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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 ANNOUNCES EXPANSION

At the heart of the Denver Community Kollel are its community scholars, the young men who devote their days and nights to the study and dissemination of Torah. The impact that Kollel members have on the Jewish community begins with the countless hours invested by these scholars in their Torah studies.

“The Talmud discusses the idea of a city having ten scholars who are devoted to the study of Torah,” explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. “Having a group of ten Torah scholars whose occupation is Torah study creates a completely different spiritual reality in that city, so much so that it has a different status in Jewish law.”

The Kollel is focused on making ten scholars in the *bais medrash* a reality in Denver in the coming years. And the Kollel has taken a big step toward making that happen. After two of its scholars, Rabbi Eli Mozes and Rabbi Yaakov Zions, took positions in the Denver community, two new families, Rabbi Yosef and Bracha Melamed and Rabbi Yitzy and Shira Melamed joined the Kollel. Early this past summer, the Kollel expanded to add a seventh family to its ranks with the arrival of Rabbi Nesanel and Shevy Kipper. (See pgs. 4-5 for more on departures and arrivals of

*Kollel members.*)

In the last few weeks, the Kollel reached a milestone, as it secured funding to bring an eighth family to Denver.

“Mr. Shimmy Glick, a renowned philanthropist in New

York, is a man who believes strongly in the difference Kollel scholars can make on a community through their Torah learning,” explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. “When I spoke to Mr. Glick regarding the Kollel’s Capital Campaign, he responded that he’s far more interested in funding Kollel scholars. He challenged the Kollel

to expand from six to eight families, and committed to underwrite a significant portion of the cost of the eighth family.”

“This is very exciting news for the entire Denver Jewish community,” says long-time West Denver resident Ari Krausz. “Every Kollel family that moves here has made a big difference in the growth of the community, and to have eight families devoted to the Kollel’s mission is a great accomplishment.”



*Welcoming Rabbi Nesanel and Shevy Kipper at Denver International Airport*

## TORAH STUDY FLOURISHES AT KOLLEL SOUTHEAST TORAH CENTER

It marked a new chapter in the growth of the Southeast Jewish community. In March of 2017, the Kollel’s Southeast Torah Center-Ohel Yissochor on the corner of Xenia and Chenango opened its doors. In the year and a half since that momentous occasion, Ohel Yissochor has developed into a true *makom Torah* that is raising the spiritual level of the entire Southeast community as it



*Night seder at Kollel Southeast Torah Center*

*continued on page 10)*



# Innovation Helping Kollel Move Forward

**I**nnovation. It's what drives success. In the modern marketplace, failure to look for and embrace new ways of doing things may well relegate an organization or company to the ash heap, no matter how storied its history.

"Nothing is taken for granted at the Kollel," says Kollel Director of Operations Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher. "We are constantly rethinking how things are done. That's true in all areas of the Kollel, be it programming and events, fundraising, personnel, marketing – you name it. And that attitude is not limited to the leadership of the Kollel. It encompasses the entirety of the Kollel, its leaders, its scholars and associate members, top to bottom."

"The Kollel's ability to be forward-thinking has enabled it to increase its impact, reach more people, create new and exciting programs, create greater financial stability, and meet the challenges of a changing world," says Kollel Board member Mike Weiss. "As a supporter and friend of the Kollel, it is wonderful to see that the Kollel is focused on meeting the evolving needs of the community, of ensuring that the funds they receive are being utilized productively, and that the efforts the community makes on behalf of the Kollel are being maximized to their greatest potential."



## Redefining Donor Appreciation

**M**ore than a decade ago, the Kollel realized that having an annual dinner was no longer the best way to go. That decision led to the creation of its annual Celebration, an event that features a short, impactful program, great food and more time for attendees to schmooze. "We felt that people would appreciate and enjoy this format more than the traditional dinner-style event," relates Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab.



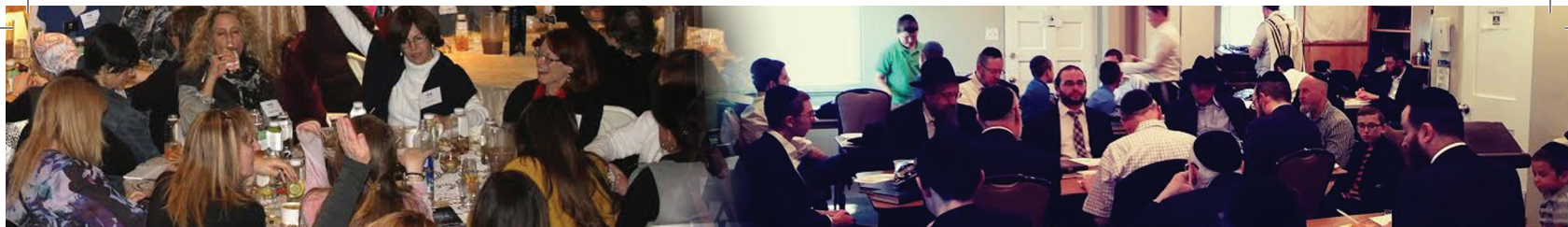
The reboot was widely acclaimed in the community. Its success has led the Kollel, in the past months, to reassess its annual Donor Appreciation Event, or DAE.

"There are so many great things going on in Denver," explains Rabbi Schwab. "As the city grows, the need to respect people's time has come more and more into focus for us. That's why we decided that the time has come to move away from holding a one-size-fits-all Donor Appreciation Event."

"When you hold one event for everyone, it can be tough to cater to what an individual will really enjoy," explains Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "The goal and purpose of the DAE is to express the Kollel's profound appreciation to our friends and supporters. There are so many means to do that, expressions that can be individualized so that every person feels, on a very personal level, that he or she is valued and appreciated for the commitment. Expressing individualized appreciation to a donor will be far more meaningful than a large event for all our benefactors. We care about our supporters, and we want them to feel that. Shifting from the large-scale gathering to smaller, more unique events will provide great opportunity to accomplish that."







## Thinking Different with Crowdfunding

Rethinking its crowdfunding approach helped the Kollel make this year's campaign a huge success. In past years, the Kollel ran its crowdfunding campaign on a third-party platform, which meant paying a commission. When Kollel member Devorah Fleisher, a web developer and programmer, mentioned that she could create a platform that the Kollel could use for its campaign, Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman jumped at the opportunity.

"We want our donors to get the most bang for their buck, and we certainly want the Kollel to do so, as well," says Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "Sure, there was risk factor that the new system would glitch or malfunction, but innovation means taking a reasonable risk."

The new system, after much testing, tweaking, and more testing, worked beautifully, and so did the campaign. With an original goal of \$200,000 - \$50,000 raised that would be quadrupled by generous matchers - the campaign ultimately raised over \$280,000 on the strength of more than 400 donors.

"It was wonderful to see that so many new people, people who aren't regular donors, contributed to this campaign," says Rabbi Heyman. "We saw funds come in, of course, from the greater Denver area, but also from so many other cities across the country and even internationally, from Canada, Israel and England."

## The M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Senior Division Lunch & Learn Relocates

This past year, the Kollel's M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Senior Division Lunch & Learn moved forward by moving. The flagship program of GOLD, a weekly free Lunch & Learn, is the brainchild of Dr. Philip Mehler, president of the M.B. Glassman Foundation.

"The M.B. Glassman Foundation provided significant seed money for the past three years to launch the program," relates Rabbi Fleisher, who leads the program. "But the Foundation wanted to see the Kollel continue the program. And the Kollel certainly felt that a program that has made such a significant impact must continue."

The class had been held at the East Side Kosher Deli for the first three years of its existence. To ensure the future viability of GOLD, the Kollel decided to provide the lunches on its own.

The Kollel reached out to the EDOS Board of Directors, which graciously agreed to have the Lunch & Learn held in its social hall. The Kollel arranged to have lunches prepared and served. Funding was obtained thanks to grants from the M.B. Glassman Foundation, the Wolf Foundation and the Pluss Foundation, as well as through private donations.

There was some initial concern as to how the move would affect the class, but the pieces fell into place, as Payson Bean, who has been attending the class for several years with his wife, Marian, relates.

"Both Marian and I feel that the move to EDOS seemed to work out more smoothly than we had anticipated," says Payson. "We truly enjoy the lectures, the insight, as well as [Rabbi Fleisher's] humor."

"Due to the seating arrangement of both students and [Rabbi Fleisher] at EDOS, we can easily see him and hear the lecture," says Linda Weiss, another long-time participant. "This makes the class much more *heimish* and conducive to learning."

"A big thank you to EDOS, its president and its board members for helping ensure that this vital program is able to continue," says Rabbi Fleisher. "We have much gratitude, as well, to Michael and Marcy Schreiber and now, Shua Horowitz, of the East Side Kosher Deli and his wonderful staff for providing great food and great service for the past three years."

"Of course, we cannot express enough appreciation to Dr. Mehler of the M.B. Glassman Foundation for launching this endeavor and for helping with its funding this year, as well. The opportunity to create a long-term, sustainable program that provides such meaningful and impactful programming to the senior community in Denver is something for which the Kollel is deeply grateful."



## New Positions, New Families



Rabbi Zions supervising at a slaughterhouse in Greeley, CO

### Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Zions

**Years in the Kollel:** Nearly 3 (joined November 2014)

**Current position:** Kashrus coordinator for Scroll K Vaad HaKashrus of Denver. This position entails supervising in local venues, as well as supervision at food manufacturers in other areas, such as Durango and Lamar in Colorado, and Kansas and Idaho.

**How did your years in the Kollel help you prepare for your current position?** The Kollel was instrumental in making the transition to my new position a smooth one. The high level of scholarship of the Kollel members in the *bais medrash*, the many different areas of Torah studied in the Kollel, and the fact that one Torah discussion often led into other areas of Torah and halacha, allowed me to gain a lot of knowledge in many areas of halacha, which has been invaluable in my new field.

**What is your current involvement with the Kollel?** I currently spend my afternoons and evenings in the Kollel when my responsibilities with the Scroll K do not require me to be elsewhere. I am privileged to study with Kollel Dean Rabbi Sommers during the Kollel's afternoon study session, and I teach several classes and study with a number of community members during the evening study session.

During the past year, two Kollel Scholars, Rabbi Yaakov Zions and Rabbi Eli Mozes, took positions in the Denver Jewish community, while three new families, Rabbi Yosef and Bracha Melamed, Rabbi Yitzy and Shira Melamed, and Rabbi Nesanel and Shevy Kipper, joined the Kollel.



Rabbi Mozes engaged in discussion with students of Yeshiva Toras Chaim

### Rabbi Eli and Gitty Mozes

**Years in the Kollel:** Nearly 4 (joined October 2014)

**Current position:** *Sho'el umaishiv* and Director of Student Development at Yeshiva Toras Chaim of Denver. As *sho'el umaishiv*, provides guidance and answers questions for the post-high school students during their morning *sefer* (study session) studies. As Director of Student Development, is responsible for recruiting students for the yeshiva.

**How did your years in the Kollel help you prepare for your current position?** My Kollel experience helped me realize that there is nothing I enjoy more than teaching Torah. The classes I delivered as a member of the Kollel and the *achrayus* (responsibility) for one's organization which I learned there have helped me be successful in my new position.

I am very grateful to the Kollel for bringing me to this wonderful community, giving me four amazing years of personal growth and helping me secure a teaching position at the Yeshiva so that we can remain in Denver.

**What is your current involvement with the Kollel?** I am still giving my bi-weekly *Learn2Learn* class and my boys' Mishnayos class after *shacharis* on Shabbos in Southeast Denver. I have also continued some of the Kollel *chavrusah* (one-on-one learning) sessions begun while with the Kollel.





## Rabbi Yosef & Bracha Melamed *Joined Kollel September 2017*

**Children:** Yisroel Meir, age 3, Nechama, age 1

### YOSEF MELAMED

**Background information:** Denver native (son of long-time West Denver residents Rabbi Shlomo and Esther Melamed), 30 years old

**Studied in:** Yeshiva of Philadelphia, Yeshivas Brisk/Jerusalem (Rabbi Dovid Soloveitchik), Beth Medrash Govoha/Lakewood, NJ

**Thoughts upon joining the Denver Community Kollel:** "Returning home to join such a prestigious institution and settle in such a warm and caring community has truly been a thrilling experience. We feel that we have already gained tremendously from the Kollel deans, Kollel administration, Kollel scholars, and the community at large, during the short time that we have been here."

### BRACHA (FERENCE) MELAMED

**Background information:** Miami native, 25 years old

**Profession:** Sales representative at PPS (Progressive Provider Services)

**Thoughts upon joining the Denver Community Kollel:** "It's a privilege to be part of the warm and welcoming community, and of the Kollel family, where we know we are making such a difference."



## Rabbi Yitzy & Shira Melamed *Joined Kollel May 2018*

**Children:** Freida Nechama, age 3 months

### RABBI YITZY MELAMED

**Background information:** Denver native (son of long-time West Denver residents Rabbi Shlomo and Esther Melamed), 24 years old

**Studied in:** Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Denver, Yeshiva Birchas Mordechai/Jerusalem (Rabbi Yaakov Friedman), Ohr Yisrael (Rabbi Zucker)

**Profession (part-time, outside of Kollel internal study sessions):** Business development manager for e-Legal, the legal division of Insurance Forums, a media company.

**Thoughts upon joining the Denver Community Kollel:** "The Torah Centers in Denver ensure the continuity of Torah in our community. Since Denver had such an impact on me growing up, I feel so privileged to be able to be a part of the Kollel and be part of the Torah learning in our community!"

### SHIRA (TESSLER) MELAMED

**Background information:** Denver native (daughter of long-time East Denver residents Carl and Dr. Heidi Tessler), 23 years old

**Profession:** Web developer/programmer at Achieve 3000

**Thoughts upon joining the Denver Community Kollel:** "Having spent the past year in a big city (New York), I really came to appreciate how special our community in Denver really is!"



## Rabbi Nesanel & Shevy Kipper *Joined Kollel June 2018*

**Children:** Miri, age 3, Chayala, age 1

### NESANEL KIPPER

**Background information:** Baltimore native, 28 years old

**Studied in:** Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Lakewood (Rabbi Slomowitz), Yeshiva Gedolah of Monroe, Yeshivas Ner Moshe/Jerusalem (Rabbi Shalom Schechter), Beth Medrash Govoha/Lakewood, NJ

**Thoughts upon joining the Denver Community Kollel:** "I am very excited to join the Kollel and be part of the extraordinary Torah growth occurring throughout the Denver community."

### SHEVY (STEFANSKY) KIPPER

**Background information:** Lakewood, NJ native, 24 years old

**Profession:** Social work case manager

**Thoughts upon joining the Denver Community Kollel:** "I feel really fortunate to be joining a community that is so warm and welcoming. We're excited to become a part of such a special place."



# Kollel Building Campaign: City Permitting Process Nearly Complete



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The Kollel Building Campaign continues to move forward. Following the Groundbreaking Event in March (*see back page for more*), the City of Denver is reviewing the architectural plans for the purpose of issuing permits.

Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Daniel Krausz of Design Develop Architecture has invested much effort in creating the building plans and procuring the necessary permits. “The Kollel’s temporary home is bursting at the seams,” says Rabbi Krausz, “so it is gratifying to report that the City permitting process is mostly

complete and the site has been prepared for construction.”

“At the Groundbreaking, renderings for the different parts of the building were unveiled,” says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. “Those rendering have generated much excitement for the beautiful Torah Center they herald. If you walk by the site on Zenobia St., you may not see a lot happening right now. But soon, those renderings will burst forth into a Torah Center that will change the Torah landscape of Denver.”





# Torah for Tycoons Joins the Air Force



As Torah for Tycoons - or, as it's known colloquially, T4T - concluded 14 years of changing how people think about business ethics and current events, a new vista opened in the program's history.

Captain Chaim Shmuel "Ziff" Stitzer has been a member of the Air Force for six years. He's been stationed at a number of bases across the country, most recently Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB) outside Shreveport, LA, before he was assigned to Buckley AFB two years ago. Captain Stitzer is always on the lookout to create opportunities for fellow Jews to connect with their heritage. After attending several Torah for Tycoons classes and presenting one himself, he realized that T4T would be a great way to bring Torah study to Jewish personnel at Buckley.

After much back-and-forth, bureaucracy and banging out of details, Captain Stitzer organized an event for June 21. The East Side Kosher Deli delivered a sumptuous spread (several gasps were heard in the room when it was announced that it is the only kosher deli in Denver) for participants to partake of. This unique T4T program featured Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher presenting a Torah perspective on issues of gun control.

"Thank you to Rabbi Fleisher and the Denver Community Kollel for spearheading what will hopefully become a monthly Lunch & Learn on base. This is the first time in known Buckley history that there's been a chance for steady Jewish programming, and I cannot overstate

the difference this can make in the lives of Jewish service members and civilian team members on base who may not otherwise be involved with Jewish life."



Rabbi Fleisher teaching at Buckley AFB

"Kudos to Captain Stitzer for sticking with this and making it happen," says Rabbi Fleisher. "Now we just need a good name - perhaps Mesorah for Military would work. I look forward to having more events and bringing more Torah to Buckley!"

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Learn-A-Thon

The Denver Community Kollel held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Learn-A-Thon on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, one week before Shavuot. Men and boys were given a *daf* (folio) of Tractate Beitzah or Mo'ed Katan to learn, while women studied a prepared curriculum as part of a group led by Mrs. Miriam Joseph. A *shiur* for younger boys was given by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, as well.

Following the learning session, a *siyum* (completion ceremony) was held. Following the *siyum*, participants celebrated with music and dancing, followed by refreshments in honor of the *siyum*.





# Kollel Expertise in Halacha Benefits Community

Torah encompasses all parts of Judaism, and the different topics that can be studied within Torah reflect that breadth. Kollel members study a diverse range of Torah subjects, from *Tanach* to Talmud, *mussar* to mysticism, prayer to parsha, and share that Torah knowledge with the community.

In recent years, the Kollel has seen an increased focus on one area of Torah that has great relevance to the daily life of every Jew: halacha, or Jewish law. “The Kollel holds two daily internal sederim (study sessions), first seder in the morning and second seder in the afternoon,” explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, who leads the sessions. “First seder is devoted to in-depth study of the Talmud and its commentaries. Second seder focuses primarily on the study of halacha. This doesn’t just refer to studying the bottom line of what the law is in a particular case. It means going through the sources, beginning with the Talmud, to the medieval commentators, the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law), and the more recent halachic authorities. It’s not a simple process, but the final result is a clear, thorough understanding of the law, its structure, and its practical application.”

Kollel scholars have studied numerous areas of halacha, such as Shabbos, kashrus, eruv, and mikvah, to name a few. “All of the Kollel scholars are knowledgeable in halacha, at varying levels of expertise,” says Rabbi Sommers. “They have studied and reviewed many *simanim* (sections) of Shulchan Aruch with its commentaries and have a high level of proficiency in them.”

The Kollel scholars have taken their knowledge to the next level, undergoing rigorous testing from Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood, which is known for its demanding level of examination. Kollel Scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpern received *semicha* (ordination) from Beth

Medrash Govoha several years ago. Other Kollel scholars are working toward receiving their *semicha*, and have already been tested in many areas of halacha by Beth Medrash Govoha.

Knowledge of halacha alone, though, is not enough to answer practical questions. To be able to serve as a source of guidance, one needs *shimush*, training in hands-on application of halacha. To that end, the Kollel scholars have a weekly Skype session with Rabbi Micha Cohn, a halachic authority in Lakewood, NJ who has authored works on practical halacha. These meetings provide the opportunity for discussion of practical application and how to deal with halachic issues and challenges that arise in the subject matter being studied.

The expertise of the Kollel scholars has been put to good use in the community. In Southeast Denver, following the departure of Rabbi Zev Pomeranz two years ago, Rabbi Yaakov Meyer of Aish Denver asked Rabbi Sommers to assume responsibility for answering halachic questions. Rabbi Sommers regularly fields queries on every area of Jewish law, and he also ensures the kashrus of the eruv and mikvah at Aish Denver. Kollel scholars are regularly asked halachic questions by community members, as well.

Rabbi Sommers is in conference with prominent halachic authorities across the United

States, and he shares his knowledge and experiences with the Kollel scholars, helping them hone their skills in practical application of halacha.

“Our scholars are proficient and available to answer halachic questions,” says Rabbi Sommers. “The Kollel is proud and excited with the advances made by its members during these years in becoming capable sources of guidance in every area of Jewish life.”

*Rabbi Sommers can be reached for halachic inquiries at 720-940-8962.*



*Kollel members, with Mikvah USA representative Rabbi Nachman Horowitz, inspect the new mikvah at Ohr Avner in Aurora.  
l. to r., Rabbi Eli Mozes, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, Rabbi Avraham Dovid Karnowsky, Rabbi Nachman Horowitz, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Ohr Avner President Mr. Ruben Bachayev, mikvah construction worker*



*First seder in Kollel Bais Medrash*



*Receiving shiurim from Rabbi Micha Cohn via Skype meeting*



# Kollel Joins New Live On/Life & Legacy Initiative

Financial sustainability is not about having enough for the here and now, it's about putting a structure in place that will provide for the future. Planned giving is a superb way to create that structure. That's why, back in 2006, the Kollel joined Rose Foundation's Live On initiative, a program created to help local Jewish organizations secure their futures through estate gifts. During the ensuing dozen years, the Kollel secured more than 20 commitments from its supporters.

Last year, Rose Community Foundation announced a new phase in its Live On program. Live On is partnering with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring its tested national curriculum, LIFE & LEGACY™, to the Greater Denver/Boulder Jewish communities. LIFE & LEGACY is in 51 other communities throughout North America and promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit Jewish organizations. This new partnership emphasizes stewardship and formalization of legacy gifts and promotes a collaborative solicitation approach that strengthens the community as



**LIVE ON**  
BUILD YOUR JEWISH LEGACY  
An initiative of ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

a whole.

The Kollel is one of 28 local organizations that have been accepted to participate in this new initiative, and efforts to secure commitments are already well underway. A number of commitments have already been obtained, and secured, conversations are taking place with people interested in the long-term success of the Kollel.

"This initiative is available for everyone, regardless of age or financial ability," explains Simmy Sonstein, a member of the Kollel's Live On team. "This is about leaving a legacy that will continue to impact Denver Jewry for years to come, for future generations.

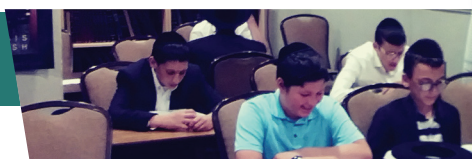
That impact is made with a small amount or

a large amount – so long as you are interested in securing the future of Denver's Jewish community, this is relevant to you!"

For more info, visit [denverkollel.org](http://denverkollel.org) or contact Rabbi Moshe Heyman at [rmb@denverkollel.org](mailto:rmb@denverkollel.org) or 323-333-0953,

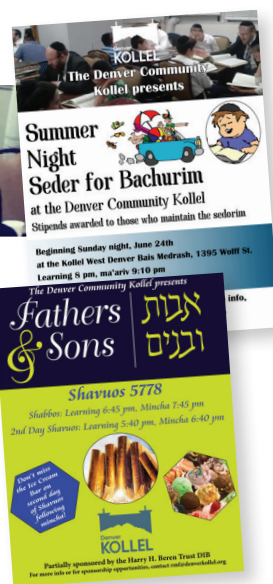
## Boys' Learning at the Kollel

The Kollel once again offered its two highly-successful learning programs for boys in West Denver. The Kollel's Fathers & Sons program, which began with the shift of the clock to Daylight Savings Time and runs until Rosh Hashana, takes place on Shabbos afternoon. It features learning followed by refreshments and raffles for exciting prizes. On the second day of Shavuot, a special ice cream bar featuring numerous



flavors of ice cream, toppings and cones was offered following the learning session.

Summer Night Seder for Bachurim began when school ended. Boys from the community are invited to learn nightly at the Kollel's night seder. Refreshments are provided, and a weekly monetary stipend is awarded to boys who attend consistently.



## Torah Study Flourishes at Kollel Southeast Torah Center CONTINUED FROM COVER

echoes with the sound of learning day and night.

"This *bais medrash* is so much more than a night seder (study session)," says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "People come to learn at all times of day – in the morning, on a day off, on Shabbos afternoon. The community has created a reality where Torah study is not just an hour of the day well-spent, but rather an engagement that is a constant presence in a Jew's life."

"My rebbi Rabbi Chaim Mintz (*mashgiach* [spiritual guide] of the Yeshiva of Staten Island) came to Denver for the *chanukas habayis* (opening) of the Torah Center," recalls Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. "During one of the talks he delivered, Rabbi Mintz noted

that a *makom Torah* (place of Torah study) adds great *kedusha* (sanctity) to the entire surrounding area, reaching all members of the community, regardless of their spiritual level.

"I myself did not fully realize at the time how prescient those words were. But it is now clear that this *bais medrash* has become an integral part of the entire Jewish community."

"When stepping into the *bais medrash*, it truly feels like a *makom torah*," says Rabbi Mordechai Tzvi Rotstein, kashrus coordinator for the Scroll K of Denver. "It's a place where everyone feels at home and is welcome to come study and grow. These days, the *bais medrash* seems busier than ever. It truly enhances the neighborhood."





# Chavrusah Connection

A column focusing on a chavrusah-study partnership at the Denver Community Kollel

## Marc Cooper, President, Cooper Development

“Studying one-on-one is a special experience,” says Marc Cooper, President of Cooper Development and a member of the Kollel’s Board of Directors. “It allows questions and conversations that cannot be had in a group class setting.”

“Marc and I are both curious people with broad interests,” says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. “Our chavrusa learning has enabled me learn a great deal, both from the texts we have studied as well from Marc.”

Rabbi Schwab and Marc Cooper have been studying together weekly for nearly two decades. They are currently studying *Derech Hashem* (The Way of G-d), a classic work by the famed 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italian ethicist and Kabbalist Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato.

“Marc values and respects the knowledge and values imparted by the

Torah,” says Rabbi Schwab. “He knows a lot about the world, and he feels that the Torah sheds light on it.”

The weekly study sessions have led to other areas of influence in the lives of the two men.

“Learning with the Kollel over the years has deepened my connection to my Judaism,” says Marc. “One result was our family’s decision to send our children to Denver Jewish Day School.”

“Marc has provided invaluable advice and insight in many aspects of the business and administration side of the Kollel,” says Rabbi Schwab. “In addition to serving on the Kollel’s Board of Directors, he is also on its Capital Campaign committee, and his acumen has been quite helpful in helping develop our building plans.”

This dynamic pair look forward to studying together “until we are both old,” says Rabbi Schwab. “It’s been a great experience,” says Marc. “I’ve learned a lot.”



Marc Cooper presenting at Torah for Tycoons with Rabbi Shachne Sommers in 2005



I. to r., Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Yissochor Steinharter, Marc and Rabbi Schwab



Rabbi Schwab and Marc studying at the Kollel Learn-A-Thon in 2017

## Project SEED Comes to Aurora

This past summer, the Bukharian community of Aurora experienced a spiritual boost as they hosted Project SEED. An initiative of Torah Umesorah, Project SEED sends Torah scholars to communities across the world during their summer break. These scholars make a significant impact upon the community that hosts them as they study and interact with community members.

The Aurora Project SEED was a joint effort of the Kollel and Ohr Avner of Aurora. Spearheaded by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, Ohr Avner vice president Abo Simanov and Ohr Avner member Yehuda Aminov, Project SEED brought Torah scholars Rabbi Yakov Meir Baruchov and Rabbi Eliyahu Ohayon to Aurora for the final week of July. They, along with Rabbi Dovid Araiev, rabbi of Ohr Avner, and Rabbi Uri Nahum, a prominent rabbi and Torah teacher in the Syrian Jewish community in Brooklyn, offered numerous Torah study opportunities and events for all segments of the Bukharian Jewish community.

While the Kollel has been holding a weekly Torah learning program,

*Sunday Night Wisdom*, at Ohr Avner for several years, Project SEED brought Torah study to a whole new level, and the community came out in force to the many Torah classes and events held both in private homes and at Ohr Avner.

“We are very excited to have hosted such a spiritual learning program,” says Abo. “This is the first time that we held such a program. It was a great opportunity to experience the Kollel world at a new level, to see what it feels like to be immersed in the world of Torah, 24/7.”

“Ohr Avner Beit Knesset had great success with Torah Umesorah’s SEED program,” says Yehuda Aminov. “The community has taken the initiative to make Torah a part of their lives.”

“We saw a week jam-packed with learning for all ages, a Shabbaton that attracted more than 150 people, and a wonderful Sunday Night Wisdom program with the Denver Community Kollel members that was attended by more than 60 people to top off the week. It was an amazing week, and we hope that this growth will continue and that Torah will be an integral part of the lives of the community members.”



I. to r., Ohr Avner Vice President Abo Simanov learning with Rabbi Eliyahu Ohayon



Rabbi Yakov Meir Baruchov listening to a question at a SEED learning event



Scroll K Kashrus Administrator and Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Elchonon Joseph teaching during one of the numerous SEED learning programs



I. to r., Rabbi Elchonon Joseph, Rabbi Yaakov Zions, Rabbi Dovid Araiev, Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, Rabbi Yakov Meir Baruchov, Rabbi Moshe Heyman, Yehuda Aminov



# Denver Community Kollel 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Groundbreaking



Denver Community Kollel  
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More than 250 members of the Denver Jewish community gathered on the evening of Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> for the Denver Community Kollel's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Groundbreaking. Included in the standing-room-only crowd were 30 of the Kollel's 32 current and past scholars, including ten alumni who flew to Denver for the momentous event. Other attendees came from all parts of the greater Denver area, from all walks of life, from varied backgrounds. But they had one thing in common: The recognition that this evening was one not to be missed, as they celebrated two decades of the Kollel's *harbatzas Torah* (spreading Torah) in Denver with a groundbreaking for the Kollel's Torah Center.



Groundbreaking  
March 6, 2018



Denver Community Kollel  
www.denverkollel.org • 303-820-2855