

תשע"ח The Year in Review



CHICAGO RABBINICAL COUNCIL מועצת הרבנים דשיקגו

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and more!

We are proud to present this new edition of *Chadashot*, and share some of the exciting work that the cRc has done on behalf of the community in the past year. As you will see in the following pages, we are indebted to the amazing individuals who comprise the cRc. They and their personal dedication and *mesirus nefesh*, skill and expertise, benefit all of us in the Chicago community, and around the world.

Member-rabbis are devoted to leading and promoting programs through the cRc. Staff, both new and most seasoned, are committed to their service to Torah and Klal Yisrael. *Talmidei Chachamim* publish seforim, and

give *shiurim*, *Al Menas LeLamed*, and *Al Menas Laasos*. Mentors are remembered for their contributions that continue to impact our lives.

May we all be *zoche* in the coming year to a *שנה חיים ושלום*, and for each of us, individually and collectively, to develop our own potential, working together to better serve Hashem and Klal Yisrael.

Rabbi Levi Mostafsky
Executive Director



Training Ourselves to Discern the Good

Rabbi Elisha M. Prero, President



The parsha of Ki Tavo introduces the mitzvah of *bikkurim*. This mitzvah requires a farmer to bring the first-ripening fruits of his field to the Bet Hamikdash (the Temple) and hand them to the Kohen. The Torah describes the procedure and requires a specific declaration – *mikra bikkurim* – as part of the procedure of *hava'at bikkurim*. In the declaration, the farmer recounts the persecution of Yaakov at the hands of Lavan, Yaakov's descent into Egypt and the affliction of our people by the Egyptians. The declaration then relates that G-d took

our nation from bondage upon hearing our forefathers' cries, performed wondrous acts in the desert, and finally brought us to Eretz Yisrael, with all of its bounty.

No other mitzvah calls for the Egypt Declaration. So, what is it about *bikkurim* that fits this declaration? There must be something unique about the mitzvah.

The Mishna describes how a farmer identifies the fruits that qualify as first fruits. He enters his field and observes the growth of his fruits. If he sees some grapes that are beginning to ripen, he tags them. He does

the same with figs and with pomegranates.

According to the famous kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria (AR"l z"l), the mitzvah of *bikkurim* is a *tikkun* (a correction) for the sin of the spies. How so? The spies entered the Promised Land, Canaan, and brought back a negative report. To support their claim that the land was fit for giants only, and not for normal-sized people, they presented unusually large fruits. The spies did not argue the obvious - that these robust fruits reflected the goodness of the Promised Land, its bounty, its *kedusha*. Rather, they turned the argument on its head - the enormous fruits were only for enormous people. Normal-sized humans, like the Israelites, would not be able to survive in the land of the GIANT FRUITS. Truth is, you can take any evidence for good and twist it into support for bad. Think of party politics and presidential elections.

What fruits did the spies bring back? Grapes, figs and pomegranates - the same fruits that the Mishna describes for *bikkurim*. What's the connection? *Hakarat hatov*.

The spies didn't have it; the farmer must.

What is *hakarat hatov*? We commonly understand *hakarat hatov* to mean expression of gratitude. But literally, it means "discerning the good". *L'hakir* means to discern, recognize, identify. Yaakov's sons presented Yosef's bloody garment and said, "*Haker na haketonet bincha*; identify the garment of your son."

The sin of the spies in twisting the evidence of Hashem's blessing into evidence of bad is their lack of *hakarat hatov*. The *tikkun* is to make sure that the people who finally live in the land, who farm it and grow their produce, don't make the same grievous error.

The Egypt Declaration is a method for cultivating *hakarat hatov*. The underlying message of the declaration is - I acknowledge it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, it wasn't this way for a long time. Our forefather, Yaakov, wandered. He was forced into Egypt ultimately by a lack of food. His progeny, our ancestors, got stuck there. The Egyptians abused us. Hashem redeemed us and delivered us to the Promised Land. I acknowledge that what I experience at one level as normal, isn't quite that way at all. It really is special. It doesn't have to be this way - and for many years it wasn't - but it is now, because of Hashem's goodness. I get it. I recognize the good.

Frequently, the key to the awareness that it doesn't have to be this way, is an understanding of historical context and historical flow.

Not long ago, the travail of our people was unspeakable. Today, an act of anti-Semitism is headline news. For centuries, most Jews could only dream of the Land of Israel. Today, for a fistful of dollars, you can be transported to the land of our fathers, which welcomes Jews with open arms. We eat foods from all over the world. More Jews are in yeshivot learning Torah than at any other time in our history. The resources of our communities are bountiful. Less than 150 years ago, just about no one could converse in Hebrew, whether modern or biblical. Now, it's the *mama loшон* of millions.

The list of candidates for *hakarat hatov* for each of us is virtually endless. We need to be like the farmer. The Torah requires the farmer to do and say things that can bring him and those in his sphere of influence to a deeper level of consciousness to discern the goodness. We can use the Rosh Hashana season to train ourselves to discern the good.

As you turn these pages, please take note of all the great things the cRc does. We at the cRc have much good to discern. We have a widely respected *kashrus* organization and highly regarded Beis Din, Rosh Beis Din, Av Beis Din, and *dayanim*. Our membership is comprised of *rabbanim* across the country who understand the responsibility of guiding not only their own congregations, but the community as a whole. As President, I recognize and deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of my colleagues at the cRc. Their enormous devotion to K'lal Yisrael is an inspiration.

And for each of us on a personal level, if we appreciate the blessings that Hashem has bestowed upon us, we can begin to realize our potential as spiritual beings who don't just take life and this earth for granted. When we appreciate the goodness in Hashem's world, and especially the good Hashem does for us—when we practice the art of *hakarat hatov*—we fill our souls and our lives with bounty and meaning. Shana tova to all. May we all have a year of discerning the good.

בברכת כתיבה וחתימה טובה,

Elisha M. Prero

cRc Executive Officers

HaRav Gedalia D. Schwartz
ROSH BETH DIN

HaRav Yona Reiss
AV BETH DIN

Rabbi Levi Mostofsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rabbi Sholem Fishbane
KASHRUTH ADMINISTRATOR

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Rabbi Shaanan Gelman
VICE PRESIDENT

Rabbi Yosef Posner
VICE PRESIDENT

Rabbi Aaron Leibtag
TREASURER

Rabbi Dovid Perkel
SECRETARY

Sitting in Hashem's House

Rabbi Yona Reiss שליט"א, Av Beth Din

Starting from Rosh Chodesh Elul through Shmini Atzeret, it is our custom to recite Tehillim 27, beginning with the words “*Ledavid Hashem Ori Veyishi Mimi Ira.*” The opening words purvey a fundamental message regarding these days of mercy and supplication, namely that with Hashem as our source of light and salvation, there is truly no reason to be fearful of anyone or anything else.

Indeed, this psalm contains one of the most powerful allusions to the month of Elul itself. In the penultimate verse, Dovid Hamelech states “*lule he'emanti liros b'tuv Hashem b'erezt chaim*” – that Dovid would not have been able to withstand the slander and violence of his enemies if not for the fact that he trusted in the eternal goodness of Hashem. The word “*lule*” contains in reverse order the letters of the month of Elul. Sometimes life appears to be topsy-turvy, but we are reminded during the month of Elul that all is in order so long as one places proper trust in Hashem.

Poignantly, Dovid Hamelech registers a single request towards Hashem. “*Achas sha'alti me'es Hashem, o'sah avakesh, shivti b'vais Hashem kol yemei chayai, lachazos b'noam Hashem u'levaker b'Heichalo*” – “I ask one thing of Hashem, this is what I request, to sit in the house of Hashem all the days of my life, to behold the pleasantness of Hashem, and “*levaker*” in His sanctuary.”

What does the word “*levaker*” connote? There are multiple interpretations, each of which carries a special message for us during this hallowed time. First, the word evokes the notion of “*boker*” – of

the morning. When we wake up in the morning, we want our consciousness to be devoted to sanctity. Our first act should be the recitation of *Modeh Ani*, followed by washing *neigel vasser* (to refresh our newly delivered soul), followed by davening, and Torah learning. Our morning should begin “*b'Heichalo*,” in a sacred place, and not, G-d forbid, “*b'Chilulo*” in a place of distraction and contamination, in a profane world of devices, cell-phones, and frivolous news reports. We are reminded during the month of Elul to reorient ourselves, each morning, to lead lives of elevation and purification, “*levaker b'Heichalo.*”

In addition, “*levaker*” denotes “to visit.” The commentators ask how King David, who lived his whole life in the service of Hashem, could ask to be a mere visitor in the sanctuary of G-d? The answer is simple. Someone who starts to feel too familiar and comfortable in the King's palace is likely to lose the sense of awe and exaltation that would typically enrapture a visitor to the palace. Dovid's prayer was to always have the sense of wide-eyed wonder of a visitor in his day-to-day service of Hashem. This should be our aspiration as well, whether in terms of maintaining proper decorum in our shuls, or in terms of living every moment to the fullest in our daily activities, seizing upon each mitzvah opportunity in life, the same way that a visitor or tourist makes the most of each moment in a new location or setting.

Finally, the word “*levaker*” denotes the notion of “*bikur*,” of examining a sacrifice before it is offered on the altar for the sake of Hashem. In our quest to become better, we must engage in a daily state of

self-examination. Elul is also a form of the word “*vi'alelun*” which is the Aramaic word used by the Targum to describe the reconnaissance mission of the spies in the desert. During the month of Elul, we are all on a reconnaissance mission to search deeply into our souls to draw out our best tendencies and eradicate all our bad habits and undesirable character traits. We beseech Hashem that we should always be capable of such self-contemplation, so that we can grow and improve ourselves each day. As the Ramban wrote in his letter to his son, a person should review his actions each morning and evening to assess what actions need be improved for the next day. Elul is a great time to reinforce this notion.

May we all be successful at recalibrating our priorities during this teshuva season, to begin each day with the right tone, to maintain a fresh enthusiasm every day towards Torah u'Mitzvot, and to engage in introspection as a vehicle towards constant growth, so that we can truly experience a life that is firmly embedded in the sanctuary of the Divine Presence.

Best wishes for a ketiva v'chatima tova. תהא שנת עין טובה – may this be a year that we look upon each other with a charitable eye and earn a charitable judgment from Hashem.

Rabbi Yona Reiss



Ahavat HaGer Program Sheds Practical Insights into the Mitzvah

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, the cRc and Kehilat Chovevei Zion hosted a program, entitled Ahavat HaGer, featuring Rabbi Yona Reiss, the cRc Av Beth Din, and Rabbi Dr. Dovid Fox, a clinical psychologist who is known for his work with conversion candidates and for developing and publishing the Conversion Readiness Assessment.

Rabbi Shaanan Gelman, Rabbi of KCT, and Vice President of the cRc, explained that he saw the need for the program as he “recognized that we don’t do enough to assist in the integration of the ger into the community.”

“The cRc works with shul rabbis in serving their congregations,” said Rabbi Levi Mostofsky, Executive Director of the cRc. “Our Beth Din is a national leader in Orthodox conversion, and this program is a natural continuation of that work, partnering with community rabbis to better welcome converts.”

Rabbi Fox works closely with Rabbi Reiss, who is the chairman of GPS, the RCA-affiliated network of regional conversion courts, to evaluate candidates’ potential for transitioning into the community.

Sunday’s programs began with Rabbi Fox having breakfast at the cRc office with cRc members, discussing opportunities they may develop to help their communities better welcome converts.



Rabbi Fox met with cRc members in the morning at the cRc.

The Chicago Rabbinical Council and Kehilat Chovevei Zion
proudly present



Ahavat HaGer

Our Role in Helping Newcomers Integrate into our Community

Join us for an evening of meaningful dialogue on the challenges and opportunities of this important mitzvah



Dr. Dovid Fox is a noted talmid chacham and a renowned clinical psychologist, professor, and lecturer from Los Angeles who is an expert on helping conversion candidates and those who have converted, having developed and published the widely used CRA – the Conversion Readiness Assessment.



Rabbi Yona Reiss is the Av Beth Din of the Chicago Rabbinical Council. He has also served as the Director of the Beth Din of America, and then as the Menahel of RIETS, where he continues to serve as Rosh Yeshiva. He is also a noted Magid Shiur, author and lecturer, and the chairman of GPS, the RCA affiliated network of regional conversion courts.

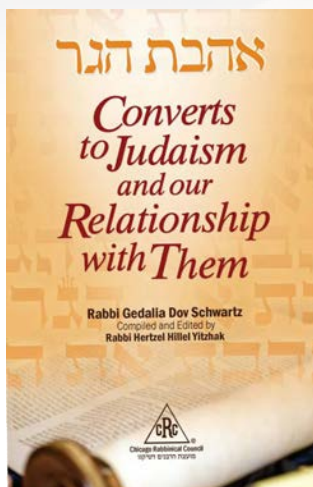
Rabbi Fox met with a small group of geirim in the afternoon at KCT to see how they were adjusting to their new lifestyle. He wanted to see what were the challenges they face and in what way others could assist them to make their transition.

On Sunday evening Rabbi Reiss and Rabbi Fox addressed the community at KCT. Rabbi Gelman introduced the program by pointing out that the mitzvah to love a convert is mentioned in the Torah 46 times, as many times as the prohibition of idolatry.

Rabbi Reiss began by explaining that while we have a mitzvah to love every Jew, we need to show extra affection to a ger. Rabbi Reiss quoted the Sefer HaChinuch that says that this mitzva applies to every person and community according to what is proper and according to one’s abilities. We need to assess the needs of a convert and help him in areas that we take for granted. He



Audience at the community program



might need guidance, for example, making Shabbos, or integrating into the community.

Rabbi Reiss gave examples of how we need to be attuned to converts' sensitivities in the way we speak with them and ask questions. While we need to treat the ger with an extra dose of love and sensitivity, we should be careful to not

make them uncomfortable that they are receiving special treatment.

Rabbi Fox began by sharing that in earlier times a ger would be adopted by whichever tribe in which he settled. This shows that the ger is halachically bound to adopt the customs of that tribe, and that it is the community's responsibility to embrace him.

He discussed the importance of mentoring a ger through life cycle events, such as raising children, and the importance of modeling proper behavior, in our speech and actions.

The evening concluded with a lively question-and-answer session.

One of the evening's participants, Mrs. Chaya Sarah Miretzky, said she came to gain a deeper awareness of the different issues involved in this mitzvah and looks forward to further shiurim about this topic.

"It's wonderful that we are starting to talk about this more as a community," she said.

Rabbi Gelman was pleased that "such a large and broad-based group of people attended the program." He suggested that a practical application of the program was that the mitzvah of loving a ger could be incorporated

"We are discussing the next steps, and would like to implement our findings into the geirus process."



Rabbi Fox, Rabbi Reiss, and Rabbi Gelman at the community program

into the responsibilities of a community's hospitality and education committees.

"We are discussing the next steps, and would like to implement our findings into the geirus process," said Rabbi Gelman.

Rabbi Fox was impressed with the three facets of the program: speaking with rabbis, talking to recent converts, and addressing the community. "I have suggested to other communities and rabbinic organizations that they offer the same program," he said.

Supporting the Work of the Chevra Kadisha

The Chicago Rabbinical Council hosted multiple programs featuring Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, President of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha, on Tuesday, October 31 and Wednesday, November 1, 2017. Rabbi Zohn informed, enlightened, and inspired Chicago rabbis, metaharim, and the public about end-of-life issues.

“Our Chevra Kadisha has served the community for decades, and our member rabbis are proud to continue to partner with and support them” said Rabbi Levi Mostofsky, Executive Director.

“Our primary objective of bringing in Rabbi Zohn was to allow for our dedicated team of metaharim within the cRc Chevra Kadisha, as well as other Chevrei Kadisha in Chicago, to interact with Rabbi Zohn and review policies and best practices,” said Rabbi Shaanan Gelman, Rabbi of Kehilat Chovevei Tzion and Chair of the cRc Chevra Kadisha.

The metaharim and metaharot gathered on Tuesday evening at Kehilat Chovevei Tzion where Rabbi Zohn conducted a three-hour workshop.

“Rabbi Zohn delivered a fascinating presentation which was a review of halachos for the experienced metaher and an opportunity to learn for the new metaharim,” said Rabbi Yitzchok Bergstein, Director of the Chabad Center

The Chicago Rabbinical Council proudly presents

A Workshop for Mortals

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE

THE ROLE OF YOUR RABBI

PICKING A CHEVRA KADISHA, FUNERAL HOME, CEMETERY ETC.

THE TAHARA

BURIAL IN ISRAEL

NAVIGATING SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

COST CONSIDERATIONS, AND WHAT CAN BE PRE-PLANNED

HALACHIC LIVING WILLS

LEAVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY

AFTER THE KEVURAH...SHIVA AND AVEILUS

Guest Speaker:
Rabbi Elchonon Zohn
Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, Director of the Vaad Harabonim of Queens Chevra Kadisha, and Founder and President of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha, is a renowned authority on Jewish end-of-life issues.

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 7 p.m.
At Congregation K.I.N.S.
2800 West North Shore Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60645

cRc **NASCK**



Rabbi Zohn addressing cRc members



Rabbi Reiss addressing the attendees of the workshop for metaharim and metaharot in front of a mannequin

in the Oak Park-River Forest area, and one of the head cRc metaharim.

“Rabbi Zohn did not just teach the halachos, but he spent a lot of time talking about the importance of the mitzvah and being careful with kavod hameis,” said Ms. Hoda Stolberg, one of the cRc metaharot.

“A lot of the things we do and the way we do them are for the honor of the departed. What I learned has enhanced the taharos I have done since the workshop.”

Chicago Jewish Funerals graciously provided materials for the metaharim program, and together with Shalom Memorial Funeral Home and Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home, helped support the various programs.

Member rabbis were invited to have lunch on Wednesday at EJ’s Pizzeria in Skokie where “Rabbi Zohn fielded common questions and addressed unique problems which tend to arise for rabbonim at funerals and in consultation with grieving families,” explained Rabbi Gelman.

“Rabbi Zohn is deeply committed to traditional burial and he brought thoughtful advice and methods to help rabbis promote this to people who are thinking of non-traditional options,” said Rabbi Michael Balinsky.

After lunch the rabbis participated in a hands-on tour of Chicago Jewish Funeral’s taharah room with Rabbi Zohn.

This was an opportunity for the rabbis to “see beyond the chapel room,” said Rabbi Bergstein. “Many rabbis are not familiar with the details of the taharah process. A rav who has this knowledge and the understanding of the respect shown to the deceased can better explain the taharah’s significance to mourners.”

“A Workshop for Mortals, A Conversation About the Inevitable,” the third component of the programming, was held at Congregation K.I.N.S., and was directed to the public.

Rabbi Zohn’s discussion focused on “crucial end-of-life matters which need to be addressed while we are healthy and able to do so,” said Rabbi Gelman. “He emphasized the importance of setting up a ‘Halachic Health Care Proxy’ and having a plan in place for the eventuality of our passing.”

“The cRc plans on using this visit to spark further interest in this important mitzvah, to assist our metaharim in continuing their holy work, and to encourage the entire community to speak with their rabbis and to craft a plan in concert with Jewish tradition and halacha,” said Rabbi Gelman.



“Rabbi Zohn did not just teach the halachos, but he spent a lot of time talking about the importance of the mitzvah and being careful with kavod hameis.”

“Rabbi Zohn delivered a fascinating review of halachos for the experienced metaher and an opportunity to learn for the new metaharim.”

Rabbi Zohn addressing the Rabbis on the tour of the tahara room of Chicago Jewish Funerals

Happy Anniversary, Rabbi Eisenbach!

The cRc is joyously celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Rabbi Yaakov M. Eisenbach's becoming its Food Establishment Rabbinical Coordinator.

"Rabbi Eisenbach brought a new atmosphere to food service," said Rabbi Moshe Katz, who has been a mashgiach with the cRc for close to 40 years. Rabbi Eisenbach's unique personality combines his serious kashrus expectations with his genuine care for people.

More can be accomplished with a nice word or smile than with a strong reprimand or scowl, according to Rabbi Eisenbach.

Rabbi Eisenbach was brought in to fill the vacant position of the Food Establishment Rabbinical Coordinator (RC) in 1998 when the cRc was a small organization with an office staff of a handful of people. He brought with him a lot of experience in the kashrus field that he had gained from helping his parents, Rabbi Dovid and Mrs. Marcia Eisenbach, run a kosher deli-supermarket in Milwaukee. He also helped his father run two kosher cruises, one to the Caribbean and one to the Panama Canal.

Rabbi Eisenbach oversees the restaurants, bakeries, hotels, commissaries, and caterers under the cRc. He enjoys building a professional and personal relationship with proprietors, chefs, and staff. He is known for greeting all workers, asking about their welfare, and thanking them for doing a fine job and making his job easier.

"I believe people want to do what's right," said Rabbi Eisenbach. "We are straight and up front with them, and they reciprocate in kind."

"One of Rabbi Eisenbach's greatest qualities is that he understands people," said Rabbi Fishbane, cRc Kashruth Administrator.

"He is a very good listener," commented Rabbi Katz. "He asks establishments to tell him their needs and he does what he can to fulfill them. He makes them feel that he is a partner on their team."

Not only do the proprietors know we are there to support them, but the mashgichim also know we want what's best for them, according to Rabbi Eisenbach. Once Rabbi Eisenbach encouraged a mashgiach to continue



Rabbi Katz, Rabbi Fishbane and Rabbi Eisenbach

his learning in Yeshiva although that would mean Rabbi Eisenbach would have to find a new mashgiach. He felt learning full time was what this mashgiach needed.

Rabbi Eisenbach believes that Torah learning is the strongest and closest bond uniting two people. He recently spoke at the convention of The Association of Kashrus Organizations (AKO) about how since he sincerely wants to connect with mashgichim and store owners, he tries to personally learn topics of their choice with them.

Hand-in-hand with concern for others, comes a strong sense of responsibility.

"The cRc's responsibilities have grown in accordance with its size, and we have grown enormously," according to Rabbi Eisenbach.

Rabbi Eisenbach's 24/6 job is to maintain the "flow of kashrus," he said. Nothing should break the process implemented in the over 25-supervised food establishments.

Rabbi Eisenbach's phone rings all week with calls from consumers and mashgichim from the cRc as well as other kashrus agencies. The calls come in until Friday Mincha and continue once again right after Havdalah. Questions range from product information and kashrus questions to advice on how to handle sensitive situations.

There are times when Rabbi Eisenbach will spend hours on the phone trying to find a substitute mashgiach. If he can't find one, he will do the job himself.

Providing training sessions to keep the knowledge of the mashgichim up-to-date is important to Rabbi Eisenbach. He feels the cRc must keep improving its already excellent supervision.

Continued on page 11

Pesach with the cRc



The cRc sent cRc-supervised hand-made shmurah matzos from Birkat HaPesach Matzah Bakery in S'derot, Israel to some of our companies.

Pictured is Rabbi Moshe Moscowitz, Senior Rabbinical Coordinator, making personal deliveries.

Searches of ASKcRc during the Pesach season were

up 12.2%
over last year.

Consumers appreciated the new format and design of the Pesach guide.

cRc
PASSOVER
Guide
2018



VISIT www.askc.org TO SEARCH KOSHER L'PESACH PRODUCT INFORMATION
Download the App
Download the cRc Smartphone App for updated kosher data and kosher Pesach food lists.
Available on the App Store and Google Play.
VISIT www.crcweb.org FOR
A Kashrus Updates A Consumer & Commercial Kosher Information A Beth Din Information



At the cRc's Passover Fair at Hebrew Theological College, we helped the community prepare for Yom Tov by kashering keilim, demonstrating how to check Romaine lettuce for insects, sharpening knives, testing for shaatnez, and answering Pesach questions. Pictured: (above) Rabbi Gelman, Rabbi Mostofsky and Rabbi Reiss helping with Keilim Kashering. (below) Rabbi Yisroel Langer, Specialist in Bedikas Toloyim, showing how to check for insects.

CHICAGO RABBINICAL COUNCIL

PASSOVER FAIR 5778 / 2018

- ▶ **Live Romaine Lettuce Checking Demonstration**
2:30 - 3:30
- ▶ **Knife Sharpening**
BY SHARPENING BY DAVE
Knife sharpening from 2¢ - 4¢ only.
Last orders accepted at 3:30.
\$2 charge per knife. First 2 knives complimentary.
- ▶ **Keilim Kashering**
Items being kashered must be clean and must not have been used within 24 hours.
- ▶ **Shaatnez Testing**
AFTA Approved Representative
DROP-OFF, AND PICK-UP ON THE SPOT OR IN WEST ROGERS PARK
- ▶ **cRc FAQ Booth**
PLUS LIVE FAQ SESSION!

**Sunday
March 25, 2018
2:00 - 5:30 pm**

Hebrew
Theological College
7135 N. Carpenter Rd
Skokie, Illinois

CHICAGO RABBINICAL COUNCIL
2703 N. HOLLAND ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60645
WWW.CRCRABBI.ORG
WWW.ASKC.ORG
773.250.5499



The cRc Continues to Grow

Welcome Rabbi Yochanan Schnall!

The cRc's Kashrus Division continues to grow, and has now hired Rabbi Yochanan Schnall, its seventh Rabbinic Coordinator (RC).

"We are thrilled to have Rabbi Schnall join our expert team that oversees the expanding and increasingly complex accounts in the Chicago area and around the world," said cRc Executive Director, Rabbi Levi Mostofsky.

"Rabbi Schnall has the right combination of knowledge of halacha and practical skills, is detail-oriented, and has a pleasant personality," said Rabbi Fishbane, cRc Kashruth Administrator.

Rabbi Schnall was born in Fair Lawn, NJ, and then growing up, he moved with his family to Israel, Dayton, Cincinnati, and then to Monsey. He attended Long Beach Yeshiva for high school and Beis Medrash, went on to study in Ponovitch Yeshiva in Bnei Brak, the Brisker Kollel in Yerushalayim, and then, Beth Medrash Govoha, in Lakewood, NJ.

In 2004 Rabbi Schnall married Devora Silverberg from Minneapolis. The young couple lived in Lakewood before moving on to Minneapolis where Rabbi Schnall was part of the Minneapolis Kollel. In preparing halacha shiurim, Rabbi Schnall often consulted with cRc Dayan, Rabbi Ephraim Friedman, on various sheilos.

Two years ago, Rabbi Schnall asked Rabbi Friedman if he could intern under him, and get a close-up look at how a Beth Din works. Rabbi Schnall closely observed as Rabbi Friedman and Rabbi Reiss, Av Beth Din, answered sheilos, judged dinei Torah, and interacted with others. It was a wonderful opportunity to get practical shimush in halacha.

"I feel fortunate for the opportunity to have learned from Rabbi Friedman and be able to sit in while he addressed

sheilos and presided with Rabbi Reiss and Rabbi Raccah over dinei Torah," said Rabbi Schnall. "This experience gave me a new appreciation of how halachic concepts are applied.

"I was also amazed by the dedication that these Rabbanim have for the Klal. They give so much of their, often personal, time and energy to help others in ways that go far, far beyond the norm."

The Schnalls moved on to Monsey, NY where Rabbi Schnall ran the Jewish Education Program of Rockland County, an outreach organization for public school children. He also taught in Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy of Rockland, ASHAR, elementary school.

Rabbi and Mrs. Schnall began to miss the Midwest lifestyle and wanted to move to a close knit community. When the cRc began looking for a new RC, Rabbi Schnall was excited to apply. Rabbi Schnall, who always enjoys learning new ideas, welcomes the challenge of learning how products are manufactured and then



Rabbinical Coordinator, Rabbi Yosef Landa, and Rabbi Schnall at Muller Pinehurst Dairy, part of Prairie Farms



לעילוי נשמת

Mrs. Linda Lefkowitz, a"h

לאה רחל בת יעקב צבי

Our Dear Colleague and Beloved Friend

Continued from page 10

figuring out if and how a company may be certified. He also enjoys interacting with people which is key in each step of kashruth certification, from speaking with factory liaisons and workers to mashgichim and consumers.

“We are very fortunate to have Rabbi Schnall added to our staff,” said RC Rabbi Dovid Oppenheimer. “His deep insight and understanding of the complexities of kosher manufacturing help us immensely in our efforts to keep the high standards of kosher supervision we strive for.”

Rabbi Schnall is delighted about working at the cRc because when he interned, he was “very impressed by the respect everyone has for each other in a positive and open way,” he said. “I look forward to working with such wonderful people.”



Rabbi Shnall and Rabbinical Coordinator, Rabbi Akiva Niehaus, at Bulkmatic Truck Wash

“Rabbi Schnall’s skill sets will with Hashem’s help make him a great RC and a benefit for the cRc and Klal Yisroel in general,” said Rabbi Fishbane.

Happy Anniversary, Rabbi Eisenbach

Continued from page 8

“Rabbi Eisenbach is a rare gem, who is endlessly dedicated to promoting kashrus, Torah and to helping people,” said Rabbi Mostofsky, cRc Executive Director. “His Sechel HaYoshor and seasoned experience, paired with his signature simchas hachayim and calm, supportive, demeanor, make him a most cherished figure for clients, our entire office, and our community.”

Rabbi Eisenbach studied in Telshe Yeshiva from Mesivta through Beis Medrash. He was in the Telshe Kollel for ten years, has been the mashgiach at Telshe night seder for the past 25 years, and has maintained a second seder chavrusa for approximately 34 years.

In addition to his parents and his beloved wife, Mashy, Rabbi Eisenbach has other role models who have guided him. Rav Schwartz taught Rabbi Eisenbach how to deal with challenging situations, and how to discern which issues are important ones.

“Rav Schwartz taught me a lot of sechel and common sense,” said Rabbi Eisenbach.

Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Goldzweig, zt”l, a revered Chicago Rav who pioneered kashruth in America, was a mentor to Rabbi Eisenbach, as well. Rabbi Goldzweig, zt”l, taught him how to handle challenging people in companies. Rabbi Moshe Kushner, z”l, who was then the RC for the trucking industry, taught him how to always be upbeat and look at things with a good eye. Rabbi Benjamin Shandalov, former Kashruth Administrator of the cRc, gave Rabbi Eisenbach professional direction. Rabbi



Rabbi Eisenbach spoke at the AKO Convention in July. Pictured also are Rabbi Fishbane and Rabbi Dovid Cohen.

Yossi Birnbaum, the Food Establishment RC who was leaving, Rabbi Dovid Jenkins, the former Kashruth Administrator, and Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, RC for companies, trained him for his work in the cRc.

“We need a lot of Siyata Dishmaya, (Heavenly help)” said Rabbi Eisenbach. “We can’t do kashrus without it.”

There are many times when it is apparent that Hashem puts us at the right place at the right time to catch an issue that needs correction, according to Rabbi Eisenbach. One time a mashgiach struck up a conversation with an establishment’s driver and found out that he had just picked up food for the kosher restaurant from a non-supervised plant.

“When people mention or think about the cRc food service, they smile,” said Rabbi Fishbane. “That’s all from Rabbi Eisenbach. He has given us a tremendous name in the kashrus industry. I cannot imagine the office without him,” said Rabbi Fishbane.

May the cRc continue to enjoy Rabbi Eisenbach’s unique leadership for many years to come.

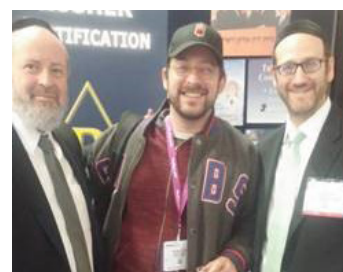
cRc Activities AROUND THE WORLD



Rabbi Yona Reiss visited the Monastir Synagogue (קהל קדוש מונאסטירליס), a historic shul in Thessaloniki, as part of this year's JUF Rabbinic Action Committee Mission to Greece in January.



On a trip to Israel in January, Rabbi Yona Reiss, Av Beth Din, met with Chief Rabbi Dovid Lau, who also joined a meeting with the leadership of the RCA.



Rabbi Fishbane, Rabbi Dovid Aronin and Mrs. Meyers represented the cRc at Kosherfest in New Jersey in November where they met with Rabbis and representatives from different kashruth agencies and food-related industries. Pictured: (top) Rabbi Fishbane meeting with Rabbi Moshe Elefant from the OU (middle) Rabbi Fishbane with Rabbi Dovid Eisenbach from Milwaukee and Rabbi Don Yoel Levy from the OK (bottom) Rabbi Fishbane with Bryan Gryka from Milt's in Chicago and Rabbi Aronin.



Rabbi Fishbane visited Valdez and Kodiak, Alaska in early June. Although salmon had not yet started to come to these areas, Rabbi Fishbane went to observe and make sure that non-kosher fish and sea inhabitants such as shrimp, hake, octopuses, stingrays, and squid were not affecting our kosher program. This plane was Rabbi Fishbane's means of transportation in Alaska where there is no TSA program when traveling intra-Alaska.



Rabbi Sholem Fishbane, AKO Executive Director, Rabbi Dovid Cohen, Rabbi Yaakov M. Eisenbach, and Rabbi Akiva Niehaus attended the AKO, Association of Kashrus Organizations, Va'adim Convention in Woodbridge, NJ, hosted by the Kof-K in July.



Rabbi Moshe Moscovitz, Senior Rabbinical Coordinator (second from left) visiting a new Ecolab chemical plant in Ireland. This is one of the many new Ecolab plants under the cRc supervision.



Rabbi Reiss and certain key members of the Kashrus staff are learning BeChaburah with our Rosh HaShochtim, Rabbi Zvi Fishbane, to expand expertise in the practical concerns of overseeing Shechita operations. In January at a Shechita Chabura the Rabbis examined a duck's esophagus. Pictured (l to r): Rabbi Dovid Oppenheimer; Rabbi Reiss; Rabbi Dovid Cohen; Rabbi Zvi Fishbane, Rosh HaShochtim; Rabbi Sholem Fishbane

Chicago Kosher Brewery Tour

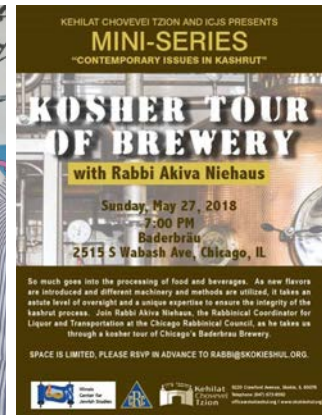
Rabbi Akiva Niehaus, the RC for alcoholic beverages, led a unique tour of Chicago's only kosher brewery, Baderbrau, in May. The tour was part of the Contemporary Issues in Kashrut Mini-Series sponsored by Kehilat Chovevei Tzion and Illinois Center for Jewish Studies.



Rabbi Niehaus giving his presentation



Rabbi Kalman Worch of ICJS, Rabbi Niehaus, Rabbi Shaanan Gelman, Rabbi of Kehilat Chovevei Tzion and cRc Vice President



On Monday evening, July 16, approximately 500 people gathered in the Agudath Israel of West Rogers Park in Chicago for a Zikaron Memorial Service for Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Goldzweig zt"l, a revered Rabbi in Chicago for over 50 years, who pioneered kosher supervision in America. The event was co-sponsored by Chicago Rabbinical Council, Agudath Israel of Illinois, and Telshe Yeshiva of Chicago. Rabbi Goldzweig, known to many as the Father of Kashrus in America, is legendary both for his pioneering work developing kashrus supervision, and for his unique character traits. Rabbi Goldzweig was a member of the Kashrus Commission and was instrumental in training Rabbi Benjamin Shandalov when he took the position of the cRc Kashruth Administrator. The speakers spoke about Rabbi Goldzweig's relationship with Hashem and with his fellow man, and the special way he intertwined these values in all his interactions.



Looking Toward the Future

Every year for the past twenty years, after Pesach, high school seniors or their parents drop manila envelopes off at the cRc's front desk. The envelopes don't contain contracts from new companies or requests for publications. They contain essays on Torah topics written by the students entering what is now named the Rebbetzin Shoshana Schwartz a"h, Torah Essay Contest.

The contest is open to seniors attending Jewish high schools in Chicago who will be attending yeshiva or seminary in Israel after graduation. It is led by cRc member Rabbi Michael Myers, Chair of the cRc Education Committee. Rabbi Myers is a legend in the Chicago chinuch world. In addition to having served as the Dean of Hebrew Theological College and a teacher at Fasman Yeshiva High School, he has been a teacher at Ida Crown Jewish Academy

and Telshe Yeshiva for the past 38 years.

"The cRc looks to assist in the development of the next generation of leaders," said Rabbi Myers. "A good avenue to accomplish this is through developing serious research and creative thought through the writing of essays."

The contest was founded and funded for many years by cRc member, Rabbi Harold Karp. Rabbi Moshe Kushner, z"l, former cRc Executive Director, continued the contest through the cRc in memory of Rebbetzin Shoshana Schwartz a"h, the first wife of our Rosh Beth Din, Rabbi Gedaliah Dov Schwartz.

Rabbi Myers leads a committee of three mechanchim who share their time and expertise to judge the essays, considering organization and presentation, research and sources, clarity of expression, and originality



Rabbi Michael Myers

of thought.

Rabbi Myers works hard to ensure the anonymity of the authors. The entrants list their name, their school's name, and contact information on the essay's cover page only, which Rabbi Myers separates from the essay, which is assigned a number for reference. Before reading the essays, Rabbi Myers waits about two weeks after processing to help him forget which names are associated with the essay titles.

After reading the essays, Rabbi Myers

REBBETZIN SHOSHANA SCHWARTZ a"h TORAH ESSAY CONTEST

**Mazal Tov to the winners of the 5778 - 2018
Rebbetzin Shoshana Schwartz, a"h, Torah Essay Contest.**

This annual contest encourages students to explore halachic issues and selections of Tanach through the research and writing skills promoted in our yeshivot and high schools.

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Erez Kaissar

Ida Crown Jewish Academy

"Regarding the Impact of Conditions on Nedarim"

RUNNERS UP

Jacob Karp

Fasman Yeshiva High
School

*"To Praise or Not to
Praise: Hallel on Yom
Ha'atzmaut"*

Tova Ginsparg

Bais Yaakov
High School

*"In Search
of Simcha"*

Rena Miller

Hanna Sacks Bais
Yaakov

*"The Reasons for
Akedas Yitzchok"*

cRc TORAH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WINNERS

**Mazal Tov to the 5778 – 2018
Torah Achievement Awards Winners.**

Recipients display dedication to Torah and to the maintenance of high middot standards and plan to study in a Torah institution in Israel during the 5778 school year.

Chava Rena Bachrach

(Bais Yaakov H.S.)

Yedidya Rosenwasser

(Fasman Yeshiva H.S.)

Chana Lopin

(Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov H.S.)

Yosef Marcucci

(Ida Crown Jewish Academy)

Raizl Epstein

(Lubavitch Girls H.S.)

gives what he feels are the best eight entries to the judging rabbis. They individually assign points for each of the four criteria in each essay. Each year there is a first-place winner whose prize is \$1000 and three runners-up who receive \$300 each.

"I gained so much from writing the report about simcha," said Tova Ginsparg, one of the runners-up of the contest, from Bais Yaakov High School of Chicago. "I discovered new concepts to apply to my understanding of this middah and at the same time learned how to research a concept in Yiddishkeit through original Torah sources and Sifrei Mussar."

In addition to the essay contest, the cRc sponsors Torah Achievement

Awards for graduating seniors who will be studying in a Torah institution in Israel after graduation, and who display dedication to Torah and to the maintenance of high middot standards.

"Because the cRc values learning, we strive to facilitate and encourage others to learn through our programs," said Rabbi Myers.

The Torah Achievement Awards are gift certificates to Keshet Stam and Rosenblums World of Judaica. The winners are chosen by each of the participating high schools, Bais Yaakov High School of Chicago, Fasman Yeshiva High School, Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov, Ida Crown Jewish Academy and Lubavitch Girls High School. Three

of the awards are in memory of cRc past Presidents. Fasman Yeshiva's award is in memory of Rabbi William B. Gold, Hanna Sacks', is in memory of Rabbi Albert H. Ellison, and Ida Crown's is in memory of Rabbi Herman L. Davis.

"The cRc is assisting me in continuing my Torah studies by enabling me to purchase seforim that will enhance my Torah growth," said Chava Rena Bachrach, Bais Yaakov High School of Chicago's winner this year.

"We are proud of the work of Rabbi Myers and the Education Committee, and our contribution to supporting Torah learning in the community," said Rabbi Levi Mostofsky, Executive Director.

Recent cRc Kashruth Programs

The cRc Friday Kashrus Shiur
by Rabbi David Cohen
Administrative Rabbinic Coordinator

will be beginning
the halachos of
Alcoholic Beverages
שולחן ערוך יו"ד סימן ק"ד וקכ"ג

Topics to be covered include:

- Apple juice without hashgachah
- Beer
- Ritual of carnisae
- Ritual of ingredients added unintentionally
- Ritual of whiskey
- Canadian whiskey
- Chateau whiskey after Pesach
- Cornmeal
- Distillation
- Drinking in a bar
- Eno's Fruit
- Flavored wine and grape juice
- Grape juice from concentrate
- Organized extract
- Hard apple cider
- Tequila
- Jewish-owned beer company
- Mu'amal
- Morshah
- Offshore Purities
- Pesach medicine lists
- Rabbi's juice concentrate
- Saltine
- Sake
- Scotch aged in sherry casks
- Sleep
- Steam pipes nowadays
- Starbucks
- Tanquerai / cream of tartar
- Toronto
- Tracking and other actions for a non-Jew
- Texas fish without hashgachah mendile
- Vegetable oil from animal/vegetable plant
- Vinegar
- Violating issurim d'chumrah for a chulak
- Why Charal forbade steam pipes
- Wine h'fume
- Wine of a Jew who is not well-known
- Wine produced at non-Jewish company
- Yemeni wine at your
- Yemen
- Yemen
- Yemen

To be informed when the shiur will be meeting, be in touch with Rabbi Cohen at dcohen@crcweb.org.
Recordings of the shiurim, and of previous shiurim by Rabbi Cohen, can be found on the cRc website.

NON-KOSHER FOOD IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

Buying and Selling Tamei/Teiful • Corporate Events/Gifts with Non-Kosher Food
Breakrooms • Employee Lunch Programs • Client Meetings • Healthcare Facilities

SUNDAY, JULY 15th • BREAKFAST 9:00 • PROGRAM 9:30

NON-KOSHER IN BUSINESS SETTINGS

Rabbi David Cohen
Administrative Rabbinic Coordinator of the cRc

Can you eat it?
KASHRUS CHALLENGES FOR THE CHIEF

Rabbi Yosef Kushner
Star in the film 'Hallel' of Jerusalem, 14
Author of 'Commerce and Jewish Values'

Can you own it?
THE BIRD OF COMMERCE WITH NON-KOSHER FOOD

JULY 15th-JULY 20th • SEDER 9:30 - 12:30 BREAKFAST 9:00

DAILY CHABURAS

SCOTCH THROUGH THE AGES

Please join us
for a presentation

The halachic issues of "sherry casks"

Featuring a PowerPoint Presentation
by Rabbi Akiva Niehaus
Rabbinical Coordinator, cRc

On November 16 Rabbi Akiva Niehaus, Rabbinical Coordinator, spoke about "Scotch Through the Ages" for the Kollel of West Monmouth County at the Jewish Learning Center in Manalapan, NJ.

Find us Online



www.crcweb.org



www.askcrc.org

Download the cRc app for iPhone and Android





Recently Certified Kosher Companies

Bakeries



AUI Fine Foods (Gaithersburg, MD)
Baldinger Bakery (St. Paul, MN)
BJs (MN)
Bogart's Doughnut Co. (St Louis Park, MN)
Breadsmith (Edina, MN)
Breadsmith (Minnetonka, MN)
Breadsmith (Saint Paul, MN)
Century Resources (Columbus, OH)
Chucks Baker Choice (MN)
Claire's Gourmet (Baltimore, MD)
Costco (MN)
Decadence by Racheli (Skokie, IL)
Delhaize (MN)
Deli Express (MN)
Dough Dough (Bloomington, MN)
Family Cookie Co. Inc. (Suisun, CA)
Fresh Market (MN)
Giant Foods Inc. (MN)
HEB (MN)
Hy-Vee (MN)
ISB (MN)

Kroger (MN)
Marsh (MN)
Meijer (MN)
Menchies Group INC (Encino, CA)
Miller Baking Company (Milwaukee, WI)
Ocean Prime (MN)
Old Colony Baking (Lake Bluff, IL)
Panne Provincio (MN)
Price Chopper (MN)
Price Shopper (MN)
Safeway (MN)
Sendik's Food Markets (Milwaukee, WI)
Sienna (MN)
Sysco (MN)
Target (MN)
The Gluten Free Artisan, LLC (Barrie, Ontario)
TOI Delhaize (MN)
True Goodness (MN)
Wegman's (MN)
Wellsley Farm (MN)

Candy & Nuts



Angie's BoomChickaPop (Minneapolis, MN)
Blommer Chocolate (Shanghai, China)
Glacier Confection (Tulsa, OK)
Global Organics LTD (Cambridge, MA)
H-E-B Own Brands (San Antonio, TX)
Jiangmen City Zhongjia Food Company Ltd (Guangdong, China)
Nature's Earthly Choice (Eagle, ID)
Oskri Corporation (Lake Mills, WI)

Puratos Chocolate U.S.A. (Richmond, BC)
Puratos Chocolate USA (Sils, Spain)
Safeway (Boise, ID)
Schlagers (Irvine, CA)
Schnuck Markets Inc (St. Louis, MO)
The Gem Group (Lawrence, MA)
Trader Joe's (Monrovia, CA)
TreeHouse Private Brands (Oak Brook, IL)
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. (Rochester, NY)

Chemicals



AllChem Industries Inc (Gainesville, FL)
American Custom Drying (Burlington, NJ)
Chem/Serv Inc. (Coon Rapids, MN)
Chemtron Supply Corporation (Saint Charles, MO)
Ecolab Inc. (Lakewood, NJ)
Ecolab Ireland Ltd. (Westmeath, Ireland)
Ecolab Production Italy S.R.L. (Rozzano, Italy)
Ecolab S.A. Greece (Mandra Attica, Greece)
First Continental Intl (NJ) Inc (Sichuan and Zibo City, China)
Food Safety Alliance (London, ON)
Kraft Chemical Inc. (Melrose Park, IL)

Mionix LLC (Grain Valley, MO)
Nalco (Denham Springs, LA)
Nalco (Pasadena, TX)
Nalco (Eilenburg, Germany)
PDI Inc. (Orangeburg, NY)
Performance Chemicals, LLC (Franklin, NH)
Pullman Sage Processing (La Porte, TX)
Pullman Sugar, LLC (Woodland, CA)
Solvay Chemicals, Inc. (Joliet, IL)
Stepan (Ogden, UT)
Veolia Water Technologies (Vandalia, OH)
WCP Solutions (Kent, WA)

Dairies



Belgioioso Cheese - New Denmark (Denmark, WI)
Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy Stores (Tuttle, OK)
Country Fresh (Plant #26-330 (Grand Rapids, MI)
Darifair Foods (Jacksonville, FL)
Dean Foods - Le Mars (Le Mars, IA)
Esda Dairy LLC (Powell, OH)
Fareway Stores Inc (Boone, IA)
Grupo Premier Foods (Elk Grove Village, IL)
Hiland Dairy (Little Rock, AR)
IGA, Inc. (Chicago, IL)
Independent Marketing Alliance (Houston, TX)
Kemps LLC (St. Paul, MN)

Lowe's Supermarket (Littlefield, TX)
Meadow Gold Dairy (Greeley, CO)
Muuna Inc (Princeton, NJ)
Oakhurst Dairy (Portland, ME)
Old Home Foods (Waumandee, WI)
Prairie Farms - Madison Farms #29-021 (St. Louis, MO)
RD/JET LLC (College Point, NY)
Rouse's Enterprises, LLC (Thibodaux, LA)
Sendik's Food Market (Milwaukee, WI)
Supervalu Inc (Eden Prairie, MN)
The Kroger Co. (Cincinnati, OH)
Valley Markets Inc (Grand Forks, ND)
Westby Co-op Creamery (Westby, WI)
WFM Private Label, L.P. (Austin, TX)
Wingstop (Dallas, TX)

Flavors



CK Products (Fort Wayne, IN)
Doc Popcorn (Denver, CO)
Jada Specialties, Inc. & Drimx, Inc. (Crete, IL)

Olivensation (Charlestown, MA)
Sensient Colors LLC (St. Louis, MO)
Signature Flavor LLC (Freehold, NJ)

Grocery



Lunds & Byerlys (Saint Louis Park, MN)
Mid Town Distribution (Skokie, IL)

Yankel's Matjas Herring (Chicago, IL)

Juices



Aldi Inc. (Batavia, IL)
Cold Star (Mount Ephraim, NJ)
Fresh Blends N.A. (Beloit, WI)
Galloway Company (Neenah, WI)
Kemps LLC (St Paul, MN)
Treehugger Organics Inc. (Toronto, ON)

Manufacturing

Acme Smoked Fish Corp. (Brooklyn, NY)
 Albertson's/Own Brands (Pleasanton, CA)
 Albertsons Companies (Pleasanton, CA)
 Aldi (Batavia, IL)
 Barbo, Inc. (Huntsville, TX)
 Benjamin Foods (Hatboro, PA)
 Big Y (Shakopee, MN)
 BI-LO, LLC and Winn Dixie Stores, Inc. (Jacksonville, FL)
 Birkat HaPesach (S'darot, Israel)
 Brand Castle LLC (Bedford Heights, OH)
 Brandless Inc (San Francisco, CA)
 BV Select Spring Water (MN)
 Café Classics (MN)
 Caputo's (Carol Stream, IL)
 Chicago Vegan Foods (Lombard, IL)
 Coburns Spring Water (MN)
 DEALSmart (MN)
 DecoPac, Inc. (Anoka, MN)
 Donut Shop Classics (MN)
 Donut Shop-A Cup Full of Memories (MN)
 Dunn Bros. (Shakopee, MN)
 Earth Fare (Fletcher, NC)
 Earthfare (Fletcher, NC)
 Erin McKenna's Bakery (Dyersville, IA)
 FlavorFocus, LLC - FC Ingredients (Tampa, FL)
 Fresh Finds (Shakopee, MN)
 Full Circle (Shakopee, MN)
 Giant Eagle, Inc (Pittsburgh, PA)
 Green Leaf Medical, LLC (Frederick, MD)
 Hen House (Shakopee, MN)
 Hennessy Foods (Baldwinsville, NY)
 Henrys Natural Spring Water (MN)
 Hiland Spring Water (Springfield, MO)
 Holista Foods (Buffalo, NY)
 Inspired Organics, LLC (Warren, MI)
 Inversiones Get Together SpA (Santiago, Chile)
 Jammin' Java (MN)
 Jiaxing Huanya Packaging Co., Ltd (Zhejiang Province, China)
 JJ's Sweets, Inc (Boulder, CO)
 Jo Organics (Shakopee, MN)
 La Bodega (Chicago, IL)
 La Crosse Milling Company (Cochrane, WI)
 La Preferida (Chicago, IL)
 Lunds & Byerlys (Shakopee, MN)
 Lunds & Byerlys Spring Water (Hopkins, MN)
 Mom's Organic Market (Rockville, MD)
 More Than Cake, Corp (Williamsburg, VA)
 Nash Brothers Trading Company (Shakopee, MN)
 National Food Group (Novi, MI)
 Natural Value Inc (Sacramento, CA)
 Naturalle Spring Water (Plymouth, MN)
 NatureBox (Redwood City, CA)
 O'Dang Hummus LLC (Widermere, FL)
 OHi Food Co. (Mc Cook, IL)
 Ora (San Diego, CA)
 Parade Spring Water (Houston, TX)
 Pat Vitamins Inc (La Verne, CA)
 Peninsula Natural Spring Water (MN)
 People's Organic Coffee (Le Center, MN)
 Prairie Choice Grains LLC (Tampico, IL)
 Pure Foods Corp (Kingsport, TN)
 Rejuv Spring Water (MN)
 Resolve Food Systems (Chicago, IL)
 Restaurant Depot (College Point, NY)
 Rose Acre Farms (Seymour, IN)
 Save-A-Lot Food Stores, Ltd (Earth City, MO)
 SevenPoint2 (Scottsdale, AZ)
 SFM LLC dba Sprout's Farmers Market (Phoenix, AZ)
 Sharpening by Dave (Lindenhurst, IL)
 Smart and Final (Commerce, CA)
 Sopraco (Sousse, Tunisie)
 South Beach Syrup Co (Miami, FL)
 Spartan Nash (Byron Center, MI)
 Specialty Java, Inc. (Waconia, MN)
 Spice Society, LLC (Sunrise, FL)
 Steve & Andy's (Brooklyn, NY)
 Sweetener Supply Corp. (Reno, NV)
 Sysco Corporation (MN)
 Sysco Corporation (Houston, TX)
 Tanit Mediterranean (Bouachir, Zaghuan, Tunisia)
 The Mill at Janie's Farm (Ashkum, IL)
 Thornton, Musso & Bellemin, Inc. (Zachary, LA)
 Topco Associates LLC (Elk Grove Village, IL)
 Tsimayo LLC (Santa Fe, MN)
 US Foods, Inc (Rosemont, IL)
 Velvet Hammer (MN)
 Vitacost (Shakopee, MN)
 W.B. Mason Co Inc (Brockton, MA)
 Walmart (Bentonville, AR)
 Weis Markets, Inc. (Sunbury, PA)
 Wellements LLC (Omaha, NE)
 Wide Awake (Shakopee, MN)
 Wixon Distribution Center (Milwaukee, WI)
 World Classics Trading Company (Shakopee, MN)
 Yantai Shinho Weidamei Food Co., Ltd (Shandong, China)

Nutrition

Chappion Biotechnology Co., Ltd. (Tou Liu City, Taiwan)
 North American Herb and Spice Co. (Lake Forest, IL)
 VMS Import & Marketing Ltd. (Moshav Hemed, Israel)

Restaurants

Basil (St Louis Park, MN)
 DanZtand (Chicago, IL)
 Earth Burger (Bloomington, MN)
 Kosher Q, LLC dba Milt's Extra Innings (Chicago, IL)
 Prime Deli & Restaurant (Minneapolis, MN)
 Rita's of Monticello aka Country Cool Desserts LLC (Monticello, NY)

Transport

Blommer Chocolate Company Trucking - Chicago (Chicago, IL)
 Carry Transit Sanicare - Dallas (Dallas, TX)
 Carry Transit Transfer Terminal - Bridgeview (Bridgeview, IL)
 Carry Transit Transfer Terminal - Dallas (Dallas, TX)
 Carry Transit Transfer Terminal - Franklin Park, IL (Franklin Park, IL)
 Drab Trucking Inc (Darien, IL)
 Freeport Transport Industries, Inc. (Freeport, PA)
 Gingerich Inc (Lovington, IL)
 Hydrite Chemical Co. Trucking Lubbock, TX (Lubbock, TX)
 ICI Charlotte (Kings Mountain, NC)
 Industrial Commodities, Inc (ICI) Charlotte Transfer Terminal (Kings Mountain, NC)
 O.J.'s Tank Wash, Inc. (Lancaster, PA)
 Quala - Baton Rouge, LA (Baton Rouge, LA)
 Quala - Cincinnati OH (Cincinnati, OH)
 Quala - Concord, Ontario (Concord, ON)
 Quala - Conley, GA (Conley, GA)
 Quala - Jacksonville, FL (Jacksonville, FL)
 Quala - Joliet, IL Food Grade (Joliet, IL)
 Quala - Oakville, Ontario (Oakville, ON)
 Seeler Industries, Inc. Trucking (Joliet, IL)
 Stellar Express Inc. (Owensboro, KY)

Vegetables

Backyard Fresh Farms (Chicago, IL)
 Bix Produce Co. (St. Paul, MN)
 Get Fresh Produce (Bartlett, IL)
 J&J Distributing (St. Paul, MN)

Other

Agudath Israel of Illinois -Circle Chicago Catering (Chicago, IL)
 Bauderer Packaging (Addison, IL)
 CH Distillery - Pilsen (Chicago, IL)
 CH Distillery - Randolph (Chicago, IL)
 Family Dollar (Charlotte, NC)
 KLB (Chicago, IL)
 NBC Contract Packaging (West Chicago, IL)
 Swanel Beverage (Hammond, IN)

Beth Din Updates



We just read in the parsha of Shoftim v'Shotrim about the mitzvah of appointing judges and Batei Din in every Jewish community. The Chicago Rabbinical Council is proud to play a leading role in the fulfillment of this mitzvah in the Chicago and Midwest region through the bustling activity of its own Beth Din.

The Beth Din of the Chicago Rabbinical Council is comprised of Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz - Rosh Beth Din, Rabbi Yona Reiss - Av Beth Din, Rabbi Ephraim Friedman and Rabbi Daniel Raccah - Dayanim, together with Rabbi Avrohom Abramson – Administrator. The Beth Din has been very active this year with a variety of matters. During this past year, the Beth Din performed 42 Gittin, presided over 31 cases of Geirus (conversions to Judaism) and adjudicated or settled 30 Dinei Torah (arbitration disputes).

The sheilos and cases presented to the Beth Din are increasingly complex and time consuming. There have been numerous sheilos and consultations about artificial reproductive technologies, end-of-life issues including halakhic wills and health care proxies, and Heter Iska contracts.

The Beth Din works closely with our Kashruth Department working out partnerships for businesses who perceive a need to remain open

every day of the week.

The Beth Din also devised an extensive procedure for selling an active bakery to a non-Jew for Pesach, which procedure was followed in part by the kashrus agencies that coordinated the sale of Manhattan Beer prior to this past Pesach.

The Beth Din deals with shechita, kashruth, and is instrumental in determining insect checking policies for the cRc. Under Rabbi Reiss's supervision the Skokie eruv now connects to the Lincolnwood and West Rogers Park eruvin. The Beth Din also deals with the technological aspect of security concerns.

The cRc Beth Din has become the address throughout the entire Midwest region and beyond for geirim (converts), prospective geirim, and people who have questions about geirus (conversion). The geirus follow-up process has become even stronger, boasting a close to 100% success rate in terms of the continuing Orthodox affiliation of its converts. Other Batei Din and organizations turn to the cRc for advice about the geirus process.

The Beth Din has conducted more divorce mediations, meeting with couples to resolve all aspects of their divorce, including parenting arrangements, child support, spousal support, and division of assets, in

addition to presiding over the Get itself. This enables the couple to bypass the civil divorce process in a manner consistent with Jewish law values by having a ready-made agreement at the end of the process which can be filed in civil court for purposes of obtaining the civil divorce. In addition to Rabbi Reiss, who is a certified divorce mediator, Rabbi Abramson plays a major role in facilitating mediation meetings and resolutions.

Rabbi Ephraim Friedman is available to answer questions each afternoon at the Beth Din offices



Rabbi Reiss met with Rabbi Dovid Malka, the new Menahel of the Israeli Rabbinical Court System.

Learn more about the Beth Din on our Website

www.crcweb.org/BethDin.php



RECENT VISTORS TO THE cRc OFFICE



Rav Hershel Schachter, Rosh Yeshiva and Rosh Kollel at YU/RIETS, and the Senior Posek for OU Kosher, met with cRc members in January. The recording is available on our website.
(pictured) Rabbi Schachter with Rabbi Elisha Prero, cRc President



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom, met with and answered questions from cRc member rabbis at the cRc in February.

on different halakhic issues. Rabbi Raccah contributes his expertise as a dayan and as a Sephardic posek to numerous Beth Din cases and publications.

Rabbi Reiss has also been active in speaking both inside and outside the community. He gives a daily Yoreh Deah chaburah at the Chicago Rabbinical Council and a weekly shiur at Congregation K.I.N.S. under the auspices of the YU Torah Mitzion Kollel on issues of Beth Din practice. Rabbi Reiss has also spoken on the subject of "Immigration Policy and Jewish Law" in Memphis, at the Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth, at the RIETS Shavuot Yarchei Kallah, at the RCA Convention in Connecticut, at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, twice at the Martha, Aaron Isidore N. and Blanche Rosansky Contemporary Halakha Program in Yeshiva University, at

the Society for the Advancement of Law and Talmud, Columbia Law School, at the annual international conference for dayanim in Jerusalem on the subject of "The Staging of Public Demonstrations as a Means of Pressure to Comply with Beth Din Rulings," at the JUF Rabbinic Action Committee Mission in Greece, Beth Shalom Synagogue, on "Greek Wisdom, the Septuagint and Greek Music," and at the Decalogue Society of Lawyers in Illinois.

Rabbi Reiss visited the Chief Rabbi's office in Israel in January to strengthen ties, and met with Rabbi Dovid Malka, the new Menahel of the Batei Din HaRabbonim in Israel, in July.

The community is encouraged to attend any of Rabbi Reiss's Shabbos Shuva Drashot, including on Shabbos Shuva, September 15, at Congregation K.I.N.S. one hour prior to Mincha, and

at Congregation Or Torah, on Monday night, September 16, at 7:30 p.m.

We look forward to continue to provide our Beth Din services to the community in fulfillment of the mandate צדק צדק תרדף – "righteousness, righteousness, shall you pursue" (Devarim 16:20). The Chidushi HaRim derives from the extra word צדק that the job of the Beth Din is not only to issue decisions and edicts that are just, but to devise a just process for arriving at those decisions. It is our aspiration to always fulfill that edict in sanctification of the name of Hashem.



We continue to wish a *refuah sheleimah* to our Rosh Beth Din, Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz shlita, גדלי' דוב בן פערל, who is recuperating at home.

New cRc Publications

Visit <http://www.crcweb.org/books.php> or call the cRc at 773.250.5499 for more information.



Kanfei Yonah

BY RABBI YONA REISS

Kanfei Yonah, Rabbi Yona Reiss's newly published sefer, is a collection of essays and responsa relating to a variety of contemporary halakhic and hashkafic issues. Among the many subjects included in the sefer are pre-nuptial agreements, agunah and mamzerus issues, geirus questions, Beth Din procedures, and contemporary commercial disputes. Divrei bracha and hashkamos for the sefer are given by many Rabbonim including the two current Chief Rabbis of Israel Rav Yitzchok Yosef and Rav David Lau, the previous Sephardic Chief Rabbi Rav Shlomo Amar, our Rosh Beth Din, Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rosh Kollel of YU/RIETS, Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst, Dayan, Agudath Israel of Illinois, Rabbi Dovid Zucker, Rosh Kollel, Chicago Community Kollel, Rabbi Nota Greenblatt, Av Beis Din of Memphis, TN, and Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rosh Yeshiva at YU/RIETS. The sefer is published jointly by the cRc, RIETS Press, and the Beth Din of America.

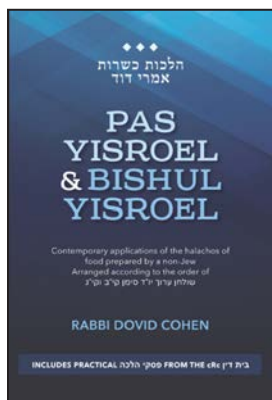


The cRc Food Service Mashgiach Guidebook

BY RABBI DOVID COHEN

The cRc Food Service Mashgiach Guidebook by Rabbi Dovid Cohen (www.kashrushalacha.com/) has sold about 500 copies to various Va'adim around the world and to interested consumers. The publication was distributed at the AKO November 2017 Conference.

The Guidebook is a collection of postings that Rabbi Cohen made six days a week for a year to cRc Food Service Mashgichim on their WhatsApp group. Those posts have been collected and are printed in the book, with a few additions.



Pas Yisroel and Bishul Yisroel

BY RABBI DOVID COHEN

The halachos of kashrus can be found in the Gemara, Shulchan Aruch, and other Poskim, and the principles delineated by these classic sources must be applied to all types of scenarios – both old and new – and that is the goal of this work. It probes the details of the halachos, as a means of resolving contemporary kashrus issues relating to Pas Yisroel and Bishul Yisroel. Thus, Shach's logic regarding hard pears sheds light on whether corn on the cob requires bishul Yisroel (Chapter 47) and a possible proof from Issur V'heter's statement on kishkeh plays a role in deciding if a Jew must participate in the cooking of potato chips (Chapter 26). The halachic analysis is mixed with modern examples and rulings from Poskim involved in kosher certification – including dozens of rulings from the cRc Beth Din – which will be of interest for Rabbis, kashrus professionals, and all those who want to learn more about the kosher food they eat.