

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew

January 2016/Teves 5776

Kollel Brings Chanukah Celebration & Meaning to Seniors Throughout Denver

The Kollel's M.B. Glassman GOLD Division for Seniors held numerous Chanukah programs throughout Denver. The Kollel held a pre-Chanukah program, entitled *Chanukah: True Thanksgiving* at Brookdale-Mountainview Senior Living, Heather Gardens Adult Senior Community, Shalom Cares, and Springbrooke Retirement. Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher delivered a talk on the thanksgiving of Chanukah. The talk was followed, at most of the locations, by a candle-making activity, where attendees got to create their very own Chanukah candles. At Springbrooke, a latka-tasting was held instead of the candle-making.

"I wouldn't have missed this program for anything!" exclaimed one participant at the Springbrooke program, explaining that she had already enjoyed attending a GOLD program Rosh Hashana time that had focused on the symbolic foods of Rosh Hashana.

During the actual Chanukah holiday, the Kollel held a number of Chanukah candle-lighting programs: at Brookdale-Mountainview Senior Living, Brookdale-DTC Senior Living, Heather Gardens Adult Senior Community, and Springbrooke Retirement. At each program, one or two Kollel families, including their children, briefly discussed Chanukah, lit a menorah, and sang Chanukah songs with the residents. The candle-lighting was followed by the children distributing chocolate Chanukah *gelt* (coins) to the residents.

"It was nice that the Rabbi came to us and brought his family," said one resident.

"Many thanks to everyone who came to Springbrooke on Tuesday evening (for the Chanukah candle-lighting)," said Cheryl Baldwin, Springbrooke activity director. "Residents enjoyed the program."

The GOLD program also got children involved. At the Brookdale-Mountainview candle-making, middle-school students from DAT (Denver Academy of Torah) attended the program and helped the residents create their Chanukah candles. And, on the final day of Chanukah, DAT kindergarteners made a surprise appearance at the end of the weekly Monday GOLD Lunch & Learn program at the East Side Kosher Deli, where they sang Chanukah songs for the participants.

GOLD director Joyce Litzman explains that the Chanukah programming is part of a year-round program to bring the joy and meaning of the Jewish calendar to Jewish seniors. "Whenever there's a Jewish holiday, we try to bring an interactive program that will allow participants to connect with the holiday. A Kollel rabbi discusses the holiday a bit, and we have something related to the holiday that allows everyone to connect - from latkes on Chanukah to an interactive program about the Ten Plagues on Pesach. Those who participate really appreciate being able to take part in celebrating and enjoying the holiday. It's really gratifying to see how much the seniors enjoy these opportunities." ❧



Making Chanukah candles at Heather Gardens



Rabbi Shmuel Halpern leads candlelighting program at Brookdale DTC



DAT kindergarteners singing Chanukah songs at GOLD Lunch & Learn



Joyce Litzman speaking at Shalom Cares candle-making Chanukah program

Chanukah Breakfast & Learn

The Kollel held a special Breakfast & Learn program for boys who were off from school on Chanukah on Monday and Tuesday, December 7th and 8th, the first and second days of Chanukah.

The program is part of the Kollel's ongoing effort to provide structured learning opportunities for boys during times of vacation.

"Yes, the boys are on vacation, and they should certainly enjoy their time off," says Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, who organized the program. "But Torah is never on vacation. And these boys recognize the importance of setting aside time to learn, regardless of the circumstances."

After a special 8 am shacharis, all attendees were treated to a sumptuous breakfast, and then they all settled down to learn, some boys with friends, others with their fathers. On Monday, the learning was followed by a menorah-building activity, where the boys made their own menorahs.

Over twenty boys participated in the program, and a number of fathers came to learn, as well. "I appreciate the Kollel providing the structure to daven and learn on a day when my son doesn't have school," said Rabbi Binyomin Seligman, who came to learn with his son, Chaim Tzvi, a 6th grader at Hillel Academy.

"It's great to start the day with some organized learning," said Daniel Schweitzer, a 7th grader at Hillel Academy, "especially during vacation, when it's easy to spend the time on other things and miss good learning."



Boys building their own menorahs following the learning program



Avraham Abba Freedman (right) and Shimon Heyman learning in the Kollel Bais Medrash



Enjoying a deluxe breakfast after shacharis



Learning in the Kollel Bais Medrash

Legal Holiday Learning Season at the Kollel

A day off is a chance to spend some extra time engaged in Torah study, and the Kollel provided that opportunity as it continued its long-running Legal Holiday Learning series with programs on Thursday, November 26th, Friday, December 25th, and Friday, January 1st.

Held in three locations - at the Kollel's West Side Bais Medrash,



Kollel Scholar Rabbi Yaakov Zions teaching at Kollel West Side Bais Medrash on November 26th

the Kollel Southeast Torah Center and on the East Side at EDOS, the program began with shacharis, followed by breakfast. Each learning session focused on a specific topic, such as whether New Year's resolutions are binding, whole-Hallel versus half-Hallel, and whether holistic medicine is kosher. **📖**



Kollel Scholar Rabbi Akiva Stem teaching at the West Side Kollel Bais Medrash on December 25th



Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger studying with boys at the Kollel West Side Bais Medrash



Kollel Scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpem leads learning at Kollel Southeast Torah Center on December 25th