



DENVER KOLLEL CONNECTION



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The Denver
Community Kollel
is an institute for
advanced Torah
study whose
scholars are
dedicated to
serving the
educational
and spiritual
needs of all Jews
throughout the
greater
Denver area.

KOLLEL'S ANNUAL DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT TO BE HELD SEP. 30TH

The Kollel will hold its annual Donor Appreciation Event at the home of Dr. Mickey and Susan Gordon, 57 Somerset Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111 on Tuesday evening, September 30th, at 6:30 pm.

"The Donor Appreciation Event is the time when those dedicated to the Kollel gather to show their support," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, "as well as an opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our supporters."

The event will feature *Delectable Delights*, a culinary experience artistically designed by the Kollel women.

Reservations and donations for the Donor Appreciation Event can be made on the Kollel's website, www.denverkollel.org.

MARKING

17 YEARS OF CREATING A TORAH-LEARNING CULTURE IN DENVER

DELECTABLE DELIGHTS

A CULINARY EXPERIENCE
ARTISTICALLY DESIGNED
BY THE KOLLEL WOMEN

At the home of
DR. MICKEY & SUSAN GORDON
57 Somerset Circle
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2014
6:30 PM



(l. to r.) Jesse Aragon, Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Dr. Mickey Gordon



(l. to r.) Dr. Marc Sievers, Josh Krochmal, Natasha Krochmal



(l. to r.) Dana Licht, Dr. Terry Brooks, Avigayil Rudnick



(l. to r.) Cindy Halpern, Larry Halpern, Rabbi Akiva Stern



(l. to r.) Rayna Kark, Andy Kark, Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab



(l. to r.) Rabbi Myer Schwab and Avi Mehler



(l. to r.) Kathy Kaufman, Dr. Dimitri Kaufman, Rabbi Moshe Heyman



(l. to r.) Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, Yisroel Herscovici



(l. to r.) Rabbi Shachne Sommers, Dov Mowszowski

RABBI DOVID SCHWARTZBERG TAKES POSITION IN HILLEL ACADEMY

Two years ago, Rabbi Dovid and Batsheva Schwartzberg moved to Denver to join the Denver Community Kollel. With their innovative and creative ideas, they organized new Kollel programs and expanded preexisting ones, including Fathers and Sons, Batya for girls, and Learn 2 Learn.

us, especially your understanding of each of our abilities. I know that your new, younger students will benefit.”

“Although we will miss Reb Dovid’s full-time presence at the Kollel, we are very gratified that the students at Denver’s own



Rabbi Schwartzberg teaching at Learn 2 Learn



Batsheva Schwartzberg (far left) at Batya, a program for Jewish girls that she spearheaded



Rabbi Schwartzberg (far right) at Fathers and Sons

This past spring, Rabbi Schwartzberg announced he was taking his talents to Hillel Academy of Denver, where he had accepted a position as the seventh-grade Rebbe.

Hillel Academy will now be benefiting from Reb Dovid’s Torah scholarship, enthusiasm and teaching expertise,” says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. “We wish him and his family much hatzlachah upon this milestone.”

The dedication and commitment of the Schwartzbergs to every individual whom they studied and interacted with left a lasting impression, as expressed by David Solomon, who attended Rabbi Schwartzberg’s Learn 2 Learn class. “Rabbi Schwartzberg, thank you for your insight, your teaching and your learning with

Rabbi Schwartzberg noted that the years he and his wife spent as part of the Kollel helped prepare them for this new step. “Our time well spent at the Kollel has afforded us the right armor for the big world. Thank you, Denver Community Kollel!”

THE FAR SIDE OF THE TALMUD IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

The Talmud is the repository for halacha, assembled by our Sages. The Talmud also contains the wisdom of our Sages on all matters of Jewish thought and outlook, keen insights into human nature, and advice on how to live our lives. These areas, known as *aggada*, are a veritable fountain of wisdom, but they are often terse and enigmatic, full of hyperbole and riddles. Understanding the true intent of these passages is no small feat, but the knowledge and wisdom hiding beneath the surface is ample reason to make the effort.

This past spring, Rabbi Moshe Heyman delivered a series of classes, entitled *The Far Side of the Talmud*, for women at the Southeast Kollel Torah center aimed at presenting the depth and breadth of this section of Torah. Discussing such topics as *Dreams, Nightmares, and Visions: When to Worry, When to Laugh* and *Rabbi Akiva, the Eternal Optimist: G-d’s Goodness in Dark Times*, his erudition in this area came to the fore as he presented participants with the beauty and grandeur of *aggada*.

Rabbi Heyman feels that the class opened a new window into appreciating the wisdom of our Sages. “Teaching and learning the depths of *aggada*, which for many just seems like stories, has

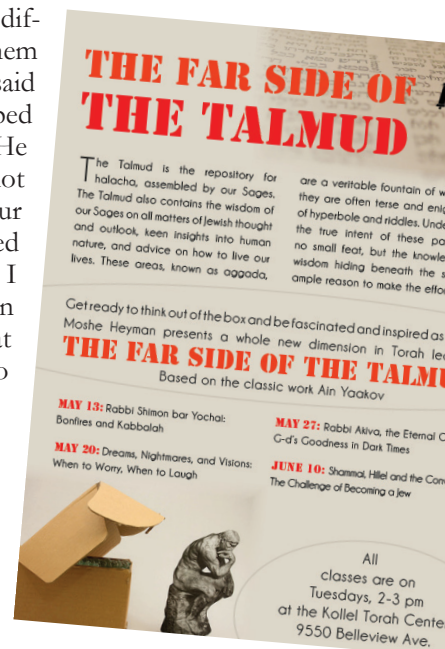
strengthened the notion of how much our Talmudic Sages had to offer about life,” he says.

“He (Rabbi Heyman) took very difficult portions and translated them into ‘everyday speak’,” said Marlin Barad, who helped organize the class. “He said that he spent a lot of time preparing for our class because we asked such good questions. I think that is a reflection of a great teacher... that he inspires the student to think and to ask.”



Marlin Barad, who helped organize the class

Rabbi Heyman is planning on continuing the series this fall at DAT. For more information on the class, please contact rmh@denverkollel.org.



CLASSES FOR ALL CLASSES: RABBI AKIVA STERN

At the Denver Community Kollel, the idea “Because Torah is for every Jew” isn’t just a pat statement; it

an amazing chulent!”

Late Monday nights find Rabbi Stern around a bonfire for a class that is supposed to be about the parsha, but, says Rabbi Stern, “The discussion usually ends up moving to some controversial issue, and we end up in a heated discussion that can last for hours!”

Rabbi Stern also gives a class on Wednesday night on the East Side. This class, too, was begun by Rabbi Amsel, but, says Andy

is axiomatic to the Kollel’s mission. And Kollel Scholar Rabbi Akiva Stern can attest to that.

“Each week I have the unique opportunity to learn with wildly disparate study groups!” he exclaims. “I study with teens and seniors. People who have studied in yeshiva and people who have never had the chance to learn Torah previously.”

Rabbi Stern and his wife, Chani, have been part of the Kollel for nearly two years. They, along with their two daughters, Mari, 3 and Raizy, 1 ½, live on Denver’s West Side, where they have become an integral part of the community.

Chani Stern is involved in numerous Kollel projects; she is a Partners-in-Torah participant, cooks and bakes for, and helps coordinate, Kollel events, and organizes Kollel Women’s Division get-togethers.

“Since we joined the Kollel two years ago, I’ve seen tremendous growth within my family,” says Chani. “Our connection to this amazing organization has broadened our horizons and has made an ever-lasting impression upon us. I’m thankful for the amazing Kollel family that adopted us here in Denver! I look forward to many more growth-full years in this wonderful community.”

Rabbi Stern’s ability to connect to a wide range of people is apparent from the numerous classes he gives on a weekly basis. One class, which he took over from Rabbi Yehuda Amsel upon the latter’s departure from Denver several years ago, is geared for men over the age of sixty, and attracts as many as fifteen people on Mondays. Another class he delivers on Thursday evenings includes a chulent, and caters to men in their twenties, including Aaron Litzman.

“One of Rabbi Stern’s many talents is that he knows how to relate to everyone is the class, which makes it very easy to talk to him about whatever the issue is,” says Aaron. “He also makes the weekly parsha relevant to each class participant, no matter what his background is. And he makes

“The one common denominator I find between all these groups is how much I look forward to, and enjoy learning with, every single one of them,” says Rabbi Stern.



bottom row, (l. to r.) Richard Bernstein, Bruce Berman, Michael Engleberg, Rabbi Stern, Steve Radetsky; top row, l. to r.: Jay Gegenberg, Sandy Rothman, Alan Glueck



The Stern family, (l. to r.) Chani Stern, Mari, Raizy, Rabbi Akiva Stern Photo: Slavie Goldberger Photography



Fireside class, (l. to r.) Donny Basch, Howie Shapiro, Yosef Steinmetz, Ben Levy, Rabbi Stern

Kark, Rabbi Stern has done an admirable job in taking over. “Rabbi Stern came to town to fill some big shoes,” says Andy. “In the process, he has created his own shoes and has become a true friend to so many of us.”

“It’s a real pleasure and privilege to learn with Rabbi Stern, and something I look forward to each week,” says Adam Moskowitz, an insurance broker who attends the Wednesday night class. “He has a deep understanding of the parsha, and relates it in a way everyone can clearly understand. I appreciate how he always gives a practical application to our lives from what we are learning. His natural kindness, patience, and love of teaching are apparent in every class.”

“The one common denominator I find between all these groups is how much I look forward to, and enjoy learning with, every single one of them,” says Rabbi Stern. “This wide, sweeping demography has helped me forge true friendships with Jews of all backgrounds. It has also really brought home to me how very true the Kollel motto ‘Because Torah is for every Jew’ really is!”

INAUGURAL EVENT CELEBRATES OPENING OF SOUTHEAST KOLLEL TORAH CENTER

When the Denver Community Kollel was established over sixteen years ago, its bais medrash (study hall) was located on Denver's West Side. In Southeast Denver, Rabbi Yaakov Meyer was building a community as he reached out to Jews in Denver. At that time, Rabbi Meyer invited the Kollel to hold a weekly Wednesday night Torah study session in the Southeast.

Fast forward to 2014. Rabbi Meyer is now the Rabbi of Aish Denver, an Orthodox synagogue that has hundreds of members. And, as Aish has grown, the Kollel's involvement has grown, as well. There is now a learning session every night of the workweek in Aish Denver to go along with the learning sessions at the West Side Bais Medrash. Three Kollel families and several Kollel alumni make their homes in Southeast Denver, and the Kollel offers numerous classes to both men and women on a weekly basis in the Southeast community.

Approximately one year ago, Rabbi Meyer offered the Kollel the opportunity to rent its own bais medrash in the Aish Denver building, and the Kollel accepted the offer. Rabbi Moshe Heyman, the Kollel's Director of Programming and one of the original two Kollel families who moved to the Southeast over seven years ago, was a driving force behind this latest milestone. "Having watched this community develop, it is very gratifying to have reached this point," he says. "We look forward to further growth of the Kollel and the community here."

l. to r.: Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yebuda Schwab, Rabbi Kotler, Kollel president Rabbi Zev Beren, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, Kollel founder and Beth Jacob High School of Denver Dean Rabbi Myer Schwab

On June 15th, 2014, Rabbi Aryeh Malkiel Kotler, Dean of Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood, NJ, the largest yeshiva in the United States, visited Denver to mark the Kollel's inaugural event of its new Southeast Kollel Torah Center.

Rabbi Kotler's visit began with over one hundred men, women and children gathering at Denver International Airport to greet Rabbi Kotler. Following dancing, Rabbi Kotler personally greeted those who had come to welcome him to Denver.

The inaugural event took place on Sunday afternoon at

Aish Denver, and featured an address by Rabbi Kotler. Before introducing Rabbi Kotler, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers discussed the importance of the new Kollel Torah Center.

Rabbi Sommers noted that although the Kollel has been involved for many years with the Southeast community, having its own place marks a new level in its development.

"Sixteen years ago, Rabbi Yaakov Meyer invited the Kollel to come to Southeast Denver to create a bais medrash," said Rabbi Sommers. "With the development of the community, we have reached... a new level of stability and permanence."

In his address, Rabbi Kotler discussed that a kollel brings more than just Torah study to the community; it also brings the pleasure of a Torah lifestyle.

"That's what a kollel is. Bringing the presence of Torah... in a way that brings a pleasantness, a sweetness... it brings life, it brings joy."

In addition to the address at the inaugural event, Rabbi Kotler delivered a talk for women and a Talmudic lecture for men at the event. After delivering several talks on Denver's West Side, Rabbi Kotler returned to Lakewood, NJ late Sunday night.

"Listening to Rav Kotler, I felt an awe at his presence," said Joyce Litzman. "His depth and sincerity made an impression."

Chaya Sara Singer gained a higher appreciation of what it means to have a kollel in the community.

"He gave me a greater understanding of a kollel's influence on a community as it creates an establishment of Torah."

Mr. Avi Mehler with Rabbi Kotler at the home of his parents, Dr. Philip and Mrs. Leah Mehler

Denver Community Kollel with Rabbi Kotler. l. to r.: Rabbi Moshe Heyman, Rabbi Eli Mozes, Rabbi Yossi Kaplan, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, Rabbi Aryeh Malkiel Kotler, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yebuda Schwab, Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, Rabbi Gavriel Rudnick, Rabbi Akiva Stern, Rabbi David Schwartzberg



MILK AND MEAT AND DEMOCRACY AT LEGAL HOLIDAY LEARNING PROGRAM



▲ Rabbi Eli Mozes delivers a class at the Kollel Southeast Torah Center

The Kollel continued its successful, long-running Legal Learning Program during the spring and summer. The program, which features shacharis, breakfast and learning, gives Jews throughout Denver the opportunity to start their day off on the right foot with Torah study.

May 26th, Memorial Day, was shortly before Shavuot, when dairy delights abound; the topic under discussion was thus *The Waiting List: The Laws of Waiting between Milk and Meat*. On July 4th, the learning focused on *The Will of the Masses: The Role of Democracy in Judaism*.

Participants had a choice of three locations in Denver, as learning took place at the Kollel's West Side Bais Medrash, at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center, and at EDOS on the East Side. "We are delighted that we have the resources and ability

to provide learning in so many areas simultaneously," said Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab.

Scott Levin attended the July 4th class, given by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Eli



Mozes at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center, and he appreciated the chance to discover the relationship between democracy and Judaism. "While considering how fortunate we, as Jews, are to live in this great democracy, it was great to compare it to inferences of democracy in the Torah."

DAY AFTER SHAVUOS LEARNING WITH THE KOLLEL

It's the morning after Shavuot, and you're home from school. What are you going to do? If you live in Denver, the answer is simple: you attend the Kollel's Day After Shavuot Learning program. Offered for boys grades 1-8, it provided the opportunity to keep the fire of Torah going strong with a learning program at three locations in Denver. Sponsored by



Kollel Scholar Rabbi Yossi Kaplan teaching on the West Side at Day After Shavuot program; Kollel Scholar Rabbi David Schwartzberg is teaching in the background.

Kollel Scholar Rabbi Yossi Kaplan, who organized the program, was delighted at the Torah study the program engendered. "It was great to see so many children come together to learn on their day off!" he said.



Rabbi David Schwartzberg with boys at the Kollel West Side Bais Medrash



Boys at EDOS with their prizes



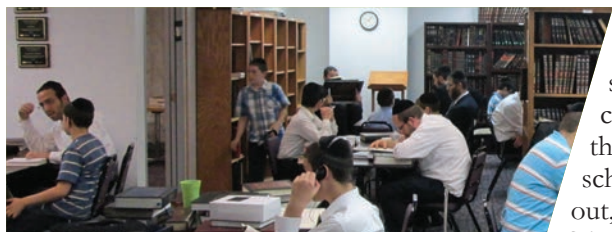
Day After Shavuot at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center

the M.B. Glassman Foundation, Day After Shavuot Learning ran from 9-10:30 in the morning, as Kollel members taught the younger boys while helping the older boys engage in chavrusah learning. Over thirty boys participated in the program, which included, in addition to the learning, nosh, prizes for all attendees as well as a drawing for two grand prizes, and a terrific story.

Dr. Robert Sahlerabi, whose two sons, Joshua (grade 3) and Gabriel (grade 1) attended the program in EDOS (and brought home one of the grand prizes), says the program stayed with his boys beyond the hour-and-a-half of learning. "My two boys loved the post-Shavuot learning program! When they came home they were talking all day about getting a chance to learn and observe older boys learning Gemara, and winning an awesome prize was the icing on the cake!"

SUMMERTIME LEARNING PROGRAM BRINGS TORAH STUDY TO ALL AGES

Summertime. Children throughout the country are thinking vacation, relaxation, maybe some lemonade and a beach chair...



But even during the summer, the sweet sound of Torah study continued unabated at the Kollel. And while school may have been out, the Kollel was still firing on all cylinders, providing a night seder (session) program where boys of all ages could gather on a nightly basis and study Torah along with the community.

The boys joined a vibrant West Side Bais Medrash where Torah study continued throughout the summer, even during the Kollel's three-week summer break — because Torah never goes on vacation. Those who attended consistently were awarded a cash stipend, but the real reward was the Torah they studied!

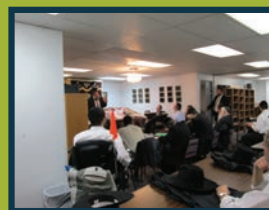


"It's wonderful that so many boys feel at home in the Kollel, that Torah is a primary focus in their lives, even while they're on vacation," said Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, the Kollel's Director of Operations, who organized the night seder.

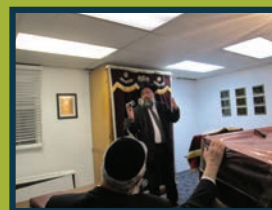
"It's nice, during the summer when our schedule is more relaxed, to know that we have a set time to learn every night," said Ezriel Abrams, a 13-year-old student at Hillel Academy of Denver. "Thank you Rabbi Fleisher for organizing this night seder!"

RABBI SOMMERS' PRE-HOLIDAY TALKS CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER

Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers delivered pre-holiday talks prior to Shavuot and Tisha B'Av (the Ninth of Av). The pre-holiday talks, which are the brainchild of former Kollel Outreach Director Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, began approximately two years ago. The talks attract tens of people from all sides of Denver to the Kollel West Side Bais Medrash as Rabbi Sommers continues to provide depth of understanding and inspiration to carry into the holiday.



Rabbi Shachne Sommers making a point at pre-Shavuot talk at West Side Beis Medrash



Rabbi Myer Schwab listens intently during a talk



Partial view of the crowd at the pre-Tisha B'Av talk

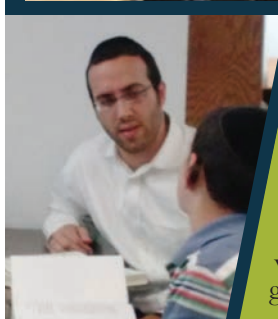
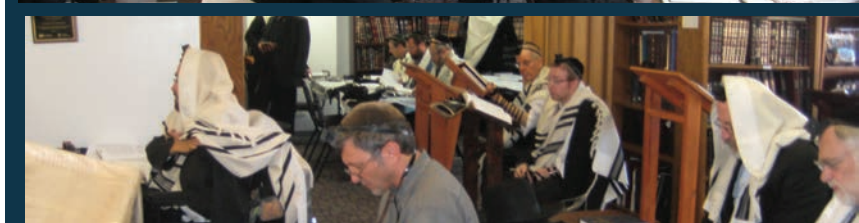
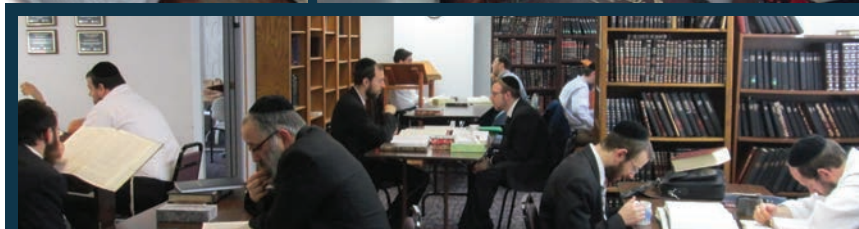
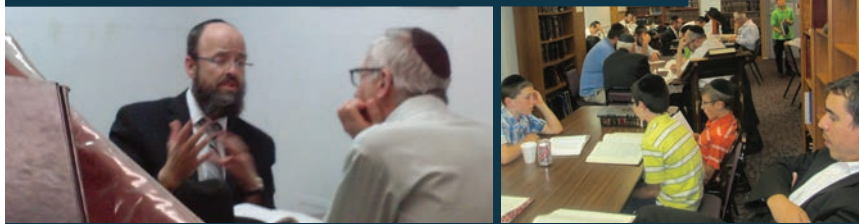


At pre-Tisha-B'Av talk

UPCOMING WOMEN'S DIVISION EVENTS



KOLLEL WEST SIDE BAIS MEDRASH



The Denver Community Kollel has two batei medrash (study halls), the Kollel West Side Bais Medrash and the Southeast Kollel Torah Center.

From these two centers of study, Torah radiates throughout Denver.

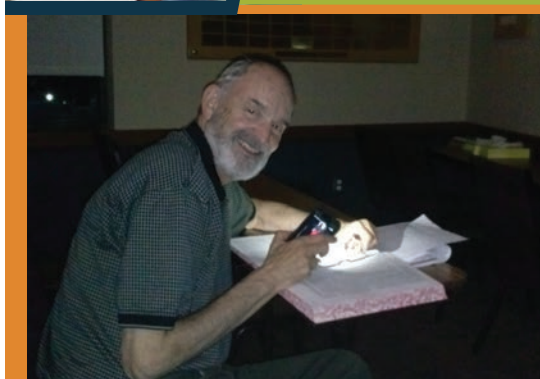
The Kollel holds numerous classes and one-on-one study sessions for Jews of all backgrounds and ages in these two locations – even when the electricity is out! – as well as in other locations in the greater Denver area.



Denver Community Kollel
1516 Xavier St.,
Denver, CO 80204

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KOLLEL'S TWO CENTERS RADIATE TORAH TO ALL OF DENVER



SOUTHEAST KOLLEL TORAH CENTER



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Because Torah is for Every Jew