



# Beth Israel Congregation

1625 RESERVOIR ROAD  
GREELEY, COLORADO 80631  
970/353-0869  
<http://www.bethisraelcolorado.org>

**May/June 2010, No. 211**

## Calendar *(location is the synagogue for all events, except as noted)*

### May, 2010

- 8 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.  
Shabbat services  
Dairy potluck & adult education  
Please bring a dairy dish to share
- 16 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
Timely Topics in Talmud
- 17 Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Board meeting
- 18 Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.  
Erev Shavuot
- 23 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
HP Sisterhood brunch and  
Promises for Children baby  
shower  
Perkins (2297 Greeley Mall)

### June, 2010

- 6 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
Timely Topics in Talmud

### June, 2010 *(continued)*

- 13 Sunday, 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
Bagels and Rox Clean Up Day
- 21 Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Board meeting
- 26 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.  
Rachel Arnold Bat Mitzvah

### Looking ahead

- Mon, July 12, 7:00 p.m., Finance  
Committee meeting
- Fri, July 16, 7:30 p.m., Erev Shabbat services
- Mon, July 19, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting
- Sat, Aug 14, 10:00 a.m., Shabbat services
- Mon, Aug 16, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting

### High Holy Days

- Wed, Sept 8, Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Thurs, Sept 9, 9:00 a.m., Rosh Hashanah Day 1
- Fri, Sept 10, 9:00 a.m., Rosh Hashana Day 2
- Fri, Sept 17, Erev Yom Kippur
- Sat, Sept 18, 9:00 a.m., Yom Kippur



## *From Rabbi Sara's Desk* A Living Torah Scroll

RABBI SARA GILBERT

**O**n the evening of Tuesday, May 18, the sixth of *Sivan* on the Hebrew calendar, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot.

This is our annual celebration of receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai 3,300 years ago. There aren't too many occasions in the secular world that are quite as ancient, or important to us.

Our Torah is our written declaration of a covenant, a contract, with God. By Torah we are defined as a people and as individuals. By our love of Torah, we live. Our appreciation for Torah shapes our lives.

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs beautifully describes the emotional attachment we all have to Torah. He writes poetically,

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*"I wonder if any people has ever loved a book as we love the Torah. We stand when it passes as if it were a king. We dance with it as if it were a bride. If it is desecrated or destroyed, we bury it as if it were a dear relative. We study it endlessly as if in it were hidden all the secrets of our being."*

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But it was the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of the Hasidic movement in the mid-eighteenth century, who envisioned the awesome inspiration that the Torah can provide for each and every one of us.

"The Jewish people," he imagined, "is a living *Sefer Torah*, Torah scroll. And every Jew is one of its letters."

What amazing imagery! Each one of us is part of the whole, is critical to the whole, gives meaning to the whole. Each one of us is an icon who is essential to the holy covenant.

That is our challenge—to think of ourselves as sacred letters, together making up words and verses and stories and lessons, in community. As individuals and together, our lives are teachings that are ancient and at the same time contemporary, always essential and significant. Please pause and ponder this Shavuot: How do you serve to be a letter in the Torah Scroll?

Chag Sameach! Happy Holiday to all.



## From the President

BARRY SHELOFSKY

Since I last wrote an article for the *Greeley Jewish News*, much has occurred that I would like to share with you.

### High Holidays 2010 (5771)

First, by now you know that Ken Hailpern will not be coming to Beth Israel for the High Holidays. Knowing that Ken will not be with us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur has left us in what William Bridges, author of *Managing Transitions*, calls the neutral zone. The neutral zone is the “no-man’s-land between the old reality and the new.”

In order to manage this change, the Ritual Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and Rabbi Sara are involved with the task of ensuring that this year’s High Holidays will continue to provide congregants and guests with exceptional spiritual experiences.

At the present time, we are looking at two possible options:

1. Hire a prayer leader (cantor, cantorial soloist, student cantor).
2. Utilize the expertise and talents of congregants and individuals recommended by Rabbi Sara to fulfill the prayer leader role.

It is my best hope to be able to share the outcome of this journey with the membership of Beth Israel Congregation by mid May 2010.

### Holocaust Memorial Observance Week (April 11-16, 2010)

I would like to thank all of the members of the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observance Committee for putting together a week of meaningful and memorable activities and programs.

The Holocaust Memorial Service at Beth Israel set the stage for the week. The service led by Rabbi Sara encompassed prayer and reflection, song, readings, award recognition, and the sharing of essays by high school and middle school students.

Later in the week at Litany of the Martyrs, names were read one by one, of those murdered during the Holocaust. Although we only read names for a mere 10 minutes, it definitely leaves one with an indelible mark related to the inhumanity of the time.

*(continued on p. 4)*

Finally, I had the privilege of listening to Rosalyn Kirkel and Paula Burger, childhood Holocaust survivors. These two remarkable women shared stories about their lives and the exploits of resisters (both men and women).

I was most impressed by the way the women answered questions from the audience. For example, when Mrs. Burger was asked what she thought about Holocaust deniers, she answered, "I wish they were right." Wow!

**Sunday June 13, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

### **Bagels and Rox Clean Up Day**

Please plan to attend so the buildings and grounds are ship-shape for summer events.

There will also be indoor projects assigned. Bagels, of course, and much more will be served at the conclusion of our work day, courtesy of BIMA.

### **Bring:**

- ✓ Sun screen
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Garden tools
- ✓ Extension cords for the electrics
- ✓ Handy-dandy pruners of all types



### **Office Hours at the synagogue**

Saturday, May 1  
beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 6  
beginning at 12:00 Noon

## **Rabbi's Office Hours –**

Anyone wishing to counsel, consult, study or just chat with the rabbi is very welcome. It is helpful to make an appointment in advance by e-mailing ([sgilbert772@msn.com](mailto:sgilbert772@msn.com)) or calling (303/832-4051).

Of course, Rabbi Sara is available by phone or e-mail whenever you need to contact her, and other appointment times can be arranged.

# Zeman Matan Toratainu, the Time of the Giving of our Torah

RABBI SARA GILBERT

**T**his year Shavuot begins on Tuesday evening, May 18. Falling seven weeks and a day after the beginning of Passover, we celebrate the anniversary of our receiving our Written Law, including the Ten Commandments. This is the moment in our history when we stood at Mt. Sinai.

Similarly to the way that we were commanded at the Pesach seder to observe the Passover as if each of us was actually present at the exodus, the mystics explain that every Jewish soul who ever was or is now on earth was present at Sinai when the Torah was given. If each of us delves deeply into our subconscious memory, we will remember, know, and really understand the significance of Torah in our lives. Every single one of us received a most precious tradition that enabled us to have a personal relationship with our God, find meaning in our lives, build a just society, and be a light unto the other peoples.

So know that the Torah is your treasured possession. You personally received it. It is yours to learn, to know, to use, to wrestle with, to make your own.

Hundreds of years ago, the mystics in Eretz Israel initiated the custom of

studying throughout the night on the evening of Shavuot to prepare oneself spiritually for the receiving of the Torah. When dawn arrived, they would conclude their learning and recite the morning prayers.

So it has become the tradition on Shavuot to study Torah during the night. At Beth Israel we will not stay the entire night, but we will enjoy evening worship together and then study. Plan to join us. Take a nap before or plan to sleep a little later the next morning. Celebrate this once-a-year experience in the spirit of the mystics of old!

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TUESDAY, MAY 18

## Schedule

- 7:15 p.m. The Shavuot evening service  
INCLUDING:  
YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE
  - 8:30 p.m. Refreshments:  
Shavuot dairy favorites, ice  
cream and cheesecake!
  - 9:00 p.m. Study in the spirit of Sinai
- 

Please come to all or part of the holiday programming.

# Shabbat Afternoon Study

RABBI SARA GILBERT

Everyone is Always Welcome! Shabbat afternoon adult education will continue in the afternoon following morning services and lunch on May 8.

We continue our reading and discussion of the inspiring stories of Shai Agnon.

All adults and teens are encouraged to attend. No previous background or attendance is required.

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## Yizkor Memorial Services

RABBI SARA GILBERT

The Midrash (Rabbinic writings) teaches us about the regular practice of recalling our departed family members, telling us that no Festival, or Day of Atonement, is complete without recalling the lives and legacy of our loved ones who no longer commemorate the special times in this world.

The Yizkor prayers have become the ritualized way that we can offer that remembrance, in the comfort of friends and family members who share similar losses and memories. During Yizkor we alternate between personal and communal reflection, a powerful means of recognizing individual loss and sharing feelings that are universal among humankind.

At our synagogue, Yizkor prayers will be offered during our Shavuot services on May 18. The form will be more abbreviated than the complete Yizkor service that we regularly hold on Yom Kippur.

But, all those who have lost loved ones are encouraged to take this opportunity to stand with our Beth Israel family to remember and honor loved ones, those souls who helped to fashion us and make us who we are.

## Collection for the Poor

RABBI SARA GILBERT

**T**hank you for your generous contributions to our “Collection for the Poor” on Purim. Due to our *tzedekah* in observance of the mitzvah of remembering the needy on this holiday, Beth Israel was able to make a substantial contribution to the Food Bank of Weld County during February.

This is a wonderful complement to our congregation’s huge donation of food made during the High Holy Days.

*Saturday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.*

## Recognize Our Graduates

RABBI SARA GILBERT

**W**e at Beth Israel think of our teens with so much pride. As five of our young adults graduate from high school this year, we are so happy for them and their proud families.

On Shabbat morning, May 8, the congregation will recognize the accomplishments of:

**Ben Bellman**

**Mollie Doerner**

**Gabe Goodman**

**Joseph-Jonathan Salzano**

**Dylan Shelofsky**

Everyone is encouraged to come to services to honor our graduates and their parents and give them our best wishes and blessings.

We have to admit that we do have mixed feelings about Ben, Mollie, Gabe, Joseph-Jonathan, and Dylan going on to college. Their presence and on-going participation in our synagogue life will be very missed, although they will always be part of our congregational family.

We wish them well.



# This Land Is Mine . . .

RABBI SARA GILBERT

**H**ave you never yet visited Israel? Have you been there before, but seek to explore the Land, its history and peoples in a different way? Join the Beth Israel congregational trip to Israel in late June 2011.

## Melton Israel Seminar

I am very pleased that we will travel with the national Melton Israel Seminar group from Colorado for an unsurpassed experience.

**Itinerary:** Our itinerary will be developed by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is sure to be a remarkable journey of mind, body and soul!

**Tour guides:** Our tour guides are teachers whose enthusiasm and knowledge of Israeli history, people, Bible, sites of interest and current events will create the trip of a lifetime for us.

**Website:** Please check the Melton Website (<http://www.fmams.org.il/>) and click on "Israel Seminars" on the left to see more information about the trip, or write to Rabbi Sara with your questions.

## Dates

June 20 -30, 2011

## Costs

The per person cost is approximately \$2,500, based on double occupancy; the single supplement is \$500.

This price is for the land portion alone, which allows individuals to make their own plans for extended days in Israel or stops in other cities.

There will be personal costs for some meals, guides' tips, one airport transfer, insurance if desired, incidentals, and of course, shopping.

We'll watch for air fare sales during the coming months; to give you an idea, the fare now from Denver is approximately \$1,500.

## Preparatory Meetings

Our trip will include some preparatory meetings during this coming fall and winter to go over some background about the places we will visit and details about the plans.

Meantime, if you have not yet told her of your interest, write or call Rabbi Sara to add your name to the preliminary list of those who will be going.





# Contributions

## Mitzvah fund

For Yom Hashoah, from Barry and Lucie Shelofsky.

In memory of William Shapiro, from Jerry and Nancy Weil.

In honor of their granddaughters' graduation, Rachel Weil from Boston University and Alanna Weil from high school, from Jerry and Nancy Weil.

In honor of Hilda Moskowitz's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, from Joe and Carol Bluestein, Marshall and Cathy Flug, Lynn and Beverly Karowsky, Ethel Segal, Robert and Rebecca Weeder, and the Winograd Foundation.

In honor of Avram and Andrea Yaffe's four wonderful boys, from Robert and Rebecca Weeder.

An anonymous donation.

## Resnick fund

In honor of Emma Litvin's baby, from Dorothy Resnick.

An anonymous donation.

## Alice Cohen fund

An anonymous donation

In honor of the 2010 high school graduates, Ben Bellman, Mollie Doerner, Gabe Goodman, Joseph-Jonathan Salzano, and Dylan Shelofsky, from Jonathan Bellman and Deborah Kauffman.



# People



Congratulations to Dirk Bird who was recently appointed the Acting Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation for the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado.

Congratulations to Gabe Goodman, who has been awarded a Boettcher Scholarship.

Mazel Tov to Ron and Julie Wittow on the recent birth of their grandson, Guy Thomas Givan. Guy is the son of Andrew Givan and Helen Haverty.



Our condolences to Jerry and Nancy Weil on the passing of Nancy's brother, Norman Shapiro.

Our sympathy to the family of Lou Ann Strube, who died March 1, 2010.



## Calling For E-Addresses!

If you have an e-mail address and do not receive e-mails from Rabbi Sara and our president Barry Shelofsky once-in-a-while, please send Rabbi Sara (sgilbert772@msn.com) your address. Those on the Beth Israel list receive helpful reminders about services and events and timely extra congregational notices.

Let us know if you would like your newsletter e-mailed to you at the e-mail address you provide. Help save postage and paper costs if you can. Let a member of the *Greeley Jewish News* publication board or any board member know.

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### *The Yiddish Corner*

## Ongepotchket

SUBMITTED BY NANCY WEIL

Pronounced *AWN-ge-potch-ket*, to rhyme with “Fonda Lodge kit.” From German:

*Patsch*: a “blow” or “smack.”

1. Slapped together or assembled without form or sense.
2. Messed up; excessively and unesthetically decorated; overly baroque. “She wore her new diamond earrings, a necklace, bracelet, two rings and a brooch. Oy, was she *ongepotchket*.”

Perhaps the connection between the German *Patsch* and the Yiddish *ongepotchket* derives from the fact that overhandling spoils an article. In cooking, the less it has been handled the lighter the pastry; hamburgers will be more tender if *potched* less.

Mr. Fleishman, a new art collector, bought a painting which was much admired by his friend Meyerson, a self-proclaimed expert: The painting was one large square of black, with a dot of white in the center.

A year later, Mr. Fleishman bought another painting by the same modernist genius: A large square with *two* white dots. Proudly, Fleishman hung the picture over his fireplace and telephoned his *mavin* friend Meyerson to come right over. Meyerson took one look at the picture and wrinkled his nose: “I don’t like it. Too *ongepotchket*.”

From: *The Joys of Yiddish* by Leo Rosten. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1968.



**FYI**

Celebrate 100 Years with our neighboring synagogue, Cheyenne, WY.

Mt. Sinai Congregation hosts their Centennial Celebration

Banquet Dinner  
 Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., \$30.00 per person  
 Little America, Wyoming Room  
 2800 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82009

Country Club Brunch  
 Sunday, June 27, 11:00 a.m., \$20.00 per person

For additional information, contact Doreen Glotzer (307) 634-7027 or  
 glotzerfamily@yahoo.com

Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for  
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- Check here if you do not wish to  
 have your contribution publicized in the  
*Greeley Jewish News.*

For any of the following funds, make  
 checks payable to Beth Israel  
 Congregation and mail along with this  
 form to Jeff Goodman, P. O. Box 867,  
 Greeley, CO 80632

- Mitzvah
- Aliyah/Youth Scholarship
- Dinner Memorial Torah
- Building
- Resnick Endowment
- Singer Memorial Garden
- Leaf (\$54)
- Stone (\$500) -- In Memory of
- Other

The *Greeley Jewish News* is published by Beth Israel Congregation as a service to the Jewish community of Northern Colorado.

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All others: \$20.00 per year

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President Barry Shelofsky (356-4163)

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Or mail to: P.O. Box 867, Greeley, CO 80632

### Publication Board

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7521 Plateau Road

Greeley, CO 80634