

# DENVER KOLLEL CONNECTION



## IN THIS ISSUE



Kollel Expands to Cleveland **2**



MARKING 16 YEARS FEATURING A TASTE OF THE **3**



Torah for Tycoons Marks its 10th Year **4**



The Summer in Pictures **6**

The Denver Community Kollel is an institute for advanced Torah study whose scholars are dedicated to serving the educational and spiritual needs of all Jews throughout the greater Denver area.

## VISION | *By Kollel Deans Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab and Rabbi Shachne Sommers*

### A CULTURE OF TORAH LEARNING

For over fifteen years, the Kollel has succeeded in cultivating a culture of Torah learning in Denver. Today, there is an ever-widening group of Jews stemming from all backgrounds who are committed to being lifelong Torah learners. The number of men and women in metro Denver who have a commitment to weekly, even daily, Torah learning has grown manifold in the decade-and-a-half that the Kollel has been learning and teaching Torah in Denver. More and more people have come to realize the centrality of Torah learning in Jewish life.

At the core of Denver's Torah learning culture is the Kollel's group of Community Scholars, who exemplify commitment to the centrality of Torah learning through their intense dedication to the study of Torah texts. In addition to role modeling their dedication to Torah, the Kollel rabbis and their wives offer an array of creative classes and programs rooted in authentic Torah.

### TWO TORAH CENTERS

The Kollel continues to provide programs in homes, offices, and other locations throughout

the metro area. The energy that creates this "Torah Without Walls" emanates from the Kollel's two Torah centers located in West Denver and Southeast Denver.



RABBI SHACHNE SOMMERS



R' ARON YEHUDA SCHWAB

In West Denver, the Kollel's Bais Medrash continues to be a center for the Kollel's internal and community learning. Additionally, in light of the dramatic renaissance in Northwest Denver, the Kollel is playing a vital role in bridging young Jewish urban-renewal families to Denver's historic West Side community.

Simultaneously, the Kollel's authentic Torah programs centered at Aish Denver create a culture of Torah learning in Southeast Denver.

## VISION

Our vision is a larger and stronger Kollel, even more committed to advancing the culture of Torah learning in Denver, through further solidifying two Torah Centers in the near future.

In West Denver, we are working to obtain our own building that will serve as a Torah center for Northwest Denver as well as a Bais Medrash for internal and community Torah learning. Additionally, the Kollel is in the planning stages of acquiring West Denver housing for Community Scholars and their families.

In the Southeast area of Denver, the Kollel is making rapid strides toward opening the Southeast Denver Torah Learning Center in the near future.

The renewed energy emanating from these powerful Torah centers will spread throughout the metro area, revolutionizing the landscape of Jewish Denver.

# KOLLEL “EXPANDS TO CLEVELAND” AS MANDEL FAMILY RELOCATES

Two months ago, the Kollel somberly announced that Rabbi Mordechai and Mrs. Zeldy Mandel and their five children would be relocating during the summer to Cleveland, where both Rabbi and Mrs. Mandel had accepted positions teaching in a local Jewish school.



It was three years ago that the Kollel brought the Mandels to Southeast Denver. The community would never be the same again. Rabbi Mandel’s one-on-one study partnerships and classes raised the bar of Torah study, helping numerous individuals advance their skills in, and appreciation for, Torah learning.

Rabbi Mandel’s ability to connect with Jews of all ages, from diverse backgrounds, made him a popular

teacher and role model. Dr. Cliff Bloch, a pediatric endocrinologist who attended Rabbi Mandel’s Thursday night Chumash/Rashi class, says things won’t be the same without him. “He has made the teachings of Rashi come alive! Although I wish him well in his new opportunity, he will be sorely missed on Thursday nights.”

One of Rabbi Mandel’s most noteworthy teaching feats was the highly successful Learn

2 Learn program, which he directed and taught. (see sidebar).

Rabbi Mandel was also an inspiring teacher and role model for children and teens. He ran a Fathers-and-Sons Learning Program in Aish Denver, in addition to the classes and one-on-one study sessions he provided for children and teens in the Southeast and on Denver’s East Side.

Mrs. Mandel’s impact during the past three years cannot be overstated. As a teacher in the Aish preschool, she won the hearts of children and parents alike. “One of my daughters, Sarah, was fortunate enough to have Mrs. Mandel as her preschool teacher for two years,” relates Dr. Jonathan

Fishman. “Mrs. Mandel has been an extremely inspiring role model for my daughter. In doing this she has had a positive influence on the whole family.”

She also provided a listening ear for teens. “If I have a question, I go and ask her,” said Leah Basya Major. “I go over and help her cook for Shabbos and have discussions with her.”

A sought-after speaker and teacher for adults, she gave numerous classes and talks throughout the Southeast community.

Kathy Kaufman, chair of Aish Denver, described Mrs. Mandel’s impact on the Southeast community. “Mrs. Mandel was an integral part of

*cont. on page 7*



## RABBI MORDECHAI MANDEL AND LEARN 2 LEARN

For those who study Talmud and appreciate the joy and brilliance it provides, achieving the ability to study it independently is a dream come true. And the Denver Community Kollel set out to make that dream a reality for Denver’s Jews with its *Learn 2 Learn* program.

Since his arrival in Denver’s Southeast community three years ago, Rabbi Mandel was at the helm of the Kollel’s highly successful *Learn 2 Learn* program.

“I’ve attended many different *shiurim* (classes) on Talmud over the years, whether it be Daf Yomi or gemara *be’yun* (in-depth Talmud),” says Baruch Ginat, who attended Rabbi Mandel’s class for the past year. “Rabbi Mandel’s approach was the first one which I not only looked forward to attending twice a week despite a hard day at work, but where I also felt that my level of understanding was increasing. My contact with Rabbi Mandel has motivated me to keep progressing and improving.”

The program began five years ago as a class by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Avrohom Abrams, currently 3rd grade

Rebbi at Hillel Academy of Denver. It was continued by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Levi Lebovits, and expanded to two separate tracks with Rabbi Mandel’s arrival.

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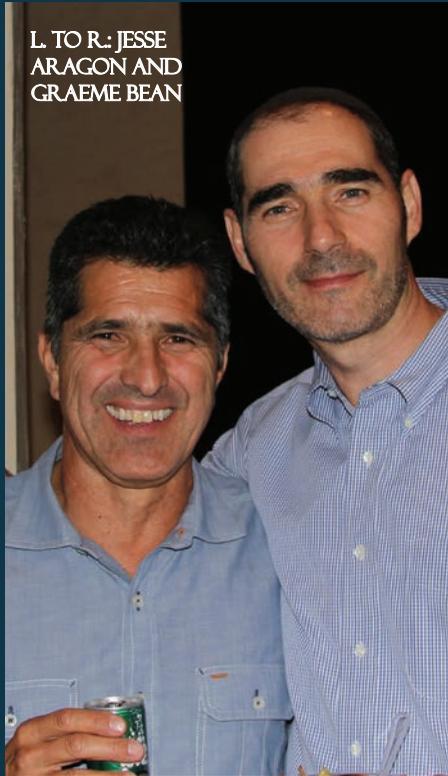
At the farewell party for Rabbi Mandel. Standing, l. to r.: Ari Goldberg, Bob Weiss, Mike Weiss, Rabbi Mandel, Steve Weiman, Avrohom Litzman, Jake Weiman. Sitting, l. to r.: Bernard Sanders, Baruch Ginat, Daryn Hosiassohn, David Solomon



# DONOR APPRECIATION Event

# 2012

L. TO R.: JESSE ARAGON AND GRAEME BEAN



L. TO R.: RABBI SHACHNE SOMMERS, BRAD LICHT, HOST OF DAE 2012, AND BOB WEISS



SIP & SIZZLE, CREATED BY THE KOLLEL WOMEN



RABBI MORDECHAI MANDEL SHARES A THOUGHT WITH DR. MICKEY AND SUSAN GORDON



## KOLLEL'S ANNUAL DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

The Kollel will be holding its annual Donor Appreciation Event at the home of Dov and Lara Mowszowski, 6656 E. Prentice Avenue, Greenwood Village, CO, 80111, on Tuesday evening, September 10th, at 7 pm.

"The Donor Appreciation Event is the time when those dedicated to the Kollel gather to show their support," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers, as well as an opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our supporters."

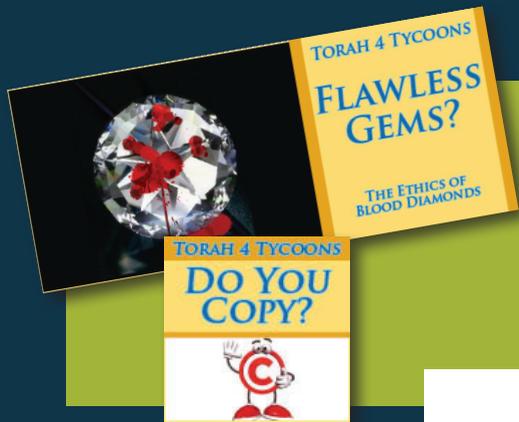


The event will feature *Delectable Delights*, a culinary experience artistically designed by the Kollel women.

DOV AND LARA MOWSZOWSKI, HOSTS OF THIS YEAR'S DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT



Reservations and donations for the Donor Appreciation Event can be made on the Kollel's website, [www.denverkollel.org](http://www.denverkollel.org).



# MARKING THE

# 10TH YEAR

T4T HAS COVERED NEARLY 80 TOPICS,  
SOME OF WHICH ARE MENTIONED BELOW



## FAIR PROFIT OR HIGHWAY ROBBERY?

Overcharging on Goods, Services and Real Estate  
*Marc Cooper*

## SELLING A LOADED GUN

Do I Have to Protect My Customers from Hurting Themselves?  
*Bruce Heitler*

## JUST DOING MY JOB - OR IS IT?

What Are Your Responsibilities When a Client Asks You to Assist Him or Her in Unethical Behavior?  
*Steven M. Weiser*

## DOES THE END JUSTIFY THE MEANS?

How Aggressive Should We Expect Our Attorneys to Be?  
*Scott L. Levin*

## A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Must Businesses Correct Government Errors that Benefit Them?  
*Dr. Lester Lockspeiser*

## BUT HE LOVED HIS MOTHER

Is the Term 'Jewish Gangster' an Oxymoron?  
*Steven Deutsch*

## THE EXTORTION GAME

Can a Jew Ever Resort to Blackmail?  
*Daniel L. Woodrow*

## TORAH AND POLITICS

The Ethics of Political Donations  
*Rich Sokol*

## FAMILY BUSINESSES

It's Business - and It's Personal: How to Manage Them Both  
*Marvin Kark and Andy Kark*

## THROW THE BUM OUT!

The Ethics of Evictions, Foreclosures & Enticing Mortgages  
*Sol Lefjin*

## GOING GREEN

How Seriously Must We Take Our Environment?  
*Adam Hirsch*

## ELECTIVE SURGERY: GOOD MEDICINE OR GOOD BUSINESS?

Can a Doctor Recommend Procedures That May Be Beneficial but are Not Necessary?  
*Neiel Baronberg*

## 'FREE' ADVICE

Can a Professional Bill You for Advice Given in Nonprofessional Settings - and Do You Need to Pay for It?  
*Michael Milobsky*

## SQUEEZING BLOOD OUT OF A TURNIP

What Debt Collection Practices are Fair - and Ethical - When the Other Side Can't Pay?  
*Irv Borenstein*

## HARD PILL TO SWALLOW

The Ethics of Healthcare Reform  
*Harvey Deutsch*

## DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Can You Ever Disclose Private Information?  
*Jordan Scharg*

## ALLOW NATURAL DEATH?

End-of-Life Decisions And Dementia  
*Dr. Lynn Tausig*

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Is it Kosher?  
*Ean Seeb*

## WHITE LIES

Protecting the Innocent and the Not-So-Innocent  
*Dr. Ian Topelson*

## TARGETING TERRORISTS

The Torah Perspective  
*Dr. Marc Stevers*

## PUBLIC PRAYER AND THE TEBOWING QUANDARY

*Brad Licht*

## DO YOU COPY?

Intellectual Property, Copyright Laws, and Halacha  
*Daniel Sherwinter*

## ARMS UNDER FIRE

The Second Look at the Second Amendment  
*Leo Pawlushkin*

## FREE RADICALS?

The Responsibility of Those Who Promote Acts of Terror  
*David Japba*

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

The Challenge of Technology  
*Evan Dechtman*

# TORAH FOR TYCOONS

## TORAH FOR TYCOONS CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR

“Back in 2004, we were discussing bringing in out-of-town ‘experts’ to give classes for the Kollel,” recalls Phil Weiser, presently Dean of the University of Colorado Law School. I told [Kollel Deans] Rabbi Sommers and Rabbi Schwab, ‘You are the experts!’ I related that Rabbi Sommers has tremendous Torah knowledge and is a great speaker, and I suggested that he and a leader from

admits Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. “I couldn’t think of other topics that contemporary businessmen would find interesting. But then we began to listen to the participants, and hear about their real-life dilemmas, and 80 classes later, I never cease to be amazed how, if you delve and search, the Torah and Talmud have direction and clarity on every conceivable topic.”



been a big learning experience for me. People walk away with an understanding of how they can deal with a particular issue.”

*I never cease to be amazed how, if you delve and search, the Torah and Talmud have direction and clarity on every conceivable topic.” Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab*

our community discussing problems facing business people would be a compelling series.” Torah for Tycoons (T4T) was born.

Brad Licht, owner of Licht Realty, saw T4T as filling a need in the professional community for a moral compass – and Torah, he felt, was the perfect guide. Rabbi Sommers couldn’t agree more. “We are talking about highly intelligent, successful business people. But it can be so difficult to navigate through all the moral and ethical challenges presented by today’s business environment. The Torah guides us in every aspect of our daily lives, and the workplace is no exception.”

“The truth is that after the first two sessions, I thought that we were done,”

T4T, which is made possible through a generous grant from the Harry H. Beren Trust Z.B., takes place monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of July and August) at the East Side Kosher Deli. It draws 20-35 professional men and women from across Denver. Now entering its tenth year, the program is going strong, and, having attracted close to 500 different Jews from a variety of backgrounds during its distinguished tenure, it has had a considerable impact on Denver Jewry. “Participants find the topics and discussions very engaging and exciting,” says Marc Cooper, President of Cooper Development, Inc., who was one of the founders of T4T and continues to be actively involved in the program. “It’s

With its phenomenal success, T4T has become the Kollel’s flagship program. “T4T is often the ‘front door’ to the Kollel and what it has to offer,” says Marc. “They are often impressed by the application of their issues to Torah wisdom,” he explains. Phil Weiser agrees. “It’s a great, non-intimidating starting point and people are hungry for more.” “People call us to consult regarding ethical issues they are having in business,” relates Rabbi Schwab. In fact, the program has been replicated by Kollels in other parts of the country, including Chicago and Philadelphia.

The Kollel is in the planning stages of expanding T4T to reach even more Jews, both in Denver and beyond. “Modern technology gives us the opportunity to bring the Torah’s message to countless Jews throughout the world,” says Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, the Kollel’s Director of Community Education. “And this is something any Jew, regardless of their

*cont. on page 7*



# KOLLEL CLASSES & PROGRAMS FOR ALL TIMES & SEASONS

The Kollel held numerous programs & classes throughout the Denver community during the spring & summer months. From Fathers and Sons to a mini-series for women on Moshiach, the Kollel offered something for Jews of all backgrounds, men & women, young and old.



The Kollel held a mini-series on the topic of Moshiach at the home of Dale Sievers in the weeks leading up to Tisha B'Av

Fathers and Sons spring series at DAT Minyan was led by Kollel Scholar Rabbi Dovid Schwartzberg



Mrs. Leah Schiermeyer inspired more than 50 women as she discussed her journey to Judaism at a JWRP reunion organized by the Kollel Women's Division.

For more info, please contact Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, [mf@denverkollel.org](mailto:mf@denverkollel.org)

## DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL *kollel* Shavu'os Programs

**Classic Cheesecake**

- 1 graham cracker crust
- 8oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 8oz Philadelphia cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

**Ultimate Cheesecake**

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 8oz Philadelphia cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

**SECOND LAYER**

- 8oz cream cheese
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

The Kollel offered learning opportunities in different parts of Denver during Shavu'os



R' Shachne Sommers delivered pre-holiday talks to the community at the Kollel Beis Medrash before Shavu'os & Tisha B'Av

## LEGAL HOLIDAY LEARNING ON 4th

**GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH**

IS DEATH PREFERABLE TO SERVITUDE?

**WEST SIDE FOR MEN**

**SOUTHEAST FOR MEN & WOMEN**

For more info or sponsorship opportunities, contact [mf@denverkollel.org](mailto:mf@denverkollel.org)



The Kollel's Legal Holiday Learning Series offered learning opportunities on the West Side and the Southeast on Memorial Day and July 4th

## MANDELS RELOCATE *cont. from pg. 2*

inspiring the educational philosophy and curriculum of Aish Preschool. Her sensitivity, creativity, humor and a true love for every child made her a beloved Morah at the school. Mrs. Mandel gave of her time in other ways at Aish Denver by teaching women's classes, hosting families in her home for meals, and being a friend to many women and teen girls in the community."

"The three years that I merited to be part of the Kollel were the best three years of my life!" says Rabbi Mandel. "The nightly learning with the community members was inspirational, something I truly grew from. Thank you to Rabbi Schwab and Rabbi Sommers for enabling our family to be part of your mission of bringing true Torah to Denver's Jews."

Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers discussed the bittersweet feelings elicited by the Mandels' departure. "On one hand, the Kollel takes great pride in the fact that Reb Mordechai and Mrs. Mandel were hand-picked for a prestigious teaching position in a top school. While we are saddened to be losing one of our very beloved and talented families in the Kollel, and in the Southeast community in particular, we are gratified that the Mandels will take their experience in our community with them to their new location and will continue using their great talents in ever-greater service to Klal Yisroel. It is, in effect, an expansion of the Kollel to Cleveland."

## LEARN 2 LEARN *cont. from pg. 2*

It was Rabbi Mandel, however, who developed the program into a full-fledged system of "learning to learn" Talmud.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Rabbi Mandel's students came together to bid him an emotional farewell.

The Kollel, meanwhile, is looking forward to continuing and expanding the *Learn 2 Learn* program, though there are big shoes to fill. Currently, the class has two tracks, one taught by Kollel scholar Rabbi Dovid Schwartzberg, and the other by Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. The Kollel also has plans to launch a third track in the near future.

*Take advantage of this great opportunity; contact the Kollel at [rmf@denverkollel.org](mailto:rmf@denverkollel.org), and you, too, can be on your way to learning gemara on your own!*

## 10TH YEAR OF T4T *cont. from pg. 5*

background and education, can appreciate and connect with."

"People can see how modern issues such as the internet can be addressed through the Torah," says Marc. "I use the internet as an example because it is such a modern phenomenon, yet it boils down to issues such as stealing time when using it in the workplace, or lashon hara (slander), which is so easy to spread with new technologies. T4T brings together 'real' issues that people have experienced."

# SAVE THE DATE!



**Jewish Family Extravaganza!!!**  
Unlimited Fun on December 25

## JEWISH FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA

ON DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

at South Suburban's  
Family Sports Center,

6901 South Peoria,  
Centennial, Colorado 80112



Featuring noted speaker  
**LORI PALATNIK**

Denver Community Kollel's

*Second Annual*

## WOMEN'S WELLNESS WORKSHOP

on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

*"It helped make the beauty of Shabbat an all-sensory experience."*

Jennifer Kraft



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## KOLLEL WOMEN BRING JOY OF SHABBOS TO HIGHLANDS

It's been said that more than the Jewish People have kept the Shabbos, Shabbos has kept the Jewish People. Shabbos is one of the most essential elements in Judaism, and bringing it to the younger generation is pivotal in helping them develop their Jewish identity.

This summer, the Denver Community Kollel Women's Division helped coordinate Tot Shabbat, a special Friday afternoon program that brings the beauty and excitement of Shabbos to children and their parents, in the Highlands section of Northwest Denver. From the mitzvah of separating challah from the dough to braiding challah loaves to dancing to classic Shabbos tunes,



there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Kollel Women's Division Director Esti Schwab, along with Esti Erlanger, Chani Stern and Rivky Kaplan, brought enthusiasm and creativity on several Fridays in July and August to the Tot Shabbat. Combined with the excitement and eagerness of the Northwest Denver Jewish community, the result was an inspiring and delightful event for Jewish families.

"Making challah together was very special," said Jennifer Kraft, a Highlands resident. "When we brought our braided and thoughtfully labeled loaves out of the oven, you could hear the *ooohs* and *ahhs* of children and parents alike. It helped make the beauty of Shabbat an all-sensory experience."

The Kollel families also enjoyed the event. "My children and I enjoyed the interactive Shabbos experience," said Rivky Kaplan. "It was so nice to get to know the beautiful families across the lake!"



• Denver Community Kollel •

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 Because Torah is for Every Jew