

Explanation of the Sale of Chametz 5779/2019

👉 **Please read the following in its entirety before filling out the form.**

According to the Torah, a Jewish person is forbidden to own *chametz* (חֶמֶץ), 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 **12:11 pm** on Friday, April 19th, 2019. (The prohibition of eating *chametz* begins slightly earlier, at **11:03 am**.) The prohibition ends when *Pesach* ends – at 8:58 pm on Saturday, April 26th.
- 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.
- By filling in the attached Power of Attorney, Beth Jacob's rabbi, **Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraëli** will act as your agent to sell your *chametz* on your behalf. This saves you the hassle of having to locate an interested non-Jew and negotiating the sale yourself.
- **You do not sell *chametz* to the rabbi!** The rabbi merely acts as an agent, and sells your *chametz* directly to the purchaser.
- All *chametz* to be sold should be gathered together in a special place or a few special places, and clearly marked "*chametz*".
- 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.
- The sale will take place on **Friday morning, April 19th, around 11:20 am**. Sold *chametz* must not be moved, destroyed or eaten from this point on, since it will belong to someone else.
- 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 **9:25 pm on Saturday night, April 26th**. Chances are good you will get 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 Wednesday, April 17th**.
- 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 Hayyim Lavery-Yisraëli.



Beth Jacob Synagogue



Power of Attorney for Sale of *Chametz* 5779/2019.

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 my/our possession on, or which comes into my/our possession by Friday, 14 Nisan 5779 / April 19th 2019. 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 Friday 14 Nisan 5779 / April 19th 2019 until after the conclusion of *Pesach* on Saturday night, 22 Nisan 5779 / April 26th 2019. I/we understand that the sale will take place on **Friday 14 Nisan 5779 / April 19th 2019, at around 11:20 am**. To this I/we attach my/our signature and contact information.

Full legal name(s):

	Street Address(es) where the <i>chametz</i> will be kept, e.g. "71 Main St W, Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y5": (You might want to include your office, summer cottage, granaries, gym locker, fallout shelter, where you keep your limo/yacht/private jet, etc., if you keep food in these.)	Places at this/these address(es) where the <i>chametz</i> will be stored. (Be as specific as possible. For example: "The cupboard in the basement marked "chametz".")
1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Telephone number(s) where I/we can be reached:

Email address(s):

Signature(s): Date:

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