

The taste of hamentashen has barely left your mouth and we begin to think about the biggest annual challenge every Jewish household has to face – time to get ready for Pesach. Unless you’ve just started keeping house, you have done this before. Or you remember how it was done in your parents’ home. So what’s the big deal?

Here is a checklist to help:

First, you clean the whole house, but particularly the kitchen.

Put away the hamezdik stuff or tape the cabinet doors shut. ☐

Kasher the stove, sink and dishwasher.

Make a list and shop, shop, shop. Then go back, because you forgot a few things.

Get out the pesachdike dishes, flatware, pots, pans, utensils, table linens.

Now cook.

Please donate any unopened hametz to area shelters by placing your donation in the box located off the Temple Israel lobby, by Friday, April 12.

B’dikat Hametz/The Search for Hametz

After the house has been cleaned, which should be completed on the day before Pesach, we search again for any crumbs of hametz we missed. We use a lighted candle, a feather and a wooden spoon. This symbolizes that all the hametz which we could see was removed. B’dikat Hametz this year is done on Thursday, April 18, after sunset.

Bitul Hametz/Nullification of Hametz

During the search, we recite the blessing for b’dikat hametz, the recitation of the formula for nullifying any unseen hametz (kol khamira). This blessing can be found at the beginning of the Haggadah.

Biur Hametz/The Burning of Hametz

On the morning of the first Seder, we burn the hametz that has been found during the search of the night before. The biur should take place by 11:36 a.m., Friday, April 19. Traditionally, all hametz that you’re planning to eat should be consumed before 10:28 a.m.

Ta’anit B’chorim/Fast of the Firstborn

Custom has it that all firstborn Jews fast on the day before Pesach (beginning at sunrise until the Seder) to commemorate having been spared during the tenth plague, the slaying of the firstborn at the time of the Exodus. In one of the most beautiful action statements in modern Judaism, this ta’anit (fast) has come to memorialize the death of the Egyptian firstborn, showing compassion even for our enemies.

Siyyum B’chorim

Friday, April 19 at 6:30 a.m.

There is a halakhic principle regarding the importance of Talmud Torah, the study of Jewish text, that allows one to override a fast. The completion of the study of a portion of text (siyyum) is celebrated with food and drink. So, on Friday morning, March 30 at 6:30 a.m., we gather a minyan to study the last lines of a rabbinic text, and we then celebrate with a seudat mitzvah, a breakfast in honor of our having

performed a mitzvah. This frees us from the requirement of fasting for the remainder of the day. Parents and their firstborn children are encouraged to attend.

M'khirat Hametz/Selling Hametz

One must not have any hametz in his/her legal possession during Pesach. Because disposing of all your hametz would be costly, and sometimes impossible, a ceremony was developed to effect the sale of all remaining hametz to a non-Jew, in order that it not be in one's legal possession during Pesach. However, not all hametz may be sold. Hametz B'ayin, products such as cereals, flour, cookies, etc., that are easily identifiable as hametz, must be given away or disposed of, rather than sold. Ta'aromet Hametz, products that are not Kosher for Passover, including all foods that have been opened before Passover, and products that contain hametz in a changed form (such as grain alcohol) may be sold. In order to be sold, Ta'aromet Hametz must be shut away during Pesach in specifically identifiable locations. This may be a cabinet that will be kept closed during the week of Pesach, or a corner of the garage. The contract stipulates that the sale of this hametz is temporary, and that the hametz will revert to its original ownership at the end of the holiday. The symbolic sale is carried out when the family authorizes a Rabbi or Cantor to sell the hametz. Authorization to do this is called a shtar harsha'ah, or document of permission. The Rabbi or Cantor then sells the community's hametz by writing a shtar m'khirah, or document of sale.

SALE OF HAMETZ FORM

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Daniel Liben to act in my behalf to sell all **hametz** possessed by me—knowingly or unknowingly—as defined by Torah and Rabbinic Law, and lease all places wherein **hametz** possessed by me may be found. This transaction will be in effect for the duration of Pesach, which this year begins at sundown on Friday, April 19, 2019 and runs through Saturday, April 27, 2019, at 8:22 PM.

In the spirit of the words of the Haggadah—

ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY, LET THEM COME AND EAT

I enclose this gift of *tzedakah* in the amount of \$_____ made payable to Temple Israel, to be used for people who are hungry or in need. Money collected will be used for **me'ot chittin**, food provisions donated specifically to Jewish people in need at Passover time, as well to Mazon which helps people in need of food throughout the year.

Please make sure this form is in the Temple office before Thursday, April 18 at noon, or bring it with you to morning minyan (6:30 AM) on Friday, April 19 to give to Rabbi Liben after services.

Name/s: _____

Signature: _____

Address/es: _____

Passover Sharing

Be part of Temple Israel's annual Passover Seder Sharing program! Can you host another family for either night of Passover? Or are you looking for a seder to attend? You may call the office with the information, or fill out the section below and drop it off in the office by Thursday, April 11.

Family Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am able to invite ___adults & ___children.

My Seder is (check all that apply) _____ Traditional _____ Family-friendly
_____ Kosher for Passover

Indicate which Seder night:

_____ First Seder _____ Second Seder

I would like to be invited to a Seder.

My family includes: ___adults & ___children (please list ages of children)

Indicate which Seder night:

_____ First Seder _____ Second Seder

Please indicate any preferences/ requirements for your attendance:

_____ Traditional _____ Family-friendly

_____ Kosher for Passover _____ Special Needs