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Kollel Pays Tribute to Donors at Appreciation Event

Over 90 men and women attended the Kollel's First Annual Donor Appreciation Night on Wed., Sept. 10, which paid tribute to its donors whose generous support enables the Kollel to bring Torah to Denver's Jews.

The event, held at the home of Jay and Wendy Greenwald in Greenwood Village, featured "Ingredients for Life," an elaborate Rosh Hashana food tasting with over 20 dishes prepared by community members and Kollel women. Participants received an "Ingredients for Life" cookbook with recipes of all the dishes.



(l. to r.) Rabbi Yissochur Steinharter, Avigail Steinharter, Kathy Kaufman and Dr. Dimitri Kaufman.

Donors were also presented with personalized copies of *The Visionaries of Greatness Encyclopedia*, a limited-edition *Pirkei Avos* by renowned scholar and artist Yonah Weinrib. The book was created by a group of Kolllels from throughout the United States as a token of appreciation to those who support the Kollel movement and the furtherance of Torah study.

In his address at the event, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab thanked participants for their unstinting support of the Kollel, which is so critical in these difficult economic times.

"Virtually every person I spoke



(l. to r.) Scott Alpert, Ronnie Schiff and Kollel Founder Rabbi Myer J. Schwab.

to said this has been a hard year," he explained. "But all of you who are here decided to stretch and dig deep to support the Kollel. All of you have shown that you appreciate the Torah learning, Torah living and Torah teaching that goes on at the Kollel.

"Whether you make a once a year contribution, once a month, or are part of the Live On program, or participate in Partnership with the Scholars, you are making a lasting impact on the community."

Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers reiterated this message in his address, saying that Rosh Hashana is an appropriate time for one to take stock and realize that his accomplishments are not his own.

"We at the Kollel look back at a year of accomplishment – ten years of accomplishment – and it is certainly appropriate at this time of year for us to have a Donor Appreciation Event to recognize that we can't do it alone – and we couldn't have done it alone – without our donors. We owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude, and that's why we are here tonight."

Perhaps the highlight of the program was a testimonial by 17-year-old Mendel Boxer, a student at Thomas Jefferson High School, whose first encounter with the Kollel came

about five years ago when he was living in a small town in Georgia. A Kollel scholar sent him a tape of his Bar Mitzva Parsha, so he could read the Torah on his Bar Mitzva.

For the next two years, his father, who had been studying at the Kollel, taught Mendel, via phone, everything he was learning.

Two years ago, Mendel moved to Denver and joined the Kollel's Partners in Torah program.

"Every week was like an adventure," he told the audience, "learning how things happen and why, and the impact it has on my daily life."

He then started studying at the Kollel on Sunday nights, which "widened [his] horizons in the Jewish faith."

He told the Kollel's supporters that before he started studying with the Kollel, "it was like being in a foggy tunnel. You're lost and don't know where you are, where you've been or where you're going.

"The people at the Kollel want to help," he explained. "They gave me the ability to lift that fog, and they put me on the path of Torah and mitzvos.

"I recommend the Kollel to anyone, any Jew that has questions and wants answers." 



Rabbi Michel Levitansky (c.) presents the *Visionaries of Greatness Encyclopedia* to Dr. Marc and Dale Sievers.

Keeping 'Kosher' in Business at Sept. T4T With Jay Kamlet

A Jewish lawyer who keeps kosher wouldn't eat a cheeseburger at McDonald's. But can he represent McDonald's, whose products likely contain mixtures of meat and milk, in a lawsuit? And can he, or any other Jew, own a stock in a mutual fund that owns shares in McDonald's?

Presenter Jay Kamlet, Co-Founder and Partner, Kamlet Shepherd and Reichert, LLP, raised these questions at the fifth season premiere of Torah for Tycoons, "Keeping Kosher in Business: Is It About More Than What We Eat," on Sept. 3.

At the heart of the discussion was the well-known verse, "Do not cook a kid in its mother's milk" (Exodus 23:19), which prohibits a Jew from cooking meat and milk together. Basing himself on the Talmud, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers explained that the fact that this verse is written in the Torah three times means that we are also prohibited from "deriving benefit" from mixtures of milk and meat. He explained that this means one cannot "make money off" such a mixture.

But does this to apply to a Jew owning stock in a company like McDonald's?

Rabbi Sommers made reference to a responsum of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, in which he permits owning shares in a company that does business on Shabbos because "we do not consider the owners of shares, which is only a tiny portion of the business, and who do not have any say in the



Part of the crowd of business people at the Sept. 3 Torah for Tycoons with Jay Kamlet, "Keeping Kosher in Business: Is It About More Than What We Eat?"

business, to be owners" (Igros Moshe Even Haezer 1:7). The same rationale would apply, said Rabbi Sommers, to one being permitted to own McDonald's stock.

Similarly, Rabbi Sommers noted that he there would not be a halachic problem doing legal work for McDonald's "because the connection between [the lawyer] and the actual milk-and-meat mixture that one cannot derive benefit from is too distant."

While a Jew can't sell milk-and-meat mixtures, he concluded, the money that McDonald's makes from those mixtures "is not treife money in the sense that you can't actually use that to support your business."

Join us for our next T4T on Mon. Oct. 6, "Stealing leads: How should an employer react when a former employee turns competitor," with Steve Shraiberg, President, Urban Inc. To RSVP, call 303-820-2855 or email info@denverkollel.org 

Four Years of 'Nachas' with 'Fathers and Sons'

For the last four years, Dr. Nathan Rabinovitch and sons Avi, 13, and Yoni, 11, have been regulars at the Kollel's Sunday morning Fathers and Sons Program at EDOS. What keeps them coming back?

"The pleasure of learning with my sons, together with friends, and the enthusiastic and knowledgeable [scholars] of the Denver Community Kollel," says Dr. Rabinovitch.

Kollel Outreach Director Rabbi Yehuda Amsel created the Fathers and Sons program in 2005, with the goal of enabling local fathers and sons to bond through the study of Torah.

Now, nearly four years later, the program, which resumed on Sept. 14, is still going strong. Some 30-40 fathers and sons participate in the sessions, which are held every three to four weeks.



Dr. Nathan Rabinovitch and son, Yoni, at a Fathers & Sons in 2005. "The pleasure of learning with my sons" is what keeps Dr. Rabinovitch coming back year after year.

Dr. Robert Mogyoros and his sons William, 8, and Noah, 6, joined the program a year ago after moving to Denver from Philadelphia. Like Dr. Rabinovitch, Dr. Mogyoros says the program gives him the opportunity to spend quality time with his sons.

"It's a chance to learn Torah together," he says. "They can ask any

question. [And] I learn about them through their questions."

At each session of Fathers and Sons, participants study in small groups led by fathers or by Kollel scholars. Topics include Parsha, Halacha, Mishna and Gemara, depending on interest and level of the participants.

"Rabbi Amsel does a terrific job of matching teachers with students," says Ted Brandt, President, Computer Network Technology Group, who has been attending the program with son Nachum, 11, for three years. "The skills Nachum has gained during this learning have been tremendous."

But most of all, Mr. Brandt echoes the other parents when he says, "For fathers who [do not have] an opportunity to learn with their sons, there is nothing that gives one more nachas." 