



# Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

## The Summer Edition



Volume: 1 Issue: 5  
May 2010

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

Note from the editor:

Thank you all for your support of the newsletter launch. I will be taking a break during the sleepy summer months and will resume the newsletter in August. This letter will serve for May, June and July 2010. Thank you for your understanding.

--Katrina Miller

### Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting July 11th. See page 3 for more information and our website at [www.bethami.com](http://www.bethami.com). Come join our meeting to participate in our vision for next year.

### Beth Ami Retreat May 7th—9th



It's not too late to join Beth Ami CCHJ Jewish Cultural School 1st retreat at YMCA of the Rockies, May 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Come for the day or come for the weekend! Cost for Saturday only is \$10/adult plus food. Cost to stay overnight is \$79-\$120/night plus food. Contact Lenore if you want to come ASAP: [golden.paws@hotmail.com](mailto:golden.paws@hotmail.com).

Friday night begins with a Shabbat dinner at 6:00 p.m followed by a short Shabbat service and a fun program about the environment by the YMCA staff

On Saturday there will be a Jewish interpretative hike for about 3-4 hours. Plan on dressing for the weather. Raz Seymour, a wonderful Jewish naturalist, will lead a difficult hike. Lenore, our school director, has been taking naturalist training at Open Space Mountain Park and will lead the easy hike. We will "build a sandwich" and eat lunch on the hike.

Saturday evening program is a campfire and concert by Jeff Kagan. Jeff is the lead teacher at the Thorn Ecological Institute in Boulder and a very talented musician with City of Boulder, Open Space Mountain Parks

Sunday morning YMCA staff is leading an interpretative hike in the morning ending at 12:00p.m.

It will be fun to "play" and relax with our Beth Ami community in a beautiful setting. --Lenore

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## Order your Beth Ami CCHJ T-Shirts today

Cost is \$10  
Available in children and adult sizes

Contact Lenore to order: [golden.paws@hotmail.com](mailto:golden.paws@hotmail.com)

## Boulder Jewish Festival



June 6th,  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm on Pearl Street

Families of Beth Ami CCHJ's Jewish Cultural School will be there to greet visitors and provide art activities for children.

Please consider coming to support us at our booth.

Let Lenore know if you will be there:  
[golden.paws@hotmail.com](mailto:golden.paws@hotmail.com)

### Prickly Pear Cactus are popular in Israel

If you drive anywhere in Israel during July and August, you'll see sabras (prickly pear cactus) being sold along the road.

Sabras is the Hebrew word for the prickly pear fruit. But more interesting to note, sabras is slang for native Israeli Jews. What do native Israelis and prickly pear fruit have in common? Both are tough and thorny on the outside and soft and sweet on the inside.



## Limmud Colorado May 28th—31st

Participate in Limmud Colorado's Third Annual Conference and join us in a celebration of Jewish learning, arts, and culture.

Limmud, which means "learning" in Hebrew, connects Jews of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences for an exciting weekend of Jewish learning and joy. Limmud Colorado is pluralistic and thrives on the diversity of our Jewish world.



Carpools will be arranged. Go to [www.limmudcolorado.org](http://www.limmudcolorado.org) to register.  
Contact Terry Fleisher 303-435-6457 or Maida Deborah 303-435-2390 for more information.

# May 2010

SUN	MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Retreat	8 Retreat
9 Retreat	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30	31					

## May 2010

- 7th - 9th Retreat. See page 1
- 28th Limmud Colorado, See page 2

**JCS & Adult  
Education will  
resume August 22nd.**

## Upcoming:

Friday 7th - Sunday May 9th

JCS Retreat at the YMCA of the Rockies

*see page 1 of Newsletter*

Friday 28th - Monday 31st

Limmud Colorado.

*see page 2 of the Newsletter*

## June:

Sunday 6th Boulder Jewish Festival - *see page 2 of Newsletter*

## July:

Date/Time TBD: Meet to discuss Rabbi Greg Epstein's book: *Good Without God*.

Sunday 11th **Congregational Meeting** - 11am

Beth Ami's Annual Community Meeting is July 11, 2010 11:00 a.m. Terry's clubhouse in Denver. For more info visit our beautiful web site [www.bethami.com](http://www.bethami.com) created by Christie Gosch.

Our Beth Ami CCHJ community comes together once each year to celebrate the past year and plan for the coming one. It's a time to show your support for the Executive Board. It's a time for your voice to be heard.

Beth Ami is growing. Last year we welcomed several new families and currently have several requests from potential new members. Come to our annual meeting and welcome our new families.





**Boulder Friends of UNICEF** invites you to a special afternoon salon, including elegant desserts and drinks and featuring an informative slideshow “**Exploring Nepal**” by Sheila Malcolm, Chair of BFU.

**Sunday, May 2, 2010, 3-5 pm**

**West Boulder Senior Center  
909 Arapahoe Avenue  
Boulder, CO 80302**



Sheila and John Malcolm had the opportunity to travel with friends to Nepal in Fall '09. They trekked the Solu-Khumbu Everest region, explored Kathmandu and its sister city Patan, and ventured to beautiful Pokhara and Royal Chitwan National Park. Their journey included a growing awareness of Hinduism and Buddhism as observed throughout Nepal.

This slideshow will also include information about two significant non-profits working in Nepal: **UNICEF** and **Room to Read**.

Suggested Donation: \$25 with all donations going to UNICEF clean water and sanitation projects.

RSVP [sheilamalcolm@comcast.net](mailto:sheilamalcolm@comcast.net) or 303-499-5933 by April 28 to help BFU anticipate food and drink needs.

Submitted by Sheila Malcolm

At our most recent Beth Ami Exec Meeting, Elaine Bloch suggested that we remember to acknowledge Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Memorial Day, which fell on April 11, our meeting day. She's right. Not only should we never forget personally, and find ways to teach children, we should model the behavior of honoring those who were victimized only 70 years ago. The following description comes from [myjewishlearning.com](http://myjewishlearning.com):

*The full name of the day commemorating the victims of the Holocaust is "Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah"--literally the "Day of (Remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism." It is marked on the 27th day in the month of Nisan--a week after the seventh day of Passover, and a week before Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers... The full name became formal in a law that was enacted by the Knesset on August 19, 1953. It has become a day commemorated by Jewish communities and individuals worldwide.*

*Since the early 1960s, the sound of a siren on Yom Hashoah stops traffic and pedestrians throughout ... Israel for two minutes of silent devotion... All radio and television programs during this day are connected in one way or another with the Jewish destiny in World War II, including personal interviews with survivors. Even the musical programs are adapted to the atmosphere of Yom Hashoah. There is no public entertainment on Yom Hashoah, as theaters, cinemas, pubs, and other public venues are closed throughout Israel.*

*Jews in North America observe Yom Hashoah within the synagogue as well as in the broader Jewish community. Commemorations range from synagogue services to communal vigils and educational programs... Many Yom Hashoah programs feature a talk by a Holocaust survivor, recitation of appropriate songs and readings, or viewing of a Holocaust-themed film. Some communities choose to emphasize the depth of loss that Jews experienced in the Holocaust by reading the names of Holocaust victims... Rituals associated with Yom Hashoah are still being created and vary widely among synagogues. Attempts have also been made to observe this memorial day at home. One suggestion is that every Jewish home should light a yahrzeit (memorial) candle on this day... The overwhelming theme that runs through all observances is the importance of remembering... and insuring that such a tragedy never happen again."*

Recently, I've watched a few documentaries I'd like to recommend for their different takes on the Holocaust. PBS just played "Among the Righteous," a search for Arabs who saved Jews during World War II. In "Hiding and Seeking," a father takes his grown Orthodox sons to Poland because he's concerned about their insulated lives in Israel. They locate the Polish family who helped their grandfather during the Holocaust.

The following message is from Ruth W. Messinger, President of American Jewish World Service:

*One of the Holocaust's most enduring legacies is our community's commitment to "never again." It was in this vein that, in 2004, AJWS became a leading voice to end the genocide in Darfur and bring peace to all of Sudan.*

*This year, we observe Yom HaShoah on the very day that the Sudanese people begin their first multi-party election in 24 years. Unfortunately, this political milestone does not appear to mark a step toward peace or the beginning of a path home for the 2.7 million Darfuris who remain displaced in their own country.*

*Election monitors have been reporting widespread problems with the electoral process. As a result it seems likely that Sudan's current President, Omar al-Bashir — who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity — will be the certain winner of the elections.*

*As we learned from the Holocaust, complicated politics and long distances should not be and must not be an excuse for indifference. On this day in particular we must remember our shared humanity and continue to prioritize peace for all, including the people of Sudan.*

My hope is that you read and reflect on these words and choose your own way to commemorate Yom Hashoah and the continuing crisis of genocide in our world.



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The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) is pleased to announce that Rabbi Miriam S. Jerris, Ph.D. has been appointed as the Associate Professor for Professional Development. “Rabbi Jerris’ experience, expertise and personality will be tremendous assets to our students and our Institute,” said Rabbi Adam Chalom, Dean for North America of the IISHJ. “The professional training Rabbi Jerris will provide for our North American Rabbis and Leaders/Madrikhim-ot/Vegvayzers is exactly why the Institute was founded.”

Rabbi Jerris holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies and Masters Degrees in Near Eastern Studies and Humanistic and Clinical Psychology. She graduated and was ordained with the second rabbinic class of the IISHJ in North America. Rabbi Jerris has deep roots to the movement, serving first as the Executive Director of the national Society for Humanistic Judaism, then as the first director of the IISHJ Rabbinic Program and the director of the Inter-marriage Department of the IISHJ. She currently serves as Rabbi of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. She has also been a guest lecturer for the Michigan School of Professional Psychology and on graduate committees for both the Michigan School of Professional Psychology and the Union Institute University.

Jerris’ duties will include teaching professional development courses in North America for the IISHJ in community management, counseling, and officiating life cycle ceremonies. She will also advise, support and supervise students in several professional programs, ensuring that they are fully informed and on track in their programs.

“Mentoring students has always been of particular interest to me. I am so glad to be able to contribute to the training and education of the future leaders of Secular Humanistic Judaism,” said Jerris.

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism is the intellectual and educational arm of the Secular Humanistic Jewish Movement. The Institute presents and promotes the philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism by exploring Jewish cultural identity through academic inquiry and by training Leaders and Rabbis of the movement in North America and in Israel. Information about the Institute and its programs is available at its website, [www.iishj.org](http://www.iishj.org) <<http://www.iishj.org/>>, or by contacting [info@iishj.org](mailto:info@iishj.org) <<mailto:info@iishj.org>> or 847-777-6907.

## Happy birthday to:

- Don Griss-May 6th
- Alexander Gorokhovskiy - June 2nd
- Debra Goldberg-June 7th
- Jon Budoff - June 19th
- Roz Budoff - June 21st
- Eli Greenspan - June 29th
- Noah Gosch - July 5th
- Janelle Goldberg - July 8th
- Hillel Segal - July 11th
- Gerrie Karasik - July 16th
- Ben Stafford - July 17th
- Alex Greenspan - July 18th
- Elia Gorokhovskiy - July 25th
- Alexi Budoff - July 25th
- Terry Fleisher - July 28th



Our monthly Calla glimpse. Hiking with Michelle.

