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Kollel to add four new rabbis

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This spring, the Phoenix Community Kollel is welcoming four new rabbis and their families to the Valley of the Sun. Among them are Rabbi Yossi Semel and his wife, Baila, who have already moved here. The others are expected to be in town by May 1. They are Rabbi Gavriel Goetz and wife, Gittel; Rabbi Shragi Yankelewitz and wife, Chana; and Rabbi Daniel Abramowitz and wife, Yael.

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The kollel, which was founded in 2000 under the direction of Rabbi Zvi Holland, has one mission: to increase Jewish learning in the Greater Phoenix community.

"The rabbis who come here come to do two things," Holland said. "They come to complete their religious education through advanced Jewish study, and they come to educate the community through various community outreach projects."

Most of the people who study with the kollel did not grow up with extensive religious backgrounds.

"We are open to any Jew who wants to learn or study Torah, regardless of their level of knowledge," Holland said. "Our mission is to strengthen the local Jewish community at large."

Since its inception, the kollel has brought 11 other rabbis to the Valley, eight who have moved on to other positions, and founded four synagogues in the Valley. The synagogues are Ohr HaTorah Congregation, Ahavas Torah and two locations of Shaarei Tzion Ohel Bracha for the Bucharian Jewish community. For more information, call 602-433-0300.

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