

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew

July 2016/Sivan 5776

1st Kollel Learn-A-Thon Attracts Over 125 People

The Denver Community Kollel held its first annual Learn-A-Thon on June 5th, 2016.



Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher delivering a class for women on Free Choice vs. Divine Foreknowledge. "I think a lot of people are not familiar with the idea of a Learn-A-Thon, but it's really quite simple," explains Kollel

More than 125 Jews from across Denver and Boulder came to learn for one hour on Sunday afternoon. Men and boys were given a folio of Tractate Sotah to learn, while a separate class for women was given by Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher. The women's class focused on the first page of Tractate Sotah that discusses how forty days before the formation of a fetus, it is determined in Heaven whom the child will marry. This led to a discussion of the paradox of free will versus G-d's knowledge of everything past, present and future. More than 25 women attended the class.

"I was pleasantly surprised to see so many people at the pre-Shavuus Learn-A-Thon," said East Side resident

Nashim by Daf Yomi teacher Reb Tzvi Gelt, and the recitation of *kaddish* by long-time *Daf Yomi* teacher Reb Yoel Unger. Spirited singing and dancing



Dancing following the siyum

followed the siyum, and participants enjoyed a hot buffet prepared in honor of the siyum.



Over 125 people gathered to study Tractate Sotah together

photo credit: Howard Wedgle

Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "It means a lot of Jews getting together for Torah study. Often, everyone will be studying parts of one tractate, completing the entire tractate in the course of the session. This is the perfect



Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers speaking at the Learn-A-Thon

time of year for an event like this, one week before Shavuos, when the Jewish Nation came together in unity to receive the Torah. We, too, are uniting together to study that Torah as we prepare for Shavuos."

Howard Wedgle. "It was really nice to see people from the different parts of town coming together to learn. *Kol hakavod!*"

Following the learning session, a *siyum* (completion ceremony) was held. The *siyum* also included the completion of *Seder Nashim*, one of the six major sections of the Talmud, by *Daf Yomi* (Folio-A-Day) participants; the completion of Tractate Sotah, a part of *Seder Nashim*, thus linked participants with this worldwide celebration of Torah study, as tens of thousands of Jews worldwide are part of the *Daf Yomi* program.

The *siyum* featured Torah thoughts from Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers; the completion of Tractate Sotah by Kollel founder Rabbi Myer J. Schwab; recitation of the *hadran* (completion prayer) on Tractate Sotah and *Seder*

"That was a fantastic event!" said Danny Sherwintner, who came down from Boulder to attend the Learn-A-Thon. "I'm already looking forward to next year!"



Clockwise from top left: Rabbi Myer J. Schwab, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Josh Close, Dr. Mickey Gordon

"This was a great *kiddush Hashem* (sanctification of G-d's Name)," said Reb Yoel Unger, "and a tremendous honor of the Torah." 

Shavuos with the Kollel

Many major holidays are celebrated primarily in the home and synagogue, from the Pesach Seder to the High Holy Days prayers, from living in the Sukkah to lighting the Chanukah Menorah. The holiday of Shavuos is unique; as it marks G-d's giving of the Torah to the

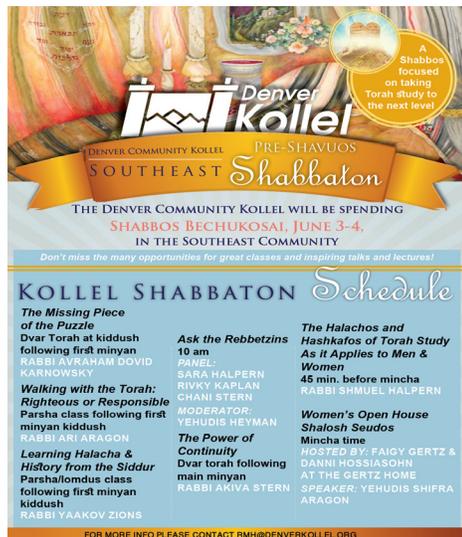
to make it that kind of holiday for every Jew by helping them build that connection to Torah."

The Denver Community Kollel celebrated Shavuos with Torah from start to finish. One week before Shavuos, Shabbos Parshas Bechukosai, June 3-4, the Kollel held its annual pre-Shavuos Southeast Shabbaton. Four West Side Kollel families joined the Southeast community and, along with five current and past Kollel families already living in the Southeast, they offered numerous classes, talks, study groups and discussions in preparation for Shavuos.

break halfway through) on the subject of time-bound mitzvos from 12:30-2:45 am. From 3-4 am, Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Yossi Kaplan held a fascinating discussion about the Ten Lost Tribes and the Sambatyon River.

Meanwhile, at the Kollel Torah Center in Southeast Denver, more than thirty-five people participated in an all-nighter study session. The Bais Medrash pulsated with the energy and enthusiasm of Torah study.

"It was great learning with the Kollel on Shavuos," says Dan Askenazi. "The high energy from various groups made a great 'all-nighter' with much Torah wisdom transmitted."



Denver Kollel
PRE-SHAVUOS
Southeast Shabbaton

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL WILL BE SPENDING
SHABBOS BECHUKOSAI, JUNE 3-4,
IN THE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY

Don't miss the many opportunities for great classes and inspiring talks and lectures!

KOLLEL SHABBATON Schedule

The Missing Piece of the Puzzle
Dvar Torah at kiddush following first minyan
WITH RABBI YISROEL KARNOWSKY

Walking with the Torah: Righteous or Responsible?
Parsha class following first minyan kiddush
RABBI ARI ARAGON

Learning Halacha & History from the Siddur
Parshahalomdus class following first minyan kiddush
RABBI YAAKOV ZIONS

Ask the Rebbetzins
10 am
FINDER: SARA HALPERN
RIVKY KAPLAN
CHANI STERN
MODERATOR: YEHUDIS HEYMAN

The Power of Continuity
Dvar torah following main minyan
RABBI ANVA STERN

The Halachos and Hashkofos of Torah Study As it Applies to Men & Women
45 min. before mincha
RABBI SHMUEL HALPERN

Women's Open House
Shofar Seudos
Mincha time
HOSTED BY: FAIGY GERTZ & DANNI HOSSIASOHN
AT THE GERTZ HOME
SPEAKER: YEHUDIS SHIFRA ARAGON

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT RMH@DENVERKOLLEL.ORG

Schedule for the Kollel's pre-Shavuos Southeast Shabbaton

Jewish People, it is celebrated in the Bais Medrash (study hall) with Torah study.

"Shavuos is more than just cheesecake," explains Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher. "It is a very special holiday for those who are immersed in Torah study. At the Kollel, we aim

On the Monday night before Shavuos, Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers delivered a pre-Shavuos talk. Attended by over twenty people, Rabbi Sommers discussed the inspiration and importance of the days leading up to Shavuos.

The highlight of Shavuos (besides the cheesecake!) is Shavuos night, when Jews across the world stay up all night studying Torah. The Kollel offered a variety of Shavuos night study opportunities. On the West Side, Kollel scholars and associate scholars studied at Congregation Zera Abraham. Many Kollel scholars studied with a chavrusah (study partner). Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher gave a 2-hour class (with a



Rabbi Sommers delivering a pre-Shavuos talk at the Kollel West Side Bais Medrash

"Thirty-five people studying like that is just amazing," says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "Everyone is just blown away by the passion and fire that comes with full-throttle Torah learning." 

Bonfires and Cheesecake with the M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Division

What do bonfires and cheesecake have to do with Judaism? Well, the holiday of Lag Ba'Omer is famous for its conflagrations, while Shavuos is celebrated with the delectable dairy delicacy. But the question still remains: Why are they important to these holidays?

The Kollel's M.B. Glassman GOLD



Rabbi Fleisher speaks at pre-Shavuos class at Springbrooke

Senior Division set out to bring the deeper meaning of these holiday traditions to Denver's seniors. GOLD

Director Joyce Litzman organized five events throughout Denver, presented by Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher; three for Lag Ba'Omer and two for Shavuos. The Lag Ba'Omer class featured a PowerPoint presentation describing and discussing the customs of this enigmatic holiday, while participants at the Shavuos program enjoyed genuine cheesecake and a discussion about its importance and meaning on Shavuos.

"Many participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the holiday of Lag Ba'Omer," says Rabbi Fleisher. "It's a holiday that is not well-known, especially outside of Israel, though it has become more 'popular' in recent years. That we have a chance to make this wonderful and inspiring day a part of the lives of others is very

meaningful.

"Many participants were familiar with the holiday of Shavuos and the customary cheesecake," says Joyce Litzman, "and some recalled the dairy



Seniors at Heather Gardens listen raptly to the message of the cheesecake

meals of Shavuos celebrated in their youth. But they were all delighted to get a slice of real cheesecake, and to discover its deeper meaning!" 