

THE DENVER COMMUNITY KOLLEL KOLLEL UPDATE

Because Torah Is for Every Jew



November 2017/Cheshvan 5778

Kollel Members Take Positions in Community

Change is rarely easy, but it provides an opportunity for growth. As the Kollel continuously grows in its ability to bring Torah learning, Torah teaching and Torah living to Denver Jewry, it regularly undergoes changes that are a healthy part of that process.

Over the past several months, there have been significant changes in the personnel of the Kollel, as two Kollel members, Rabbi Eli Mozes and Rabbi Yaakov Zions, have taken positions in the Denver community.

"Although we will miss Rabbi Mozes and Rabbi Zions as full-time Kollel Scholars, we are very gratified to have our Kollel scholars assume positions of leadership in our local Denver community," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers.

Rabbi Eli Mozes joined the Kollel in October of 2013. During the past four years, Rabbi Mozes has become an integral part of the Kollel and the Denver Jewish community. Rabbi Mozes' thirst for Torah learning, encyclopedic Torah knowledge and wide smile have won him many friends, admirers and students across

Denver. He delivered numerous classes in Southeast and East Denver, and his students have been forever enriched by his broad knowledge and enthusiasm for Torah study. Rabbi Mozes' dynamic presence in the *bais medrash* was enjoyed and appreciated by Kollel scholars and community members alike.

This past September, Rabbi Eli Mozes joined Yeshiva Toras Chaim as *shoel u'mayshiv*, sharing his Talmudic expertise with individual students and groups during *bais medrash* sessions. In addition, he serves as Director of Student Development, actively researching and recruiting potential student candidates.



Rabbi Mozes engaged in discussion with students of Yeshiva Toras Chaim

"Rabbi Mozes has earned a place in the hearts of all of the *bachurim* in Yeshiva," says Rabbi Naftali Seidenfeld, *menahel* (principal) of Yeshiva Toras Chaim High School. "With his warmth and caring nature, coupled with his erudite knowledge, we are sure we will have a wonderful relationship going forward."

"I am deeply appreciative to the Kollel for the nearly four years that I spent as a community scholar," says Rabbi Mozes. "I am also thankful to the Kollel for recommending me to Yeshiva Torah Chaim, feeling that that this would be most beneficial for me and the community. Although it is difficult to leave the wonderful *bais medrash* environment of the Kollel, it is wonderful to be able to move on to such an amazing (and local) institution. The Yeshiva allows me to spend virtually all my time teaching a new generation of Torah scholars, community leaders and Torah-true Jews."

Rabbi Yaakov Zions joined the Kollel in October of 2014. For the past three years, he has been bringing his unique

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Rabbi Yosef and Bracha Melamed Join Kollel

Not resting on its laurels following the departure of two of its scholars, the Kollel is already in the process of filling the two vacancies left by these recent changes. In mid-October, the Kollel welcomed Rabbi Yosef and Bracha Melamed. Rabbi Melamed is the son of long-time Denver residents Rabbi Shlomo and Esther Melamed. The Melameds have two children, Yisroel Meir, 2, and Nechama, 1.

"It is a true privilege to join such an esteemed organization," says Rabbi Melamed. "It is especially exciting to join an organization that played such an important role in my upbringing


as a *ben Torah* (person committed to Torah living)."

"We have merited great *siyata dishmaya* (assistance from Heaven) in recruiting scholars of the highest caliber," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "This continues with the recent addition of Denver's own Rabbi Yosef Melamed."

"We are thrilled to welcome the Melameds to the Kollel," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. "Reb Yosef has already begun to bring his keen mind and extensive knowledge to the Kollel's *bais medrash*. We look



Rabbi Yosef and Bracha Melamed upon arrival at Denver International Airport

forward to the broader Denver Jewish community benefiting from this talented new couple." 

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breadth of Torah knowledge to countless Jews in Denver. Rabbi Zions is a veritable fountain of information on virtually any subject associated with Torah and Judaism, and his eagerness to share his knowledge with others has made many a person more knowledgeable of halacha and Jewish customs and traditions.

Rabbi Zions is responsible for bringing the world-famous Navi class of Rabbi Yisroel Reisman to Denver. He is an integral part of a weekly night seder program at Ohr Avner, the Bucharian community synagogue in Aurora. He delivers a weekly class in the Kollel's West Denver Bais Medrash and maintains numerous *chavrusah* learning sessions at all times and locations throughout the week.

Following Sukkos, Rabbi Zions took a position with Scroll K Vaad HaKashrus of Denver.

"It was an amazing opportunity to have been full-time in the Kollel for three great years," says Rabbi Zions. "The Torah learning and knowledge I have gained, as well as being surrounded

by great scholars whose entire focus is furthering Torah knowledge, is rewarding and humbling."

Rabbi Zions will, for the time being, remain part of the Kollel's afternoon and evening study sessions as he gradually takes on more responsibility with Scroll K.

"I greatly appreciate the efforts the



Rabbi Zions supervising at a slaughterhouse in Greeley, CO

Kollel made to ease my transition period, being provided the ability to

remain in the Kollel on a part-time basis. Moving forward, I hope to maintain my involvement to whatever degree possible."

"We are excited and most pleased to have Rabbi Yaakov Zions join us at the Scroll K," says Scroll K Kashrus Administrator Rabbi Elchonon Joseph. "Rabbi Zions is well-known as an established *talmid chacham* (Torah scholar). His broad knowledge in many areas of halacha and Talmud, along with a keen eye for detail, will make him a great asset to the Scroll K."

Rabbi Zions and Rabbi Mozes join eleven other Kollel alumni families who have remained in Denver since joining the Kollel.

"It gives us great *nachas* to see the community tapping Kollel personnel for vital Torah positions in Denver," says Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman, "and it's a testimony to the caliber of our scholars that they are hired by such prestigious organizations." 

Donor Appreciation Event 2017

The Kollel held its annual Donor Appreciation Event on Monday, September 25th at the Beth Jacob High School of Denver Educational Building in West Denver.



l. to r., Pennie Aragon, Esti Schwab, Yehudis Shifra Aragon, Hannah Sperber

The Donor Appreciation Event is a time for those dedicated to the Kollel to show their support, as well as an opportunity for the Kollel to express its appreciation to its supporters.

The Beth Jacob Educational Building is located directly across the street from the site of the future home of the Kollel.

"This location provided a perfect backdrop for an evening focused on the great progress the Kollel has made during the past year in building the future of Torah in Denver," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. "We are grateful to the many people who are working and partnering with us to make this building – once nothing more than a dream – become reality."

A short but impactful and informative program began with a brief recap of milestones of the past year, followed by Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers announcing the personnel changes at the Kollel. Rosh Kollel Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab discussed progress on the Kollel's building campaign, showing the latest floor plans, 3D imagery and a brief virtual tour of the future home of the Kollel. Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Akiva Stern followed with a thought on the

weekly parsha that focused on the unique Torah needs of every Jew and the Kollel's mission to provide Torah for every Jew. Kollel Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman concluded with the announcement that the Kollel had recently qualified for Colorado Child Care Tax Credits and explained the opportunity this development provides for Kollel supporters.

As with all Kollel events, a unique culinary experience, *Perfect from Plate to Palate*, designed and created by the Kollel women, delighted attendees.

With stunning décor, great ambience and delicious food, the Donor Appreciation Event was enjoyed by all those in attendance.

"The evening was really inspiring," says Mrs. Agi Fried. "Everything was arranged beautifully, the speakers were excellent, the food was delicious! I thought it was a very successful event."