

## Passover Preparation 5777/2017

*Pesah* has a unique place in the Jewish home. For one week each year our lives are transformed; the atmosphere in our home is dramatically different. Most of this is due to the traditional practices associated with the festival. There is much work involved in preparing our homes and lives for Passover, but, of course, it's well worth the effort. Following is some of the information that will be helpful in your preparation. If at any point you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Rabbi Bazer at the Temple, 508-877-2540 ext. 201.

### Annual Maot Hittim – Matzah Fund Drive

Not only do we extend hospitality to “anyone who is hungry” at the *Sedarim*, but we should also contribute to a fund which provides *Pesah* needs for those less fortunate than we. Please send your checks to the Synagogue office. The Rabbi will disperse the money from his Discretionary Fund to needy families locally and abroad.

### Selling Your Hametz

Any leaven (*hametz*) owned by a Jew during the Passover festival is forbidden for use. One should attempt to “use up” as much of your *hametz* products prior to Passover. Since it is unlikely that you can dispose of all *hametz* before the approach of *Pesah*, one must arrange for *mehirat hametz*, sale of leavened products. This can be arranged through Rabbi Bazer personally at the synagogue. If this is not possible complete the enclosed form and mail to him. Rabbi Bazer will arrange it so that the *hametz* is sold to a non-Jew for the week of Passover. Food should be stored away and out of sight for the duration of Passover.

### Ta'Anit B'Chorim -Fast of Firstborn Males

#### Monday, April 10th – 6:30 AM

Because the firstborn of the Israelites were spared when the firstborn Egyptians were struck down, all firstborn Jewish males fast on *Erev Pesah*. If, however, one attends a *Seudat Mitzvah*, a feast that is part of the performance of a commandment, one is freed from that obligation. The custom has developed that by concluding a tractate of the Talmud following the morning service, we merit a festive breakfast. All fathers and their firstborn males (other children welcome) are urged to attend.

### Search for the Hametz

The home should be cleaned thoroughly of *hametz* during the week before *Pesah*. The final formal search, called *bedikat hametz* should be conducted following sunset on Sunday, April 9th this year. Before the search, it is customary to take a number of pieces of bread (count them first so you don't leave any behind!) and place them in various parts of the house. This ceremony arouses the interest and excitement of the youngsters and sets the tone for the joy of the festival.

### Burning of Leaven - Bee-oor Hametz

All *hametz* should be out of one's possession by 10:00 AM on April 10th. This is marked by a ceremony when the pieces of bread collected from the night before are burned. No *matzah* should be eaten until the *Seder*.

### Shabbat HaGadol–The Great Sabbath– April 8th

This is the Sabbath immediately preceding Passover and it heralds the approach of the holiday. At our service that morning, the discussion will focus on the *Haggadah* in preparation for the *Sedarim*

### Passover Schedule April 10th - April 18th

#### Monday, April 10th – Siyyum b'chor

Fast of first born 6:30 AM

#### Monday, April 10th – Passover 1st Seder

Light Candles 7:04 PM

No evening service

#### Tuesday, April 11th – Passover 1st Day

Morning Services 9:30 AM

Light Candles 8:13 PM

Congregational Seder

#### Wednesday, April 12th – Passover 2<sup>nd</sup> Day

Morning Services 9:30 AM

Evening Services 7:15 PM

### Passover – Concluding Days

#### Sunday, April 16th

Evening services 7:15 PM

Light candles 7:11 PM

#### Monday, April 17th – Passover 7<sup>th</sup> day

Morning Services 9:30 AM

Evening Services 7:30 PM

Light Candles 8:20 PM

#### Tuesday, April 18th – Passover 8<sup>th</sup> Day

Morning Services 9:30 AM

Yizkor recited

Festival ends 8:21 PM

חג שמח

## SELLING THE HAMETZ - MEHIRAT HAMETZ

One must not have any leaven (*hametz*) in his legal possession during *Pesah*. Because of the complexities of our economy, disposing of all the *hametz* would be costly and often impossible. A ceremony was developed to affect the sale of all *hametz* to a non-Jew and thus legally it was not in the possession of a Jew during *Pesah*. After the holiday, the *hametz* is bought back. This symbolic sale is carried out when the family authorizes the Rabbi to sell the *hametz*. The document which accomplishes this authorization is a *shtar harsh-ah*, or a document of permission. The Rabbi, in turn, sells all the community's *hametz* by writing a *shtar mekhirah* or document of sale. Below is a permission document assigning Rabbi Bazer to sell your *hametz* and make your home "Kosher for Passover."

Please return the form to Rabbi Bazer as soon as possible. Donations for *maot hittim* this year will go to those who need our help to celebrate *Pesah*. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth Sholom.

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### ***Shtar Harsh-ah***

The undersigned authorizes Rabbi Laurence Bazer to act as my/our agent to write a *shtar harsh-ah mekhirah* and to sell our *hametz* as necessary. We understand that any *hametz* in our house will not be ours for use from Monday, April 10th through Tuesday, April 18th, at 8:21 PM.

This document has been duly signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Place where *hametz* is stored \_\_\_\_\_