

Explanation of the Sale of Chametz

According to the Torah, a Jewish person is forbidden to own *chametz* (חָמֵץ), anywhere in the world, during *Pesach*, even if it won't actually be seen or used during *Pesach*. *Chametz* owned by a Jewish person during *Pesach* becomes non-kosher and may not be eaten, even after *Pesach*. This is why we sell it.

- In Hamilton, the prohibition of owning *chametz* begins at **12:15PM** on Monday, April 10th, 2016. (The prohibition of eating *chametz* begins slightly earlier, at **11:09AM**.) The prohibition ends when *Pesach* ends – at 8:44PM on Tuesday, April 18th.
- Ideally, a person should finish eating all their *chametz* and destroy all leftovers before *Pesach* begins.
- Since in our days, destroying all of one's *chametz* is often difficult, wasteful and impractical, the rabbis have provided us with another way of fulfilling the Torah's requirement: selling one's *chametz* to a non-Jew. Non-Jews have no Jewish requirement to disown their *chametz* during *Pesach*, so if we sell them *chametz* we are not asking them to transgress anything for our benefit; by selling it, we no longer own it ourselves, and no longer risk transgressing anything either.
- All *chametz* to be sold should be gathered together in a special place or a few special places, and clearly marked "*chametz*".
- **You do not sell *hametz* to the rabbi!** The rabbi merely acts as an agent, and sells your *chametz* directly to the non-Jewish purchaser.
- The sale will take place on **Monday morning, April 10th, around 10:30AM**. Sold *chametz* must not be moved, destroyed or eaten from this point on, since it will belong to someone else.
- For the duration of *Pesach*, the rabbi also rents out the place in your home in which the *chametz* is being stored – be it a closet, a cupboard, or a section in your refrigerator or freezer – which is why it should be clearly marked.
- According to the agreement with the non-Jew, once they own your *chametz*, they have the right to access it if they want to. The sale is final, not temporary, conditional, or merely symbolic.
- After *Pesach*, the rabbi gives the non-Jewish person the opportunity to sell the *chametz* back to its original owner. Assume it is yours again if you haven't heard otherwise by **9:15PM on Tuesday night, April 18th**. Chances are good you're getting it back, but give the rabbi a chance to purchase it on your behalf.
- To appoint the rabbi to act as your agent to sell your *chametz*, please fill in the attached form as detailed as possible, and return it in person or by email (r.hillel@bethjacobsynagogue.ca). Please hand in your form **no later than Friday, April 7th**.
- It is customary to contribute some money to *tzedakah* (charity) when handing in the sale of *chametz* form. Some of this money will be given to the non-Jewish person as a token of our appreciation for helping us out with our religious requirements. The rest will be given to those in need.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Hillel at 905.522.1351 ext. 12 or r.hillel@bethjacobsynagogue.ca .

Pesach kasher v'esame'ach!
Have a happy and Kosher *Pesach*!

Rabbi Hillel Lavery-Yisraeli.

Power of Attorney for Sale of Chametz.

I/we hereby authorize **Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraëli** (or anyone appointed by him to do this on his behalf) to be my/our agent to sell to a non-Jew of his choosing all “*chametz*” (as defined by Jewish law) which is in our possession or which comes into our possession by Monday, 14 Nisan 5777 / April 10th 2017. Furthermore, I/we authorize him to rent out the spaces (shelves, cupboards, closets, freezers or sections of freezers, etc.) where the *chametz* is stored, from Monday 14 Nisan 5777 / April 10th 2017 until after the conclusion of *Pesach*. I/we understand that the sale will take place on the morning of **Monday 14 Nisan 5777 / April 10th 2017, at around 10:30**. To this I/we attach my/our signature and contact information.

Full legal name: <input type="text"/>	Full legal name: <input type="text"/>
Street Address(es) where the <i>chametz</i> will be kept: (You might want to include your office or boathouse, for example.) 1. <input type="text"/>	Street Address(es) where the <i>chametz</i> will be kept: (You might want to include your office or boathouse, for example.) 1. <input type="text"/>
2. <input type="text"/>	2. <input type="text"/>
3. <input type="text"/>	3. <input type="text"/>
Places where the <i>chametz</i> will be stored at the above address(es). (Please be as specific as possible. For example, the cupboard in the basement marked “ <i>chametz</i> ”.) 1. <input type="text"/>	Places where the <i>chametz</i> will be stored at the above address(es). (Please be as specific as possible. For example, the cupboard in the basement marked “ <i>chametz</i> ”.) 1. <input type="text"/>
2. <input type="text"/>	2. <input type="text"/>
3. <input type="text"/>	3. <input type="text"/>
Telephone number(s) where I can be reached: <input type="text"/>	Telephone number(s) where I can be reached: <input type="text"/>
Email address: <input type="text"/>	Email address: <input type="text"/>
Would you like to be automatically included in future years' sales of <i>chametz</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Would you like to be automatically included in future years' sales of <i>chametz</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<i>(By selecting “Yes”, you will automatically be included in future years, so long as you remain a member of Beth Jacob and retain the same personal details as indicated above. Next year you will not need to send in a new form. If some of your details do change, please send in a new form next year.)</i>	
Signature: <input type="text"/>	Signature: <input type="text"/>
Date: <input type="text"/>	Date: <input type="text"/>

(Spouses/partners who jointly own *chametz* should both sign the form.)