

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL

KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew

January 2015/Teves 5775

Donor Appreciation Event 2014

The Donor Appreciation Event isn't a typical name for an event. Then again, the Denver Community Kollel is anything but typical. And as the Kollel continues to provide Denver's Jews with innovative and exciting opportunities for Torah study and growth, its events also continue to intrigue and energize Denver's Jews.

The Kollel's Annual Donor Appreciation Event, or DAE, was held this past September 30th at the home of Dr. Mickey and Susan Gordon in Greenwood Village, and those who attended didn't leave disappointed.

"The Donor Appreciation Event was a very nice event," said Scott Alpert, president of Alpert Homes, Inc. "Great people, great food, and a wonderful institution!"

The DAE, which helps the Kollel obtain funding for its work in Denver, is an opportunity for the Kollel to express its gratitude to its supporters and friends. But it's a lot more than that, says Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, the Kollel's

Director of Community Education.

"It's the beginning of a new year, and the DAE really gives us at the Kollel a chance to share our hopes and dreams with those who have helped make those hopes and dreams into a reality for sixteen years."

And the Kollel had a lot of exciting news to share. Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers announced that the Kollel was bringing two new families to Denver (see article); Rabbi Shmuel and Sara Halpern would be settling in the Southeast, while Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Zions would be living on the West Side. Rabbi Sommers thanked all those who had helped the Kollel add two new families. "We are only one family away from our pre-recession numbers for the core group of Kollel scholars!" he said.

And while the DAE is the Kollel's chance to thank their friends, it also gives people the chance to express their support and appreciation for the Kollel. "Thank you for all that you do for the community!" said Scott Alpert.

"This is a wonderful event," said George Gumbiner, president of Marathon Investment Management. "But even more beautiful is the Torah study that the Kollel brings to Denver!"



Kollel Scholar Rabbi Yossi Kaplan addresses the crowd



l. to r.: Sandy Schiff, Ronald Schiff, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab

Torah Study for All Ages

Torah study is not limited to any age; whether you're 9 or 99, there's something for you to learn, no matter your level of expertise or experience.

During the past several months, the Kollel has seen considerable expansion in Torah study for seniors and children.

This past August, the Kollel received a grant from the M.B. Glassman Foundation to launch the M.B. Glassman GOLD (Golden Opportunity Learning Division) Program, dedicated to bringing Torah study to senior members of the Denver Jewish Community. Since then, the Kollel has launched

a weekly lunch-and-learn program for retired or semi-retired men and women at the East Side Kosher Deli, as well as a weekly opportunity for children to visit residents at Shalom Park. A number of other programs and initiatives are in the works, as well. "The GOLD Program allows the Kollel to reach out to Jews who are

Torah Study for All Ages (cont. from front side)

eager to connect with members of the community and to study Torah and grow in their Judaism in all stages of life," explains Director of Operations Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher. "We thank the M.B. Glassman Foundation for providing us with this golden opportunity."

Meanwhile, the Kollel continues to offer quality Torah study opportunities to boys in the community. This past Sukkos, the Kollel partnered with Dirshu International to offer Dirshu's Kinyan Halacha for Bochurim program. The program provided materials for bar mitzvah-aged boys on the laws of Sukkos, and was followed by a test that offered stipends for a passing grade. Approximately twenty boys signed up for the program, and

a number of them took the test.

Following the success of the boys' night seder program during summer vacation, Rabbi Yossi Kaplan has initiated the Night Seder for Young Bochurim, an extra-curricular program for boys in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The program, which takes place on Sunday nights at the West Side Kollel Bais Medrash, provides a framework in which middle school boys can break into the Bais Medrash setting in the Kollel environment while gaining valuable Torah knowledge not normally covered in the standard school curriculum.

The program's success on the West Side has led new Kollel scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpern to begin the program at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center, as well.

"It's late at night, after a long day, but the boys are really into it," says Rabbi Kaplan. "This night seder is an enjoyable, enriching program for all involved." 



Chazzan Zecharia Kutner making a point to Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher



Rabbi Yossi Kaplan teaching at Night Seder for Young Bachurim

Two New Families Join the Denver Community Kollel

The Kollel excitedly welcomed two new families, the Halperns and the Zionses, into its ranks following Sukkos.

Rabbi Shmuel and Sara Halpern and their son, Eliyahu Simcha, aged 22 months, arrived in Denver on October 26th. They have settled in the Southeast community, where three current Kollel families and several Kollel alumni already reside.

On November 2nd, Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Zions and their two children, Bassheva, 3 years old, and Avraham, 18 months, landed at Denver International Airport. They are living on the West Side, joining the many other past and present Kollel families who are already living there.

Both Rabbi Zions and Rabbi Halpern had been learning at Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood prior to their move, and both couples participated in the Ner Le'elef program, a course that offers

training for those who have an interest in going to out-of-town kollelim, the Rabbinate, or outreach. Rabbi Moshe Katz, who heads the Ner Le'elef program, was instrumental in bringing the Halpern and Zions families to Denver.

The arrival of these families has generated excitement both within the Kollel and in the general community. "We are looking forward to continued growth at the Kollel, and to the greater impact the Kollel will have on the Denver Jewish community, with the addition of these two wonderful families," says Rosh Kollel Rabbi Shachne Sommers.

Rabbi Halpern looks forward to the potential of his new position in the Kollel. "Being a part of the Kollel is a very nice opportunity to be in an environment of *lilmod ule'lamed*, studying and teaching Torah," says Rabbi Halpern.

Rabbi Zions is also excited to be part of the Kollel. "The Kollel is a great place to interact with, and bring Torah to, fellow Jews while expanding my own breadth of Torah knowledge." 



Rabbi Shmueli and Sara Halpern



Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Zions