



## HARRY H. BEREN FOUNDATION GRANT PROVIDES VALUABLE SUPPORT TO ORTHODOX UNION'S GROWING LIST OF KOSHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

BY STEPHEN STEINER, *Director of Public Relations*



*Rabbi Genack and Rabbi Schachter responding to "Kashrut in the Workplace" questions.*

The Orthodox Union's ever-expanding list of programs of kosher education are beneficiaries of a grant from the Harry H. Beren Foundation of Lakewood, NJ., in memory of Mr. Harry H. Beren z"l.

Following the announcement of the grant in February, Rabbi Menachem Genack, CEO of OU Kosher, lauded the lifetime vision of Mr. Beren and the Foundation established in his name, to support educational programs which benefit the Jewish community.

Rabbi Yosef Grossman, Director of ASK OU and Kashrut Education at the Orthodox Union, whose ASK OU Programs are a prime beneficiary of funding from the Beren Foundation, declared, "Mr. Beren's vision of helping Jewish education was a major aspect of his life, and it lives on after him through the Foundation created to perpetuate his memory."

The Foundation has already provided support for the Harry H. Beren ASK OU Mesorah Conference II, the Pareve Mesorahs – held at Lander College in Queens, NY in February with an attendance in excess of 300.

It will also provide funding for the Harry H. Beren ASK OU program, to be held the week of August 21-25, for the training of mashgichim (kosher certifiers). The program will include on-site visitations to hotel kitchens, restaurants, meat-processing facilities and factories; likewise, it will support the three-week Harry H. Beren Kosher Internship Program for kollel fellows and semicha (rabbinical) students, from August 7-25, which will offer an expanded version of the one-week program.

In addition, the Foundation helps make possible the newly created and ongoing Harry H. Beren ASK OU Community Lectures – Kashrut in the Workplace series, coordinated by Rabbi Robert Shur of the OU Department of Community and Synagogue Services, which sends experts on the road to respond to questions frequently asked by kosher observant Jews who work in a secular environment. Typical questions include: "Can I use the office microwave and coffee machine?" "How do I attend a meeting in a non-kosher restaurant?" "Can I eat anything at the office party?"

Sessions have already been held at Congregation Ahavas Achim B'nai Jacob and David in West Orange, NJ, with Rabbi Genack and OU Kosher halachic decisor Rav Hershel Schachter of Yeshiva University; and at Congregation Keneseth Israel ("The White Shul") in Far Rockaway, NY with OU Kosher Rabbinic Field Representative Rabbi Avrohom Stone and Rabbinic Coordinator Rabbi Dov Schreier.

Future sessions are planned for May 7 at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, in Queens, NY with Rabbinic Coordinators Rabbi Schreier and Rabbi Seth Mandel; in Minneapolis, on May 14 (details to be announced); at the Melvin J. Berman Academy in Rockville, MD on May 21 with Rabbi Stone and Rabbinic Coordinator Rabbi Dovid Cohen; and on June 11 in Passaic, NJ (details to be announced). A session in Los Angeles is planned for June.

"Clearly," declared Rabbi Grossman, "the generosity of the Beren Foundation will not only make possible the continuation of the ASK OU series and other kashrut education programs, but their expansion as well, as OU Kosher continues its goal of expanding the knowledge of those who keep kosher about the intricacies of kashrut and new developments in the field."

*photo credit: Johanna Ginsberg/NJ Jewish News*

# THE MODERN DAY BLOOD SPOT

TRANSCRIBED BY RABBI YOSEF GROSSMAN  
BASED ON A DISCUSSION WITH RAV YISROEL BELSKY, SHLITA

The application of Halachos concerning eggs containing blood spots has changed significantly because egg farm practices today are different than they were in the past.

## IN THE PAST

Years ago eggs were often fertilized. In order to stimulate the hens to produce more eggs, roosters were needed. The roosters fertilized the eggs. Today the hens are fed hormones which stimulate the hens just as much. The roosters are presently kept out of the egg farms.

In the past each time a blood spot would be seen in an egg it would raise a question as to whether the egg was indeed fertilized and the blood spot was the beginning of a new embryo.

There are certain locations in the egg which indicate that the blood spot is part of a new embryo. One such location is the Keshet – the chalaza – which resembles a string connecting the top of the הלבון, the top white narrow part of the egg (a way to remember הלבון = הלב = milk = white) to the top of the הלבון, the yoke – the yellow part (a way to remember הלבון = הלב = milk = white) and the bottom of the הלבון to the bottom of the הלבון. A blood spot at the Keshet shows that an embryo is developing. Blood spots at other locations don't necessarily indicate that.

In those days, blood spots were usually treated as a ספק שרץ העוף – a possibility that it represents the beginning of a destroyed embryo of a bird. Because of this ספק the entire egg would have to be discarded because כולו כולו שדי תיכלא בכולה the embryo has begun to spread throughout the entire egg. This situation necessitated boiling 3 eggs at one time so that if one was found to have a blood spot, the others would remain Kosher as well as the pot. It was sufficient to be מבטל this ספק איסור as a מין במינו with רוב. Although the egg with the blood spot needed to be totally discarded – the rest were permitted.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Today there is no viable possibility that the egg with a blood spot is a fertilized שרץ העוף. All we must do is throw the blood out. The blood may come from various causes e.g. it may come from ovulation – when the egg leaves the ovary of the hen it breaks through a membrane. That membrane sometimes contains a large blood vessel which can drop out into the egg. That blood spot is not an indication of anything other than blood.

Since today a blood spot is only a concern of דם ביצים or מראת העין and not שרץ העוף the whole egg does not become prohibited. However, Rav Moshe, Z'l writes in Igros Moshe Y.D.1-#36 that it is proper to be machmir and throw out the whole egg even today.

## A SUMMARY OF PERTINENT HALACHOS:

1. The Rema writes in Y.D. 66:8 that there is no obligation to check for blood spots because there is a strong Rov which indicates to us that there is no blood to be found in the egg. However, continues the Rema, we have the custom to be machmir and check for blood spots when possible such as during the day.
2. Based on the minhag to check for blood spots the egg should be cracked into a container where the egg can be viewed from all sides.
3. According to Igros Moshe Y.D. Vol. 1 #36 in our times if a

blood spot is detected it is preferable to discard the entire egg in which it was found. B'dieved it is sufficient to remove the blood spot.

4. In our times it is not necessary to cook the egg with two other eggs. The reason for this is since today a strong Rov tells us these are not fertilized eggs, the whole egg would never become totally prohibited because of שרץ העוף. The minute blood (איסור דם) would be Botul in Shishim of the rest of the egg and thus the blood would not forbid anything else in the pot or pan including the pot or pan themselves.
5. There is no basis in Halachah for the custom of some women not to use for 24 hours the glass in which a blood spot fell. The glass should be rinsed out and may be used immediately.
6. No checking for blood spots is required for hard boiled eggs. These eggs have been candled by factories to maintain USDA certification as “free of blood spots”; the strong Rov exists that they are free of any blood spots; checking after cooking is to no avail – what looks like a blood spot may merely be discoloration due to cooking.
7. In some © establishments, kitchen employees have been offered a monetary reward if they bring the Mashgiach an egg containing a blood spot. Since as per the Rema checking eggs for blood spots is merely a Minhag – this reward system sufficiently satisfies the Minhag. (See more about this in document © X-55 Al Hamishmar #4-Page2.)

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## MAZAL TOV TO ...

our dedicated Executive Rabbinic Coordinator **RABBI YAAKOV LUBAN AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their son Yosef Dov to Devori Jaffee of Baltimore, MD.

our devoted Rabbinic Coordinator **RABBI DOV SCHREIER AND HIS WIFE** on the birth of their daughter, Miriam Gittel.

## CONDOLENCES TO...

our dedicated RFR in Louisiana **RABBI YOSEF NEMES AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of his father Rabbi Yitzchok Nemes Z'l of Crown Heights, NY.

our dedicated member of the Accounting Department **MR. DANIEL LEHMANN AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of his mother Rivka bas Yaakov who resided in Lakewood, NJ.

our devoted secretary **MRS. TIKVA GOLDSTEIN AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of her father Mr. Shalom Said of Moshav Hadid, Israel.

♦ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ♦