

Adar 5780

Dear Friend:

The Torah ordains that one should neither own nor possess any chametz on Pesach. As such, one should make every effort to search his or her home before Pesach and dispose of all chametz. That chametz which is valuable, and whose disposal would entail a large financial loss (e.g., bottles of liquor) can be disposed of through the mechanism of sale to a non-Jew. One should not store chametz for the purpose of using it after Pesach (i.e., one should not freeze Challot and save them for after Pesach) as this can undermine the integrity of the sale.

In order to facilitate the sale of chametz, **the attached authorization contract should be completed and signed by the head of the household.** The items of chametz should be gathered and stored in one place which should be sealed off. The varieties and location of the chametz, as well as its approximate value, should be noted on the contract. Please note that it is better to underestimate the value of the chametz if one is unsure of the exact value. The chametz can be described generally (e.g., liquor, cosmetics, foodstuffs, etc.) If one owns chametz in any other location than one's primary residence (e.g., office, store, vacation home, etc.), this chametz must also be sold, and therefore its location and approximate value should be noted on the agreement.

Since the sale to the non-Jew is legal in all respects, the non-Jew must be assured complete access to the chametz, should he so desire. Therefore, *please indicate in the appropriate space the location of the key (same address, address of neighbor, etc.) controlling access to the chametz.* If one is home for Pesach, one may merely note "above address" for location of the key. There is no need to re-write one's home address.

After the contract has been completed, please return it to the Rabbi in person, at which time a second signature will be required on the general authorization agreement as well as a formal kinyan. Please do not mail the documentation to me as the kinyan should be performed in person and documents have been known to become lost in the mail (it has happened). And please do not wait until Erev Pesach morning to conduct the transaction, as you may arrive too late. (You know who you are.)

Those people who will be in Israel for Pesach must execute a different contract. That contract is included herein, the second attached form. I will, of course, be available to assist in completing the forms, to negotiate the sale, and to answer any other questions you might have regarding Pesach.

Karen and I extend to all of you our best wishes for a joyous and kosher Pesach.

Very truly yours,

Rabbi Steven Pruzansky