



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 4; Issue 11

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

# November 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

## Beth Ami Event Schedule

**Sunday 11/3** – JCS Session 6 & Adult Ed

**Thursday 11/7** – Beth Ami Book Club (11am, meet at Brio's Tuscan Grill near Cherry Creek Mall – more info below)

**Sunday 11/10** – Beth Ami Arts Group goes to “From Door to Door” (more info below)

**Sunday 11/17** – JCS Session 7 & Adult Ed

**Wednesday 11/27** – First night of Chanukah

## Other Community Events

**11/1-10** – JAMM Festival (more info below)

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

11/1 – Nathan Wilson

11/2 – Anya DuBow Margolis

11/8 – Eitan Moin

11/9 – Alex Wilson

11/15 – Ron Kingston

11/28 – TayTay Anderson

## Contents

Calendar.....1

Celebrations.....1

After the Flood.....1

Chanukah Info.....2

Early Chanukah.....3

JAMM Fest Info.....3

IISHJ Colloquium...4

Book Club.....4

Arts Group Info.....4

Pew Research.....4

Adult Ed Topics & JCS Schedule.....4

Family News.....5

Tributes.....5

Contact Info.....5

***Submission Deadline***  
**11:59pm, Sat 11/16**

## Upcoming Events

### December

12/1 – Community Chanukah celebration (2pm, JUC – more info below)

12/5 – Last night of Chanukah

12/15 – JCS Session 8 & Adult Ed

12/31 – Annual Beth Ami New Years Eve Party

### May

5/16-5/18 – YMCA Family Retreat registration is now open. Please email Lenore with questions and to register (email is below)

## After the Flood

Beth Ami joined the "Bolder Shabbat" initiative by participating in a Chautauqua Park hike with Naturalist Dave Sutherland, who shared his expansive knowledge about the effects of the recent flood. Our group hosted several visitors new to Boulder, and enjoyed a bountiful oneg lunch picnic.

The Bolder Shabbat weekend was a community-wide initiative of Jewish Together-Boulder. For more, visit <http://jewishtgetherboulder.org/bolder-shabbat>.



**Community Chanukah Celebration**

*"Bringing Light Into Our Lives"*

Sunday, December 1, 2-4 pm  
Jefferson Unitarian Church  
14350 W. 32nd Avenue, Golden, Colorado 80401

*"Bringing Light into Our Lives"*



*Latkes & Donuts*

*Candles, dreidls, gelt!*

*What's the real story of Hanukah?*

*Light-hearted group  
games & songs ~ and  
a bit of drumming!*

Light up with laughter watching  
some of the funniest Jewish  
video clips ever!

Bring your hanukia/menorah, family & friends  
All ages welcomed

RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

by Fri., Nov. 29



[www.bethami.com](http://www.bethami.com)

## Early Chanukah in 2013

The Jewish calendar is the rhythm of our Jewish lives. The Jewish calendar situation this year is unique. In fact, it has not occurred since 1899 and will only occur once more. Ever. And that won't be until the year 2089.

The Jewish holidays must occur in their appointed season according to the Torah. To ensure this, there is a leap year that adds an extra month (Adar II) to the Jewish calendar to adjust for the differential between the Jewish calendar's lunar cycle and the Gregorian (secular) calendar's 365 day solar cycle. We'll also celebrate the majority of the festival of Sukkot before the Fall equinox even takes place even though Sukkot is an autumnal holiday (the law states this is acceptable so long as the final day of the holiday, Hoshanah Rabbah,

occurs after the Fall equinox).

There are four different new years in the Jewish tradition as spelled out in the Mishnah as well as the way the calendar was fixed so that festivals like Passover occurred only in their appointed season. Here is a helpful mnemonic of *lo adu rosh*, which reminds us that Rosh HaShanah can never fall on a Sunday, Wednesday or Friday. The reason the calendar is fixed that way is so that Yom Kippur can never be on a Friday, Sunday or Tuesday. (A full-day fast that close to Shabbat would be too big of a challenge, and if Yom Kippur fell on a Tuesday, then Hoshana Rabbah, the final day of Sukkot, would be on Shabbat, and we could not beat the willow branches.)

## JAAMM Festival & Beth Ami Arts Group - *From Door to Door*

Oct 15 – Nov 10, 2013

### JAMM Festival Information

Mizel Arts & Culture Center

350 S. Dahlia St  
Denver, CO 80246

To get tickets, call (303) 316 – 6360 or stop by the MACC box office

Hours: M-F, 9am – 5pm

### Sunday, November 10 at 2:00pm

Beth Ami Arts Group goes to Theater Or at Pluss Theatre, 350 S. Dahlia Street Denver, to see *From Door to Door* by James Sherman, a heartwarming tribute to three generations of American women.

Spanning 70 years of history, this poignant family comedy reveals what binds and divides them, the changing roles of women, and the eternal power of family love.

For more info and to buy tickets, visit <http://www.maccjcc.org/jaamm-2013/jaamm-fest-theater-dance/>

## IISHJ Colloquium 2013 – Several Ways to Attend!

Rabbi Adam Chalom announces the IISHJ's Colloquium 2013 on "The Future of Jewish Peoplehood" taking place November 16-17 at Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills, MI.

- Shabbat service - Friday evening with Rabbi Jeff Falick
- Ordination ceremony and Havdalah service - Saturday evening
- "Mini-Colloquium" - Sunday morning.

You can find all the information you need, including a registration link (no charge to register!) at <http://iishj.org/colloquium-13.html>.

The Colloquium will be live-broadcast at the above website. You can watch at home, then come to Adult Ed!

You may also ponder the question, "Are we one people?" along with others at the Colloquium. Consider recording a video of yourself answering this question in 60-90 seconds or less. You can be funny or serious or both. Clips will be assembled and shared during the Colloquium at Birmingham Temple. We will also add in clips like Monty Python's answer to the question: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb\\_qHP7VaZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb_qHP7VaZE).

The IISHJ is can offer \$150 towards airfare expenses or \$75 towards driving expenses.

## Beth Ami Book Club

### *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

This is a one book Denver Jewish community read. The saga of an American father and daughter who, in July 1933, suddenly found themselves, and the rest of their family, transported to the heart of Hitler's Berlin. The father was William E. Dodd, a mild-mannered history professor from Chicago who, much to his surprise and everyone else's, was chosen by Roosevelt to be America's first ambassador to Nazi Germany; Dodd's daughter, Martha, was 24 years old and came along for the adventure, and to escape a dead marriage.

At first this new world seemed full of energy and goodwill, nothing like what newspapers back home had portrayed. But slowly a pall of intrigue and terror fell over the family – until the cataclysmic weekend that changed them all forever.

On Nov. 4 Erik Larson will be at the Denver JCC. For more information, go to:

[http://www.maccjcc.org/ai1ec\\_event/denver-jewish-community-reads-2013/?instance\\_id=3735](http://www.maccjcc.org/ai1ec_event/denver-jewish-community-reads-2013/?instance_id=3735)

RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com).

## Beth Ami Arts Group

RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com)

The Beth Ami Arts Group will be attending the Curious Theater on Wednesday, January 19 2:00pm to see the regional premiere of *The Whipping Man* by Matthew Lopez:

In the aftermath of the Civil War, a Jewish Confederate soldier returns home to discover two of his

former slaves living in the ruins of his family's once grand plantation. Bound together by faith, they reunite to celebrate Passover and confront the past, present and future. The Whipping Man is a hauntingly powerful drama about newfound freedom and the painful legacy of slavery.

## Pew Research Center: What does it mean to be Jewish?

What does it mean to be Jewish? Is it a person's ethnicity, a culture, a religion, or a mix of the three? And how does one practice being a Jew? After thousands of years of Jewish history, the answer to the question remains complicated, according to a new survey.

The Pew Research Center's [report on Jewish Americans](#) released Tuesday, Oct 1st sought to answer how Americans define their Jewishness and to look at trends in religious beliefs and practice, denominational affiliation, intermarriage and views on Israel, among other issues. To read their findings go to <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey/>

## Beth Ami Values Life Long Learning

**November 3** – A Taste of Love and Logic with Sheila Malcolm

Let's continue our discussion of successful strategies for parenting and teaching children and youth. The Love and Logic approach has been refined for over 35 years.

Techniques are easy to learn, build responsibility and character, lower stress levels, and have immediate and positive effects. This will be an interactive session!

Sheila took her first Love and Logic class from its creators, Foster Cline and Jim Fay, in 1977 as a beginning special education teacher in BVPS. She soon added Parenting with Love and Logic, and has taught the strategies to a variety of adult groups.

Beth Ami values life long learning. See the class schedule the Beth Ami website.

**JCS:** <http://www.bethami.com/JCS.html>

**Adult Ed:** <http://www.bethami.com/AdultEd.html>

**November 17** – POV: Humanists vs Traditionally Religious with Gordon Gamm

How do we view the world differently?

Long-time member Gordon Gamm brings a world of experience to this talk as attorney, traveler, musician and founder of the Boulder International Humanists. Gordon's ideas always challenge the status quo.

Please RSVP to [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com).

Adult Ed meets at Countryside Rec Center in Westminster, 10470 Oak St, Westminster Co 80021 – Home of the Jewish Cultural School – from 10:00 - 11:45 am. There is a community potluck lunch after each session. All are welcome! Bring a friend!



## 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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mazel tov to Emily Trudell and Jordan Schmick who married on Oct. 6</li> <li>• Mazel tov to Stephen Greenspan on the recent publication of his book <u>Elements of Discipline. Nine principles for teachers and parents</u></li> <li>• Mazel tov to James Wilson on his new job at the Denver Metro National Multiple Sclerosis Society</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Elaine Bloch who is at Hightime Rehab, 6260 E. Iliff, Denver</li> <li>• Our condolences to Kathy Kane on the recent death of her mother Pera Kane. Donations in memory of Pera can be sent to the Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 or to Beth Ami 1395 James Way, Erie 80516</li> </ul> |
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## Tributes, Donations, and Gifts

To donate to honor or remember a family member, friend, or Beth Ami member, 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 of the person. Our congregation expresses its gratitude to the following individuals whose donations were received in the last month.

- Lenore and Ron Kingston sending our condolences to Kathy Kane on the recent death of her mother Pera Kane

## 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