

# News Briefs

## A Review of the Events That Have Shaped the Kosher Food Industry

For the Week of April 10, 2001

### KOSHER DODGER FANS CRY "WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR"

Los Angeles...Dodger Stadium appears to be a natural for glatt kosher hot dogs, says Dodger fan Stuart Tochner, but it will have to wait till next year. According to the Los Angeles Jewish Journal, Tochner wanted a kosher alternative to Farmer John's pork-laden Dodger dog. He was hoping that Dodger Stadium would emulate stands at Yankee and Shea Stadiums that average sales of 600 glatt kosher hot dogs per week (averaging just two or three games). Together with Paul Cunningham, Tochner contacted Irvin Lonzo at Aramark - the company responsible for concessions at Dodger Stadium - and requested kosher hot dogs be added to the regular menu. But Aramark responded that due to contractual obligations with Farmer John they were unable to sell the product.

### KOSHER FOOD HEADS FOR OUTER SPACE

Houston...Col. Ilan Ramon, 47, from Tel Aviv, Israel, who is training for a U.S. space shuttle mission devoted to an international research project, will be the first to get a kosher meal in space, according to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. "I told them I wanted kosher food, and they told me they'd have to check it out because nobody until today has asked them for kosher food," Ramon said by telephone from Houston, where he has been training at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center since 1998. To accommodate their first kosher traveler into space, Vickie Kloeris, system manager for food, said NASA contacted My Own Meals, 847-948-1118 a company in Deerfield, Ill. that sells certified kosher food in "thermostabilized" sealed pouches -- actually meant to accommodate campers. The company has also sold kosher food directly to U.S. soldiers since 1993, said Joe D'Onofrio, the chief financial officer. The military started buying the kosher food from the company in 1996 for all service members requesting it. But the food, which comes in 8-ounce foil pouches and has a shelf life of more than three years, is also perfect for space flight.

For the Week of April 16, 2001

### IRISH CAPITAL LOSES LAST KOSHER BUTCHER

"The road to the bakery is often fired on. People ask why I go there," said Rabbi Kestenbaum. "But baking with this flour is very delicate and this is the only bakery that can produce the matzot." Rabbi Kestenbaum began his quest for gluten-free matzot to help a girl he had met who was a severe coeliac (coeliacs cannot digest the gluten found in grain). After research, he found a strain of low-gluten oats and produced a few dozen boxes of matzot. Each year since, production has grown. This year the product is completely gluten-free - a mutation of an oat strain, confirmed by three laboratories. After harvesting, the 60 tons of oats go through five milling and grinding processes before shipping to Israel for baking.

For the Week of April 22, 2001

### STARBUCKS SET TO OPEN IN ISRAEL

Jerusalem (Jerusalem Post)...The Delek Group and Starbucks Coffee International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Starbucks Coffee Company, said last Friday that they had reached an agreement to form a joint venture to open Starbucks here. According to the agreement, which is expected to be signed in the next few weeks, Delek will hold 80.5 percent of the

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