

PASSOVER/ PESACH SALE OF HAMETZ

The Biblical injunction is that “no leaven shall be seen or found in your possession during Passover.”

Although it was not easy in earlier days for people to rid their entire household and properties of leaven products, it is somewhat more difficult today. We now buy things in bigger packages, can preserve them longer and tend to keep them for longer periods of time.

IN ORDER NOT to be compelled to dispose of all leaven products in our possession, we have legal provisions for the sake of all of our hametz. We invite every member of the congregation to appoint Rabbi Jay to represent them for this transaction. The Rabbi will then “sell” everyone’s hametz to a person who is not Jewish (and therefore not obligated to remove hametz from their possession on Passover) for the duration of Passover. After the holiday, the Rabbi will buy it back Provided that the person who bought it is willing.

While many of you will say this is only a legal fiction, it is a fiction which serves a purpose—to demonstrate, as does every symbolic act, the intention of everyone to observe the laws.

KNOW ALL PEOPLE BY THESE PRESENTS: That the undersigned do here by make and appoint Rabbi Michael S. Jay the true and lawful representative to act on behalf of the undersigned, to sell all hametz owned and possessed, knowingly or unknowingly, as stated in the Torah and defined by the sages of Israel (e.g., hametz; hashash hametz – suspect hametz; and all kinds of ta’arovet hametz – hametz mixtures); also, hametz that tends to harden and to adhere to the surface of pans, pots, or other cooking or eating utensils, of whatsoever nature, and to lease all places wherein the aforementioned hametz owned or possessed by the undersigned may be found, especially in the premises located below. Rabbi Michael S. Jay has the full authority and power to sell said hametz and to lease said places wherein said hametz may be found, upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. Rabbi Michael S. Jay has the full power and authority to assign or appoint a substitute or substitutes to act with all the same powers and authority invested in the rabbi, and the undersigned hereby ratify and confirm all that Rabbi Michael S. Jay or a rabbinic substitute lawfully does or causes to be done by virtue of these presents.

This transaction must be completed by **Tuesday, March 31, at 1PM (13 Nissan 5786).** A provision will be made in the sale so that you may continue to use some of the hametz on Wednesday morning, April 1, 2026 (14th Nissan 5786).(On Wednesday, the last time to eat Chametz is 10:52 AM. We will burn Chametz before 11:56 AM)

Note: If you are not in the Eastern Time Zone, you should make arrangements with a local synagogue to sell your hametz with them so that you do not inadvertently wind up in possession of hametz while it is still Passover in your locale. If you need help finding an agent to sell your hametz please contact Rabbi Jay at Mjayrab@gmail.com.

JCC of LBI members may appoint Rabbi Michael S. Jay as their agent in the following manner:

Send in the form below with your donation to the “Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund”. It is traditional that the money be given to the individual who acts as the agent to arrange this sale.

THIS FORM MUST BE IN THE RABBI’S POSSESSION BY TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST AT 1 PM. (EMAIL OR TEXT IS ACCEPTABLE)

I, _____, hereby authorize Rabbi Michael S. Jay as my agent to sell all leaven and hametz in my possession for the duration of Passover.

Address _____

Donation $_____