



VAIL INTERFAITH CHAPEL

— 50 Years —

Vail Religious Foundation
50th Anniversary Capital Campaign

Pioneers of Vail

The Spiritual Heart of Vail

52 years. One of Vail's oldest, most visited and most historic buildings, the Vail Interfaith Chapel is one of few iconic places in our town and one of the most important in our history.

With a completely unique concept of six congregations sharing one space for faith and worship, the Vail Interfaith Chapel set a major religious precedent nationwide. The collaboration and collective effort to build the Chapel was typical of the small Vail community in the late 1960s but unmatched elsewhere in Colorado, or in the country. By 1970, the population of Vail was 454. Everyone had a hand in the Chapel's foundation and upkeep for the next 30 years.

Vail Resorts, then Vail Associates, played a large part in making the ski resort a community by donating the land on which the Chapel is built. Without this generous gift, the spiritual heart of Vail would be non-existent.

In 1996, President Gerald Ford led the Endowment Committee in raising \$3 million to complete lower level and Chapel improvements, add the Ministry Building, improve landscaping, replace the roof and Chapel windows, and invest in the Endowment Fund.

Fast forward to 2021, and the Chapel and Ministry Building is headquarters to each of the six congregations of both Christian and Jewish faiths. In addition, its use as a community center has exploded, with over 50,000 people per year flowing through its doors seeking shelter, finding spiritual solace, attending faith worship, soul searching, making and renewing vows, starting a new life, finding peace, and sharing their souls.

What is a town without a chapel? What is a community without a cultural center? The Vail Interfaith Chapel serves our entire community 365 days per year. Thousands of residents and guests, Vail mountain, and our lifestyle, benefit from its presence.

Recognition: Pioneers of Vail Sponsor

Primary Impact: Create a deeper sense of community amongst our founding families that can only be shared by those who built Vail.

Actively participate in the design of recognition of this select group to truly honor those who came before our current population

Help retain the structural integrity and original aesthetic of the buildings, which assists in obtaining Historic Designation from the Town of Vail in 2022, thus protecting it for generations to come.

Keep the spiritual heart of Vail intact as the town's critical center of faith, healing, spirituality, human and social services, and culture.

PIONEERS OF VAIL

What connects us to our history? In these days of technological lifelines and living at a pace faster than the human body can process, it's easy to lose our sense of history. It's actually encouraged and marketed to us that we only see the future, and forget the past.

According to the University of Toronto, local history is a microcosm that helps us reflect on the past in order to prepare for the future.

Local history contains a wealth of details and stories that help reveal how societal changes impacted the lives of ordinary people. It can be seen as a 'microcosm' or representation of large patterns on a small scale. By investigating local history, one understands how the first residents changed the lives of others in the community. History writ large can tell you about events like the Long Depression of the late 19th century, while local history can show the impact of this crisis on individuals. Learning about local history turns the grand patterns of historical change into concrete stories that tell of the lives of individuals. It is thus vital to increasing one's understanding of historical processes.

Much like how the automobile transformed society, Vail has impacted, and continues to impact, the ski industry as a whole, and provided a model for ski towns and resorts worldwide. Our local history tells the stories of the Recen brothers buried at the top of Gore Creek Trail, and women who climbed Holy Cross in dresses. It tells of Minturn mining lore and train life, farming lettuce in what is now Avon, and one-room schoolhouses in what is now Cordillera.

Several of our own founding residents have documented our past by publishing books, such as "Women of Vail" by Elaine Kelton and Carolyn Pope, "Vail: Triumph of a Dream" by Pete Seibert et. al., "Vail: The First 50 Years" by Shirley Welch, and many more. But Vail has yet to "set in stone" who everyone is that should be in this unique group of people – those who got their hands dirty laying water pipes and electrical lines. Those who climbed the mountains and cut down the trees to lay trails. Those who fed the workers and raised the children. Those who taught in one-room schoolhouses (or at ski school headquarters) and made ice rinks. Those who laid streets, opened our first restaurants and hotels, partitioned land and created laws. Those who built our first chapel.

The Pioneers of Vail program not only provides funding to support the construction projects desperately needed at the Vail Interfaith Chapel, but also creates a new, special community of those who should be remembered for their contributions over 50 years ago.

Program Values

Community
Perseverance
The Great Outdoors

Determination
Hard Work
Collaboration

Connecting Us

Historypin.org

This platform allows this group to share stories and photos through "collections," thus documenting Vail's history on a cloud server with public access or private groups.

Art in Public Places

Create an interactive or photo mosaic mural to be placed in the Town of Vail and/or Lionshead that illustrates diversity and promotes the 50th Anniversary campaign

Events

We will hold five events specific to this group:

- Invitations to the gala, Summer, 2021, with two to three tables specific to this group
- Holiday Party, December 2021
- Invitations to Capping Off Ceremony
- Dedication party when wall is revealed with all names etched

Recognition

A wall dedicated specifically to recognizing, in alphabetical order, all individuals who qualify as a pioneer family or individual. Qualification is having moved here or lived here prior to and including 1980. Also, listed in the VRF annual report for five years.

Qualification

Those who moved/lived in the town of Vail prior to or including 1980. In 2025, we will add those who moved/lived here between 1981 – 2000. In 2030, those who moved/lived here 2001-2020 will be added.

Sponsorships

Goal \$500,000

Corporate sponsorships are available at varying levels:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| \$50,000 | Town of Vail, Vail Resorts (2 additional spots available) |
| \$25,000 | Vail Daily (in-kind) (5 additional spots available) |
| \$10,000 | Alpine Bank (9 additional spots available) |
| \$ 5,000 | Beck Building Company (9 additional spots availabl) |

Benefits vary. Please contact Katie Campbell for more information.

(970) 376-5069 | katie@ktcconsultingllc.com

YOUR IMPACT

Your support benefits not just the Vail Interfaith Chapel and Ministry Buildings materially. The Chapel represents the deeper connection between our past and our future, our founders and future generations, our spirit and our soul.

- Bring together our pioneer families in a cohesive, collaborative group that is focused on remembering our past to prepare for our future. Many are now multi-generational, and all generations are welcome.
- Allowing for typically unheard voices in documenting the history of the Town of Vail, which will in turn help us all understand the significant impact that the Vail Interfaith Chapel has had on our community.
- Bringing to light and emphasizing the foundational values of our community to ensure the solid foundation remains intact.
- Retain the integrity of the Town of Vail as a cohesive, livable, caring community.
- Cement the meaning of collaboration to our founders, pioneer families, residents, and guests.
- Retain the spiritual heart of Vail as the town's critical center of faith, healing, spirituality, human and social services, and culture.
- Save the Vail Interfaith Chapel and Ministry Building from eventually being demolished and the site being redeveloped.
- Designated as a cultural and historical center of the Town of Vail on December 1, 2020, you will help retain the structural integrity and original aesthetic of the buildings, thus protecting it for generations to come.
- Keep the unique interfaith quality intact, setting the example for religious collaboration through the United States.
- Allow the VRF to operate proactively in maintaining its buildings regularly to align with Vail's high aesthetic standard.



CONCLUSION

President Ford's letter written to potential donors in 1996 that states, "It is difficult to imagine this young Valley is now experiencing the need to renovate and improve its original landmarks." Now, 25 years later, we are experiencing another population explosion, and building renovations and replacements are all too frequent, from East Vail to Gypsum.

The Vail Interfaith Chapel serves over 50,000 residents and guests annually with a revolving open door, with or without a pandemic. Support group meetings take place both online and in person now in our COVID-19 times, as do worship services, masses and Shabbat. The grounds still need to be maintained, the external material elements still affected by our ever-changing environment, and internal use has worn the buildings out.

As President Ford also stated, "...the Vail Interfaith Chapel is truly an institution in the Town of Vail and the Vail Valley." With this gift, you ensure the Chapel's place in history as well as extending its life for future generations. Please consider this gift for the benefit of current and future resident families and visitors to this great Valley.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of leading the Pioneers of Vail program for the Vail Religious Foundation's 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

SINCERELY,

The Vail Religious Foundation

Pastor Tim Wilbanks
President

Pastor Scott Beebe
Vice President

Becky Levi-Cohen
Treasurer

Father Brooks Keith
Secretary

Katie Campbell
Director of Development