



Beth Ami

Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Volume 9; Issue 1

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

January 2018

Calendar grid for January 2018 with highlighted dates 13, 21, and 27.

Beth Ami Event Schedule

Saturday 1/13 – HuJew Coffee (3pm, Ozo Coffee – 5340 Arapahoe, Boulder – more info below)

Sunday 1/21 – Beth Ami Arts Group goes to Folk Roots Pioneers (6:30pm, Boulder JCC – 6007 Oreg Avenue, Boulder – more info below)

Saturday 1/27 – Tu B'Shevat Celebration (3pm, Butterfly Pavilion, 6252 W 104th Ave, Westminster – more info below)

Upcoming Events

February

Saturday 2/3 – South Denver Tu B'Shevat celebration (time and location TBD)

Saturday 2/10 – Beth Ami International Lunch Out (11:30am, Sherpa Restaurant – 825 Walnut St, Boulder)

Wednesday 2/28 – Professor Bill Safran talks about An Officer and a Spy (12pm, Boulder JCC – see more below)

March

Sunday 3/4 – Purim Carnival (10:30am - 2pm, Boulder JCC – 6007 Oreg Avenue, Boulder – more info below)

Sunday 3/4 – South Denver Purim celebration (time and location TBD)

Sunday 3/11 – HuJew Coffee (3pm, location TBD)

Saturday 3/31 – Boulder Passover Seder (4pm, East Boulder Rec Center)

Saturday 3/31 – South Denver Passover seder (evening, location TBD)

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1/2 – Kathy Kane
1/8 – Helen Apthorp
1/13 – James Wilson
1/16 – Stan Gosch, Stu Budoff
1/18 – Macy Gosch
1/22 – Steve Litz
1/25 – Lenore Kingston

Events (cont.)

April

Friday 4/13 – Sunday 4/15 – Shalom Y'all IISHJ tour (Savannah to Charleston – see more below – SIGNUP DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31)

May

Thursday 5/24 – Boulder JCC presents a guided discussion about An Officer and a Spy (12pm, Boulder JCC)

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Submission Deadline
11:59pm, Fri 1/26



## Beth Ami Chanukah



Brian, Darby and family welcomed a sizable group of happy Chanukah celebrators of all ages to their home to fry and eat latkes, made of both white and sweet potatoes. Candles were lit to Humanistic blessings. Gelt coins were won and lost in the dreidel game. Marti and Michael Hirsch lead the group in singing rousing renditions of traditional and not so traditional Chanukah songs. Thanks to Lenore Kingston, we all learned about the true history of the holiday.

At the party we filled and labeled the Birthday Bags which we collected funds at numerous events in order to create.

Lindsay Warren, EFAA's (Emergency Family Assistance Association) Children's Program Director, is very grateful to Beth Ami for our wonderful birthday

bag mitzvah project. "The bags are very popular," Lindsay told Lenore Kingston when she dropped them off after the Beth Ami Chanukah party. There are approximately 60 families in transitional housing provided by EFAA. "Families want to provide a special birthday celebration for their children. Parents love the bags!!"

Lindsay will speak at our Passover Seder to personally thank Beth Ami on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm at the East Boulder Rec. Center.



## HuJew Coffee

Want to know more about Humanistic Judaism and our local group? Join us on Sunday, January 13 at 3pm. We will be schmoozing and noshing at Ozo Coffee in [Boulder \(5340 Arapahoe Boulder](#) – look for the Beth Ami sign!) Bring your questions and ideas. Learn about upcoming events. Connect with like-minded Humanistic Jews.

Last month we did an event like this and it was absolutely delightful to meet and talk with other people interested in Humanistic Judaism. Come again if you came before – come anew if you've never joined us before. To RSVP or to have questions answered, contact [BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com). Let's do Jewish together – humanistically!

## Beth Ami Arts Group is Going to Folk Roots Pioneers

January 21, 2018

Are there really famous influential American Jewish folk musicians? Attend the Boulder JCC event "Folk Roots Pioneers: A Hootenanny" with the Beth Ami Arts Group and find out. Listen to Sheldon Sands and guests explore the Jewish roots of American folk music. Heads up, there will be singing.

Our Beth Ami Group will meet up in the JCC lobby at 6:30pm, the performance begins at 7:00. Please RSVP to [BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com) so we know to expect you.

Tickets, available from the JCC, are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 college students, under 18 FREE. To find out more about the show and to purchase tickets go to: <http://www.boulderjcc.org/events/boulder-jcc-events-calendar/21/8787/01/detail/music-thej-folk-roots-pioneers/2018/>

Beth Ami has its own personal connection to American folk music. Moe Hirsch, grandfather of Beth Ami newsletter editor Rachel Hirsch, was an active member of the New York folk scene in the early to mid-fifties. Moe went to many a hootenanny in those days. He knew and played with Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie (whose wife and kids were Jewish), and others. In fact, Moe even helped Pete build the deck on his house in upstate New York one summer. Pete called him "Mosey."

Ed Robbin, Moe's cousin's wife's father (how's that for a personal connection!?), introduced Woody Guthrie to union leaders in New York, thus initiating the deep connection between union organizers and folk singers.

Come to the show to learn many more interesting facts about American Jewish folk musicians!

## Tu B'Shevat at the Butterfly Pavilion

Fly on into the Butterfly Pavilion located at [6252 W 104th Ave](#) in Westminster to experience this year's Beth Ami Tu B'Shevat celebration. Tu B'Shevat, sometimes called Rosh HaShanah La'Ilanot (the new year of the trees), has blossomed into a kind of Jewish Earth Day, a day on which we recognize our ethical obligations to care for the planet and the people who live on it.

We will meet inside the entrance to the Butterfly Pavilion at 3pm on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Assuming we have more than 10 people in our group, ticket prices are: Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$8.00, Children (2-12) \$6.00 Under 2 Free.

As always RSVP to [BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:BethAmiRSVP@gmail.com) so we know to expect you.

## Purim Carnival

Mitzvahland, Beth Ami's unique carnival game which promotes the doing of good deeds, will be up and running again at the annual JCC Purim Carnival. The Mitzvahland game, originally created for Beth Ami's Jewish Cultural School, has become a regular feature of the Purim Carnival to the delight of parents and children alike.

Along with carnival games, activities and prizes, the carnival always features a rousing Purim Shpiel. Each year, Beth Ami joins several other local Jewish organizations in sponsoring the JCC Purim Carnival.

Save the date – March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Boulder JCC!

## Boulder JCC ACE Read An Officer and a Spy by David Harris

Lenore Kingston is secretary for the ACE (Arts, Culture, and Education) programming committee at the Boulder JCC. At monthly meetings, Kathryn Bernheimer is always asking for programming ideas. Last summer Lenore emailed the Society for Humanistic Judaism's Leadership Listserv, a moderated conversation for volunteer leaders, board members, clergy, and other key stakeholders in the Secular Humanistic Judaism movement. She asked for book titles, fiction or nonfiction, that highlight Jewish culture. Leaders from several congregations throughout the US answered her request.

After researching the titles on Goodreads she began reading. She shared the list with Cynthia Jacobsen, another avid reader. Together they decided that David

Harris' book, An Officer and a Spy, was a wonderful book and suitable for a very interesting discussion.

Goodreads rates it highly with the following summary: "Robert Harris returns to the thrilling historical fiction he has so brilliantly made his own. This is the story of the infamous Dreyfus affair told as a chillingly dark, hard-edged novel of conspiracy and espionage."

Lenore made several presentations at the ACE Programming monthly meeting. With Kathryn's help, Retired Professor Bill Safran agreed to speak about Captain Alfred Dreyfus on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. On Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm, the Boulder JCC ACE committee will present a guided discussion about the book.

## Shalom Y'all IISHJ Tour

Colonial Savannah & Historic Charleston – April 13-15, 2018

Colonial Savannah & Historic Charleston: the home of revolutionary statesman, early Jewish communities, slavery, and freedoms. Join us as Rabbi Adam Chalom's thoughtful perspective brings the antebellum South to life.

This IISHJ tour includes daily opening lectures and concluding discussions with Rabbi Adam Chalom, four nights accommodations, daily breakfast, Shabbat dinner, Savannah to Charleston transportation, lunch at Magnolia Plantation, and all tour entrance fees and gratuities.

Fee per person: \$950

Booking deadline: January 31, 2018

Highlights include:

- Two of the oldest Jewish congregations in North America
- The streets of historic Savannah, saved from destruction after General Sherman's infamous march to the sea
- Magnolia Plantation and Gardens to experience the beauty and challenges of the antebellum American South
- Charleston, the "Holy City" of religious tolerance, home to Jewish settlement since the 1695, exporting cotton and importing slaves

Register at <https://iishj.org/shalom-yall>

## News From National

Our Beth Ami Birthday Bags were featured in the Winter 2017 issue of "Humanistic Judaism" Magazine. The issue's theme was "Hanukkah and Heroes."

Members should have received a copy in the mail. For more about this journal, visit: <http://www.shj.org/store/hj-journal/>.

## 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, Madrikha, or Michelle Davis, Madrikha.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachel Hirsch has been chosen for a position as a CSU Computer Science Graduate Research Assistant working on an NCAR climate modeling project funded by the NSF.</li> <li>• Congratulations to Don Griss on his 80th birthday! The Griss clan is celebrating together in Mexico.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheila and John Malcolm depart for Down Under on Jan. 30, adventuring through New Zealand and Australia before returning home in May. Follow their journey on Facebook, with updates in this newsletter! They hope to meet up with a Humanistic Jewish congregation in Melbourne for Passover!<br/><a href="http://www.kolenu.com.au/about-2/">http://www.kolenu.com.au/about-2/</a></li> </ul> |
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## We Appreciate Our Members

Thanks to the following Beth Ami members for living their values through their financial support of Beth Ami and the Society for Humanistic Judaism. We exist because of your generous contributions. If you are not currently a Beth Ami member, please consider membership as a way to support the Humanistic Judaism movement.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arlene Gerwin</li> <li>• Aviva Rothschild</li> <li>• Barb &amp; Don Griss</li> <li>• Barry &amp; Donna Levene</li> <li>• Brian Shucker &amp; Darby Odell</li> <li>• Gordon &amp; Grace Gamm</li> <li>• Joel Smith</li> <li>• Jon &amp; Toni Budoff</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia Genyuk</li> <li>• Kathy Kane</li> <li>• Marta Gaylord</li> <li>• Marti &amp; Michael Hirsch</li> <li>• Michelle Davis &amp; Ben Stafford</li> <li>• Rachel Stevens</li> <li>• Ron &amp; Lenore Kingston</li> <li>• Sheila &amp; John Malcolm</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacy Weinberg</li> <li>• Stan &amp; Christie Gosch</li> <li>• Stephen Greenspan &amp; Helen Apthorp</li> <li>• Ted Thompson</li> <li>• Terry Fleisher</li> <li>• Vic &amp; Debra Goldberg</li> <li>• Walter Katz &amp; Debbie Hersh</li> </ul> |
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## Contact Information

**Beth Ami Colorado Congregation for Humanistic Judaism**

Email: [info@bethami.com](mailto:info@bethami.com)  
Website: [www.bethami.com](http://www.bethami.com)

**About the Editor**  
[rvhirsch15@gmail.com](mailto:rvhirsch15@gmail.com)

**Programming Committee:**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Sheila Malcolm.....  | <a href="mailto:smalcolm280@gmail.com">smalcolm280@gmail.com</a>         |
| Michelle Davis.....  | <a href="mailto:madrikhadavis@gmail.com">madrikhadavis@gmail.com</a>     |
| Lenore Kingston..... | <a href="mailto:bethamicolorado@gmail.com">bethamicolorado@gmail.com</a> |
| Marti Hirsch.....    | <a href="mailto:marti.hirsch@mail.com">marti.hirsch@mail.com</a>         |

**Treasurer/Membership:**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Ron Kingston..... | <a href="mailto:ronkbethami@hotmail.com">ronkbethami@hotmail.com</a> |
|-------------------|--|

**Webmasters:**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Christie Gosch..... | <a href="mailto:christiemgosch@yahoo.com">christiemgosch@yahoo.com</a> |
| Julia Genyuk.....   | <a href="mailto:jgenyuk@gmail.com">jgenyuk@gmail.com</a>               |

**Outreach:**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Barb Griss.....       | <a href="mailto:bgriss@yahoo.com">bgriss@yahoo.com</a>                     |
| Dawn Anderson.....    | <a href="mailto:chamberdawn@yahoo.com">chamberdawn@yahoo.com</a>           |
| Aviva Rothschild..... | <a href="mailto:musicals@rationalmagic.com">musicals@rationalmagic.com</a> |

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 am currently a Computer Science Master's student at Colorado State University).

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