



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

September 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

Thursday 9/5 – Rosh Hashana service and community potluck (4pm-JUC)

Sunday 9/8 – JCS Session 1 & Adult Ed (10am)

Friday 9/13 – Kol Nidre service (7pm-JUC)

Saturday 9/14 – Yom Kippur service and community break the fast (4pm-JUC)

Sunday 9/22 – JCS Session 2 & Adult Ed followed by Sukkot celebration – Beth Ami members and friends are invited (10am)

Saturday 9/28 – Julia Litz Bat Mitzvah (10am), Light the Night Walk (CU Boulder campus - 5:30pm)

Upcoming Events

October

10/3 – Beth Ami Book Club at Gerrie's (Review *Second Person Singular* by Sayeed Kashua, plus 1st season of Arab Labor)

10/6 – JCS Session 3 & Adult Ed

10/12 – Shabbat celebration - part of JT Boulder's community-wide Shabbat initiative (10am, jewishtogetherboulder.org)

10/20 – JCS Session 4 & Adult Ed

May

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

Celebrations

Birthdays

9/14 – Mitchel Budoff

9/18 – Katya Hirsch

9/20 – Maida Deborah

Anniversaries

9/5 – Christie and Stan Gosch

9/15 – Roz and Stu Budoff

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What Am I Doing Here?

Rabbi Adam Chalom, Dean of the International Institute of Secular Humanistic Judaism, recently wrote an article about creating a conversation about Humanistic Judaism with friends and family. For members of Beth Ami, what do YOU get out of Beth Ami and Humanistic Judaism? Is it a relevant and meaningful Jewish education for you or your children? Is it a feeling of camaraderie with others who share your values? Is it that we stand for an important voice and set of principles in the Denver/Boulder area?

What is your story? How did you come to believe what you do today? What do you value about your family heritage? Why do you do Jewish?

What if Beth Ami didn't exist? Would you have never joined a Jewish congregation? Have you been married or celebrated the birth of a baby with Beth Ami? Were you relieved that Beth Ami only cares if you love each other, not if your partner is Jewish?

Please email your answers to Lenore and they will be shared in next month's newsletter. (email is below)

High Holidays Schedule

“The Value and Values of Humanistic Judaism”

All services held at Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W 32nd Ave, Golden

Rosh Hashanah Service & Potluck Dinner:

Thursday, September 5th at 4 pm

Yom Kippur Service & Break-the-Fast Potluck:

Saturday, September 14th at 4 pm

Please RSVP by September 1st to:

Kathy Kane at 303-751-0936 or kkane7403@aol.com for attendance, food contributions, and (if needed) transportation assistance

For more info, visit www.bethami.com.

Kol Nidre Service:

Friday, September 13th at 7 pm

Cost:

Members are Free

Non-members: \$50 suggested donation for all 3 services or \$20 suggested donation per service

Students: \$10 suggested donation, under 18 free

Please bring a canned food donation for the Weinberg Pantry

What Are the Values of Humanistic Judaism?

Humanistic Judaism provides a meaningful alternative for people who identify with the values, history, and culture of the Jewish People

Truth

- Rely on what we know about human experience and needs
- Discover new, powerful truths about our history and present
- Advance ethical and moral goals

Dignity

- Embrace the joy, power, and responsibility to shape our own lives
- Our dignity goes hand in hand with the dignity of all peoples

Judaism

- Recognize that the Jewish people created Jewish culture
- To be a Jew is to identify with the Jewish people

Integrity

- Say what we mean and mean what we say
- Welcome all who seek connections with Jewish culture and history

Reality

- Employ reason, observation, experimentation, and creativity to address questions and understand experiences in this world

These values define our existence as Humanistic Jews

Thanks to Rabbi Adam Chalom

Dean of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism

Celebrate Sukkot Humanistically on September 22nd

We will build our Sukkah at Countryside Rec, 10470 Oak. We are very grateful to Jon Budoff who designed our Sukkah as well as his wife Toni, and his children Alexi, Paul, Sam, and Mitchell who support this project. Members Emily Trudell and Jordan Schmick will lead a discussion on "fracking."



Anya Margolis DuBow Bat Mitzvah



Beth Ami Open House



Beth Ami Schedule

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>

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!

Beth Ami's Educational Opportunities

The First Day of Jewish Cultural School is September 8th 10:00am at Countryside Rec., 10470 Oak, Westminster. Our theme this year is Ka-vohd Habri-yoht, Human Dignity. On that day Lenore Kingston, Jewish Cultural School Director will meet with students in grades 4 through 7. We will look at the 1930s and 1940s through the lens of human dignity. Marti Hirsch will meet with students in Kindergarten through grade 3.

Marti's students will look at selected Bible stories through the eyes of human dignity. Katya Hirsch will

meet with preschool children. Katya will focus on chesed, kindness, as she explores Jewish holidays throughout the year. Michelle Davis, Madrickha will continue parent/tot programming. Sheila Malcolm, Madrickha, will lead Adult Education. The topic is Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk, dedicated to research for therapies and treatment advances for blood cancer patients. *Let's walk to the end of the cancer!*

Rachel Hirsch - Girl Scout Gold Award

I have been a Girl Scout since first grade, when my mom decided to start a troop. Over the years I have raised money for my troop by selling Girl Scout cookies. A few years ago, in fact, we earned enough to take a summer trip to Italy. We continued selling cookies the next year until we had enough money for a Gold Award Project.

For as long as I can remember, I have come to services and have thought about organizing a song book that would be easy to read and easy to use. This summer I actually made that happen. I knew it would be a difficult project but I didn't realize how difficult it

would be or how long it would take. I used two programs for the project - one to typeset the music and one to write out the Hebrew and English transliterations.

That being said, I did not do this project alone. Lenore helped me with the Hebrew and Michelle helped me select the music. My mother has also been extremely helpful and supportive through the whole project. Additionally, with Christie's help, I am planning on uploading my project to the Beth Ami website. I will also share my project with SHJ and put it up on Grovesite, an international file-sharing site.

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, Madrickha, or Michelle Davis, Madrickha

- Mazel tov to Rachel Hirsch, daughter of Marti and Michael Hirsch, who will be attending the University of Puget Sound, a private liberal arts college located in the North End of Tacoma, Washington
- Mazel tov to Wendy DuBow and Tom Margolis on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Anya Lee
- Mazel tov to Troy Anderson on his upcoming high school teaching position
- Mazel tov to Emily Trudel and Jordan Schmick on their upcoming October wedding
- Mazel tov to Barry and Donna Levene on the upcoming wedding of their son

- Mazel Tov to Beth Ami member Stephen Greenspan, who has just released his latest book *Elements of Discipline: Nine Principles for Teachers and Parents*. Steve will present an overview at the Oct. 20 Adult Ed session. Join us for the latest research in developmental psychology!
- Our best wishes to Elaine and Bill Baum on the speedy recovery of their daughter Karen
- Wishing a swift recovery to Beth Litz from recent surgery on her ankle
- Our best wishes to Steven Langer for a speedy recovery
- Our condolences to Aviva Rothschild on the death of her father Bert Rothschild

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. 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.

- Gerrie and Len Karasik in memory of Bert Rothschild
- Lenore and Ron Kingston wishing a speedy recovery to Beth Litz

About Bert Rothschild

Bert's Blog: <http://meshmeanderings.blogspot.com/>

Bert Rothschild died this past July after a brief but devastating illness. Bert and his wife Marilyn discovered Humanistic Judaism in 1994-95 and joined the Denver group known as the Colorado Congregation For Humanistic Judaism.

Bert earned his PHD from Syracuse University, served in the Army during the Korean War, and worked as a Psychologist at the Veteran's Hospital Denver. He was a follower of Albert Ellis' and advocated and practiced Rational Behavioral Thinking and Therapy, questioning people's irrational, self-defeating beliefs, and hoping to help them gain personal insight and autonomy. He was an active member and volunteered at the ACLU Denver office Bert and Marilyn both

believed in the value of Human Dignity and were happy to discover a very compatible group (CCHJ) which also celebrated non-theistic Judaism.

Len and Gerrie Karasik shared the following memories:

- Len enjoyed discussing military history, especially that of the Civil War, Jewish growing up in New York City, and current politics with Bert.
- Gerrie enjoyed debating issues with Bert because he was a quick thinker, had a fantastic memory and occasionally agreed with her.
- Bert and the Karasiks stayed in touch, especially during the last few years. They miss their friend.

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 start college in September).

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

Submission Deadline:

11:59pm, Saturday 9/21