



Dear Beth Ami Community,

Sept. 2023

The Beth Ami Good Movie Club sessions are enjoyable, community-building and thought-provoking activities based on participants coming together to discuss a film they watch on their own. We recently reviewed “Milk,” the 2008 drama starring Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, the gay rights politician and secular Jew who was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Do you remember the tagline at each political rally and campaign stop? “My name is Harvey Milk and I’m here to recruit you!”

Yes, this is a recruitment letter, not just for our small congregation in Colorado, but for the philosophy of Humanistic Judaism nation-wide and the Society for Humanistic Judaism, our parent organization. SHJ is growing, having just accepted two new affiliate communities in Philadelphia and Portland, OR. Our “founding father,” Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine\*, envisioned the growth of this new Jewish denomination over 50 years ago, a blip in the history of Judaism, but an important era for those of us wanting to “do” Jewish with meaning, courage and reason.

How do we “do” Jewish? Monthly Shabbat and Havdalah ceremonies usually include a reflective and informative adult education component and/or some social schmoozing. Readers Circle Book Club and Good Movie Club are relaxed gatherings focused on Jewish and Humanistic themes. Holiday celebrations are returning to in-person events and honor our Jewish backgrounds through a humanistic lens. High Holidays combine Rosh Hashanah and Tashlich at a family-friendly outdoor venue in South Boulder. Ten days later, we honor Yom Kippur and the traditional Kol Nidre with beautiful musical accompaniment. The harvest fest of Sukkot will complete the observances. Food and financial donations to local Community Food Share are included in all fall events. Throughout the Jewish year, we celebrate Chanukah, Purim, Passover and Tu B’Shevat.

Madrikha Sheila Malcolm is available to facilitate the Jewish Life Cycle Events of Baby Namings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah (or Cultural B Mitzvah), Weddings and Memorials. Upcoming plans for the year 5784 include more hikes, the return of international meals out, new social justice initiatives, a little politics, theater and music, networking with other Jewish groups... and, hopefully, you!

\* <https://shj.org/meaning-learning/what-is-humanistic-judaism/rabbi-sherwin-t-wine/>

Let us recruit you at the participation level and financial commitment that works for you. Your presence in Beth Ami supports our local community, enriches our cultural Jewish offerings, and provides meaningful Jewish context in a crazy world, as Rabbi Wine used to say. Your financial membership supports Beth Ami and its programs, and our parent organization SHJ. (About \$100 of Beth Ami dues are allocated to the Society for Humanistic Judaism to support salaries, office space, national-level programs, the excellent "Humanistic Judaism" magazine, websites and more. The balance is allocated to our Beth Ami budget.)

We have returned to pre-COVID dues of **\$400 for a 2-adult household, \$250 for an individual adult**. Need to stagger payments? Contact Treasurers Stu Dolnick or Arlene Gerwin. (You are also welcome to "pay-per-visit" at in-person Beth Ami events.)

- Use <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/BethAmiColorado> and add name(s), phone number, home address and email(s) of household members in the note.

OR

- Send a check made out to Beth Ami – CCHJ to our new mailbox at the Valmont Post Office in an envelope addressed **Beth Ami-CCHJ, P.O. Box 19061, Boulder, CO 80308**. Include name(s), phone number, home address and email(s) of household members with your check.

"We are Beth Ami and we're here to recruit you!"

Sincerely,

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