

Rabbi Sara Metz
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CONGREGATION ANSHEI ISRAEL

Serving the Jewish community of Southern Arizona since 1930

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Shalom,

Yes! Passover is coming! This year, Passover falls March 27 through April 4 – first Seder the evening of March 27. Some of us have already begun making plans, while others are having nightmares over those boxes of dishes which have to be moved. All of us, however, can make our festival celebration especially meaningful by participating in, two very important *mitzvot* associated with Passover.

MECHIRAT HAMETZ: SELLING OF THE HAMETZ

According to the Torah, Jews may neither eat nor own *hametz* (leavened foods) during the week of Passover.

Many *hametz* foods can be disposed of prior to Pesach. Some cannot without significant loss. This problem can be resolved by selling, according to an ancient formula, any *hametz* foods to a non-Jew, who is not obliged to observe the Holiday.

The *hametz* is sold with the understanding that the seller will not partake of it during the week of Pesach. The *hametz* technically becomes the property of the non-Jewish person. However, it remains on the seller's property, usually in a designated corner of the house or garage, "rented" to the non-Jewish person. The *hametz* is re-purchased immediately after Pesach for your continued use.

MA'OT HITTIM

In past generations each Jewish community maintained a special fund to provide flour for baking *matzah* for those in need. This fund, known as *ma'ot hittim* soon became an all-inclusive fund for distributing food and clothing at Pesach time.

As we remember what it means to be enslaved, so do we take upon ourselves the obligation to provide for the needs of the those enslaved by hunger, especially at this time of year.

I will accept the responsibility for helping you to sell your *hametz* and fulfill the *mitzvah* of *ma'ot hittim*. Please fill out the attached form and return it to Rabbi Metz before **Monday, March 22**.

Wishing you all a happy and kosher Pesach.

Rabbi Metz

Rabbi Sara Metz

I/we, _____ hereby authorize Rabbi Sara Metz or her designated representative to sell all *hametz* located on our premises:

Home Address _____ City _____

Business Address _____ City _____

I/we understand that this is a legal transaction and that I/we may not partake in these products during the week of Passover.

I/we understand that these products will be re-purchased for our use immediately after Passover.

Enclosed please find a check for \$ _____ made out to Congregation Anshei Israel in order to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *ma'ot hittim*.

Signature _____ Date _____