

# NEWS & VIEWS

Bringing you the Latest from the  
Jewish Community Council of Montreal and the MK Kosher



*Rabbi Yehuda Gottesman, one of the teachers in the Montreal Jewish Conversion Program, making a mock seder for potential converts in the program*

# THE VAAD HARABBANIM OF MONTREAL



The Montreal community is privileged to be represented in the MK by prominent Dayanim/Rabbinical Judges known as the Vaad HaRabbanim. Our Dayanim come from the various communities in Montreal, in this way we ensure that the perspectives of their communities are explained, understood and taken into consideration by the Vaad HaRabbanim.



The Vaad HaRabbanim carry an intrinsic role in every Kashrus related decision. Each Dayan is responsible to oversee and strengthen a specific area of Kashrus, such as Hilchos Shabbos (the laws of Shabbos) policies, Shechita, Chalav yisrael, commercial equipment Kasherization, Fish and Toleyim. On a regular a basis they sit together to reflect upon the Kashrus related matters and together come to a conclusion.



Under the Leadership of the Av Beth Din Rav Yonasan Binyomin Weiss Shlit" a, the Vaad Harabbanim is committed to determining, maintaining and strengthening all Kashrus standards and Halachic observance in Montreal.

# THE TEXTS CAME POURING IN FROM ALL



# OVER THE WORLD: MK PESACH LINE

Anyone who has made Passover knows that the amount of questions that crop up in the days leading up to the chag is near endless. How do I kosherize the oven? Is my toothpaste acceptable for Passover use? Which coffee is okay to consume on Passover? Enter the MK's **'Passover Answered'** service.

**"It's non stop bing, bing! The texts literally don't stop coming in!"** exclaims one rabbi manning a shift on the Passover text line. Over the span of the three weeks leading up to Pesach, over 4,000 questions came in through the line. "The texts come in pouring in from numbers all over the world," says Rabbi Saul Emanuel, one of the answering rabbis. "The questions came in at all hours of the day and night, and they were usually answered within a few minutes." From Tylenol to Tums, lemon juice to self-cleaning ovens, and everything else in between, people used the service to shop with a Rabbi by their side, with the comforting knowledge that the answers they sought were only a text vaway.

## CHECKOUT THESE STATS

### Engine Statistics

Total Searches

# 20248

#### Popular Searches

toothpaste	586
mouthwash	227
coffee	203
tums	190
tylenol	190
oil	181
honey	175
advil	165
sugar	146
perfume	141



11%  
of all searches

## 20,248 Users!:

Last Pesach season, the MK launched a revolutionary, modern website designed to be the **"Google for Passover"**. A total of 20,248 people used [passoverinfo.com](http://passoverinfo.com) to search for their Passover answers. Here's how it works: whether one is shopping for pesach or about to kosherize their sink, prescribed an OTC medication or in any other scenario with a Passover procedure question—Just log onto [passoverinfo.com](http://passoverinfo.com) and type your question into the search bar!

We are happy to report that people in Australia, Israel, South Africa, France, USA and of course here at home in Canada utilized the service thousands of times in the weeks leading up to Passover.

In numbers, "toothpaste" was the most searched word on our site followed by a close second - "mouthwash," then "coffee."

### ALWAYS THINKING AHEAD

**MK staff added a mechanism to the site which creates a list of questions for which the site did not have proper answers. We will be adding everything that was asked on the site before passover 2024!**



# PHARMACIST, DR, RABBIS:

The MK designated a day before passover on which a doctor and pharmacist came on site and answered calls from consumers all across the country. We thank **Dr Zaklos** and **Mr Farkas** for their time they dedicate to helping the community. This MK service well known and was very well used and received.

As always, our Rabbis were available on our hotline to answer any complex questions which come up during Passover season. We thank our Rabbis for their complete dedication to the community and for being there for you!



# MK'S FIRST EVER SEFARDIC GUIDE RECEIVES TREMENDOUS FEEDBACK!

Needless to say, our first-ever all Sefardic publication was met with tremendous feedback. Members from all across the Sefardic community reached out with ideas, comments, compliments and constructive criticism. Our Sefardic department, headed by Rabbi Haim Y. Mamane worked tirelessly to bring forth a quality magazine with Divrei Torah, Halachot, Kashrut articles and practical guides. "This is the first of many," says Rabbi Mamane. **We thank Our dedicated Sefardic Rabbanim Harav David Raphael Banon Shlit" a and Harav Ephraim Cremisi Shlit" a for all their hard work in helping us deliver for the strong and thriving Sefardic community of Montreal. We have lots more in the works to bring to the table for the Sephardim of Montreal. Lookout!**

# KASHERING, SHATNEZ AND SHEIMOS



On Sunday April 1st 2023, MK's parking lot was bustling and bustling all day long! **The non stop traffic coming and going was a display of a beautiful nation preparing for a special holiday.** MK Rabbanim were present all day to oversee our koshering services in the large tent. We had MK Personnel with boiling pots of water and torches helping members from Montreal's diverse jewish communities kasher their pots, Kiddush cups, cutlery and many more utensils they would need for the holiday. **The koshering service is one of the many free services MK provides to the community on a yearly basis.** On site we also had **Rabbi Michael Harrosch** checking people's garments for Shatnez on the spot. Another service on site was a Geniza/Sheimos dropoff.

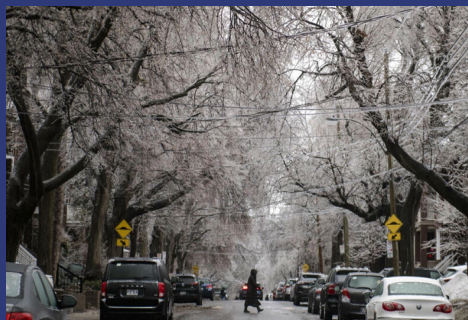
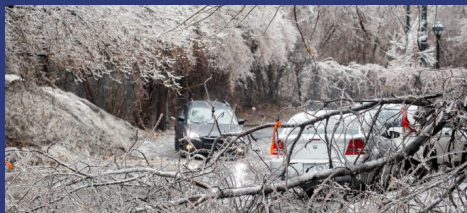


# HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES AFFECTED BY ICE STORM GET URGENT HELP THROUGH JCC FUND

Montreal's Pesach ice storm made a memorable Pesach for Jews across the island: seder was held in the dark, food was cold, and houses were colder. Many Jewish low income families who stretched their last pennies to make yom tov had to dispose of all their meats and poultry after they spoiled from sitting in a warm freezer for several days in a row.

Jewish   
Community  
Council 

LIFT UP   
MONTREAL



By the time Chol Hamoed was over, close to 200 families had received generous credits on their grocery accounts. **We thank the Montreal community for opening their hearts to help our brothers and sisters here at home. We also thank the donors from all across the Jewish world for showing us what we all know - MI KEAMCHA YISROEL!**

All perishables had to be re-purchased before the second days of the chag, and families who stretched every last penny to make Pesach once simply could not do it all over again a week later. That's where the Jewish Community Council of Montreal came in. **As soon as members of the JCC saw families struggling, they decided to create a fund to help.** After publicizing the fundraiser, donations from 'round the world began to roll in. The JCC appointed a committee of community leaders from Cote St Luc, Dollard, Westbury, Ville St Laurent, De Vimy Area and Outremont to distribute the funds to the appropriate recipients.



# ADVOCACY

## WE HAVE YOUR BACK



From Parking signs to Chametz burning to crossing the border, **the JCC has your back**. In the last few months, members of our advocacy team have met with Borough Mayors, city councilors, members of the SPVM, CBSA, as well as U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that community needs are met.

-Border guards on both the U.S. & Canadian sides were prepared for pre-Pesach heavy border travel, **so they opened more lanes to accommodate the traffic**. We have heard fantastic feedback on border crossing in both directions.



-**SPVM** were met and informed about the community Biur Chametz events. **We thank them for their help in keeping our community safe and helping the event move in an organized and timely fashion.**

-**Mayors** and **city councilors** agreed to **cover the parking signs for Yom Tov to avoid people getting fined** for not being able to move their cars.

**Questions?**

**Email: [info@jccmontreal.org](mailto:info@jccmontreal.org)**



# DID YOU SAY FREE?

## HOW MK IS HERE FOR HOSPITALS, OLD AGEHOMES, MADA AND CAMPS!

You thought Kashering your kitchen was hard? Imagine Kashering a kitchen 100 times that size:) A large team of Mashgichim did just that to Montreal's Jewish General Hospital! That takes an army of mashgichim and supervisors, as well as lots of coordination from the MK office! Did you know that the entire Jewish General is served kosher food all year round under MK's strict supervision? Passover is no different, and all food that is being served to the entire hospital is under MK passover certification. Over 19,000 meals were dished out over the Pesach holiday.

**Did you know that hospitals, nursing homes, community summer camps, care homes for special needs individuals, and foster homes which offer MK food, all receive their kosher certification at no cost whatsoever? The only thing they pay for is the Mashgiach cost. Yup, you heard right: zero licensing fee, zero administrative fees. No fees at all, except the cost of the Mashgiach.**

**Here's a list of some of the important institutions in town that MK certifies for FREE:**

- THE JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL
- MADA
- JEWISH ELDERCARE
- MOUNT SINAI
- THE CUMMINGS CENTER FOR SENIORS
- MAIMONIDIES
- BOTEI AVOS
- THE Y CAMP
- CAMP MOSSAD
- BNEI BRITH
- MAISON SHALOM
- THE JEWISH REHAB
- CJA FEDERATION CAFETERIA
- JEWISH GENERAL CAFETERIA
- BAIS YAAKOV D'RAV HIRSCHPRUNG

**These establishments receive free kashrut support in sourcing all their ingredients, all of their regular inspections, and here's a big one - koshering their kitchen for Pesach. We see it as extremely important that patients in a hospital or rehab or a special needs home are fed Kosher food. We see it as vital that the children going to camps up north for the summer have nutritious Kosher food, and we are happy to be a part of all of that.**



# MK HOME BUSINESS POLICY

For consumers, the MK logo is a mark of trust, signaling that a product has been prepared under the guidelines and supervision of knowledgeable Rabbinic coordinators and inspectors in accordance with the highest kosher standards. The MK team is comprised of experts in the complexity of modern food production as well as the details of Halacha (Jewish law).

Meeting kashrut standards can be challenging for food businesses operating out of private homes, and as a general rule the MK does not certify these establishments. In order to ensure the proper functioning of a kosher certified kitchen, unannounced visits from kosher supervisors are required and this is simply not possible in a private home.

While the MK is committed to working with and supporting small businesses, it is also determined to maintain the community's trust. For this reason, the MK insists that certain basic conditions are met before home businesses can be considered for kosher certification. At a minimum, a separate entrance is required, a distinct part of the home must be designated for the business, utensils and appliances must have been purchased uniquely for business usage.

## MK CERTIFIED HOME BUSINESSES:

- Home Sweet Challah – 6640 Trans Island 514-961-6521
- The Breadery- 1972 Ekers 514-827-2898
- Desserts By Design- 514-225-5700
- Petite Source- 514-271-5651

**Questions or ideas for your JCC?**

**We are Here for you**

**514 739 6363**

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**[jccmontreal.org](http://jccmontreal.org)**

**[mk.ca](http://mk.ca)**

