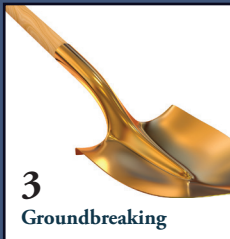
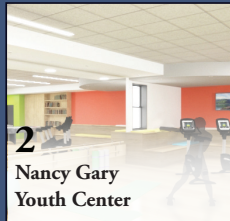


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20 Years of Impact

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 to Celebrate 20 Years of Eternity on March 6th

Eternity can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people. For a child, the final days of school before vacation seem like an eternity. An intense moment can stretch for eternity. Judaism, though, has a very different view of eternity.

"Hashem is eternal," explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. "The Torah, His wisdom that He has shared with us, is eternal. And we not only touch eternity, but share in and incorporate that eternity into ourselves when we conduct our lives in a way that includes Hashem and his Torah."

"Twenty years of bringing Torah to Denver Jewry has tapped into eternity," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "People who were born after our arrival in Denver are getting married and building families. A generation of children who grew up in an environment of Torah that the Kollel had a role in creating and nurturing are now passing their values to their children. The *mesorah* continues, it moves toward the future. The eternity of Torah is inextricably linked with the eternity of the Jewish People."

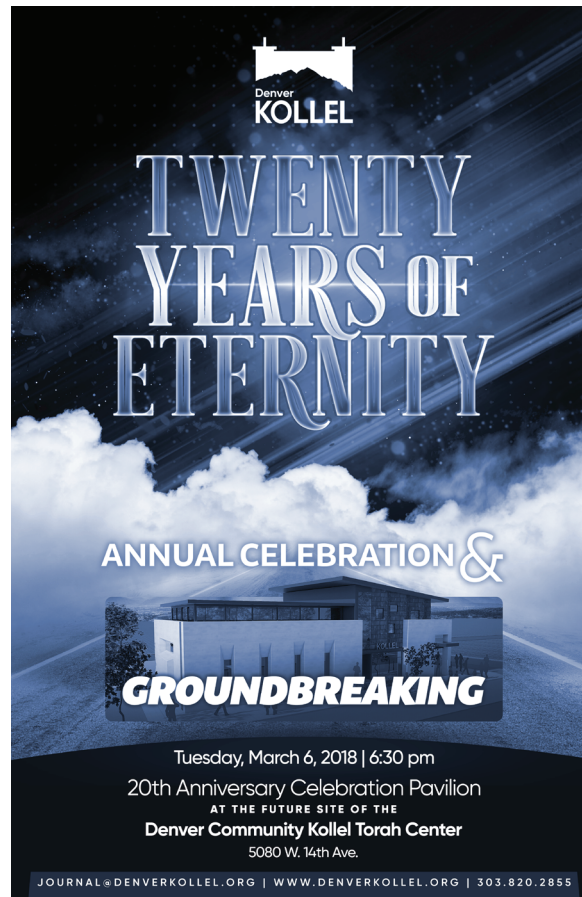
"My family and I have benefited greatly from the warmth and friendship that the Kollel has shown us," says Graeme Bean, owner and CEO of AlphaPage. "The Kollel has contributed significantly to the growth of *Yiddishkeit* (Judaism) in the Denver community over the last 20 years."

The Kollel will celebrate 20 years of Torah eternity on March 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm with a groundbreaking event for its 3-story Kollel Torah Center. (See page 3 for more on the Groundbreaking Event.) The event will take place

in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Pavilion at 5080 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., site of the future Kollel Torah Center. "Our Sages teach us that synagogues and *batei medrash* (study halls) will, with the advent of the Messianic Era, relocate to the Land of Israel along with the Jews as they return from the Diaspora," says Rabbi Sommers. "This building, then, is certainly an appropriate expression of the eternity of Torah and the Jewish People. As we celebrate 20 years, we look back and express our profound appreciation to Hashem for the opportunity to have a part in that eternity."

"The consistency that the Kollel represents in study, in-depth Talmud classes, seminars, holiday programming, customized programming for both groups and individuals,

and, of course, their friendship, has enriched my life and my family's life," says Mike Weiss, CEO of LCM Property Management. "Through the leadership and scholarship of the Roshei Kollel (Kollel Deans) and the Kollel Scholars, the Jewish community has access to our entire Jewish heritage. I can't even imagine what Jewish life would be like without them."





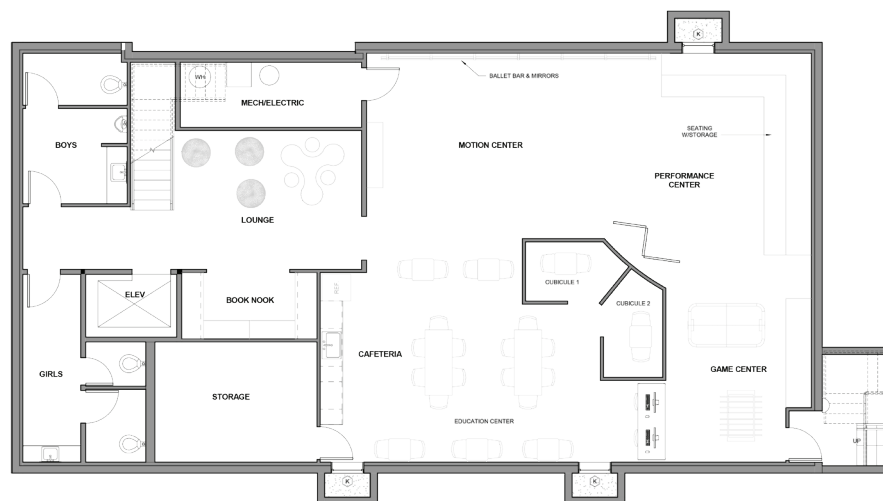
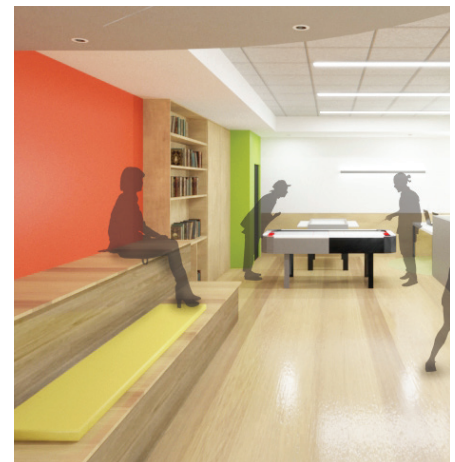
## Nancy Gary Youth Center



The Kollel is excited to announce the dedication of the Nancy Gary Youth Center.

This dynamic Center will cater to the needs of Jewish children and families across Denver and will occupy the concourse level of the new Kollel building. It will play a key role in building the Denver Torah community that has seen much growth in recent years. The Nancy Gary Youth Center will feature the resources and tools that children need to develop into healthy, productive adults who are enthusiastic about their Judaism and dedicated to carrying their heritage into the future.

The Youth Center will include a children's library, exercise center, youth lounge, and spacious cafeteria, among other features and attractions.





## Constructive Destruction

The Talmud discusses a concept that one who destroys for the purpose of creating in its place is engaged in construction, not destruction.

It would be difficult to find a better illustration of this idea than the events of Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. On a sunny day on the corner of

W. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Zenobia, space was created for the construction of a state-of-the-art, three-story building that will be home of the Denver Community Kollel. A large, yellow excavator demolished the small structure that had stood on the land for decades. beginning the process of constructing the future Kollel Torah Center.



Getting started



Clearing the rubble



Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab (r.) and Jeff Weiskopf

## Kollel Celebrating 20 Years with Groundbreaking for Torah Center

The term “groundbreaking,” apart from referring to “breaking ground,” has come to mean something new, exciting and revolutionary.

The Kollel Torah Center groundbreaking, apart from referring to “breaking ground,” also means something new, exciting and revolutionary.

Jeff Weiskopf, a Monsey, NY resident, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at White Eagle Property Group, LLC, and serves on the Board of Governors of Beth Medrash Govoha, the largest yeshiva in North America. He has been involved in numerous successful Torah building campaigns across the country. Jeff is deeply committed to and invested in the Kollel’s current campaign.

“This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a new era in the building of Torah in Denver,” says Jeff. “As we break ground, as this building begins to go up, the excitement and momentum for Denver’s great Torah future will build, as well.”

“The Kollel Torah Center being constructed will serve as a major wellspring of Torah between the major Jewish communities of Chicago

### ANNUAL CELEBRATION &



and Los Angeles,” says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. “From a spacious *bais medrash* (study hall) and learning lounge to welcoming classrooms and a dynamic youth center, as well as many other features and amenities, the Torah Center will be a beacon for Jews throughout Denver to gather and connect with each other and their traditions.”

The event will be graced with the presence of out-of-town Kollel alumni who are returning to Denver to be on hand and take part in this momentous occasion, including Rabbi Mordechai Mandel, who relocated to Cleveland in 2013. Rabbi Mandel currently serves as a congregational rabbi and Torah teacher in a local Jewish day school. “Who would have thought, back in 2013, that we’d be celebrating a groundbreaking for such a center of Torah and *yiddishkeit*?” says Rabbi Mandel. “It is thrilling to see the Kollel growing and thriving.”

The groundbreaking will feature an address from Rabbi Yaakov Meyer, founder and leader of the Aish Denver community. “Rabbi Meyer has been a true visionary in Denver for decades,” says Rabbi Heyman. “Our joint efforts in building a Torah community have enabled us to spread Torah to many parts of the greater Denver area.”



It has defined a generation. Twenty years ago, the Denver Community Kollel opened its doors. Kollel scholars and their families would live in the community. They would meet, interact, bond with Jews of all types, ages and backgrounds. And so it was. Community members welcomed Kollel families. Torah was studied. Friendships were formed.

Time moved on, the Kollel forged ahead, Torah continued its inexorable march forward. Lives were changed. Families transformed. Communities elevated to new heights.

Denver would never look back. Denver would never be the same. Torah, the eternal wellspring of spiritual nourishment and growth, had made its mark. Twenty years later, Torah study and Torah living have become part of the culture of the Denver Jewish community.

The Kollel and the community now prepare to construct a Torah Center, sowing the seeds that will ensure a Torah community in Denver for future generations. **In the coming pages, we share a glimpse of the past 20 wonderful years of Torah learning, Torah teaching and Torah living in Denver.**

# 1998

Denver Community Kollel is founded



# 1999

Partners in Torah begins



# 2000

Women's Division is formed



First Jewish Family Extravaganza



# 2001

Formal outreach division is created



# 2002

Torah Learning Center is founded in East Denver



# 2003

Maimonides Fellowship Program for college students is launched



# 2004

Torah for Tycoons is established



# 2006

Beyond 9 to 5 for women is created



# 2007

Kollel expands to Southeast Denver



# 2008

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated



# 2009

Boulder outreach begins



Learn 2 Learn is created



# TWENTY OF ETE



# 2010

Rosh Kollel Rabbi Shachne and Tzippy Sommers and a third Kollel family relocate to Southeast Denver



# 2011

First Kollel JWRP mission to Israel



# 2012

Legal Holiday Learning series now takes place in three locations across Denver



# 2013

First Winter Gardens Women's Night Out



# 2014

Inaugural event for Southeast Kollel Torah Center graced by Beth Medrash Govoha Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Malkiel Kotler



Kollel restructures; Rabbi Moshe Heyman is Kollel Director and Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher is Director of Operations and Senior Educator



# 2015

Sunday Night Wisdom begins at Ohr Avner Community Center in Aurora



The M.B. Glassman GOLD Senior Division is created



# 2016

Capital Campaign is launched



First Learn-A-Thon held



Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Akiva and Chani Stern relocate to East Denver



# 2017

Ohel Yissochor/Southeast Kollel Torah Center opens

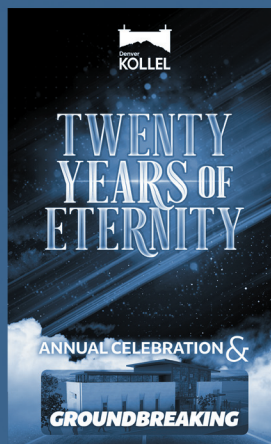


Purchase of duplex in West Denver; one unit serves as a temporary bais medrash



# 2018

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated with groundbreaking



# Y YEARS ERNITY



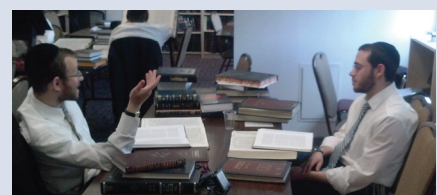
## 20 Years of Nurturing the Flame Within

**T**he Torah shared by Kollel scholars and their families is developed and nurtured during the Kollel's daily internal study sessions. During morning and afternoon sessions, Kollel scholars study Torah in-depth. Why are these study sessions so important to the success of the Kollel? In the words of Rosh Kollel (Dean) Rabbi Shachne Sommers (penned in *Kollel Connection* of Winter 2013):

*The Talmud tells us that Rav Sheshes would review all of his Torah learning every thirty days. Following the review he would say to himself, "Rejoice, my soul, rejoice, my soul - for you I have learned." The Talmud then questions this statement: Is Torah learning merely beneficial to the soul of the learner?! The entire world benefits!*

*Answers the Talmud: It is true that Torah study benefits the entire world. Nevertheless, initially, when a person learns, he learns in order to benefit himself.*

*The true dynamo of Torah is the Torah that lives and burns within the person himself and then spreads outward. This is the expression of the true essence of Torah - the Torah of oneself.*





## 20 Years of Creating a Torah Environment

**M**aimonides teaches that one must expend great effort to live in a positive, spiritually uplifting environment. For 20 years, the Kollel has been creating such an environment through a wide variety of Torah classes, study groups and Torah-inspired events that cater to all Jews, regardless of their background or level of learning.





## 20 Years of Chavrusah Torah Study

Our Sages tell us of the unique bond formed by two people studying Torah together. It is not merely a more efficient way of discovering new information together; it is a process of creation. One-on-one chavrusah study has always been an integral part of Torah study, and during the 20 years since the Kollel's arrival, many hundreds of Jews throughout Denver can attest to the wonderful experience of studying with a chavrusah.





# Chavrusah Connection Bruce Heitler

Countless Jews have studied Torah with the Kollel during the past twenty years. But how many of them can make the claim that they have studied with the Kollel for the past twenty years?

Bruce Heitler can. A successful real-estate developer and Denver native, Bruce and his wife, Dr. Susan Heitler, are devoted lifelong-learners, especially when it comes to Torah study. Bruce has studied Torah with Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers for nearly twenty years.

"I was introduced to Rabbi Sommers by [Kollel Dean] Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab shortly after the Kollel was founded, about twenty years ago," recalls Bruce. "I invited [Rabbi Sommers] to attend a long-standing study group that met at our home."

Over the years, the group has studied a variety of Torah subjects, from Talmud-based studies of subjects like dreams, repentance and charity, to the *mussar* work *Orchos Tzadikim*; from sections of the Rambam's Mishneh Torah to the Ramban's commentary on the Torah, from the Alshich's commentary on Psalms to examining timely and relevant halachic dilemmas.

"Bruce devotes a huge amount of time to Torah study," asserts Rabbi Sommers, "both in his office and at home. He is a brilliant man with a very wide range of knowledge on seemingly every conceivable subject. He is also an out-of-the-box thinker who has a unique perspective on many issues."

Those praises notwithstanding, Bruce humbly recognizes that for all he has studied, there is far more left to discover.

"I have been nourished by a long drink from the well of Torah, and I doubt if I have made much of a dent in the available water supply. I



Bruce and Dr. Susan Heitler at Kollel Dinner in 2005



With Rabbi Sommers and Marc Cooper at Torah for Tycoons

am learning to aspire to the achievement of my maternal great-grandfather, about whom it was said that a day never passed when he did not speak words of Torah."

As is often the case, the Torah studied has led to personal relationships well beyond the four walls of the *bais medrash* (study hall).

"My family and I have become close friends with Bruce, his wife Susan and many of their children and grandchildren," says Rabbi Sommers. "We have also become close friends with many members of the study group over the years."

The very different backgrounds and perspectives from which Rabbi Sommers and Bruce come could well have impeded their ability to study together. But the opposite has occurred – it has been the impetus for growth in their Torah knowledge.

"Rabbi Sommers has been a model of Torah-observant Judaism, strong and vulnerable, flexible and strict, traditional and innovative," explains Bruce. "His knowledge of Jewish texts and tradition is encyclopedic. He is gentle, open, good-humored and encouraging. Yet, sometimes, he is strict, disciplined and urgent to reject assertions that are incompatible with the traditional point of view. He is generous and courageous about sharing personal stories

and advice that he has received from his own teachers."

"Bruce has great respect for Torah and the oral tradition of our Sages," says Rabbi Sommers. "Studying with Bruce and his group has given me the opportunity to articulate the Torah viewpoint on a wide variety of subjects to highly intelligent people. This experience has opened up new vistas of insight to me in many areas of Torah."



Rabbi Sommers studying with Bruce Heitler in 2013



With Rabbi Sommers at Kollel Celebration in 2013



# TWENTY YEARS OF ETERNITY

## 20 Years of Impact in Denver

"I have always been inspired by the *hasmada*, diligence, in learning there. It is a positive, happy and warm place to learn. Learning is the only agenda."

– Jeremy Simblist,  
Investor



"For us as a young couple, the Kollel is an ever-present source of *chizuk* and connection as we navigate the secular world."

– Rivka Crystal,  
Cardiac Sonographer



"The Kollel has brought numerous young families to Denver and have done a terrific job of moving them into our community. Both my wife and I learn with Kollel members. We have grown through these relationships and look forward to our respective *chavrusas* every week."

– Andy Kark,  
Owner, M.Z. Kark and  
Associates Inc.



"My life has been immeasurably enriched by the great privilege of regularly studying with [Kollel Scholar] Rabbi Halpern. Through these studies, I have gained valuable insights, profoundly influencing my perspective, values and daily actions."

– Ken Weil,  
Principal of Social Impact Solutions;  
Board Member of State Board for Community  
Colleges and Occupational Education

"I always look forward to the Rabbi Fleisher's classes, which bring the depth and beauty of Torah to life for me and many other women who attend. Thank you Denver Kollel for enabling us to deepen our understanding of the Torah and how it applies to us today through the lessons that we learn."

– Elisheva Hoffman,  
Homemaker



"I love seeing the Torah [study], I love seeing the young men studying... I'm happy to be here and see it and... be a part of it"

– Sandy Schiff, Capital Campaign  
Committee Member

"The Kollel has a great impact on the greater Jewish community of Denver as well as individual families by providing fun and inspiring programming. For the past few years the Kollel has provided great learning opportunities for my wife and myself. The learning we were doing with the Kollel rabbis and rebbetzins many days a week provided us the right knowledge, everyday advice, and inspiration to grow in our Judaism."

– Josh Close,  
Lead Systems Integrator, Samsonite



"The Kollel provides an opportunity for everyone in the Denver Jewish Community, regardless of one's background or skill level, to partake in the study of Torah."

– Avi Mehler,  
Land Manager,  
K.P. Kauffman  
Company, Inc.





# TWENTY YEARS OF ETERNITY

"Learning at the Kollél has affected my life like a million dollars affects a homeless man. I have learned so many things, most of which I use on a daily basis. My connection with Judaism has never been closer."

– Mendel Boxer,  
Motivational Speaker;  
Barista at Starbucks  
Coffee



"I am so grateful to my dear friend Esti Schwab and all of the Kollél rabbis and families who give of themselves tirelessly to connect with all of us, educate our community, and offer themselves as a resource with no judgment."

– Mimi Pomeranz, M.A.,  
Certified Parenting Coach,  
MSP Peaceful Parenting  
Coaching



"The Kollél has brought many wonderful *yungerleit* to the community, a number of whom I have had the pleasure of studying with. The fine *yungerleit* of the Kollél have not just added to our community, they have integrated into and become part of the community. It is wonderful to see that so many have remained here and taken jobs and positions after their time in the Kollél."

– Daniel Kravitz,  
Owner, Home Again Furniture



"The Kollél brings accessible education and Torah study to many people, and it invigorates the community by bringing young families to Denver headed by young rabbis eager to teach in the community as well as furthering their own study. I've studied one-on-one with a number of Kollél Rabbis and have learned a great deal. The Kollél is one of my family's main charitable beneficiaries as we believe in the Kollél, and most importantly its people like Rabbis Schwab, Sommers, Erlanger, Fleisher, Heyman, etc.! The Kollél has helped my connection to my Judaism deepen and helped to inspire us to send our children to Jewish day school."

– Marc Cooper, President, Cooper Development

"The Sunday night class [held at Ohr Avner Bukharian Synagogue] is just amazing! I look forward to it every week. Seeing my favorite people and learning with them; what could be better? The Rabbanim and all their wisdom and insights just make this class all the more perfect."

– Avi Koinov, Member of a new generation of Bukharian Jews



"Our lives have been enhanced through our association with the Kollél. Among the various programs, I especially enjoy the weekly [M.B. Glassman Foundation] GOLD Lunch & Learn led by Rabbi Fleisher. This program has enabled me to gain greater insight into the fundamentals of Judaism. Thank you to the Kollél for its efforts in educating the community to understand and appreciate what it means to be a Jew."

– Patty Jo Streltzer, Attorney



"I have grown tremendously from my learning and friendship with the Kollél families. They provide a beacon of inspiration to my family and me with their warmth, kindness and selfless dedication to the community. In a busy world with many potential distractions, this helps me maintain my focus on what is really important in life."

– Dr. Marc T. Avner, Pediatrician



"The Kollél has opened up a whole new world of study to me that I barely knew about... Awareness of the greatness and depth of thought and knowledge of the great Sages in Jewish history has humbled me and awakened my desire to learn more. Hey, if Rabbi Akiva could do it, why can't I at least try?"

– Dr. Clifford A. Bloch, Pediatric Endocrinologist



# 20 Years of Torah for Youth



Denver Community Kollel  
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**W**hen Pharaoh had his back up against the wall following the plague of hail, he made an offer: The adults could leave to worship G-d, but the children must stay.

Pharaoh understood an important idea: If the children cannot serve G-d, the Jewish People would never rise to become G-d's Nation, for if there is no future through our children, there is no hope.

The Kollel emphasizes Torah for all ages, from young children to adolescents and teens to young adults. No matter the stage of life, the Kollel has helped ensure that the next generation will carry on the flame of Torah with pride and dedication.



Denver Community Kollel  
[www.denverkollel.org](http://www.denverkollel.org) · 303-820-2855