



THE VA'AD E-NEWSLETTER

SHABBAT PARASHAT BALAK ~ 14 TAMMUZ 5767 – JUNE 29/30, 2007
The Fast of Shiva Asar B'Tammuz is observed on Tuesday, July 3, which begins the Three Weeks mourning period.

KASHRUT ALERTS

Local:

§ Currently, the only **Essential Baking breads** that are kosher certified are the ones in plastic bags bearing the Va'ad logo. [More info](#)

§ Many have questioned the kosher status of **Mission Foods tortilla chips**. Mission Foods tortillas (all varieties) are kosher certified by the cRc, and the hechsher appears on the back of the package near the ingredient statement. Chips do not have a hechsher on the label. There are some chips that are not kosher. The Va'ad recommends that consumers use tortilla chips bearing an acceptable hechsher on the package to be able to positively identify that the product is kosher.

§ **Tully's Coffee Bellaccino bottled coffee drinks** have an unauthorized Seattle Vaad logo () on the cardboard box. The bottles have a plain KD on them. None of these products are under the supervision of the Seattle Va'ad. This product is sold in WA, OR, ID, MT, AK, & CA. The Seattle Va'ad **does** supervise Tully's roasted, unflavored coffee beans, whole and ground. The organization providing the plain KD on the Tully's bottled Bellaccinos is not recommended.

§ As we enter into the heart of the summer months, many people like to enjoy **ice cream** at some of the area stores. Maggie Moo on Mercer Island is kosher certified (chalav stam) by the Va'ad (see the certificate in the store for specifics on products certified). While it is better to purchase in a certified store, there are other options available. When purchasing ice cream at stores that are not certified, some items to keep in mind:

1. It's a good idea to verify that the ice cream they sell is kosher – ask to see the hechsher on the container. Even some national brand stores have been found to be selling non-certified ice cream from another source. Also, not all varieties of ice cream are certified. Seeing the hechsher on the container is the best confirmation.
2. Scoops should be cleaned before being used for your serving – washing in water is sufficient.
3. Toppings, inclusions, etc. may not be kosher! In a non-certified store, you are your own mashgiach and have to check the status of everything.

4. Shakes and floats may have powders or other additives – check before ordering and confirm everything used is kosher.
5. Some whip cream is made with non-kosher stabilizers – check for a hechsher before using.

§ **Bamboo Garden** will close for vacation on 6/26/07 and reopen on 7/5/07.


§ **The new Va'ad accordion card with common recommended hechsherim is available.** You can pick up a copy at Albertsons or the Va'ad office in the Kollel building. If you became a member of the Va'ad anytime since our last appeal, you should have received a card in the mail as a thank you. If you would like to become a member please contact the Va'ad or go to <http://www.seattlevaad.org/Donations.html> . Alternatively, we can email you a PDF file for you to print on paper. Thank you to [Albertsons](#) for sponsoring the printing of the card.

§ We post a list of **common, recommended hechsherim** on our website (<http://www.seattlevaad.org/KosherSymbols.html>). Products under other hechsherim *may* be recommended on a case-by-case basis. If you ask about a particular product, we will follow up as soon as possible. Please be aware, however, that our recommendation of a product from a non-listed hechsher does **not** automatically mean that everything from that hechsher is recommended.

National:

§ Due to ongoing changes in production, selected varieties of **Pillsbury Toaster Strudel Pastries** will no longer bear the OU symbol effective immediately. Eventually all varieties of these products will stop being certified and labeled kosher. All products that bear the OU symbol are certified by the Orthodox Union. As always, the public is encouraged to check for the OU symbol on every product that is purchased.

§ The [OK](#) has announced that **TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE with OMEGA 3** contains Omega 3 derived from fish sources. In accordance with their policy, this variety of Tropicana only is being marked OK-F (fish). Halacha dictates that fish and meat not be eaten together. Many poskim, however, rule that if the fish component is less than 1/60th, the product is not considered fish status. The Va'ad recommends consulting with your Rav for guidance on this matter. The fish component in this orange juice is well below 1/60th.

§ **Keebler Cheez-It** crackers with a  symbol are made with **real aged cheese**. One needs to wait for their customary period (typically 3 or 6 hours depending on your tradition) after eating these crackers prior to eating meat foods. Please consult your Rav if you are in doubt about your traditional waiting period. Note that the halacha requires waiting after hard, aged cheeses in the same manner as one waits after eating meat foods before consuming dairy.

§ During July 2007, 7-Eleven will be introducing a new **Slurpee flavor, Fanta Blue Vanilla**. This flavor is kosher; however it is **Dairy** (non-cholov yisroel). The Star-K has a list of other kosher Slurpee flavors at www.star-k.org/cons-appr-slurpee.htm.

§ Effective immediately, all **KOAOA certified products (Half-Moon K hechsher)**

are acceptable for use with the following exceptions:

1. Pre-washed salads other than iceberg lettuce still require checking prior to use;
2. Crown Prince canned fish should not be used. It is still in the process of being reviewed at this time;
3. Dole fruit cups (plastic 4oz) from Thailand or Philippines are still under review at this time;

All other Half-Moon K products may now be used.

§ Recently there have been several announcements made via emails, websites and print media concerning the issue of insect infestation in **strawberries**. It is common to find insects on strawberries, most often near the green leaves but also on the body of the berry as well. The Va'ad strongly suggests that the tops of strawberries be removed and the berry be carefully washed prior to use. Proper washing has been found to be effective in removing insects.

§ You can find a list of recent kashrut alerts at <http://www.kosherquest.org> or www.kashrut.com. As always, please consult with your rabbi or the Va'ad if you have any questions about specifics.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vaad issued 4 **meshulach** certificates this week, 2 for individuals and 2 for institutions. 0 certificates were issued last week.

To put an announcement or ad in the upcoming **Chabad Calendar**, contact Andrea at info@chabadofseattle.org by 6/30.

Russian Language Kosher Supermarket Tour, 7/1, noon, Albertsons on Mercer Island. Call (206) 387-3919 or [More info](#)

JFS presents a workshop on **Ethical Wills**, 7/1 [More info](#)

The JEC and the JGSWA are sponsoring a genealogy talk with Schelly Talalay Dardashti, 7/9, SJCC [More info](#)

Jewish Community Day at **Safeco Field**, 8/5 [More info](#)

Save the date for the **Jewish Community Festival**, 8/19. [More info](#)

JEC Summer University classes are registering. [More info](#)

Check out the latest **NCSY** events. [More info](#)

The Kollel's **Summer Youth and Adult SEED** Programs are enrolling. [More info](#)

Camp Ketanim at Ezra Bessaroth is enrolling. Contact Rachely Hemmat at Rachel1H@aol.com for more info.

Camp Shalom for Preschoolers, located at TDS, is enrolling. Contact Francine at FRBirk@aol.com for more info.

SHA ECEC Summer Camp is enrolling. [More info](#)

Camp Kol Rena at BCMH is enrolling. [More info](#)

Camp Gan Israel Seattle is enrolling. [More info](#)

Chabad-Lubavitch teaches classes for all ages and levels. [More info](#)

The Seattle Kollel teaches classes for all levels and ages. [More info](#)

Keep up to date with the Seattle Orthodox Jewish **Community Bulletin Board**. [More info](#)

The Va'ad HaRabanim of Greater Seattle is a non-profit organization that takes care of Kashrut issues, gives supervision on various kosher products and kosher establishments, and functions as a Bet Din (religious court) issuing Gittin (Jewish divorces), facilitating and issuing conversions, and hearing legal and quasi-legal disputes. The Va'ad is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are fully deductible in accordance with relevant IRS law. If you would like to make a contribution to the Va'ad, please go to <http://www.seattlevaad.org/Donations.html> or call the office. Thank you to the many people who already responded generously to our appeal in December.

If you would like for this email to be taken off the Va'ad list, or have received multiple copies of this message at this email address, or would like to receive this newsletter at a different email address, please respond with the details to vaadinfo@seattlevaad.org and we will be happy to make the appropriate changes. Feel free to pass this email on to anyone who might be interested.



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