



LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF PESACH

BEDIKAT CHAMETZ: Search for Chametz

1. The Mitzvah to rid the house of Chametz, in preparation for Passover begins on Purim, 30 days before Pesach.
2. On the evening of the 13th of Nissan, Sunday, April 8th, right after dark, the house is to be checked thoroughly for Chametz, and any found is to be put in safekeeping for burning the following morning.
3. Before the search, the blessing "Al Biur Chametz" is recited. Following the search, "Kol Chamira" (found in the beginning of most Haggadahs) is said. This is a statement saying that the owner of the Chametz renounces ownership totally of any Chametz in his possession. It is not a prayer - the renunciation must be understood by the owner, so should be in English if one doesn't understand Aramaic.
4. There is a custom to place 10 pieces of bread around the house before beginning the search, so that if no Chametz is found, the blessing will not have been said in vain. However, the search is not merely a ceremony where these pieces of bread are collected. It is the final test to see how well the house was prepared for Passover.

"All Chametz and sour dough (leavening) in my possession which I have not seen and have not destroyed shall be considered nullified and ownerless to me, even as the dust of the earth."

EREV PESACH

This year on Mon. April 9th, , one may not eat Chametz after 11:06 A.M. and may not eat matzah the entire day-Erev Pesach.

BIUR CHAMETZ: Burning of the Chametz

On Erev Pesach morning, Wed., April 19 the Chametz should be burned before 12:23 P.M. . Immediately after, the Kol Chamira is said again, with a slight variation:

"All chametz and sour dough (leavening) in my possession, whether I have seen it or have not seen it, whether I have destroyed it or have not destroyed it, shall be considered nullified and ownerless to me, even as the dust of the earth."

This year, there will be a fire for burning of Chametz in the back yard of the Synagogue on the morning of Erev Pesach.