

MISSION STATEMENT

B'nai Vail Congregation is committed to being a center of Jewish life that welcomes individuals and families of diverse backgrounds.

We are dedicated to creating a supportive environment that is spiritual, intellectual and social.

We aspire to be a Jewish community that fosters a sense of belonging and enables us to connect with one another.



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Kol HeHarim (Voice of the Mountains) is the newsletter of B'nai Vail Congregation.

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B'NAI VAIL
Congregation

19 Vail Road
Vail, Colorado 81657

Your participation in *Kol HeHarim* is welcome!

- * Submit articles on topics of interest
- * Financially support our communication through ads or sponsorship
- * Become part of our editorial advisory committee

Contact Rabbi Debra Rappaport at 970-477-2992 or RabbiDebra@BnaiVail.org



B'NAI VAIL
C o n g r e g a t i o n

Kol HeHarim

“Voice of the Mountains”
B'nai Vail
Spring Newsletter

Leadership President's Letter Karen Numerof



Dear Friends of B'nai Vail,

It is an honor to have been elected to serve as the next president of B'nai Vail Congregation. I am grateful for the trust, support and encouragement I have received from many members of our B'nai Vail community.

In this, our 36th year of existence, the B'nai Vail seed, which was and still is, a vision of a vibrant Jewish community in the mountains, has grown and flourished. Our new branches have reached out for loftier goals, and our roots have gone deeper to build strong support and leadership for the future.

I fully realize that I stand on the accomplishments and dedication of those presidents before me and I would like to name and thank them for their commitment to B'nai Vail.

Patti Brave	Brad Cohen	Art Kleimer
C.J. Tenner	Gilda Kaplan	Werner Kaplan
Myrna Sigman	Donald Sigman	Fran Goldman
Stuart Seller	Carol Reichman – Cook	

When I first came on the board over six years ago, I chose two events which were especially meaningful to me to become involved with: the Holocaust Remembrance Program and the Chanukah celebration. However, now as the president of our congregation, I need to focus not only on our programs but the larger picture which includes building new membership and analyzing and re-addressing the needs of our diverse congregation. Of course, our programs and our goals cannot be accomplished without ongoing financial support and financial security. These issues all require thoughtful consideration, careful analysis and above all, member involvement and commitment.

One of my favorite little sayings, which I first saw on an infant's bib is “spit happens”. Granted, there are many things in life that just happen, however, building a community is not one of them. *Every* B'nai Vail member is responsible for sustaining and passing on our Jewish community to the next Jewish family who will make the Vail Valley their home or part-time home. *Each* of us is a link, an ambassador, a champion for the continuation of this Jewish community and for the support of its members.

And if we have difficulties, challenges and uncertainty, *each* of us is a solution, a peacemaker and a resolver. You do not need to be on the Board of Directors to be involved in the mission of B'nai Vail. So, please contact the office if you would like to find out how you can join me and the new Board of Directors in making B'nai Vail continue to bloom.

B'shalom, Karen Numerof



Rabbi's Reflections Rabbi Debra Rappaport Spiritual Matters

“I'm spiritual but not religious.”

“I'm Jewish but I don't go to services.”

“I'm Jewish – what does that have to do with God?”

I talk to people who have strong Jewish identities, who say, “Well, we Jews don't believe in God!” And others who say, “My spirituality is in the mountains. What do I need religion for?” And yet others who say, “Why does it matter?”

What these comments and questions have in common is an argument or rationalization for dismissing organized religion. Some make the case that God is everywhere, and therefore there's no value in a structured religion. Others argue that there is no God, so worship services don't make any sense. In my experience, people who raise these questions (and yes, I am generalizing) aren't completely convinced themselves. Perhaps it's a protective stance more than a belief system - which typically does not invite conversation on the topic. So here are a few responses, for those who want to enter the conversation.

To the “spiritual but not religious”:

I love living in the mountains because nature deeply nourishes my soul. Yet sometimes I find myself hiking through a beautiful mountain setting making mental to-do lists, or problem-solving with a friend. While I know that that is time well-spent, my heart also longs for more intentionality about my partnership with God.

Joining with other people who share an interest can deepen our work in any endeavor, by providing a network of support and accountability. Participating in groups in no way diminishes a very real need for private or personal practices, but rather adds layers of depth and support.

To the Jewish but not spiritual:

Just as our bodies need food and water, our souls need meaning. We need to know that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, and we need our work to have meaning.

Jewish tradition provides ways for us to connect with a profound sense of meaning through our behaviors, our practices – regardless of what we do or don't believe. Simeon the *Tzaddik* (Righteous) taught that the entire world rests on three pillars: *Torah, Avodah, and Gemilut Chesedim* – study, service, and acts of loving kindness. Spirituality doesn't reside in services alone, but in where we find meaning.

(continued on Page 2)

MEMBERSHIP

Strategic Planning Update

Ken Wetcher, Chairman

After last summer's sessions in which participants clarified the values and purposes for our community, the Strategic Planning committee was reconstituted in January, with Dr. Ken Wetcher as chair. Ken writes:

We have been meeting monthly since February with the mandate to develop an action plan for B'nai Vail utilizing the information we gathered from the various meetings and focus groups that have been conducted over the past few years. We are compiling this data into a format similar to a PERT chart (The Program Evaluation and Review Technique) which will allow us to identify and prioritize Goals and Strategies that conform to the mission statement and statements of purpose of B'nai Vail.

The committee has determined that we need additional input from members and non-members who did not attend any of the prior meetings to help us understand more specifically what services B'nai Vail could provide for them. To this end we have devised a two-pronged strategy: questionnaire and interviews. The goal of the questionnaire is breadth – we hope to have as many people as possible respond, to give us statistically significant data about our community. **Please keep an eye out for our internet-based questionnaire, and tell us what matters to you!** The intention for the sampling of phone interviews is to go into greater depth in our understanding of the needs and desires for Jewish households in our community. Members of our committee have each selected a handful of people to call – if you'd like to proactively share your opinions, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please call me at 970-331-3310.

Once we compile the rest of the data, and get additional input from other working committees such as Membership and Development, we will propose specific tasks and a time line for those tasks to be accomplished. If approved by the board, the tasks will be coordinated for action via existing committees and any new ones that might be needed.

The Strategic Planning committee members currently include Ben Kleimer, Joyce Krasnow, Josh Lautenberg, Becky Levi-Cohen, Karen Numerof, Rabbi Debra Rappaport, Karen Spero, Keith Spero, Goldie Wetcher, Ken Wetcher, and Jeanne Whitney.

B'nai Vail Prayer

Written by Keith Spero, as an introduction to one of our Strategic Planning Meetings, March 2010

Oh Lord our God, help us to see
That path that leads to clarity
To thoughts that help achieve our goal
That heal our rifts and make us whole
That guide our journey down that lane
And makes success what we attain

Bless our lives with transformation
Leading us to inspiration
To build and make our Temple strong
Where all can feel that they belong
And bring our Valley Congregation
Together in accommodation
Allow us all to feel your force
And our joint efforts, please endorse

Rabbi's Reflections, continued from Page 1

Torah in this context refers to study – learning and teaching. The interaction between human beings who are fully present with a sacred text and one another becomes a profound spiritual practice. Inspiration comes out of the text and one's study partner(s). [Please see "*Ayeka*" box on Page 10.]

Avodah refers to prayer. In Judaism's early days, the word referred to animal sacrifices. In the transmutation of the word to mean prayer, it retains the nuance of truly giving of oneself.

Gemilut Chesedim refers to acts of loving kindness – being there to help one another. If you've had the opportunity to simply show up for another person during a time of need, you will know why we consider this a spiritual practice – it feels good to do good.

[Please see article by Evie Rosen-Budd in this issue, on Page 6. The "Caring & Sharing" Committee is being re-named the *Chesed* Committee for the sake of greater resonance with Jewish tradition.]

To both groups:

In our society, we have access to an almost endless assortment of classes, activities and literature, to take care of our bodies and our minds. But it's not so obvious how to get support in taking care of our souls. That is the role of religion.

A religious community, at its best, provides the support network for nourishment of the soul. And **you** are an important part of the network of spirituality!

Debra Rappaport

A Heritage Too Proud To Lose

Mikki Futernick

Our heritage as Jews has come close to being lost on many occasions. Only our tenacity and faith have held us together.

This congregation is one of those miracles. Who could believe that a resort community could create such a vibrant Jewish community? Our founding families did. And the momentum has continued over the last 36 years.



Children Helping Out At Seder

Here in the Vail Valley, there are Jewish minds to educate, Jewish hearts to touch, and Jewish bodies to care for. The same determination that motivated our founding families to join together in common spiritual efforts has inspired us to keep the faith strong and reach for even greater achievements.

Our Strategic Planning sessions over this past year are presenting us with many challenges to ensure the viability of our congregation. We envision important future goals for B'nai Vail...a permanent home for our religious school, more programming for our youth, our singles, and our seniors, as well as more cultural and social events.

The Jewish community in the Vail Valley continues to grow and with that growth comes ever increasing needs for our Jewish population.

Even though you may not directly utilize many of the local programs and services provided by B'nai Vail, we hope you understand that our presence in this community makes the Vail Valley a better place for all Jewish people who work, live, and visit here.

Only with your help can we ensure the future of our congregation. We are embarking on a major membership campaign.

We have two goals...to get 30 new members and to upgrade membership levels to the extent that will enable us to meet our ever expanding financial needs.

We have divided our needs into "Pillars" upon which will rest our future. This campaign will begin in May and end with the High Holidays.

We will need your time.

We will need your ideas.

We will need your resources.

For more information, contact Karen Numerof at NNumerof@aol.com.

WEBSITE LAUNCH



Hello from the Nerd Department of B'nai Vail (Bryan Wachs),

We have launched a new website for B'nai Vail – www.BnaiVail.org– and would like you all to take a gander. Please take a look and send us your articles, newsletter pieces, photos (edited and cropped please!) so we...or you (you committee heads...you know who you are!) can make this a current and lively site to communicate all the different activities and interests for you the members.

In the days to come, B'nai Vail hopes to be one of the most technological and efficient organizations in the Valley! Our team (Traffic Support, with input from Kim Yashek, Jeanne Whitney and the rabbi) has taken Salesforce.com's free non-profit edition Customer Relations Management (CRM), customized it for synagogues, added integrated email and newsletter automation, linked the CRM to Quickbooks for bookkeeping automation, synced with Google Apps.

We think, as we have seen with other customers, the productivity gains that these tools can bring to an organization can be huge. No longer will the office deal with "mundane" admin work and can focus more energy on the task at hand...to grow our congregation and its offerings to the community!

I would like to thank Dan Charles, Tim Campbell, Kim Yashek, Hans Koch and his team at TrafficSupport.net for all their work in getting this going. Now all we need is you to help us serve you!

Bryan Wachs

Religious School Update

Nancy Mast, Education Director

This past year, we had 64 students enrolled in the B'nai Vail Sunday School program, with children ages 3-13 years old. We had six classes meeting simultaneously on Sundays, followed by a family service led by the rabbi. Having outgrown the basement at Beaver Creek Chapel, we rented space from Vail Christian High School in Edwards. This arrangement is working well – and we also look forward to having our own space at the new Edwards chapel and community center.

17 students in grades 5-7 also met for Hebrew on Wednesdays, with Hebrew teachers Roni Sheldon and Yafit Tietbohl – thank you both for your dedication! Seven students will celebrate b'nai mitzvah this summer and fall!

We expect additional Sunday School and Hebrew teacher positions to be available for the fall. Please be in touch with Nancy Mast if you are interested!

Many thanks to Myrna Sigman for all her hard work chairing the B'nai Vail Education Committee for so many years. Myrna will continue on as a committee member, while newly elected board member Deb Shay will take over as chair of the Education Committee. Please be in touch with Deb if you'd like a role in overseeing our educational programming.



*Marnina and baby Ziva
"Corncob" Seller*



Beaver Creek Snowshoe Shabbat



Jenn Eber and Jeanne Whitney, two key women who made the Seders happen



Gabrie and Sam Higbie with Jonah Klearman Second Night Seder



Kim Yashek & the Reverend Brooks Keith at the seder.



Liza & Jonah Klearman at the Sunday School Seder

Teacher Profile

Michele Moskowitz



"Education has always been a driving force in my life. Not only educating myself but ensuring quality and meaningful education for others.

Of course that is how I became involved in B'nai Vail. I was asked to teach Sunday School. I moved to Colorado from Virginia about 5 years ago and was looking for a way to become involved in the Jewish Community. So of course, I said I would teach.

Rabbi Debra arrived on the scene sometime later and offered a Beginning Judaism Class called *Aleph*. I was very excited to meet new people and experience a new knowledge level of Judaism. The class changed my life. I was raised in a Jewish home (my mother converted to Judaism when I was 3). I went through a Jewish affirmation ceremony, which has many elements of a conversion ceremony.

I was asked to be on the board after I finished the class. I have been involved ever since. You can still find me hanging out with the kids in Sunday School...go figure."

Note: Michele is on her way to spend an academic year in Israel. We wish Michele all the best – and we will miss you so much!!!



Second Night Seder



Costume Parade

We Will Remember

Written by three B'nai Mitzvah students with teacher Deb Harrison, for Yom HaShoah.

We Will Remember

*Racial science of the perfect race
Measuring eyes, hair and face*

We Will Remember

*Sitting on Jewish benches
Drinking from Jewish water fountains*

We Will Remember

*Our stores being vandalized
The police did nothing about it*

We Will Remember

*Wearing golden stars on armbands
Kids begging on streets for food*

We Will Remember

*Hiding in holes
From Hitler and the Nazis*

We Will Remember

*Two days in a freight car
Buckets as toilets*

We Will Remember

*Disease and lice
Watching hopelessly as family
members are taken away*

We Will Remember

Why do we remember?

To honor the dead

To never forget

To never repeat

We Will Remember

**By Joseph Sheldon, Wyatt Dilling
and Raquel Walder**



*Maxime and Sophia giggling
over the Haggadah*



Harrisons preparing for the Purim Party

Meet B'nai Vail's B'nai Mitzvah Class

Rachel-Marie Weiss

Deep in the snow-packed Vail Valley, seven soon-to-be Jewish adults have been studying hard, each one preparing for one of life's most important moments. Within the next year, three boys and four girls who belong to B'nai Vail will become sons and daughters of the Commandments. I am one of them, and I am very happy to share our exciting experiences with the B'nai Vail community.



Left to right: Rabbi Debra Rappaport, Raquel Walder, Ben Zuckerman, Wyatt Dilling, Aimee Brandt, Joe Sheldon, Rachel-Marie Weiss, Sunday School teacher Deb Harrison, Charlie Harrison, Hebrew teacher Roni Sheldon

We are currently meeting as a class twice a week: with Rabbi Debra Rappaport, our Sunday School teacher Mrs. Debbie Harrison and our Hebrew teacher Roni Sheldon. We are not just learning the Hebrew language and prayers, but the meanings behind those prayers. This is the best part of the classes for me. I have known some of the prayers for a while, but I didn't know all we can learn and interpret from them.

With our teachers and parents, we have been having discussions about parts of the Jewish faith which we may or may not agree with, and finding the true meaning in things that before we either just accepted or paid little attention to. We have created a trusting atmosphere in our classes where everyone is eager to state their opinions, but also to respect each other's points of view.

We all find learning Hebrew challenging. "Hebrew is really hard, but once you get it, you feel very good," Aimee Brandt said. Raquel (Rocky) Walder, another aspiring Bat Mitzvah, said, "I think we are learning a lot and making a lot of progress."

Another major struggle with this process is finding time for our Judaic studies when we have so many other activities like sports, music, dance, performances and, of course, school work! "At first I didn't want to give up my Wednesday nights, but now that I'm a part of it, it's fun for me," said Joseph Sheldon. His fellow Bar Mitzvah Wyatt Dilling (who will be the first of our group to be called to the Torah!) said, "I feel like I am having fun and I have come really, really far."

Charlie Harrison and Ben Zuckerman will be having their special days later in the fall, after the High Holidays. Whether we have six months or ten months, all of us are a little nervous about learning our Torah portions, but we all now know which parts we will chant in Hebrew and are beginning to understand what our entire portion means. In addition, we have each been assigned a particular Mitzvah to study, practice and present to our class, such as honoring our parents, loving our neighbors or observing Shabbat. We also are working on some group Mitzvah projects, as well as own individual year-long projects which we will describe in the talks we will give at our Bar or Bat Mitzvah service.

I feel nervous about my big day, but I'm excited because it will be such a major accomplishment. It's a big step towards adulthood for me, because part of becoming an adult is being more knowledgeable about whom I am. As a daughter of the Commandments, I have to be responsible for my actions, and that makes me feel very grown up. Most of all, becoming a Bat Mitzvah means embracing my faith and myself, and growing into more of who I am going to be.

CHESED (Compassion)

Evie Rosen-Budd

“Caring and Sharing” has long been a tradition of B’nai Vail as a way to notify our members of life cycle announcements as well as events that may need assistance.

“Our mission is to offer help and comfort to our B’nai Family during challenging times. We accomplish this by reaching out with compassion *Chesed* to our fellow congregants and by performing acts of kindness - providing meals or transportation, visiting with or calling on congregants, running errands or assisting with other services that may be needed.”

Many of you have responded and served members in a variety of ways. B’nai Vail Congregation has proved to be a caring community. It is our intention to assist our B’nai Vail members during stressful times, whether it is “just” a phone call, cooking, calling, driving or visiting a member in the hospital or at home.

We are now in the process of reviewing our committee’s role and our members’ needs. I volunteered to chair this committee because in my experience, the act of doing a *mitzvah* is always a reward in itself. B’nai Vail needs to expand its volunteer base to respond to member needs. We ask that you let us know what services you would be willing to be called upon to do. Services may include, but are not limited to:

Cooking and delivering a meal

Child care • Driving

Hospital or home visit

Helping to make a minyan

Friendly phone calls • Other

Remembering that a *Mitzvah* is always richly rewarded, we hope you will add your name and the ways you would like to serve to our B’nai Vail *Chesed* list of volunteers.

Please call Evie Rosen-Budd at 970.439.6595 or 970.401.4622 (cell).

Mazal Tov

(Congratulations) to:

The Brodsky family on the birth of their new granddaughter, born to Andrew and Lisa Brodsky. Her name is Nina Goetzman Brodsky.

Phil Weinstein on the birth of grandson Spencer Matthew Weinstein!

Nancy Mast and Stuart, Marnina and Rav Seller on baby girl Ziva! She was born on November 13th, ahead of schedule, and is thriving now.

Fraidy Aber and Tani Weiner on their marriage last November!! Jill Anderson, Gabriele Higbie and Roni Sheldon were there to celebrate with them. We wish them all the best together in San Francisco!

Amy and Todd Novak on the birth of their healthy baby girl, Lilyanne Rose!

Linda and Richard Sommers on the marriage of their son, Robin Joshua Sommers to Jennifer Susanne Hazen, daughter of Al and Marsha Hazen on Purim, February 27th, 2010

Goldie & Ken Wetcher on the birth of granddaughter Chloe Jordan Wetcher!

Michele Moskowitz for being named Teacher of the Year at Edwards Elementary School

High School Graduates:

Nicholas Pegram

Jeri Sheldon

Zach Sirotkin

Eli Tenner

Drew Vesey

Robert Weiss

In Memory

Condolences to families who have recently lost a loved one.

Hamkom yinachem eschen besoch shar avelie tzion beyerushlayim. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Shirley, mother of Carol Reichman-Cook

Judith, sister of Nancy Mast

Nancy, sister of Karen Spero

Arlene, mother of Janine Mandel

Bernice, mother of Marc Harrison

Arthur L. Kittay, among B’nai Vail’s original members

Edwards Interfaith Chapel and Community Center

Russell Molina



Topping-off the Edwards Chapel

Have you been by to see the progress? These photos, taken in late April, are outdated. We have come this far thanks to the many who have already generously supported the project. Yet there is still a financial shortfall to complete the classroom spaces on the first and second floors. For B’nai Vail Congregation, the classrooms are needed to have the school in a true home. Why is this important? To pass Jewish History from generation to generation, *l’dor va’dor*.

www.EdwardsInterfaithChapel.org, our improved website, offers a link for a donation, as well as a virtual tour and a live webcam. If you have any questions or would like to take a tour please contact Russell Molina at Molina@CustomRubber.com or 970.926.0695.



Becky Levi-Cohen, CJ Tenner and Jeanne Whitney at the Edwards Topping Off



Don & Myrna Sigman with Matt Kozusko celebrating at the Edwards Topping Off



Leadville's Temple Israel, restored after 100 years!

LEADVILLE MITZVAH WEEKEND

JUNE 12-13, 2010

The Leadville Jewish Cemetery is the only Jewish burial site within a two hour radius of Vail/Eagle County. B'nai B'rith of Denver, in conjunction with Leadville's Temple Israel Foundation, arranges this annual *mitzvah* opportunity - please do join us!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 12 11:00 AM
Shabbat Morning Service

Temple Israel, 201 West 4th Street, Leadville, CO

A joyous Shabbat morning Service at the restored Temple Israel, led by Rabbi Debra Rappaport from B'nai Vail along with other community members. *Kiddush* lunch immediately follows the service. Donations to Temple Israel to help cover the lunch are greatly appreciated.

5:00 PM Kosher Potluck for the hungry, followed by *Havdalah* at Temple Israel

SUNDAY, JUNE 13 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
14th ANNUAL LEADVILLE JEWISH CEMETERY CLEAN UP & RESTORATION PROJECT

Our goal this year is general clean up of the grounds which will include cutting weeds, pruning tree branches, cemetery picket fence painting and sprucing up soiled grave markers. We also will be installing an engraved granite meditation bench donated by B'nai B'rith Denver. A graveside memorial service led by Rabbi Debra Rappaport will be held at noon and will be followed by a kosher barbecue lunch.

NEEDED: rakes, tree pruners, lawn mowers, weed eaters, rags, work gloves, drop cloths and paint brushes.

Background: Jewish Pioneers in Leadville

Leadville, Colorado, from the late 1870s through the First World War and deep into the 20th Century developed as one of the best examples of a classic western American mining boom town. Amongst the many groups of people attracted to the mine fields in the high Rockies was an eclectic sample of then recent Jewish immigrants. Representing all strata of society from mine owners and important merchants to itinerant laborers and tradespeople, they and their fellow pioneers made new lives for themselves and their families while contributing to America's evolving preeminence.

As Leadville grew explosively during the late 1870s it quickly realized a need for a Jewish burial space. The Jewish community first acquired space with the passing of Gustave "Fred" Jelenko in June of 1879. During the ensuing decades, the Hebrew Cemetery came to serve as the resting place for some 130 souls (now 132), including the last "old time" Jewish Leadville native-Minette Miller (born 1894, died 1981).

As was typical on the Frontier, establishment of the cemetery preceded that of the synagogue. In the summer of 1883, Horace Tabor conveyed title of the land at 201 West 4th Street (the southwest corner of West 4th and Pine on what was known as Millionaires' Row), to "David May for the Benefit of the Congregation Israel". The nominal price of \$1 indicates that the property was a gift from Tabor, whose generosity was legendary. The Temple itself cost \$4,000 to erect. The building was dedicated on September 19, 1884, by Rabbi Morris Sachs of Cincinnati, Ohio, a graduate of the Hebrew Union College.

This new house of worship reflected the size and strength of the Jewish community in Leadville. Of a population on the order of 30,000, Jews accounted for some 300 residents during the early 1880s. They supported several organizations in addition to the Temple. Leadville was host to a lodge of the B'nai B'rith, a Hebrew Benevolent Society, a religious school, in addition to the Jewish cemetery. Reflecting the times, the first group of Jews to settle in Leadville could trace their roots to Germany. They tended towards assimilationist attitudes and the practice of Reform Judaism. This included services largely in English, women as members of the congregation, and the use of a choir.



Parading with the Torah!

Later immigration to America and Leadville included a large proportion of Eastern European Jews who were more rigorous in their religious observations and practices. As in other Jewish communities, this led to a schism. In 1892 the congregation split, with the more orthodox members electing to establish their own congregation, Kneseth Israel. Rabbis were generally unavailable to Temple Israel, but lay leaders continued to hold regular services until about 1908. The decline of the Jewish population in Leadville reflects the weakness in the Colorado mining industry after America's abandonment of the silver standard in 1893. During the Thirties, the congregation dissolved entirely and the furnishings were allegedly transferred to the Hebrew Educational Alliance in Denver.

**Board Member Profile:
Dierdre and Ronnie Baker**



We have been coming to the Vail Valley for many years, Ronnie since 1972, and Dierdre since 1992, when Ronnie talked her into learning how to ski. We of course love the Valley and all that it has to offer, the warm friendly atmosphere, the beauty and the opportunity to live at a somewhat slower pace than in the big city. Married in 1994, we are best friends enjoying many things; hiking, work outs, skiing, boating, travel, gardening, and puttering around the house.

We both owned businesses, Dierdre an employment firm which she founded, built and operated until its sale; Ronnie a facility services business which he founded with his brother-in-law, and operated also until its sale in 2008.

Dierdre grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa moving to Kansas City in 1988 and Ronnie is a Kansas City native. We have wonderful families as well as two grown sons, Kevin and Corey, from Ronnie's first marriage and Kendra, a daughter who has completed her undergraduate schooling and is now pursuing a medical career.

We have both been actively involved in a number of volunteer endeavors throughout our lives and have served on numerous non-profit boards throughout our communities. The list is too large to go into detail, suffice to say "*mitzvot*" is very near and dear to our hearts. We love making a difference.

Over the last few years, as we made a priority of spending more time in the mountains, we discovered B'nai Vail. We came to services one Saturday and loved it. Rabbi Debra and the others we met made us feel at home. We now spend time in the valley in the fall as well and participated in B'nai Vail's High Holiday services last year. At that point, we felt it was important to join and support the congregation.

This spring C.J. Tenner called and said Mikki Futernick and he would like to take us to lunch to talk about B'nai Vail. We were impressed with their passion for B'nai Vail and how much it is making a difference in the lives of many in the Jewish community.

We were impressed with how they are trying to do outreach for membership and education for children and adults. When they asked us to become Guardians, we knew we would say yes. We are excited to help strengthen B'nai Vail and hope others will join us in helping through membership and various support levels. We look forward to experiencing the programs the synagogue has to offer and establishing friendships in our wonderful Vail Valley!

PASSOVER & PURIM

This year, in the interest of serving all the needs of our community, B'nai Vail held two Purim parties and two Passover Seders. We held the Family Purim Party & Carnival the Sunday before Purim, because the majority of the kids in our religious school were going to be on Spring Break during Purim. Kids of all ages had a great time in the Singletree Community Center. On the real night, adults celebrated Purim at the Popes' home. Both were wonderful. Thanks to Alan Sandberg and Sheryl Odza for all their work on the Purim parties, and to the Hess Family for their sponsorship!



Hess Family



Brodsky Family at Second Seder



The Gordon Family

As for Passover, we wanted to offer a Vail-based first night Seder, in a venue big enough that no one would be turned away. We managed to have an intimate-feeling Seder in the Cascade Ballroom, led by Rabbi Rappaport and Maxine Graboyes, with lots of participation. The second night, at the French Press in Edwards, was more intimate, and geared more for families with young children. As with Purim, both were wonderful. Thanks to Jennifer Eber, Sunny Brodsky, Karen Numerof, and Tony Eber for all the planning and implementing!

JEWISH PIONEERS IN LEADVILLE (CONT.)



Restoration

The Temple Israel Foundation was incorporated in April, 1987 “to acquire, historically rehabilitate, and maintain” the Temple Israel building and to research the history of the Jewish community in Leadville. In 1992, the Foundation purchased the Temple Israel building, and in 1993, the Foundation was awarded title to Leadville’s Hebrew Cemetery by the District Court. This action rejoined in ownership both parcels originally held by the Congregation Israel and expanded the mandate of the Foundation to include the restoration and maintenance of both properties.

Having completed the restoration to its original (1884-1894) form in 2008, the Temple Israel building has been returned to use as a synagogue and museum commemorating the Jewish experience in the industrializing West. It is available for tours and special events by appointment. The Hebrew Cemetery, which is separate from the temple site, has benefited from more than a decade of volunteer efforts by several hundred individuals, spearheaded by Ed Koplín of B’nai Brith of Denver and by Bill Korn of the Temple Israel Foundation. The cemetery has been reconsecrated and reopened for burials.

Material adapted from the informative websites at www.JewishLeadville.org and www.BnaiBrithDenver.org.

Board Member Profile: Cathleen and Gary Weiss



Gary and Cathleen Weiss moved from Florida to Vail nearly four years ago, after spending every available vacation day here for many years. “We found that joining B’nai Vail created an instant community of friends for us and our children,” Cathleen remembers. “We were very honored and happy when, a year later, we were offered a chance to serve on B’nai Vail’s Executive Board of Directors.”

Because Gary and Cathleen each have busy professional lives in addition to being the parents of six children, they asked if they could share a single board position, so that one of them would be available for most board meetings. Gary has recently joined B’nai Vail’s development committee. “B’nai Vail offers a warm, dynamic and inclusive Jewish community with diverse programs for kids, families and single people looking for a meaningful way to belong,” Gary said. “I think it’s important that we build a solid financial foundation to support these services now and in the future.”

This commitment led Gary and Cathleen to increase their B’nai Vail membership this Fall to the Pillar level as well as to join the B’nai Vail Guardian donors, who pledge \$10,000 over five years. “Guardians are invited to specify a need or program in the congregation they wish to support,” Gary explained. “We asked that our donations be used to help fund the salaries for our full-time Rabbi and administrator. We have been amazed at what has been accomplished in a short time in such a small congregation. We are particularly grateful because Rabbi Debra has had a profound effect on our family’s spiritual life.”

Gary is a neurologist in private practice, with offices in East Vail, Gypsum and Frisco. He also travels to see patients in Aspen and Leadville. In addition, he is the medical director for the Next Step Institute of Integrative Medicine, a non-profit institute where Cathleen is the clinical director and founder. Next Step offers innovative health care from a mind/body/spirit holistic approach. Both Cathleen and Gary are recognized internationally as pioneers, authors and lecturers in integrative medicine.

They also share a passion for creating programs for children and adolescents who are affected by economic, emotional or education hardships. Cathleen co-founded the National Association for Children of Alcoholics and is the author of the ground-breaking book “The Secret Everyone Knows.” Gary is the founder of Action for Children, an organization that funds and provides healthy, active programs for children, with a special focus on building self-esteem and preventing alcohol, drug or other problems. In Eagle County, Action for Children has been a major sponsor for the Vail Performing Arts Academy, the Battle Mountain High School basketball program and B’nai Vail’s community Hanukkah party.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Ayeka: Where are You in your walk with God?

Rabbi Debra Rappaport

Ayeka - *Where are you?* is the first question in the Torah. In the Garden of Eden, when God asks Adam - "Where are you?" - Adam is hiding. This is an eternal paradigm. We all hide, at times, in different ways.

Rabbi Aryeh Ben-David, formerly senior faculty member at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, has developed a curriculum called *Ayeka*, in which questions of Jewish spirituality are explored. It was my pleasure, in early December, to be trained as a facilitator by Rabbi Ben-David.

"The goal of *Ayeka* is to create a venue in which we can stop hiding in order to explore our personal relationship with God, and to see how this relationship can impact our lives. It is possible to imbue our relationships, our work, and our entire lives with a sense of living in the Image of God. In the language of the Torah, we are called upon to 'wrestle' with God." [From the *Ayeka* website, www.Ayeka.org.il]

Through study of Jewish texts, guided writing exercises, and spiritual *havruta* (talking in pairs or small groups), *Ayeka* participants explore how to bring a greater awareness of God into our daily living - when waking up, getting dressed, eating, working, etc. Personally, after participating in *Ayeka* workshops, I found that my own sense of purpose became more resolute, my clarity deepened, and I became calmer and more patient with others.

If you would like a safe space to explore questions of God and spirituality in your life, through a Jewish context, I invite you to join me for a nine session course entitled "Bringing God into My Daily Life." The summer sessions will be held on Wednesday afternoons, 3:30-5:00 pm at the Vail Chapel, July 7th through September 1st. [The program will be held again in the fall, accommodating workday schedules.] Weather permitting, we'll meet streamside, and otherwise indoors. Cost of the course is \$100*, payable to *Ayeka*. We request that participants enroll for the full nine sessions; however, since many of our members are part-timers, sessions may be missed without consequence. If you are interested, please call the office (970) 477-2992 or email me, RabbiDebra@BnaiVail.org and register by June 25th.

*Subsidies are available as needed.

Lox, Bagels and Paul Numerof

Sunday, July 25th • Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Home of Sunny & Phil Brodsky in Avon

Dr. Paul Numerof will share his experiences working on the Manhattan Project.

Dr. Paul Numerof was one of the elite group of soldiers who were mustered out of El Paso to serve on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos. From that

experience, he created the E.R. Squibb Pharmaceuticals Company's nuclear medicine program, saving numerous lives.

Dr. Numerof received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Temple University and shortly thereafter became a member of the Special Engineer Detachment at Los Alamos, New Mexico. After the war, Dr. Numerof earned his Doctorate of Science from Carnegie Institute of Technology now Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Now retired, Dr. Numerof calls Vail, Colorado his home and from here travels around the country sharing his personal story of the making of the atomic bomb and its impact on our lives today.

Dr. Numerof's book, *In August 1945*, will be available at the presentation, and Dr. Numerof will sign copies. While the presentation is free, Dr. Numerof appreciates all donations in support of B'nai Vail's Religious School education.

Seating is Limited, please R.S.V.P. to B'nai Vail office at 970-477-2992. Directions will be sent to RSVPs.



Trail & Torah



SUMMER/FALL 2010

JUNE

Saturday, June 12
Shabbat Services
11:00 AM (Temple Israel in Leadville)

Sunday, June 13
Annual Leadville Cemetery Clean-Up*
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Graveside Memorial Service followed
by Kosher BBQ Lunch
Noon

Friday, June 18
Tot Shabbat at Young's house, Eagle Ranch

Saturday, June 19
Shabbat Services - Wyatt Dilling Bar Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel)

Saturday, June 26
Shabbat Services - Rachel Weiss Bat Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel)

AUGUST

Saturday, August 7
Shabbat Services - Raquel Walder Bat Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel)

Saturday, August 14
Mountaintop Services & Kiddush
10:00 AM (Meet at Lionshead Gondola at 9:30 AM)

Sunday, August 15
Member Appreciation Party
(Vista at Arrowhead)

Saturday, August 21
Trail & Torah
9:30 AM (Meet at Gore Creek Trailhead)

Sunday, August 29
Sunday School Resumes

Saturday, August 28
Creekside Shabbat Services
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel, outdoors)

JULY

Saturday, July 3
Creekside Shabbat Services
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel, outdoors)

Sunday, July 4
Independence Day Interfaith Service
8:00 AM Breakfast/9:00 AM Service (Vail Chapel)

Saturday, July 10
Mountaintop Services & Kiddush
10:00 AM (Meet at Lionshead Gondola at 9:30 AM)

Saturday, July 17
Shabbat Services - Joseph Sheldon Bar Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel)

Saturday, July 24
Creekside Shabbat Services
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel, outdoors)

Sunday, July 25
Bagels, Lox and Talk with Paul Numerof**
Noon (The Brodsky Home, Avon)

Saturday, July 31
Trail & Torah
9:30 AM (Meet at Booth Falls Trailhead)

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 4
Shabbat Services - Aimee Brandt Bat Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Beaver Creek Chapel)

Wednesday, September 8
Erev Rosh Hashanah

Thursday-Friday, September 9-10
Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 17
Erev Yom Kippur

Saturday, September 18
Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 22
Erev Sukkot

Saturday, September 25
Shabbat Services - Carlie Harrison Bat Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel)

OCTOBER

Friday, October 1
Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 9
Shabbat Services - Ben Zuckerman Bar Mitzvah
9:30 AM (Vail Chapel)

*See Page 7 for more information

**See Page 10 for more information

EVENT DETAILS ARE DISTRIBUTED VIA OUR WEEKLY
EMAIL BROADCAST. IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ON THE LIST
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY EVENT,
PLEASE CALL 970-477-2992 OR VISIT WWW.BNAIVAIL.ORG