

DENVER KOLLEL CONNECTION



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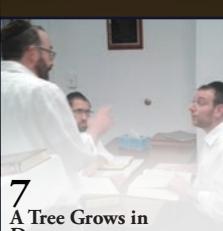
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The Denver Community Kollel is an institute for advanced Torah study whose scholars are dedicated to serving the educational and spiritual needs of all Jews throughout the greater Denver area.

KOLLEL CELEBRATING ITS CHAI ANNIVERSARY - 18 YEARS OF LIFE CHANGING WORK IN DENVER

King Solomon, in Proverbs, compares Torah to a tree of life, whose firm roots and strong branches provide stability and fortitude for those who cling to it. For eighteen years, the Denver Community Kollel has been nurturing that tree of life in Denver. *Chai*, the Hebrew word for life, has a numerical value of 18, and is often associated in Judaism with that most precious of all gifts. It is thus most fitting that the Kollel celebrate the Torah, a tree of life, at its 18th Anniversary Celebration.

"Our world is constantly changing, and we live with an awareness that things can shift drastically from one moment to the next," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "But we have a place of permanence in our world – the Torah. It is immutable and unassailable, its wisdom and beauty as relevant and vital today as it was a decade ago, a century ago, a millennium ago."

The Celebration is the Kollel's broadest appeal to the community to provide funding for the learning, programs and events it brings to the greater Denver area. "When you help the Kollel, your dollars are going to support Torah study and Jewish growth in Denver," says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman.

Apropos to 18 years of changing the Jewish landscape in Denver, the Kollel will be recognizing the 18 families – present members and alumni – who currently reside, and continue to make an impact, in Denver. (see centerfold for more on the 18 Kollel families)

The Celebration will take place on March 15th, 2016, 6:30 pm at Aish Denver, 9550 E. Belleview Ave. Reservations and ads can be placed by visiting www.denverkollel.org, emailing journal@denverkollel.org, or calling 303-820-2855.



RABBI MYER J. AND MRS. BRURIA SCHWAB TO BE GUESTS OF HONOR AT 18TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab will be the guests of honor at the Kollel's upcoming 18th Anniversary Celebration. Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab were the visionaries who founded the Kollel nearly two decades ago, forever changing the Jewish landscape of the city.

"As we mark our Chai Anniversary, celebrating 18 years of bringing the life-changing power of Torah to Denver, we recognize the individuals who planted the tree that has grown, flourished and produced such wonderful fruits," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers.

The Schwabs remain dedicated to the Kollel they began 18 years ago. "Their support and commitment has been vital to the continued success and growth of the Kollel," explains Rabbi Sommers, "and we look forward to many more years of working together in bringing Torah to Denver."

In conjunction with the Celebration, the Kollel is publishing a collection of Passover-related Torah thoughts excerpted from *Rav Schwab on Chumash*. This work,

a compendium of Torah thoughts from Rabbi Schwab's father, the legendary Rabbi Shimon Schwab, was authored by Rabbi Myer J. Schwab, and he has generously donated all royalties from the sale of the book to the Kollel. The Passover collection, *Rav Schwab on Pesach*, will be offered as a gift to attendees at the Celebration.

Kollel Senior Educator and Director of Operations Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher is editing the collection. "It is very fitting that as we honor Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab for their contributions to the spread of Torah in Denver and throughout the world, we continue their efforts by making this collection of Pesach-related Torah available just weeks before Pesach. This publication will enhance the Pesach experience of Jews throughout Denver."



COMING FULL CIRCLE



Reb Ari and Yehudis Shifra Aragon and their infant son, Shlomo



Reb Ari (l.) learning with Rabbi Avraham Abrams

In 2005, Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, then the Kollel's Outreach Director, began studying with Southeast resident Mr. Jesse Aragon. Jesse was impressed with the impact the Torah's ancient wisdom had in guiding his day-to-day life, and Rabbi Erlanger began to become a mentor to the Aragon family.

The Aragon family grew closer to Torah and Judaism. Jesse's daughter, Chaya Sarah, desired to create a Torah home of her own and, as a result, began learning with Rabbi Erlanger how to make that a reality. Today, she, her husband Geoff Singer and two children live in Houston, where they are active members of the Jewish community.

Jesse's son, Ari, forged a relationship with Rabbi Nachum Wasosky, then Youth Rabbi at Aish Denver. Rabbi Erlanger's relationship with the Aragon family extended to Ari; in 2008, Rabbi Erlanger began to give Ari advice on many different life questions. The questions, over time, became more frequent, and eventually led to Rabbi Erlanger becoming Ari's mentor. Ari left to study in Israel in 2009, where he grew by leaps and bounds. First studying at Ohr Samayach, then at Shapell's Darche Noam, Ari eventually went to study at the world-renowned Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem, joining the thousands of other yeshiva students who make it their life's mission to grow in Torah and Judaism.

Ari returned to America in 2013, and went to study in Yeshiva Gedola of the Five Towns.

In 2014, Ari married Yehudis Shifra Raskin, a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and they settled in Woodmere, NY, as Ari continued his studies at Yeshiva Gedola of the Five Towns.

This past fall, immediately after Sukkos, the story came full circle, as Ari and Yehudis Shifra moved into a home on Utica Street on Denver's West Side. This past December, they celebrated the birth of their first child, Shlomo.

Ari is a Kollel Associate Scholar, and he is currently studying full-time at the Kollel. He will begin a real-estate internship following Pesach, but plans on spending a significant part of his day in the Kollel Bais Medrash studying Torah.

"We are determined to maintain a strong connection to the Kollel, as it is our Torah foundation," explains Ari.

The Aragons are settling nicely into the West Side community. "The community is fabulous," says Yehudis Shifra. "The friendliness is felt almost constantly. When we first arrived and were in the process of unpacking and settling into our house, the community provided us with meals. After the baby was born, we again received meals. People call to offer help or just to say hello and check on how we're doing. With the vibrancy and welcoming atmosphere within the community, we already feel a strong sense of connection and belonging."

The Aragons are delighted to be part of the Kollel. "Being part of the Kollel, being associated with such a prestigious organization, is an honor for us," says Ari. "At the same time, it is like being part of a family, which gives us a comforting feeling of support. We hold the Kollel members in such high esteem, both due to their personal stature as well as the tremendous positive influence they have on us. We see how being involved in the Kollel had already brought out our personal *kochas* (abilities)."

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE KOLLEL

With the installment of Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab as Assistant Dean at Beth Jacob High School, the Kollel's administration has undergone several changes during the last year.

Rabbi Schwab remains the dean of the Kollel and will continue to lead the Kollel together with Rabbi Sommers. Rabbi Moshe Heyman, who had been serving as Director of Programming, was named Director, and is charged with much of the day-to-day administration previously shouldered by Rabbi Schwab.

With the founding of the M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Senior Division in fall of 2014, the Kollel hired Joyce Litzman as Director of the GOLD Division. Mrs. Litzman has seen

much success in her efforts, as GOLD has grown in reach, involvement and popularity since her arrival - GOLD's flagship program, the weekly Monday Lunch and Learn at the East Side Kosher Deli, had a weekly attendance of 4-8 a year ago, and now sees 30-40 attendees on a weekly basis! Mrs. Litzman also serves as the Kollel's Operations and Programs Coordinator.

Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher remains as Director of Operations and Kollel Senior Educator. His role as Senior Educator has expanded greatly during the past year. Rabbi Fleisher delivers almost all talks and classes for GOLD Division programs, where he is quite popular. He also presents many of the Kollel's monthly Torah for Tycoons classes, along with numerous other classes and one-on-one *chavrusah* sessions throughout the greater Denver area.

"I have supreme confidence in the excellent team that we have at the Kollel," says Rabbi Schwab. "The solid infrastructure that has been assembled will allow our institution to run smoothly and to flourish."

RABBANIT YEMIMA MIZRACHI COMES TO DENVER

Beginning this past October, the Women's Division of the Denver Community Kollel and AISH Denver have partnered to bring a video presentation for women featuring Rabbanit Yemima Mizrachi. The event is held at Aish Denver, usually during the first week of the month, and it features a recently-recorded talk that focuses on timely topics and current issues. The first three months, November, December and January, have seen over 150 women attend the video presentation.

"Rabbanit Mizrachi was voted one of the most influential



**Rabbanit
YEMIMA MIZRACHI**

women in Israel," says Joyce Litzman, the Kollel's M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Senior Division director, who conceived of the idea of bringing Rabbanit Mizrachi's talks to Denver. "She is one of the most in-demand speakers today. Her lectures attract hundreds of people in Israel. Her deep messages, presented with a sense of humor, do not fail to inspire her audiences, and the talks we have presented here have been met with critical acclaim."

For details and sponsorship opportunities, contact the Kollel at info@denverkollel.org or call 303-820-2855.



“

Aviva Polter: This was my first time attending the Rabbanit Yemima Mizrachi video - and now I know what everyone is raving about! She's so enjoyable to listen to, and at the same time, has a practical message to take home. Thank you so much for helping the Jewish women of the Denver community to learn and grow together! Thank you, Joyce, for bringing us SO much inspiration.

”



“

Erin Sahlerabi: I really love going to hear Rabbanit Mizrachi and look forward to the next class as soon as I'm leaving the current one. I love her down to earth humor and that she literally can make me laugh, cry and try to be a better person and mother all at the same time! It's really hard for me to get out at night, but hearing her is worth the effort!

”

“

Ruthie Krausz: Yemima Mizrachi is such a real person and so full of love. With her vast knowledge and animated delivery, her message truly pierces your soul. The evening was a tremendous inspiration for me.

”

“

Rhoda Reiss-Pitler: Rabbanit Mizrachi is so vivacious and her message of how to connect to Hashem is so clear.

”



The Kollel Women's Division held its annual December 25th Extravaganza at South Suburban Sports Center in Centennial. Nearly 600 people attended the event.



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RABBI AVRAHAM & CHAYA ABRAMS

Rebbe | Professor and Psychotherapist
Hillel Academy | Hillel Academy



RABBI YECHIEL & ESTI ERLANGER

Teacher, Beth | Teacher, Jacob High School | Preschool



RABBI MORDECHAI & DEVORAH FLEISHER

Senior Educator and Director of Operations | Web Developer
Denver Community Kollel | Programmer



RABBI DOVID & FAIGY GERTZ

Marriage and Family Therapist | Teacher, Hillel Academy



RABBI SHMUEL & SARA HALPERN

Kollel | Teacher, Scholar | Hillel Academy



RABBI MOSHE & YEHUDIS HEYMAN

Director, Denver Community Kollel | Accountant, Hillel Academy



RABBI ELCHONON & MIRIAM JOSEPH

Kashrus Coordinator | Scroll-K Kashrus of Denver | Teacher, Hillel Academy



RABBI YOSSI & RIVKY KAPLAN

Project Manager, EJC Construction | Teacher, Hillel Academy



RABBI DANIEL & ADINA KRAUSS

Principal Architect, Design | Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Develop Architecture | Social Worker



Since its inception 18 years ago, members of the Denver Community Kollel families, 18 currently reside in Denver. They spend their days and nights immersed in the Kollel's internal study sessions, learning one-on-one with communal scholars living in Denver. Some have gone into the business world, while others are professionals in various fields. A number of them are educators in schools, while other have chosen to teach in Torah institutions. The common denominator among all past Kollel families is that they have been involved in learning, Torah teaching and community service. The Torah life led by these families impacts those around them, inspiring them to commit to Torah and Jewish life, which strengthens the entire Jewish community.



years ago, 30 families have been Community Kollel. Of those 30 are in Denver. Current Kollel scholars are immersed in the study of Torah, be it study sessions, delivering classes, or serving community members. Former Kollel scholars have pursued a variety of vocations. Some are in the business world, others have become rabbis. A number have become Torah scholars. Many others have taken positions working in the common denominator of all current Kollel scholars: that they continue to bring Torah learning and Torah living to their families. Life led by these families engages and motivates them, inspires others in their communities, and builds and strengthens our Jewish community.



Director, Vaad Project of Yeshiva Toras Chaim | Teacher, Hillel Academy
RABBI LEVI & YOACHEVED LEOBOVITS



Kollet Scholar | Administrative Assistant, Denver Community Kollel
RABBI ELI & GITTY MOZES



Rosh Kollet | Director, Kollet Women's Division & Shaitel Machter
RABBI ARON YEHUDA & ESTI SCHWAB



Undergrad Student | Speech Therapist in Accounting | Practitioner, Myers Briggs Training Institute
RABBI GAVRIEL & AVIGAIL RUDNICK



Rosh Kollet | Program Director, Kollet Women's Division
RABBI SHACHNE & TZIPPY SOMMERS



Rebbe | Practitioner, Myers Briggs Training Institute
RABBI DOVID & BATSHVA SCHWARTZBERG



Owner, Highland Properties | Teacher, Beth Jacob High School of Denver
RABBI YISSOCHOR & AVIGAIL STEINHARTER



Kollet Scholar | Speech Therapist
RABBI AKIVA & CHANI STERN



Kollet Scholar | Bookkeeper
RABBI YAAKOV & HADASSAH ZIONS

GOLD FOCUSES ON JEWISH CALENDAR

Everyone knows about Rosh Hashana, Passover, and Chanukah. But throughout the year, there are numerous other Jewish holidays that occur – from the more

GOLD Grant renewed by the M.B. Glassman Foundation

The Kollel expresses its great appreciation and gratitude to the M.B. Glassman Foundation for renewing its generous grant for the M.B. Glassman GOLD Division. The funds allocated will allow the Kollel to continue bringing joy and meaning to Denver's Jewish senior community through Torah and Judaism.

well-known ones like Sukkos and Purim to the lesser-known ones like Lag Ba'omer and Tu Bishvat. And then, there's the Jewish calendar itself – how does it work? Have you ever heard of a leap month?



Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab discussing different types of sukkahs

The Kollel's M.B. Glassman GOLD Division has put a special focus on bringing the Jewish calendar, with its attendant holidays, to Denver's Jewish seniors. As a holiday appears on the horizon, GOLD, under the able direction of Joyce Litzman, arranges a program focused on the upcoming calendar event at a number of senior residences and venues in Denver. "GOLD offers an interactive program that allows participants not just to learn about the holiday, but to experience it in a more hands-on fashion," explains Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, who discusses the meaning of the holiday at many of the programs.

As for that leap month – this year is a Jewish calendar leap year, and GOLD is featuring a program devoted to discussing what it's all about.



RABBI YOSSI KAPLAN TAKES NEW POSITION

Rabbi Yossi Kaplan has taken a position as Project Manager at EJC Construction. The Kaplan family will remain in Denver, and will join the nine other Kollel Associate Scholar families who currently reside in Denver.

"We love it here in Denver," says Rabbi Kaplan. "Baruch Hashem, my job allows my family and me to remain here in this beautiful city."

Rabbi Kaplan will continue delivering classes for the Kollel in the evenings. He continues to study in the Kollel Bais Medrash during his free time. Rabbi Tuvia Negreann, a *sofer* (Jewish scribe) who moved to Denver's West Side this past fall and is close with many of the Kollel families, studies with him daily. "Reb Yossi's continued involvement in the Kollel Bais

Medrash, along with his new career, combine to strengthen our community," says Rabbi Negreann. "He contributes in many ways, and he is a model for others who have joined the workforce while maintaining their attachment to Torah and devotion to the community."

"The Kaplans have made such a difference in my life," says Michael Kadovitz, who has been studying with Rabbi Kaplan for the past three years and has been a guest at the Kaplans' home on numerous occasions for get-togethers. "It can be disappointing when someone with whom you have built strong bonds moves away, so I am absolutely delighted that the Kaplans have decided to join the many other Kollel alumni who make their homes in Denver. These families make such a difference to the Jewish community."

"I am truly happy to have forged a bond with the Kollel," says Rabbi Kaplan. "It's great having a community Bais Medrash to study in and be part of."

The Kollel wishes Rabbi Kaplan much success in his new position.



The city of Denver has seen explosive growth during the last several years. And paralleling that growth is the flourishing of Torah, that Tree of Life that continues to change the lives of so many in Denver.

The Kollel has been at the forefront of that development, extending the branches of Torah learning, Torah teaching and Torah living to an ever-growing number of Jews of all ages and backgrounds in Denver.

The trunk of this mighty tree can be found in two study halls in Denver: the Kollel's West Side Bais Medrash and Southeast Torah Center. These two hubs of Torah house the Kollel's daily internal study *sedarim* (sessions) and community-wide night *seder* programs.

"Since the Kollel's inception, the Kollel's night *seder* has been a major part of its mission of bringing Torah to Denver,"



studying with Rabbi Myer J. Schwab for more than ten years at night seder at the Kollel's West Side Bais Medrash. "Being able to spend my nights at the Kollel, a place of true Torah, learning with Rabbi Schwab is definitely the most elevating, positive part of my day," he says.

"I find the environment for learning to be quite stimulating," says Steven Goldstein, who attends Kollel Scholar Rabbi Eli Mozes' *Learn2Learn* Talmud class at the Kollel Southeast Torah Center. "Several groups are all learning at the same time, and each is discussing their particular topics out loud. Despite this, I feel like Rabbi Mozes keeps our group focused and fully engaged on our topic. The group environment offers a unique experience and a motivation for learning."

The Kollel's night seder on the West Side is a wonderful place to learn without distraction," says Chaim Abrams, who



explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "During the last few years, the Kollel has been revitalized as we have brought a number of new families to Denver. They, along with the members of the community, have been instrumental in the resurgence of our night *seder*."

"The Kollel Southeast Torah Center is a happening place during night seder," says Rabbi Mordechai Rotstein, who relocated to Denver with his family this past fall to work for the Scroll-K kashrus organization. "There are a variety of classes given by the Kollel scholars that are open for anyone to join. In addition, there are *chavrusos* (study partners) engaged in lively study and debate."

"I find it most enjoyable and rewarding joining other community members for learning and *maariv*," says Mr. David Fine, who learns with Kollel Scholar Rabbi Yaakov Zions. "It's a good way to end the day."

Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Elchonon Joseph has been

learns nightly with his *chavrusa* (study partner), Isaac Kravitz. "Whether learning with a *chavrusa* or looking for a group setting on any level, there is always a place for anyone interested in learning Torah."

In truth, the Kollel *batei medrash* (study halls) are full-time community *batei medrash*. The sound of community-wide Torah study resounds during the daytime, as well, as a number of community members join the Kollel during its internal study sessions. On Shabbos, Sundays and legal holidays, and when yeshiva students return home for Jewish holidays or summer break, many more flock to study Torah during their time off.

"It [the Kollel Southeast Torah Center] is always a welcoming and pleasant place to engage in Torah study," says Rabbi Rotstein. "It has something for anyone who is interested in a revitalizing injection of Torah study at the end a long day. The Kollel definitely adds to the spirituality of the Southeast community in a big way."



YUMMY FOOD,
GREAT LADIES!
RANA KARK



I DON'T NORMALLY DO
SPEECHES, BUT I DID NOT
LOSE MY CONCENTRATION!!
CHANA AMINOV



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Denver, CO 80204

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Tuesday,
Jan. 12, '16
6:30PM

To be held at
altura
Periodontics
3690 S. Yosemite Street
Denver, Colorado 80237

Plenty of parking available
Soup 'n' Salad 'n' Salmon



I REALLY ENJOYED THE
SPEECHES, ESPECIALLY HOW
AVIGAIL (STEINHARTER)
TALKED OF THE WAY GRATITUDE
CONTRIBUTES TO OUR HEALTH
AND WELLNESS.
JILL BLADES



I AM SO HAPPY THE KOLLEL
IS DOING THIS EVENT TO
HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF
WOMEN'S HEALTH - AND
THEY SERVE GREAT FOOD!
VALERIE KNOWLES



I ONLY CAME BECAUSE MY FRIENDS
CONVINCED ME TO TAKE TIME FOR
MYSELF, AND I AM THRILLED I CAME!
I LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALWAYS
FEELING POSITIVE! I MET SMART LADIES
AND ENJOYED VERY MUCH!
HILLARY BASKIN



THE PROGRAM LAST YEAR WAS SO GREAT, I WAS
SO HAPPY TO COME BACK THIS YEAR! THESE
EVENTS ARE SO INTERESTING AND THE FOOD
IS DELICIOUS AND BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED!
DEBBIE MEISTERPLASS



FOOD WAS UNBELIEVABLE,
SPEAKERS WERE OUTSTANDING.
I MAKE SURE TO COME EVERY YEAR!
GABRIELLA GOTTLIEB



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I FOUND THIS EVENT
REJUVENATING AND
ENLIGHTENING!
AVIGAIL RUDNICK