



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***Congregation Beth Evergreen Inspires Jewish Community with Experiential Observance of High Holy Days***

**EVERGREEN, Colo. (July 28, 2010)** -- As Colorado's Jewish community prepares for the High Holy Days – the collective 10-day period from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur, beginning at sundown on Sept. 8 – one local synagogue is showcasing its creative and spiritual nature through experiential holiday events. In fact, “nature” is part of the landscape for Congregation Beth Evergreen.

Nestled in the foothills just 25 miles from Denver, Beth Evergreen's sanctuary walls are actually windows that face Elk Meadow. During services and other community events it is common to see grazing herds of elk and deer, which only adds to the spiritual experience. This natural setting helps distinguish the synagogue, and Rabbi Benjamin “Jamie” Arnold's personal style and the experiential program for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as a place that offers greater spiritual connection.

“This certainly is not your parent's synagogue,” said Marilyn Saltzman, president of Beth Evergreen's membership. “With a slogan that says ‘where the deer and the antelope pray,’ Beth Evergreen embodies our diverse communities' shared values as well as our open-minded spiritual and religious paths.”

Beth Evergreen's 200-member families come from Colorado, as well as big-city congregations from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and everywhere in between, creating a stunning tapestry of customs, traditions and backgrounds. When combined with the Evergreen setting and foothills' pace, many call Beth Evergreen's style “mountain Jewish,” though the synagogue is formally recognized as Reconstructionist. The Reconstructionist movement emphasizes communal decision making through education and values from traditional Jewish sources, while incorporating contemporary ideas and insights.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will include the traditions of the holidays in the sanctuary with Rabbi Arnold and Cantorial Soloist Steve Brodsky, with fresh spiritual experiences, such as a healing hike and yoga on Yom Kippur. While open to the community, tickets and reservations are required for all services (except those denoted by an asterisk\*) and can be made at [www.bethevergreen.org](http://www.bethevergreen.org). A snapshot of the High Holiday schedules follows:

**Congregation Beth Evergreen**  
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**Wednesday, Sept. 8 – Erev Rosh Hashanah**

7 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

**Thursday, Sept. 9 – Rosh Hashanah Day One**

9:30 a.m. Morning Service

12:30 p.m. Community Luncheon

\*3 p.m. Children's Service

**Friday, Sept. 10 – Rosh Hashanah Day Two**

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

**Friday, Sept. 17 – Shabbat and Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur)**

7 p.m. Yom Kippur Evening Service

**Saturday, Sept. 18 – Shabbat and Yom Kippur**

9:30 a.m. Morning Service

\*1 p.m. Healing and Meditative Hike in Elk Meadow

\*3 p.m. Children's Service

\*3 p.m. Yom Kippur Yoga

\*4:15 Healing Service

\*5 p.m. Yizkor (Memorial Service) and closing services

“The High Holy Days are about reflection, remembrance and healing,” said Rabbi Arnold.  
“But they are also about family and community, and our philosophy is about welcoming and offering a natural experience for everyone.”

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About Beth Evergreen

Established in 1974, Beth Evergreen is a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation and respects and fosters inclusive Judaism. Jews from a wide variety of backgrounds, including Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform and Interfaith families can enjoy the experiences of religious school, Sabbath, holiday services, cultural and community celebrations, and life-cycle events. Located in the mountains of Evergreen and set peacefully next to Elk Meadow, this 37-year-old organization opened the doors to its new synagogue building in 2003. More than 200 households celebrate the wisdom of and worship with full-time Rabbi Benjamin “Jamie” Arnold. For more information, please visit [www.bethevergreen.org](http://www.bethevergreen.org).