

# THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew

June 2008 - Sivan 5768

## Guest Lecturer Brings Extra Inspiration to Shabbaton

More than 80 men, women and children joined the Kollel and West Side community for a Shabbos of inspiration on May 30-31 at the biannual Kollel/West Side Shabbaton.

And while once again, participants said they enjoyed the opportunity to experience an authentic Shabbos on the West Side, meet new people and visit old friends, many said guest lecturer Rabbi Chaim Mintz added an extra dimension of inspiration.

Throughout the Shabbaton, Rabbi Mintz, Mashigach at Staten Island Yeshiva and head of the Oorah outreach organization in New York,



Phil Weiser (l.) and Dr. Heidi Wald hosted a Sunday lecture, "Bringing Judaism into our Kids' Lives" with Rabbi Mintz, in their Denver home.

shared his knowledge of, and love for, Torah with Jews of varied backgrounds in both group and individual settings. His afternoon class for women on the topic "Facing up to our Challenges" drew over 40 participants.

Leslie Fox, a social worker from Broomfield, said she was impressed by Rabbi Mintz's "amazing level of *achdus* [sense of Jewish unity]."

"[He said that] he knows he would not be able to do what he does without the *kedusha*, holiness, of Jews around the world, and that together, we are each able to do what our individual mission is because we are part of the [Jewish people]," she said. "[I found that] very uplifting."

The inspiration continued on Sunday, when Rabbi Mintz delivered two lectures on Judaism and parenting.

At the first, "Be Prepared: Helping Your Child and Teen Through Challenging Times," at Aish/Ahavas Yisroel, Rabbi Mintz tackled several tough issues, including at-risk youth and sending young teens to far-off



Shabbaton Guest Lecturer Rabbi Mintz on the topic "Helping Your Child and Teen Through Challenging Times" at a Sunday lecture at Aish/Ahavas Yisroel.

yeshivas, before an audience of more than 30 men and women.

"I found Rabbi Mintz's insights helpful and inspiring," said Jody Walles, a member of Aish/Ahavas Yisroel.

She added that Rabbi Mintz's statement that parents should develop their own love of Judaism so their children "will see our joy and happiness in our service to Hashem, which is the most powerful tool we as parents possess,"

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## Mizel Family Dedicates Denver Edition of Visionaries Encyclopedia

The Kollel is pleased to announce that Larry and Carol Mizel have generously dedicated the Mizel Family Denver Edition of the Visionaries of Greatness Encyclopedia.

At the Mizel Museum Annual Dinner on May 29, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab presented a copy of the Encyclopedia to Mr. Mizel and thanked him for his generosity.

The Visionaries of Greatness Encyclopedia is a handsome, coffee-table edition of Ethics of the Fathers by renowned artist and scholar Yona Weinrib. It was developed by a group of Kolllels throughout the country in



Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab presents Larry Mizel with the Mizel Family Denver Edition of the Visionaries of Greatness Encyclopedia.

tribute to those who have made Kolllels a priority in their philanthropic giving,

especially in today's tough economy.

"This book is dedicated to those who support the Kollel movement, which is giving life to the Jewish people by facilitating Torah learning and living for America's Jews," says Rabbi Schwab. "We greatly appreciate Larry and Carol Mizel's generosity in dedicating the Denver edition, and their support of our efforts to promote Jewish learning and Jewish life in our community."

The Kollel will be distributing the Mizel Family Denver Edition of the Encyclopedia to its donors of \$1000 or more throughout 2008, its 10th Anniversary year. 

# 'Transparency & Disclosure' at T4T Season Finale

An investor is about to invest a large sum of money in your product when you suddenly receive word that it may not work as well as you had expected. Do you need to say anything?

This scenario was reality for Dr. Daniel Abrams, a drug developer, who presented this dilemma at the June 4 season finale of Torah for Tycoons, "Transparency & Disclosure: What – and how much – must one disclose in a high-risk and reward entrepreneurial environment?"

To address this question, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers quoted the Talmud Chulin 94A which says that a person may not withhold information that another person is entitled to, whether actively or passively.

Citing the Code of Jewish Law, he added that a seller must disclose a defect in his product to the buyer.



(l. to r.) Dr. Daniel Abrams, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers and Marc Cooper at the Torah for Tycoons season finale, "Transparency & Disclosure."

"Buyer beware is not the Torah approach," he said.

There are, however, exceptions to this rule. Again citing the Code of Jewish Law, Rabbi Sommers said that although one may not, for example, mix Grade A apples with Grade B apples and pass them all off as Grade A, one is allowed to mix "inferior wine with superior wine" and sell it as superior wine in a place where "it's a universally accepted practice for wine buyers to

taste the wine before they buy it."

"[A buyer] would have no right to have expectations, since it's universally [accepted] that you check it out yourself," he said.

Rabbi Sommers then applied this to Dr. Abram's case, saying the same is true if the information is the kind an investor would typically search for and find on his own.

"It would not be Dan's responsibility to disclose that information, because if they want that information, they can get it themselves," he explained.

Rabbi Sommers concluded that the Torah's principles for disclosure are complex and need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

*Mark your calendar for fall! Classes will be held on Sept. 3, Oct. 6, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3. Details to follow. ❧*

## Jewish History Series Replete with Lessons - and Meaning

Why study Jewish history? As any Jewish history teacher will tell you, "Lest it repeat itself."

More than 20 women attended a three-part Bais Yaakov for Adults Jewish History Series in May to learn the vital lessons that are inherent in the history of the Jewish people.

The classes, given by Beth Jacob High School for Girls General Studies Principal Esther Melamed, focused on "The Land of Israel: The Middle Ages Until the Founding of the State," and "The Period of the Judges and Ruth."

For Rhoda Reiss Pitler, a member of Aish/Ahavas Yisroel, one lesson

that came to life is G-d's promise to the Jewish people that the Land of Israel "will endure."

"We must do what Hashem asks, or we will lose the land," she says.

Janice Fellner, a teacher at DAT and Hillel Academy, adds that while she has learned Jewish history before, these classes helped her "connect the dots and understand the subtleties of the meanings."

"I am always asking 'What is it that Hashem wants of me at this time?' The classes for me clarify and direct me to understand more specifically that which Hashem is truly asking for me to do," she says.

Both women also say they attended the series because Mrs. Melamed has so much to offer.

"Mrs. Melamed loves Jewish history and her enthusiasm is contagious," says Mrs. Pitler.

"Mrs. Melamed is a jewel of a teacher," adds Mrs. Fellner. "Whatever material is presented, Mrs. Melamed brings it to life." ❧

## Guest Lecturer

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was particularly meaningful to her.

At the second event, "Brunch & Learn: Bringing Judaism into Our Kids' Lives," held at the home of Kollel Advisory Board Member Phil Weiser and Dr. Heidi Wald, Rabbi Mintz gave practical guidelines for accomplishing this goal to about 20 young parents.

"The class was a great opportunity to reflect on a critically important topic – bringing Judaism into our kids' lives – and learn from a great teacher, Rabbi Mintz," said Mr. Weiser.

For his part, Rabbi Mintz said he was inspired by members of the Denver Jewish community.

"The many people that I met were genuinely friendly and warm," said Rabbi Mintz, reflecting on his visit to Denver.

"Above all, I was especially moved by [community members'] eagerness to advance in Torah learning and *Avodas Hashem*, service of G-d," he said. ❧



The Bais Yaakov for Adults Jewish History Series provided insight into the past - and the present.