



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 4; 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 2013

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

Thursday 5/2 – Dinner at Barry and Donna Levene's (5pm - See More Below)

Friday-Sunday 5/3-5 – Community Retreat to Estes Park YMCA - Visiting Rabbi Jeff Falick. Direct questions to Sheila at smalcolm280@gmail.com.

Thursday 5/23 – Beth Ami Book Club (11am at Brio's - The Forgetting River - review below)

Upcoming Events

June

Sunday 6/9 – Boulder Jewish Festival (11am Pearl St Mall – Community Help Needed!)

Saturday 6/29 – Family Shabbat/Hike (10am)

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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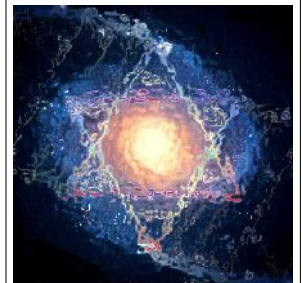
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Boulder Area Wedding Resource Guide

The Boulder JCC will soon have a paper and online resource guide referring couples to Jewish wedding officiants in Boulder County. Sheila will be listed as one of the qualifying officiants. Know someone getting married? Michelle and Sheila are both available to conduct beautiful, unique wedding ceremonies.



Focus on Israel

Yom Ha'Atzmaut - Israel Independence Day - has been honored recently at Jewish Cultural School and Adult Ed. Beth Ami's Retreat weekend will focus on Israel with the expert leadership of Rabbi Jeff Falick. The Boulder JCC celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut on Apr. 24. Sheila participated in the candle-lighting ceremony along with 6 other representatives of the Boulder Jewish Community!



SHJ Humanistic Jewish Role Model for 2012-2013

Nobel Prize Winning Physicist Richard P. Feynman

By Cary Shaw, SHJ Board

Each year the Society for Humanistic Judaism chooses a Jewish person, living or deceased, who made valuable contributions to humankind and whose philosophy would be compatible with Humanistic Judaism.

During his lifetime, 1918-1988, Richard P Feynman (pronounced fine-man) became one of the best-known scientists in the world. Born of Ashkenazi Jewish parents from Russia and Poland, by his youth he described himself as an "avowed atheist". Early on, his father encouraged him to think about nature and how it works.

His lectures on physics, in book form, are now the

standard texts for teaching at the graduate level. His contributions are wide ranging. They include his detailed work on the possibilities of nanotechnology, calculating the minute limits on the miniaturization of computers. He is known for speaking openly, clearly, and with good humor. He was a star witness on the Challenger disaster. He even developed a campaign to visit the far reaches of the Soviet Union ("Tuva or Bust").

The movie "Infinity" (available through Netflix) is about the romance between Richard Feynman and Arline Greenbaum, whom he married. Feynman's birthday is May 11.

Book Review – The Forgetting River:

A Modern Tale of Survival, Identity, and the Inquisition

By Doreen Carvajal

A powerful memoir, *The Forgetting River* tells the moving story of the author's quest to uncover her family's secret heritage. Carvajal was raised to believe her family hailed from Costa Rica, and that their roots were deeply buried in the Latin American Catholic soil. But during her early adulthood, when she leaves her California home and moves first to New York, then to Paris, and finally to a tiny, centuries-old town in Andalucia in southern Spain, she begins to suspect that there is more to the story than she had been told. One clue at a time, she discovers that her true heritage is connected to Jewish Spain, and that her ancestors were forced to convert during the Spanish Reformation.

As she unravels the thread of her family history, she works with scientists to track her DNA and digs deep beneath the ancient beauty of whitewashed buildings to

try to understand her own beginnings, finally satisfying the craving for belonging she has carried with her since childhood. As she begins to understand and accept her heritage, she gains the sense of place that has eluded her all her life.

Carvajal is a journalist who understands the nuance and beauty of travel writing. Combining this gift with this highly personal story, she creates a book that shimmers with enchantment, pulling the reader into her life with gentle tugs on the heartstrings. What she calls "hunting family ghosts" will resonate with anyone who has ever felt out of place where they were and dreamed of finding another heritage just one layer beneath the one they had always accepted as the bedrock of their self-definition.

Beth Ami *Almost Annual* Community Retreat Schedule

Thursday 5/2

Rabbi Jeffrey Falick and Arthur Liebhaber arrive at DIA
 5-7pm – Dinner at Barry and Donna Levene's new home, 695 Fairfax St, Denver 80020, especially for those who are not attending the retreat, but all are welcome. Rabbi Jeff will share a bit of his personal story and offer a taste of the adult ed portion of the retreat. RSVP to Sheila at smalcolm280@gmail.com or 303-499-5933.

Friday 5/3

Retreat at YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park.
 5pm – Arrival at the YMCA, room assignments, visiting
 6pm – Community dinner served in the lodge
 7pm – Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Jeff (maybe around campfire). Readings will focus on Nature and Shabbat.
 7:30 – S'mores, sing-a-long and schmoozing (maybe around campfire)

Saturday 5/4 Morning

Welcome to those joining just for today
 8am – Breakfast in designated lodge, pack lunches and snacks for later
 9:30am-noon – Children's session with Doug Hill, Outdoor Education Expert. Doug will begin activities (hopefully all outdoors) with children and interested adults, exploring the theme of ancient outdoor education, related to periods of history studied in Jewish Cultural School.
 OR – Adult Session with Rabbi Jeff. “The History and Mystery of Zionism: The Secular Revolution in Jewish Civilization”. We will review some founding texts of Zionist thought, both secular and religious, with an eye towards better understanding Jewish history in both Israel and the US.
 11:30am – Adults hike to meet kids for lunch (weather permitting)
 noon-12:30pm – Picnic lunch for all

Saturday 5/4 Afternoon

1-2:30pm – Children's second session with Doug Hill, again designed for all children and interested adults
 OR – Adult second session with Rabbi Jeff, “The *Hatikva* Dilemma” - Do the words of *Hatikva* mesh with the Israeli Declaration of Independence? What is the controversy? We will look at Hillel Halkin's alternative to *Hatikva* as the Israeli national anthem and explore the thoughts of a prominent Arab/Israeli writer.
 2:30-5pm – Family and community time. Take advantage of what the Y has to offer: hike, swim, play mini-golf, nap, etc...
 5pm – Gather in designated lodge for community ice-breaker and welcome to anyone else who has joined us. We will then enjoy a meaningful community *Havdala* Service with Rabbi Jeff, lovely music, and a review of the day.
 6pm – Dinner in Designated lodge accompanied by Israeli Music
 7pm – After-dinner songfest, games, visiting

Sunday 5/4

8am – Breakfast in designated lodge
 8:30am – Community gathering during/following breakfast: What makes Beth Ami sing? How do we keep the groove going? What will you do to join the chorus?
 9am – Closure activity with Rabbi Jeff and evaluation with Sheila
 11am – Check out, but feel free to again enjoy the offerings of the YMCA camp

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Hi, all. I'm Rachel Hirsch. I was a student at the Beth Ami JCS until I had 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 graduate at the end of this school year).

I welcome any input you have, so feel free to email me any articles or information that you want to see in next month's newsletter.

-Rachel

Submission Deadline:

12am (midnight), Saturday 5/25