



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 7; 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 2016

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 11/5** – Community Shabbat celebration (*doors open 10am, Shabbat starts at 10:30am – Boulder JCC, 6007 Orege Ave., Boulder 80303 – RSVP to [BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com) – see more below*)

## Upcoming Events

### December

**Sunday 12/4** – Beth Ami Arts Group goes to see “Hand to God” by Robert Askins (2pm, Curious Theater – 1090 Acoma St., Denver Co 80204 – discount price is \$25/ticket – contact [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) to be part of group ticket sales by Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – see play summary below)

**Sunday 12/11** – Community Chanukah celebration (3pm – Boulder JCC, 6007 Orege Ave., Boulder 80303)

### January

**Saturday 1/7** – International Dinner Out (time TBD, Denver)

**Saturday 1/21** – Beth Ami movie night

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

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

### February

**Saturday 2/4** – Tu B'Shevat celebration (10am)

### March

**Saturday 3/4** – Community Shabbat celebration (10am)

## Contents

- Calendar.....1
- Celebrations.....1
- Book Club Update..1
- Rosalind Franklin....1
- Shabbat Info.....2
- News From National.....2
- Choose Your Own HuJew Adventure...2
- Birthday Bags.....3
- Beth Ami MeetUp...3
- Beth Ami Sukkot....4
- “Hand to God”.....5
- Family News.....5
- Support Beth Ami...5
- Contact Info.....5

Submission Deadline  
**11:59pm, Fri 11/25**



## Beth Ami Book Club Update

Several members read Carole King’s memoir Natural Woman. As a concluding event we showed her documentary at Elaine and Bill Baum’s apartment. Please contact Lenore at [bethamicolorado@gmail.com](mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com) if you would like to borrow the video.

Our next book is Pompeii written by Robert Harris. We will discuss Pompeii at Brio’s Tuscan Grille on Sunday, January 15th 11:00am.

This historical novel takes place along the Mediterranean coast of the Roman empire. Its richest

citizens enjoy the last days of summer. A young engineer Marcus Attilius Primus has just taken charge of the Aqua Augusta, the enormous aqueduct that brings fresh water to a quarter of a million people in nine towns around the Bay of Naples. There is a problem in the aqueduct’s main line, somewhere to the north of Pompeii, on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius. The events in the story occur a few days before the famous eruption.

## Celebrate Shabbat Humanistically

~ Learn about the HJ Role Model of the Year ~  
~ Nosh and schmooze in a beautiful new location ~  
We welcome those who wish to learn more about Humanistic Judaism and the Beth Ami Community!  
Come and check us out!

RSVP to [BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com) for seating, food/oneg purchases, and childcare for young ones.

Saturday, November 5 at the Boulder Jewish Community Center:  
6007 Oreg Ave., Boulder 80303  
(Arapahoe & Cherryvale)  
Doors open at 10am, Shabbat starts 10:30.  
Presentation: Rosalind Franklin – Unwinding the Double Helix

## News From National

### Rosalind Franklin is SHJ's Humanistic Jewish Role Model

Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958), the British chemist, whose work led the way to the discovery of the structure of DNA, is the SHJ's 2017 Humanistic Jewish Role Model of the year.

Read a bio of Franklin's life and work at [Jewish Women's Archive](#). The play about her life, *Photograph 51*, was written by Anna Ziegler and featured in [Tablet Magazine](#).

You can view the two part series entitled, "The Race to the Double Helix" on the web. In 1987 this award-winning documentary drama was originally produced for the BBC science series Horizon. It is about the race to solve one of the greatest mysteries of 20th-century science – the structure of DNA. It is the story of the

diligent research, creative analysis, and perseverance of James Watson and Francis Crick that led to the discovery. With the help of their colleague, Maurice Wilkins, they also earned the 1962 Nobel Prize. Here are the links to [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

The debate on whether Maurice Wilkins leaked Franklin's vitally important research to Watson and Crick is ongoing to this day. Read about it [here](#).



## Choose Your Own (Humanistic Jewish) Adventure

By Sheila Malcolm

Our theme for this past Rosh Hashanah brought out a variety of written and spontaneous responses. We'll review some of those essays in this and the next few newsletters:

I am a literal adventurer. The word can be replaced with explorer, traveler, voyager, trailblazer, pioneer, and opportunist (mostly in the context of saying yes to travel opportunities). At age 7, I was enrolled in a still-life painting class at a neighborhood studio, in the Bronx, in a basement, and created watercolors of snowy mountain peaks, flower-dappled valleys and villages of happy people and animals co-existing outdoors, while both sun and stormy clouds hovered overhead. Still life was not my cup of tea. I drank from peaks and valleys.

22 countries plus 3 city-states later, I'm still thirsty for travel. I believe in lifelong learning by adventure. Learning [geography](#) from large world maps, magazines and TV travelogues, then exploring wildlife preserves in S. Africa, and national parks everywhere. Learning [languages](#) from texts and *telenovelas* and houseguests, then braving the market place in Guatemala. Learning

[history](#) from Masterpiece Theater and page-turning historical fiction, then meeting the real inhabitants of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to try to sort it all out. And how about [religion](#)? Mexican churches built on top of Mayan temples, Nepalese Buddhist monasteries and Hindu shrines overlapping in their artifacts and spiritual practices, the four quadrants of Jerusalem's Old City, managing to co-exist on a very small piece of rocky real estate. The adventure of learning, I know we can all agree, is an intrinsic Jewish value for we People of the Book. Many books. Many peoples.

But what about the [people](#)? In choosing my adventures, my humanistic values always seem to take me back around to the people – wherever they may live, whatever their belief systems – who create my learning and teaching opportunities. Service projects provide service to the givers and the receivers. Teachers often acquire more gifts than their students. My explorations of the world, even in its most remote corners, will always center on those far peaks and valleys, and the people who inhabit them.

## Birthday Bag Mitzvah Project

By Marti Hirsch

At our Community Picnic, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we collected tzedakah money to go towards a mitzvah project. While we like to do different projects each year, this year EFAA requested that we repeat a project we have done before, making "Birthday Bags" to give to families in transitional housing. A "birthday bag" is a bag filled with all the makings for a birthday party – cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday banner etc.

Because of the kind donations from our Beth Ami

members and guests we were able to purchase enough materials to create 27 beautiful bags. The bags were filled at our Sukkot celebration. On each bag we attached a tag stating, "This Birthday Bag was created for you by the families at Beth Ami – enjoy". We know that these bags will be received with great happiness by the families in transitional housing. Thank you to all those who contributed to this project with either money or deeds.



## Beth Ami MeetUp Group

By Marti Hirsch

Beth Ami is now advertizing and organizing events through [MeetUp.com](https://www.meetup.com). Many other Humanist Jewish organizations have found success in this outlet so we have decided to jump in as well. This is a new way of informing you of our events. We will still also inform you of events in the newsletter and other emails, but we are hoping to reach a wider audience with this new method. MeetUp will allow us to have conversations about specific events, keep track of RSVP's and utilize other cool online tools.

Joining MeetUp is free to you. It just takes a minute or two to get your account set up, if you don't have one already. By joining the Beth Ami MeetUp group, you

show your support for Beth Ami and Humanistic Judaism.

At the time of writing this article, 70 people have joined our MeetUp group. Some of these people are long standing members and some are totally new to Beth Ami. Some have attended events since joining the MeetUp and some have yet to attend, but we are confident that eventually they will find something that fits their interests and availabilities. Every day more people are finding us on MeetUp and joining our group.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to join the Beth Ami MeetUp group. Hope to see you at an event sometime!

Beth Ami Sukkot



## “Hand to God” Summary

In small town Cypress, Texas, sweet but troubled teen Jason is coping with his father’s recent death and is forced to join his mother’s Church-led group. However, things take a turn for the unexpected when

Jason’s foul-mouthed, truth-spewing puppet Tyrone begins to take on a life of his own. Irreverent, and occasionally shocking, “Hand to God” is a raucous comedy that explores faith, grief and humanity.

## 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.

- We send warm wishes to Stacy Weinberg for a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

## 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