

The Kollel Spirit

BUILDING A VIBRANT TORAH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Dovid Miller *Rosh Kollel* • Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt *Rosh Kollel Emeritus* • Rabbi Yaakov Berkowitz *Menahel* • Mr. Mayer S. Klein *President*

February 2023 | שבט תשפ"ג



FROM THE DESK OF THE MENAHEL

It's the dead of winter. The ground is frozen, covered in snow. Things seem dead. Yet, during this time we celebrate Tu b'Shevat, the new year for trees. Why? Well, that question represents a superficial understanding of reality. Indeed, trees seem frozen, no life to them. However, much is happening beneath the surface. The trees, flowers and plants are "hard at work" preparing for the coming days. This is symbolic of life, and indeed the world itself.

Winter comes before summer; night before day. Summer cannot happen without winter and day wouldn't happen without the preceding night. The "down times" are preparatory, critical times for a successful blooming time ahead.

In a similar vein, educating and encouraging children in their youth is a vital detail to ensure a vibrant Jewish and Torah-conscious community in the future.

To that end, the Kollel is extremely excited about a new initiative which was launched this winter by our indefatigable Eishes Chayil Director, Mrs. Yael Farkas - KESHER: Connecting Generations. Keshet is a program for mothers and daughters to come together and learn about Middos, sing and dance, and join in exciting activities. This creates a perfect atmosphere to deepen their connection to each other and to Torah, enabling messages of chinuch and Torah values to be absorbed by the next generation. (See page 5)

Another aspect of a successful crop of fruits is assuring the good health of the tree itself. As we know, "ki ha'adam eitz hasadeh, man is the tree of the field" (Devarim 20:19). Without constantly nurturing and cultivating continued health and strength for the tree, the fruits which it bears will be deficient.

The Kollel is exceedingly proud to have a phenomenal group of Kollel Rabbis and Rebbetzins on staff, people who personify living a model life as Torah Jews on a lofty level, and additionally engage in meaningful ways with different demographics of our Jewish community.

Recently, our St. Louis Community Kollel, along with the Chesterfield Kollel, had the privilege of hosting one of the Senior Roshei Kollel in the United States, Rav Chaim Gibber of the Minneapolis Community Kollel. Rabbi Gibber spent a weekend delivering shiurim, chizuk and insight to the Kollel Rabbis and wives, along with members of the board of our Kollel and their wives, as well as the Chesterfield

Kollel. Everyone was inspired by his message and grew in their understanding and appreciation for the unique value of having a nucleus of Torah scholars learning and growing within our community. (See page 2)

With all that going on in the winter, we are profoundly grateful for your continued support and look forward to a vibrant spring ahead! (See back page) 🌸



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FROM THE DESK OF THE ROSH KOLLEL

Ushmartem es brisi, and you [shall] guard my covenant (Shmos 19:5)

We find this language of Hashem commanding us to “guard” the Torah numerous times. For instance, in Parshas Yisro, the pasuk says “ushmartem es brisi, and you shall guard my covenant.” What does it mean to “guard” the Torah?

The Bais Halevi suggests that we should look to the laws of *Tumah* and *Tahara*, ritual impurity and purity, to understand what the Torah is commanding us. Whereas regular foods only become impure when it is known that they came in contact with

something which has the status of being *tamei*, that is not the case with Terumah and Kodshim. Teruma and Kodshim due to their sanctity, are invalidated even when they are merely not being supervised, even if there is no known cause for them to become *tamei*. The very fact that no one is paying attention is itself a reason to invalidate them. The reason for this is because the Torah commands us to specifically guard *kodshim*, as the *pasuk* says *mishmeres terumosai*, the guardian of my Terumah (Bamidbar 18:8). So too, says the Bais Halevi, if one takes his mind off of Torah, even for a moment, irrevocable damage can be done. This is what the Torah commands when it says to “guard” the Torah.

With this idea the Bais Halevi explains the *pasuk* linking Shevet Yissachar and Zevulun. *S'mach Zevulun b'tzaisecha v'Yissachar b'ohalecha*, rejoice Zevulun in your excursions and Yissachar in your tents. Certainly it is necessary for people to work and conduct business. So how is it possible not to remove one's mind from Torah? The Bais Halevi explains that we find that when there is a group of people, even if some leave, it is not considered a *he-*

sech hada'as, inattention. For instance, at a meal, when some people need to step out, as long as someone remains it is not considered that they have taken their minds away from the meal. So too, when one is part of a group committed to Torah, even if individuals are engaged in business and worldly pursuits, they are still connected to the Torah through those that remain in the Bais Hamedrash. This is why, concludes the Bais Halevi, Zevulun is able to rejoice. Even though he is busy with his business, he has left Yissachar behind, toiling in the tent of Torah. It is through his connection with Yissachar that Zevulun remains connected to the Torah at all times.

Likewise, the connection that we have with the Torah is not limited to our participation in a class or a chavrusa. To the extent that we are connected as a community of Torah learning, we all have a part in the Torah learning that takes place in the Bais Hamedrash every day, all day long, and it is considered that we have not truly taken our minds away from the Torah at all, even as we put in the hours in the office. Through our connection to each other, together we are able to “guard” the Torah. 🌟

A few weeks ago,

the Kollel was privileged to host Rabbi Chaim Gibber, the Rosh Kollel of the Minneapolis Community Kollel. The Rosh Kollel delivered a shiur to the Chavrei HaKollel on erev Shabbos, and spent time with the Kollel families over shabbos, culminating with a special seuda shlishis for the yungerleit where he offered guidance and chizuk. On motzei Shabbos, a lavish melava malka was held for the yungerleit of the St. Louis Community Kollel, Chesterfield Kollel, board members and wives. On Sunday, Rabbi Gibber joined the Chesterfield Kollel where he delivered a shiur and spent time with the yungerleit offering divrei chizuk and insight.



Thank you very much for including us in the melava malka. It was such a beautiful display of kavod haTorah! We walked away inspired and so proud of the kollelim and yungerleit in our community. It left us with a renewed appreciation of what they do each and every day and how important it is to support them, because ultimately their Torah is supporting our city!

*Naftali & Ditzza Friedman,
Treasurer, Chesterfield Kollel*



The Bin-Nun Family

Joined the Kollel
August 2021

Came From
Lakewood, NJ

Currently
Rabbi Bin-Nun
learns in the Kollel
Mrs. Sarah Bin-Nun
Bookkeeper and freelance
wig fixer-upper

*"Here, everyone sees themselves
as being part of the Kollel..."*

This issue, we shine our Kollel Spirit spotlight on the Bin-Nun family. Rabbi Avi and Mrs. Sarah Bin-Nun joined the St. Louis Community Kollel in August 2021. They arrived with their daughter, Meira, now 3, and, since moving here, they have been joined by baby Esther, their official first born St. Louisan.

Rabbi Bin-Nun was born in Lakewood and, after a short stint in Gibraltar where his father was involved in the Community Kollel, was raised in Passaic. He attended the Philadelphia Yeshiva under the auspices of Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, and finished Beis Medrash at Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Mordechai of Detroit, and studied under Rav Yudi Bakst.

Mrs. Bin-Nun hails from Los Angeles. After graduating from Bnos Esther high school, she attended seminary in Lakewood and subsequently received her Bachelor's degree. Sarah has been doing wig alterations for almost nine years, and, in addition to repairing sheitels, she works as a bookkeeper for a

locally established educational accounting service.

It was as a participant in the Ner Le'Elef Jewish Leadership Training and Community Outreach program in Lakewood that Rabbi Bin-Nun first learned about the St. Louis Community Kollel. "We literally went all over the country," explains Rabbi Bin-Nun. "But we chose St. Louis because we liked what we saw. I was particularly impressed with a whole shul filled an hour before Shabbos Mincha with people learning. We were excited to come to such a growing place with so many people coming together to create a true Kol Torah." Mrs. Bin-Nun echoes this idea. "We were taken by how everyone felt so connected, and really saw themselves as being part of the Kollel."

Now, over 18 months with the St. Louis Community Kollel, both Rabbi and Mrs. Bin-Nun consider themselves fully integrated

into the community. In addition to his regular learning seder in the Kollel, Rabbi Bin-Nun leads the Daf HaShavua program at the Agudah, and recently began a "Walking with the Prophets" Navi shiur at U City Shul. "Here, I have a feeling of really belonging," explains Mrs. Bin-Nun. "Because of what I do, I get to meet a lot of people, so I have had the opportunity to connect with them in a meaningful way."

"St. Louis is the perfect out of town community," notes Rabbi Bin-Nun. "People are machshiv Torah and super friendly. There are always new programs, new ideas, and new opportunities to connect even more. We came here for the Kollel, and our goal is to be here for the Kollel." 🙏



...tonights Melava Malka and the entire Shabbos with Rabbi Gibber was mamash phenomenal! The atmosphere and really just everything was such a tremendous chizuk for my wife and I. Out of this world! Thank you!

*Rabbi Zevi Farkas,
Member, St. Louis
Community Kollel*



It was great to be part of the melave malka last week! What beautiful kavod haTorah. The synergy created by having both Kollels together with Rabbi Gibber was amazing, and we can't wait to be part of similar events in the future.

*Chaim & Talia Schuss,
Board Member, St. Louis
Community Kollel*

Amud-a-Week



AMUD-A-WEEK

– Amud-a-Week At a Glance –

LAUNCHED MAY 2016

3 **150+**

MASECHTOS
LEARNED

OVERALL PARTICIPATION
OVER THE YEARS

750+ 

VIDEO/AUDIO SHIURIM



4,359

PLAYED SHIURIM ON THE
AMUD-A-WEEK PODCAST

To join the Amud-a-Week program or to receive email updates about the program, please email Rabbi Chezky Freund at cfreund@stikolle.com

It started as a dream.

At the end of 2015, the Kollel celebrated a Siyum Masechta, and a number of Kollel staff received Smicha on Hilchos Nidda from Rav Shaul Katz. Rav Moshe Brown, a Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva of Far Rockaway, delivered an impassioned speech describing the value of Torah study and of Kollel in a community.

One community member, R' Dovid Greengart, began to dream. What if we can bring the community together - with Torah. After much consideration and discussions with community leaders, the Amud-a-Week program was born.

The program began mid-Iyar 2016 with the 4th perek of Brachos. Special thanks to the Maggidai Shiur of the first Amud: R' Alex Pudles in Young Israel; Rabbi Daniel Freund in Nusach Hari B'nai Zion; Rabbi Yitzi Kowalsky (Iyun) in Agudas Israel; Rabbi

Yaakov Silverman and Rabbi Gidon Nitsun in Agudas Israel; Insights in the Amud from Dr. Mordy Goldenberg, and the audio Amud shiur from R' Akiva Brown emailed to participants. Notable mention to R' Daniel Lefton who holds the record for the highest number of Shiurim presented on behalf of the Amud-a-Week program.

We completed Maseches Brachos at the end of 2018 and started Maseches Succah with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the program faltered when Covid hit but we rebounded and completed Maseches Succah in 2021. With the arrival of the new Rosh Kollel and six yungerleit, we started fresh with Maseches Ta'anis under the able leadership of Rabbi Chezky Freund. Now, with vibrant shiurim in four community Shuls and a podcast [thanks to R' Daniel Stark!] with weekly shiurim, we're poised to make a Siyum on Maseches Ta'anis on February 18th, and are excited to begin Maseches Arachin the following week! 🙏

Scheduled Amud-a-Week Shiurim:

Sunday

8-8:30PM | Agudas Israel
R' Yaakov Klein

Monday

8-8:30PM | NHBZ
Rabbi Chezky Freund

Tuesday

8-9PM | U. City Shul
Rabbi Chezky Freund

Thursday

8-9PM | Young Israel
Rabbi Moshe Shulman

"Mondays with Rabbi Freund and Amud-a-Week have opened new horizons about the prayer I make everyday. "Mashiv haruach umorid hageshem" of the Amidah, has taken on an entirely new meaning as our study revealed the miracle and blessing of rain in its proper time, place, and abundance."

Tony Granillo (NHBZ Chabura)



I am a 4 year Amud-a-Week veteran and have greatly benefited from the experience...I particularly appreciate Rabbi Freund's Tuesday night shiur at U. City shul. His teaching style is engaging...clear and concise, making the learning experience enjoyable for all participants regardless of their background in Torah study.

Avraham Moshe Simon (U. City Shul chabura)



...Rabbi Shulman uses the amud shiur to reveal the collection of contrasting approaches across the generations of poskim and mefarshim, and how each member of Chazal adds their individual perspective to the picture.

Evan Axelbaum (Young Israel chabura)



Amud-a-Week is a mechayev to be a part of the learning of the tzibur. A community that learns together, grows together. Thank you!!

R' Chanan Swidler (Agudas Israel chabura)

In three words, what is Amud-a-Week? **Learn. Unite. Grow.**
Learn the Amud. Unite as a community. Grow as Klal Yisrael.



We were delighted to

launch a very exciting Mother/Daughter program this winter: "KESHER Connecting Generations."

This year, the program, spanning ages from kindergarten through 5th grade, is designed to allow participation for all four weeks - or just one or more of them. This year's theme is "Middos from the Mishna," and each week, the girls and their mothers focus on one specific middah (character trait) in a fun and engaging way, with a weekly activity packet to read and enjoy together. Special thanks to Mrs. Batya Feldman who customized our pamphlets to make them perfect for us in St. Louis!

The beginning of each packet has a short and clear message to be learned, along with many stories and engaging activities to reinforce the week's Middah/lesson. After a delicious brunch with varying menus including hot-cocoa, waffles and more (!), everyone learns through that week's lesson followed by a short message connected to the theme from one of the mothers. The morning concludes with the KESHER theme song and a creative craft that relates to that week's theme. 🌈

For more information please contact Eishes Chayil Director Mrs. Yael Farkas at yfarkas@stlkollel.com



"Bedtime at the F's and my girls are reminiscing about 'the program today, it was so fun! I wonder what the activity will be next week'"

D.F.



"...it's a fantastically organized and creative program and I've enjoyed doing it with Hannah so far. We're really looking forward to the next two!"

Sabrina Gornish



"We love Kesher and look forward to each week! Spending time with my girls in a relaxed environment of ruchnius, growth, and creativity has facilitated discussions and connections that are so critical yet too sparse in our hectic lives. Heartfelt appreciation to all who have invested in this amazing program!"

D. G.



We especially appreciate the Kesher corporate sponsors for enabling the Kollel to bring this exciting program to St. Louis. Thank you for your support!



Recent Happenings at the Kollel:

Eishes Chayil Post-Succos Workshop and Craft

All that work: Were you giving or getting? With Mrs. Rivka Serel Berkowitz



Trip to National Kinyan Hamasechta Event



Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Dovid Miller, began a weekly lyun shiur for the Kinyan Hamasechta Chabura



Legal Holiday Learning

with Rabbi Zevi Farkas



Eishes Chayil Pre-Chanuka Event

Donut & Dance with Inspiration from Mrs. Mimi David



Launch of the Yesodei Hatalmud Chabura

led by Rabbi Chezky Freund



מסיבת ט"ו בשבט עם הרב שרון כהן

Mesibat Tu b'Shevat
with Rav Sharon Cohen

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
Kulanu
Bringing Bnei Mishor Together
כל חסידים נעים אחד בישיבה
Yet another Mishor, bringing with the kindness of our beautiful hosts.



SENIOR Kollel Happenings



Members of the Senior Kollel Morning Chabura following Rabbi Tendler's presentation



Simchas Beis Hashoeiva in Maier & Phyllis Sadwin's Succah



Special presentation from Rabbi Menachem Tendler



Partial view of the crowd during Rabbi Winter's presentation



Special pre-Chanuka presentation from Rabbi Moishe Winter



Shabbos with Wash U. undergraduate

students with a Musical
Havdalah by Dr. Chai
Shai Gutovich





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Weekly Schedule

*The St. Louis Community Kollet
Welcomes You To Learn With Us*

Chavrusos/ One-On-One Learning

Sunday - Thursday
8:00pm - 9:45pm
Agudas Israel, U. City Shul,
Young Israel

Tuesday
8:00pm - 9:00pm
U. City Shul

Chaburos & Shiurim

Kollet Boker
Monday - Friday
10:45am - 12:45pm
Agudas Israel
Rabbi Frank & Rabbi Muser

**Senior Kollet Gemara,
Halacha & More** *Men*
Monday - Thursday
10:00am - 12:00pm
Kollet Torah Learning Center
Rabbi Nitsun

Daf Hashavua
Sunday - Thursday
8:45pm - 9:45pm
Agudas Israel
Rabbi Bin-Nun

Kinyan Hamasechta

Sunday - Thursday
8:45pm - 9:35pm
Kollet Torah Learning Center
Rabbi Berkowitz

NEW! Yesodei HaTalmud

Sunday & Thursday
8:45pm - 9:45pm
Agudas Israel

Yesodei HaTorah Gemara

Monday & Thursday
8:45pm - 9:45pm
Agudas Israel Social Hall
Rabbi Nitsun

Yorucha

Sunday
8:15am - 9:00am
Kollet Torah Learning Center
Rabbi Goldstone

Senior Kollet Lunch & Learn

Women
Tuesday
1:00pm - 2:00pm
Kollet Torah Learning Center
Rabbi Nitsun

Partners in Torah *Men & Women*

Tuesday
8:00pm - 9:00pm
JCC (Creve Coeur)
Rabbi Glazer

Walking with the Prophets

Tuesday
8:00pm - 9:00pm
U. City Shul
Rabbi Bin-Nun

Parsha Class *Men & Women*

Wednesday
8:00pm - 8:45pm
Zoom
Rabbi Farkas

Mussar Vaad & Cholent

Thursday
10:00pm - 10:20pm
Kollet Torah Learning Center

Amud-a-Week

Sunday
8:00pm - 8:30pm
Agudas Israel
R' Yaakov Klein
Monday
8:00pm - 8:30pm
Nusach Hari B'nai Zion
Rabbi Freund
Tuesday
8:00 pm - 9:00pm
U. City Shul
Thursday
8:00pm-9:00pm
Young Israel
Rabbi Moshe Shulman

DESIGN BY: AMFcreative



upcoming events

FEBRUARY

14 & 21 Eishes Chayil
*2-part pre-Purim series
with Mrs. Mimi David*

17-18 Community Siyum
*& Shabbos of Inspiration with
Rabbi Henschel Plotnik*

MARCH

5 Pre-Purim learning *for Men*
18 Shabbos with the Kollet II
Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

APRIL

20-23 ELEVATE
*A weekend of elevation with Rav
Naftali & Rebbetzin Tehilla Jaeger*