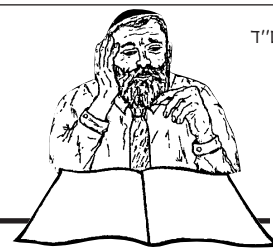


THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

YIRAS SHAMAYIM: HASHGACHAH'S VITAL INGREDIENT

A talk by HaGaon Rav Matisyahu Solomon, Shlita, written for publication

BY RABBI ELIYAHU W. FERRELL, RC, Chemicals, Pickles

The shock of the Monsey kashrus episode of 2006 is a shock that will not soon leave us.

The question that each of us in hashgachah has to ask of himself is: what must I learn from it?

In order to give us immeasurable assistance in this endeavor, the recent AKO (Association of

Kashrus Organizations) conference asked one of the most inspiring and influential speakers in contemporary Jewish life to address the representatives of the kashrus agencies from around the globe who were in attendance. HaGaon Rav Matisyahu Solomon, Shlita, Mashgiach Ruchani of Beis Medrash Govoha-Lakewood, spoke on the topic of what we must learn from the Monsey debacle. What follows IY"H are highlights of Rav Solomon's address.

We have to take advantage of what Hashem has recently shown us. We must use the Monsey episode as a vehicle for growth.

Why would Hashem shake our confidence in kosher supervision? Because we

have been guilty of *over-confidence*: we have been saying, "We are the experts; we're the most efficient." We need to re-orient our attitudinal and emotional posture.

The real hallmark of quality kashrus supervision is that the rav hamachshir and the mashgiach *tremble with fear*, a fear that leads them to feel that *they can't check enough*. This is an outgrowth of *Yiras Shamayim*. One who has *Yiras Shamayim will tremble and be afraid* that he shouldn't commit a sin or cause anyone else to sin. No less than Rav Yechezkel Abramsky, Zatzal, davened—with tears in his eyes, while prostrated during the recitation of

the *Avodah*, on the holiest day of the year—for the kashrus of his Pesach matzos!

The Ramban explains that Adam HaRishon's sin was taking for granted that the fruit offered by Chava was a permissible fruit. In truth, *he should have been trembling and fearful* that it was the forbidden fruit, and he should have asked her, "From which tree did this come?" He should not have assumed that the very *eizer*, sent by no less than Hashem Himself, was giving him something kosher to eat!

Without *Yiras Shamayim*, a man is not a mashgiach, even if he knows all of

continued on page 19



OU KOSHER ANNOUNCES DEBUT OF OU DIRECT

Providing Vast Quantities of Information to Certified Companies.

The message from the Orthodox Union Kosher Division is as clear as it can be: "Managing Your Account Has Never Been Simpler." The source of this management wizardry is www.oudirect.org, the new six-part website designed to provide a vast amount of information to companies certified kosher by the Orthodox Union. After a period of testing, OU Direct went online this week.

OU companies are issued a user name and password to enable them to log-on to the system. Use of the website is free.

"The OU's philosophy regarding kashrut certification is to make it as user-friendly as possible," declared Rabbi Moshe Elefant, Chief Operating Officer of @Kosher. "Given that we're a communal organization, our goal is to provide the kosher marketplace, in all of its aspects, with the recognition that the simpler

we make the process – of course, without compromising our high standards – the easier it will be to have more kosher products available. As a result, we spent a lot of effort and resources into creating this program."

The result is a website which includes the OU's Universal Kosher Database (UKD), which began operations earlier this year, and which contains a record of tens of thousands of products that are certified by the OU and participating kosher certifying agencies. The UKD allows manufacturers to use a powerful search engine to quickly locate ingredients that can be used for kosher production. All items listed in the UKD are accepted by the OU as kosher sources, and OU companies are assured that the products found in the UKD meet OU standards and requirements. The UKD also eliminates the tedious task of soliciting letters of certification which verify the kosher status of a product.

The other components of OU Direct include Letters of Certification (LOC's), affirming that a product is certified kosher by the OU, a financial overview of the company's account with the OU; applications for new plants, products and ingredients; and

continued on next page

KASHRUTH *advisory!*

Effective Thursday, November 16, 2006, **MEAT @ CIRCA CAFFE & CATERERS**, located at 35 West 33rd Street, New York, NY is no longer certified by the Orthodox Union. Circa's two dairy restaurants remain certified.

OU DIRECT

continued from previous page

even variations of the famed ©, for use on labels. (©, ©D, ©M, and ©P)

"OU Direct is a triumph of technology for the benefit of the thousands of firms worldwide which are certified kosher by the Orthodox Union," declared Rabbi Menachem Genack, CEO of OU Kosher. "The savings on time and paperwork, and the vast amount of information available, extend additional benefits to © companies, to add to their greatest benefit of all: certification by the world's most accepted and respected kosher organization."

Rabbi Genack pointed out that when discussing © certification with prospective companies, OU Direct is certain to be a major selling point.

According to the new website, OU Direct provides "enhanced management of your account, increased efficiency, greater customization, interactive on-line access, plus a help line." For example, the financial overview includes statements, invoices, historical data, and "aging reports," that is, how much is due from prior billing periods.

For both the OU, therefore, and the manufacturers of the 400,000 products certified by the © in 80 countries, the system is a major asset. Already, both large and small companies have praised OU Direct, Rabbi Elefant declared.

The system wasn't developed overnight, Rabbi Elefant explained. From the beginning, it had the full support of OU President Stephen J. Savitsky, who until recently was also Chair of the OU Kashrut Commission, which oversees OU Kosher. Nor has OU Direct's development come to an end. "We clearly don't intend to rest on our laurels; we have every intention to have a phase two with new and additional features," explained Rabbi Elefant. "We'll do what our clients want in terms of enhancing and expanding OU Direct."



KASHRUTH *alert!*

MAZOLA "RIGHT BLEND" (Distributed in Mexico) **CANOLA OIL** – 1 Liter, UPC #750223777088 (Spanish Label) produced by Alimentos Capullo – Torre A Santa Fe, Mexico bears an unauthorized © symbol. It is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting this product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8148 or via email at kshalerts@ou.org. This Spanish label product is not to be confused with an identical English label certified product (distributed by ACH Food Company Inc. in the United States) whose label correctly bears the © symbol.

RALPHS MAGIC STARS CEREAL 32 oz (UPC #011110842787) produced by Inter-American Products – Cincinnati, OH (sold at Ralphs Supermarkets) bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Individuals spotting this product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8148 or via email at kshalerts@ou.org.

QUAKER CHEWY GRANOLA CHOCOLATE CHIP (Regular and Reduced Sugar Varieties) produced by The Quaker Oats Company – Chicago, IL is being reformulated. Previously, this product had been made with pareve ingredients and labeled OU-D, due to dairy equipment. This product's ingredients will now include non-fat dry milk and will be listed as such on the ingredient panel.

STOP & SHOP BRAND NATURE'S PROMISE ORGANIC PARMESAN PASTA SAUCE 26 oz UPC #688267053467 produced by Foodhold USA – Landover, MD bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace.

FLORA ITALIAN FOODS ITALIAN BREADCRUMBS 12/24 oz UPC #2003800119 produced by Flora Foods – Pompano Beach, FL bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace. Individuals spotting this products are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8148 or via email at kshalerts@ou.org.

ROBERT'S AMERICAN GOURMET STEALTH CHIPS FRENCH ONION (3 oz bag) UPC 1566574458 produced by Robert's American Gourmet is an ©D certified product which contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Further packaging will be revised.

QUAKER OATS CRUNCHY CORN BRAN produced by Quaker Oats Co., Chicago, IL which has been certified pareve for a number of years, will be changed to ©D due to dairy equipment. The new production, bearing the ©D, should begin appearing in stores sometime in January, 2007.

BRIVAS VILNIS ASSORTED HERRING, SPRATS AND SARDINE PRODUCTS produced by Interpage Inc. – Brooklyn, NY bear an unauthorized © symbol and are being withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting these products are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8148 or via email at kshalerts@ou.org.

OU COURTS ISRAELI FOOD EXPORTERS

BY IDELE ROSS, KOSHER TODAY ISRAEL BUREAU CHIEF
Reprinted with permission from www.kosherToday.com

Jerusalem... Rabbi Genack, who was in Israel last week for the convention of the Orthodox Union at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel, met with representatives of some 50 Israeli food exporters whose products carry the OU certification. "Many kosher certifications in Israel are unfamiliar to the American consumer and one of our objectives at the OU is to promote Israeli products and help the Israeli economy," he told KosherToday. He noted that OU certification of Israeli food products, meaning the Union's kashrut supervisor has to be on the factory premises to oversee production, does not affect the price to the consumer. "You can make an argument that it actually lowers the price. Shoppers in the U.S who are looking for kosher are looking for the OU certification which means more goods are sold; thus the price per unit actually comes down."

Rabbi Genack said that most of the big Israel food manufacturers such as Osem, Tnuva, Strauss Elite as well as Carmel wines are under OU supervision as well as having kashrut certification from an authority in the country. "We have an office in Israel. Our kashrut supervisors check all ingredients to make sure they are at a mehadrin level of kashrut," Rabbi Genack said. "We work in consort with local inspectors such as those of the Badatz." The Forward newspaper recently named Rabbi Genack as one of the 50 most influential members of the American Jewish community, which kashrus officials saw as recognition for the important role that kosher plays in the lives of the American Jewish community. OU kashrut supervisors are based in more than 70 countries. "China is the fastest growing country in terms of production for the kosher market. Chinese companies export basic ingredients for the kosher industrial sector – everything from garlic to casein to herbs and spices, flavorings and fish products."

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FROM THE U.S. STATE DEPT.

As of January 23, 2007, all persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air to Canada, Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean will be required to present a valid passport to re-enter the country. A valid driver's license will no longer suffice for re-entry documentation

If you are planning on traveling out of the country next year, we recommend applying for a new passport, or checking your current passport to ensure it is still valid. It can take up to six weeks to process a new one, so plan ahead. For more information please visit the U.S. State Department web site at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html.

An RFR Reminder An RC reports that an RFR visited a company, in another country, on a day that happened to be their national holiday. Of course, the visit was pointless. He thought that it would be worthwhile to remind RFR's that they should be familiar with the calendar of the countries they visit to avoid loss of time in the future.

YIRAS

continued from page 17

Yoreh Deah (although, of course, one must know the halachos!). *Yiras Shamayim* is no mere *ma'alah* for a mashgiach: it is *the vital ingredient*. Indeed, kashrus organizations are the elite of Klal Yisroel because they represent the *Yiras Shamayim* of Klal Yisroel.

A shochet once came to Rav Yisroel Salanter and said he had to change his trade because the responsibility for communal kashrus was becoming too much for him to bear. Rav Yisroel responded, "Who *should* be a shochet: someone *without* morah?!"

Safeguards are required for spiritual matters. One who has *Yiras Shamayim* will feel the need for safeguards so that he can ensure as much as possible that no sin will occur. Avraham Avinu employed *shevuos* (oaths) as safeguards: once, when he made Eliezer swear regarding the marriage arrangements for Yitzchok Avinu and once, when he himself swore not to benefit from the plunder of the war of the four against the five (in order to be *Mekadeish Shem Shamayim* by not benefiting from it). He did not view his trust in his servant or himself as sufficient; there had to be an oath, as well. Safeguards!

The mitzvah of *Yiras Shamayim* means that one must bring oneself to feel *Yiras Shamayim*. This is what Yocheved and Miriam did in Mitzrayim in order to develop the fortitude to disobey Pharaoh. Mashgichim must learn Musar to foster the growth of their own *Yiras Shamayim*. They must devise ways to be *mechazeik* one another in *Yiras Shamayim*.

MAZAL TOV TO ...

our dedicated RFR in San Diego, CA **RABBI AHARON YITZCHOK SHAPIRO AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their son Shalom Dov Ber to Yocheved Rodman of Las Vegas, NV.

our devoted RC **RABBI DOVID ROCKOVE AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Miriam to Yaakov Aaron of Sydney, Australia.

our dedicated RFR in Pittsburgh, PA **RABBI SHIMON WEISS AND HIS WIFE** on the birth of their daughter Sheina Rochel.

CONDOLENCES TO...

our dedicated RFR in New Orleans, LA **RABBI YOSEF NEMES AND HIS FAMILY** on the recent passing of his mother Mrs. Zelda Nemes O'h of Brooklyn, NY.

our dedicated RFR's, **RABBI ARON MARGOLIN** in Norfolk, VA and **RABBI ELIA SOLOMON** in Brooklyn, NY, upon the loss of their father and father-in-law respectively, HaRav Moshe Eliezer Margolin zt"l. HaRav Margolin zt"l served with distinction for over a half century as executive director of Ezras Torah and helped produce the Ezras Torah *luach*. Condolences are also extended to a former dedicated RFR, Rabbi Chaim Zushe Margolin in Miami Beach, FL, son of the *niftar*, and the rest of the Margolin family.

our dedicated Shochet at Empire Kosher Poultry for over 25 years **REB YECHIEL GLOBERMAN** from Baltimore, MD and his family on the loss of his father Reb Noach Globberman Z'l of Yerushalayim, Israel.

◆ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ◆

DAF NOTES:

לשון הקודש is ASK OU's first review in
from a חב"ד חסיד residing in Monsey, NY

לא רעב ללחם... כי אם לשמוע את דבר ה'
מאת הרב עקיבא האניג

בעזה"ש"ת

הנה ימים באים נאום ה' אלקים והשלחתי רעב בארץ, לא רעב ללחם ולא צמה למים, כי אם לשמוע את דבר ה'. (עמוס ח' י"א).

אף כי פשטא דקרא מדבר בימות המשיח, אבל אחרי בואי לשערי ה' ביום י"ג אב ס"ו, ואחרי שהתעכבתי שם במשך ה' ASK, הנני בדעתי כי בודאי יש להמליץ פסוק זה על האירוע הזה המתקיים פעם בשנתיים כידם הטובה של ה'.

נבהלתי ונשתוממתי לראות ציבור בזה הגודל, מכל המינים והסוגים, באים בתכלית אחת, לקנות ידיעות בשדה הכשרות, במרץ וברצון טובה הנסיך על פניהם.

אבל יותר מכן, לפלא הוא על עוצם רצונם של ה' להקנות וללמד תורה לעם ישראל, להרביץ תורה ולהאדירה קבל עולם ומלואה, עד שהשקיעו כוחות אדירים ועצומים, לארגן כזה פרוגרם, מבלי התחשבות בהקושי שבדבר, רק כדי ללמוד וללמד לשמור ולעשות, שידעו כולם מצוות השם ותורתו, למעשה ולא להוראה בלבד.

גם לא התחשבו בצרכי עצמם, מכין הרבנים שדרשו הביאו גם מבחוץ, מ-ועדים אחרים ומהכשרים פרטיים, הכל רק ללמד בני יהודה קשת בתורה שבע"פ שבעולם הכשרות.

הסדר ששלט בכל השיעורים, היינו חישוב ואירגון הימים והשעות, מה לפנים ומה לאחור, וגם חישוב ומיזוג כל השיעורים, מה לקרב ולהכניס בהתוכנית ומה לרחק. הכל בסדר נפלא, הראה לדעת הדיוק הרב והסדר השולט בכל ענפי ה'-, דבר הנצרך עד למאוד בניהול ארגון כשרות, ובמיוחד אירגון כשרות בגודל כזו, כמו שנוחחנו לדעת בהסיור שניתן לנו בחזרי ה'.

וכן התקיפות והבטיחות השוררת בתוככי ה' והרצון שלהם להשפיע לאחרים מקנקנתם המלאה, מראה על חוזקם ויציבות מעמדם, ושאינן להם במה להתבייש ולהסתיר, הכל גלוי וצפוי מראש, וכל הרוצה לבוא את השם יבוא ויטול.

ההיקף שהקיפו הדרשנים בדרשותם, בכל חלקי הכשרות (ולא רק בחלקי הכשרות), מבשר עד חלב וגבינה, מתעשיות הרכיבים עד מוצרים מוכנים, מטבילת כלים עד הכשרת כלים, משמן וביצים עד הפרשת חלה, פת פלטר ומצות מצוה.

וכן בתעשייה גופה, מ-heat exchangers עד ה-filler, מה-flavor עד ה-emulsifier, וכו' וכו'.

(כאשר ערכתי רשימה, ראיתי שהשיעורים ששמענו, עלה מספרם עד ל-45! והמקומות שבקרנו עלה מספרם עד לכ-20!!!)

וכן בכל ענפי הדברים הנצרכים לנתינת השגחה מעולה, כגון ה-Schedule A ו-B, וכן ה-hotline וה-online, וכו' וכו' הכל כיד השם הטובה על ה'.

וכן ה-RC וכל צוות ה'- שניסו במיטב יכולתם, והשתדלו שהכל וכולם יהיו מרוצים, שכולם יבינו, ושכולם יהנו ויקנו מידע רבה בעולם הכשרות.

ובודאי תחת כל דבר נעלה עומד אדם נעלה, ובמיוחד תחת דבר נעלה כזה שעומד תחתיו הרב גרוסמן שליט"א, אשר אירגן וסידר וניהל הדברים בציון הראוי לשבח גדול.

וודאי יועיל דבר זה להרבות כבוד שמים, לחזק הכשרות בישראל ולהכניס רוח טהרה תחת ונטמטם.