

## Project – Practical הלכות כשרות

### Contemporary כשרות Issues:

- Over the next few months (until Pesach vacation) you will be preparing and delivering presentations on your assigned topic.
- Your presentation should address all of the issues presented by your topic in a complete and comprehensive manner. **Be sure that by the end of your presentation we know what to do.**
- Your presentation should be creative – use your talents to entertain us while teaching the material. Art, film, power-point etc. are all acceptable, (though realize, that these are all just media – creativity is substantive; a line of text is no more impressive if it bounces).
- While you should focus on reaching a practical result, if a halachik issue is relevant, please explain at least some of your issues to us thoroughly (גמרא, פוסקים etc.) using a source sheet.
- You are to prepare a bullet-point style practical הלכה sheet, of publishable quality (EDIT YOUR WORK), to teach the rest of us how to correctly navigate the potential כשרות issues presented by your topic. **Each of your points is to be attributed to the source from which you received it.** This need not be done in a formal footnote, but can be put in parentheses following the point. **This sheet must be submitted to me (for review) at least one class before your presentation.**
- A good place to start your research is on the computer. Googling your topic could be very helpful. You may well find an article, which you can use as a starting point. Then go and look up the sources that it cites, and learn them in the original to construct your shiur. If you are having trouble with this step, please see me, and I will help you find an article.
- Also, there are a number of excellent Sefarim published in English on Hilchot Kashrut. Please check the Beit Midrash or ask me for help.

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- Also make use of the Rabbis of your shuls. **Each student is required to ask her shul Rabbi (in person, phone or e-mail) his opinion on these questions, and include her findings in her presentation.**
- I will be happy to help any of you with your research and am easy to find in person or, of course by e-mail –besserd@maayanot.org.
- You will be choosing your own groups of 3 (there will 4 groups of 3 and 2 groups of 2). Once you have your group, decide which topic you want and which date you want. E-mail me your top 3 choices for both the topic and date, AND which (choice of date or topic) is more important to you (as a group). First choice for topic will get last choice for date and vice versa.

### TOPICS:

#### 1. Starbucks –

- a. Starbucks sells non-kosher pastries in addition to its coffee. Are there **מרעית עין** issues? Can one get a drink or use the restroom at McDonalds, or get coffee at a non-kosher Dunkin Donuts?
- b. What Starbucks products (hot chocolate, whipped cream, flavored syrups, frappucinos, teas) are always kosher? Which are never kosher? Which always need to be checked? Can you drink plain coffee anywhere?
- c. Can you drink plain coffee anywhere? Flavored coffee?
- d. Does it matter if the coffee shop uses its own mugs? May I drink out of their cups or must I use paper?

#### 2. Street/Stadium Vendors –

- a. Street/Stadium Vendors: What may I buy? Roasted chestnuts? Kosher brand hot pretzels (Super Pretzels) or knishes (Gabila's)? Snow-cones?
- b. May I buy popcorn at the movie theater? With butter?

- c. May I buy cut fresh fruits & vegetables? Melon? Drinks with lemon or lime?

### 3. Kashrus Symbols –

- a. What are they?
- b. Who is behind them?
- c. Are they all reliable? Might a symbol be reliable for some things but not others? How are we to know?
- d. What does “K” mean?

### 4. Common בישול עכו"ם issues –

- a. What are the general rules of Bishul Akum? What exceptions are there?
- b. How do large, commercial food producers with non-Jewish workers (restaurants, caterers, packaged goods etc.) deal with the problem?
- c. If someone has a non-Jewish worker in her home (babysitter / housekeeper), what problems might come up? How can they be avoided?
- d. May you have your food put in the microwaves in Dunkin Donuts

### 5. Ice Cream/Yogurt –

- a. Carvel, Dippin Dots, Baskin Robbins, TCBY, Ben & Jerry's, Tasti –D-lite, Haggen Dazs etc. – What is always kosher? What needs a kosher seal?
- b. If the store serves kosher and non-kosher items, do I need to worry about the utensils? Do I need to be concerned that non-kosher ice cream made its way into the kosher container?
- c. Are toppings, cones & other non-ice cream items permitted?

**6. Workplace/Dormitory Issues –**

- a. May you have kosher delivered food to a non-Kosher restaurant (Levana)?
- b. What, if anything, may you eat or drink in a non-Kosher restaurant? Dairy? Fish? Sushi? Salad? Fruit? Drinks?
- c. May you drink alcohol with non-Jews?
- d. May you use the office / dormitory microwaves that are shared with people who don't keep Kosher?

**7. Tevilat / Ha'agalat Keilim**

- a. What does each term mean? What do they each accomplish?
- b. Which types of keilim require tevila? When? Which require a bracha?
- c. Are you permitted to eat / drink with keilim that needed tevila but didn't receive it? What should you do if you are invited to someone who you suspect may not have performed tevila?
- d. When is Ha'agala necessary? What is Libun, and when is it necessary? When is it sufficient to stick a utensil into dirt?