



Beth Israel Congregation

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

January/February 2009, No. 203

Calendar *(location is the synagogue for all events)*

January 2009

- 5 Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Board meeting
- 11 Sunday, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Rabbi Gilbert's class
- 16 Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Erev Shabbat services
Rabbi Sara Gilbert
- 25 Sunday
5:30 p.m., Dairy potluck
6:30 p.m., Annual membership meeting
- 26 Monday, 7:00 p.m.
HP Sisterhood meeting
(Subject: Archives &
100th Anniversary)

February 2009

- 2 Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Board meeting
- 7 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Services, Rabbi Sara Gilbert
Dairy potluck & adult education follows

February 2009 *(continued)*

- 8 Sunday, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Rabbi Gilbert's class
- 20 Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Erev Shabbat services
- 23 Monday, 7:00 p.m.
HP Sisterhood meeting
(Subject: Community Seder & Purim)

Looking ahead

- March 8, Sunday, 5:00 p.m., Purim
dairy potluck, services to follow
- March 28, Saturday, BIMA event
- April 9, Thursday, Passover
Community Seder
- April 17, Friday, Holocaust Memorial
Observance and Erev Shabbat service
- May 2, Saturday, Shabbat service
- May 29, Friday, Erev Shabbat service
- June 12, Friday, Erev Shabbat service
- June 27, Saturday, Shabbat service
Riley Reed Bar Mitzvah



From Rabbi Sara's Desk Account from Jerusalem

RABBI SARA GILBERT



When I heard about a special tour of the archeological excavations around the southern wall of the Temple Mount, I welcomed the opportunity to celebrate Chanukah in Jerusalem in a special way. I've spoken so frequently of the importance of the Temple to our ancestors in biblical times, that I could not pass up an opportunity to view the steps on which they tread and the gates they entered to reach this most spectacular of holy places.

The morning of the tour was a gray, wet one, but tourists cannot wait for fair weather. Our guide was a former Bostonian who had made aliyah to live and raise his family in Israel over 30 years ago. He spoke of his childhood in Salem, Massachusetts, and remarked at the coincidence of his birthplace being the namesake of his current home, Jeru-salem, a Jebusite site, a place of peace. His pride and satisfaction at having returned to the city of which his grandparents daily prayed added to the significance of his comments about all we saw.

It was awesome to see the ancient Jewish ritual baths (mikva'ot), the Byzantine homes, the early Moslem palaces at the foot of the Mount, all dating from different eras. But I will leave the details of the tour for our discussions and your own visits to Jerusalem.

The most important teaching that I took from my day was the layers of history and the populations represented at the holy site. From the early Canaanite village to the biblical kingdoms of David and Solomon to the conquests of the Babylonians and Persians, then the outposts of the Greeks and Romans, Byzantine Christians, occupations of the Moslems, Crusaders, Ottomans, the mandate of the British, and finally the establishment of the Jewish state; artifacts and evidence remain to testify to the presence of these numerous and diverse peoples.

And what is inspirational and meaningful for us today is the constant factor present throughout the centuries. The descendants of the Jews who were expelled have turned to this site for two millenia to express their yearning and desire to dwell peacefully in their homeland. The longing was with political purpose, to be a free

(continued on p. 3)

people in its own homeland, and with spiritual need. The Temple was God's footstool, the place where the Heavenly and the earthly meet. The Shechinah, the Holy Presence, dwelled and was approachable at this very site.

From the tour site, I visited the Kotel, the Western Wall for a moment of prayer. The towering stones continue to leave me awestruck. And it was enjoyable to happen upon a family I know from Denver. It can seem like all roads do lead to Jerusalem. I always meet someone from Colorado there! And after immersing myself in the call of our ancient tradition, I could not resist the lure of the nearby Arab market in the Old City.

We had been in Israel following the second Intifada, when tourists were warned not to enter. But now feeling safe to wander the crowded alleys, I scurried past the tourist shops into the depths of the market where the local population shops. There were house wares and baby shops, stalls filled with the long winter coats and dresses now the style for modest Moslem women. Stacks of herbs and spices or coffee beans overflowed some stalls. There were butchers (no pork to be seen), music shops, and shoe shops.

Fruit and vegetable sellers seemed to have produce grown round the world. Arab women shopped busily with children in tow. Men pushed huge hand carts filled with supplies through very narrow byways, shouting ahead to make

way. I stopped at a small falafel stand to enjoy a late lunch, eating and smiling among the other patrons. The comfort and hope that I felt were encouraging. We are able to all live together in close proximity.

My feelings of assurance, however, were shattered when I came upon a souvenir shop in one alley. Painted olive wood maps that I identified as Israel lined the display shelves. In dark letters was painted the word "Palestine" across the whole map. No Tel Aviv, no Eilat could be found.

And, also, I noticed several apartment buildings in this Arab quarter flying Israeli flags. These were the residences of Jews who hoped to take over the area by surreptitiously buying property. The multiple flags must be a constant irritant to their Arab neighbors. These purchases were fair, and the Jewish residents of the Arab quarter bravely take daily risks to reside there, but their goals are recognized, providing stumbling blocks to peaceful co-existence in the Old City. And, to confirm my concern, in the two days between my writing and sending off

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this article, "in the heaviest military strike against the Gaza Strip since the 1967 Six day War, the Israeli Air Force bombed over 170 targets on Saturday [December 27], killing more than 230 Palestinians, as Israel launched 'Operation Cast Lead', aimed at putting a stop to Hamas rocket attacks," which have devastated life and livelihood in the towns and farms of the Negev area (*Jerusalem Post*, December 28). I feel personally very helpless and can only continue to pray for peace.

In Jerusalem, our past is so real, the present so demanding, and, as the

grandparent of a darling little sabra (native Israeli) can attest, the future filled with anxiety and also still hope. Michael and I are fortunate to be able to regularly experience the energy and inspiration of our homeland. If you have not yet visited, I encourage you to think about the possibility of someday planning your trip to Israel.

Wishes for a new year 2009 of happiness and good health.

Adult Education

Everyone is always Welcome! Shabbat afternoon adult education will continue in the afternoons following morning services and lunch on those dates on which services are held, as in the past.

This year we will continue to study from the mishnah Pirkei Avot, The Saying of Our Fathers. All are encouraged to attend. No previous background or attendance required.

Rabbi's Office Hours

Anyone wishing to counsel, consult, study or just chat with the rabbi is very welcome. It is best to make an appointment in advance by calling 303-832-4051 or e-mailing sgilbert772@msn.com but you can drop in, too. Of course, Rabbi Sara is available by phone or e-mail if you need to contact her, and other appointment times can be arranged.



Office Hours at the synagogue

**Wednesday, January 21
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 22
12:00 Noon – 2:00 p.m.**



From the President

JULIE GIVAN-WITTOW

Repairs

Temporary repairs have been completed at minimal cost to help us through the cold weather and to replace the tarp that was installed last fall. Final cost and contractor designation will be determined soon. During the course of the temporary repairs a few additional trouble spots were identified and will be examined more closely when the weather permits.

The officers and board extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the request for funding for the roof project. Repair is critical to the protection of our building.

Estimates continue to be gathered for the kitchen floor replacement project as we hope to have this completed for the 100-year anniversary events.

Menorah Lighting

Thank you to Rabbi Yerachmiel Gorelik of Fort Collins for his determination and vision to bring a community menorah lighting to Greeley December 23, 2008. Our ceremony followed similar ones in Loveland and Fort Collins.

For Greeley it was the first time this has happened, and thank you to all members and friends of Beth Israel who enthusiastically supported this event on such a cold winter's night. So many

members of City of Greeley government and Weld County government attended to lend their support as well. So lovely to see the lights of the menorah amid other holiday lights in downtown Lincoln Park.

Annual Membership meeting

We hope to see all members attend the Annual Membership meeting, Sunday, January 25. We'll begin with a dairy potluck at 5:30 p.m., with the business meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

This is a particularly important meeting for all members to learn more about our financial status and what the officers and board hope to accomplish in 2009. We will review the status of our Religious School and perhaps have a preview of the 100th Anniversary events.

If you are unable to attend, please complete your proxy for another member to vote on your behalf.

Thank You

I will not run for re-election this term but know that the successor will continue to benefit our congregation.

I sincerely want to thank everyone for all their kind words, good advice, and encouragement to help me these past few years as we have faced many challenges, as well as successes together.

*Give
word of
thanks to:*

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Officers and Board Elections

On Sunday, January 25, the membership of Beth Israel Congregation will be conducting elections for the following positions:

- President
- Vice president
- Two board positions

Terms for president and vice president are 2 years; board position terms are 3 years.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact any member of the nominating committee:

Alan Ackerman
Tracey Adams
Carol Bluestein

As always, nominations are always accepted from the floor the night of the meeting.

February 9, 2009

Tu B'Shevat

The New Year for Trees

RABBI SARA GILBERT

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of the month of Shevat on the Jewish calendar, is the day that marks the "New Year of the Trees," as determined in the Mishnah.



This year this Hebrew date falls on February 9. It is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees, usually the almond tree, in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter dormancy and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle, relating to the various tithes that were separated from produce grown in the Holy Land.

Tu B'Shevat is traditionally marked by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are mentioned in the Torah as the bounty of the Holy Land:

grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates

In the United States celebrants taste carob and a variety of nuts, too.

Ta Sh'ma* Come and Learn !

“A Taste of Texts” Study selections from our significant writings, including Tanach, Talmud, Codes, and Israeli literature

Sunday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Synagogue

Interested adults and teens are invited to participate in Jewish learning with Rabbi Sara while enjoying text-based discussion and Sunday morning coffee with friends. Classes of one- or two-session lengths will be offered during the winter and spring.

The dates of classes and texts are:

January 11	Tanach (Hebrew Bible)
February 8	Mishnah
February 22	Gemara
March 15	Gemara
April 12	Maimonides' Mishneh Torah
April 26	Shulchan Aruch
May 17	Hasidic masters
June 7	Israeli writer Shai Agnon

Participants may choose the number of classes to attend, based on your schedules and interest. Come to every session or just one. Purchase your “pass” and come when you are able. Fees are:

8 classes, \$90 • 4 classes, \$54 • single or additional class, \$15

Payment is requested in one or two payments at the first and/or second class attended, with checks made payable to Beth Israel.

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important that everyone participate in Torah study! Scholarship assistance will be available. Please be sure to speak to the rabbi about your need. No one will be turned away due to financial concerns.

Please write or call Rabbi Sara (sgilbert772@msn.com / 303-832-4051) if you have any questions. I look forward to study with you!

*TAH SHMA IS A TERM FOUND IN THE TALMUD, MEANING “COME LISTEN” OR “COME AND LEARN THIS,” USED BY THE SAGES TO CALL OUR ATTENTION TO A PARTICULAR ISSUE, LESSON OR ANSWER TO A PROBLEM.

People

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to **Arnie and Jeannie Rosen** on the arrival of their new granddaughter Meital, daughter of Rabbi Tracee Rosen, in Salt Lake City.



Congratulations

The North Colorado Medical Center Foundation, which each year selects a person or organization to honor for outstanding contributions to the community, has chosen **Jerry Weil** as its 2009 Honoree.

Jerry is being honored for his contributions as a pathologist and his long work in the medical community including as Chief of Staff of the North Colorado Medical Center.

The honor also marks Jerry's wider community service at the Monfort Children's Clinic in its work assisting low income Weld County residents, as a Board member of the NCMC Foundation, and his contributions to education including establishing a gift book program for families at the Weld County Health Department and the Monfort Clinic and participating in reading programs in the Greeley school system.

Jerry will be honored at the annual dinner of the Foundation on January 31.

Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to the families of: **Rae Barnett Weiland**, aunt of Glenn Dinner; **Dorothy Engel**, aunt of Laura Levine; and **Steven Gilbert**, brother of Michael Gilbert

May their memories be for a blessing, and may God grant comfort to our mourners in the months ahead.

Celebrate 100 Years

2009 is the official 100th anniversary of Beth Israel. A dedicated committee is working to bring special events to you and our community this year.

If you have ideas or would like to assist with the planning, please contact Lorrie Dinner to offer your help.



Contributions

Mitzvah Fund

In memory of her sister, Dorothy
Schulzinger Engel, from
Esther Levine
(Laura Levine's mother)

Music for the B'not Mitzvah, from
Laura Levine

General donation, from
Leonard and Sharon Bernstein
Mark and Jody Meyer
Laura Manuel and Criss Clinton

In memory of Irving and Beverly Metz,
from
Jerry Metz

In memory of Rudy Alire, from
Rabbi Sara and Michael Gilbert

In memory of Michael Gilbert's brother,
Steven, from
Joseph and Carol Bluestein
Rabbi Sara and Michael Gilbert
Jeff and Ruth Goodman
Jerry and Betty Goodman
Ken Hailpern

In memory of Marshall Flug's father,
Murray, from
Jeff and Ruth Goodman

In memory of Tony Moya, from
Jerry and Betty Goodman

For a wonderful Yom Kippur service,
from
Arnie and Jeannie Rosen

Roof Repair

From
Celeste Fried
Kenneth Hailpern
Jeff and Ruth Goodman
Jerry and Betty Goodman
Nina Judd
Bob and Monica Kahn
Charles Karowsky
Don Perl
Regina Schoenfeld-Tascher
Barry and Lucie Shelofsky
Ethel Segal
Lou Ann Strube
Jerry and Nancy Weil

B'not Mitzvah

In celebration of the B'not Mitzvah for
Linda Blanton, Julie Givan-Wittow,
Laura Levine, Bonnie Rohn, Lucie
Shelofsky, Becky Weeder, and Michell
Wilson, from
Rabbi Sara and Michael Gilbert
Jeff and Ruth Goodman
Bob and Monica Kahn
Jerry and Nancy Weil

Greeley Interfaith Association

(Beth Israel Congregation is a member)
is hosting its

Annual Chili Supper, Bake Sale, & Silent Auction

Thursday, February 19, 2009
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
2230 13th Street
Greeley, CO 80631

TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND DONATE BAKED GOODS, SILENT AUCTION ITEMS,
OR VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME,
CONTACT RON WITTOW
330-6598 OR 590-2755

TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR

The Yiddish Corner

hok a tchynik

hak a chainik

SUBMITTED BY NANCY WEIL

Pronounced TCHY-*nik*, to rhyme with “Guy Nick” (with the *tch* as in “church”). *Hok* is “strike,” *tchynik* is “teapot,” “tea kettle,” from the Slavic: *tchay*, “tea.”

I would not dream of burdening your mind with *hok a tchynik*, “knock a kettle,” or “beat a tea kettle,” if that’s all it meant. To “knock a teapot” means:

1. To talk a great deal; to yammer, to yak.
2. To talk nonsense or “bushwa.”

This is a widely used phrase in the conversational badminton of Jews.

“Please, *hok nit kain tchynik!*” (“Please, stop talking so much”; “Stop spouting all that nonsense”; “Stop talking my ear off.”)

The expression may have come from the meaningless rattling of a cover of a boiling pot, or from the noisy whistling of steam in a kettle. Or it may have come from the improvised toys of children at play. Since toys were a rarity among the poor in the *shtetl*, children made use of ordinary objects. To simulate a drummer or a band, it was easy enough to bang away on a pot or kettle.

In any case, “knocking a teapot” has become a picturesque phrase for constant chatter.

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



For Your Information

The Holocaust Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies, 7th Annual Fred Marcus Memorial Holocaust Lecture, presents the film *Nicholas Winton: The Power of Good*.

February 8, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

For reservations and information, please visit www.du.edu/cjs or call 303.871.3013

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.

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Members of Beth Israel: free

All others: \$20.00 per year

For membership in Beth Israel Congregation, call (after 6:00 p. m. and before 9:00 p.m.):

President Julie Givan-Wittow (330-6598)

or

Treasurer Jeff Goodman (352-7229)

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

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