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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BNAI VAIL WELCOMES NEW RABBI AND A RECORD NUMBER
OF BNAI MITZVAHS**

*Bnai Vail welcomes new full-time Rabbi, Debra Rappaport and the congregation
celebrates 7 young adults as they reach their bnai mitzvah!*

VAIL, Colorado (July 24, 2007) – B’nai Vail, the Congregation serving the Jewish community in Eagle County and beyond, announced the appointment of Rabbi and Executive Director, Debra Rappaport. Rabbi Rappaport, originally from Minneapolis, joins the congregation having recently been ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Prior to rabbinical school, Debra spent 10 years in sales and marketing. With an MBA from Wharton and a BA from Vassar, she has held a variety of appointments in high-tech businesses. While in rabbinical school, she served as rabbi for Congregation Shirat Hayam in Duxbury, MA.

“We are so excited to have Debra with us, she will add so much enthusiasm and guidance to our growing community. Rabbi Rappaport brings a wonderful spiritual presence and an enlightened approach to the daily operations of B’Nai Vail.” says CJ Tenner, President of the Bnai Vail Congregation.

"B’nai Vail is unique in attracting young working adults, as well as folks of all ages who live here year-round, part-time, or are just visiting. It is a real community of people who enjoy being together with others they might not necessarily meet outside of synagogue life. I look forward to bringing additional programs and education to support this growing community." says Rabbi Rappaport.

B'nai Vail is also celebrating a record year for *b'nai mitzvahs* in the community. According to Jewish law, when children reach the age of maturity they become responsible for their actions. After this milestone, the children are privileged to participate in all areas of Jewish community life and bear their own responsibility for Jewish ritual law, tradition, and ethics. The *bar mitzvah* (for boys) or *bat mitzvah* (for girls) celebrates their coming-of-age. During a Sabbath service, the young adult is called up and reads from the Torah (Hebrew scroll of the five books of Moses) and teaches the community something about their values within the context of the Jewish tradition.

B'nai Vail offers a number of events throughout the summer, for individuals, families and second homeowners who wish to get involved, spend time with the Rabbi or simply experience a sense of community. Upcoming events include: Morning Trail and Torah on July 28, a Creekside Service on August 4, a Vail Mountain-top service on August 11 followed by a concert at Eagles Nest, and the annual Leadville Cemetery Clean-Up Mitzvah Project on August 12. As the High Holidays approach in September, a full schedule of services will be available. For more information on these and other events please call the B'nai Vail office at 970-477-2992 or check their website at www.bnaivail.org.

About Bnai Vail

Since 1977, B'nai Vail has been the Jewish Community Congregation serving Eagle County and beyond. B'nai Vail remains an independent congregation serving the broad spectrum and diverse Jewish community that resides here in the Vail Valley. Along with providing the Jewish needs of the visitors and 2nd home owners with 180 families, the congregation shares worship space with five other faiths in the Vail and Beaver Creek Interfaith Chapels offering worship services, education, and cultural events. With its recent "Imagine the Possibilities Campaign", the organization is on target to achieve its goal of raising \$1million dollars by 2008 thereby securing its financial future for the next ten years. For more information please call the office at 970-477-2992 or check their website at www.bnaivail.org.