

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew



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Ten Years - An Impact Beyond Measure *Milobskys, Wedgles to Chair 10th Anniversary Celebration on March 25*

"Ten Years – An Impact Beyond Measure" is the theme of the Denver Community Kollel's upcoming 10th Anniversary Celebration, reflecting the Kollel's profound impact over the last decade on both the overall Jewish landscape in Denver, and on thousands of individuals seeking to make Judaism an integral part of their lives.

The event, to be held on Tues., March 25, 2008, at the Red Lion Hotel in Denver, will be chaired by Dr. Michael and Ariella Milobsky and Howard and Nurit Wedgle.



Celebration Chairs Dr. Michael and Ariella Milobsky.

"This tenth anniversary is an opportunity to look back and appreciate what the presence of the Kollel has added to our community, not only in terms of enriching the community at large, but in terms of the profound impact that the Kollel has made on the lives of individuals and families all across Denver," says Dr. Milobsky.

Howard Wedgle agrees.

"The benefit of the Denver Community Kollel to the Jewish community is something to truly be grateful for," he says. "The Kollel has given hundreds, if not thousands, of Jews the opportunity to learn Torah and gain a better understanding of the Jewish faith."

Over the last decade, the Kollel's scholars have dedicated themselves to advancing their own Torah study, and then sharing their knowledge with community members via classes, one-on-one study and outreach programs.



Celebration Chairs Howard and Nurit Wedgle.

"'Torah study at its highest levels,' writes Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, 'is the strongest spiritual force that exists,'" says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. "It is this unique energy that the Kollel shares with the Denver Jewish community."

Since its founding in February 1998, the Kollel has developed numerous educational and outreach programs for men, women and children, many of which have become institutions in the Denver Jewish community.

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AJF Pres. Doug Seserman on 'Anonymous Giving' at Feb. 6 T4T

To give charity or not to give charity? That *wasn't* the question at the Feb. 6 Torah for Tycoons – but rather *how* to give charity. Doug Seserman, President and CEO of Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado joined Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab for "Anonymous Giving: Is it the highest form of charity?"

Mr. Seserman made the case for giving donations in one's own name.

"When you make a gift in your own name, you act to inspire that behavior in others, who might not do it if they don't know their friends are," he said.



(l. to r.) AJF Pres. Doug Seserman, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab and Marc Cooper at the Feb. T4T.

In his presentation, Rabbi Schwab cited Maimonides' eight levels of tzedaka. He explained that the third level of anonymous giving doesn't apply often in today's society because much of contemporary giving is done through

organizations, and "to hide your name would not save the recipient from any shame," said Rabbi Schwab.

What should motivate someone to give a donation anonymously? Rabbi Schwab cited the reasons of humility – mitzvos done privately are on a higher level, and the need not to become arrogance.

But despite this, if a person would end up giving more tzedaka if his name would be publicized, one should publicize his gift, he said. He pointed to Nazir 23 that says that a person should do mitzvos even not for their altruistic sake, because "this will bring you to do

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'Torah Learning Keeps the World Standing'

Dr. Ken and Karin Sherman Katz recently made a bequest to the Kollel through its Live On program to support what the Kollel does best – Torah study.

"Torah learning keeps the world standing and we want to support it," says Dr. Katz, a pediatrician and mohel. He and his wife, Karin, live in Englewood, and are the proud parents of Joel, 24, and Morissa, 22, and grandparents of Gabriel, 7 months.

Why a bequest to the Kollel in particular?

"The Kollel represents pure Torah learning to benefit all Jews, regardless of affiliation," explains Dr. Katz.



Kollel Live On bequest gives Dr. Ken and Karin Sherman Katz want to support what the Kollel does best - Torah study.

He adds that he sees the bequest as a way of giving back to the Kollel for all the years of "beloved Torah learning" with the Kollel rabbis, particularly [alumnus] Rabbi Chaim Mandelbaum.

And he says his family's connection to Torah study and to the Kollel is so strong that he wants that connection to continue even after his passing.

"It is our dream," he says, "to create an endowment fund to perpetually fund the work of future Torah scholars."

The Katzs join Dr. Marc and Dale Sievers, Rabbi and Mrs. Zev Beren, Marc and Amity Cooper, Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab, Bill Goldsmith, and two anonymous donors as members of the Kollel's Live On Legacy Society.

To learn more about Live On and the Kollel's bequest givers, please visit www.denverkollel.org or call the Kollel at 303-820-2855. ❧

Spirited - and Spiritual - Singing at Kollel Kumzitz

Some 50 community members joined the Kollel for an inspirational *kumzitz* on Motzaei Shabbos, Feb. 2, at the home of Drs. Nathan and Rachel Rabinovitch in east Denver.

The *kumzitz*, literally "come, sit" in Yiddish, featured spirited singing, good food, and a chance to schmooze with the Kollel scholars in an informal setting.

Bar-El Leffler, a labs system



Jewish music 'lifts the soul' at Kollel kumzitz.

administrator at a software and hardware company, said he came to the *kumzitz* because he's a fan of Jewish music.

"I like hearing Jewish melodies that are not normally heard," he says. "The *kumzitz* is a good time to hang out and listen to some tunes that you may not have heard before."

For Scott Tené, owner of a real estate investment, management and brokerage firm, the *kumzitz* is also about using that good Jewish music as a means of drawing closer to G-d.

"There is something indescribable about being with a group of friends, our voices praising [Hashem] in beautiful harmony, in a way that lifts the soul to new heights," he says.

"There are so many paths to growing closer to G-d. Kollel events [like the *kumzitz*] are the expressway." ❧

AJF Pres. at T4T

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them for their [altruistic sake]."

Rabbi Schwab presented two other benefits for giving money publicly: By causing someone else to do a mitzva, that's greater than a person doing the mitzva on his own (Bava Basra 9a); and leaving behind a legacy, such as putting a name on a building, is a Jewish concept (Responsa of Rashba Vol. 1:581).

"Before we donate, we need to realize that it is ultimately up to us. It is a balance," concluded Rabbi Schwab. "All things being equal, according to the sources, there are more reasons to give publicly than privately."

To hear this class online, or read a summary, visit www.denverkollel.org

Sol Leftin, President, Leftin Investments, joins Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers for "Throw the Bum Out! The ethics of foreclosures, evictions, and miselading mortgages," on Wed., Feb. 6, at noon at East Side Kosher Deli. ❧

Ten Years

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These includes the one-on-one Partners in Torah study program, in which well over 300 individuals have participated since 1999; Torah for Tycoons, the business ethics series for

business professionals that has drawn nearly 250 men and women since 2004, and several weekly Torah study classes that have become fixtures at their respective locations.

"We are very proud of our accomplishments over the last decade,"

says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "We are looking forward to making an even greater impact in the years to come."

To RSVP or place a journal ad, visit www.denverkollel.org or call 303-820-2855. ❧