



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 5; Issue 6

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

June 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					

Beth Ami Event Schedule

Sunday 6/8 – Boulder Jewish Festival -Visit Beth Ami's booth! (*Pearl Street Mall* – more info below, or [see more here](#))

Thursday 6/5 – Beth Ami Book Club discusses *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon (11am at Brio's near Cherry Creek Mall – RSVP to bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events

August

Sunday 8/5 – Family Hike (10am – Location TBD)

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 6/2 – Sasha Gorokhovskiy
- 6/4 – Steve Langer
- 6/7 – Debra Goldberg
- 6/19 – Jon Budoff
- 6/21 – Roz Budoff

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Submission Deadline

11:59pm, Fri 6/20



News From National

New SHJ Website

What do your national Society for Humanistic Judaism dues buy? Check out the new and vastly improved site at shj.org.

"The Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) is very excited to announce the launch of its [new website](#). With a fresh, modern look and even more content about the philosophy and practices of Humanistic Judaism, the new website provides an inviting, informative portal into the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the Humanistic Jewish movement as a whole.

This is your way to stay connected to everything happening within the Society for Humanistic Judaism. [Check it out today](#) and come back frequently. And be sure to tell your friends."

And while you're there, see if you can locate familiar faces in Beth Ami photos!

New Web Initiatives

You are invited to visit two new informative websites which support the big picture of Secular Humanistic Judaism, and the local involvement of Humanistic Judaism in Boulder County.

The new and greatly improved <http://www.shj.org/> provides answers to your questions, thoughts to ponder and info about our affiliate communities around the country. JewishTogether-Boulder shares the inclusive story of "limitless choices... one community."

The Life Cycle Resources, now including weddings, new babies and an upcoming bereavement page, offer rituals, officiants and local contacts. Beth Ami is included and accepted in this exciting initiative at <http://jewishtgetherboulder.org/>.

Boulder Jewish Festival



A Meaningful Memorial Day



For his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, Paul Budoff gathered family and friends (including grandparents Roz and Stu and photographer Sheila, not pictured) to plant American flags at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Paul's group joined many hundreds of others for this annual

event, which felt both somber and festive at the same time. Paul intends to interview our Beth Ami veterans in the near future to learn about the intersection of their military experiences and their Judaism.

Retreat Reflection

Where can you view a bobcat out your living room window, make your own tambourine, eat organically and appreciate the classic sounds of live keyboard and clarinet? At this year's Beth Ami Retreat at the YMCA of the Rockies!

Our group overflowed the Dannen Lodge and ventured out for a bonfire, hike, and some of the camp's fun activities. We're so appreciative of the musical talents of Sheldon Sands, who took us on "A Jewish Musical Journey" throughout the day on Saturday. Accompaniment was provided by Marti Hirsch's tambourine-making activity and Joe the clarinetist's expressive tunes. It was a joy to watch participants of all ages mix and mingle, sing and dance, eat and drink heartily and toss another log on the fire way into the night.

On Sunday morning at an adult meeting, we completed a Connected Community activity that

required a bit of thinking, writing and sharing out. Sheila will repeat this activity in the next few weeks with at least 2 other groups of Beth Ami members in order to gauge the willingness to increase participation in our organization, take on leadership roles, and fill some needs. We voted Ron Kingston in as Treasurer again, and discussed our budget.

We talked about the exciting new Jewish Cultural School model starting next fall, our involvement at the national level through the Society for Humanistic Judaism Board and the HuJews Conclave, and inroads into the broader local Jewish network. We brainstormed publicity through social media and the ideal of being able to pay our current part-time staff. Did I mention budget?

The Retreat again offered us an opportunity to learn, sing, socialize, eat and enjoy the company of like-minded folks in a most beautiful setting.

2014 Estes Park Retreat



Spring 2014 SHJ Board Meeting – By Kathy Kane

I attended my first SHJ Board Meeting, held the first weekend in May in Farmington Hills, Michigan at Birmingham Temple. SHJ is the umbrella organization under which Beth Ami belongs. There were representatives from congregations throughout the U.S., and one from Canada. For the most part, Miriam Jerris (Rabbi for SHJ) and Bonnie Cousens (Executive Director) facilitated the sessions.

Most of the meetings took place with all attendees. Issues presented pertained to the movement as a whole. An example was extensive discussion around the format and dissemination of *Humanistic Judaism*, the SHJ publication that all of us receive several times each year. I was fascinated with the substantive opinions and suggestions expressed.

Friday night was the Shabbat service. Mark Cousens spoke about the inception of the movement at Birmingham Temple. He has written a book about this, which all SHJ members will receive.

Prior to the meeting, all participants were asked to choose a committee meeting to attend during break-out sessions. I chose the Education Committee, as I'm a retired teacher; that meeting was a significant experience for me. SHJ has recently developed a curriculum for our schools, including topics divided by age group. I was impressed with the breadth of ideas. During the meeting I was able to assist in formulating an outline for lesson plans for the curriculum and other related issues. We had an exhilarating time together, and I felt effective and valuable.

Other activities included two separate sessions (we were divided in half and took turns) lead by Miriam Jerris and Jeff Falick (Rabbi for Birmingham Temple), where we shared ideas about our perceptions of Humanistic Judaism. These activities were designed to be used with our congregations. In addition, each committee was given an opportunity to describe what they had accomplished. There were several resolutions presented regarding social issues, and the group voted to accept each one after discussion. It was proudly announced that SHJ has designed a new website, which is now available. The final session was devoted to each congregation sharing what they were doing. Sheila provided the feedback from Beth Ami.

During the weekend, participants ate meals together (lunches and dinners). I enjoyed talking to various people, and found them to be friendly, intelligent, stimulating, and memorable.

The hotel and Birmingham Temple were located a mile from each other, so Sheila and I (along with others) had the opportunity to walk to and from the meetings, which provided needed exercise, as we were sitting most of the time.

This was an extremely positive experience for me. I learned about the importance of SHJ for all of us in the movement, and met some marvelous people. I attended this board meeting as a guest and would like to do so again at the next meeting in October. Sheila and I are discussing the possibility of being co-representatives from Beth Ami.

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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