

Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism



Volume 1, Issue 1

January 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

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

Our New Beth Ami Newsletter

It has been awhile since we've had a Beth Ami newsletter. Did you know that volunteers in our congregation community put the newsletter together?

We have recently put together a dedicated team so that we can deliver Beth Ami news to our congregation and friends of the congregation quarterly. If you would like to contribute to the letter, please contact Katrina Miller, the editor. We would also like to hear what kind of information you would like us to include in future newsletters. Thank you for your friendship and for being a part of the Beth Ami family. We are so happy to have all of you.

Sincerely,

Katrina Miller, Editor
please email stories, etc. to:
katrina_miller@hotmail.com

What does Beth Ami offer?

We hold Shabbat and Havdalah services and celebrate traditional Jewish holidays throughout the year. We also meet for movie nights, dinners, hikes and charitable events.

Our Jewish Cultural School (JCS) serves children from preschool through middle school, presenting Jewish traditions, history, culture, values, and ethics through a humanistic and secular lens.

Adult Education classes are held concurrent with JCS, offering an eclectic mix of contemporary and traditional topics. All Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education classes meet at the Countryside Recreation Center in Broomfield on Sunday mornings.



*Anna's Bat Mitzvah
Anna with her dad, Simon*

Beth Ami Celebrates with Anna Krauss

Congratulations to Anna Krauss, who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on Dec. 19, 2009, at the Space Gallery in Denver. Anna was mentored by Lenore Kingston, Director of the Jewish Cultural School, and supported by her parents Simon and Cheryl, brother Ben, grandparents Bert and Janet Krauss and godparents Greg and Carla Kolomitz.

Family, friends and Beth Ami visitors enjoyed a Shabbat service surrounded by a variety of lovely, painted landscapes on display, and with the accompaniment of Lia Davis, Marti and Rachel Hirsh, and Sheila Malcolm. Anna's Bat Mitzvah

presentation focused on how Judaism, Christianity and Islam view *simcha*, or happiness. Anna researched and interviewed experts representing the three Abrahamic religions who shared different explanations of happiness. She credited many individuals and influences in her life and chose a poem by her grandmother to read to her audience. Anna displayed the wisdom, curiosity and humor that are valued by Beth Ami and Humanistic Judaism. We welcome her as a young adult into our community!

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Jewish Cultural School (And Adult Education)

Beth Ami Jewish Cultural School (JCS) strives to develop a community of learners who want to develop a Jewish identity as well as achieve cultural literacy of their Jewish heritage.

JCS serves children from preschool through middle school, presenting Jewish traditions, history, culture, values, and ethics through a humanistic and secular lens.

JCS meets at the Country Side Recreation Center located at 10470 Oak t. Broomfield 80021. We have two semesters a year, breaking for the summer. During our semesters, we meet twice per month on Sundays at 10am.

Concurrent with JCS we have Adult Education meetings to also foster understanding and community for our adult members. Many parents of the JCS children attend the Adult Education as well as others from the congregation.



Music is an important and favorite time during each JCS class. Pictured above is Marti Hirsch directing the music with her daughter, Rachel accompanying her on the keyboard. Rachel was our first student Bat Mitzvah at JCS.



MazelTot

MazelTot is a Rose Community Foundation grant initiative to connect young families to Jewish life and to each other.

Twenty-nine Denver/Boulder Jewish agencies and synagogues are receiving grants to offer discounts on programs for expectant parents and families with children under age five.

The website mazel.org showcases these organizations' programs and highlights family events on a central calendar.

Mazeltot has contributed a generous grant to our Jewish Cultural School. We are excited to have developed such a great relationship. Kudos to Lenore for establishing the relationship and for procuring the grant.

Chanukah Party with Rocky Mountain Jewgrass

Our Chanukah party was a huge success. Rocky Mountain Jewgrass had the kids (and kids at heart) on the dance floor. Sheila Malcolm led an inspiring and humorous ceremony. Many of us brought our menorahs and we lit up the place! We had our fill of yummy latkes and donuts.



Rocky Mountain Jewgrass, featuring Saul Rosenthal

Caption describing picture or graphic.



Searching for Judaism in Nepal

Well, not exactly, but it makes an alluring title for the Beth Ami Shabbat presentation on Jan. 8, 2010, at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church. Travel with us for Shabbat service at 7pm, followed by Oneg graciously adopted by Elaine Bloch. Sheila and John Malcolm will then take you halfway around the world to Nepal, where they traveled this past fall.

We'll fly to the Lukla airstrip in the Solu-Khumbu, or Everest, region of Nepal for a 3-week trek at altitudes up to 17,000' and insight into Tibetan Buddhist culture. In the Kathmandu Valley, we'll explore Hindu and Buddhist sites and ceremonies, ancient trade route cities, the

Newari culture and the chaos of the city. Pokhara and the Annapurna region offer more natural beauty and the mighty Guri people. Down south towards India we'll meet elephants, rhinos, crocs (the real ones) and the Tharu people.

But where are the Jews? See the evidence and decide for yourselves!

Can't make it on Jan. 8? Sheila is building a photo website which will be up and trekking shortly.

January 2010

Schedule of Events— January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 7pm Shabbat	9
10 10am JCS & Adult Edu 1pm Exec Mtg	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10am JCS & Adult Edu	25	26	27	28	29	30 5pm Havdalah & Movie Night
31						

- **8th**— 7pm Shabbat, Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., Denver (Sheila's will present her slide show of her trek in Nepal)
- **10th**— 10am Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education—We will meet at Stratford at Flatirons to present our Sephardic Heroes Wax Museum Stratford at Flatirons: 400 Summit Blvd. Broomfield 80021
- **10th**— 1pm Executive Board Meeting
- **24th**—10am Jewish Cultural School and Adult Education, Countryside Recreation Center 10470 Oak t. Broomfield 80021 **Tu B' Shevat seder**
- **30th**— 5pm Havdalah & Movie Night, Hillel Center, University of Denver—**Movie: Driving Miss Daisy**

Upcoming:

February:

- Sunday 7th Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education & 1 PM Executive Board Meeting
 Friday 12th Darwin Day weekend – Shabbat service at Malcolm home, then attend BIHI event
 Sunday 21st Jewish Cultural School & Adult Education
 Friday 26th 7 PM Shabbat celebration & Purim JCS event – Countryside Rec

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)
 Friday 14th 7 PM Shabbat celebration – Countryside Rec

June:

- Date TBD Boulder Jewish Festival? Shabbat hike? Picnic?

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

Board Members:

Terry Fleisher
Gerrie Karasik
Len Karasik
Elaine Bloch
Barbara Griss
Don Griss
Michelle Davis
Barry Levene

Madrikhyot:

Sheila Malcolm
Michelle Davis

Of note from the Society for Humanistic Judaism:

Humanistic Judaism will receive some great national media attention as *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* (Morrow/HarperCollins), by Harvard Humanist Chaplain Rabbi Greg Epstein, will be the subject of the 12/23 episode of NPR's "Fresh Air" with Terry Gross, and of a segment on ABC World News with Diane Sawyer on 12/27. Greg proudly discussed the Society for Humanistic Judaism in both of these big interviews. Of course we do not know what either show will choose to include in its broadcast. If you miss these segments, you can access the NPR one at NPR.org.

Beth Ami provides the opportunity to celebrate Jewish culture and identity consistent with a humanistic philosophy of life. We provide a place where secular Jews can find a comfortable and stimulating home. We appeal to those who respect and love our Jewish heritage and want to affiliate with others with similar viewpoints. We are Jews who want Jewish studies for our children and ourselves. We observe Jewish holidays and express a connection with the Jewish people and Israel in a human-centered setting. We are affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

www.bethami.com
720-748-1533

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Mazel Tov!

Michelle Davis and Ben Stafford are the proud parents of Calla Jayne Stafford, born 12/20/09 at 3:32 p.m. She weighed 5 pounds, 9 ounces, and is 18 inches long.



January birthdays, and celebrations:



Happy birthday to you...

- Kathy Kane, Jan 2nd
- Helen Apthorp, Jan 9th
- James Wilson, Jan 13th
- Stu Budoff, Jan 16th
- Stan Miller Gosch, Jan 16th
- Katrina Miller, Jan 16th
- Macy Gosch, Jan 18th
- Lenore Kingston, Jan 25th

Please let the editor know if you have a celebration coming up (birthday, anniversary, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, etc.)