



# MECHIRAT CHAMETZ

## SELLING OF HAMETZ

One must not have any *hametz* (leaven) in his or her legal possession during *Pesach*.

After doing a complete and thorough cleaning of your home, you should throw away any opened packages of *hametz*, thereby beginning *Pesach* in a *hametz*-free environment.

Consider donating all new and closed *hametz* items to a local food pantry.

Because of the complexities of our economy, it may be far too costly to get rid of all of your sealed and unused *hametz*. For this reason, a ceremony was developed which in effect "sells" your *hametz* to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday.

### Document of Permission - *Shtar Harsha'ah*

This symbolic sale is carried out by a rabbi whom you authorize by filling out a *shtar harsha'ah*, or document of permission. The rabbi then sells your *hametz* by writing a *shtar m'khirah*, or document of sale.

For up-to-date information on prohibited and permitted foods, check out the Rabbinical Assembly Web site at [www.rabbinicalassembly.org](http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org).

You should sell your *hametz* (see the "Document of Permission") even if you will be away for the duration of the holiday. Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> after dark don't forget to do the *b'dikat hametz* (search for *hametz*) which you can find at the beginning of most *haggadot*.

In order to make your home kosher for *Pesach* you should:

1. Search your home (*b'dikat hametz*) on the evening of Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. Sell your *hametz* (via email or faxed form) by 8am on Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. On Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, remove and burn all *hametz* by 11:30am (see a *haggadah* for the text). Your home should be completely kosher for *Pesach* at this time.

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### Document of Permission

In order to fulfill the *mitzvah* of not owning any *hametz* during Passover, it has become the custom to sell all *hametz* prior to Passover. If you wish to fulfill this *mitzvah*, please complete this portion and return it to Barbara Schwartz in the office.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby designate Rabbi Stewart L. Vogel as my agent to sell all kinds of *hametz* including but not limited to any leavened food, dishes, pots, pans and utensils affected by *hametz*, which may be in my possession. I understand that the sale will be in effect by sundown Tuesday, April 7, 2009 until Thursday night April 16, 2009.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Copy and email to the Synagogue no later than Tuesday morning April 7, 2009:**

***barbaras@templealiyah.org.***