



Keystone

SPOTLIGHT ON A PHILADELPHIA TORAH MAINSTAY

Torah as the Ultimate Unifier

New Mechanchim's Chaburah Brings Together Philadelphia Educators

The unifying quality of Torah study is once again on full display with the recent launch of the nightly Mechanchim's Chaburah in the Kollel's Bais Medrash. The brainchild of the Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Yechiel Biberfeld, the chaburah brings together a broad cross-section of Torah educators from across the spectrum of Philadelphia's educational institutions.

After spending the better part of their day teaching and inspiring students, these dedicated individuals set aside an hour of their evening "downtime" to come together and recharge their

own spiritual
batteries
with some

serious, high-level learning.

Thanks to the efforts of the Kollel's Director of Community Programming, Rabbi Yosef Prupas, the program has kicked off this fall with a vibrant start, under the direction of Rabbi Sholom Kelemer, *shoel u'maishiv* at the Talmudical Yeshivah of Philadelphia.

Beyond just the learning, one chaburah participant underscores the remarkable sense of camaraderie and connection that the project has fostered amongst the members. It evokes a solidarity of mission and purpose that transcends the diversity in age, background and affiliation of the participants, who represent every Orthodox educational institution in the area.

[continued on page 2]



Sunday, January 11, 2015

AT THE HILTON PHILADELPHIA
CITY AVENUE



Guests of Honor

Mr. & Mrs. Barry and Miriam
GESSERMAN

Young Leadership Award

Dr. & Mrs. Andrew and Chava
PARIS



[see centerfold]



"I find it fascinating," he says, "to observe a young newcomer to the community sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with a veteran chinuch personality, delightfully engaged in a heated intellectual duel over the proper nuanced approach to a statement of the Rambam."

"This unity aspect of this program," says Assistant Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Yoel Zeffren, "is actually a microcosm of the Kollel's overall objective and achievement over the past 14 years. Through its extensive roster of

programs and satellite projects, the Kollel has been warmly embraced by men and women at all levels of observance, commitment and scholarship, who cherish the myriad opportunities provided by the Kollel to connect with their birthright in a meaningful and stimulating manner."

New Community Programming Office Inaugurated

Rabbi Yosef Prupas formally installed as Kollel's Director of Community Programming

As part of its ongoing mission to provide new and creative learning opportunities geared to every segment of the community, the Kollel has recently inaugurated its new Office of Community Programming, under the leadership of Rabbi Yosef Prupas. In essence, Rabbi Prupas has been unofficially operating in this capacity for some time now, with the overwhelming success and popularity of many of the Kollel's recent projects due in large part to Rabbi Prupas's efforts and pioneering spirit.

Rabbi Prupas's unique ability to convey the beauty and timeless relevance of Torah principals and ideals is well known through his writing and editorship of the Kollel's weekly *Menucha V'Simcha* publication. That very same knack for articulating the Torah's illuminating perspective on so many hot-button contemporary issues is evident in the growing popularity of the ELF – Executive Learning Forum. The ELF is a monthly lunch session where young entrepreneurs and professionals present a timely moral or ethical dilemma for discussion. The topic is subject to lively debate and discussion, based upon the background and

perspective of a professional in the related field, as well as Rabbi Biberfeld's presentation of the Torah's view on the subject.

Another well-received learning venue initiated by Rabbi Prupas is the weekly Medical Ethics Chaburah led by renowned psychiatrist, Dr. David Weiss MD, a distinguished Torah scholar in his own right. The chaburah is comprised of a diverse group of Philadelphia practitioners and others in the medical field, who come to the Kollel each week for Dr. Weiss's enlightening presentation of the Torah's philosophy as it pertains to a host of issues in the realm of medical ethics.

Last winter, Rabbi Prupas brought together 80 mothers and daughters for the newly launched Keshet program. The program ran for six consecutive Sundays during January and February.

In addition to the warm and budding relationships formed between the Kollel wives and other women of the community, the program, based on Pirkei Avos, provided a unique setting for young girls and their mothers to explore

and discover so much about their heritage and even themselves.

"In this newly expanded capacity," says Assistant Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Yoel Zeffren, "we look forward to seeing Rabbi Prupas build upon the success of these learning opportunities by continuing to pioneer exciting new venues for Jewish connection geared to every segment of the community."

"Some of our most effective programs to date," says Rabbi Prupas, "were born out of ideas and initiatives from the community at large. It is my sincere hope that this office will serve as a springboard for community input to help maximize the Kollel's presence in the community and its role as a true anchor institution in the city's Jewish landscape."



Schedule of Shiurim

All programs are held at the Kollel unless listed otherwise.

Daily Kollel Boker

Shacharis
Chavrusa Learning

[weekdays only - At Kosloff Torah Academy, 50 East Montgomery]

6:15AM [M&TH] 6:25AM [M,T,&F]

7:00AM - 7:45AM

Sunday

9:05AM - 9:30AM
9:30AM - 10:30AM

Breakfast - Bagels, Omelets, and Coffee

Men's Beis Medrash/Gemara Program

Rabbi Biberfeld, Yoreh Deah Chaburah [ADVANCED]

Dirshu Daf Yomi B'halacha, Rabbi Uri Greenspan

Chavrusa Learning

Daf Yomi, Rabbi Sruli Schwartz

7:30PM - 8:00PM

8:15PM - 9:55PM

10:10PM

Monday

1:45PM - 2:30PM

7:30PM - 8:00PM

8:15PM - 9:55PM

10:10PM

Sefer Nechemia, Rabbi Aharon Gold

Dirshu Daf Yomi B'halacha, Rabbi Uri Greenspan

Chavrusa Learning

Daf Yomi, Rabbi Sruli Schwartz

Tuesday

7:30PM - 8:00PM

8:15PM - 9:55PM

9:00PM - 9:55PM

9:00PM - 9:55PM

10:10PM

Dirshu Daf Yomi B'halacha, Rabbi Uri Greenspan

Chavrusa Learning

Young Professionals Group - Gemara, Rabbi Zeffren

Doctor's Chabura, Dr. David Weiss

Daf Yomi, Rabbi Sruli Schwartz

Wednesday

7:30PM - 8:00PM

8:15PM - 9:55PM

10:10PM

Dirshu Daf Yomi B'halacha, Rabbi Uri Greenspan

Chavrusa Learning

Daf Yomi, Rabbi Sruli Schwartz

Thursday

1:45PM - 2:30PM

8:15PM - 9:00PM

8:15PM - 10:00PM

9:00PM - 10:00PM

9:00PM - 10:00PM

10:15PM

Sefer Nechemia, Rabbi Aharon Gold

Gemora Yoma, Rabbi Biberfeld

Chavrusa Learning

Kollel Erev Advanced Chaburah

Rabbi Frand's Parsha Shiur Via TCN Network

Daf Yomi, Rabbi Sruli Schwartz

Friday

8:20AM - 8:50AM

Parsha Shiur, Rabbi Yosef Prupas

Shabbos

After Kiddush

After Kiddush

Ramban on the Torah, Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

Chaburas Chacham Leiv, Boys Group to Study Hilchos Shabbos

Motzaei Shabbos Rabbi Reisman Navi Shiur Via TCN Network

October, 9:00PM | November 1, 8:30PM | November 8 - January, 7:30PM

February, 8:00PM | March 7, 8:30PM | March 14 - March 28, 9:30PM

April 5, 10:00PM | April 18 - April 25, 10:15PM | May 2 - May 16, 10:30PM

Masmid Program for Boys

November 1, 7:30PM-8:30PM | November 8 - January 10, 6:30PM-7:30PM

January 17 - January 24, 6:45PM - 7:45PM | January 31, 7:00PM - 8:00PM

February 7 - February 14, 7:15PM - 8:15PM | February 21 - February 28, 7:30PM - 8:15PM



14TH ANNUAL DINNER

FORWARD & UPWARD

FORWARD AND UPWARD

THEME TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT
PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL'S

14th Anniversary Dinner
Sunday, January 11th, 2015

at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue

"ASIDE FROM SERVING AS MODELS OF AN UPRIGHT, TORAH-OBSERVANT LIFESTYLE AND OF RAISING FAMILIES ACCORDINGLY, THE KOLLEL FAMILIES ARE 'DOWN TO EARTH' AND PERSONABLE, ALWAYS WILLING TO MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE AND EXTENDING THEMSELVES TO ANYONE SEEKING THEIR GUIDANCE."

[Yonah Zaslow]

The Philadelphia Community Kollel's 14th Annual Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, January 11th, 2015 will be hosted this year at an exciting new venue, the newly renovated Hilton Hotel on City Avenue.

The theme of this year's dinner, "Forward and Upward," accentuates the steady growth and expansion of the Kollel's sphere of influence, as it continues to aim higher with an even broader and more encompassing focus on the future.

The announcement of this year's honorees and chairmen has generated a genuine sense of anticipation and enthusiasm amongst the Kollel's extended family of gracious friends and supporters. We look forward to paying tribute to these distinguished community members, who each in their own way represent the Kollel's commitment to making Torah an integral part of our lives.

GUESTS OF HONOR

Mr. & Mrs. Barry and Miriam
GESSERMAN



Over two decades ago, the Gessermans, who originally met in Philadelphia, moved to Lower Merion from Ann Arbor, Michigan, where their three children, Yoni, Aron, and Leah were born. Barry began a successful career in brand management, holding senior executive marketing positions in major national companies including Campbell Soup, Empire Kosher Poultry and others. Today he runs his own consulting firm for marketing and business strategy. In 1992 they settled in the Wynnewood community and have been mainstays there ever since. Barry has consistently served on the Congregation Beth Hamedrosh Board of Directors, and he was the president at the critical time of the shul's transition to its new home. Barry started learning daf yomi with Rabbi Shlomo Caplan and continues with Rabbi Yonah Gross, on his way to completing his third cycle. When the Kollel opened its doors almost 15 years ago, Barry understood the tremendous impact such an institution could have on the community, and he has attended many Kollel events to spur on his own learning and personal growth. Currently he attends the Rosh Kollel's Sunday morning advanced halacha shiur and supports the Kollel's Executive Learning Forum (E.L.F.). Miriam, who holds a Masters in Social Work and worked in the field for many years, has been on the administrative staff at the Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia since 2009. She has spent all her years in Lower Merion involved in communal affairs, helping the local day schools and shuls and volunteering for Kollel functions. Together they raised their three wonderful children, who are now grown with families of their own, perpetuating the legacy of Torah and chesed that their parents ably demonstrate. It is a distinct pleasure to honor Barry and Miriam at this year's annual dinner.





YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew and Chava
PARIS



Although relative newcomers to the community, Chava and Andrew, New Yorkers who also first met in Philadelphia, wasted no time in making new friends and getting involved. Chava was a principal in the successful Mikvah fundraiser, and she is a volunteer at Torah Academy; Andrew began learning regularly in the Kollel, specifically at the weekly Doc's chabura led by Dr. David Weiss. Unquestionably, the favorite time of the week for Andrew and his son Eitan is the Kollel's Motzai Shabbos Masmid Program. The special father-son learning time is truly a highlight. While Andrew is busy practicing pulmonary and critical medicine at University of Pennsylvania, Chava devotes her time to Eitan Chaim, Yakirah Ita and Adir Tzvi. The Kollel is pleased to recognize their efforts to make our community even stronger at its 14th Annual Dinner.



New Faces At the Kollel

Meet & Greet our Recent Arrivals



**Rabbi & Mrs. Menashe and Amanda
BENEDICT**

RELOCATING FROM ERETZ YISROEL

Originally from Queens NY, Rabbi Benedict is a graduate of the Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem, where he trained under the tutelage of Rabbi Asher Arieli. While in Israel, R' Menashe completed the Ner L'Elef Rabbinic Outreach and Training program, honing his innate people skills for the service of Klal Yisrael. R' Menashe led a series of weekly study groups at Hebrew University, where he broadened students' horizon on various fundamental Torah principles.

Upon his marriage to Amanda, nee Tammam, of West Orange, New Jersey the Benedicts settled in Woodmere, New York where R' Menashe joined the Kollel at the Yeshiva Gedolah of the Five Towns. Amanda earned her certification as a kallah instructor through the JME Jewish Marriage Education Teacher Training Course. In addition to serving as a pre-school teacher, Amanda has mentored students at HAFTR High School in Cedarhurst, New York, providing crucial one-on-one guidance in both Judaic topics as well as life in general. With a BA in Psychology from Queens College, Amanda is currently studying to be a sonographer.

R' Menashe, who has joined the Kollel full-time, as well as Amanda and their three daughters are proud to make Philadelphia their new home.



**Rabbi & Mrs. Aryeh Leib and Chaya
LUDZKER**

ASSOCIATE YUNGERMAN,
RELOCATING FROM ERETZ YISROEL

A native of the United Kingdom, Aryeh Leib studied in Yeshivas Beis Yosef in Gateshead, England, under the guidance of Rabbi Avrohom Gurwitz. He then moved on to the famed Ponevez Yeshiva in Bnei Brak, Israel. Upon his marriage to Chaya Gottlieb from South Fallsburg, New York, the Ludzkers settled in Jerusalem, where Aryeh Leib joined the Kollel at the Mir Yeshiva. Chaya is currently enrolled at Alvernia University, in Reading, where she is studying to become an occupational therapist. The Ludzkers have settled in Lower Merion with their four children, where they are looking to form new connections and relationships.

RIISING HIGHER

While we tend to think of the Kollel scholars as teachers, perhaps we sometimes overlook their even greater role of full-time, active students. In fact, the literal translation of the term *talmid chacham* is student-scholar, conveying the message that a true Torah scholar never graduates from his lifelong pursuit of knowledge. The Kollel members spend the better part of the day hard at work plumbing the depth and scaling the breadth of the Talmud and its commentaries, honing their analytic expertise as well as their halachic proficiency.

In July, the Kollel members and their families enjoyed a special *siyum* celebration in honor of their completion and mastery of *Masechta Niddah*. This difficult tractate – the final one in the Babylonian Talmud – deals with the laws of ritual purity. The *siyum*, held at the home Ted and Phyllis Kosloff, staunch Kollel supporters, celebrated a yearlong effort by the Kollel members studying amongst themselves during the afternoon session. The morning session is spent learning the practical *halachic* applications of this tractate. When the *halacha* component is completed, participating members will receive their formal *Semicha* ordination, allowing them to render *halachic* rulings and decisions in this field.



Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe and Tzippy
BIER

ASSOCIATE YUNGERMAN,
RELOCATING FROM LAKEWOOD, NJ

A born-and-bred Bostonian, and son of the city's longtime Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Moshe Bier graduated high school from Mesivta of Boston before coming to Philadelphia to study at the Talmudical Yeshiva on Drexel Road. Rabbi Bier then studied in Israel at Yeshiva Ner Moshe under Rabbi Sholom Schechter. Upon his marriage to Tzippy, nee Steinberg, the Biers settled in Lakewood, where Moshe joined the Kollel at Beth Medrash Govoha.

Tzippy, original from Brooklyn, New York, is an alumna of Bnos Leah Prospect Park Yeshiva and Mesoras Rochel Seminary in Jerusalem. Tzippy holds a Degree in Biology from Touro College in Brooklyn and is currently working on a Master's in Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University. Along with the entire Kollel family, we are pleased to welcome the Biers and their two adorable little boys to the community.



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