

Authorization to Sell Chametz

Nisan 5770 – March 2010

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* (leavened grain) during Pesach (Passover). If possible, all *chametz* – food not acceptable during Pesach, or materials containing such unacceptable food – should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the *chametz* may be stored in such a way that one is sure to not use it during the holiday. Its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends.

The transfer, *mekhirat hametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted *chametz*. If ownership of the *chametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *chametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well.

It is appropriate to make a gift of *tzedakah* when appointing an agent for the sale of *chametz*.

Please complete and return this form no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2010.

I, the undersigned, do hereby make and appoint Rabbi Joshua Berkenwald my true and lawful representative to act in my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein chametz owned may be found upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. This transaction will be in effect for the duration of Pesah, which this year begins with sundown of March 29, 2010 and runs through April 6, 2010.

And to this I hereby affix my signature on this _____ day of March in the year 2010.

Signature _____ Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Please submit this form promptly to:

**Congregation Sinai
1532 Willowbrae Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125-4450**