



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 8; 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 2017

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 5/6** – Post-Passover Meet & Greet (10am – The Egg & I, Baseline & Broadway location – RSVP to [Sheila@bethami.com](mailto:Sheila@bethami.com) – see more below)

**Wednesday 5/10** – Shalom Boulder Happy Hour (5:30 – 7pm, Boulder JCC – see more below)

## Other Community Events

**Sunday 5/7** – Moses: Muslim or Jew? Talk with Scholar Hadi Abdulmatin & Rabbi Marc Soloway (10am-1pm, Islamic Center of Boulder – 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

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Submission Deadline  
**11:59pm, Fri 5/26**

## Upcoming Events

### June

**Sunday 6/4** – Boulder Jewish Festival (11am – 4pm, Pearl Street Mall)

### August

**Thursday 8/24 – Sunday 8/27** – Save the dates for Paul Golin's (SHJ Executive Director) visit with Beth Ami!

## Post-Passover Meet & Greet

Searching? Curious? Came to the Passover Seder and want to learn more?

Beth Ami welcomes you to a social and informational Meet & Greet at The Egg & I on Sat., May 6, 10-12. Drop in for coffee or order yourself a meal and stay awhile.

We'll be in the private meeting room at the back of the restaurant at 2574 Baseline Rd., at Baseline & Broadway in Boulder. Free, accessible parking.

Let us know you're coming! RSVP to [sheila@bethami.com](mailto:sheila@bethami.com) or reply to the Meetup post.

## Shalom Boulder Happy Hour

The Welcoming Team at the Boulder JCC invites you to the next Shalom Boulder Event: [Shalom Boulder Happy Hour](#) on May 10th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Even if

you attended the first welcoming event, you are invited again! Beth Ami will also be there to welcome newcomers to the Boulder Jewish community.

## Beth Ami Passover Seder

The Beth Ami Passover Seder, held at the new Boulder JCC and attended by about 120 people, was the largest Passover gathering ever for our community. We read through the new Humanistic Haggadah, sang traditional and not so traditional songs, and consumed a sumptuous potluck meal. Four cups of wine (or grape juice), charoset, maror, and matzah were eaten, pinkies dipped and plagues enumerated. Children played with the provided Passover themed games and toys while adults enjoyed the camaraderie of friends and new acquaintances. The feeling in the room was joyous and convivial. We hope to re-enact this event next year in Boulder.



## Moses: Muslim or Jew?

May 7, 10am – 1pm, Islamic Center of Boulder

Moses (Moishe in Hebrew, Musa in Arabic) is a central prophet and teacher in both Judaism and Islam. In this first joint Muslim-Jewish Learning brought to you by the Muslim Jewish Alliance of Boulder County (MJAB), narratives of Moses in both faith traditions will be studied, with a focus on the impact of liberation stories on our religious and moral lives today.

**Who:** Scholar Hadi Abdulmin & Rabbi Marc Soloway

**Where:** Islamic Center of Boulder,  
5495 Baseline Rd, Boulder, CO 80303

**When:** 10AM – 1PM

**Cost:** Free and open to the public!

## Note from Joyce Kohn

Former Beth Ami member from Denver, now living in Missouri

Passover Greetings to you and your family and all at Beth Ami celebrating together for the holiday. Miss being with you, but will attend a community celebration with my family where I live. However, I will greatly miss the Humanistic values and company to share them with as this will be done with the usual religious rituals. Enjoy!

~ Joyce Kohn

We miss her also! If anyone would like to keep in touch, Joyce's email is [kohn.joyce@gmail.com](mailto:kohn.joyce@gmail.com).

## News From National Detroit March For Science



## Denver March for Science



## Book Talk

### The Atheist Muslim: A Journey from Religion to Reason by Ali A. Rizvi

By Sheila Malcolm

A few months back, during a Beth Ami Program Committee session, Lenore mentioned this book as a good read. I began listening on Audible, but needed to have a copy in my hands to review and synthesize Mr. Rizvi's ideas. As many of us from traditional religious backgrounds have learned, it sometimes takes a while to wrap our brains around the concept of celebrating our cultural Judaism, our ethnic inheritance, without god. Here's a quote from a highly recommended examination of how we can honestly claim and explain who we really are:

*"From rituals and holidays, to charity and a sense of community and belonging, most American Jews have taken what they like from Judaism, yet outgrown the supernatural fairy tales. In a sense, they have divorced*

*Judaism from the experience of being Jewish. They have retained the identity and culture, while for many, the faith part is all but scrapped... Many religious communities have now evolved past their religious beliefs. In effect, they've secularized their religions. Judeo-Christian scripture isn't vastly different from Islamic scripture. Yet many Jews and Christians are able to hold on to their cultural identities and customs without the burden of actually following every aspect of their faith, or even believing their holy books are... immutable and perfect."*

Sounds like a valuable "elevator talk" to explain Humanistic Judaism.

Have a "good read" or film to recommend? Please share with [sheila@bethami.com](mailto:sheila@bethami.com).

## Beth Ami Hike

Shari (with Zeno), Hava, Elaine and Eileen joined Sheila for the first hike of the season. It was a beautiful day for conversation, scenery, and camaraderie.



## 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.

- The daughters of Michael and Marti Hirsch are graduating this May. Katya Hirsch is graduating Boulder High School having earned an AP diploma with a Fine Arts Renaissance pathway focus. She will be continuing her studies at Brandeis University where she has been named a Presidential Scholar. Rachel is graduating from the University of Puget Sound with a BS in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics. Her studies will continue at Colorado State University pursuing an MS in Computer Science, where she has been granted a Graduate Teaching Assistantship.

## 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](mailto: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 Mathematics & Computer Science 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