



# PASSOVER 2018

(1st night Seder, Friday, 3/30)  
(2nd night Community Seder, Saturday, 3/31)

## Continuing the Passover tradition of Cleaning out the *Chametz*

A crumb here, a crumb there, *chametz* seems to be everywhere. We recall that not only do we eat matzah on Pesach, as we read in Exodus 12:20, “you shall eat matzah,” but we are also advised to “eat nothing leavened (*chametz*).” And, the wisdom of Jewish tradition teaches us that the best way to avoid eating something, is to simply not have it around. Thus, we learn, “No leaven (*chametz*) shall be found in your houses.” (Exodus 12:19)

One of our spiritual tasks is then to try to remove all *chametz* from our homes. What is *chametz*? It is any food product made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, or their derivatives, which has come in contact with water or moisture and allowed to rise. When we remove *chametz*, we are also said to be ridding ourselves of pride, materialism, and envy – those things that unnecessarily “puff” us up. Since it can be a physical and financial hardship to completely rid our homes of *chametz*, Jewish law permits food to be stored away. It is to remain tucked away in a specific place, unseen and unused. This is the Jewish version of “out of sight, out of mind.” The ownership of *chametz* can then be “transferred” to a non-Jewish person by the rabbi through the authorization of another document.

At B’nai Emunah, we are continuing a tradition begun several years ago. We re-introduced this ancient custom with a new twist – making this a mitzvah by asking you to “sell” your *chametz* by completing this form and returning it to our office, along with a suggested donation of at least \$18. The money we collect will then be split between the Southside Jewish Collaborative Tikkun Olam Fund, which uses the funds to feed the homeless in San Francisco, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, to which we donate in memory of our dear friend, Rabbi Cyndie Culpeper. Please help us again this year to perpetuate this tradition by completing the form below and sending it in to the office, or by emailing your authorization at [rabbimarkm@gmail.com](mailto:rabbimarkm@gmail.com) (subject: selling *chametz*). If you email it, please call the office with a credit card or send your check to the office and note “email *chametz* authorization” on the memo.

Thank you and Happy Passover!

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I hereby authorize Rabbi Mark Melamut to sell my *chametz*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form no later than Wednesday, March 28, 2018 to:  
Congregation B’nai Emunah  
3595 Taraval St, San Francisco, CA 94116