

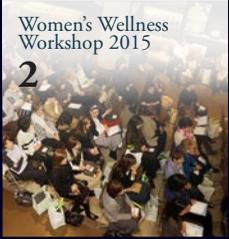
DENVER KOLLEL CONNECTION



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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.

FROM SINAI TO DENVER: DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL CELEBRATES ITS 17TH YEAR

As the Kollel's 17th Anniversary Celebration draws near, the Kollel's focus on Mesorah, the unbroken chain of Torah stretching from Sinai to Denver, takes center stage.

The Celebration will take place at Aish Denver on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 pm.

The Kollel will be presenting attendees with an exclusive publication of the book *Our Mesorah: The Unbroken Chain of Torah Transmission*. This beautiful new release, a multi-faceted fifty-page

book detailing the Mesorah - the chain of Torah transmission - will be accompanied at the Celebration by an original video presentation illustrating the Mesorah and its transmission through the millennia. (see pages 4-5 for feature article on Mesorah)

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 Program Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "So you aren't just helping the current Jewish community of Denver, you are helping future generations who will be more committed to Judaism."



ANDY & RANA KARK TO RECEIVE TORAH PARTNER AWARD AT KOLLEL'S CELEBRATION

The Kollel will be presenting Andy and Rana Kark with the Torah Partner Award at its Seventeenth Anniversary Celebration in recognition of their dedication to committed Torah study.

"Andy is someone who has been deeply impacted by Torah," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "His devotion to Torah study and to incorporating it into his life is apparent."

Esti Schwab, director of the Kollel Women's Division, has been studying with Rana on a regular basis for several years. "Rana's commitment to study - you just see that she is looking to grow Jewishly," she says.

Andy is a CPA and a CFP practicing financial planning for over 20 years with M.Z. Kark and Assoc. He is also a principal in Israel Investment Advisors, which manages the Israel Investment Fund.

Rana is a real estate project manager for US General Services Administration; she manages construction projects in federal buildings and courthouses in downtown Denver.

The Karks have three children, twins Jacob and Hannah, age 17,

and Asher, age 13.

Andy and Rana's prominence in the Jewish community stands out, as well. Andy is currently the President of the East Side Eruv and sits on the DAT Minyan board as well as the coordinating counsel at Jewish Colorado.



Rana is a member of the Board of Trustees at Denver Jewish Day School, a board member of the Jewish Resource Center for Jewish Colorado, and a taskforce committee member for the Mikvah of East Denver, among other involvements in the community.

"It's amazing how often I meet a new woman in the community, and, of course, she knows Rana!" says Esti Schwab. "And it extends to their children as well - they are a very well-liked and popular family here in Denver."

"There's just so much positive energy flowing from Andy," says Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, who has been studying with Andy for the past two years. "He's always upbeat, and people just like to be around him."

WOMEN'S WELLNESS WORKSHOP 2015

The Kollel Women's Division held its third annual Women's Wellness Workshop on January 13th, 2015 at Cableland. Women from all parts of the greater Denver area turned out for an inspiring and captivating keynote address from

noted educator and speaker Debbie Selengut, informative and enlightening breakout sessions that focused on proper sleep habits and communicating in the Information Age and, as always, great food prepared by the Kollel women.

I thought the keynote speaker was excellent. I found her relatable, motivational. She was poignant and it all flowed so naturally. - *Allison Donner*

There was so much content in the program! - *Mimi Pomeranz*

I had such an enjoyable evening. Thank you for the honor of presenting to such an enthusiastic group of women! Debbie Selengut's keynote was so inspiring! I now have many new insights about my life and changes I want to make. - *Dr. Ellyn Matthews (presenter)*

"The exceptional quality of the speakers elevates this particular event from just a women's social gathering to an intelligent, thought-inspiring educational opportunity."

The exceptional quality of the speakers elevates this particular event from just a women's social gathering to an intelligent, thought-inspiring educational opportunity. I so value that the Kollel understands the completeness of women... they offer programs like this that motivate me to do better in my everyday life and connect with wonderful women. - *Goldie Cohen*

The Women's Wellness Workshop was an inspiring evening; full of camaraderie with other women and insightful speakers. The topics were relevant, and I enjoyed hearing the Torah perspective on issues that come up for everyone. - *Megan Baron*



I liked the sleep workshop - very practical. Miriam Joseph made great connections. - *Jade Shurtleff*

Another inspiring, spiritually enriching evening! Thank you for your time and energy in putting this together. - *Rochelle Block-Sokol*

I really enjoyed the event and have great admiration for the women of the Denver Community Kollel. - *Dr. Joan Nelson (presenter)*

What a class act! If you weren't there, you missed a fabulous evening! - *Simi Sonstein*

DECEMBER 25TH JEWISH FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA



For the fourteenth year, the Kollel Women's Division hosted the Kollel's Annual December 25th Jewish Family Extravaganza. A fun-filled day that gives adults and children alike the opportunity to join with fellow Jews from across the greater Denver area and beyond, the Extravaganza took place at the South Suburban Family Sports Center in Centennial. The 150,000-square foot venue held attractions for kids of all ages, and attracted an estimated 500 people. Adults and children alike enjoyed a wide range of attractions, including ice skating, LaserTag, bumper cars, Lollipop Park amusement park, rock climbing, and arcades.

This is my fifth year attending the Extravaganza. There is something special about spending time with so many Jews on a day when I feel like a minority. My kids realize this and want to come back! - *Hannah Katz*

My daughter looked around and said, "These are all Jewish people! I have never see so many Jews!" - *(anonymous attendee)*

This was excellent! We heard about it from friends, and we'd like to come again!
- *Ana, who arrived 10 months ago from Israel*



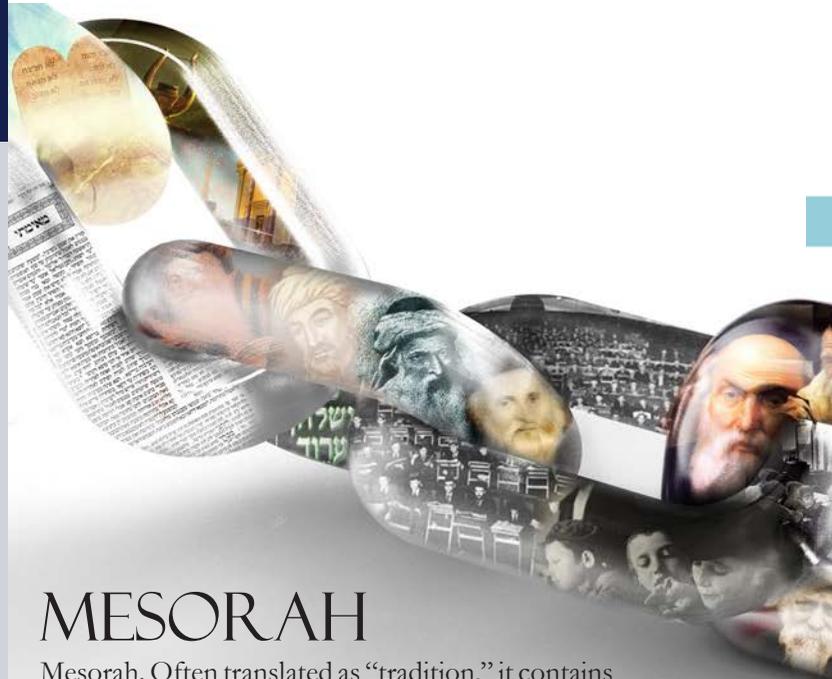
I've been attending the Extravaganza since the first year, 15 years ago! Now it's a family tradition, and I come with my younger child. We wouldn't miss it! - *David Waltzer*

My kids look forward to this stuff all year, and talk about how much fun it is all year too!
- *Dawn Pepper*



TORAH FOR TYCOONS

Our Mesorah comes to the fore at Torah for Tycoons, where the Torah's ancient teachings provide guidance in today's complicated, confusing world. Torah for Tycoons continues to provide Denver's professional community with intriguing and relevant material, exploring the intersection of modern society and the Torah's timeless guidance. The past year has seen much occurring throughout the world, and the Kollel rose to the occasion, providing discussions on such timely topics as The Balance of Justice, Fairness and Mercy in Prosecuting Criminals with Phillippe Gerschel, Clawback Litigation with Harvey Sender, The Justice System and the Media with Steven Zansberg, The Limits of Self Defense with Daniel N. Recht, and The Ethics of Treating Contagious Diseases with Dr. Daniel Mogyoros.



MESORAH

Mesorah. Often translated as “tradition,” it contains so much more depth and meaning than that shallow English word. Mesorah is not merely a set of rituals performed as our ancestors did. Rather, it is the heart and soul of proper observance of the Torah and the life it demands of us. It is the well-trodden path upon which we travel, the same path upon which our ancestors walked, tracing back through generations and ages, through the centuries and millennia, to that great moment when the Mesorah began, as the Jewish People stood at Sinai and declared their dedication to G-d and His Torah with those famous words, words that ring until this day: “*Naaseh v'nishmah*,” We will do and we will listen. That great moment when the Mesorah began, as Hashem would command the Jewish People to bequeath that Torah, and the Sinai experience that accompanied its descent into this world, to their children, and for those children to hand it to their offspring, *ad infinitum*.

As bearers of that ancient yet timeless flame of Torah, a guide as relevant today as it was 3,327 years ago when the Jewish Nation stood at the foot of the fiery mountain, the Denver Community Kollel views it a sacred responsibility to connect every Jew, regardless of background, with that chain. Every Kollel scholar has a Mesorah that he has received from his teachers, and as the

THE KOLLEL VIEWS IT A SACRED RESPONSIBILITY TO CONNECT EVERY JEW, REGARDLESS OF BACKGROUND, WITH THAT CHAIN.



center table, l. to r., Daniel N. Recht, shareholder, Recht Kornfeld, Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, and moderator Dan Woodrow



l. to r., Steven Zansberg, partner, Levine, Sullivan Koch and Schulz LLP, Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, and moderator Daniel Garfield



l. to r., Phillippe Gerschel, former Brooklyn Assistant District Attorney, and Kollel Senior Educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher



center table, l. to r., Harvey Sender, shareholder, Sender Wasserman Wadsworth, P.C., Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, and moderator Dr. Neiel Baronberg

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Torah scholars don't just happen on their own. In order to become knowledgeable in Torah, a great deal of time and effort must be invested in the study of Torah. The Kollel's scholars have spent years studying in yeshivos in the United States and Israel before joining the Kollel and imparting their knowledge to others. But their personal growth doesn't end when they arrive in Denver.

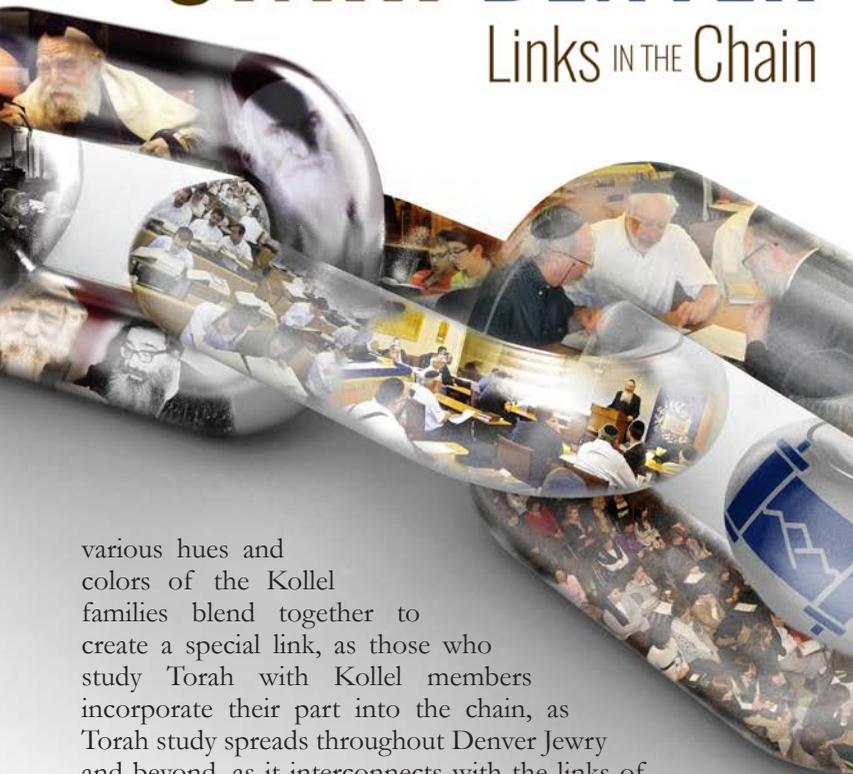


“When a person fills himself with Torah, when the Torah remakes the person, then that person is truly able to impart that Torah to others,” explains Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. “Because there is no comparison between one who simply repeats what he knows, and one whose very being radiates the Torah that is absorbed in his bones.”



FROM SINAI TO DENVER

Links IN THE Chain



various hues and colors of the Kollel families blend together to create a special link, as those who study Torah with Kollel members incorporate their part into the chain, as Torah study spreads throughout Denver Jewry and beyond, as it interconnects with the links of Jews and communities wherever they may be, the Kollel beckons to the world to join it in making that flame ever brighter.

This year, the Kollel is celebrating its seventeenth anniversary with a special book, *From Sinai to Denver*, that illustrates that great Mesorah. Tracing the path of Torah from Sinai throughout the ages and the continents until the present day here in Denver, this book will bring you to a deeper and broader appreciation of the Torah and the Mesorah that has brought the Torah to us from its great beginning in the desert so many years ago.

In addition, the Kollel is proud to present an original video presentation that will illustrate, in living color, the impact of the Kollel in bringing the Mesorah to Denver's Jews.

TIME FOR TORAH

We aren't known as People of the Book for nothing. Throughout the millennia, Jews the world over have always made time to study Torah on a consistent basis. It's what brings the Torah into the hectic daily grind and allows its life-giving powers to impact and direct our lives. Making a set time for Torah study, or *k'vius ittim l'Torah*, has always been a vital aspect of living a Jewish life.

Rabbi Moshe Heyman, the Kollel's Director of Programming, set out to make *k'vius ittim* part and parcel of daily life in Southeast Denver. Rabbi Heyman made the following offer to men in the Southeast: Learn at least 13 hours a month, and receive a stipend.

"Around 30 people have participated in the program, and most of them aren't taking payment!" says Rabbi Heyman. "Southeast Denver continues to *shteig* in its commitment to Torah, and *k'vius ittim* is the natural next step."

Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers agrees. "The vibrant night seder at the Kollel Torah Center is energizing the Southeast community to reach unprecedented heights."



The Kollel holds daily internal study sessions throughout the week. While community members are invited to take part in these sessions, the primary focus of the learning is for the Kollel scholars to delve into their own studies as they develop their connection with, and knowledge of, Torah.

"And then," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron

Yehuda Schwab, "the scholars' knowledge and passion just spills over to those they come into contact with. It impacts everyone in their circles, and beyond. It makes their family a different kind of family, their friends different people, it makes their community a different community."



NIGHT SEDER FOR YOUNG BOCHURIM

This past summer vacation, the Kollel held a highly successful night seder learning program for middle and high school boys on summer vacation. Looking to build on that accomplishment, Rabbi Yossi Kaplan initiated the Night Seder for Young Bochurim this past fall. Night Seder for Young Bochurim is an extra-curricular program for boys in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The program, which takes place on Sunday nights at the West Side Kollel Bais Medrash, provides a framework in which middle school boys can break into the Bais Medrash setting in the Kollel environment while gaining valuable Torah knowledge not normally covered in the standard school curriculum.

“One of the great things about this program is that the boys are comfortable being in a Bais Medrash, instead of perhaps

feeling intimidated by it,” says Rabbi Kaplan. “This night seder is an enjoyable, enriching program for all involved.”

In addition to the learning, Rabbi Kaplan hold a weekly drawing for prizes – and the prizes to be raffled are chosen by the boys themselves! Nosh at the end of the weekly program, and a monthly Thursday night event featuring a grand prize drawing and hot food round out a multi-faceted experience.

The program’s success has led to a similar venture in Southeast Denver at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center. It is led there by Kollel scholar Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, who joined the Kollel this past fall.

The program attracts a dozen boys from the West Side and nine boys in the Southeast. As is evident from the comments below, they’re learning a lot and having a great time doing it!



Rabbi Kaplan learning with the boys in the Kollel West Side Bais Medrash



Rabbi Schwab shares a Torah thought and a story with the boys



At a Thursday night get-together

“At Rabbi Kaplan’s learning program we learn a lot and it’s lots of fun.”

- Yechezkel Leib Zeiger, age 12

“It’s a very wonderful program and it gives me a chance to learn and to get prizes and nosh!”

- Lazer Kagan, age 13

“Rabbi Kaplan is a great rebbe, and he explains everything very well and very clearly.”

- Avraham Abba Freedman, age 12

“I enjoy being able to go to learn at night with my friends. Rabbi Kaplan is great at making learning fun!”

- David Abrams, age 13

“I really like coming to the Bais Medrash to learn.”

- Gavi Kass, age 13

“It’s nice to come out at night and learn.”

- Binyomin Hoffman, age 12

“Rabbi Halpern is great, and having chulent and cake is a big plus!”

- Shimon Heyman, age 12

RESERVE NOW FOR
MEN'S LAKEWOOD MISSION
ON LAG BA'OMER WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATE

To reserve your spot for these exciting missions,
contact Rabbi Moshe Heyman, rmh@denverkollel.org

RESERVE NOW FOR
WOMEN'S JW RP MISSION
FOR THE 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR



GETTING THE WHOLE PICTURE WITH THE BETTER HALF



Yehudis Heyman, wife of the Kollel's Director of Programming Rabbi Moshe Heyman, began a class for women this past fall entitled *The Better Half*. Conceived of, arranged and hosted by Natasha Krochmal, the class takes place on Sundays in Southeast Denver. Natasha and other attendees have a lot to say about *The Better Half*!



Liana Rotenberg: Yehudis is an inspirational teacher who brings meaning and lifts up all of us women in a very emotional and spiritual way. Thank you, Yehudis!!!

Natasha Krochmal: I feel blessed and honored to be hosting *The Better Half* class at my house every other Sunday. The class is taught by Yehudis Heyman and has been an amazing success due to Yehudis' altruistic and genuine motives to reach out to all of us and share her great wisdom, to inspire, empower, educate, unite, and bring women of all walks of life closer to Hashem and Yiddishkeit no matter what level of observance or affiliation.

She has been able to bring so much light and beauty into all of our lives. Yehudis has inspired so many women to take on various mitzvos with joy and to realize our integral part in this world and in our homes! Women started searching into their souls to find for themselves a Jewish name, increase their sense of modesty, cover their hair, and increase their knowledge regarding the great mitzvah of family purity!

I have had women show up at my house on a wrong Sunday because they were eager to hear what Yehudis had in store for us this time!

The class has unified and inspired so many different women! It has taught us to look past what we see with our eyes and showed all of us that we are never finished learning and all always have room for growth. It made it so clear to us that we are all a part of one beautiful Nation of Israel and one body and one soul and no matter what we look like or where we hold in terms of our Yiddishkeit, we are all sisters!

Irena Matsuhashi:

Yehudis is a powerful force who is a true role model in the Jewish community. Not only for her commitment to educating and empowering women, but also for the purity in her heart and soul.

I am blessed to have met her and the amazing women through this class.

Marnina Kregas: Yehudis is an amazing woman and educator. She teaches with the purpose to empower and inspire women! She brings about commonality and unity among a group of women and allows us to bring up our questions to her that she always answers in a non-judgmental way. I feel blessed to have met her and all the amazing women in the class. I learn new things every week!

Rita Katsnelson: Yehudis is an amazing teacher. She empowers us with the knowledge to continue performing our mitzvot with *koach* (strength). And she gives us the right tools and stories to teach our kids. It is also great to meet other ladies in the community to socialize and stay connected.

Megan Baron: Yehudis is an inspiring speaker and strives to make a connection with each person whom she teaches. I leave each of her classes feeling empowered to make positive changes in my life.

THE M.B. GLASSMAN FOUNDATION GOLD PROGRAM



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Torah study is not limited to any age; whether you're 9 or 99, there's something for you to learn, no matter your level of expertise or experience.

Last summer, Dr. Philip Mehler, president of the M.B. Glassman Foundation, approached Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, Director of Operations for the Kollel, with an idea. "Improving the lives of the elderly was a priority of Mr. Glassman's charitable giving," explains Rabbi Fleisher. "Dr. Mehler felt that a project that would cater to the considerable senior population of Denver is something that would have made Mr. Glassman very happy and would fulfill the



Children visiting Shalom Park

vision of the M.B. Glassman Foundation. In fact, Mr. Glassman himself had attended such a shiur given by the late Rabbi Yisrael Rosenfeld z"l at the original East Side Kosher Deli location."

The Kollel was awarded a grant by the M.B. Glassman Foundation to create and develop a program aimed at providing meaningful programs, services and events for seniors. And thus, the M.B. Glassman GOLD (Golden Opportunity Learning Division) Program, dedicated to bringing Torah study to senior members of the Denver Jewish Community, was born.

Since then, the Kollel has launched a weekly lunch-and-learn program at the East Side Kosher Deli, led by Rabbi Fleisher, for retired and semi-retired men and women at the East Side Kosher Deli. Nearly two dozen seniors have already attended the program, and that number keeps on growing as the word spreads. The Kollel has also arranged for children to visit residents at Shalom Park on a weekly basis, and has been a presence at other senior events around Denver.

"I have certainly both enjoyed and learned a lot at the M.B. Glassman Foundation Kollel lunch-and-learns at the Deli," says Jack Greenwald. "Each week, Rabbi Fleisher prepares interesting points about the Torah portion of the week. He is always receptive to a variety of challenging questions from the attendees. All the guests have gained a lot of knowledge by listening to him."



GOLD Lunch-and-Learn on Mondays at the East Side Kosher Deli



Rabbi Moshe Heyman reaching out to elders in the community as he joins them at a Chanukah party

This February, the Kollel hired Joyce Litzman as coordinator of the GOLD Program. "Mrs. Litzman brings many years of experience as a project manager," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehdua Schwab. "Bringing her on board adds a whole new level of professionalism, and it means that the Kollel is committed to expanding the GOLD Program, both qualitatively and quantitatively, as a major source of programming and services for seniors in the Denver Jewish community."



Cantor Zechariah Kutner making a point to Rabbi Fleisher