

Mehriat Hametz – Passover 2024 – 5784

The Selling of Leavened Products

The sale of hametz is an important part of our Passover preparations. Hametz is defined broadly as all fermented grain and grain products, as well as food and liquids made from them (even if only using a minute amount). Moreover, hametz includes dishes/utensils which are used during the rest of the year; therefore, separate sets of dishes/utensils are set aside for Passover use. (It is possible to kosher some dishes/utensils for Passover. Contact the Rabbi).

The Torah prohibits both the consumption and the possession of hametz during Passover. Since financial considerations make it virtually impossible to literally fulfill the biblical command to remove ALL leavened products – it would necessitate destroying our year-round dishes annually before Passover – our sages instituted the practice of sell our leavened products. Thus, Jews are reminded of the necessity to divest themselves of legal ownership of all hametz during Passover.

This legal transaction is arranged by the Rabbi acting on behalf of those congregants who authorize him to sell their hametz. The transaction transfers all hametz which may physically remain in the home to a non-Jew who has title to the hametz during Passover. After Passover, the Rabbi purchases the hametz which we may resume using.

To sell your hametz, you must see Rabbi Buechler by 9:00 AM, Monday morning, April 22, 2024, or complete the authorization form found below. It is customary to contribute to the “Maot Chitim” (Passover food Fund) at this time. Checks are to be made out to the “NY Board of Rabbis Passover Fund” (tax deductible).

SELL MY HAMETZ

AUTHORIZATION FOR SALE OF HAMETZ

I (We) _____

Do hereby authorize and designate Rabbi Howard R. Buechler as my (our) agent to act on my (our) behalf to sell and to transfer by transactions all Hametz (as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law) of whatever kind & wherever situated at my (our) residence at:

Or in my (our) place of business located at:

All of the aforesaid Hametz will be sold in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law and also in accordance with the laws of the State of New York and is intended as a binding legal transaction. I (We) further state that the Hametz covered by this agreement will be stored away at the above address and will not be used for any personal benefit during the period commencing no later than 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Monday, April 22, 2024 and concluding no earlier than 8:34 p.m. on Tuesday evening, April 30, 2024.

This authorization is legalized by my (our) signature(s):

_____ and dated _____ 2024

My donation in the amount of the _____ to the NY Board of Rabbis Passover Appeal is enclosed.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.