

Get Fired Up For Pesach

Bedikat Chametz: Searching for Leaven

Thursday Night, April 18, 2019

During the week prior to Pesach, the house should be cleansed thoroughly of chametz. Examine all closets, cabinets, and all other places where one might find chametz. Chametz dishes and kitchen utensils must be cleaned and stored away in such a manner that they cannot accidentally be used on Pesach. Check pockets of clothing, the glove compartment of your car, your office desk, etc. Any chametz found is to be put away and out of sight until the time prescribed for the burning of chametz, or put with the chametz to be sold. This thorough cleaning is spiritual catharsis. We move from the slavery of hard labor to the freedom of true cleanliness.

Chametz is understood by the Chasidic tradition to be our ego, the inflated self. Passover is a time for humility. You might think your house is clean, but check under the couch cushions and see!

On Thursday, after it gets dark, the final search should be done by the light of a single wick candle. Traditionally, a feather is used to brush the chametz into a wooden spoon. We'll have some kits free of charge for you at the shul. If you don't have either, don't worry, improvise! Place a number of pieces of chametz around the house before the search so you will be able to find some chametz after you recite the following blessing:



Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheynu Melech Ha'olam, Asher Kidshanu B'Mitzvotav V'Tzivanu Al Bi-ur Chametz.

“Blessed are You, ADONAI our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and has commanded us to remove the leaven.”