

# THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew

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## Kollel to Honor Abrams, Kutzers at March 10 Benefit Event

The Kollel will honor Dr. Dan Abrams and Sharon Pincus Abrams, and Art and Cheryl Kutzer, at its 12th Annual Benefit Event, to be held Wed., March 10, 2010, at Mile High Station.

The Kollel will once again hold a benefit event in place of a dinner so that participants and supporters at all levels can attend. General seating is \$75 per person, and reserved seating is \$300 per couple, which includes a greeting in the event journal.

The theme of the event is "The Power of Integrity: Elevating Ourselves, Our Community and Our World." It will also feature "Tastes of the World," an international array of light hors



Oheiv Torah Awardees Art and Cheryl Kutzer.

d'euvres, prepared by the Kollel women.

The Kollel will honor the Abrams with its Community Leadership Award.

"We are honored to have been chosen as honorees this year," says Dr. Abrams. "The Kollel is a group of special people committed to the fundamental Jewish values we hold dear. They live – and teach – those values every day."

Dan, born and raised in the Midwest, has a bachelor's degree from University of Chicago, and a medical degree from Vanderbilt University. He is a psychiatrist at Rose Medical Center and at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Abrams also develops medication for underserved patients with diseases of the brain, and serves as Assistant Clinical Professor in Psychiatry and Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado.

Sharon, born in New York City and raised in Nashville, TN, has bachelor's and master's degrees from Wesleyan University. She is on



Community Leadership Awardees Dr. Dan Abrams and Sharon Pincus Abrams.

leave from her career in business and real estate to raise the couple's three children, Elaine, Matthew and David.

Both Dan and Sharon have taken leadership roles in the Jewish community since their college days. Most recently, Sharon has served on the board of CAJE, and Dan has served on the board of Hillel of Colorado. They are members of Kohelet and Hebrew Educational Alliance.

The Abrams have been involved with the Kollel for nearly a decade, with both having attended study groups led by Kollel Deans Rabbi Shachne Sommers and Rabbi Aron

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## 'Jewish Togetherness' at Children's Extravaganza on Dec. 25

It was cold and icy outside, but at the Funtastic Fun Indoor Amusement Park, the air was warm with laughter and camaraderie as hundreds of Jewish families joined together for the Kollel's Annual Jewish Children's Extravaganza



(l. to r.) Kollel Outreach Director Rabbi Yehuda Amsel with Alon Mor and Ed Ferszt.

on Fri., Dec. 25.

The event featured unlimited rides, arcades, and kosher food, as well as challah braiding just in time for Shabbos.

Most of all, it gave young Jewish families the opportunity to enjoy the day in each other's company and feel good about their shared Jewish heritage.

"For over a decade, the Extravaganza has given local families a fun day in a Jewish environment," says Esti Schwab, Director of the Kollel's Women's Division. "Jewish togetherness is what it's all about."



Marc and Amity Cooper with Dash, 4, and Miel, 15 months, with the Kollel's Esti Schwab (r.).

The facilities were generously sponsored by Dr. Nancy Gary, and several families took advantage of free tickets through MazelTot, a Rose Community Foundation grant initiative to connect young families to Jewish life and to each other. 

# Beginner's Gemara Class Completes Tractate Kesubos 'Every Night Is Inspirational, Every Night Is Interesting'

On Wed., Dec. 23, a group of men who have dedicated nearly every Monday and Wednesday night for over a year to the study of Meseches Kesubos, marked the completion of the Talmudic tractate with a gala siyum.

Celebrants were Hank Brandon, Kerry Berman, Chuck Michaels, Dan Peckman, David Solomon, Matt Walles, and Mike Weiss, all of whom participate in the twice-weekly Beginner's Gemara class held at Aish Denver and led by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Avraham Abrams.

At the siyum, Rabbi Abrams praised the group for their commitment to Torah study.

"When a person wants to grow, and he comes to learn again and again, that's when a person really grows," said Rabbi Abrams.

"The reason why we learn is not for our own benefit," he added. "But if a person puts efforts into his learning, the learning will pay him back as well."

The Gemara class is an outgrowth of a *chavrusa* between Rabbi Abrams and Chuck Michaels.

"Every night is inspirational,



(l. to r.) Rabbi Avraham Abrams, Chuck Michaels, Mike Weiss, Dan Peckman, Matt Walles, Kerry Berman, Hank Brandon and David Solomon celebrate the completion of Tractate Kesubos at a gala siyum on Dec. 23.

every night is interesting, and being able to learn twice a week with a whole bunch of other people who all chime in, we all learn a lot from each other," says Chuck Michaels.

Dan Peckman agrees, "I look forward to Mondays and Wednesdays the whole week because of this class."

Many participants expressed their excitement at completing the tractate, and credited Rabbi Abrams with helping them achieve this monumental goal.

"I feel very honored and privileged," says Matt Walles. "I couldn't have done it without Rabbi Abrams."

According to Mike Weiss, Rabbi Abrams is a "tremendous teacher. He's insightful, exciting and energetic."

"He's willing to accept questions, and to go into depth when we need to go into depth," adds David Solomon.

When asked how the class affects daily life, Chuck Michaels summed it up best:

"I think it's subtle," he says. "When you are not even thinking about it, things spring up, and you think of something [you learned] a week ago, a month ago, a year ago. It's really very enjoyable to see that happen." 

## Kollel to Honor

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Yehuda Schwab. Dan has also learned one-on-one with Rabbi Sommers for the last five years.

"Dan and Sharon have demonstrated their love of Torah both through their personal Torah study and their strong financial support of the Kollel," says Rabbi Sommers. "My wife and I are proud to count them among our close friends."

The Kollel will honor Art and Cheryl Kutzer with its Oheiv Torah Award.

"We are both honored and humbled that the Kollel has chosen to recognize us," says Cheryl Kutzer.

"The Kollel has had a great impact on our family because of our

growth as Jews, but perhaps more importantly from the role models provided by the Kollel Rabbis and their wives," adds Art Kutzer.

Art, a native of Miami, FL, earned his law degree from University of Denver. He is a partner at Senter, Goldfarb and Rice.

Cheryl, a Denver native, has a bachelor's degree in management from University of Northern Colorado. She devotes her time to caring for the couple's three children, Leya, Ari and Aaron, and enjoys a wide range of volunteer work.

The Kutzers are active members of Aish Denver, where both have served as board members. Cheryl has worked on, and chaired, numerous fundraising events, including two annual dinners

for Aish Denver. They also support and volunteer for Yeshiva Toras Chaim.

In addition, Cheryl had held many school PTO positions, and currently serves as volunteer coordinator for Herzl/RMHA. She has also started a mother/daughter charter group in Denver for Jewish Women International.

The Kutzers have both studied in the Kollel's Partners in Torah program for many years. Art also enjoys attending Torah for Tycoons, and participates in weekly learning opportunities offered by the Kollel-Aish scholars.

"We are proud to honor this special couple, who, with their kindness and sincerity, is a great example of how a contemporary family can grow Jewishly," says Rabbi Schwab. 