



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 6; 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 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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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 5/3 – Ekar Farms make-up date (10am – noon)

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

Saturday 5/16 – JCFS and Beth Ami Community Walk for MS (7:30am, CU Boulder)

Sunday 5/17 – Join us at the Beth Ami booth at the Celebrate Festival: A Jewish Festival of Food, Community and Family. Sponsored by Hazon and the Denver JCC (10am-3pm, 350 Dahlia St. Denver CO 80246 – see more below)

Other Community Events

Sunday 5/17 – Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado: Overcoming a 30-Year Brick Wall (10am – noon, see more below)

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 5/1 – Zane Anderson
- 5/3 – Marti Hirsch
- 5/6 – Rachel Hirsch, Don Griss
- 5/18 – Cord Anderson
- 5/26 – Julia Litz

Upcoming Events

June

Sunday 6/7 – Save the date for the 21st annual Boulder Jewish Festival! (11am – 5pm, Boulder Country Courthouse & Pearl Street Mall – see more below)

Sunday 6/14 – Beth Ami Arts Group sees “Detroit” (2pm, Curious Theater – see more below)

August

Saturday 8/22 – Beth Ami Shabbat picnic & hike – Save the Date!

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 5/22



Boulder Jewish Festival 2015

Save the date for the 21st annual Boulder Jewish Festival!

Sunday, June 7, 2015, 11am – 5pm at the Boulder County Courthouse Lawn and Pearl Street Mall.

Great food, fabulous music, Judaic art, kids activities and community organizations in the largest Jewish event in the West!

To volunteer at Beth Ami's booth, contact Lenore at bethamicolorado@gmail.com.

For more info on the festival, visit: <http://boulderjewishfestival.org>

Walk MS: Boulder Country

We've formed a team for the Walk MS event because we want to experience a great event and help the National MS Society Colorado-Wyoming Chapter fund research, advocate for change, and help people with MS. We believe in this cause. Can we count on your support?

Walk MS is a day that brings friends, families, and coworkers together to embrace an important cause. Join us and participate together to make a powerful statement and to keep moving toward a cure. Each step we take brings us closer to a world free of MS.

Join our team!

Joining our team means you support critical funds to support local programs and cutting-edge research. Our team can get us closer to realizing our promise to **STOP MS** in its tracks, **RESTORE** lost function and **END MS** forever. Ending MS means no one will receive an MS diagnosis again. Every step counts. Every dollar helps. Every connection matters!

About MS

Millions of people are affected by MS and the challenges of living with its unpredictable symptoms. Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information between the brain and the body and it stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, a disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS.



BE INSPIRED. GET CONNECTED. WALK MS.

For more info on the Beth Ami team, [click here](#)

Walk MS – Testimonial

By Marti Hirsch

Michael and I are signed up for the Beth Ami team at the MS walk. Participating in the walk is personally important to me both because a former member of Beth Ami is suffering from MS but also because a dear friend of mine in California has MS.

We were in graduate school together finishing up our masters degrees when we noticed that she was losing her balance often. She went to the infirmary on campus and they recommended her to a specialist. The specialist noted that her speech was slurred and her mouth was somewhat crooked, things we had not really noticed before. After a series of tests it was determined that she was in the early stages of MS.

She had been planning on going to Hong Kong to teach in a refugee camp. The doctor advised against it because the humid heat in Hong Kong would exacerbate her symptoms. She decided to go for one year anyway.

The good news is she met her husband-to-be; the bad news is many problems arose because of MS. Her balance and speech continued to get worse. After the year, she came back to the United States with her fiance to teach in a public school. Her symptoms gradually became so severe that teaching was just not an option. She tried to work at a corporate travel agency but even that became too difficult as her motor skills deteriorated. Mobility, speech, and even eating have all become extremely difficult. Now she must have round-the-clock care.

MS is a progressive disease with considerable variation in the rate of progression. Some people are affected more than others. There has been considerable advancement in research and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis in the past few years but there is still so much to be done. Please make a donation and walk with us. It is truly a worthy cause.

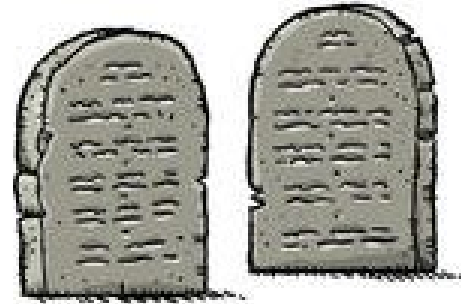
News From National

Sheila Malcolm and Kathy Kane are writing from Michigan and the bi-annual SHJ Board Meeting, where some exciting changes are underway. We're both immersed in the Leadership and Education Committees,

respectively, and enjoying the camaraderie of HJ friends from around the country. This is a reminder to check the shj.org website for a wealth of information on all things HJ!

Beth Ami's Passover Humanistic Jewish 10 Commandments (or 10 Commitments)

1. Choose kindness
2. Seek happiness (and share it with others)
3. Practice self-care and healthy behaviors
4. Be grateful
5. Respect the dignity of all living beings
6. Respect others' ideas
7. Work towards social justice for all
8. Avoid inflicting judgment, abuse, guilt
9. Help who you can (humans and animals)
10. Recognize your societal privilege



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Celebrate Festival

Celebrate is a fun, hands-on event for all ages. Among the dynamic programs and activities there will be many that are DIY and family friendly. There will be art, music, cooking, and gardening projects for kids. Additionally, there are fitness classes throughout the day like Aquafit, Zumba, Yoga, TRX, Pickleball, as well as a nutrition workshop. Or join us for a 50 minute workshop on a variety of Jewish food topics. Drop off a challah for our challah contest, enjoy a continental breakfast at Ekar Farm starting at 8:30 am, or eat your way through our farmer's market.



Denver Premiere of "Detroit"

"A smart, tart critique of the country's fraying social fabric." - The New York Times

Ben and Mary, a typical family living in a typical suburb, welcome into their lives the enigmatic couple that moves in next door. But as this foursome bonds over backyard barbecues, their hospitality turns incendiary, reducing the facades they've built to ashes.

As hilarious as it is menacing, Pulitzer Prize finalist Detroit implodes the American Dream, revealing a dangerous and barren new landscape.

By Lisa D'Amour

Directed by Producing Artistic Director Chip Walton

Featuring John Ashton, Brian Landis Folkins, Josh Hartwell, Karen Slack, and Amanda Berg Wison

[Get tickets here!](#)



Annual American Humanist Association Conference

<http://conference.americanhumanist.org>

The Annual American Humanist Association Conference will be held in Denver this year, May 7-10, at the Grand Hyatt downtown. There are discounts for Coloradans for the full conference or per day.

If you attend, check out the table sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Judaism, the International Institute of Secular Humanistic Judaism AND Beth Ami!

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

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

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://jewishtgetherboulder.org>

Support Beth Ami With An Honorary Donation

To honor or remember family or friends with a donation to Beth Ami, please email our treasurer at treasurer@bethami.com. A notice of the contribution will be sent to the honoree or family. Our congregation will express its gratitude in the newsletter for donations received in the previous month.

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