

## CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK INVITES YOU TO SHARE IN THREE SPECIAL MITZVOT AS YOU PREPARE FOR PASSOVER

Three special mitzvot are traditionally part of our Passover preparation. Congregation Shaarey Zedek extends the opportunity for you to share in these *mitzvot*, enhance your own Passover and help the needy in our community.

**Bedikat Chametz:** On Sunday, April 21, 2024, after dark, we search the house for any remaining chametz. This search, called *Bedikat Chametz*, is a powerful ritual which symbolizes not only cleansing our homes of leaven, but cleansing our souls of sin, temptation, and hubris. While incumbent upon everyone, this custom is especially meaningful for grandparents, parents, and children to perform together.

**Mekhirat Chametz:** Often, ridding our homes of all chametz products would entail a significant financial loss. For this reason, tradition permits Jews to “sell” their chametz food and all related dishes to a non-Jew for the duration of Passover. After Passover, ownership reverts to the Jewish seller. The “sold” items may remain behind closed, taped cabinet doors in your home during the holiday, out of sight and out of reach. We have enclosed a legal form which you may use to authorize Rabbi Aaron Starr to sell your chametz on your behalf. Please complete the form and mail it to the address provided. It is also available to print on the CSZ website.

***The Sale of Chametz form must be received no later than Wednesday, April 17, 2024.***

**Me'ot Chetim:** The term Me'ot Chetim is Hebrew for “wheat money.” It refers to the collection of funds to ensure that the needy can properly celebrate Passover. Traditionally, Jews contribute to Me'ot Chetim at the time they authorize the sale of their chametz. There are many needy families in our community who depend upon these funds to celebrate Passover. We strongly recommend you donate directly to Yad Ezra, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Federation, or the charity of your choice. Congregation Shaarey Zedek also welcomes donations.

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In addition to the above three *mitzvot*, here are other ways you may celebrate Passover with your CSZ family:

**Yom Tov Services:** We will gather in prayer every day of Passover, morning and night. Special services (in person and on streaming) are conducted the mornings of the first two days and the last two days of the holiday, and the eighth day of Pesach includes Yizkor.

May your Pesach (Passover) holiday be meaningful, joyful, educational, and uplifting.

