



## Kollel Torah Center Inaugural Event Planned for Summer

The excitement surrounding the opening of the Kollel Torah Center in December is still palpable throughout the Denver Jewish community. As vaccination rates increase and pandemic restrictions begin to ease, more and more people are coming to see the Torah Center and to study Torah within its walls.

With hopes high that the coming months will, G-d willing, bring continued good news, an Inaugural Chanukas Habayis Event is being planned for Summer 2021.

The Torah Center is already having a significant impact upon the Jewish community, with people from across Denver coming in to study Torah, children attending events in the Youth Center, and recently-settled Jewish neighborhood residents reaching out to connect.

"Torah is the ultimate source of unity," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, "and we have seen this truth manifested especially during this trying time of pandemic-induced separation. Now, we are looking forward to being able to actually gather together to celebrate the Torah and this edifice that will increase its study and its honor."

*For more on the Torah Center, see page 4 and back page.*

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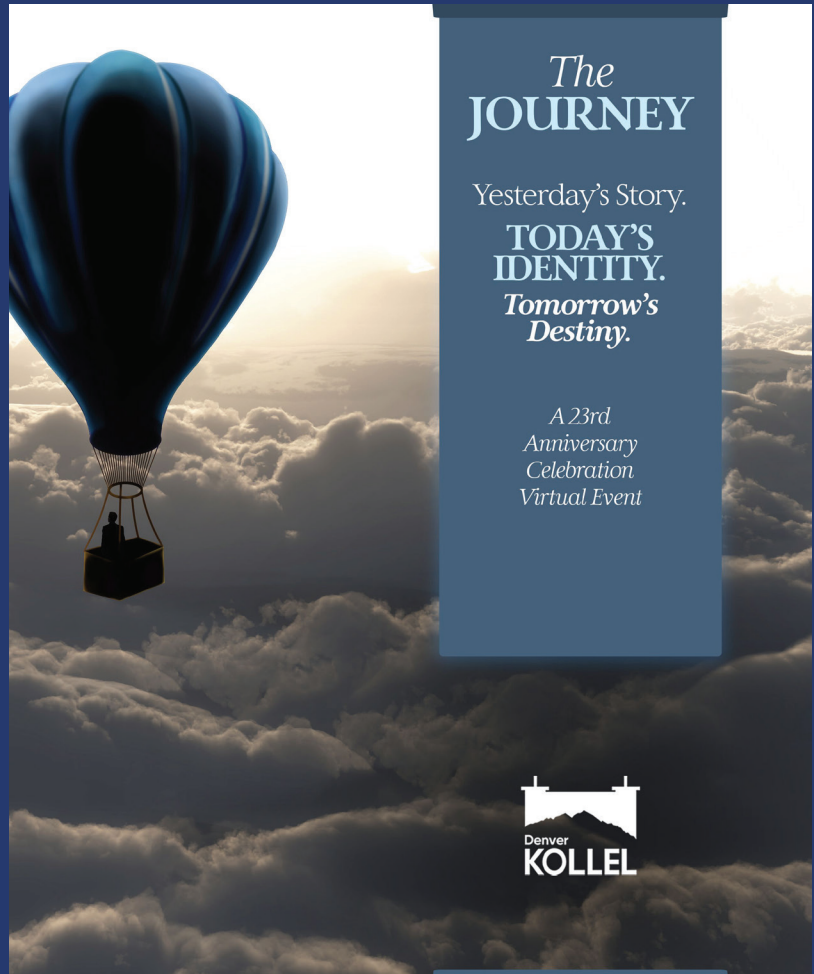
# Kollel Celebrates 23 Years of Torah in Denver with The Journey

The Kollel's 23rd Anniversary Celebration, *The Journey*, was held as a virtual event on the evening of March 10th. An estimated 300 attendees tuned in to celebrate 23 years of the Kollel bringing Torah learning, Torah teaching and Torah living to Denver. *The Journey* featured a unique video presentation, *Journey of a Thousand Miles: The Sperber-Aragon Story*, which told the story of the collective journey of the Sperber and Aragon Family. Perseverance and dedication led to consistent growth over the course of three generations, and Hannah and Henry Sperber's grandson, Rabbi Ari Aragon, is an alumnus of the Kollel.

The Celebration program also featured Jewish historian, tour guide, Jewish History Soundbites podcast host and Mishpacha Magazine columnist Yehuda Geberer presenting a live Zoom session (from Jerusalem at 4:30 am) titled *A Never Ending Journey: The History of the Kollel Movement*.

"Thank you very much for creating this awesome video," says Hannah Sperber. "You found things that even I did not know about. I shared the video with many."

"We deeply thank the Kollel for taking on the monumental task of telling our dear parents' story, and condensing it into an eleven-minute meaningful video with such care and honor," says Pennie Aragon. "The Kollel's gifted educators and inspired scholars have made a big impact on our family, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. May the Denver Community Kollel continue to be instrumental in the growth of Torah Judaism."



## The JOURNEY

Yesterday's Story.

**TODAY'S IDENTITY.**

**Tomorrow's Destiny.**

A 23rd Anniversary Celebration Virtual Event

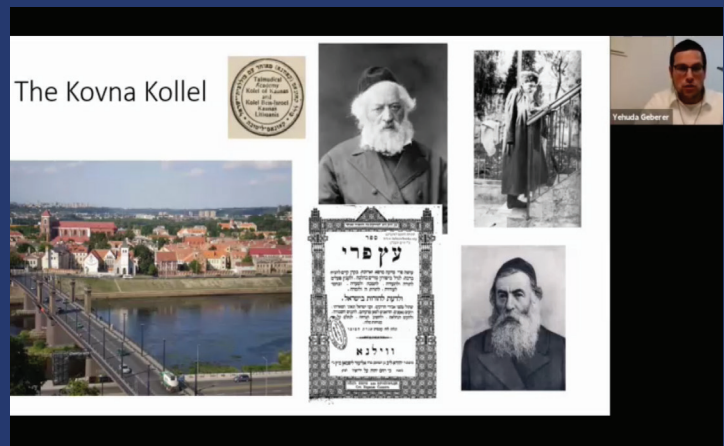


"What a lovely tribute to the Aragon family!" said Chaya Meyer. "Yasher ko'ach to the Denver Community Kollel for putting on such a beautiful program, with such an informative session on the history of the Kollel movement!"

"Thank you for putting on such a wonderful program," said Dr. Cliff Bloch. "The speaker was excellent. In my opinion, this was the best annual event program you have ever done."



Video presentation of *Journey of a Thousand Miles at the Celebration*



Yehuda Geberer presents *A Never Ending Journey: The History of the Kollel Movement*

# Innovative Learning Opportunities Offered by the Kollel

*"The ability the Kollel has to offer different options for Torah study, so that a person can choose something that suits him, means that more people are learning at an optimum level."* - Programming Director Rabbi Shmuel Halpern



## Kinyan Hamasechta

Rabbi Nesanel Kipper opened a new branch of the world-renowned Kinyan Hamasechta program in November, with Rabbi Yehuda Orlansky of Far Rockaway, NY, Executive Director of Kinyan Hamasechta, coming to Denver for an inaugural dinner.

Kinyan Hamasechta focuses on learning Talmud and reviewing it thoroughly, ensuring that the material is well understood and retained.

The group studies nightly Monday through Thursday, and features a *shiur* (lecture) teaching new material and *chavrusa* learning to review. There's even a chat group where members can post questions.

"The nightly study and *chavrusa* learning has created a bond between the members of the *chabura* (group)," says Rabbi Kipper. "One member told me that the camaraderie and friendship is one of the reasons he looks forward to attending."

"The Kinyan Hamasechta program moves us steadily forward in our Gemara study, while ensuring that everyone feels that they have a thorough grasp of the material, line by line," says Yonatan Maram. "Rabbi Kipper is very knowledgeable, frequently offering insights from related source material. He is patient and thorough in his answers to our questions, and persuades us to work hard while maintaining an enjoyable atmosphere, one that keeps us motivated week after week."



Rabbi Kipper (standing at left) speaking with participants during Kinyan Hamasechta learning session

them Rabbi Chaim Yeshia Freeman. Rabbi Freeman received *semicha* from Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood several years ago, making him particularly qualified to write on complex halachic topics. His articles have generated much positive feedback for their relevance and clarity. "Putting these articles together provides me with the opportunity to work through the ins and outs of the subject matter," says Rabbi Freeman. "Sharing what I have learned with others is like sharing good news with a friend – I am delighted to relay the material through these articles."

## Shivti

Rabbi Chaim Gross, who joined the Kollel in September, created a *Shivti chabura* (group) in December. The program, created by Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood, NJ, is a collaborative effort of the Kollel and Aish of the Rockies. The *chabura* meets Sunday mornings and studies a particular *sugya* (topic) of Torah *bi'yun* (in-depth), starting from the Talmudic sources and moving through to practical halacha.

"Shivti provides a charge of spiritual energy for the new week," says Rabbi Gross. "It also offers a whole new perspective on the subject studied. Having completed the *sugya* of *lechem mishna* (the two loaves of bread used at Shabbos meals), I can tell you that we will never view those loaves in the same way again!"

"Rabbi Gross invests countless hours, selecting relevant topics, reviewing and organizing the material, and preparing concise and clear summaries," says Rabbi Menachem Siderson, Rabbi at Aish of the Rockies. "Seeing the members of the *chabura* give up a Sunday morning at home to learn a *sugya* together is an incredible thing. Even more incredible are the wives of the *chabura* who encourage their husbands to come!"

"I find the learning to be very en"gross"ing," says Rabbi Ezra Balsam. "It's the perfect way to start my week."



Rabbi Gross learning with Shivti participants



Shivti participants on a Zoom session with renowned halachic authority Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst of Chicago



Rabbi Gross presents a summary at the end of the learning session

## Iyun Halacha

*Iyun Halacha* is a bi-weekly publication featuring an in-depth exploration of a relevant halachic topic. Now in its third year, *Iyun Halacha* is sponsored by Dr. Philip and Mrs. Leah Mehler in memory of their parents, Dr. Irving and Bernice Mehler and Mr. Gedalja and Mrs. Miriam Zupnik, and is offered via email and hard copy.

A number of Kollel members write articles for *Iyun Halacha*, among



Prolific *Iyun Halacha* author Rabbi Chaim Yeshia Freeman speaking at a siyum he and his study group celebrated

# The Denver Community Kollel Torah Center



It's a privilege to come to the West Side on Sundays to learn Hashem's Torah in such a beautiful new bais medrash filled with such energy and excitement.

*Joshua Close, Senior Level SAP Full Stack Architect and Developer, Samsonite*

The new Kollel building is warm and inviting, and I personally experience a unique *menuchas hanefesh* (personal tranquility) that inspires spiritual growth and *limud haTorah* (Torah study). It provides a welcome place for all; I enjoy meeting members of every Jewish community and beyond in the Kollel building.

*Rabbi Elchonon Joseph, Kashrus Administrator, Scroll-K Kashrus of Denver*

I appreciate the design and layout of the building; it's very inviting. Walking in, it helps me feel settled to just sit down and learn.

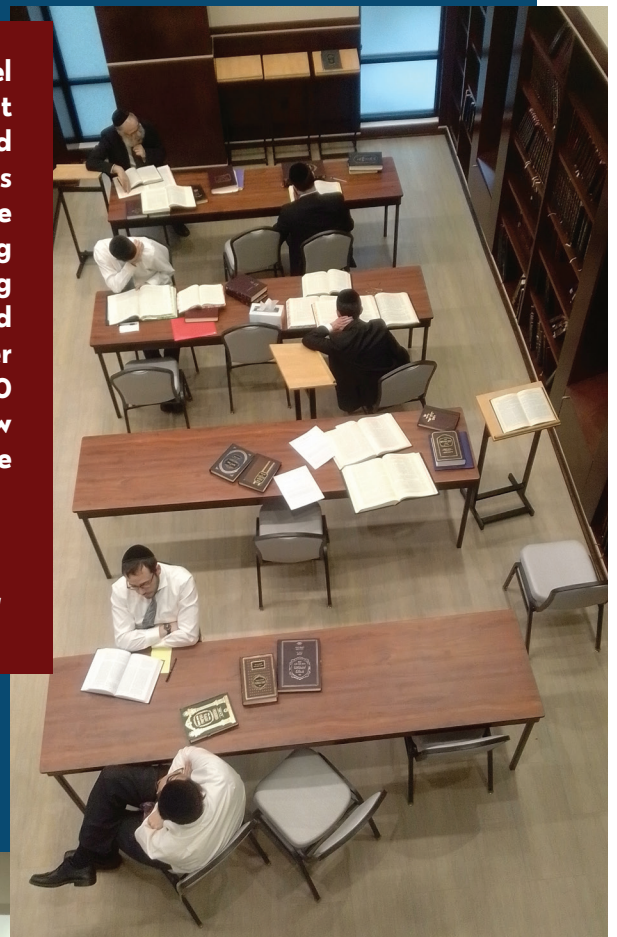
*Rabbi Elie Chernitzky, Owner, Chernitzky Woodcrafting*

The girls in dance class enjoy the large, spacious, and sound-proof Youth Center in which they can express their talents through dancing!

*Batsheva Cohen, 11th Grade, Beth Jacob High School of Denver*

Stepping into the new Kollel building, I felt the message that Torah is important, alive, and *chashuv*. The Kollel represents *limud haTorah* (Torah study) for the broad community, and it's fitting that its new home be welcoming and beautiful. The Kollel has had a powerful impact on the broader Denver community for over 20 years, and this new home will allow them to engage even more people in the learning of Torah.

*Rabbi Sroyahu Levitansky, National Director for Community Development, Beth Medrash Govoha (Lakewood, NJ)*



The new building is a place to enhance learning and growth, and provides the opportunity to unite and embrace all people who enter.

*Karin Yanez, Pastry Chef, Tasty Treats*



As a guest coming from Lakewood, NJ, I must say that the Kollel's building is magnificent, a place truly fitting for the *makom Torah* (place of Torah) that it is.

*Eli Kessler, CEO, Gateway Property Solutions (Lakewood, NJ)*

## Three New Families Joining Kollel Completing Long-Awaited Minyan of Full-Time Scholars

The Kollel is on the cusp of completing a *minyan* (quorum of ten people) of scholars studying Torah in its *bais medrash* as three new families are joining the Kollel this year. "This is the realization of a dream we have had for a long time," says Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers. "A *minyan* studying Torah all day brings the Denver Jewish community to a new level, and we are very excited with this continued growth of Torah study."

In addition to these full-time scholars, a number of community members study part-time as part of the *bais medrash*, all coming together to create a *kol Torah* (sound of Torah) whose impact echoes across Denver.

Rabbi Yisrael and Tamar Kellner joined the Kollel in February, settling in Southeast Denver. Rabbi Kellner is the brother of Southeast Denver resident Rivka Crystal. The Kellners have 3 children, Nechama, age 6, Eli, age 5, and Aron Leib, age 3.

The Kellners have quickly settled into the Kollel and the community. "The individuality and sense of belonging to both the Kollel and the community enhances not only my learning and *avodas Hashem* (service of G-d), but also the quality of the *chinuch* (raising) of our children in bringing out the full potential of each child," says Rabbi Kellner.

A second family, Rabbi Yossi and Ahuva Ephrathi of Lakewood, NJ, will join the Kollel in May. Ahuva Ephrathi is the daughter of Yeshiva Toras Chaim CEO Rabbi Ahron Yisroel and Hadassah Wasserman, and granddaughter of Yeshiva Toras Chaim Dean Rabbi Yitzchok and Rebbetzin Reva Wasserman. The Ephrathis have two children, Esti, 3, and Shmuel, 10 months.

"We feel privileged to join the Kollel and be a part of their *harbatzas haTorah* (spreading Torah) in the Denver community," say the Ephrathis. "Although we are no strangers to Denver, it's a special joy for us to return as residents instead of as visitors!"

A third family will join the Kollel in late summer or early fall, with an announcement forthcoming once details are finalized.



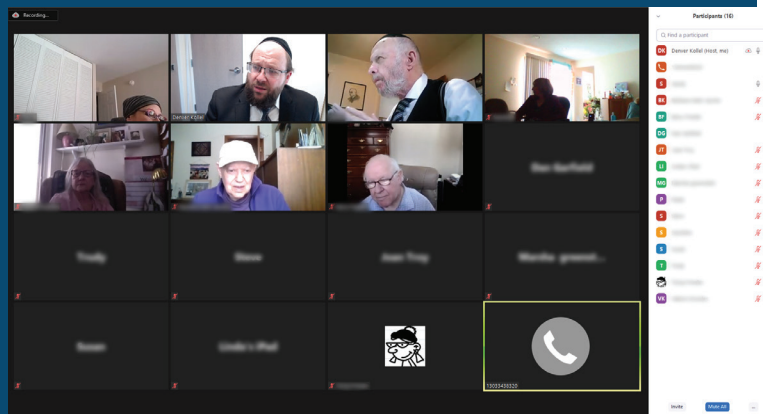
Rabbi Yisrael and Tamar Kellner  
and family



Rabbi Yossi and Ahuva Ephrathi  
and family

# GOLD Senior Division Shifts to Shabbos Goodies Packages and Zoom

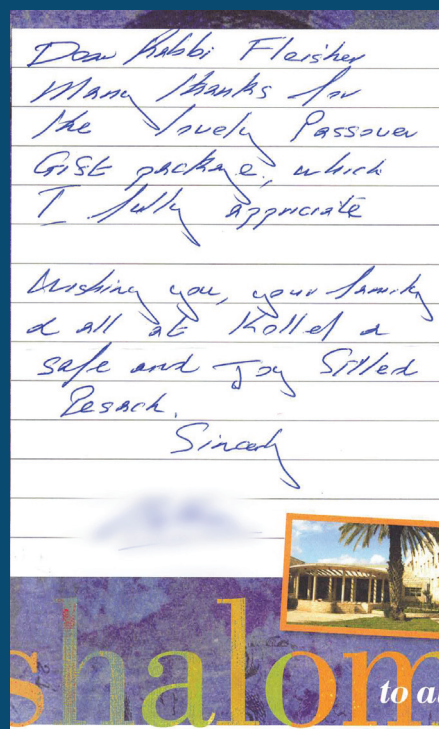
Unable to meet in person, the M.B. Glassman GOLD Senior Division's weekly Lunch & Learn shifted to holding a weekly Zoom parsha class and sending a bi-weekly Shabbos Goodies food package containing prepared Shabbos foods. Thanks to grants from the M.B. Glassman Foundation, Jewish Colorado and the Wolf Foundation, as well as special food emergency relief grants from the City of Denver and the State of Colorado, nearly 50 food packages are delivered across the greater Denver area, generally every other week.



Rabbi Fleisher delivering the GOLD Parsha class on Zoom

## Notes and Quotes

### from Shabbos Goodies recipients



Just want to say thank you ever so much for my Shabbat Goodies. This package is so very welcome in my home, especially since we, seniors, cannot go much anywhere. Please thank all the loving hands and hearts who participated in this mitzvah.

Thank you so much for the Tu Bishvat goodies, I felt it was a holy day indeed by eating the fruit delivered.

I really look forward to the Shabbat Goodies. Thank you again for this work.

Thank you so much for the delicious-looking treats. I always enjoy them on Shabbos.

Thank you so much for the Purim and Shabbos Goodies kit last week. Everything was delicious.

My father and brother said that you sent a package for Tu Bishvat and Shabbos. They were really heartwarmed - and me, too!

Many thanks for the delicious Shabbos meals and the meaningful messages.  
Shalom

Dear Rabbi Fleisher!  
Thank you for sending the Shabbos Goodies kit to me. I greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness & generosity. I have the good fortune of having family who helps me with meals. So I hope you can find another worthy senior who would need the food more than I do. I know how much work goes into preparing the meal & I don't

I want to thank you for the Passover bag that you sent me. It's wonderful! I love it! I am over the moon about it!

Thank you for the Shabbat package. It is such a treat. The potato kugel was especially good this week.

What a wonderful package! It has everything. Kudos to all the cooks and preparers.

## Chavrusah Connection

### Torah Study with Seoul Connection

*Rabbi Nesanel Kipper and Moshe Daniel*

Who would believe that a Kollel in Denver would be teaching Torah in South Korea? Thanks to modern technology, Moshe Daniel studies Torah from Seoul, South Korea, with Kollel Scholar Rabbi Nesanel Kipper.

Moshe has worked in Seoul since 1995 as a mechanical engineer. He retired in 2018 and moved with his family to Denver in 2019.

Moshe met Rabbi Kipper at Aish of the Rockies one Shabbos, and Rabbi Kipper invited him to learn. Moshe joined the Kollel's Learn 2 Learn program in January 2020, studying Tractate Sukkah. When Rabbi Kipper launched Kinyan Hamasechta (see page 3), Moshe shifted to join that new learning initiative.

Moshe missed the engineering field, so he signed back on with his old company as a consultant, which required him to return to

Seoul for periods of time. Moshe did not allow this to get in the way of his Torah study, though, joining Rabbi Kipper via Zoom or WhatsApp. "Moshe is *moser nefesh* (sacrifices a great deal) to learn Torah," says Rabbi Kipper. "Despite the distance and time difference - Seoul is 15 hours ahead of Denver! - he strives mightily to keep up with the learning. In addition, he keeps up with his other Torah study endeavors, such as Reb Tzvi Gelt's *Daf Yomi shiur*."

Rabbi Kipper records his classes, a boon for Moshe, as the time difference and his schedule don't always allow him to join live. "Rabbi Kipper is a very kind, giving person who truly wants to help everyone," says Moshe. "He stays in touch with me on WhatsApp, checking in on my welfare, which lifts my spirits tremendously."

Studying Torah has made an enormous impact on Moshe's life. "Before, I could only understand the literal, superficial meaning of Torah. The knowledge that

I have gained has enabled me to gain a depth of understanding of the Torah.

"I now realize that Hashem's covenant with the Jewish People at Mount Sinai gifted us with *chesed* (loving-kindness), strength, survival, the ability to do *teshuva* (repentance), and so much more. It's not just about me anymore. How can I help my fellow Jew, be it through *tzedaka* or learning Torah with my Jewish friends who live in Korea? I now see my fellow Jew through a totally different prism."

Moving forward, Moshe hopes to be able to work remotely from Denver, so that he can remain within the Denver Jewish community. "I grew up very secular," says Moshe, "but I decided to gradually become more observant with time - and I will never stop studying Torah."

Rabbi Nesanel Kipper (top) learning with Moshe Daniel on Zoom



## Live On/LIFE & LEGACY™ Members Speak



**LIVE ON**  
BUILD YOUR JEWISH LEGACY  
An initiative of ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**LIFE & LEGACY**  
Assuring Jewish Future  
AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Kollel's Live On/LIFE & LEGACY™ Members have varied reasons for the decision to make a planned gift for the Kollel. Two members share their thoughts:



**Phil Weiser,**  
**Colorado Attorney General**

Someone once shared a very meaningful idea with me regarding a will. A will directs our children where our assets should go, how much should go to charity, how much to each child, and so on. But we also can do something more meaningful in a will, like giving money to your children to give to *tzedaka* themselves, or leaving them with some books that are meaningful to you, so that they can carry on your ideals. In short, while a will has a legal purpose, it can also have a spiritual one.

We talk about living at a mile high, but we can go higher. We can go higher with the spiritual and intellectual insights that come

from studying the Torah. Having the Kollel here gives us incredible food for thought, inspiration, and helps us as a community. This is something I want to leave in the spiritual side of my will. And so I am one of the people who has become a member of the Kollel's Life & Legacy program.



**Bob Weiss, Owner,**  
**LCM Property Management, Inc.**

I've had the opportunity to learn with the Kollel for more than 20 years. The benefits I have received from this exceptional Torah institution are immeasurable and their impact is far reaching throughout the Denver Jewish community. In order for the Kollel to continue to provide the vital services that enhance our community so greatly, we all know that our ongoing support is a necessity. May the Kollel continue to thrive and to expand Torah education for all of us.

The Kollel recognizes and thanks its Legacy Society members:

- Dr. Daniel and Sharon Pincus Abrams
- Scott and Sally Alpert
- Dr. Marc and Melanie Avner
- Graeme and Irit Bean
- Rabbi Zev and Adina Beren
- Marc Brooks and Dr. Terry Samuels
- Joshua Close
- Marc and Amity Cooper
- Bill Goldsmith
- Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher
- Rabbi Shmuel Halpern
- Rabbi Moshe and Yehudis Heyman
- Rabbi Elchonon and Miriam Joseph
- Harvey Milzer o.b.m.
- Dr. Ken and Karin Sherman Katz
- Dr. Dimitri and Kathy Kaufman
- Dr. Gershon and Chana Rudnick
- Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab
- Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab
- Dr. Marc and Dale Sievers
- Rabbi Shachne Sommers
- Izzy and Peri Sonenreich
- Patti Jo Streltzer
- Dr. Effie and Cindy Sonstein
- Bob and Allison Weiss
- 13 Anonymous Members

For more info or to discuss becoming a Legacy Society member and leaving a lasting impact for future generations, contact [rmh@denverkollel.org](mailto:rmh@denverkollel.org) or call 303-820-2855.

# Youth Programming

The opening of the Youth Center in the Kollel's Torah Center has opened the door for many new opportunities for children and teens of all ages, in addition to the Kollel's other youth programs.



*Beth Jacob High School students touring the new Kollel Torah Center*



*The Zichron Tzvi Jewish Lending Library of Denver, with more than 1,000 Jewish books of all types, is housed in the Kollel's Youth Center*



*Bnos events in the Youth Center of the Kollel Torah Center*



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*Rabbi Tzvi Meir Joseph, a noted rebbi (teacher) at Yeshiva Orchos Chaim of Lakewood, NJ, was stranded in Denver for several days following the March blizzard after coming to attend his nephew Shlomo Zalman Joseph's bar mitzvah. Rabbi Joseph graciously offered his time and talent and delivered snow day classes for 4th and 5th grade and 6th and 7th grade Hillel Academy boys at the Kollel Torah Center.*



*Rabbi Nesanel Kipper organized a weeknight learning session at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center, featuring, in addition to learning, raffles for exciting prizes. More than 3,000 mishnayos were studied during the winter at this night seder!*