



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 5; Issue 5

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

May 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

Friday 5/16 - Sunday 5/18 – Beth Ami Family Retreat (*more info below – attend for the weekend or Saturday only, contact Lenore bethamicolorado@gmail.com*)

Saturday 5/24 – Paul Budoff's Bar Mitzvah Project (*Ft. Logan National Cemetery – more info below*)

Other Community Events

Monday 5/5 – Yom Ha'Atzmaut/Israel Independence Day Celebration at the Boulder JCC (*more details by email*)

Sunday 5/18 – 11th Annual Walk for Israel Loop (*Denver JCC, 2pm – sponsored by Jewish Colorado*)

Celebrations

Birthdays

5/1 – Zane Anderson

5/3 – Marti Hirsch

5/6 – Rachel Hirsch, Don Griss

5/18 – Cord Anderson

5/26 – Julia Litz

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 5/23



Upcoming Events

June

6/8 – Boulder Jewish Festival -Visit Beth Ami's booth! (*Pearl Street Mall – see more*)

August

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

Congratulations to Macy on Her Recent Bat Mitzvah!



Photos above are from Macy Gosch's beautiful and inspiring Bat Mitzvah ceremony on Apr. 5.



Our community is so proud of Macy's accomplishments!

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 a clarinetist.

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.
- Options for 1 night stay – contact Lenore at bethamicolorado@gmail.com

Donating Blankets to Jewish Family Services



The Andersons brought their family friend, Destiny Wheeler (15) to Beth Ami's Passover Seder as a guest during her school's Spring Break. Destiny lives in Omaha with her mom and brother. She attends Mercy High School, a Catholic school, that welcomes education about other religions and encourages community service. A lifelong dancer, Destiny enjoyed the video at the Seder that depicted lyrical shadow dancers reenacting Jewish history through dance.

Before Passover, Destiny met with Lenore Kingston and learned how to make Jewish challah and talked about traditions. Perhaps in honor of Passover, the challah failed to rise (if we subscribed to the supernatural!). However, science and logical reasoning suggested that Dawn's yeast had expired. While the



challah had its 'Shomer Shabbos,' Lenore taught Destiny how to make tie blankets (for her school's community service requirement) to donate to Jewish Family Services' needy seniors. Destiny made six blankets in only two days! The Beth Ami Jewish Cultural School kids donated several other blankets that we also delivered to Jewish Family Services.

Ingrid from Jewish Family Services said, "Destiny, thank you from Jewish Family Services. The blankets made a lovely surprise and we were happy to be able to give them to various seniors. The timing was perfect since we went to seven retirement homes to lead Seder. All the blankets were given away and seemed to make the seniors very happy. One woman commented that her blanket 'would be perfect for movie night!'"

Community Passover Seder

Our Beth Ami Passover Seder, my favorite Jewish holiday, was lead by our wonderful madrikha, Sheila, and as usual she was exceptional.

Not many people can handle a huge crowd (of all ages) as skillfully and as gently as she does. As we celebrated with our family-community, hearing the Four Questions asked in multiple languages linked us to all Jews from around the world and throughout the ages. A barometer of pleasure from that moment was the big smile on our adult grandson's face.

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Seder extraordinary.

- Barb Griss

Each year our Humanistic Passover celebration just gets better and better. A heartfelt thank you to our madrikhas Sheila Malcolm and Michelle Davis for a beautiful Haggadah. They invited both members and guests to participate fully in expressing Jewish traditions and values through our Humanistic frame.

Thank you Lenore Kingston and Marti Hirsch and all the other teachers and volunteers for your hard work and creativity in teaching the students in our Beth Ami Cultural School.

Len and I were so moved watching the girls and boys ask The Four Questions in four languages: Hebrew, English, Spanish, and Russian, that we volunteered a fourth: Yiddish.

The pot luck meal included plenty of interesting and delicious dishes.

It was a most inspiring and enjoyable Seder.

- Gerrie Karasik

And maybe next year we could invite one of these ladies as a special guest

<http://www.marthastewart.com/246027/joan-rivers-1>

- Sheila Malcolm



This year's Passover Seder at the JUC was a delightful time. From the opening short movie to the interaction of the school students in the presentation of the four questions, it was so well done. The food as usual was great, the seder plates were well done. Kudos to Sheila, Michelle and Lenore for making this year's Seder a pleasant memory.

- Roz & Stu Budoff

News from National

Next week, both Kathy Kane and Sheila Malcolm will represent Beth Ami at the spring SHJ Board Meeting held at the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills, MI. Kathy will join the Education Committee while Sheila will continue working on the Leadership Committee. Check for our follow-up in June.



Make Your Memorial Day More Meaningful

Paul Budoff's Bar Mitzvah Service Project

As you all know I will be having my Bar Mitzvah soon and one of the things I'm focusing on is honoring veterans. After Israel was founded the Jews have had to fight to maintain freedom from surrounding countries. This is similar to our country's history because after the US declared independence we had to fight to form our country. Then our nation fought the Civil War to maintain a whole nation. After this war, Remembrance Days were started to honor the dead soldiers and to heal the country. In order to remember the soldiers that died in WWI, the poppy flower came to be a symbol based upon the poem, "In Flanders' Field". The US involvement during WWII led to the downfall of Hitler and the end of the Holocaust. Both our country and our culture have had to fight for the freedom of their people.

Today many people just think of Memorial Day as a day off of work or school. Please join me this

Memorial Day weekend to help honor our country's veterans. We will be volunteering at Ft. Logan National Cemetery by placing flags at each gravesite.

DETAILS –

Who: Any & All

What: Flag Placement

Where: Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Public Information Center, Main Gate, 3900 S. Sheridan, Denver, CO (Map & Directions available here <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/ftlogan.asp>)

When: Saturday, May 24th, 8:00 AM
(please arrive 10-15 minutes early so our group can gather)

Contact (with questions or to RSVP): Paul Budoff
303-940-8509 or pfbudoff@yahoo.com

Beth Ami's Pioneer to Boston

By Eitan Moin

The last weekend in March, I flew to Boston to participate in the HuJew Teen's Conclave, the annual meeting of the humanistic Jewish youth. It was my first time because I am an 8th grader (the meeting is for 8th graders up to college students). It was fantastic!

Sixty two teens from all over the US and Canada. This is a huge growth over just two years ago when attendance numbered in the 30s. We stayed at the new Boston Youth Hostel in rooms of 6 people of the same gender. The weekend started on Friday evening when all attendees, chaperones, and organizers had a Kabalaht Shabbat, followed by dinner, games, and socializing. Most of us stayed up almost all night and for me that meant to go straight at 7 am to my community service group (other groups started later, lucky them!). My group worked at a Red Cross food bank bagging meals. Other groups cleaned up a park, worked at a soup kitchen, or wrote letters to homeless children.

For lunch on Saturday, we went to the gigantic Faneuil Hall Market and we each were given \$10 to buy whatever lunch we liked. I had lunch with my new friends and it was a lot of fun. In the afternoon, with different groups, we did a scavenger hunt around Boston historical district. We saw famous sights such as Paul Revere's house, Old North Church, John Hancock's grave, and others. We really don't know who won the scavenger hunt and we really didn't care about winning, it was just a blast. Literally a blast, we did it

under a rainstorm and we got soaking wet. We couldn't stop laughing.

For dinner, we all went to a Chinese restaurant where we had our own room. We did Havdalah and then sat at round tables that had rotating centers where the food was served. So, you had to spin the center until you got the tray you wanted. But picture it, 8 teens at spinning tables at a Chinese restaurant ... we made a mess!!! Rice flew all over and the trays kept spinning and spinning and spinning sometimes with our silverware as well.

Saturday night ... yes, you guessed it ... all night up.

Sunday was the good-bye day (and tears). We had lunch together, sang songs at the tones of a guitar played by some of us, exchanged phone numbers and facebook names ([here is the group's facebook page](#)) and just hung out at the gathering center. When it was time, we all took the subway to the airport and the general feeling was "Too bad it's over ... I am already waiting for next year's conclave." We were exhausted and sleep-deprived but we had had one of the best weekends of our lives!

I went to this Boston conclave by myself, which was scary at first. But the people are so welcoming and friendly that it only took but a few minutes until I was one of the group. Next year, unless the sky turns pink, I am going to the conclave again and I hope that next time I am not the only one from Colorado.

Contact Information

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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