “a deeply felt work” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) as Carroll wrangles with centuries of strife & tragedy to reach a courageous & affecting reckoning with difficult truths.

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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