

Sale of Chametz – Passover 2011

Jewish law is emphatic that not only is it forbidden to eat any *chametz* (leavened products) during the days of *Pesach*, but that we also **may not have any chametz in our possession**. While cleaning our homes is an important part of the rituals of *Pesach*, we recognize that to remove all such products would likely mean both a waste of food and an undue burden. Please **donate unused leavened products to the needy** – let me know if you're in search of someplace to give. For items that we can't donate but don't want to waste, like partially-used items, we invoke the "legal fiction" of selling all the *chametz* that does remain in our homes to a non-Jew who is not bound by the restrictions of *Pesach*. This person will be the legal owner of all of your *chametz* during the holiday – he or she generally sells it back immediately after the holiday, so that the *chametz* will once again be ours to own and eat.

I will be acting as members' "agent" for this sale again this year. To participate in this process, we must complete the following steps:

- 1) Be sure to **clean** out all parts of the home we intend to use. e.g. remove leavened products from kitchen and pantry, clean to remove food crumbs from the carpet, the couch, our clothes.
- 2) **Isolate all the chametz** that remains into a fixed, "sealed-off" space. For example, set it aside in a cupboard or closet, place a piece of tape over the door, and don't use it throughout the holiday. For refrigerated or frozen goods, you can double-bagging items and tape them securely shut, then place the bag in the back of the fridge or freezer
- 3) Once *Pesach* begins, it is forbidden to touch or interact in any way with the *chametz* you have sold. It is no longer yours – any tampering with it would be stealing.
- 4) It is customary to take the symbolic "profits" of our sale and **make a contribution** to *tzedakah*. I encourage everyone to make a donation to a local food bank, or to *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger* (www.mazon.org).

There are many other complex aspects to preparing for *Pesach*. Don't be overwhelmed – do what you can, and try something new. The act of selling is an easy way to enter into the liberating mood of the holiday. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Chag sameach v'kasher (Have a happy and kosher Passover!),
Rabbi Michael Fessler

PLEASE USE ATTACHED FORM

Delegation of Power – Sale of Chametz Form—Passover 2011

This form is to be returned no later than Sunday, April 17, 2011 to the B'nai Tikvah office. Alternatively, it can be faxed to the synagogue fax line at 856-589-7105 until 6 PM on Sunday, April 17.

I hereby authorize Rabbi Michael Fessler to be my agent to sell all kinds of Chametz, including but not limited to any leavened food, dishes, pots, pans, and utensils used with leavened food, which may be in my possession at the address(es) listed below.

Rabbi Fessler is also empowered to lease all places wherein Chametz owned by me may be found, particularly at the address(es) listed below. Rabbi Fessler has full right to appoint any agent or substitute in his stead, and said substitute shall have full right to sell and to lease as provided herein.

I understand that the sale will be effected by Monday morning, April 18, 2011 at 9:00 AM. Assuming the sale lapses as is customary, this chametz will return to my possession by 8:45 PM on Tuesday night, April 26, 2011.

Name:

Address:

Signature:

Date:

You are encouraged to donate to “*MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger*” – info about their important work is available on the web at www.mazon.org.