

**Agreement for Rabbinic Agency to Sell Community Chametz ("chometz")**

During Passover, **Chametz** is defined as bread, cereals, cookies, grains, grain-based oils, vinegar, liquors, or other products containing grain by-products, as well as utensils that cannot be used or made kosher for Pesach. According to Jewish law, a Jew is not permitted to eat, possess, sell, or keep **Chametz** during the days of Pesach. However, in the Middle Ages, it became clear that bakers, inn-keepers, and merchants needed to keep some such items, even during Pesach. Therefore, it is customary on Pesach to

a) cleanse and rid our homes of **Chametz**, by finishing it up, giving it away, or throwing out those items that are spoilable; some people give away such items to soup kitchens or the like

b) store unopened products, as well as utensils that can't be made kosher for Pesach, in cabinets, boxes, section of freezers, or closets which are labeled "**Chametz**." (*be careful to seal them tightly*)

c) legally "sell" those items we still have stored in our houses for the week of Pesach to a non-Jew. While originally developed to assist those who sold these products as stated above, today this legal loophole helps all Jews to observe the mitzvah of Pesach without undue economic stress. Technically the items "don't belong to us" during that week. We still *may not eat* these products, but at least those items that we put in storage remain, "out of sight, out of mind" during this period. A Rabbi is given the power of agency to sell our chametz to a responsible, agreeable non-Jew such as a minister or neighbor, and this person agrees to "purchase" our chametz for a small sum, putting down a deposit until after Pesach. Any chametz in our homes during this week are not considered as our possessions, but rather as things we are "storing" for someone. Naturally, after Pesach is over the neighbor does not complete the sale, and the **chametz** returns to its previous owners (i.e. you). It is acceptable to give a donation to the synagogue for this. To participate in this ritual, simply email your household name or the form below to Rabbi Halfon at [rabbi@mtsinaicheyenne.org](mailto:rabbi@mtsinaicheyenne.org)

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**Hametz Sale Authorization**

This is to certify that I/we authorize Rabbi Moshe Halfon to act as my/our agent to

1. Sell to any and all chametz or chametzdik utensils belonging to me/us;
2. Rent any areas where such products may be stored during Pesach; and
3. Grant access to the purchaser to such locations during the same period.

It is agreed by both parties that if this sale is not completed by the conclusion of Pesach, all hametz products will revert to their original owners. It is also understood that while this sale is binding under Jewish law, it carries no force under American law.

Name(s)

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