

CONGREGATION NER TAMID

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SALE OF CHAMETZ/MEKHIRAT CHAMETZ

During Passover, Judaism prohibits not only the eating of *chametz* (leavened products), but also benefiting from it, owning it or even seeing it! * Rabbinic tradition allowed for the *Sale of Chametz* to a person who is not Jewish, instructing the sellers to then place all remaining *chametz* out of sight to avoid any temptation.

Transference of ownership for the duration of the holiday makes *chametz* safe but inaccessible, without having to destroy or waste good food or risk financial hardship (for instance, for a baker whose inventory could stay fresh for a week but from which he or she was forbidden to derive profit during Pesach). This legal transaction also covers *chametz* which was inadvertently overlooked during holiday preparations, declaring it “disowned.”

Technically, the amount that the buyer pays for the *chametz* (as arranged by a community representative, usually the Rabbi), is just a down payment, and he or she could buy the *chametz* outright after the holiday. This does not occur, however, and so the *chametz* reverts to its original owner after Pesach.

It has become customary for people selling *chametz* to make a donation to the synagogue that arranges the sale. It is also necessary to sign a “legal document” stipulating that the Rabbi may conduct the transaction, as below.

I/We hereby empower and authorize Rabbi Shana Chandler Leon or her duly authorized and appointed substitute, to act as my/our agent in selling all kinds of *Chametz* still in my/our possession (knowingly or unknowingly) as of the eve of Pesach 5779. The *Chametz* is located at:

Name: _____

Home: _____

Workplace(s): _____

and elsewhere in my/our possession.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$_____.

Please return this form no later than **Wednesday, April 17th**, to: Congregation Ner Tamid, 1250 Quintara Street, San Francisco, CA 94116, or email your request to: office@NerTamidSF.org.

* Based on the command in Exodus 12:15: “Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.”