



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 2015

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

Saturday 11/7 – Family Havdalah (6-7:30pm, PJ Library in Louisville – see more below)

Sunday 11/8 – JCFS Session (10am, Boulder JCC)

Saturday 11/14 – Shabbat (2-5pm, Boulder – location TBD)

Sunday 11/15 – JCFS Session, mitzvah project (10am – **DATE CHANGE!**)

Upcoming Events

December

Saturday 12/5 – Beth Ami Book Club (11am at Brio's – see more below)

Sunday 12/6 – Chanukah Party (4pm, Boulder JCC)

Sunday 12/13 – JCFS Session (10am)

Thursday 12/31 – Possible New Year's Party (Hirsch home)

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 11/1 – Nathan Wilson
- 11/2 – Anya DuBow Margolis
- 11/6 – Avi Shucker
- 11/8 – Eitan Moin
- 11/9 – Alex Wilson
- 11/15 – Ron Kingston
- 11/28 – TayTay Anderson

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Submission Deadline

11:59pm, Fri 9/25



Jewish Cultural Family School October Report

We wish to welcome Marc and Alexa Claybon and their daughters Hazel and Edith to our school and our community. They recently moved to Superior, CO from the Washington DC area and were members of Beth Chai, a Humanist Jewish Congregation.

Our school has eight families so far this year. We welcome new families throughout the year. Family school dues are used to support our monthly mitzvah projects.

Thanks to donations collected at Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot, we have become active supporters of the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, CO. *Ts'ar bah-ah-lay chay-eem* refers to the Jewish law which prohibits causing unnecessary suffering to

animals. The animals living at the Wild Animal Sanctuary have all been rescued from human cruelty.

In November we will be donating birthday bags to a local food shelter. Jewish tradition places great importance on compassion, in other words, *g'milut hasadim*, acts of loving kindness. The Talmudic sage Hillel asked three questions "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am for myself alone, what am I? and If not now, when? We are grateful that our families are able to provide birthday parties for their own children. In appreciation, we will buy items necessary to celebrate a child's birthday at a dollar store in Longmont.

Sukkot!

Beth Ami shared a multi-generational Sukkot in Boulder with “Stone Soup,” a healthy spread of food and some fun activities in the sukka. It was truly a family school event!

In addition to enjoying a healthy, sustainable lunch, Beth Ami collected 18 pounds of food for Emergency Family Assistance Association in Boulder. Thanks to all who contributed.



Learning to be Jewish In the 21st Century

Marti Hirsch, Sheila Malcolm, and Lenore Kingston recently attended Chidush for Boulder Jewish Educators sponsored by 18 Pomegranates. Early Sunday morning, Oct. 18th approximately 70 educators from many Boulder congregations listened to Professor Ari Kellman of the College of Jewish Studies at Stanford University.

Is learning passive or passionate? Is it coercive or desired? Is Jewish identity the outcome? Professor Kellman was advocating that we pay attention to our students, what they are learning, and what they want to learn. In other words, do our students see the value of their learning?

Beth Ami Book Club

The current book we are reading is Like Dreamers, The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation by Yossi Klein Halevi.

Halevi isolates seven paratroopers who fought in the 1967 war to reclaim the Western Wall in the old city of Jerusalem. He reconstructs their lives, before and since 1967, to “render a complicated history intimate, human,

relatable,” a quote from Jodi Rudoren’s Oct. 18, 2013 New York Times book review. These seven individuals reunite repeatedly on the battlefield and off.

Halevi is a Brooklyn-born son of a Holocaust survivor who first visited Israel after the 1967 war and moved there in 1982.

Kindness to Animals (*Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim*)

The sun was shining and the starlings were loudly chirping as Beth Ami Family School set off on our visit to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg. After a wonderful orientation talk about how animals come to the sanctuary and how they are cared for once they arrive, we set out on the one mile long walkway which stretches over the hundreds acres of animal habitats. In the habitats we saw fat bears preparing for hibernation, prides of lions, wolves, lynxes, servals, a camel and even a porcupine all enjoying the safety of the sanctuary.

As we walked, we completed a Family School activity connecting what we were observing to our Jewish heritage and to the lesson we participated in at

the JCC. We also discussed which animal we would like Beth Ami to adopt. Toward the end of our stay we voted and decided to adopt Cheyenne, an Arctic Wolf.

The natural habitat for an Arctic Wolf is along the northern edge of the North American continent and northward to the North Pole and Greenland. Cheyenne was being kept on a farm in Iowa until a law was passed requiring insurance for exotic animals. The owners no longer wanted to keep her, so the sanctuary stepped in to rescue her. She now lives in a large acreage habitat in a pack with two other rescued Arctic Wolves. Beth Ami will be receiving a framed photo of Cheyenne, an adoption certificate, and periodic updates on her well being.

PJ Library Engagement Grant

Jewish Colorado was awarded a PJ Library Engagement grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for 2015-2016. Denver and Boulder Jewish organizations are working together to bring PJ Library books and great programming to nearby communities.

On Saturday, November 7th 6:00-7:30pm Beth Ami and Bonai Shalom invite families with children eight years old and younger to Mountain Kids, 474 S. Taylor Ave. in Louisville. When families first arrive there will

be a variety of activities in a large gym. At 6:40pm all families will transition to a private room where Rachel Cole will sing Jewish songs followed by a sensory Havdalah service and a PJ Library story. By now everyone will be hungry! Enjoy cheese pizza, drinks, and dessert as you visit with new friends.

To register for this event:

<http://www.jewishcolorado.org/event/pj-library-havdalah-and-gymnastics-in-louisville/>

News From National

As of this writing, Kathy Kane and Sheila Malcolm are on their way to the October SHJ Board Meeting in Farmington Hills, MI. Updates on changes to our umbrella organization will be coming soon. Many

thanks to each of you who completed the recent SHJ survey which is informing the Vision Project data, to be codified into a report to help re-define the Society for the future.

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

Family, friends and colleagues said goodbye to Ely Karasik on Oct. 18 at the Mercury Cafe, and Oct. 19 at Ft. Logan Cemetery.

Ely was born in 1924 in the Bronx, NY and passed on Sept. 30, 2015 at his home in Denver. Ely's family listed his accomplishments on a remembrance postcard: Student, Soldier, Teacher, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Friend, Musician, Composer.

He will be sweetly missed. A formal obituary will appear in the Denver Post at a later time.



Tributes and Donations

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.

- Michael and Marti Hirsch would like to honor the memory of Ely Karasik with a donation to Beth Ami.

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