MARGIE PENSÄK

STAR-K Kosher Certification’s monthly interactive Telekosher Conference and Seminar Series, held March 25, helped kosher consumers throughout the world prepare for Pesach. Aided by an extensive array of product samples, STAR-K Kashrus Administrators Rabbi Zvi Goldberg and Rabbi Baruch Beyer covered an exhaustive list of challenges Pesach shoppers face in the supermarket aisle.

The Seminar’s broad-based novice-to-expert audience — primarily consumers, Rabbanim and mashichim — joined in from across the U.S., Israel, Canada, Brazil, and Peru.

Question discussion topics included: How do you kosher a Keurig coffee machine? Are there kosher for Pesach issues regarding salmon? Are probiotics kosher for Pesach? Are coconut milk and cream kosher for Pesach? Does raw almond butter need a KP hechsher? Are all olive oils kosher for Pesach?

Can paper bowls be used on Pesach?

“The interest in our discussion was really far beyond our expectations,” said Rabbi Goldberg, who mentioned that the Seminar was so successful there was even interest among the participants to hold one daily until Pesach. “People always want to know about the Pesach products on the market. Additionally, participants benefited from the springboard it provided to learn about things like cottonseed oil, which is generally considered kitnyos in Israel, yet is a major staple in the U.S., replacing soybean oil in Pesach products. We were also able to touch on some ways to save money while not compromising on kashrus.”

Much of the important information it discussed can be found in the 2015 STAR-K /Kollel Los Angeles Passover Directory and Medicines and Cosmetics Guide, available in local Judaica stores. For more information, please contact the Star-K at 410-484-4110.