

# Today's Life

ORGANIZATIONS • CELEBRATIONS

## Foundations of Jewish family living course offered

Parents of Jewish children will have a new opportunity this fall to enjoy adult education designed just for them.

Developed by the Melton Adult Mini-School and co-sponsored locally by CAJE Melton and Denver Jewish Day School, the new "Foundations of Jewish Family Living" curriculum is designed especially for parents of Jewish children, 2-12.

Offered as two 10-week semesters, the curriculum features a lesson on one core Jewish value each week.

Each of the 20 lessons includes both ancient and modern texts, allowing students to analyze current issues while adding to their own Jewish literacy.

"The opportunity to share the challenges and rewards of parenting in a Jewish framework provides a great backdrop for the class," says local Melton director, Sue Parker Gerson.

All parents and grandparents of Jewish children are welcome, and there are no prerequisites.

Juliet Lachman, a 2011 graduate of Colorado's traditional two year Melton program, tells why she has enrolled in Foundations:

"Recently, I discovered more Judaism in my family's past, and I'm intrigued about bringing more Judaism into my home.

"As a Stepping Stones participant and Melton graduate, I am excited to take this new class that will allow me to learn in the pluralistic environment I love in Melton, while giving me the tools to incorporate Jewish values and content into our



**Sue Parker Gerson**

family's life."

Gerson adds, "Having had the opportunity to observe these classes around the country, I saw parents forming incredible learning communities, focusing not only on the texts of our tradition, but on the impact for them and their families personally, right now.

"Students report that taking the class makes them feel more connected to the Jewish community, gives them more confidence when discussing Judaism with their children and impacts positively on their family life. I'm so excited to partner with Denver JDS to bring it to Colorado parents this fall."

Foundations meets Mondays at Denver JDS, 8:30-10 a.m. starting Sept. 19, with a free sample class on Sept. 12 open to the community.

Information: Gerson, (303) 951-0275 or spgerson@caje-co.org.

## Selichot at Rodef Shalom

Rodef Shalom will inaugurate the High Holy Days with a *Selichot* experience on Sept. 24.

Participants will experience the traditional *Selichot* prayers along with a musical and poetic interpretation of *Selichot* and a choice of workshops.

"*Selichot* sets the mood and the tone for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur which follow only a few days later," said Rabbi Bernard Gerson.

"This year we are offering a set of experiences that includes all the sacred elements of *Selichot* in a format that honors the needs of our Jewish community today."

The evening will begin at 7:45



**Rabbi Gerson**

p.m. with Havdalah.

Cantor Saul Rosenthal, accompanied by musicians Ben Cohen and Rabbi Birdie Becker, will lead "*Teshuvah* and Renewal Through Song and Verse," an introduction that combines readings, poetry and contemporary music.

Three sessions will be offered:

- Rabbi Anat Moskowitz will lead a discussion following a showing of, "Making the Crooked Straight," on the work of Dr. Rick Hodes with children in Africa.

- Jewish meditation led by Lisa Eller-Davis.

- Yael Weinstein and Sue Parker Gerson will offer a study session, "Two Sides of the Same Text: Exploring Tales of Repentance through Two Different Lenses."

The evening will conclude with a traditional *Selichot* service in the sanctuary.

Information: (303) 399-0035.

## Roots & Branches adds 18 members for 2011-12

Eighteen Jews in their 20's and 30's have been selected as the 2011-12 members of Roots & Branches Foundation.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, this initiative of Rose Community Foundation provides Jewish young adults with hands-on grant-making experience.

Roots & Branches includes Jews from the metro Denver area. They represent a broad spectrum, describing themselves as Reform, Reconstructionist, modern Orthodox, Conservative, cultural and secular Jews.

Roots & Branches members will explore Jewish philanthropic concepts, establish funding priorities and decide how to grant up to \$110,000.

The group investigates and ana-

lyzes community needs, decides on a grantmaking approach to address the needs they identify, and awards grants to nonprofits in greater Denver and Boulder.

All decisions on funding priorities and the awarding of grants are made by the members.

Lisa Farber Miller and Sarah Indyk facilitate the group's work and serve as resource personnel from RCF.

Roots & Branches members are: Emily Barter, Frank Borman, Leah Bry, Emory Dinner, Marisa Ellman, Katie Frisch, Aaron Frishman, Maia Katz, Avi Loewenstein, Julie Miliken, Jenna Monaster, Eli Oderberg, Todd Sainer, Dave Tencer, Andy Thangasamy, Scott VanDaele, Dana Waldbaum and Michele Weingarden.

## Colorado's AWARE instrumental in funding Alzheimer's research

AWARE, a volunteer group of the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado, dedicated to research and fundraising, was acknowledged for being an early funder of a new, promising tool for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease.

AWARE was one of the first to award a major grant to Robert G. Nagele, MD, in 2004.

An article, describing a diagnostic blood test with a 90%-plus rate of determining Alzheimer's disease, was published in the August, 2011 edition of the **Journal of Alzheimer's Disease** and the **Public Library of Science** by Nagele and colleagues at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, the City University of New York Medical School and Durin Technologies, Inc.

The study identified 10 autoantibody biomarkers that can effectively differentiate Alzheimer's disease.

A biomarker is something that can be objectively measured as an indicator of disease or the body's response to therapy.

"As the Alzheimer's field moves closer to new and earlier tests for the disease, innovative global research is taking the first important steps to confirm and standardize Alzheimer's biomarkers such as those found in blood," said Linda

Mitchell, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Assn. of Colorado.

"We are proud to have such a dedicated group of volunteers focused on funding important research like this on a national basis to advance our understanding of the disease and find new tools to aid in the fight," she said.

Researchers caution that studies of biomarkers to diagnosis Alzheimer's disease are still preliminary and more funding is necessary to further research about new diagnostic tools, including blood tests, MRIs, eye tests and those using spinal fluid.



**Dr. Nagele**

"AWARE congratulates Dr. Nagele and his associates and looks forward to many more advances in the fight to end Alzheimer's disease," said Jerilyn Bensard, AWARE president.

"We have raised over \$2.3 million for Alzheimer's research, and are determined to continue our efforts, as Alzheimer's is the least funded yet the fastest growing fatal disease in the country."

AWARE's next event is the annual "Memories Lost & Found" luncheon event, Wednesday Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m., at the DCPA Seawell Ballroom.

Annel Bowlen is honorary chair, and the event will feature CBS News Correspondent Barry Petersen, best-selling author of *Jan's Story: Love Lost to the Long Goodbye of Alzheimer's*.

Information: Michelle Chaffin, (720) 488-0998 or Alzheimer's Assoc. of Colorado, (303) 813-1669.

## Bev Rich chairs NCJW fall fashion show Sept. 14

National Council of Jewish Women, Colorado section, is sponsoring a fall fashion trend presentation, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 4-6:30 p.m. at Neiman Marcus in Cherry Creek shopping center.

The community is invited to the twilight hour annual paid-up membership event with "light bites and sips."

Event chair is Bev Rich, membership vice president.

Rich has lived in Denver since 1945. She graduated from CU with a degree in marketing and public relations. She served as BBG advisor for 10 years, held executive positions in CARIH (which merged with National Jewish) and was membership vice president of Denver Hadassah.

Bright colors are big for fall with designers mixing electric blocks of color for a graphic, can't-take-your-



**Bev Rich**

eyes-off look. Furs are psychedelic and designers have showed their spots with polka dots.

Information: (720) 219-6272 or [www.ncjwcolorado.org](http://www.ncjwcolorado.org).

## 'Passport to Israel' offered for seniors by JFS, JCC

"Passport to Israel: A Community Collaboration for Jewish Seniors," begins this October in Denver.

The series, a collaborative effort spearheaded by JFS at the JCC Colorado Senior Connections and including several synagogue and non-profit partners, presents year-long senior programming centering around Israel.

Passport to Israel programs include Israeli society through literature, Israel movie night, dancing, cooking and poetry.

A program will be held each month

at a different locatio, hosted by one of the community partners.

There is a suggested donation per class.

Information: Suzi Malman, (303) 316-6358 or <http://jewishfamilyservice.org/events/Programs-JFS-at-JCC>.

## Ira Weiss Bar Mitzvah Sept. 3 at Aish Denver



**Ira Joseph Weiss**

Ira Joseph Weiss will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, Sept. 3, 2011 at Aish Denver.

Ira is the son of Audrey Weiss and Bob and Allison Weiss

Ira is the grandson of Elaine and Richard Ricklin, Miriam and Art Groll, Merle and Don Weiss, and the great-grandson of Trudy Strauss, all of Denver. Ira is the brother of Jacob.

Ira attends Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences and is in the eighth grade honors program. Ira enjoys playing basketball, skiing, boogie boarding, football, playing the piano, and creating art.

Ira looks forward to sharing this *simcha* with friends and family.



**IRA MILLER AND ALLISON BUCHMAN**

are the parents of a daughter, Emily Hannah, born Aug. 4, 2011 in Silver Spring Maryland. Paternal grandparents are Lois and Jay Miller of Highlands Ranch.

Maternal grandparents are Gail Wolin of Walled Lake, Mich., and Dr. Clifford and Janice Buchman of Farmington Hills, Mich.



**Emily Hannah Miller**

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

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