



YOUNG ISRAEL  
OF CHERRY HILL

# PESACH GUIDE

5780 / 2020



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## Pesach Guide - 5780

### **1) Mechiras Chametz**

All chametz items not being eaten or destroyed in advance of Pesach should be placed in designated areas. These areas themselves will be leased and the chametz contained therein will be sold to a non-Jew in advance of Pesach. These areas should be marked off and should not be accessed over the course of Pesach.

Please find the Mechiras Chametz form at the end of this guide. Due to social distancing protocols, we will need to rely upon forms being emailed to me at [rabbijbien@gmail.com](mailto:rabbijbien@gmail.com), or dropped off in my mailbox at home. Though not ideal, this is an appropriate measure to adopt considering the special circumstances this year.

### **2) Ma'os Chittim (Charity for Pesach)**

There is an ancient custom to give charity before Pesach to see that all Jews have their Yom Tov needs taken care of. Ma'os Chittim may be given online at <https://www.yicherryhill.com/shop>. Please specify the Chessed Fund when paying and note that the donation is for Ma'os Chittim. Alternatively, checks may be written to Young Israel of Cherry Hill and left in my mailbox. Please write "Ma'os Chittim" in the memo.

Money collected for Ma'os Chittim will be distributed to local members of our community in need. Please donate to the greatest of your ability, this Pesach in particular.

We are living through difficult times that are creating a financial strain for many who are usually self-sufficient. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, I implore you to reach out to me for assistance to help alleviate the financial strain. All such requests will be kept strictly confidential.

### 3) **Birkas Ilanos – Blessing on the Trees**

During the month of Nissan, a special bracha is recited when one sees a blossoming fruit tree, the text of which is printed in all standard siddurim. The following is a list of known-fruit trees in our community:

| <b>Family</b> | <b>Address</b>        | <b>Location</b> | <b>Type</b> |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Bar Or        | 85 Knollwood Dr.      | Front yard      | Apple trees |
| Boardman      | 504 Rhode Island Ave. | Front yard      | Apple tree  |
| Drabkin       | 429 Saratoga Dr.      | Backyard        | Pear trees  |

### 5) **Bedikas Chametz**

The search for all remaining chametz should commence immediately after *tzeis hakochavim* (nightfall) the night before Pesach, corresponding to **Tuesday night, April 7, at 8:41 PM**. While it is true that our homes will have already been cleaned and chametz has largely been discovered and dealt with, the bedikah should not merely a perfunctory ceremony. Care should be taken to recheck those areas that have housed chametz during the year, as well as those areas that may yet have been overlooked. Cars should also be checked during the bedikah. The rather clean state of our homes at this point in our Yom Tov prep should significantly help in expediting the process, but it is still one that should be undertaken with appropriate care, ensuring that the mitzvah be fulfilled.

Following the bedikah, one should recite the *bitul*, or nullification printed in the haggadah. As this is an actual legal declaration divesting one's ownership over unfound chametz, it is imperative that it be recited in a language one understands.

### 6) **Taanis Bechoros (Fast of the first born)**

Details for Taanis Bechoros are still being worked out. We will likely need to rely on a virtual siyum this year. More details to follow.

### 7) **Bi'ur Chametz and Chametz Disposal**

The latest time for eating chametz is **10:52 AM**; the latest time for burning chametz is **11:57 AM**.

There will be no communal Bi'ur Chametz this year. As there may be some concern in performing Biur chametz at home, it should be emphasized that only a *kezayis* worth of chametz need be burned. All other chametz may be disposed of in the manner prescribed below in appropriate trash receptacles, as noted below.

It is important that the chametz be destroyed through burning specifically. To that end, lighter fluid should not be sprayed directly on the chametz, as this will render the chametz inedible in of itself. Fuel such as newspaper or small kindling can be used to help facilitate the burning. The burning itself may be done in a small pit dug in one's yard, inside a metal trashcan or other receptacle, in a disposable aluminum pan, or on top of one's grill. Please exercise appropriate caution.

Following the Bi'ur, one should recite the appropriate Bitul, or nullification, found in the Haggadah. As stated above regarding the nullification following Bedikas Chametz, it is critical that this declaration be recited in a language one fully understands.

The nullification of the chametz notwithstanding, any edible (or semi-edible) chametz remaining on one's property still must be destroyed. This poses a concern regarding chametz contained in garbage cans on our property. Because the cans themselves are township owned, if placed in the street, the chametz is considered to have been completely removed from one's property. Because the can will need to be placed in the street many days in advance of pickup, please be mindful of your neighbors in determining weather or not this is practical for your particular home. Otherwise, it is recommended that any trash bags still containing chametz be brought to a communal trash can or dumpster. Please note that depositing garbage in a privately owned dumpster, even a large one, without express consent is an act of *geneivah* from the one paying for its ultimate removal.

#### 8) **Post-Pesach Chametz**

Following Pesach, please check your inbox and the shul's facebook page for notification as to when (and if) the chametz sold to the non-Jew has been repurchased.

Regarding the purchase of chametz from local stores following Pesach, please note that the following establishments are either owned and supplied by non-Jews or have been confirmed to appropriately sell their chametz for all of Pesach. Chametz may, therefore, be purchased from them immediately following Pesach:

Wegman's  
Kosher Experience at ShopRite (Please note: Kosher Experience, specifically)  
Trader Joe's  
Whole Foods  
WalMart  
Sam's Club  
CostCo  
BJ's  
Walgreen's  
Rite Aid  
CVS  
Aldi

Chametz may be purchased from all other stores from Lag B'Omer and on.

## 9) **Kashering and Shopping: Helpful Guides and Links**

There is a wealth of information available online from some of the major kashrus organizations that can serve as invaluable guides in all your preparation for Pesach.

[CRC Pesach Guide](#)

[OU Pesach Guide](#)

[Star-K Pesach Guide](#)

The CRC has two videos posted on its website that help provide a great deal of clarity in the process of kashering one's kitchen and in washing and checking romaine lettuce (always necessary, but particularly relevant in preparing marror for the Seder). These videos are the top two on the page at the following link. Scroll down on the page to view these and other helpful videos:

[CRC Videos – Lettuce Checking and Kitchen Kashering](#)

Equipment needed to perform proper lettuce checking is available on Amazon, including the thrip cloths utilized in the video at the above link.

Please click for a series of links at which the various products are available:

[Lettuce Checking Products](#)

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The frenzy of cleaning, kashering, and cooking in the weeks before Pesach tends to bring about an abundance of halachik concerns, questions, and uncertainties in its wake. Please know that I am available to provide you with whatever assistance and guidance possible. No question is too small; even a minor concern is worth clarifying if it will put your mind at ease and ensure an appropriate halachik standard. It is my honor and privilege to be of any assistance possible in the days and weeks leading up to Pesach.

Wishing you all a Chag Kasher v'Sameach,  
Rabbi Bienenfeld

**Delegation of Power of Attorney  
For Sale of Chametz (Leavened Products)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, [please *print* name] the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Jonathan Bienenfeld of the Young Israel of Cherry Hill, 817 Cooper Landing Road, Cherry Hill NJ 08002, to act on my behalf to sell 1) all *chametz* possessed by me (knowingly, or unknowingly) as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic law (e.g. doubt of *chametz*, and *chametz* mixtures), 2) any *chametz* that adheres to the surface of pots, pans, or cooking and usable utensils or mixtures thereof. I also empower the said Rabbi Bienenfeld to lease all places wherein the *chametz* owned by me may be found, especially in the premises located at:

Home 1 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where in the home will this Chametz be found?

Kitchen \_\_\_\_\_

Garage \_\_\_\_\_

Basement \_\_\_\_\_

Bathroom \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is the approximate value of the Chametz? \_\_\_\_\_

Home 2 Address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Approx. value \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Approx. value \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbi Bienenfeld has the full right to sell and lease by transactions, as he deems fit for such time that he believes necessary as explained in the general authorization contract to sell the *chametz*. Also, I hereby give the said Rabbi Bienenfeld full power and authority to appoint a substitute with full power to sell and lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah and Rabbinic regulations and laws and also in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey and the United States. And to this I hereby affix my signature on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be home for Pesach

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be away for Pesach. The key to my home will be left with:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_