



Beth Israel Congregation

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

September/October 2011, No. 219

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

September

- 9 Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Shabbat Under the Stars Service
Rabbi Sara Gilbert
- 11 Sunday, 9:45 – 11:30a.m.
Study & Discussion
Rabbi Sara Gilbert & Dr. Don Perl
- 19 Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Board meeting

October

- 17 Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Board meeting
- 21 Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Erev Shabbat Service
Rabbi Sara Gilbert
- 26 Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
HP Sisterhood
Mizel Center for Arts and Culture
Denver

(continued, see Calendar, p. 2)

High Holy Day Schedule

(for complete details, see insert)



September

- 28 Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Rabbi Sara Gilbert, Cantor Heather Aranyi
- 29 Thursday, 9:00 a.m.
First Day Rosh Hashanah
Rabbi Sara Gilbert, Cantor Heather Aranyi

- 30 Friday, 9:00 a.m.
Second Day Rosh Hashanah
Rabbi Sara Gilbert, Cantor Heather Aranyi

October

- 7 Friday, 6:00 p.m.
Kol Nidre
Rabbi Sara Gilbert, Cantor Heather Aranyi
- 8 Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
Yom Kippur
Rabbi Sara Gilbert, Cantor Heather Aranyi



From Rabbi Sara's Desk A Time for Renewal

RABBI SARA GILBERT



You know how I frequently look to the teachings of Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the leading theologians and philosophers of the 20th century, for direction and instruction.

As we enter the season of self-reflection, and undertake the introspection that allows for personal spiritual growth, I hope that excerpts adapted from Heschel's essay on self-renewal will inspire you.

• *Who is a Jew? A person in travail with God's dreams and designs; a person to whom God is a challenge, not an abstraction.*

• *Who is a Jew? A person called upon to know of God's stake in history; to be involved in the sanctification of time and in building of the Holy Land; to cultivate passion for justice and the ability to experience the arrival of Friday evening as an event.*

• *Who is a Jew? A person who knows how to recall and to keep alive what is holy in our people's past and to cherish the promise and the vision of redemption in the days to come.*

• *Who is a Jew? A person made of flesh and blood, but with heart as well as mind... [for] what keeps the Jewish integrity alive is a commitment of heart and soul, love that goes with character and conviction.*

Michael joins me in wishing all the Beth Israel community and friends a Shanah Tovah – 5772, a coming year filled with blessings.

Calendar *(continued)*

Looking ahead:

2011

Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m., service
Friday, November 18, 7:30 p.m., service
Saturday, December 10, 10:00 a.m., service
Sunday, December 25, Hanukkah dinner
time to be determined



2012

Friday, January 13, 7:30 p.m., service
Sunday, January 29, Annual membership meeting, time to be determined
Friday, February 3, 7:30 p.m., service
Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m., service
Friday, March 9, 7:30 p.m., service
Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m., service
Saturday, April 7, Second Seder
Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Holocaust Memorial Service
Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m., service
Friday, May 25, 7:30 p.m., service



From the Co-Presidents

BECKY WEEDER AND BOB KAHN

As we enter the later part of the year and our High Holy Days, we wish to thank:

- Our board and Rabbi Sara and Michael for their dedication and involvement.
- Our programs have been varied and successful, and we are lucky to have such an innovative and interested Rabbi.
- Our committees have done a great job in organizing programs, and much has been done by those, particularly Holocaust, BIMA, HP, Ritual, and By-Laws.
- The Onegs have been delightful, and special thanks to our tireless Tracey Adams, who continues to keep the kitchen and food organized.

For all this we are thankful. We do, however, need to be aware that as a small

congregation, with our numbers barely stable, our Sunday School running out of students, and our new member recruitment low, the future needs all our help in many ways. We need to practice outreach to our local communities to attempt to find new members with hopefully growing families. At the same time, we need to have priorities as to our expenses. At the Rox & Bagels clean-up day, we discovered that there are many repairs and upgrades needed.

Hopefully, we will find that the membership will continue and increase their involvement and support in manners of volunteerism as well as financial support to our “Little Synagogue on the Prairie.” To quote one of our past but never forgotten leaders, Harold Winograd, “Give till it feels good.”

We wish all of us a Happy New Year and a good Yom Kippur.

Friday, September 9, 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat Under the Stars

RABBI SARA GILBERT

We were “drizzled out” last time, so will try again. Please come for “Shabbat Under the Stars” on Friday, September 9, weather permitting. Starting earlier to have the most daylight, at **7:00 p.m.**, we’ll gather on the patio in front of the synagogue to welcome

Shabbat and enjoy the beauty of the evening.

Please wear long sleeves and long pants or skirt; mosquito repellent will be supplied. Our Oneg Shabbat desserts will be served inside the synagogue, as usual.

8th Annual High Holy Days Food Drive

JOE AND CAROL BLUESTEIN

As Yom Kippur tells us that true repentance requires sacrifice on our part, on Yom Kippur we choose to go without food as a sign of that sacrifice.

It is in this spirit that Beth Israel, again, joins many other synagogues throughout North America in a program geared to giving added meaning to our Yom Kippur fast. Instead of simply fasting, we will also provide food donations to our local food bank. On Rosh Hashanah, we will distribute a list of recommendations as to the items needed. Please bring your items to the synagogue by the close of the High Holy Day period, October 8, and we will see that they reach the Weld County Food Bank.

This past year we continued to see many of our fellow Weld County residents losing their homes through foreclosure, many wage earners either losing their jobs or facing reduced hours, and the struggling economy in general affecting so many families.

Study & Discussion, September 11, 9:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Wrestling with Angels and Demons

RABBI SARA GILBERT

Our High Holy Days services at Beth Israel are part of a precious tradition.

We subscribe to ancient prayers; we create new blessings. Some melodies were heard in sanctuaries a century ago; others are new and fresh. Yet, whether intoning ancient or creative verses, it is incumbent upon each of us to delve into the meaning of the prayers on a personal level. What does a blessing imply for me? How can I make meaning of an inherited entreaty?

One of the core prayers of the High Holy Days services is the “confessional” which is intoned several times during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The “Al

Chet” and “Ashamnu” verses speak of our communal failings, an articulation of the self-examination that is said to be part of the process of teshuvah/returning/repentance essential in our tradition.

Join us in study led by Dr. Don Perl and Rabbi Sara as we wrestle with the help or harm caused by the confessional prayers.

- Does speaking of our transgressions or failings inspire self-improvement or lead to self-defeat and discouragement?
- What have our commentators said?
- What do you feel?

Hebrew Progressive Sisterhood

DOROTHY RESNICK

Please join us for our Break-the-Fast on Saturday, October 8. This is always a loving, delicious, family event. Please bring your usual food contribution. As you always do, please help with setting up and cleaning up. Call or e-mail Dorothy, if you have any questions.

Our next HP Sisterhood meeting/event will be attending a presentation by award winning author Anita Diamant (books include *The Red Tent* and *Day After Night*) at the Mizel Center for Arts and Culture (Jewish Community Center) in

Denver on Wednesday October 26, 7:00 p.m. Details to follow, but do call or e-mail Dorothy Resnick (970-689-2574 or dorothyresnick@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

Please mark Sunday, December 25, for our annual Hanukkah dinner and white elephant sale. Also, Monica Kahn and Dorothy Resnick still have our Beth Israel/Sisterhood "Little Synagogue on the Prairie" cookbooks for sale, if you need them.

Sunday School

SUZANNE DOERNER

Sunday School will begin this fall and is open to all Jewish children, members and non-members. The schedule is:

September 11, 18, & 25
October 9, 16, & 30
November 6, 13, & 20
December 4, 11, & 18

Reflection on the High Holy Days

*Judaism provides us with a time of year
for us to recreate and renew ourselves,
to speak about ourselves differently,
to examine the world with a clearer mind,
and to remind us that with a commitment to ourselves
we can become who and what we want to be:*

Rosh Hashanah.

P. J. Schwartz



Sukkot and Simchat Torah Are Just Around the Corner, Too!

RABBI SARA GILBERT

Sukkot

Sukkot, *Zeman Simchateinu*, is the Time of Happiness, during which we commemorate the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness by "dwelling" in booths (*sukkot*). It is also the original Thanksgiving, the time when we thank God for a bountiful harvest, and all the abundance in our lives. This year the holiday of Sukkot begins on Wednesday evening, October 12, and extends for seven days.

Simchat Torah

The holiday of **Simchat Torah** is a joyous celebration during which we complete the reading of the last Torah portion from D'varim/Deuteronomy in a year's cycle and begin the first portion of Bereshit/Genesis of our annual reading.

Friday, October 21

In our congregation, we will come together to celebrate with services for Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Shabbat on **Friday evening, October 21, 7:30 p.m.** There will be singing and processions throughout the synagogue with our Torah scrolls. Come join the joy!

Shake a Lulav!

RABBI SARA GILBERT

The waving of the four species, the palm branch, willow, myrtle and etrog (citron), is part of the traditional observance of Sukkot. This year, due to the scheduling of our Beth Israel services, Rabbi Sara will not place a group order for lulav sets.

Before Sukkot, lulav and etrog can easily be purchased at Aaron's Books, 560 South Holly Street, Suite 10, in east

Denver. Check before going at 303-322-7345. Some synagogues in Denver take advance orders.

Searching google.com you can also find many websites that take orders, but please be sure to check the price for shipping.

Add the Names of Your Loved Ones to the Beth Israel Yahrzeit List

RABBI SARA GILBERT

We honor our deceased loved ones and bring comfort to ourselves as we observe the *yahrzeit* (Hebrew anniversary date) of the passing of our beloved family members each year. Whenever the *yahrzeit* of a family member falls, we are encouraged to attend synagogue services to recite the Mourners' Kaddish with the community. The word *yahrzeit* is from the Yiddish, meaning a year's remembrance.

Our congregation has compiled a list of the *yahrzeit* dates of congregants' deceased family members. During the *yahrzeit* month, that family member's name can then be mentioned at services. We would very much like to honor the memories of the loved ones of all our members.

Please submit the name, relationship and date (month, day, year) of death of your relatives to Rabbi Sara. If you know whether the death occurred before or after nightfall, that will be helpful in determining the Hebrew date, too. Your loved ones name will then be added to our Beth Israel list and remembered at services.

Easiest Fund Raising Opportunity Ever

JULIE GIVAN-WITTOW

In order to help replenish the Beth Israel Building Fund, the Board of Trustees of Beth Israel Congregation has begun a new no-work, no-cost-to-you fund raising project.

If you or anyone in your family has old jewelry (the single earring, a ring with no stone in it anymore, broken bracelets, necklaces, watches, etc.) or silverware (the old spoon that was damaged in the garbage disposal), just bring them in to Ron's Coins in Another Man's Treasures (2002 Ninth Street, Greeley, CO 80631).

Ron Wittow will assess a value and give you a receipt for your donation to Beth Israel Congregation. Ron will then market these unwanted items for a direct donation to Beth Israel Congregation.

Contact Ron at 970-330-6598 or 970-590-2755 for store hours or to schedule an appointment. This project will be ongoing.

People

Condolences to the Ron Wittow family on the recent passing of Ron's cousin, Sandra Wittow, of Cherry Hills Village, Denver.

Mazel Tov to former members and our friends Kim and Jay Klein on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Seth Batalion.



Benjamin Johnson, son of Rusty and Naomi Johnson, announces his engagement and marriage to Agnes Kroneraff. Agnes is a United States national champion collegiate cross country runner and has moved to Colorado from Hungary. The couple are currently living in Gunnison. A fall reception is planned in Greeley.



Welcome home to the participants of the Congregational "Israel Seminar" trip, as pictured from left: Chris Clinton, Laura Manuel, Tracey Adams, Rabbi Sara, Bonnie Rohn, Michael Gilbert, Jerry Metz.

Contributions

Mitzvah fund

In honor of Barry Rothaus' retirement,
from Glen Dinner.

In memory of Barry Shelofsky's mother,
from Glen Dinner.

In memory of Bonnie Rohn's father, from
Glen Dinner.

In memory of Rabbi Sara's mother, Ethel
Lonstein, from Alan and Joyce
Ackerman.

In memory of Ruth Goodman's father,
from Alan and Joyce Ackerman.

In honor of the birth of Rabbi Sara and
Michael Gilbert's grandson, from Alan
and Joyce Ackerman.

A general donation, from an anonymous
donor.

Youth Scholarship fund

In memory of Rabbi Sara's mother, Ethel
Lonstein, from Ken Hailpern.

In honor of Barry Rothaus' retirement,
from Jerry and Betty Goodman

In honor of their granddaughter Abby
Goodman's graduation from Colorado
State University, from Jerry and Betty
Goodman.

If you would like to sponsor flowers
for the High Holy Days,
please contact 
Nancy Weil
970-353-2630

Building fund

In honor of the baby naming of Barry and
Margie Rothaus' granddaughter, from Joe
and Carol Bluestein, Bob and Monica
Kahn.

Reminder from the Treasurers:

To ensure prompt receipt,
please mail your donations and
any other checks to the Beth
Israel post office box:

Beth Israel Congregation
P. O. Box 867
Greeley, CO 80632

Beth Israel appreciates your
support.



Calling For E-Addresses!

If you have an e-mail address and do not receive e-mails from Rabbi Sara once in a while, please send her (sgilbert772@msn.com) your address.

Those on the Beth Israel list receive helpful reminders about services and events and timely extra congregational notices. Thank you.



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. Just let any member of the *Greeley Jewish News* publication board or any board member know.



The TriMedia Film Festival will bring three days of independent films, original theatre performances, and TV pilots to Fort Collins, September 9 to 11. Among this year's film highlights is *The Yankles*, a comedy about an orthodox yeshiva baseball team coached by Charlie Jones, a washed-up former major league ballplayer.

The Yankles will be shown at:

The Lincoln Center, Magnolia Theater
2:30 p.m., Sunday, September 11

For the complete festival schedule, film synopses, and ticket sales, visit the festival Web site at www.trimediamfestival.org. Tickets also will be available at the door.

The Yiddish Corner

kibosh

SUBMITTED BY NANCY WEIL

Pronounced Kih-bosh

Noun: To put a jinx on something.
Something that serves as a check or stop.

They might be able to put the kibosh on the plan before it is put into operation

Verb: Block, frustrate.

A limited budget kiboshed the proposal.

(FROM DAVID WEIL, AN ANONYMOUS CALENDAR)

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ for the indicated fund. (Check one)

In Honor of In Memory of

If yahrzeit, date: _____

Name and address of person to be notified of contribution (if applicable):

Your name and address:

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.

Subscription costs:

Members of Beth Israel: free

All others: \$20.00 per year

For membership in Beth Israel Congregation, call:

Co-President Robert Kahn (970-353-5449),

Co-President Rebecca Weeder (970-493-9314),

Co-Treasurer Glen Dinner (970-686-2712), or

Co-Treasurer Julie Givan-Wittow (970-330-6598)

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

Publication Board

Julie Givan-Wittow

Naomi Johnson

Dorothy Resnick

Margie Rothaus

Jerry Weil

Nancy Weil

G.J.N.

7521 Plateau Road

Greeley, CO 80634