



# 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.

## MOVING FORWARD AT KOLLEL CELEBRATION ON FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

The longest of journeys begins with a single step, so goes the ancient proverb. For the Denver Community Kollel, that journey began nineteen years ago, and since then, countless steps have been taken, roads have been travelled, new paths have been forged.

As the Kollel prepares for its 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Aish Denver, it is looking forward and moving forward as it continues in its mission of bringing Torah learning, Torah teaching and Torah living to Jews throughout the greater Denver area.

The Celebration is the Kollel's broadest appeal to the community to provide funding for the learning, programs and events it brings to the greater Denver area. "When you help the Kollel, your dollars are

going to support Torah study and Jewish growth in Denver," says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman.

"The theme of this year's event is *Forward*," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "It is a moment to recognize, appreciate and celebrate the progress we have made, with Hashem's help and thanks to the partnership and support of the Denver Jewish community, in building the future of Torah city-wide in Denver."

In particular, the Kollel is celebrating the opening of its new Torah Center in Southeast Denver, along with its new, temporary home in West Denver. (see centerfold for more information on these two new Kollel locations)



## RABBI DANIEL AND ADINA KRAUSZ TO RECEIVE AWARD AT KOLLEL CELEBRATION

The Kollel will present Kollel alumni Rabbi Daniel and Adina Krausz with the Betzalel Award at its 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, in recognition of their vision and efforts in helping Denver's Jewish community move forward, develop and grow.

Rabbi Krausz is the son of long-time Denver residents Ari and Ruthie Krausz and grandson of Dr. Werner and Lucie Prenzlau. Adina Krausz comes from another family with deep roots in Denver; she is the daughter of Avrohom and Rifka Grossman, and the granddaughter of Denver natives Sydney and Adeline Grossman.

"The Kollel has transformed our beloved Denver Jewish community," says Adina, "and we are profoundly blessed to be sharing in its mission of Torah advancement."

"The Krauszes have invested a great deal in continuing the legacies of their illustrious families," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "Reb Daniel's architectural skills have been vital to a number of Jewish institutions here in Denver, and a number of the beautiful community structures built in recent years bear his mark. He has also

been an important part of the Kollel's campaign to create Torah infrastructure in Denver, long before he was engaged as the architect for the future Kollel building, slated to be completed in August 2018."

The Krauszes are actively involved in the recently opened branch of Agudath Israel of Colorado, whose goal is to help develop and grow the Jewish community city-wide.

"In the Torah, Betzalel was the architect who was able to envision the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle), see the potential for a House of G-d, and then make those plans a reality," explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. "The Krauszes, too, have

this unique quality to see the potential latent in the community and to design and develop that vision."

"How lucky one needs to be for one's livelihood to come from working on behalf of the institutions that build and sustain the rich Jewish life we enjoy here in Denver," says Rabbi Krausz. "It's an absolute thrill to help bring the Kollel's capital projects to life."

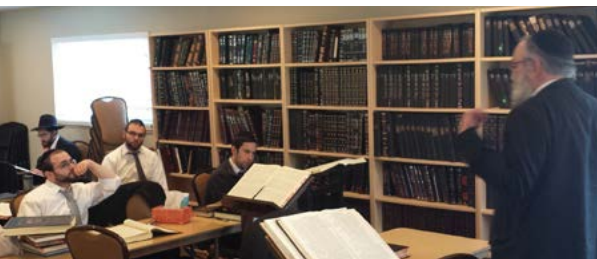
Additional information, reservations and ad placement can be made by visiting [www.denverkollel.org](http://www.denverkollel.org), emailing [info@denverkollel.org](mailto:info@denverkollel.org), or calling 303-820-2855.



# AN INVALUABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCE



(l. to r.) Rabbi Yaakov Zions, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, Rabbi Avraham Dovid Karnowsky, Rabbi Raphael Schnall, Rabbi Eli Mozes, Rabbi Shmuel Halpern and Rabbi Chaim Yeshia Freeman celebrate the completion of the laws of Niddah with a l'chaim



Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers delivers a talk to Kollel scholars



(clockwise from bottom) Rabbi Karnowsky, Rabbi Halpern, and Rabbi Mozes in discussion during Kollel's afternoon seder



Kollel members and other afternoon seder attendees in Skype meeting with Rabbi Micha Cohn

At the heart of a community kollel is the group of scholars who spend their days and nights immersed in Torah study. The Denver Community Kollel has two internal study *sedarim* (sessions), one in the morning and one in the afternoon, where its core group of scholars study Torah with each other. “The Kollel scholars build and cultivate internal springs of Torah during these sessions,” explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, “which then gush forth to the entire community.”

“I was part of an elite community kollel in Cleveland for 9 years,” says Rabbi Raphael Schnall, a rebbe in Hillel Academy. “I moved to Denver this past summer, unsure if I would find a similar kollel to learn in. I was pleasantly surprised after joining the Kollel for second *seder*. Aside from being such a warm group, the level of learning is one of the highest in all of America.”

The Kollel's internal *sedarim* focus on the in-depth study of areas of Torah that are relevant to practical halacha. The scholars completed the laws of *eruv* several years ago, followed by the laws of *mezuzah*. Recently, the Kollel scholars concluded the laws of *niddah* (family purity). In addition, Rabbi Micha Cohn, a prominent halachic authority of Lakewood, New Jersey, conducts a weekly Skype session with the Kollel scholars, addressing relevant halachic questions that arise and providing guidance in deciding practical halacha.

“The subjects we are studying are some of the most complicated areas of Torah and Jewish law,” says Rabbi Sommers. “It is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the Kollel scholars that they not only studied these laws thoroughly, but are also expert in them.”

That expertise is standing the Kollel scholars in good stead. A new stage in the partnership between Aish Denver and the Kollel began in recent months, as Rabbi Sommers, with the support of Rabbi Yaakov Meyer of Aish Denver, has assumed the responsibility of answering halachic questions in the Aish community. The other Kollel scholars are well-equipped to assist him in handling the varied questions of Jewish law that come from all segments of the community. In addition, Kollel scholars Rabbi Eli Mozes and Rabbi Shmuel Halpern have been tasked with ensuring the kashrus of the Southeast *eruv* that allows community members to carry outside of their homes on Shabbos.

“Kollel scholars have been answering questions about Judaism, be they of a factual, philosophical, or halachic nature, since the Kollel's inception,” says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. “But our current group of scholars have reached a new level of expertise in halachic matters. Rabbi Sommers, as well as other Kollel scholars, are ready, able and willing to provide halachic guidance to the Denver Jewish community.”

## MAKING SATURDAY NIGHT INTO MOTZOEI SHABBOS

“It is one of the most popular *shiurim* (lectures) in the world today,” says Kollel Scholar Rabbi Yaakov Zions. “Streamed live in tens of locations with hundreds, if not thousands, of viewers, this ever-growing *shiur* is an amazing phenomenon.”

Rabbi Yisroel Reisman is the rabbi of the Agudath Israel of Madison in Brooklyn, a Rosh Yeshiva (Dean) at Yeshiva Torah Voda's, and the author of several Torah works. His weekly Navi (Books of the Prophets) *shiur* takes place weekly on Motzoei Shabbos (Saturday night) in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. It is broadcast around the world, in dozens of locations. And now, it has come to Denver.

“Rabbi Zions approached me with this idea nearly a year ago,” says Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher. “Rabbi Zions ran with it, and his efforts have been rewarded.” The *shiur* is shown on Motzoei Shabbos in West Denver, and has attracted devoted attendees.

“My wife and I are very happy that the Kollel has enabled us to experience Rabbi Reisman's world-renowned *shiur*,” says Kollel president Rabbi Zev Beren. “It is a first-class Navi *shiur* given by a first-class pedagogue, and the wise advice that Rabbi Reisman gives in his



*shiur* is priceless.”

“I really appreciate the opportunity to attend a truly inspiring and informative *shiur*,” says Devorah Fleisher. “And it's on Motzoei Shabbos, which makes it much easier to get out of the house!”

“This was an opportunity to connect our community with so many others nationwide,” says Rabbi Zions. “In Rabbi Reisman's own words, it has transformed Saturday nights into Motzoei Shabbos, beginning a new week on the right foot. Our first showing had over a dozen participants!”

The opening night for the *shiur* in Denver coincided with Rabbi Reisman's beginning *Sefer Shoftim* (the Book of Judges). As Rabbi Reisman began his talk, he welcomed the new viewers in Denver.

“It is really an honor to be heard in Denver,” Rabbi Reisman wrote to Rabbi Zions later. “Just as we have merited to begin [a new book] together, may we also finish it together!”



# NEW KOLLEL FAMILIES MAKING IMPACT

Since its inception, the Kollel has prided itself on counting top-quality scholars as its members. In the past year, two new scholars and their families have joined the Kollel, settling in the West Denver Jewish community.

Following last Pesach, Rabbi Avraham Dovid and Sara Yehudis Karnowsky arrived in Denver. They were joined by Rabbi Chaim Yeshia and Mira Freeman shortly after Sukkos.

"As soon as I moved here, I realized that there is incredible quality and depth to every person in the Kollel," says Rabbi Karnowsky. "Being a member of the Kollel and the Denver community is a unique privilege!"

Rabbi Freeman concurs. "It is such a pleasure to be a part of such a close-knit Torah community and Kollel with the opportunity to contribute in so many ways."

"Rabbi Karnowsky is someone who creates an immediate connection with people of diverse ages and backgrounds," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "These relationships create all sorts



(clockwise from left) Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers in discussion with Kollel scholars Rabbi Avraham Dovid Karnowsky, Rabbi Chaim Yeshia Freeman and Rabbi Eli Mozes

of opportunities for him to impact the lives of so many people through his learning and teaching."

"Rabbi Freeman's broad range of knowledge makes him a significant resource and addition to the community," continues Rabbi Schwab. "His commitment to his learning and teaching is impressive, and I am confident that more and more people will benefit from him as people discover what a treasure trove they have here in town."

Sara Yehudis Karnowsky serves as secretary at Hillel Academy, while Mira Freeman has taken a position as administrative assistant at Bais Yaakov High School of Denver.

"Both Sara Yehudis and Mira are exciting, dynamic and talented individuals," says Kollel Women's Division Director Esti Schwab. "I am delighted that, in addition to using their abilities to help the Kollel more effectively touch the lives of Jews in Denver, they are also directly involved and making a difference in our schools."

Sara Yehudis Karnowsky appreciates the special quality that Kollel events feature. "I always walk away from Kollel events feeling inspired and rejuvenated!" she says.

"Denver has such a warm, welcoming community," says Mira. "What a beautiful environment in which to raise a family."

The Karnowskys and Freemans, along with Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Zions, comprise the three current Kollel scholar families who reside, with 10 other Kollel families, in West Denver.

Rabbi Zions's impressive breadth of Torah knowledge and dedication to sharing Torah with others has made a major impact



Freeman Family



Karnowsky Family

on the community. Dr. Gershon Rudnick studies with Rabbi Zions weekly at the Kollel.

"Rabbi Zions approached me after my mother passed away, suggesting we learn something in her merit. We study Mishna, and Rabbi Zions is a wealth of information, adding to the simple explanation of the Mishna. He does a wonderful job of giving over difficult material in an easy-to-comprehend way."

"When I study with such a refined *ben-Torah* (Torah personality) like Rabbi Freeman, I am taken back of the years I spent studying in the illustrious Beth Medrash Govoha Kollel in Lakewood, NJ," says Rabbi Yitzky Herskovits, who studies with Rabbi Freeman at the Kollel's nightly learning session.

"Rabbi Karnowsky is very intuitive and easy to talk to, and if he does not know something, he is eager to find out," says Dan Kravitz, owner of Home Again Furniture. "When I learn with him, I never leave empty-handed. He is an asset to Denver and the Kollel."

Broomfield resident Josh Close studies with the Kollel several times weekly, including Sunday mornings and Monday nights with Rabbi Karnowsky.

"I have gained a tremendous understanding of halacha of daily life and fundamentals of Jewish thought from Rabbi Karnowsky, which has impacted our entire family in our growth in Judaism," says Josh. "During the short time Rabbi Karnowsky has been in Denver, I feel that I have found a great mentor and friend, and that the Kollel has gained a great scholar."



Mira Freeman with her daughter Raizy at the Kollel's Dec. 25th Extravaganza



Kollel women (l. to r.) Chani Stern, Sara Yehudis Karnowsky, Sara Halpern, Esti Schwab





# The Next

## SOUTHEAST DENVER: A COMMUNITY TORAH CENTER

This edifice has been in the making for decades. True, the renovations on the Kollel's new Southeast Torah Center, located at 4902 S. Xenia St., only took several months, but it is the product of a community that has seen sustained growth, both in physical as well as spiritual terms, for years. The Kollel has been bringing Torah learning, Torah teaching and Torah living to the Aish community since its inception nineteen years ago, but its involvement moved to a whole new level with the arrival of Rabbi Moshe and Yehudis Heyman and Rabbi Dovid and Faigy Gertz ten years ago.

"Back in 2007, Rabbi Yaakov Meyer and the Kollel Deans had the vision that the Southeast community was ready for the next step," says Rabbi Heyman, who is now Kollel Director. "That vision has been realized many times over, but the opening of this Torah Center is truly a milestone."

The Torah Center has been dedicated by Rabbi Meyer in memory of his father, Rabbi Yissochor Meyer, who passed away in 2015, as well as in memory of his cousin, Rabbi Yissochor Meyer, founder and dean of Yeshivas Hanegev in Israel until his passing in 2011. The Torah Center will be named Ohel Yissochor, (the Tent of Yissochor), a reference to the tents of Torah frequented by

the scholarly tribe of Yissochor mentioned in the Torah.

"It is wonderful that the Kollel now has their own independent Torah Center in Southeast Denver," says Rabbi Meyer. "Anything that increases Torah learning and brings greater honor to Hashem is a wonderful addition to our community, and I wish the Kollel greater success each passing day."

The new Torah Center provides a study hall for Jews to gather and study Torah, attend classes and connect with fellow community members. With an eye on communal needs, the Kollel renovated the rest of the space on the property to serve as a home for Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne and Tzippy Sommers, both of whom are widely respected and much sought-after by community members. Now living adjacent to the Torah Center, they are more accessible to those seeking their counsel and advice.

"Our forefather Yaakov saw a ladder in his dream, stretching from the earth to the heavens," says Rabbi Sommers. "That ladder is a call to all of us to jump on and climb, one rung after the another. The efforts, commitment and dedication of a community focused on reaching ever-higher have made this dream a reality."







## WEST DENVER: TEMPORARY HOME & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. That's how the Kollel came to own a duplex in the heart of the West Denver neighborhood.

"The office building that we called home since our inception was sold to be developed into residential apartments," explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "The Kollel is moving ahead with plans to construct a three-story, state-of-the-art Torah Center in West Denver that will house a spacious Bais Medrash, community outreach center, and Kollel offices. The projected completion of this building is not until 2018, though, and we needed a place until then."

A planned two-year rental fell through, and the Kollel had nowhere to go. "Hashem had other plans for us," says Rabbi Schwab. As he walked down West Denver's 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue on a Friday afternoon, he noticed a For Sale sign at 1395 Wolff St. He dialed the number immediately, and discovered the sign had just gone up.

Kollel alumnus Rabbi Yissochor (Bernard) Steinharter, owner of Highland Properties, advised Rabbi Schwab to put in a bid immediately. "By Sunday, numerous other bids had poured in," recounts Rabbi Schwab. "Rabbi Steinharter's help was invaluable in securing the deal. With Hashem's help, and the assistance of some very generous supporters, we got the property."

But the story doesn't end there. The Kollel had only one month to move, and reliable construction workers are notoriously hard to find in the current Denver market.

Once again, Rabbi Steinharter arranged for a swift, tasteful and professional complete remodel. In four weeks, incredibly, the property was ready.

"We were blessed with a lot of help from Hashem, and the pieces fell into place," says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "We moved in on January 3<sup>rd</sup> - the day the demo crews arrived at our old location!"

The second house of the duplex has become the residence of new Kollel family Rabbi Chaim Yeshia and Mira Freeman. The Kollel Bais Medrash side of the duplex, as well, was designed with the future in mind, ensuring it can be easily converted to a residence once the Kollel's new building is completed.

"The Kollel's recent acquisition of the duplex on Wolff St. is a fantastic opportunity," says Marc Cooper, owner of Cooper Management and Kollel board member. "Not only does the Kollel stop paying rent, now the Kollel has an asset that will pay dividends in the future! More importantly, the double residence is a big first step toward solving the housing shortage for young families."

"I think it's great that the Kollel is investing in properties that will provide it with assets and cash flow," says Jeremy Simblist, who has studied with Mr. Joel Unger at the Kollel during its morning study sessions for the past 14 years. "And of course, the opportunity to move into a new location, though temporary, is very cool."

"The Kollel's new Bais Medrash is warm and inviting - a place that's really conducive to Torah study," says West Denver resident Isaac Kravitz.

"It's very exciting to have a place to call our own," says Kollel Scholar Rabbi Eli Mozes, "a place completely dedicated to the study and dissemination of Torah. I invite everyone to join us in this newly-remodeled, enjoyable Bais Medrash for the next 1½ years. And we are looking to even greater things in the future!"



# WINTER GARDENS WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT 2017



The Denver Community Kollel Women's Division held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Wellness Workshop – Winter Gardens Women's Night Out on Wednesday evening, January 11, 2017 at Cableland.

The event featured keynote speaker Lauren Roth and TEDx-style talks from Adina Krausz, Belina Fruitman and Rochel Goldbaum.

As at all Kollel events, the evening also featured great food prepared by the Kollel women and great camaraderie.

"I loved everything about the evening," said East Side resident Ruth Hyman. "It had all the right elements - a beautiful venue, delicious food, a room full of wonderful people and stimulating speakers. I left at the end appreciating the value of community and the importance of taking care of ourselves so we can be healthy contributors to the growth and maintenance of Klal Yisrael (the Jewish People)."

"This was a first class event!" said Susan Fliegler.

Patty Jo Streltzer agrees. "Great venue, great food, the presentation of the food was beautiful; it was a wonderful evening!"



## DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> JEWISH FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA 2016

The Kollel held its annual Jewish Family Extravaganza on December 25th at the South Suburban Family

Sports Center in Centennial. More than 500 attended the event, which this year was also the first day of Chanukah.





# THE M.B. GLASSMAN FOUNDATION GOLD SENIOR DIVISION



## A NEW SPIN FOR CHANUKAH

The Kollel held Chanukah programs in four senior residences throughout the greater Denver area – at Brookdale Mountainview, Heather Gardens, Shalom Park and Springbrooke. At the programs, led by Kollel families, seniors learned about the Chanukah game of dreidel and got to play, too! Chanukah cookies and Chanukah gelt were enjoyed by attendees, and a candle lighting ceremony, complete with blessings and Chanukah songs, rounded out the festivities.



The Kollel expresses its gratitude to the M.B. Glassman Foundation for renewing its grant for the M.B. Glassman GOLD Senior Division. The vision of the Foundation to begin GOLD over two years ago has been realized, and GOLD's impact continues to grow and make a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors across the greater Denver area.

The Kollel also wishes to thank the Melvin and Elaine Wolf Foundation for its grant for meals at GOLD's weekly lunch and learn program.

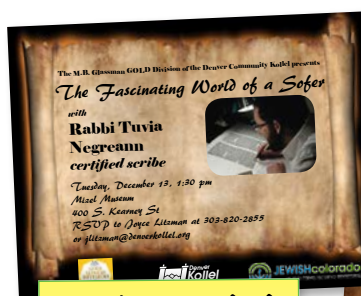
Thanks go out to JewishColorado and the Pluss Family Foundation for their grants to GOLD and its programs, as well.

## LIVE & LEARN SPEAKERS SERIES

GOLD continued its successful *Live & Learn Speakers Series* with three informative and fascinating talks. Mr. William Korn, president of the Temple Beth Israel Foundation of Leadville, discussed the history of the Jewish community of Leadville. Rabbi Tuvia Negreann, a *sofer* (certified scribe) living in West Denver, presented an exploration of the world of a *sofer*, and Kollel Scholar Rabbi Eli Mozes, a certified Mohel, discussed his line of work. Held at the Mizel Museum, these classes attracted anywhere from 15 to 40 participants.



Kollel Scholar Rabbi  
Eli Mozes speaks  
about being a Mohel



Mr. William Korn  
discusses Jewish  
Leadville



# TORAH FOR TYCOONS CELEBRATES ITS BAR MITZVAH YEAR



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Torah for Tycoons is celebrating its 13<sup>th</sup> year of applying the Torah's timeless wisdom to ethical dilemmas that occur in the workplace, and, in recent years, has also focused on ethical dilemmas that arise from current events.

Sponsored by the Harry H. Beren Trust Z.B., T4T has brought the Torah's perspective on modern-day issues to more than five hundred people.

This year's series of T4T classes has featured a number of relevant and fascinating discussions on timely issues, and looks forward to other pertinent topics in the coming months.



The Honorable David Richman making a PowerPoint presentation at November's T4T class on judicial impartiality



Jay Kamlet (left) and Rabbi Fleisher presenting on the status and legal ramifications of corporations at December T4T



Avi Mehler (left) presents on land and mineral rights with Rabbi Fleisher as Marc Cooper moderates at September T4T



Ben Figa (left) discusses governmental conflicts of interest at the February T4T class



## Beneath the Surface The Issues of Mineral & Surface Rights



### Presenters:

Avi Mehler, Land Manager, K.P. Kauffman Company  
Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, Senior Educator, Denver Community Kollel

**When:** Wednesday, September 7, 2016 12-1:15 pm

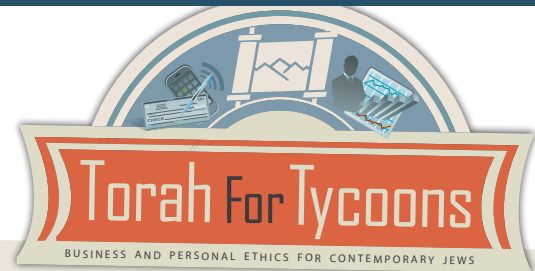
## Above the Law? Maintaining Judicial Impartiality



### Presenters:

The Honorable David Richman, Judge, Colorado Court of Appeals  
Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, Senior Educator, Denver Community Kollel

**When:** Wednesday, November 2, 2016 12-1:15 pm



## Corporation Conundrum



The Limits of Limited Liability

### Presenters:

Jay Kamlet  
Managing Partner, Kamlet LLP  
Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher  
Senior Educator, Denver Community Kollel

**When:** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 12-1:15 pm

## Conflict Resolution

Governmental Conflicts  
of Interest



### Presenters:

Ben Figa  
Asst. City Attorney for the City and County of Denver  
Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher  
Senior Educator, Denver Community Kollel

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017 12-1:15 pm

## Damage Assessment

The Responsibility of A  
Property Owner for Hazards



### Presenters:

Arthur Kutzer  
Managing Partner, Senter Rice & Goldfarb LLC  
Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher  
Senior Educator, Denver Community Kollel

**When:** Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017 12-1:15 pm

## In or Out?

Immigration &  
National Security



### Presenters:

Kenneth H. Stern  
Partner, Stern & Curral LLC  
Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher  
Senior Educator, Denver Community Kollel

**When:** Wednesday, Mar. 1, 2017, 12-1:15 pm



Torah for Tycoons is made possible through a generous grant from the Harry H. Beren Trust

For Men and Women

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