

Rav Mordechai Fleisher Appointed Rav of Zera Abraham

After fifteen years with the Denver Community *Kollel*, Rabbi Mordechai and Devorah Fleisher have taken the position of *Rov* and *Rebbetzin* of Congregation *Zera Abraham* of West Denver. The Fleishers moved to Denver to join the *Kollel* in August of 2007. After 3 years as a full-time *Kollel* Scholar, Rabbi Fleisher was installed as Director of Community Education in 2011. In that capacity, he continued making a great impact upon the community through his popular classes (and creative class titles). In the following years, the *Kollel* and community greatly benefited from R' Mordechai's multi-faceted talents as Rabbi Fleisher played a number of roles within the *Kollel*, wearing a variety of hats. He was a vital part of the leadership team that led the *Kollel* as it emerged from the Great Recession to achieve BH new heights of success, including the increase of the number of the core *Kollel* Scholars to ten, the development and growth of the Southeast *Kollel Torah* Center, and the construction of the West Denver *Kollel Torah*



Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher speaking at his installation event.

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New Space for Southeast Envisioned

It is a quarter century since Rabbi Yaakov Meyer of Aish-Denver first invited the *Kollel* to partner with him by teaching *Torah* in the Southeast Denver community. Throughout the next decades, the Southeast community has seen phenomenal growth, both physically and spiritually. Major milestones in that growth were the settling the first two *Kollel* families Southeast over 15 years ago, and the opening of the *Kollel's* own Southeast *Bais Medrash* six years ago. Since opening its doors, the Southeast *Kollel Torah* Center/*Ohel Yissochor* has become a hub of *Torah* study for the entire community. With the continued growth of the community, the current space has become inadequate and the need for creating a larger space has become clear. An opportunity arose about two years ago when the house next door to the current Southeast *Kollel Torah* Center went up for sale. The *Kollel* purchased the property for the purpose of enlarging the *Kollel Torah* Center, and efforts began to create plans for a new, spacious *Kollel Torah* Center. Now, those plans are complete, tenderings have been drawn, and a campaign to raise the necessary funds is being launched. The plans for the new *Torah* Center include an



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Center. For the past several years, Rabbi Fleisher was the *Kollel's* Senior Educator, delivering classes on a variety of Torah topics, including the long-running Torah for Tycoons program. In 2013, he, along with Mrs. Joyce Litzman, launched the M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Senior Division, an endeavor which he led until his departure. "I have an enormous amount of hakaras hatov to the Kollel, to the *Roshei Kollel* Rabbi Schwab and Rabbi Sommers, as well as to *Kollel* Director Rabbi Heyman, for all they have done for me, my wife and my family during these past fifteen years in providing opportunities for our growth in so many ways, and in helping us reach this exciting point in our lives," says Rabbi Fleisher. "I look forward to working together with them and the other community institutions as well as the wonderful and talented individuals in our community, to grow our *shul* and our community, to create new and innovative approaches for the challenges we face today, and to build a bright future for Congregation Zera Abraham and, by extension, for the entire Denver Jewish community.



Harav Yaakov Bender at Rabbi Fleisher's Installation Event

Rabbi Chezky and Brocha Leah Wenger the Newest Kollel Members



The *Kollel* welcomed a new family this October, as Rabbi Chezky and Brocha Leah Wenger joined the *Kollel*. The Wengers have two children, Chaya Rochel, 2, and Yehuda, 4 months, and are living in the West Denver community. Rabbi Wenger, a Brooklyn native, attended *Yeshiva* Rabbi *Chaim Berlin, Rav Sholom Schechter's Yeshiva* in Jerusalem, *Beth Medrash Govoha* of Lakewood NJ and *Rav Nosson Stein's Kollel*. His friendly, outgoing personality is quickly gaining him friends throughout the community, while his broad *Torah* knowledge and erudition have already made him an integral and valuable addition to the *Kollel's sederim*. "I'm really excited to join a *Kollel* with such esteemed *Roshei Kollel* and a high level of learning in an out-of-town setting that offers a quieter, more relaxed atmosphere and lifestyle," says Rabbi Wenger. Brocha Leah Wenger is a Dallas native. Her father, Rabbi Bentzi Epstein, currently the director of Torch Dallas, was the director of the Dallas *Kollel* for decades, and she is thus no stranger to the concept and impact of a community *Kollel*. Mrs. Wenger is teaching the 8th grade girls in

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Raising the Bar for our Yungerliet

At the core of the *Kollel* is the group of *Kollel* scholars who devote their days and nights to the study and dissemination of *Torah*. A trademark of this group is the high caliber of *Torah* knowledge and scholarship that defines a *talmid chacham*. Much as the *Torah* has been the anchor of the Jewish Nation throughout its history, the *Kollel's* hallmark of *Torah* excellence has remained a steadfast anchor through thick and thin, allowing the *Kollel* to weather shifting demographics, recessions and pandemics. As the *Kollel* has grown and expanded, constructed edifices of *Torah* and helped alumni move on to positions of community leadership, the commitment to ensuring a top-notch group of *Kollel* scholars has remained a constant in an ever-changing world. More recently, the cost of living and housing has posed a challenge to the ability of *Kollel* families to make ends meet on the stipend offered by the *Kollel*. Recognizing his new reality, *Kollel* leadership rose to the occasion and increased the *Kollel* stipend by fifty percent, ensuring that *Kollel* scholars can continue their studies uninterrupted by financial worries. "We see this as one of our primary responsibilities, to provide our *Kollel* Scholars with a livable stipend so that they can focus solely on *Torah* study and teaching," says *Kollel* Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "We greatly appreciate the continued, dedicated support of our donors, who recognize the value of the *Torah* study these Scholars bring to Denver and make this pay raise possible."



expanded main *Bais Medrash*, a spacious women's section, three classrooms, and a large activity room for the youth of the community. "This project represents the next chapter in the continued growth of the Southeast Jewish community," says *Kollel* Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers.



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DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Building Name	\$500,000
Bais Medrash Ohel Yissocher	\$180,000
Youth Center	\$180,000
Aron Kodesh	\$100,000
Ezras Nashim	\$100,000
Shiur Room	\$100,000
Daf Yomi Room	\$100,000
Otzer Haseforim	\$72,000
Refreshment Cafe	\$36,000
Bais Medrash Furniture	\$36,000
Ner Tamid	\$25,000
Bima	\$25,000
Xeriscape/ Landscaping	\$18,000
Ner Lamaor (Lighting)	\$18,000
Technology	\$18,000
Amud	\$18,000
Mizrach Window (each)	\$10,000
Bais Medrash Mezuzah	\$10,000
Main Entrance Mezuzah	\$10,000
Bais Medrash Window (each)	\$5,000
Siddur Bookcase	\$5,000
Seforim Bookcase (each)	\$3,600
Rosh Kollel Shtender	\$3,600
Tables (each)	\$3,600



Hillel Academy. "I'm very happy to be joining the warm and close-knit community of Denver," says Mrs. Wenger. I am excited to be teaching at Hillel Academy and developing a positive bond with the 8th grade girls." "We are already enjoying the energy and enthusiasm the Wengers bring to the *Kollel* and to the community," says *Kollel* Director Rabbi Moshe Heyman. "We look forward to them achieving great things for Denver Jewry as they advance the *Kollel's* mission of bringing *Torah* learning, *Torah* teaching and *Torah* living to Denver."



Rabbi Chezky Wenger leading the Talmudo Biyado Program