



Vol. 4, Issue 2

October 7, 2021 | 1 Cheshvan, 5782

## GENERAL YOSHON NEWS

Chodesh Tov!

### Keeping Our Yoshon.com WhatsApp Groups Safe from Spam

You may or may not have noticed that the links for joining our Yoshon.com WhatsApp Groups have been changed. This was in response to recent anti-Semitic attacks on many Jewish WhatsApp Groups that occurred over Chol HaMoed Sukkot, September 26. Our Yoshon.com Group 4 was one of the recipients of this “hit and run” spam-bombing. After the attack, all of our group invitation links were reset anew.

Since links for our WhatsApp groups were visible online and indexed on internet search engines, it left our groups vulnerable to spammers. They could easily click on the link, post an unsavory item, then leave the group. Such a thing is what happened to Group 4, and reportedly many other Jewish WA groups that same day. The most disturbing part is that Group Admins are not able to delete any posts. They can remove members, but the offending posts stay behind, and members can only delete them for themselves.

We realized that something had to be done! Our response to protect the groups was to create a screening process for joining – the Yoshon.com “WhatsApp Police Bot” (WAPBot).

Starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, we implemented this screening process, with the objective of deterring would-be spammers and unsavory elements from being posted. Our WAPBot screens new members who want to join. It asks a series of questions that any Jew would know, and when they pass them all, they are granted the links to join our WhatsApp groups. The would-be spammers would highly likely get the quiz answers wrong, and so they would not have access the invite links. Eventually, they should get frustrated and stop trying because it is too much work.

Until now, WhatsApp group invite links presented a big problem. They needed to be available online so that potential members could find them and easily join. Being publicly exposed and visible, they got indexed and ultimately appeared on the search engine results (Google, Bing, etc.) for all spammers to see as well. A spammer needed only to click on the link and then they were in!

Ideally, potential members *should be able* to easily find links to join their desired WhatsApp group. We believe that our WAPBot solution should mitigate the problem, since the only link appearing online or in search engine results leads directly to the WAPBot itself.

The WAPBot “lives” on a special page on Yoshon.com. Since its chat messages do not get indexed, our group invitation links stay private. Members can still share the links with trusted people, since the encrypted WhatsApp messages are also totally private from internet indexing. We only ask that our members not publish these invitation links to any online forums and/or websites. Any public postings should be only for this link to access the WAPBot: <https://yoshon.com/wapb-1>.

Feel free to examine the WAPBot, and provide any feedback for improvement. It is our hope that it will help deter and prevent any post that could not be shared with even the youngest members of Klal Yisrael. BE"H, this will keep our WhatsApp groups much safer and private from any more unsavory spam.

(Source: TYNI)



**RECENT YOSHON UPDATES**

**October 5, 2021 – MK Canada’s First Update for the Season**

Montreal Kosher of Canada (MK) sent out their first Yoshon Update of the season. The Direct Download Link is below:

<https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MK-Canada-YoshonUpdate1for5782.pdf>

(Source: Montreal Kosher)



**October 5, 2021 – Correction on COR Update**

This message was sent to the email list:

“Please see date corrections in red for PH flour 1 255 2 and Bakers Hood flour 1-231.

**Any flour with a ‘PH ‘ in the code incl. Great Plains, Compliment and other brand names** – If the number after PH in the code is ‘7’ a BB date of 2022 AU 22 or earlier. If the number is ‘2’ a BB date of 2022 SE 12 or earlier.

Alternative coding; 1 234 7 or lower, 1 255 2 or lower.

**Bakers Hood, Sunspun (COR323)** - If the plant code is ‘MT’- a date code of 1-270 or lower. If the plant code is ‘SK’- a date code of 1-231 or lower.”

(Source: COR Canada)

[TYNI Note: We corrected the document and it is currently on our website for download at this link:

<https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CorrectedCORCanadaYoshonUpdate1-10-4-2021.pdf> ]



**October 4, 2021 – First Major Update from COR Canada**

The Kashruth Council of Canada (COR) sent out their first Yoshon Update of the season. The Direct Download Link is below:

<https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CORCanadaYoshonUpdate1-10-4-2021.pdf>

(Source: COR Canada)



**October 1, 2021 – Hecker’s All-Purpose Flour Still Yoshon This Season**

People were very worried after the news of Gold Medal All-Purpose “KC” flour not being *yoshon* this year for the first time since part of the 2016-17 season. Since Hecker’s was another popular “yoshon” flour, we asked for confirmation from Rabbi Reich of the Kof-K. He responded, “I have reconfirmed with the mill that the Hecker’s flour is milled from 100% winter wheat in a facility that only handles winter wheat. The only concern, as we have discussed would be the malt (after December 15th) which is added in at micro amounts.”

(Source: Kof-K)



**YOSHON PRODUCT OR ESTABLISHMENT ALERTS**

**October 7, 2021 - RCC List of Yoshon Establishments for 5782**

It is unknown exactly when this list was updated, but it is current on their website. We assembled only the pertinent information on *yoshon* establishments from the Rabbinical Council of California, and includes Bakeries and Dairy Pizza Restaurants under their *hashgacha*. The Direct Download Link is below:

<https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/RCCYoshonEstablishmentsList5782.pdf>



**September 5, 2021 –OU Alert on Gold Medal KC Flours**

Notice from OU's alert dated Sept 5 found on Kashrut.com:

**“Corrected Yoshon Information- GOLD MEDAL ALL PURPOSE FLOUR and BREAD FLOUR with “KC”:**

GOLD MEDAL ALL PURPOSE FLOUR and BREAD FLOUR with “KC” in code, may be viewed as yoshon with a use by date of February 9, 2023 or before. The packing date is August 9. (A use by date for Gold Medal Flour is 18 months after the packing date.)”

The previous item can be cited with the URL: <https://www.kashrut.com/Alerts/?alert=A7762>

(Source: Kashrut.com)

**TYNI Note:** Based on the *Guide* over the years, we have had a shelf life time listed of “558 days”. We are now updating the shelf life and best by cutoff date on Yoshon.com to reflect the shorter “safe” time of 18 months.



**September 3, 2021 – cRc Pas Yisroel/Yoshon List for 5782**

Here is the cRc’s list of Pas Yisroel and *yoshon* products and establishments in Chicago, IL. The Direct Download Link is below:

[https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/cRc\\_PasYisroel\\_and\\_orYoshonEstablishments5782.pdf](https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/cRc_PasYisroel_and_orYoshonEstablishments5782.pdf)



**August 30, 2021 –OU Pas Yisroel/Yoshon List for 5782**

Here is the OU’s list of Pas Yisroel and *yoshon* items for 5782. We have highlighted all the “Yoshon” listings in yellow on this searchable, downloadable pdf. Please note that special instructions for a company or specific products are highlighted in yellow in the right column. The Direct Download Link is below:

<https://yoshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/OPasYisroelYoshonList5782.pdf>



**RECALLS AND ISSUES AFFECTING YOSHON OR POTENTIALLY YOSHON PRODUCTS**

Nothing to report this month.



**OFFERS, PROMOS, AND DISCOUNT COUPONS**

**Coupons for Kellogg’s:** Coupons for lots of other items than just cereals, such as Morningstar Farms, Townhouse and Cheez-It Crackers, and Pringles. Be sure to check for a *hechsher* on the cereals, as not all of them are kosher.:

<https://coupons.kelloggsfamilyrewards.com/>



**Coupons on Gerber Baby Cereals:** Just requires verification:

<https://bricks.coupons.com/Authenticate.asp?o=136829&c=FU&p=WrdmOGj2&dauth=yes>



**Coupons for General Mills Cereals:** Coupons for lots of items like Nature Valley Granols Bars and GM Cereals.:

<https://www.bettycrocker.com/coupons/printable>

Kol Tuv,  
The TYNI Staff

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