

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew



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Well Worth the Trip to Boulder

It's not often that you see the dark-suited, black-hatted figure of a Kollel rabbi on the streets of Boulder. But for the last several months, the Kollel's Rabbi Moshe Heyman has become a regular presence on Tuesday nights on Balsam Avenue, at Boulder's Aish Kodesh.

Rabbi Heyman has been teaching "Bereishis: From the Beginning," an interactive class on the fundamentals of Jewish belief. Participants say the Kollel rabbi is a real draw.

"I grabbed the opportunity to learn with other interested students and a Rabbi with a deep, traditional Yeshiva training who could guide us," says Matthew Finberg, a Boulder attorney.

Aish Kodesh Member Dwayne Jones agrees.

"[I have] a constant hunger to learn Judaism and I wanted exposure to Yeshiva-type teachings," he says.

The group recently concluded its study of Bereishis and such diverse topics as evolution, feminism, and good vs. evil.

Baruch Volkis, another Aish Kodesh member, says the class has given him a weekly opportunity to think more deeply about his Judaism.

"I think a lot of us are busy with our regular, everyday lives, and we may not think about the important things,



Rabbi Moshe Heyman (lower center) makes the trek from Denver to Boulder each week to delve into the fundamentals of Judaism with members of Boulder's Aish Kodesh.

about G-d," he says. "This class is about the real fundamentals of our tradition, and I find it helpful to my everyday life."

Stuart Blake Tener, a computer scientist/software engineer, adds that Rabbi Heyman helps his students integrate the Torah's lessons into their daily lives through example.

"Many rabbis teach from a perspective of here is the teaching, this is what it means, here is what it does not mean, there you go!" he says. "Rabbi Heyman uses examples of how he has fit the teachings into his own life and how [others] have as well. Nothing is more helpful than to understand a

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Women Share 'Thoughts, Struggles & Insights' at New Parsha Class

Every Shabbos morning for the last month, over a dozen women, many of them with small children, have gotten everyone up, dressed, out the door and into Aish Denver by 9:45 a.m. The reason: "Parsha: Insights for Today's Woman," a new women's class on the weekly Torah portion given by the Kollel's Mrs. Yehudis Heyman.

Each week Mrs. Heyman explains a theme from the Parsha and applies its lessons to the challenges women face in today's world. Then the floor is opened for questions and discussion.

"Women have questions, and the format of asking questions or sharing problems lend itself to learning and understanding," says Aish Member Leah Schiermeyer.



'Exceptional' and 'growth-producing' are how participants Leah Schiermeyer (l.) and Chaya Major (r.) describe Mrs. Heyman's (c.) Parsha class.

"Having the ability to share our thoughts, struggles and insights based on the Parsha is an enlightening and growth-producing experience," adds fellow Aish Member Chaya Major.

In recent weeks, the class has focused on such topics as guarding one's tongue

and modesty. Mrs. Heyman points out that many women – regardless of level of Jewish observance – are challenged with these kinds of issues all the time.

"We are all going through the same struggles," she says, "and this class is a forum where women can voice their concerns as they grow Jewishly."

Participant Rivky Goldberg calls Mrs. Heyman a "strong teacher" who is "well-spoken and to the point."

"She offers insight on how to approach these sensitive areas and has a natural ability to relate the discussions back to the Parsha," she says.

"Mrs. Heyman shares many true and poignant stories to illustrate the truths of Torah," adds Leah Schiermeyer. "Every class has been exceptional." 

T4T Stays 'Relevant,' 'Enlightening' in 6th Season

In 2004, a group of Kollel lay leaders and staff hit upon the idea of creating a business ethics series that would feature a local business leader and a Kollel rabbi discussing real-life ethical challenges, and the Torah's solutions for addressing them. Today, Torah for Tycoons (T4T) has become a "household" name among local business professionals. The series recently surpassed the 300 mark in attendance, and draws 40 new participants a year, on average.

But the numbers don't tell the whole story.

Rick Kornfeld, Shareholder, Recht and Kornfeld, P.C., recently presented on the topic "Value Judgments." He said the program gave him the opportunity "to make a direct connection between everyday modern issues and dilemmas, and our ancient tradition."

According to Irv Borenstein, Esq., a past presenter and a regular attendee, "Torah for Tycoons has something to offer any business professional."

Mr. Borenstein says the series has helped him become "less argumentative, which as a lawyer is always a problem. I try to use what I learn to be a better advocate for my clients."

According to Scott Levin, Shareholder, Fisher, Sweetbaum, Levin and Sands, P.C., also involved with the series for several years, the program's longevity has served its diverse audience well.

"As we move from topic to topic, the group has been able to build on earlier discussions. This has made those



(l. to r.) Presenter Larry Gelfond, Moderator Scott Levin and Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab at the June T4T "Having Your Day in Court."

discussions more enlightening and interesting," he says.

On a deeper level, participants say the series is filling an important void in the business community.

Long-time participant Dr. Neiel Baronberg asserts that most Jews, regardless of background, share the belief that "as Jews, we have a special obligation to be ethical and proper in our business dealings, despite the Madoffs of the world."

"These kinds of discussions therefore bring me back to the Kollel as often as I can," he says.

Scott Levin agrees.

"I have learned that Judaism has a perspective on our business life. We do not operate our 'business lives' separate and apart for our [Jewish] lives," he says. "If we can model even a fraction of those lessons [learned at T4T] to our businesses, we can be a light unto others." ❧

Forging Jewish Connections in Highlands

A lot can happen around a Shabbos table, and earlier this month, a group of Northwest Denver Jews shared a Shabbos meal with Rabbi Aron Yehuda and Esti Schwab of the Kollel – and strengthened their growing connection to the West Side Jewish community.

"Despite living in the Sloan's Lake neighborhood for four generations, I have had little contact with the [West Side Jewish] community," says attendee Elisa Cohen, Editor of the North Denver Tribune. "The highlight for me was to meet Esti Schwab, as I feel like we had so much in common in the ways we view our children and place in the



The Kollel's Esti Schwab (3rd from l.) with participants before a Shabbos meal in Highlands.

continuum of life along the edges of Sloan's Lake."

Ilan Salzberg, who hosted the meal in his Highlands home, said he was eager to "form a connection" between the strong Jewish infrastructure on the West Side and growing Jewish community on the north side of Sloan's Lake.

"We all have so much to teach and learn from each other," he says. "I am excited that, with some forethought and accommodation, we can celebrate and enjoy [our Jewishness] together."

The event was a follow up to a Kollel Pre-Passover class at Sunflower Farmer's Market in Highlands. Upcoming neighborhood events include a family barbeque, a women's class, and a monthly lunch and learn.

"The Kollel is very excited to reach across Sloane's Lake and work together with these pioneers to build a vibrant Sloan's Lake/Highlands Jewish community," says Rabbi Schwab. ❧

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real integration and application of Torah in real life."

All the participants say they appreciate Rabbi Heyman making the hour-and-a-half round trip to Boulder from his home in Southeast Denver

each week.

"His coming here and visiting us is truly impelling people to make time to learn more Torah," says Mr. Tener. ❧