



April/May 2008 - Nissan 5768

'A Wonderful Addition to the Aish Community'

In January 2007, the Kollel, in an effort to better serve the broader Denver Jewish community, brought two scholars and their families to live in Southeast Denver. Now, just over a year later, community residents say Rabbi Dovid and Faigy Gertz, and Rabbi Moshe and Yehudis Heyman and their families are making a lasting impact.

The scholars, who study at the Kollel in West Denver during the day, offer community members numerous classes and study opportunities throughout the week, on all levels.

"I think the Gertz and Heyman [families] are a tremendous addition to



(l. to r.) Malka Henry, the Kollel's Faigy Gertz and Melanie Avner at a Partners in Torah Encounter.

the Southeast community, and have brought a new accessibility and opportunity to learn," says Dr. Jonathan Fishman, who attends Rabbi Gertz's Mishna class.

Dr. Marc Avner, who studies one-on-one with Rabbi Gertz and participates in Partners in Torah, agrees.

"They are a tremendous resource for people," he says. "They are willing to learn any topic, [in] any place, in a very open environment. No background or formal education is necessary."

The Gertz and Heyman families also regularly open their homes to local residents for Shabbos and holiday meals and other informal get-togethers.

"My family enjoys spending Shabbat dinner at the Heymans and Gertz's," says Chaya Major, a board member at Aish/Ahavas Yisroel. "We also have very interesting conversations. The respect for our views, ideas and



Kollel Scholar Rabbi Moshe Heyman (r.) studying one-on-one with Mark Margulies.

questions is remarkable."

Finally, the couples, simply by living a Torah lifestyle, serve as an inspiration to local residents.

"It is a pleasure and a gift to have these two bright, energetic, learned and caring *rabbonim* in our midst," says Rick Mishkin, who studies one-on-one with Rabbi Heyman, attends Rabbi Gertz's Strive for Truth class, and attends the Sunday Daf Yomi Plus class. "They and their beautiful families are additional models of Torah-observant Jews for us."

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Pesach Inspiration - on Several Levels - with Partners in Torah

Some 80 people took time out from all the pre-Pesach cleaning, shopping and cooking, to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of Pesach and its many rituals, at the Partners in Torah Pre-Pesach Encounter, held April 9 at Aish/Ahavas Yisroel.

And as Shana Lipsker-Berger, a graduate student at DU, put it, "It was awe-inspiring in that there were so many people highly motivated to elevate themselves morally, ethically and spiritually in this environment."

Jeffrey Geller, a member of BMH-BJ, who studies regularly at PIT at Aish on Wednesday nights, agrees.



(l. to r.) Tillie Raznick, Kaiya Katch, the Kollel's Esti Schwab, Michelle Fox Askenazi, Miriam Fortune and Gabriele Kaulius at the PIT Pre-Pesach Encounter.

"There was a lot of *ruach* in the room," he said. "[What I liked most] was watching multiple groups study about Pesach at the same time."

At the program, which was sponsored in part by the Harry H. Beren Trust D.I.B., men and women from throughout the Jewish community studied one-on-one or in small groups with Kollel scholars, their wives, and other knowledgeable mentors.

Michelle Fox Askenazi, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with Tri-County Health Department and a member of Aish/Ahavas Yisroel, said the program was not only a "good opportunity to start getting into the mindset for Passover," but also to meet new people.

"I enjoyed meeting more people

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Kollel to Keep Eye On Future with Live On

The Kollel is pleased to announce that it has recently completed the two-year Live On initiative, and that it is among a select group of local Jewish organizations that has been chosen to participate in the program for an additional two years.

Live On: Build Your Jewish Legacy was established in 2006 by Rose Community Foundation to help local Jewish organizations secure their futures through bequests and endowments. Seven community members have already made generous bequests to the Kollel, helping to secure the future of the Kollel – and of Denver Jewry – for many years to come.

“While most of our fundraising has been operations– or program-



Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab receiving a Live On plaque from Rose Community Foundation.

specific,” says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, “participating in Live On has given us the opportunity to

expand our fundraising tools and look beyond our immediate needs and into the future.”

The Kollel has formed a Legacy Society to recognize its Live On bequest givers. They currently include Marc and Dale Sievers, Rabbi and Mrs. Zev Beren, Marc and Amity Cooper, Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab, Dr. Ken and Karin Sherman Katz, and two anonymous donors.

“Our Live On donors are to be applauded not just for their generosity, but also for their concern for the future of Jewish life in our community,” says Rabbi Schwab.

To learn more about Live On, visit www.denverkollel.org, or contact Rabbi Schwab at rays@denverkollel.org 📧

Gemara Class Celebrates Completion of Tractate Maakos

Nearly every Tuesday night for the last year and a half, a dedicated group of men in East Denver has been studying Tractate Maakos. This month, the Level I Gemara Class, led by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Avraham Abrams, has completed the tractate and is making a *siyum* to celebrate the achievement.

“It always feels good to finish something and start something new,” says David Kasztl, who has participated in the *shiur* for over a year.

The class is geared to those who



Rabbi Avraham Abrams (c.) with class participants Bryan Shuman (l.) and Yanev Golombek.

are unable to commit to Daf Yomi, the Page-a-Day Talmud study program, but who want to “cover ground” in their Gemara study.

According to Rabbi Abrams, the slower pace means that while “we are moving, you get to know the material well.”

“For me, this has been a unique opportunity to keep the class moving forward, but at the same time, I have to really know the material because they ask a lot of questions,” he says. “They keep me on my toes.”

Mr. Kasztl says he looks forward to moving onto another tractate, and encourages others to join the class.

“Every person has a certain filter through which they interpret the Gemara, and [one’s interpretation] can open the door for someone else,” he says. “The more, the merrier.” 📧

‘A Wonderful Addition’

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Aish/Ahavas Yisroel’s Rabbi Yaakov Meyer agrees.

“Rabbis Gertz and Heyman, along with their wives, have been such a wonderful addition to the Aish

community,” he says. “They have made many friends, and many people look to them for Jewish guidance and learning. Their homes and hearts are open to all.

“I hope the Kollel sends more families to live in this community.” 📧

Pesach Inspiration

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from the Denver Jewish community and getting to learn with other women,” she says.

For fellow Aish member Valerie Wolf, a paraprofessional with Denver Public Schools, the highlight was her group’s knowledgeable mentor.

“What I liked most about the Pesach Encounter was my instructor, Tamar Goldstein, and her willingness to stop for questioning. [She] was very welcoming.”

According to PIT Program Coordinator Tzippy Sommers, the Pre-Pesach Encounter, and other similar encounters throughout the year, present more than an opportunity for pre-holiday inspiration.

“There are many people who are interested in the Partners in Torah one-on-one style learning, but are unsure if they can commit to ongoing learning,” she explains. “These encounters give potential participants the chance to get their feet wet and see what Partners in Torah is really all about.”

For more information about PIT, contact Mrs. Sommers at 303-820-2855 or at pit@denverkollel.org 📧