



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 6; 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.

March 2015

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

Sunday 3/1 – JCFS session/Community Purim Carnival (10am-2pm, Boulder JCC – see more below)

Sunday 3/15 – JCFS session (mitzvah project, 10am at Countryside Rec – featuring Paul Budoff's mitzvah project)

Saturday 3/21 – Shabbat/Adult Ed (see more below)

Sunday 3/22 – Beth Ami Arts Group goes to the Boulder Jewish Film Festival (5:45 dinner, 6:45pm “The Dove Flyer”)

Saturday 3/28 – Paul Budoff's Bar Mitzvah

Other Community Events

Monday 3/2 – “Is Opposing Israel's Policies Anti-Semitic?”, a talk by Penny Rosenwasser (7pm, Eaton Humanities Building, CU Boulder – see more below)

Saturday 3/14 – Sunday 3/22 – Boulder Jewish Film Festival (Boedecker Theater)

Sunday 3/22 – Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado - Someone's Daughter (10am – noon, see more below)

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3/1 – Christie Gosch
- 3/6 – Ezra Shucker
- 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

Thursday 4/2 – Beth Ami Book Club discusses *The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein (11am, Brio's near Cherry Creek – see more below)

Friday 4/3 – Passover begins

Saturday 4/4 – Beth Ami annual Passover seder (11am-2pm – New Time! – Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden)

Saturday 4/18 – Shabbat/Adult Ed, “In the Fiddler's House” (2pm, Karasik home)

Sunday 4/19 – JCFS session (mitzvah project – location TBD)

Sunday 4/26 – Beth Ami Arts Group sees “Hysteria” (4pm, Dairy Center)

Sunday 4/26 – Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado – Someone's Daughter (10am – 1pm)

May

Thursday 5/7 – Sunday 5/10 – American Humanist Association Annual Convention (Grand Hyatt, Denver)

Saturday 5/16 – JCFS and Beth Ami Community Walk for MS (9:30am, CU Boulder)

Sunday 5/17 – Hazon Food Festival (Denver JCC)

Sunday 5/23 – Shavuot/People of the Books teach-in

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 3/26



Adult Ed Afternoons – Learn, Laugh, and Nosh!

RSVP for each event to sheila@bethami.com or 303-588-0236!

March 21:

We'll socialize over snacks, have a brief Shabbat service and celebrate Nora Ephron, the SHJ Role Model of the Year, by enjoying "Heartburn" the 1986 comedy-drama starring Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Kevin Spacey, and Jeff Daniels. (<http://www.shj.org/humanistic-jewish-life/hj-role-models/>)

When: 2 – 5 pm

Where: Home of Barry and Donna Levene, 695 Fairfax St., Denver 80020

Each gathering will include a brief Humanistic Service, snacks and drinks, and a lifelong learning presentation to feed our minds!

RSVP for each event to sheila@bethami.com or 303-588-0236 for seating and food. We can't plan for you if we don't know you're coming!

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

- Beth Ami celebrated a heartfelt, Russian-flavored Bar Mitzvah for Elia Ghorokhovsky on Feb. 14. Mazel tov to Elia and his family! Read more about it in the Boulder Jewish News <http://boulderjewishnews.org/2015/elia-gorokhovsky-bar-mitzvah/>



- Mazel tov to Barry and Donna Levene on the Feb. 1 birth of their grandson Oscar Benjamin! They are thrilled with the arrival of their second grandchild.
- More Mitzvahs! Sheila Malcolm has been chosen as a Channel 7 Everyday Hero for her volunteer work with I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County. Sheila tutors and mentors Dreamers and trains adults and CU students to tutor at the I Have a Dream sites. Her segment will be aired on the following dates and times, and will be archived on the ABC Denver Ch. 7 website:
 - Mar. 1 at 10 pm, Mar. 2 at 11 am, Mar. 7 at 5 pm, Mar. 8 at 7 am, Mar. 12 at 11 am.

- Paul Budoff's bar mitzvah will be on Sat., Mar. 28 at 10 am at West View Recreation Center, 10747 W 108th Ave, Broomfield, CO 80021

Paul writes:

Hey everyone! Just a heads up that I will be having my Bar Mitzvah on March 28th and one of my projects is to collect money to donate to the Wounded Warrior Foundation to help our soldiers. The Wounded Warrior Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help returning soldiers integrate back into society and to help them overcome mental and physical scars. They also help injured service members aid and assist themselves and each other by providing them with support groups, activities, and other needs. This is part of my Mitzvah project because one of my values is Nizkor (Remembrance) and by helping honor these men and women we are showing our thankfulness for their bravery.

If you would like to donate any money please write a check addressed to "The Wounded Warrior Project" and send it to me at 8383 Chase Dr. Arvada, CO 80003. Or you can go directly online to make a donation using the link below:

<https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/default.aspx?tsid=66&campaignSource=WEBSITE&source=ONLINE>

Thank you! I look forward to seeing you on March 28th.

– Paul Budoff

Lenore Leads Learners

by Michael Hirsch

On Sunday, the Beth Ami Arts Group visited the Denver Museum of Arts and Sciences. The museum has a special exhibit about the Silk Road – the ancient trade route that ran all the way through Asia starting in the Chinese city of Xian and terminating in Constantinople.

The show was nice, but we had a special treat: Lenore Kingston served as our docent! She did a lot of research before the trip and brought along several printed pages of information. At each stop along the Silk Road, we would pause and Lenore would give us some background on where the Jews were living and how many there were. Unsurprisingly, given the wealth that was trading hands along the Silk Road, there were a fair number of Jews involved. The official displays didn't mention much about them, but Lenore did a nice job filling in the blanks.

Following the museum tour of the Silk Road exhibit, Beth Ami hosted anthropology Prof. Carlos Zarur, who presented a detailed view of Sephardic Jews on the

Iberian Peninsula and beyond. A hardy group of members and friends listened to his talk and made connections with the Silk Road story.

[This article](#) connects Turkey and the Mediterranean region with the Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews of the 20th century. It contains many links for further learning.



The Invisible Wall by Harry Bernstein

The narrow street where Harry Bernstein grew up, in a small English mill town, was seemingly unremarkable. It was identical to countless other streets in countless other working-class neighborhoods of the early 1900s, except for the “invisible wall” that ran down its center, dividing Jewish families on one side from Christian families on the other. Only a few feet of

cobblestones separated Jews from Gentiles, but socially, they were miles apart.

A wonderfully charming memoir written when the author was ninety-three, *The Invisible Wall* vibrantly brings to life an all-but-forgotten time and place. It is a moving tale of working-class life, and of the boundaries that can be overcome by love.

“Is Opposing Israel's Policies Anti-Semitic?”

A talk by Penny Rosenwasser, a founding board member of Jewish Voice for Peace

Penny will also talk about her award-winning new book *Hope into Practice*, Jewish women choosing justice despite our fears, a book about human liberation which links personal healing with social justice. The book brings to life an irresistible blend of women’s healing stories, fascinating history, and a fair-minded perspective on Israel-Palestine, inviting us to use privilege to shift power.

Penny teaches an anti-Arabism/anti-Semitism class at the City College of San Francisco, and is a member of Kehilla Synagogue in Oakland CA. Her website is <http://pennyrosenwasser.com>.

Date/Time: Monday, March 2, 7 p.m.

Place: Eaton Humanities Building, Room 150, CU, Boulder

Price: Free.

Jewish Together Boulder

Representing 30 Jewish organizations in Boulder County, including Beth Ami, Jewish Together Boulder has now added a B’nai Mitzvah and Teen Initiative Guide to its growing list of Life Cycle Resources,

including New Baby, Wedding, End-of-Life/Bereavement offerings.

Please visit at <http://jewishtogetherboulder.org>

Come to Mitzvah Land at the Boulder JCC Purim Carnival!

March 1st, 10am – 2pm

Beth Ami's Jewish Cultural Family School invites you to the Community Purim Carnival at the Boulder JCC, 3800 Kalmia Ave. Boulder CO 80301 on Sunday, March 1st 10:00am-2:00pm.

Our family school has done a year of mitzvahs. We feature hands-on mitzvah opportunities for families. Each family is a learning group or havruta that listens to each other's ideas and works together to accomplish a mitzvah. As Humanistic Jews we take action to make the world a better place to be. We welcome your suggestions for future mitzvah ideas.

In September we harvested radishes at Ekar Farm in Denver. Ekar Farm donates 80% of their produce to the Weinberg Pantry and Kavod Senior Life.



In October we built squirrel boxes for Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Greenwood releases over 200 baby squirrels each year in squirrel boxes on private property.



In December, we baked over 300 Chanukah cookies at our party and donated them to Kavod Senior Life.



Here is a Kavod Senior Life resident happily taking her Chanukah cookies



In January we shopped at the Dollar Tree to fill 15 birthday bags with everything necessary for a child to have a birthday party. We donated these bags to Jewish Family Service Weinberg Pantry.



Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

Someone's Daughter: In Search of Justice for Jane Doe and Cold Case Research with Sylvia Pettem

With many lessons for genealogists, Sylvia discusses resources for unidentified, missing, and cold homicide cases demonstrating her research methodology and narrating her unique partnership with law enforcement and the forensic community.

When? Sunday, March 22, 2015, 10 AM – Noon

Where? Congregation Har Hashem, 3950 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO
No RSVP or Cost

Jews on the Move: A History of Modern Migration with David Shneer

We will explore the trends in Jewish migration, both internal and transcontinental, as we ask about the contemporary Jewish map and where Jews are "moving" to in the future.

When? Sunday, April 26, 2015, 10 AM – 1 PM (*longer time!*)

Where? JCC Board Room, 350 S Dahlia Street, Denver
No RSVP or Cost

Overcoming a 30-Year Brick Wall: How We Found Our Lithuanian Shtetl, Hasidic Cousins, and a Genealogy Goldmine from the 1930s with Debbie Schwartz

Several unexpected finds converged through an online contact resulting in a weekend reunion in Baltimore and a trip to Lithuania with a previously unknown 4th cousin.

When? Sunday, May 17, 2015, 10 AM – Noon

Where? JCC Board Room, 350 S Dahlia Street, Denver
No RSVP or Cost

Support Beth Ami With An Honorary Donation

To donate to honor or remember a family member, friend, or Beth Ami member, please email our treasurer at treasurer@bethami.com. A notice of the contribution will be sent to the honoree or family of the person. Our congregation expresses its gratitude to the following individuals whose donations were received in the last month.

- Michael and Marti Hirsch wish Lenore Kingston, JCFS Director and Sheila Malcolm Madrikha a happy birthday
- John and Sheila Malcolm recognize Elia Gorokhovsky's Bar Mitzvah
- Barb and Don Griss recognize Elia Gorokhovsky's Bar Mitzvah

Contact Information

Beth Ami Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Phone: 720-466-0101
Email: info@bethami.com
www.bethami.com

About the Editor

rvhirsch@comcast.net

Programming Committee:

Sheila Malcolm..... smalcolm280@gmail.com
Michelle Davis..... madrikhadavis@gmail.com
Lenore Kingston..... bethamicolorado@gmail.com
Marti Hirsch..... marti.hirsch@mail.com

Board Members:

Ron Kingston – Treasurer..... ronkbethami@hotmail.com

Members at large:

Maida Deborah..... maidadeborah@comcast.net
Terry Fleisher..... terryfleisher@msn.com
Gerrie Karasik..... lgkara@aol.com
Barry Levene..... blevene@ecentral.com

Webmaster:

Christie Gosch..... christiemgosch@yahoo.com

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