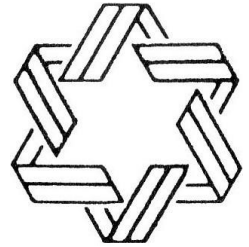


**Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center**

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March 2017  
Adar 5777

Dear Friends:

Of the many messages of *Purim*, one tends to speak loudest: *Pesah* is only a month away!

I do not mean to detract from the festivities of *Purim*, but *Pesah* is supposed to be joyous as well. As we approach Yom Tov, I hope to ease our path to freedom, at least in some logistical areas. Though I will be away for *Pesah* this year, I am putting everything in place so that we can all be ready.

- Many of us, no doubt, invite family and friends to the *seder*. If you are hosting a *seder* or two this year, please consider making yourself available to welcome others who may be in need of a place to celebrate this year. **Requests should be filtered through my office, and if you are in need of a place to go or are willing to host extra guests, please contact me by Thursday, April 6.**

- Not only are we forbidden from eating *hametz*, or leaven; we are not even permitted to own it. We traditionally try to use up our *hametz* before *Pesah*, but to avoid great financial hardship, the rabbis enabled us to sell our *hametz* to a non-Jew, to whom the prohibitions do not apply, for the duration of Passover.

In order to sell your *hametz*, you can appoint Cantor Zim as your agent and sign your name to our congregation's document of sale. Enclosed is a form for you to return so he can serve as your agent. You may sell your *hametz* even before your house is clean. **We are permitted to eat hametz up until precisely 10:45 on Monday morning, April 10.**

Though Cantor Zim intends to re-purchase the *hametz* on your behalf immediately after *Pesah*, it must be noted that this is a very real transaction. Even if you keep the *hametz* in a separate area on your property, the *hametz* belongs to someone else; so improper use of it during Passover is also considered stealing!

**The form for sale of *hametz* is enclosed. Cantor Zim must have it in hand by 10 AM on Monday, April 10 in order to include your *hametz* in the transaction.**

- More than ever before, Kosher-for-Passover products are available to us. Virtually everything is being produced and supervised! However, as we well know, these products can be expensive, and not everyone who wishes to buy them is able.

**Rabbi David Wise • Cantor Sol Zim • Rabbi Emeritus H. Joseph Simckes**  
**Co – Presidents:** Arthur J. Liederman • Joshua Sussman • Natalie Winter  
**Member United Synagogue of America**

One of the *mitzvot* of *Pesah* is *Ma'ot Hittin*--literally “money for wheat.” Jews have always taken care of one another, especially those in need of the basics for making Passover. I will be making a contribution to a variety of organizations that feed the hungry on Passover, as well as to those in our community who might need assistance. **I encourage you to return the enclosed form with your contribution to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund, and I will make my donation in your name.**

- The Chesed committee is also setting up two bins in the shul in advance of Yom Tov. One will be for kosher, non-perishable *hametz* food items, which will be donated to the American Martyrs Church food pantry. The last day for collection of *hametz* will be Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The second bin will be for kosher-for-Pesah food items, which will be distributed to needy Jews throughout Queens. The final day of the collection will be Thursday, March 30th. **We welcome you to join the Queens Jewish Community Council in packing and distributing kosher for *Pesah* food to the needy on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM at Ezra Academy, 119-45 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills, NY 11375, Lower Level.**

- Though Cantor Zim is not a *bekhor*, a first-born, he is sensitive to those of you who are *bekhorim*, and doesn’t want you to have to fast on *erev Pesah*. This year, the annual *siyyum* (completing a tractate of Talmud) takes place on Monday, April 10 at morning minyan, which begins at 6:30 a.m. And since an event as joyous as a *siyyum* must be marked with a *se’udat mitzvah*, a festive meal, Cantor Zim will gladly invite you to join him.

- I am available to answer questions pertaining to *Pesah* as it approaches. I am enclosing the updated Rabbinical Assembly’s Passover Guide to help get you started; it is newly updated, so read carefully. You’ll also find the text of the ceremony of ***Bedikat Hametz, the search for hametz, this year to be conducted on Sunday night, April 9, after dark. Those who wish to burn their hametz at the synagogue Monday morning should come to the 210<sup>th</sup> street entrance at 11:00 am.***

May we all have an easy preparation and a joyous *Pesah*--one that lives up to the joy of *Purim*!

*Hag kasher ve-sameah,*  
Rabbi David Wise