



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 5; Issue 3

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

Month 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 3/1 – Havdalah and dinner at Malcolms'

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

Saturday 3/15 – Beth Ami Arts Group goes to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (1pm – see more below)

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

Other Community Events

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

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3/1 – Christie Gosch
- 3/7 – Beth Litz
- 3/11 – Paul Budoff, Barry Levene
- 3/12 – Alex Litz
- 3/21 – Toni Budoff
- 3/24 – Barry Goldberg
- 3/29 – Elaine Block
- 3/31 – Donna Levene

Upcoming Events

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*)

Contents

- Calendar.....1
- Celebrations.....1
- Family News.....1
- High Holidays Re-visited Essay.....2
- Shabbat Thanks.....2
- Retreat Info.....3
- Boulder Jewish Family Services.....3
- Arts Group Info.....3
- Girl Scouts.....4
- JCS Ed Schedule....4
- Contact Info.....4

Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 2/28



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

- Join Ely Karasik and the Denver Mandolin Orchestra on Mar. 30 at Wynkoop Brewery in downtown Denver. Details at denvermandolinorchestra.org.
- Leah Elizabeth Stafford is now home and thriving under the care of Michelle, Ben and siblings Calla and David.
- Mazel tov to Rena Benari and Hillel Segal on the birth of their new grandchild, Aviva, who is their daughter Yona's second child.

High Holidays Revisited

We return to publishing the essays written by Beth Ami members and shared at Rosh Hashanah. Lenore Kingston took on the topic of Dignity:

We humanists believe that the purpose of life is human dignity. Enabling people to become the masters of their own lives and to respect this potential in others is the moral enterprise. We face up to our options. We discipline our fear. We cultivate our bravery.

Most of you know Ron and I moved to Colorado several years ago from Michigan. We were both born in Michigan, went to college in Michigan, and belonged to the Birmingham Temple in Michigan. I was employed as a social worker in Farmington Public Schools for over thirty years. Our roots were deep in Michigan.

Yet I retired from the job I loved and moved to Colorado, a place I had visited many times to visit our daughters. They all moved to Colorado, one to go to graduate school, another to enjoy the Colorado scenery, and the third to be together with her sisters.

I have to admit moving to Colorado wasn't an easy adjustment for me. I felt fearful that I couldn't create a meaningful life here. I had been so comfortable in Michigan. I decided to try. First, I volunteered in my local elementary school and offered to help wherever they needed me. As a school social worker, I had been attuned to noticing unmet needs and finding resources to fill. At my local school I ran a reading group several days a week. After a few weeks, another teacher was hired and I was relieved of my duties. Everyone was busy and had no time to think about me.

Then I volunteered to run an after school program in a poor, Hispanic community. We cooked a nutritious snack in the computer lab and did enrichment activities. I even was offered a full time job for the following year. Instead I made the choice to take care of Evan, Alex, and Nathan, our youngest daughter's children. After all,

they were some of the reasons why we had moved to Colorado.

I enrolled in a volunteer naturalist program through the City of Boulder and eventually led nature programs. I discovered how much I enjoyed learning about the interconnections between living and nonliving aspects in nature. I have spent hours reading, attending workshops, and planning hikes in Colorado.

In Michigan I taught at the Birmingham Temple School. In Colorado, I chose to become very busy with lots of Beth Ami activities. I realized that, as a small, Humanistic Jewish congregation, Beth Ami depends upon low membership dues and volunteers to provide quality programming.

At our Jewish Cultural School, I was learning right along with our teachers and students. What are Jewish values? What are Humanistic Jewish values? Why are they important to me? How do they influence my life? Even more important, how does Judaism influence my life?

Practicing the humanistic Jewish value of human dignity means taking charge of my life. I found amazing classes at CU Boulder that I could audit. After attending monthly Schmooser meetings at the Boulder JCC, (the philanthropic group) 18 Pomegranates invited me to be part of the Boulder Jewish Educator's team. We plan workshops to learn cutting edge ideas. This October we are bringing Rabbi Berger (from Boston) to teach Project Based Learning.

I have had the privilege of making many new friends at Beth Ami. I discovered that Denver and Boulder are rich sources of cultural activities, museums, and festivals. Today I am recruiting members who are interested in being part of the new Beth Ami Arts Group. The group will decide monthly events to attend. If you are interested in participating with us, please see me after services.

Shabbat Thank You

Thanks to Barry and Donna Levene for hosting the Feb. 8 Shabbat and discussion of the Jewish Day of Constructive Conflict Resolution. The lively conversation avoided politics but did get personal as we shared personal successes and mishaps in the steps of resolving conflicts. For more on this day, check out: <http://pcjr.pardes.org/courses/study-materials-for-global-machloket-leshem-shamayim-day/>

(Note: This site is not endorsed by Humanistic Judaism!)

The group enjoyed a delicious lunch and stimulating chat on a warm, sunny afternoon at the Levene's.



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.

With Guest Presenter Sheldon Sands
www.sheldonsands.com

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 will offer a full day of program options. Picnic lunches can be enjoyed indoors or out. Sheldon will begin at 9:30am and end with a Klezmer concert. The concert will include Sheldon and violinist Sandra Wong.

Sunday breakfast will feature 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

Boulder Jewish Family Services

And Birthday in a Bag Project

Boulder Jewish Family Service (JFS) is growing and looking to fill two new part-time positions. We are seeking a care manager and counselor to provide care management services, in-home counseling, and support groups to seniors, their families, and adults with chronic illnesses. We are also hiring a development associate to provide support to the agency’s development team, assisting in cultivations and solicitations for attainment of annual goals, and to lead the execution of events and mail appeals.

View the full job descriptions and apply at <http://jewishfamilyservice.org/about-jfs/careers>.

Birthday in a Bag:

Beth Ami members are donating money to Jewish Family Service Weinberg Pantry. We will use this money to fill bags filled with all the things a family needs to celebrate a child's birthday. Opportunity to donate at all Beth Ami functions in March and April.

Beth Ami Arts Group

March 15 – Beth Ami Arts Group invites you to visit Jerusalem...at the movies. Denver Museum of Nature and Science IMAX theater, produced by National Geographic. We will each purchase our own tickets for the 1:00 performance. Following the movie Beth Ami Arts group invites you to share your Israeli memories and learn about our proposed trip to Israel in December 2014. Click here for more information and to view a trailer.
<http://www.dmns.org/imax/current-films/jerusalem-3d>



Thank You from Katya

Thanks to all who donated \$80 to Katya Hirsch's Girl Scout trio #441. These funds have been used to purchase Girl Scouts cookies 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.



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!

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 – Take a visual and literary journey to several Guatemalan communities.

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*)

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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