



Jewish Community Center of Paramus
Congregation Beth Tikvah
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A Shabbat Message from Rabbi Arthur Weiner

Friday March 25, 2022 ~ Parsha: Shimini
Shabbat Parah

Dear JCCP/CBT family,

Each year, we send *Sale of Chametz* forms for you to return to the synagogue. As Passover begins three weeks from this evening, we want to provide the forms to you and make sure that everyone understands what this Mitzvah is all about, and why it is so important.

You can find the form at this link <https://www.jccparamus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Sale-of-Chametz-updated-2022.pdf> or on the front page of our website, jccparamus.org

Passover is far more than eating *matzah*, and buying special foods. We are commanded to literally remove all *chametz* (leavened products) from our homes. As the Book of *Devarim* (Deuteronomy) commands,

For seven days no leaven shall be found with you in all your territory (16:4)

Once, removing *chametz* was relatively easy. Until several generations ago, people rarely kept significant quantities of food in their homes. Food production was far simpler than it is today. Yet with improved food technologies, the advent of refrigeration, and modern food production, that has changed. Most of us have several days, if not several weeks of food in our home. The way that food is produced today, and the complexity of the ingredients within them, ensure that much of this food we enjoy during the year cannot be used for Passover.

Although we are commanded to remove all of these foods from our home, it is virtually impossible to do so. That's what *Mechirat Chametz*, selling our *chametz* is about. After we do our best to search for and remove *chametz* in our home, we literally sell, that is, we transfer the possession of whatever *chametz* we are unable to

fully remove to someone else so that we are able to fulfill this important and fundamental Passover commandment.

Is it a legal fiction? Perhaps. But does that make it invalid? Certainly not! Passover, in many ways is the most important holiday. We want to create the conditions that allow us to fulfill the words of the Passover Haggadah "in every generation, it is incumbent upon us to see ourselves as if we personally came out of the land of Egypt." Selling your *chametz* is one of many important ways to help make that happen. Please download the form, and return it to the synagogue via US mail or email. We look forward to receiving them.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Arthur Weiner