

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew

August 2012-Elul 5772



CITY WIDE

2,711 Pages, 7 ½ Years, & Celebration

“Daf Yomi creates the requirement of diligently pursuing Torah study with discipline.” So says Mr. Yoil Unger, who teaches the Daf Yomi (daily page of Talmud) class at Congregation Zera Avraham. And he ought to know, as he’s been delivering the class there daily for the past 16 years. Every day, one page – both sides – of Talmud is studied by thousands of Jews worldwide who participate in the Daf Yomi program.



Partial view of the crowd at the live hookup to the Siyum at MetLife Stadium

After 7 ½ years - 2,711 pages - the cycle is complete. Certainly a cause for celebration.

A gathering of 100,000 Jews isn’t something that occurs every day. But on August

1st, 2012, MetLife Stadium in New Jersey hosted such a gathering, as Jews assembled for the Siyum HaShas of Daf Yomi – the 12th siyum (celebration of completion) since the program’s inception. And MetLife Stadium was just the start of the festivities, as communities gathered to hold their own events worldwide.

Denver’s Jewish Community joined this historic occasion as well, as a number of local Jewish organizations came together to sponsor a local Siyum HaShas. Jews of all backgrounds converged upon Aish Denver to honor those who made the commitment of studying a page of Talmud every day. It was March of 2005 when the last siyum took place at the JCC Social Hall. And, while a lot of things have changed since then, the study of Torah continues to ring eternal amongst the Jewish People.

Rabbi Moshe Heyman, Associate Scholar of the Kollel, who, along with Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, Outreach Director for the Kollel, took the leading roles in organizing the event, looks forward to the continued explosive growth of Torah in Denver. “We hope that the inspiration of this *Kiddush Shem Shomayim* (Sanctification of G-d’s Name) will inspire Jews throughout Denver and beyond to join their brethren in the study of Torah.”

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Looking Back, Moving Forward as Donor Appreciation Event Nears

“Forward” may be a catchy election-year slogan, but at the Kollel, it means a lot more. Now in its fifteenth year, the Kollel looks forward to new and greater achievements for the coming years, while taking a moment to appreciate its accomplishments until this point.

“From Strength to Strength is exactly where we are going this fall, as we bring a group of young and energetic families to Denver to join the Kollel,” says Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. “The new Community Scholars will inject vibrancy into the Kollel’s daily study sessions as well as offer stimulating classes, programs, and study



Rabbi Dovid and Mrs. Bas Sheva Schwartzberg and family have just arrived in Denver to join the Kollel

partnerships to Jews throughout Denver.” These high-caliber young Torah scholars will help foster spiritual growth, raising Denver’s communities to ever-higher levels of commitment to Torah.

As in past years, the Kollel is kicking off the Jewish New Year with its annual Donor Appreciation Event. A time to show gratitude to its supporters, as well as to focus on happenings and hopes for the coming year, the Donor Appreciation Event has become a mainstay of the High Holy Days period in Denver. It

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Fireworks & Copyrights at the Kollel on July 4th

Music. Software. Books. May one make copies of the intellectual property of others for personal use? That was the issue under scrutiny at the Kollel's latest Legal Holiday Learning program, held on July 4th at the Kollel.

"A day off from work is a wonderful opportunity to spend more time in the Beis Medrash, and the Kollel is always ready to provide that opportunity," says Rabbi Fleisher. "Offering a program in the morning allows people to participate without impinging on plans they have for later in the day."

The program, *Fireworks at the Kollel*, began with *shacharis* (morning prayers) at 8 am. Upon the conclusion of the prayers, a sumptuous breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, lox, eggs,

and delectable pastries was enjoyed by all. Participants then divided up into groups to study with the rabbis of the Kollel.

The topic, entitled *Do You Copy?: The Laws of Copyright*, was prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, Director



Rabbi Fleisher delivers a synopsis of the material studied at the Kollel.

of Community Education for the Kollel. The material focused on various aspects of the *halachos* of copyright infringement. Beginning with Talmudic sources, medieval authorities, and a responsum written during the 16th century by the Rema (Rabbi Moshe Isserles of Krakow), participants then proceeded to

examine the opinions of 19th-century halachic authorities, such as the Chasam Sofer, and concluded with the ruling of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein concerning the unauthorized duplication of cassette tapes.

The chavrusah-style learning, which continued for approximately one hour, from 9-10 am, was completed with a brief recap and discussion of practical application.

Participants are anticipating upcoming Torah study opportunities. "I have been attending this program over the past couple of years,"

says Avi Mehler, "and I look forward to participating for many more years to come. The only thing we need to do is create more legal holidays during the course of the year!"

Save the date for the next Legal Holiday Learning Program, scheduled for Labor Day, September 3rd, 9 am, and will focus on labor unions and the right to strike. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact rmf@denverkollel.org.

2,711 Pages, 7 ½ Years, & Celebration

Approximately 200 Denverites from all walks of life attended a Gala Banquet held at Aish, including many local *mesaymim*. The program included a local Siyum Hashas, made by Mr. Unger.

Mr. Tzvi Gelt, teacher of the Daf Yomi at both EDOS on the East Side and at Aish in Greenwood Village, began



Rabbi Heyman addresses the banquet

the first page of the new cycle of Talmud study. The Gala Event also featured excerpts from the event at MetLife.

Concurrent with the banquet was a live hookup to the entire siyum at MetLife. The hookup, which was sponsored by Agudath Israel of America, was well-attended by several hundred people.

The Kollel, as Denver's premier institution dedicated to advanced Torah study and spreading the Torah's timeless words to all Jews, is proud to have played a major role in organizing the event. "Torah study is the hallmark of our nation, its pride and joy," says Rabbi Erlanger. "Even if you've never studied a page of Talmud, this event was a special opportunity to join the link that connects us to our illustrious past, and gives us hope as we head into the future."

Looking Back, Moving Forward...

also provides an opportunity for people to demonstrate their dedication to the continued growth and expansion of Torah in Denver through their support of the Kollel, its scholars and programs. This year's Donor Appreciation Event will be hosted by Brad & Dana Licht at

their home, 6156 East Powers Avenue in Greenwood Village, on Monday, September 24th, at 7 PM.

"I am always so inspired at the Kollel's Donor Appreciation Event," says Dana. "Last year's event was especially moving, when we had the opportunity to hear Barry Tillis o.b.m. speak about his faith during his final illness."

The event will feature *Sip & Sizzle*, a culinary experience artistically designed by the Kollel women. Dana enjoys the great food, as well. "I look forward to the amazing spread that the women of the Kollel put together. They do an amazing job with their presentation."

To RSVP please visit the Kollel website