

Upcoming Cultural Events Along the Front Range

[Exhibit: American Indian Art](#)

Ongoing Exhibit, Museum Hours — Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver
http://denverartmuseum.org/explore_art/temporaryExhibitionDetails/exhibitionId--205743/exhibitionType--Current

Experience one of the world's premier collections of Native American art. Our remodeled galleries of American Indian and Northwest Coast art focus on artists and their creations, revealing the hand and eye of each individual artist. "Every artwork in our collection was created by an individual, with his or her own opinions, influences, and inspirations," says native arts curator Nancy Blomberg. "This exciting new presentation will highlight the artist's hand, and give visitors the opportunity to watch artists at work and evaluate their own perceptions of American Indian art." Our comprehensive collection of American Indian art includes 18,000 artworks, ranging from prehistoric to contemporary. The galleries host about 700 objects, including current visitor favorites and hundreds of additional American Indian works that are on view for the first time.

[Free Lecture: "The Liberation of Thebes and Ancient Greek Democracy"](#)

November 10, 4:00 pm — Sturm Hall, Room 286, University of Denver, 2000 E. Asbury Ave., Denver

http://www.du.edu/ahss/centers/humanitiesinst/Faculty_Lectures.html

This lecture is presented by Nicholas Rockwell, assistant professor of History at the University of Denver. Delve into the military and political developments in ancient Thebes and Boeotia during the classical period (479-338 B.C.) in Greece. Light refreshments will be provided.

[Exhibit: Native Roots | Modern Form—Plants, Peoples and the Art of Allan Houser](#)

Through November 13, Museum Hours — Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St., Denver
<http://www.botanicgardens.org/content/native-roots-modern-form>

This exhibit features 24 sculptures by American modernist, Allan Houser. This outdoor exhibition uses the artist's love of land and representations of American Indian people as a springboard to explore the preservation of cultural and botanical heritage. Learn how this pioneering 20th-century artist opened doors for future generations of Native artists. Free for members. Included in the price of admission for non-members. Special group rates available.

[Traveling Exhibit: Megalodon: The Largest Shark that Ever Lived](#)

Through January 2, Museum Hours — The Wildlife Experience, 10035 Peoria St., Parker, CO

<http://thewildlifeexperience.org/current-exhibits/>

Megalodon highlights the evolution, biology and misconceptions of Megalodon, an enormous prehistoric shark that once cruised all the world's oceans. Related to the modern great white and mako sharks, Megalodon was a dominant marine predator for 15 million years before vanishing 2 million years ago. The exhibit conveys current research findings of Florida Museum paleontologists, and showcases both fossil and modern shark specimens and full-scale models from several collections. People have collected Megalodon teeth for thousands of years, and today Megalodon has near-cult status. The exhibit capitalizes on the public's fascination with fossil sharks as ambassadors for science and shark conservation. Be consumed with awe, walk away with respect! Entry to the exhibit is included in price of museum admission.

[Program: *The Fabric of the Cosmos*](#)

November 2, 9, 16, and 23, Times Vary — Airing on PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/physics/fabric-of-cosmos.html>

The Fabric of the Cosmos, a four-hour series based on the book by renowned physicist and author Dr. Brian Greene, takes us to the frontiers of physics to see how scientists are piecing together the most complete picture yet of space, time, and the universe. With each step, audiences will discover that just beneath the surface of our everyday experience lies a world we'd hardly recognize—a startling world far stranger and more wondrous than anyone expected.

See local listings for specific program times and channels.

[Free Lecture: "The Discovery of the South Pole"](#)

November 9, 3:00 to 4:00 pm — RiverPointe, 5225 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO

<http://www.activeminds.com/events.html>

December 15, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the South Pole by Roald Amundsen, "the last of the Vikings." The race to the South Pole was one of the greatest international races prior to the race to the moon and was full of tragedy and triumph. It featured tiny, newly independent Norway against the British Empire, upon which the "sun never set." It was David versus Goliath. Join us as we tell the gripping story of those who perished and prevailed in this epic quest. Please RSVP to RiverPointe: 303-797-0600.

[Special Event: Public Nights at Chamberlain Observatory](#)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Times Vary — Chamberlin Observatory, 2930 E. Warren Ave., Denver

<http://www.denverastrosociety.org/publicnights.html>

The Denver Astronomical Society leads Public Nights two evenings per week at Chamberlin Observatory. All public nights start with an informative astronomy presentation by a DAS lecturer. Presentations are illustrated with colorful computer graphics shows, videos, and/or whatever audio/visual method is appropriate. Astronomy presentations are designed for visitors of all ages. Additionally, visitors will be treated to telescopic views of the moon, stars, planets,

galaxies, nebulae, etc., through Chamberlin's historic 20-inch Alvan Clark–Saegmuller refracting telescope (weather permitting). These shows are specifically tailored for the non-astronomer who is interested in learning about the universe and how to observe celestial objects. Bring the whole family! See website for times. Cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children. Reserve a spot online, or call 303–281–9052.

[Exhibit: Threads of Heaven: Silken Legacy of China's Last Dynasty](#)

Through January 29, Museum Hours — Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver

http://www.denverartmuseum.org/explore_art/temporaryExhibitionDetails/exhibitionId--208711/exhibitionType--Upcoming

Drawn exclusively from the DAM's collection of Chinese textiles and costumes, *Threads of Heaven: Silken Legacy of China's Last Dynasty* presents a glimpse into the latter years of the court and culture of the Qing Dynasty and the final days of empire in China. Among the approximately 100 pieces on view are court robes and accessories, many of which denote the wearer's specific rank. In addition to objects from the museum's Charlotte Hill Grant collection, acquired by the donor in China during the early 20th century, there are numerous pieces either never before exhibited or not seen for many years. Entry to the exhibit is included in the price of museum admission.

[Book Release: *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society*](#)

Available November 28 — Local Bookstores

http://www.amazon.com/Unintended-Reformation-Religious-Revolution-Secularized/dp/0674045637/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1315938783&sr=1-1

Dr. Brad S. Gregory, Dorothy G. Griffin Associate Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Notre Dame and The Great Courses professor for **History of Christianity in the Reformation Era**, is releasing this book with Harvard University Press. Book description: In a work that is as much about the present as the past, Brad Gregory identifies the unintended consequences of the Protestant Reformation and traces the way it shaped the modern condition over the course of the following five centuries. A hyperpluralism of religious and secular beliefs, an absence of any substantive common good, the triumph of capitalism and its driver, consumerism—all these, Gregory argues, were long-term effects of a movement that marked the end of more than a millennium during which Christianity provided a framework for shared intellectual, social, and moral life in the West. Before the Protestant Reformation, Western Christianity was an institutionalized worldview laden with expectations of security for earthly societies and hopes of eternal salvation for individuals. The Reformation's protagonists sought to advance the realization of this vision, not disrupt it. But a complex web of rejections, retentions, and transformations of medieval Christianity gradually replaced the religious fabric that bound societies together in the West. Today, what we are left with are fragments: intellectual disagreements that splinter into ever finer fractals of specialized discourse; a notion that modern science—as the source of all truth—necessarily undermines religious belief; a pervasive resort to a therapeutic vision of religion; a set of smuggled moral values with which we try to fertilize a sterile liberalism; and the institutionalized assumption that only secular universities can pursue knowledge. *The Unintended Reformation* asks what propelled the West into this trajectory of

pluralism and polarization, and finds answers deep in our medieval Christian past.—Harvard University Press, publisher.

[Performance: *Messiah* by Candlelight](#)

December 13, 14, and 18, Times Vary — Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., Denver

<http://coloradosymphony.org/2011-12-season/performance/5/2036/messiah-by-candlelight2/>

Handel's revered oratorio was a sold out sensation last year. Due to popular demand, we've added another performance of this most recognizable of masterpieces, set to the warm glow of candlelight at one of Denver's most lovely sacred spaces. It's a romantic holiday experience you'll never forget. Ticket price: \$25–\$87. See the website for additional information and to purchase tickets.

[Book Release: *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us*](#)

Available November 8 — Local Bookstores

http://www.amazon.com/Meaning-Bible-Scriptures-Christian-Testament/dp/0061121754/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1315876885&sr=1-1

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University is releasing this book. Book description: The finest introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures available anywhere is at your fingertips in *The Meaning of the Bible*. Preeminent biblical scholars Douglas A. Knight and Amy-Jill Levine deliver the fullest introduction to the Old Testament—also known as the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible—ever, offering a wealth of highly readable historical background and social context, plus an examination of the meaning and aesthetic value of the sacred literature at the heart of Judaism and Christianity. John Shelby Spong, author of *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* writes, “Amy-Jill Levine and Douglas A. Knight have combined to write a book on the Bible that is as academically brilliant as it is marvelously entertaining. By placing our scriptures into their original Jewish context they have opened up startling and profound new insights. This is a terrific book.”—HarperOne, publisher.

[Book Release: *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*](#)

Available November 15 — Local Bookstores

http://www.amazon.com/Jewish-Annotated-Testament-Amy-Jill-Levine/dp/0195297709/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1315876769&sr=8-1

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University has co-edited and is releasing this book with Oxford University Press. Book description: Although major New Testament figures—Jesus and Paul, Peter and James, Jesus' mother Mary and Mary Magdalene—were Jews, living in a culture steeped in Jewish history, beliefs, and practices, there has never been an edition of the New Testament that addresses its Jewish background and the culture from which it grew—until now. In *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, eminent experts under the general editorship of Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Z. Brettler put these writings back into the context of their original authors and audiences. And they explain how these writings have affected the relations of Jews and Christians over the past two thousand

years. For non-Jewish readers interested in the Jewish roots of Christianity and for Jewish readers who want a New Testament that neither proselytizes for Christianity nor denigrates Judaism, *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* is an essential volume that places these writings in a context that will enlighten students, professionals, and general readers.—Oxford University Press, publisher.

[Permanent Exhibit: 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks](#)

Ongoing Exhibit, Museum Hours — Mizel Museum, 400 S. Kearney St., Denver

<http://www.mizelmuseum.org/engage-3/4000-year-road-trip-2/4000-year-road-trip-gathering-sparks/>

This exhibit is a dynamic journey through art, artifacts and digital media that illuminates, narrates and celebrates Jewish history and culture, which is ultimately a celebration of not only contemporary life but of all humanity. The exhibit encourages an ongoing conversation about where we came from and where we're going – no matter who we are. Denver Mayor Bill Vidal called it “a new gem in Denver’s cultural landscape.” The exhibit serves as a springboard for programs for adults including social gatherings, art workshops and concerts that encourage a deeper understanding of their own stories and their journeys through life. The theme of gathering sparks is often understood to be the origin of tikkun olam, or “healing the world.” The myth tells us that when G-d created light it was carried forth in ten vessels that shattered, scattering sparks of divine light throughout the world. Had the containers been able to contain the light of creation and arrive intact, the world would have been perfect. Instead, G-d created people to seek out and gather the hidden sparks wherever they may be. When this task is complete, the broken vessels will be restored and the world repaired. Exhibit entry is included in price of museum admission.

[Free Lecture: "The Death of God and the Birth of Impressionism: Forms and Transformations of Narcissism in the 19th Century"](#)

November 10, 3:30 pm — Gaylord Hall, Worner Campus Center, Colorado College, 902 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO

<http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/dept/PH/colloquia.asp>

This colloquium is presented by Professor John Riker, Colorado College. This colloquium series at Colorado College is sponsored through the generous support of the Rubens Family Fund, the Robert Lewis Fund, the J.Glenn Gray Memorial Fund, the Dean's Office, and friends and alumni of the philosophy department.

[Free Lecture: Philosophy Department Colloquium—Title to be announced](#)

December 15, 3:30 pm — Gaylord Hall, Worner Campus Center, Colorado College, 902 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO

<http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/dept/PH/colloquia.asp>

This colloquium is presented by David Wong, Susan Fox Beischer & George D. Beischer Professor of Philosophy at Duke University. This colloquium series at Colorado College is sponsored through the generous support of the Rubens Family Fund, the Robert Lewis Fund, the J.Glenn Gray Memorial Fund, the Dean's Office, and friends and alumni of the philosophy department. See the website for updated title information as it becomes available.

Discussion: Socrates Café Discussion Group

Third Wednesday of each month, 2:00 to 3:30 pm — Meadows Branch—Boulder Public Library, 4800 Baseline Rd., Boulder, CO

<http://boulderjewishnews.org/2011/socrates-cafe-comes-to-boulder/>

Join this philosophical discussion group for monthly conversations on various topics.