



THE VA'AD E-NEWSLETTER
SHABBAT RE'EH ~ 27 AV 5767 – AUGUST 10/11, 2007
Rosh Chodesh Elul starts Monday night

The Seward Park Eruv is up!

KASHRUT ALERTS

There is an informative article from Rabbi Smolensky about the upcoming shmita year posted to the Va'ad website at www.seattlevaad.org/Shmita.pdf.

Local:

§ **The 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/Hechsherim.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:

§ **Nature Valley Granola Bites** are not certified kosher.

§ If you are interested in watching videos about **washing and checking produce**, you can find some at <http://star-k.org/cons-appr-vegetables-videos-list.htm>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meshulach Conference

*Next week I will be attending a **conference on Meshulachim**, with representatives from over two dozen other communities to discuss issues of common interest and to share experiences and potential improvements. I will be taking with me the feedback we received earlier this year from many of you. Also, I will be looking for ideas to consider for us to use here, including some specific services which have been developed elsewhere that may make sense for us to implement.*

Next week, with the beginning of the month of Elul, there may be an increase in the number of meshulachim visiting our community and so the need for striking a proper balance between the needs of the local community, including donors, and those who come to solicit from Israel or elsewhere, will be especially paramount in our minds.

This is so also because of the time of year, when individual introspection and when having a strong, positive, communal connection is so critical to our individual and communal prayer. At the same time, we know this encounter can be one of the most trying tests of our commitment to and promotion of the unity of the Jewish people, as measured by how we treat one another. It also illustrates how we personally and collectively fulfill some of the key mitzvoth between ourselves -- tzedaka, hachnasat orchim, hesed, kavod haberiot.

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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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