

Beth Ami Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism



Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2010

Society for Humanistic Judaism wants to hear from you...

It's time to stand up and be counted! No, it's not the census. It's the SURVEY! And it's on its way to your mailbox. It's your opportunity to tell us your opinions and HELP SHAPE THE SHJ'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN. SURVEYS have been mailed to EVERY MEMBER HOUSEHOLD and will be arriving some time in the next month. Watch your mail for the oversized white envelope from SHJ. We need YOU to open the envelope right away, complete the survey – it will take just a few minutes – and return it directly to our survey team at APB Associates, 28300 Franklin Rd, Southfield, MI 48034. Your response will be anonymous.

The last SHJ member survey was conducted more than 25 years ago. Times have changed. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. Why did you join SHJ or your community? What programs do you like?



What could SHJ do for you? The new SHJ Strategic Plan will be built upon members' responses to the survey. Don't be left out. Help us drive our organization with your opinions. Please return your survey no later than February 8. And encourage other SHJ members to respond when they receive their survey.

Thank you very much,
Strategic Planning Committee

Faith Oremland, Or Emet
Marlene Cohen, Machar
AJ Chalom, Kol Hadash
Judi Gladstone, Secular Jewish
Circle of Puget Sound
Mark Ellyne, Machar

www.shj.org

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

**Beth Ami means:
House of my people**

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Jewish Events:

Denver Jewish Film Festival at the Denver JCC—<http://maccjcc.org>
The festival is from Feb 11—Feb 20th.

- Sunday—Feb 14th 3:15pm *The Wave*
- Saturday—Feb 20th at 6:30pm, *Zrubavel*

(see page 4 for more details on movies and to RSVP)



MoVeRs: MoVeRs is a year-long series of exciting events, performances, lectures, classes, concerts and films throughout Boulder and Denver examining how Jewish MoVeRs have been agents of change—pushing the boundaries of culture, politics and society within the Jewish world and beyond. MoVeRs stands for Jewish Mavericks, Visionaries and Rebels. It is a collaboration of the Boulder JCC, the Univer-

sity of Colorado at Boulder Jewish Studies Program, and a number of other sponsoring organizations.
www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies



Limmud Colorado: Save the date for Limmud Colorado 2010 in Colorado Springs from May 28-31. At Limmud, you can find art, culture, study, film, the outdoors, music, dance, humor, history, networking and fun. Limmud connects Jews of all ages, backgrounds and experiences for an exciting weekend retreat. For more information, call 303-908-2785 or visit www.limmudcolorado.org.

Several Beth Ami members attended this event last May and plan to return. Check in with Maida at 303-435-2390 for details.



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Jewish Cultural School— Submitted by Lenore Kingston, JCS director

I hope you had a wonderful time at the Stratford on January 10th. I know I did. Thanks to Dawn, Leah, and Marti for cooking such delicious food and to everyone who brought food and helped make the event so successful.

Our focus for this semester is on Ashkenazic Judaism from 900 c.e. through the 1600s. Our theme is chessed, loving kindness. We will also prepare for and celebrate Jewish holidays. Please talk with your children about your own family genealogy. The Denver Jewish community has a local Jewish genealogical society. Barry Levene, one of our member, is Treasurer of the group. Let me know if you have unanswered questions that they can help answer.



Travis as Samuel the Prince for our "Wax Museum" for the residents of Stratford.

We joined the Adult Education for a Tu B'Shevat Seder and lunch. The children made trees and other crafts to celebrate Tu B'Shevat.

Tree art by student



SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 26th, at 5:30 p.m. we will have a family dinner, Shabbat service with the reading of the megillah and *Purim Carnival*. The children can wear costumes. They can wear the ones they had for the wax museum. We will enjoy hamantashen for dessert. Children will play carnival games in order to win tickets to be redeemed for prizes! The proceeds from the Carnival will benefit UNICEF, an organization currently helping in Haiti.

Easy Fundraiser: Do you ever shop at King Sooper's? Please purchase a KS card. You use it just like cash, but a portion of the sales go right back to our school. This is our only school fundraiser.

Adult Education— Welcome to 2nd Semester

Purpose: Beth Ami's new adult education program is a response to interest and needs expressed by parents of Jewish Cultural School students, as well as many members of the congregation, to:

- Learn more about Secular Humanistic Judaism's roots and practices, including philosophy, celebrating holidays and cultural aspects of SHJ
- Socialize and interact with other adults
- Model adult learning for our children during the Sunday school sessions

Schedule: We'll meet at Countryside Recreation Center in Westminster, home of the Jewish Cultural School, from 10:30 to 11:45, on the days JCS is held. We are invited to join the children for a "Community Pot Luck Lunch" each day. Here is the revised schedule for the rest of winter/spring 2010.

Feb. 7 – Making *Mezuzahs* for our homes, filled with meaningful, humanist text, and highlights of Anna Krauss' Bat Mitzvah in December.

Feb. 21 - Why is Purim Different? and Wonderful Jewish Women

Mar. 7 – "Searching for Judaism in Nepal – Part 2" by request

Mar. 21 – Passover themes and tastes! What's in Your Haggadah?

Apr. 4 – New voices and faces in Secular Humanistic Judaism

Apr. 18 – Loose ends, book & movie recommendations, summer gatherings

No charge! All welcome! Bring a friend!

Directions: Countryside Recreation Center/Outdoor Pool is located at 10470 Oak St., Broomfield, CO 80021. For best results, please Mapquest from your own home! There is a parking lot and the building is completely accessible. In case of questionable weather, feel free to call Sheila at 303-499-5933 by 9 am for cancellation information.

Optional but highly recommended texts to enhance your adult learning:

God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage, and Community by Judith Seid (2001) This was last year's resource book to get us started.

Judaism Beyond God by Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine (1995) Everything you always wanted to know about the origins and philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism, from its creator!

Judaism in a Secular Age: An Anthology of Secular Humanistic Jewish Thought edited by Renee Kogel & Zev Katz (1995) Here are the writers beyond Sherwin who are shaping the SHJ movement.

Jews Without Judaism: Conversations with an Unconventional Rabbi by Rabbi Daniel Freedman (2002) Shorter, cheaper, but comprehensive.

Good Without God by Rabbi Greg Epstein (2009) Hot off the press! Greg was trained by Rabbi Wine, is the Harvard Humanist Chaplain, and helped some of you find Beth Ami. Let's support him!



Facilitator: Sheila Malcolm, Madrikha/Leader-in-Training, 303-499-5933 or sheilamalcolm@comcast.net

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 JCS & Adult Ed	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Jewish Film Festival— <i>The Wave</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20 Jewish Film Festival— <i>Zrubavel</i>
21 JCS & Adult Ed	22	23	24	25	26 Purim—Shabbot	27
28						

Schedule of Events— February 2010

- **7th**—*Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education—Countryside Rec Center, 10470 Oak St. Broomfield—10:00am—12:00 followed by a community Pot Luck lunch.*
- **14th**—*The Wave, 3:15pm Jewish Film Festival*
- **20th**—*Zrubavel, 6:30pm Jewish Film Festival*
- **21st**—*Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education—Countryside Rec Center, 10470 Oak St. Broomfield—10:00am—12:00 followed by a community Pot Luck lunch.*
- **26th**—*7pm, Shabbat Celebration & Purim JCS Carnival. Children should wear costumes. They can wear the ones they had for the wax museum.*

Upcoming:

March:

- Sunday 7th *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education*
 Friday 12th 7 PM Shabbat celebration, with speaker from NCAR – Montview Boulevard Presbyterian, Denver
 Sunday 14th Executive Board Meeting
 Sunday 21st *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education*
 Sunday 28th Community Passover – Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, scheduling pending

April:

- Sunday 4th *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education*
 Friday 9th 7 PM Shabbat celebration – Montview Blvd Presbyterian, Denver
 Sunday 11th Executive Board Meeting
 Saturday 17th 5 PM Havdalah & Movie Night - Hillel Center, University of Denver
 Sunday 18th *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education*
 Date TBD Annual Holocaust memorial event – Beth Ami always sponsors

May:

- Friday 7th - Sunday May 9th JCS Retreat at the YMCA of the Rockies (Come for the weekend or join us for only the day-Saturday)

June:

- Sunday 6th Boulder Jewish Festival

July:

- Date TBD Congregational Meeting - Shabbat hike? Picnic?



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Board of Directors:

Jon Budoff – President
Ron Kingston – Treasurer
Sheila Malcolm – Sec & Director, Adult Ed
Maida Deborah – Membership
Lenore Kingston – Director, JCS

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Elaine Bloch
Barbara Griss
Don Griss
Michelle Davis
Barry Levene

Madrikhot:

Sheila Malcolm
Michelle Davis

Editor:

Katrina Miller

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Denver Jewish Film Festival:

The Wave: Sunday, February 14th, 3:15pm. High school teacher Rainer Wenger is not enthusiastic about teaching autocracy during project week and neither are the students enrolled. Contemporary young Germans well indoctrinated about the evils of fascism, are confident that they would never fall prey to its seductive nature. Their teacher, responding to their smug complacency, spontaneously designs an informal experiment in social behavior to demonstrate how principles such as social order and power of unity provide the foundation for fascism. The students find themselves empowered by this approach which removes social differences and fulfills their powerful need to belong and they quickly adopt the ideals they had earlier denounced. Alcohol, drugs, teen suicide, and sexuality are among the challenges facing these contemporary German high school students as they begin to consider what the future might hold for them. This insightful film is based upon a true story that took place in Palo Alto in the late sixties. (Recommended for adults and high school students)

Zrubavel: Saturday, Feb. 20th, 6:30 pm. *Zrubavel* is the exciting first feature length film produced by the Ethiopian Israeli community. Filmmaker Shmuel Beru, who immigrated to Israel at the age of eight, shares what is a familiar immigrant story set within the very unfamiliar Ethiopian Jewish community of Israel.

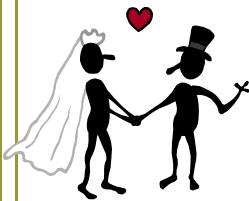
Call Terry Fleisher 303-860-0031 or Maida Deborah 303-435-2390 for more information and to RSVP. We are planning to meet for dinner either before or after the movie.

Announcements

February Birthdays and Celebrations:

Happy birthday to you:

- Sam Budoff, February 2nd
- Ben Krauss, February 5th
- Sheila Malcolm, February 22nd



Happy Anniversary to:

- Tim and Katrina Miller, Feb 18th

For newsletter contributions email the editor at: katrina_miller@hotmail.com. Please submit announcements & celebrations (birthday, anniversary, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, graduations, etc.), photos, stories, etc. Please submit by the 15th of the prior month to be included.

Update from Michelle (and baby Calla): This month we've been enjoying visits from both of our parents, who were thrilled to come out and meet their granddaughter! We are adjusting to life with a baby, and love our little girl. We can't wait for everyone to meet her!
~Michelle

