

Yuri Boroda/Areal Photovideo

At the Philadelphia Community Kollel dinner, (L-R): Rabbi Sruli Schwartz, honoree; Rabbi Shlomo Caplan, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Hamedrosh; Rabbi Yechiel Biberfeld, *Rosh Kollel;* Dr. David Weiss, *Rosh Chaburah,* Philadelphia Community Kollel and Dr. David Abraham, dinner chair.



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At the Philadelphia Community Kollel dinner, (L-R): Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, *shlita, Rosh Yeshivah*, Yeshiva of Philadelphia; Rabbi Yaakov Moshe Willner; Rabbi Yoel Zeffren, Assistant *Rosh Kollel*.

COVERAGE BY

DEVORAH KLEIN

Philadelphia Community Kollel Hosts 17th Annual Dinner

On Sunday, January 7, the Philadelphia Community Kollel hosted their 17th Annual Dinner.

With the theme of "*Yaamod*: Step Up," the dinner honored several couples who have stepped up to meet opportunity, including Mr. and Mrs. Baruch and Elana Avis, Mr. and Mrs. Max and Gale Bienstock, Rabbi and Mrs. Sruli and Rivka Schwartz, and Mr. and Mrs. David and Kineret Shakow.

Gabba'im are those who truly step up for their *kehillos* and serve in an often unrecognized position. The dinner honored these *gabba'im* who truly deserve recognition for their hard work, along with recognizing their dedicated families, and their connection to the *kollel*.



Learning during the Father and Son Seder and Lunch program at Yeshiva Ohavei Torah in Riverdale.



At the Father and Son Seder and Lunch program at Yeshiva Ohavei Torah in Riverdale, Harav Chaim Pechter, *Menahel* addressing the crowd during lunch.

On prerecorded video, Rabbi Yechiel Biberfeld, *Rosh Kollel*, explained that the dinner does not just mark a culmination of a year of learning, but it is a time when the multitudes of the community join together to celebrate with one another all that the *kollel* offers.

The video also highlighted the *kollel* as a place which hosts various *shiurim* and programs to different demographics within the community, and brings them all together through Torah learning. At the *kollel,* community members learn Torah in a pure and simple environment, enjoy a serious *davening*, and unite as one *kehillah*.

In the near future, the *kollel* will

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Candle Lighting

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January 19, 2018 עש"ק פרשת בא תשע"ח

City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam	City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam
Antwerp	4:52	6:07	6:24	Los Angeles	4:53	6:02	6:24
Atlanta	5:38	6:47	7:09	Melbourne	8:24	9:27	9:54
Baltimore	4:54	6:03	6:25	Miami	5:37	6:45	7:07
Boston	4:24	5:33	5:55	Milwaukee	4:29	5:39	6:01
Chicago	4:31	5:41	6:03	Minneapolis	4:45	5:54	6:16
Cincinnati	5:26	6:35	6:57	Monsey	4:39	5:48	6:10
Cleveland	5:09	6:18	6:40	Montreal	4:25	5:34	5:56
Dallas	5:30	6:39	7:01	New York	4:39	5:48	6:10
Denver	4:46	5:56	6:18	Passaic	4:40	5:49	6:11
Detroit	5:12	6:21	6:43	Philadelphia	4:46	5:56	6:18
Edison NJ	4:42	5:51	6:13	Pittsburgh	5:04	6:14	6:36
Haifa	4:30	5:40	6:16	Seattle	4:33	5:43	6:04
Jerusalem	4:26	5:41	6:20	St Louis	4:50	5:59	6:21
Lakewood	4:42	5:52	6:14	Tel Aviv	4:40	5:42	6:16
Liberty	4:40	5:49	6:11	Toronto	4:53	6:03	6:25
London	4:13	5:25	5:42	Waterbury CT	4:34	5:43	6:05

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begin hosting mini-*Shabbatons*, which provide an opportunity for community members and *kollel yungeleit* to spend time together. Another new program is a twice weekly *Mishnayos* program for boys, who for one reason or another, are not in a school setting. Boys attend the program together with their fathers.

A second video presentation highlighted the achievements of the honorees.

Mr. Baruch Avis serves in his tenth year as *gabbai* of Young Israel of the Main Line. Together with his wife, Mrs. Elana Avis, the family considers the *kollel* their home away from home. Mr. Avis spends countless hours learning in the *kollel beis medrash*, and both Mr. and Mrs. Avis have built lasting relationships with the *kollel* Rabbis and their wives. Their dedication to learning Torah and also to raising a family in the *derech haTorah* is noteworthy.

Mr. Max Bienstock is a *gabbai* at Congregation Beth Hamedrosh, and has also served as a member of its board of directors and as president. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bienstock participate at programs at the *kollel,* and both value the way the learning that originates at the *kollel* permeates their home, promotes positive relationships, and initiates communal learning.

Reb Sruli Schwartz came to Philadelphia as a member of the *kollel* faculty in 2011. Even now, despite his day job, he maintains an active presence at the *kollel*, through his nightly *Daf Yomi shiur*, his *chavrusos,* and his continued role as *gabbai* at the *kollel*. The Schwartzes remain an integral part of the *kollel* and its impact on the community.

Mr. David Shakow has been a *gabbai* of the Lower Merion Synagogue for close to 30 years, and has also been on the boards of many local organizations, including the *kollel*. The Shakows are people who take on large commitments that others don't want to approach, and always get the job done. They have had a hand in building and maintaining countless Torah institutions in the Philadelphia community. Their boundless behind-the-scenes-*chessed* and love of Torah learning inspire all who know them.

The theme, *Yaamod:* Step Up, a brainchild of Rabbi Yosef Prupas, the *kollel*'s director of community programing, added a uniquely creative and warm dimension to this already successful annual event.

As Rabbi Yoel Zeffren, assistant *Rosh Kollel,* remarked, "This dinner stands out not just because of the record number of attendees and the professionalism of the event, but because the tangible *ruach* that night was more electrifying than ever before.

"There is just something special about the dedication of *gabba'im* and their families, and the guests were genuinely excited to have the opportunity to acknowledge it. It was an honor for our *kollel* to be the vehicle through which they chose to express it."



Harav Don Segal, *shlita*, saying *divrei hesped* on Hagaon Harav Aharon Leib Shteinman, *zt"l,* at the North Miami Beach Kollel Zichron Michel.



View of the crowd at the *hespeidim* held on the *sheloshim* of Hagaon Harav Shteinman, *zt"l*, at the North Miami Beach Kollel Zichron Michel.



Rabbi Chezky Edelson leads a Thursday night *mishmar* and pizza *shiur* at Kollel Ner Hamizrach in Atlanta.



The sixth-grade boys at Torah Academy of Boston put on skits and made poster illustrations as a review of the *sugya* of *shishim* in *Gemara.*

Shabbos of *Chizuk* In Atlanta

On *Shabbos Parashas Yisro,* February 2-3, Congregation Ner Hamizrach and Agudath Israel of America will present a Shabbos of *Chizuk* for the Atlanta community.

On *Leil Shabbos,* there will be a gala community Shabbos *seudah*. Following the *seudah,* at 8:30 p.m., an *oneg Shabbos* will be held, with guest speaker Rabbi Dovid Zargari, Rav and founder of Torat Chaim Institutions in Los Angeles. Rabbi Zargari will speak on "The Mystery of Heavenly Messages: It's All in the Fine Print."

On Shabbos afternoon, there will be a women's *shiur* at the Ovdat home, 1254 Bramble Road, with a special lecture on the topic, "Building the Five-Star Jewish Home: Essential Tips for Today's Woman."

On Motzoei Shabbos, a festive *melaveh malkah* will be held. Keynote speaker will be Rabbi Asher Zadmehr, Rav of Congregation Mishkan Torah in Los Angeles, who will deliver, "A Powerful Story of Faith and Survival: The Tale of a Rabbi's Incarceration in an Iranian Jail."

Sheloshim for Harav Shteinman, *Zt"l,* in North Miami Beach

On Tuesday evening, 23 Teves/January 9, North Miami Beach and surrounding communities gathered to commemorate the *sheloshim* of Hagaon Harav Aharon Yehuda Leib Shteinman, *zt"l*. The event was hosted and coordinated by the North Miami Beach Kollel Zichron Michel, and was held at Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes in North Miami Beach.

The NMB Kollel, under the leadership of the *Roshei Kollel*, Harav Yaakov Tzvi Bleijer and Harav Aharon Dovid Singer, invited the *Mashgiach*, Harav Don Segal, *shlita,* to share personal thoughts and memories of Harav Shteinman, as well as words of *chizuk* and encouragement for a community eager to be inspired.

The evening began with Harav Segal leading the gathering in saying a few *perakim* of *Tehillim*. Harav Blejer, the *Rosh Kollel*