

PASSOVER CUSTOMS

The Rabbi will be the agent for the sale of your *Chametz* which can be done either by mail, email, or in person prior to Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:30 am in the morning. Please see the official form for selling *Chametz*. *Siyyum Bekhorim* for first born sons will take place this year on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:00 am after morning services. First born sons become exempt from the obligation to fast before Passover by attending the *Siyyum* at which a Jewish unit of study is completed. If you are interested in joining the online *Siyyum* please contact the Temple office asap.

The principle of Jewish law involved is that one who engages in one mitzvah – completing a book of study and celebrating with refreshments – is exempt from the simultaneous performance of another mitzvah – fasting.

OBSERVANCE

The ceremony of searching for and removing leaven (*Bedikat Chametz*) is to take place Tuesday, March 31, 2026 in the evening.

The Passover home atmosphere is created each year by the traditional practice of thoroughly cleaning the home in all its parts and by the removal of all *Chametz* prior to Passover, both at home and when away.

FOODS DURING PESACH FORBIDDEN FOR USE:

Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, peas and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

Temple Beth El
385 High St
Fall River, MA 02720

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

Jewish law prohibits owning or handling *Chametz* during Passover. Thus, all foods and beverages must either be consumed before erev Pesach (by Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 10:30 am), destroyed, or sold to a non-Jew. You can sell the *Chametz* by filling out the attached form and sending it back to me at the Temple by Wednesday, April 1, 2026 by 9:30 am (it must reach the Temple by then). If you wish to arrange for the sale of *Chametz* in person, the deadline is Wednesday, April 1, 2026 by 9:30 am. I will buy the *Chametz* back for you after the holiday is over on Thursday night, April 9, 2026 at 8:30 pm. This is a legal transaction and together with all the necessary Passover cleaning, will enable you to fulfill the Mitzvah of “Not having or seeing *Chametz* (in your possession).”

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and kosher Passover.

--Rabbi Mark Elber

(Please see below for the Official Form for Selling Chametz)

PASSOVER CUSTOMS (CONTINUED)

PERMITTED FOODS:

- a) Requiring no “Kosher for Passover” label: The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: natural coffee, sugar, vegetables (except peas and beans), string beans being permitted.
- b) Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Passover use are permitted in their frozen state.
- c) If certified Kosher for Passover use by a Rabbinical authority: Matzah, matzah flour, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, cheese, jams, jellies, vinegar, wines and liquors, kosher gelatin, relishes, salad oils, dried fruits, shortening – are permitted if Rabbinical authority indicates that these items of food have been manufactured and wrapped free from contact with *Chametz*. (Labels and tags marked “Kosher for Passover” are of no value unless they bear a Rabbinical seal.)

UTENSILS

Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used with the following exceptions:

- a) The silverware, knives, forks and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.
- b) Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking) if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.
- c) Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Passover. (A dishwasher machine may be used for Passover after thoroughly cleaning it and running it through one cycle empty.)

*Note: If you have any questions, please consult the Rabbi or check on the following website:
Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide*



OFFICIAL FORM FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, empower and permit Rabbi Mark Elber of Temple Beth El to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell all *Chametz* (leaven) and all products containing even the smallest percentage of *Chametz* possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein the above mentioned products owned by me may be found, especially premises located at:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Rabbi Mark Elber has the full right to sell and to lease the above by such transactions as he deems fit and proper for such time as he chooses. The authority which is hereby given is meant to be in conformity with the Torah and Rabbinic laws and regulations, and also to be in acceptance with the laws of the State of Massachusetts and of the United States of America.

To this I do hereby affix my signature on this _____ day of _____, 2026

Signature: _____