



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism



Volume 1: Issue 9
September 2010

JCS High Holiday Service - Stratford at Flatirons



In September 2009 Jewish Cultural School students celebrated Rosh Hashanah with residents at the Stratford at Flatirons. We had a great time sharing food, music, and conversation. What a great way to begin the year 5770.

Roberta Reinfeld, Social Worker at Jewish Family Service, organizes holiday celebrations at senior residential facilities throughout the greater Boulder area. She is thrilled that Beth Ami Jewish Cultural School is able to help residents in senior facilities feel a part of the Jewish community.

JCS will meet at the Stratford at Flatirons at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 12th to lead a brief service, sing holiday songs, and share traditional baked goods. It's our way to saying Happy New Year. **Adult Education will also meet at the Stratford on this day.**

Beth Ami invites our members
and the greater
Jewish community to celebrate the
Fall Holidays



Please join us for a family Rosh Hashanah Service on Thursday, September 9th, 4:00 p.m., at Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 West 32nd Avenue, Golden, CO 80401. Following services there will be a potluck dinner. Please RSVP to Gerrie 303-422-3110.

Kol Nidre Service is on Friday, September 17th, 7:30p.m., at Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. Denver 80230. Michelle Davis will play the violin.
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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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(continued from page 1) On Saturday, September 18th, there will be a family Yom Kippur Service, 4:00 p.m. followed by a break the fast dinner. Please RSVP to Gerrie 303-422-3110.

Cost for all three events is \$25/member, \$50/nonmember. Children are free.

Please join our JCS school and Adult Education for Sukkot on Sunday, September 26th, 10:00 a.m. at the home of our president, Jon Budoff, 8383 Chase Drive, Arvada 80003. RSVP Lenore 303-828-0704

MazelTot begins its second year



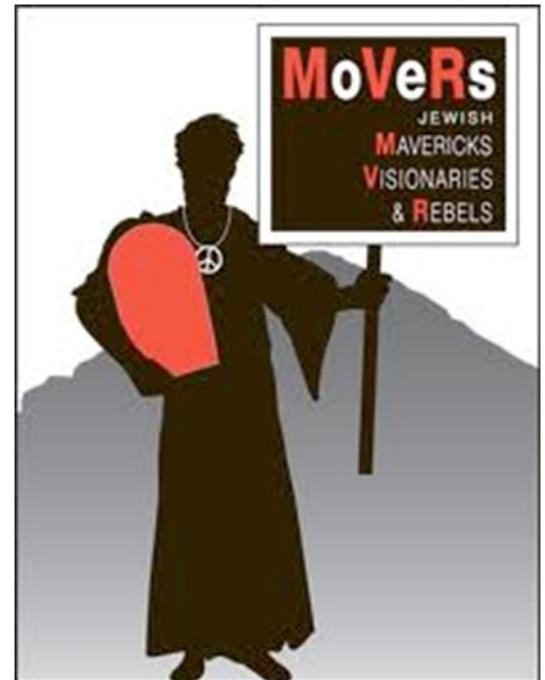
We are happy to announce Beth Ami's second year participating in Rose Community Foundation's MazelTot grant. The grant's goal is to connect young families to Jewish life. Families with children under age 5 can receive valuable discounts when they sign up on mazel-tot.org.

Please visit our page to see the programs and events Beth Ami offers young families.

Beth Ami has joined Jewish MoVeRs

Jewish organizations throughout Boulder and Denver are collaborating on the 2010-2011 series "Movers: Do You Speak Jewish?" Movers is a year long series of exciting events, performances, lectures, classes, films and more that will explore Jewish culture through language and literature.

Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Ph.D., Society for Humanistic Judaism leader, will speak at the Boulder JCC on November 15th 7:00 p.m. on the topic, The Liturgy of Humanistic Judaism: Prayer Without God. She will discuss the development of Humanistic Jewish liturgy and the process used to determine what is considered appropriate for use in Humanistic Jewish celebrations and commemorations.



Humanistic Judaism has a unique voice in Jewish life. Humanistic Jews "speak Jewish" differently than most other Jews. Integrity is at the center of concern. We seek language that is consistent with our philosophy. In focusing on integrity, we have created a liturgy that inspires us because we say what we believe and believe what we say.

September 2010— see website for links to flyers

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Rosh Hashanah Service | 10 | 11 |
| 12 10am JCS & Adult Ed | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 7:30pm Kol Nidre Service | 18 4pm Yom Kippur |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10am Sukkot Celebration (JCS & Adult Ed) | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

Schedule of Events - September 2010

9th—4pm Rosh Hashanah Service followed by a potluck dinner: Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO

12th—10-11am Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed at Stratford at Flatirons for Rosh Hashanah service (presented by JCS) followed by picnic lunch, hike and Tashlich service at Ketner Lake, 2 blocks from Countryside Rec in Broomfield.

17th—7:30pm Kol Nidre Service; Eisenhower Chapel

18th—4pm Yom Kippur Service; JUC followed by break-the-fast potluck

26th—10am Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed—and Sukkot Celebration all beginning at 10am at the **Budoff Home**, 8383 Chase Drive, Arvada, CO 80003—**All are welcome**

Upcoming:**October**

- Friday 8th - 5:30 pm Shabbat at Countryside - "Family Shabbat for the Home" dinner, service and game night to follow!
- Sunday 10th -10 am *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed* at Countryside
- Sun 10th -1 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- Saturday 16th - 5:30 pm Havdalah/Movie Night at a home
- Sunday 24th - 10 am *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed* at Countryside

November 12–14th Rabbi Jerris Visits

- Sunday 7th -10 am *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed* at Countryside
- Saturday 13th -10 am Hike in Golden followed by lunch (casual restaurant) with Rabbi Jerris. (Inclement weather: tour the Denver Aquarium, followed by lunch)
- 7:30 pm Havdalah with Rabbi Jerris at Montview "Praying without God: What do Humanistic Jews do?"
- Sunday 14th -10 am *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed* with Rabbi Jerris
- 1 pm Executive Committee Board Meeting with Rabbi Jerris

- Evening presentation – Rabbi Jerris speaks at Boulder JCC. "Praying without God: What do Humanistic Jews do?"

December Chanukah begins 12/2

- Sunday 5th -4 pm Community Chanukah Party at Countryside
- Friday 10th -6 pm Shabbat and Movie Night at a home
- Sunday 12th -10 am *Jewish Cultural School & Adult Ed* at Countryside

January 2011, 2nd Semester JCS & Adult Ed

- Sunday 9th -10 am *Jewish Cultural School Session 1 and Adult Ed* at Countryside
- 1 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- Sat–Mon 15–17th - MLK Weekend Winter Community Retreat
- Sunday 23rd -10 am *Jewish Cultural School Session 2 and Adult Ed* at Countryside

February

- Sunday 6th -10 am *JCS & Adult Ed*
- Friday 11th -7:30 pm Shabbat at Montview—"What's love got to do with it? - Judaism & Inter-marriage" presented by Michelle Davis
- Sunday 13th -10 am *JCS & Adult Ed*
- 1pm Executive Committee Meeting
- Sunday 27th -10 am *JCS & Adult Ed*

Family Shabbat on Friday, October 8th

Please join us at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck Shabbat dinner at Countryside Recreation, 10470 Oak Street, Westminster, CO 80021. Our theme is "Family Shabbat in the home." There will be a brief service with lots of Jewish songs, followed by a game night. Join with other families to play your favorite games.

Shabbat is an opportunity to slow down, enjoy some family time, and learn about Jewish culture.

Beth Ami Begins Tzedakah Project

Beth Ami Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism is beginning a year-long Tzedakah project. [Beth Ami CCHJ](#) and the Jewish Cultural School are collecting canned goods for the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service in Denver. It is located at 3201 S. Tamarac Drive. Members and guests will bring a food item each time they attend a Beth Ami community event and/or attend Jewish Cultural School.

Don Griss, one of Beth Ami's founding members, is a regular volunteer at the Weinberg Pantry. The Pantry assists families and individuals facing hunger and food insecurity.

The Pantry serves as a site for food commodity distribution to seniors through a collaboration with The Food Bank of the Rockies and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.



From an article in the Boulder Jewish News, a free online newsletter at: www.boulderjewishnews.org

The most needed items at the Pantry are: protein (canned tuna, salmon, and chicken, canned vegetables, canned fruits, carbohydrates (pasta and rice), and soup (canned and dry).

Welcome to the 2010-11 Year of Lifelong Learning!

Beth Ami – Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism Adult Education

Purpose: *Beth Ami's 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



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Schedule: We'll usually meet at Countryside Recreation Center in Westminster, home of the Jewish Cultural School, from 10:30 to 11:45. We are invited to join the children for "Community Lunch" each day.

Aug. 22 – Welcome! We will reorganize for the new year, review this calendar, and return briefly to some of the ideas in Good Without God, addressing the question, "Are you a Humanist?" We'll finish by "charting" our Jewish journeys.

Sept. 12 – Join the Jewish Cultural School at the Stratford for a High Holidays

Service with the residents, followed by lunch and an optional hike for Tashlich.

Sept. 26 – Sukkot celebration at the Budoff home. Join the harvest celebration!

Oct. 10 - Diane Rabson returns to share Yiddish Proverbs through games and laughs. Bring your memories of Bubba's favorite sayings.

Oct. 24 – Laura Moin will facilitate a discussion about what's happening in Israel on this UN birthday.

Nov. 7 – Parenting (and grand parenting) through the holiday season and beyond. Bring your questions and concerns, and a copy of Raising Freethinkers: A Practical Guide for Parenting Beyond Belief by Dale McGowan et al. Check out www.ParentingBeyondBelief.com. Let's also discuss ethical wills.

Nov. 14 - Rabbi Miriam Jerris will join us for a discussion about current issues affecting the Society for Humanistic Judaism, the International Institute of Humanistic Judaism, her roles in those organizations and visions for the future.

Dec. 12 – What makes Jewish humor distinct? Let's explore stories, poems, video clips and visual art. We'll finish the semester with a good laugh.

No charge! All welcome! Bring a friend!

Directions: Countryside Rec 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.

Facilitator: Sheila Malcolm, Madrikha/Leader-in-Training, 303-499-5933 or

sheilamalcolm@comcast.net

This I believe...

By Terry Fleisher

Beth Ami board member

When I first heard this topic, my juices began flowing and I thought of writing some prophetic piece of wisdom that would be read by all and change the way people look at the way they live. I started thinking about the definition of the word "believe". This led to an individual's view. If everyone in this world has their own unique DNA and therefore their own individual views, how can my single way of looking at an issue have any influence on so vast a population?

To make things more complicated, when I look at national polls on most issues, I find myself in direct conflict with the prevailing majority opinion. You'd think that would make me very insecure about my own beliefs. But no...I am firmly convinced that my thinking is just ahead of the lagging misconceptions of the masses, and that they will eventually come around to the conclusions that I have adopted.

What gives me such "chutzpa"? I look back to such examples of the Salem witch trials, where the masses of people believed in witchcraft enough to take the lives of their neighbors! Such mass hysteria continues to this very day when a poll of Democrats, Independents and Republicans combined believe that an Islamic mosque should be prohibited within 2 blocks of Ground Zero. Should I be intimidated by such parochial, un-American and misguided hysteria? You bet I am... especially when the polls show an unprecedented 68% agreement on the issue. Do I think my beliefs may be mistaken? Hell, no...I just look at the way our current President articulates the situation, and consider that this majority misdirected thinking is the residue of the ineptitude of our immediate past President.

So why do my beliefs conflict so much with the great masses of people? I like to think that I listen to what people of reason have to say about an issue, rather than listening to the emotional ranting of a prejudicial, self-righteous, self-centered Sara Palin, Rush Limbaugh or other self-aggrandizing instigator.

If the masses are able to be molded into ridiculous positions so easily, why can't my reasonable beliefs be as influential? The answer lies in an experience when I ran for student council president in high school. I remember my campaign was lagging behind my other 4 classmates until the speech before the student body the day before the election. I witnessed a car hit a bicyclist on the way to school. Evidently so did a majority of my classmates. By including this incident in my speech and tying it to a platform item of starting drivers education, I tapped into an emotion that won me the election. Only 50 plus years later am I recognizing that if you appeal to emotions rather than reason, you can convince more people of your positions.

So what's my latest unpopular belief? Do you remember the expression "I don't give a twit about that"? Welcome to the world of twitter. (Was "Who's Who in America" a predecessor to face book?) Our kids are addicted to texting. Teachers are claiming they can't teach in a classroom when kids are secretly texting. Here I go again, against the grain...it's impossible to prohibit the emotional connection kids get from texting each other. Let's try to incorporate this technology into the learning process. How about getting kids to text about something they can learn from? Set up a fictional conversation between two of our founding fathers or the like. I hated history class in high school...it was boring. But now I'm fascinated with the history channel.

So why are the mass's beliefs important to me? Because I believe what you believe makes a difference in my life.

- Terry Fleisher



Does God Exist?

On Sunday, September 12th at 6 pm there will be a debate between Pastor John Bryne, of the Rock of the Southwest Church in Littleton, and Marvin Strauss, cofounder of the Boulder Atheists. The debate is sponsored by student groups from Metro State, and will focus on the question of "Does God Exist?".

Admission is free, it will take place in room 440/540 in Tivoli Hall on the Auroria Campus of Metro State College. There will be light refreshments after the event, during a question and answer session.



Jewish Cultural School focuses on Humanistic Judaism

Humanistic Judaism is the fifth branch of Judaism along with Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstruction. Children in JCS will learn its beliefs, its practices, and its heroes.

Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines the celebration of Jewish culture and identity with an adherence to humanistic values and ideas. Our theme is dignity, each person's power and responsibility to shape his or her own life independent of divine authority. We practice tikkun olam by taking responsibility to try to make things better for ourselves, our families, our community, and our world.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine began Humanistic Judaism in 1963 with nine families who were living in Birmingham, Michigan. What life experiences led him to make this courageous decision? Come see our play on November 14th 10:00 a.m. at the Jewish Cultural School as well as meet Rabbi Miriam Jerris, PhD, rabbi of the Society for Humanistic Judaism visiting in Colorado.

What has life taught you? We will spend the month of February, 2011 helping students clarify their personal beliefs. Do your actions match your beliefs?

Throughout the school year, we will celebrate many Jewish holidays. Through our humanistic lens, students will study the traditions, themes, and natural events that inspire our holiday celebrations.

Each grade level uses age appropriate guidelines to study our curriculum. As our leaders, the B'nai Mitzvah class, beginning with students entering 6th grade, will regularly contribute to our Limmud sharing circle, immediately following lunch. We also invite Adult Ed participants to share their learning with our students.

September Birthdays and Celebrations



Happy birthday to:
 Mitchell Budoff 15th
 Katya Hirsch 18th
 Maida Deborah 20th

Happy anniversary to:
 Stan & Christie Gosch 5th
 Steven Deutsch & Andrea Seebaum 7th
 Stu & Rox Budoff 15th



PJ Library

Do you have children under the age of 8? Do they love to read? Then you should know about the PJ Library program! It is a free program that provides one book a month for two years. The books are age appropriate and have a Jewish theme. As I found out, if you sign up a brand new baby, they even send a book for the parents, "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee" that talks about how to use Jewish teachings in raising your children. While clearly theistic, the ideas and discussions it contains are very interesting to a new parent! So far our little girl has received two books, and I am excited to see what else she gets in the months to come. Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles and friends of the family can also sign up their youngest friends for the program as well! For more information, go to www.pjlibrary.org - Michelle Davis

Calla update:

Calla has had a busy, busy summer! In June she went to Switzerland with her parents and maternal grandparents, where she hiked, swam, and even had some cheese! July was spent home, getting bigger all the time, and in August she went to the East Coast with her parents to visit with their old college buddies who are themselves about to be parents. Phew! Talk about lots of travel! It will be nice in September to settle into the routine of normal life again. See you at the High Holidays! :)



Michelle Davis and Calla enjoying the summer



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Elaine Bloch
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Boulder Jewish Festival....

Photos from our booth....



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