

PASSOVER GUIDE 2026/5786



Passover Preparation and Resources

Form for Sale of Hametz (Leavened Food)

Ma'ot Hittim (Charity for the Passover needs of those in need)

Schedule of Services, Activities, and Candle Lighting Times

Evening of

Wednesday April 1, 2026 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

PREPARING FOR PESAH (PASSOVER)

Dear B'nai Shalom,

The festival of Passover is soon approaching, and I look forward to celebrating another joyous festival with all of you. Passover is a time for celebration, reflection, and renewal. We look forward to this festival as it brings us together around the Seder table with family members and friends. Among the many things to come is the process of making things ready for our Passover celebration and observance, specifically in our homes. I have prepared a detailed guide on how to get ready for Passover in your home and in our community.

On these pages, you will find a number of items. I hope they will help you prepare for Pesah and enhance your Pesah Seders. Whether you are a "veteran" of Passover cleaning or a newcomer, I hope that the section on making your home kosher for Passover is helpful. If you have never tried cleaning for Passover or even considered doing the "change-over," I invite you to try a few new things for this year, adding a few additional changes from year to year.

Preparing for Passover is a journey for each of us. Please be in touch with any and all questions you may have.

I look forward to helping you craft a Pesah that is memorable and meaningful for you and your family and friends.

Hag Kasher V'Sameah, a Kosher and Happy Pesah!

Rabbi Daniel Stein

PASSOVER GUIDE AND RESOURCES

What follows is a general guideline. If you are making your home kosher for Passover for the first time or for the fifteenth time, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have: 925-934-9446 or rabbistein@bshalom.org. I am happy to speak with you and talk through this information with you as we work to create a plan for your Passover preparations.

The basis for the laws of Pesah come from the Torah in Exodus 12:15, where the Torah reads, "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day you shall remove *hametz* (leaven) from your houses." (Exodus 12:15). The rabbis specified five grains that can become *hametz*: wheat, oats, barley, spelt, and rye. Later Ashkenazi (Jews from Eastern Europe) authorities added other foods to the Pesah prohibitions¹. We 'make Pesah' by cleaning our homes of all traces of *hametz*, or leaven. We observe this holiday by carefully avoiding the use of *hametz* both at home and away. The term '*hametz*' is applied not only to foods, but also to the dishes and utensils in which foods are prepared or served during the year. These may not be used during Pesah, except as indicated below.

¹ A recent opinion of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards speaks to the prohibition of corn, rice, legumes and other foods known as *kitniyot*. *In order to bring down the cost of making Pesah and support the healthier diet that is now becoming more common, and given the inapplicability today of the primary concerns that seem to have led to the custom of prohibiting kitniyot, and further, given our inclination in our day to present an accessible Judaism unencumbered by unneeded prohibitions, more easily able to participate in the culture that surrounds us, we are prepared to rely on the fundamental observance recorded in the Talmud and codes and permit the eating of kitniyot on Pesah.*

WHAT FOODS ARE PROHIBITED DURING PASSOVER?

Prohibited foods include bread, cakes, biscuits, cereal, crackers, pasta, alcohol, and vinegar made from these five grains: wheat, barley, oats, spelt, and rye. Most Ashkenazi authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot: *see footnote on page 1*) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, and legumes, for example beans and peas (string beans are permitted). Most of these authorities also forbid chickpeas, peanuts, sesame seeds, and lecithin. Sephardi authorities and some Conservative rabbis permit the consumption of kitniyot on Passover.

Some legumes are permitted in a form other than their natural state, for example as oils. Some permitted oils: safflower, sunflower, cottonseed, and olive. Some include peanut oil in the list of acceptable oils. Sephardi (Jews from Spain, Portugal, and Northern Africa) authorities permit the use of all the above plus other oils. All oils require certification.

Today there are many products that come from Israel that are marked “Kosher for Passover” but include kitniyot. If it is your custom to avoid kitniyot, carefully check the labeling on Israeli products.

WHAT FOODS ARE PERMITTED DURING PASSOVER?

During the eight days of Pesah, *hametz* cannot lose its identity when mixed with other ingredients. Therefore, the smallest amount of *hametz* renders the whole mixture *hametz* and its use on Pesah is prohibited. However, during the rest of the year, *hametz* follows the normal halakhic (Jewish legal) rules of mixtures, i.e. it loses its identity in a mixture of one-part *hametz* and sixty parts of non-*hametz* (*batel b'shishim*). This allows us to differentiate between foods purchased before and during Pesah.

Note: Over the last few years, because of changes in how foods are processed, there have been some changes to this list. The following fresh and unprocessed foods require no “Kosher l’Pesah” label certifying that it is kosher for Passover **when purchased before or during Pesah**:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables (for exceptions see below)
- Eggs
- Kosher fish and meat (ground meat requires certification)

The following items require **no “kosher l’Pesah” label if permitted during the year and purchased before Pesah**. They must remain in an unopened package. **During Pesah, these products require a “kosher l’Pesah” label**. My advice is to buy these items before Passover starts!

- Milk
- Frozen, uncooked, fruit with no additives
- Frozen fruit juices with no additives
- Sugar, un-iodized salt, and unprocessed whole spices
- Baking soda
- Tea – unflavored, non-herbal, and non-decaffeinated
- Olive oil, peanut oil, coconut oil
- Cocoa – 100% pure, no additives
- Regular coffee – unflavored, non-decaffeinated
- 100% almond flavor, 100% hazelnut flavor

- Canned fish packed in water only
- Detergents and soaps

The following processed foods require a **“Kosher l’Pesah” label if purchased before or during Pesah**:

- Baked products including matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah
- Fruit juices - canned or bottled
- Wine, liquor, vinegar, ketchup
- All other oils and margarine
- Dried fruits, candy, chocolate milk
- Ice cream, yogurt, sour cream, hard cheeses, and other dairy products
- Soda
- Decaffeinated or flavored coffees and teas
- Frozen, uncooked, vegetables with no additives (These may be produced on the same machine as pasta mixtures)
- Confectioner’s Sugar
- Quinoa

WHAT ABOUT BAKED GOODS?

Few bakeries bake Kosher for Pesah items. Signs indicating “Passover Products” or “Passover Style” are not acceptable. Bakeries that are kosher during the remainder of the year are not necessarily acceptable on Pesah. All bakeries require certification by a rabbi that the products are prepared under supervision.

It is also important to note that Jewish law forbids the purchase immediately after Pesah of bread, which has been baked by Jews. It also forbids eating bread that was the property of Jews during Pesah. For this reason, bakeries, stores, and individuals who store hametz over Pesah sell their hametz for the duration of the holiday. (To sell your hametz, please see the form in this packet.)

DO MEDICINES NEED KOSHER L’PESAH LABELS?

Since hametz binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed:

- If the medicine is required for life-sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah.
- If it is not for life-sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit.
- If available, capsules are preferable.

Before discontinuing any medication consult your doctor. Rabbi Stein is available to provide further clarification.

WHY DO STORES USE SPECIAL PESAH LABELS?

No product can be used on Pesah unless it is accompanied by a reliable “Kosher l’Pesah” label and endorsement by a rabbi whose name and location is clearly stated. A label reading simply “For Passover” and adorned with Jewish symbols is not reliable especially if not integral to the package. These guidelines do not cover every situation. Please feel free to call or email Rabbi Stein if any questions arise about permitted foods and/or food labeling.

HOW DO I MAKE UTENSILS AND DISHES KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

It is best to use dishes and utensils specially reserved for Pesah. If you wish to kasher (make Kosher) certain utensils or dishes, the first step is always cleaning. If it can't be cleaned - it can't be kashered! The term 'kashering' refers to the process by which certain utensils are made fit for Pesah use. **New dishes and utensils need not be kashered before Pesah.**

At least 24 hours after using the utensil, you may begin the kashering process.

1. Pots made wholly of metal can be kashered by filling them to the rim with water, bringing the water to a boil, and causing the water to flow over the sides of the pot. Handles and lids should be immersed in boiling water also. Teflon and porcelain enamel pots cannot be kashered.
2. Silverware, knives, forks, spoons, and small pots made wholly of metal can be kashered by a thorough scouring, a fifteen-second immersion in boiling water, and a cold-water rinse. The kashering pot should be kashered before and after it is used (See above).
3. Hard plastic utensils that are not scratched and can withstand boiling water can be kashered in the same way as silverware.
4. Table glassware is kashered by soaking for 72 hours. (Change the water after every 24- hour period)
5. Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Pesah.
6. Chinaware, enamelware, earthenware, and porcelain cannot be kashered. Fine translucent china can sometimes be kashered. Speak to the Rabbi for details.
7. Pyrex used for cooking cannot be kashered. All other Pyrex can be kashered as glassware.
8. Dishtowels and tablecloths can be kashered by washing with soap. Washing machines are an acceptable means of cleaning towels and tablecloths.
9. Utensils used with fire or heat but without water (for example, pans and spits) can be kashered with a blowtorch. While the utensil should be cleaned, there is no need to wait 24 hours after the last use. Heat all surfaces of the utensil until glow.

HOW CAN I KASHER MY APPLIANCES AND SURFACES?

1. Refrigerators and freezers should be defrosted, cleaned, and scoured. Include all walls, shelves, and baskets. Some people cover shelves with shelf paper or foil during Pesah. (Make sure to allow for good air circulation in refrigerator)
2. Ovens and ranges should be scrubbed and cleaned. Include every part that comes in contact with food and all surfaces.
 - After cleaning, heat oven and range as hot as possible for forty minutes. If there is a broil setting, use it. Continuous cleaning ovens are kashered in the same way as regular ovens.
 - Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Scrub areas that were not cleaned in this process (glass window for example) and then heat as hot as possible for forty minutes.
 - Cover the area around the stovetop burners with aluminum foil if possible.
 - Glass-topped ranges can be kashered by cleaning thoroughly using special products intended for use on these ranges (e.g. EasyOff) and then heat as hot as possible for forty minutes.

3. Microwave ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned. Place a glass of water in the oven and run on "High" until the cavity fills with steam and the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be koshered for Pesah. Kasher the glass/Pyrex revolving tray like glassware or remove it for Passover. Kosher microwave/convection ovens like a regular oven (see above).
4. Electrical appliances: If the parts that come into contact with *hametz* are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (for example, if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned. If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. Toaster ovens cannot be kashered.
5. Dishwashers: Stainless-steel dishwashers can be kashered by cleaning the filter at the bottom, running through two complete cycles with soap and replacing the racks. Some authorities maintain that porcelain or plastic lined dishwashers can be kashered in the same way. Some authorities suggest that kosher for Passover racks are not necessary.
6. Tabletops, shelves, and pantry or kitchen surfaces that are used during the year should be thoroughly cleaned and scoured before placing Pesah utensils on them. It is a prevalent custom that all such surfaces be covered during the entire week of Pesah. You can use heavy shelf paper, heavy foil or plastic cloth to cover all surfaces. Some countertops are made of materials that can be kashered and not covered: metal, stone, and certain other materials. Please consult Rabbi Stein with specific questions.
7. Shelves for Pesah dishes should be thoroughly cleaned and covered. An additional benefit of the custom of covering surfaces is that it is a visual way of reminding everyone in the house that Pesah is a different time of year.
8. Kitchen sinks: Kasher metal sinks by a thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over all surfaces. Porcelain sinks cannot be kashered. Thoroughly clean all surfaces and use a sink rack. If dishes will be soaked in a porcelain sink, use a dish basin.
9. *Hametz*, non-Pesah utensils, dishes, and pots whose ownership has been transferred, should be separated, locked up, or covered and marked to prevent accidental use.

PESAH RESOURCES ON THE WEB

For an in-depth description of various Passover customs and laws, lists of kosher for Passover products, lists of products that are kosher for Passover without certification, and other useful information please look at the following sites:

Conservative Movement's Rabbinical Assembly Passover Guide:

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/jewish-law/kashrut/pesah-guide>

Star K Passover Resources: <https://www.star-k.org/passover>

Passover Schedule of Services, Activities, and Candle Lighting Times

All services will be held at Congregation B'nai Shalom

Wednesday, APRIL 1/ 14 NISAN

9:00 am Siyum B'khorim (in-person and online via Zoom)

*The **siyyum b'khorim** is designed for those who are first-born in their families. They are traditionally required to fast on the eve of Pesah in sympathy for the first-born Egyptians who perished during the tenth plague when the Israelites went free from Egypt. However, one may break that fast in order to participate in a feast celebrating the completion of a major portion of Jewish literature, so it has become traditional to celebrate such a completion that morning. There will be a short period of study, followed by a small "feast" which can be attended by anyone, regardless of birth order. Note: If you are fasting, the fast begins at 5:04am (dawn).*

10:40 am Last time to eat Hametz

11:57 am Mekhirat & Bi'ur Hametz: Sell and Burn Hametz before this time

Bi'ur hametz is the ritual of burning any last hametz found in the house during bedikat hametz from the preceding night. The procedure can be found at the beginning of the Haggadah.

*If you are having Rabbi Stein **sell your hametz**, please return the form by 10am today.*

7:13 pm Candle lighting at home

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 / 15 NISSAN – FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

9:30 am Passover Morning Services

6:00 pm Community Passover Seder

8:12 pm Candle lighting at home

For details of the specifics of candle lighting, Havdalah, and timing for your seder on a Saturday night, please refer to <https://www.exploringjudaism.org/holidays/passover/how-to-observe-passover/what-do-we-do-differently-at-a-saturday-night-seder/>

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 / 16 NISAN – SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER

9:30 am Festival Services

6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Services

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 / 17 NISSAN

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 / 20 NISAN – EVENING OF SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER

7: 19 pm Candle lighting at home

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 / 21 NISAN – SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER

9:30 am Festival Morning Services

8:18 pm Candle lighting at home

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 / 22 NISAN – EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER

9:30 am Festival Morning Services

11:00 am *approximate* Yizkor service

8:18 pm Passover ends [New Hametz may be eaten]

If Rabbi Stein was your agent in the sale of hametz, please only eat new hametz until Friday morning.

Hag Kasher V'Sameah! A Kosher and Happy Passover!



SELLING YOUR HAMETZ – MEKHIRAT HAMETZ – PASSOVER 2026/5786

WHAT?

Jewish law prohibits Jews from using or legally possessing any hametz (leavened food) during Pesah. To ensure compliance with this norm, we may transfer title on any remaining hametz to a non-Jew. This hametz becomes the property of the non-Jew for the duration of Pesah and should be set-aside in a place where it will not be disturbed during the holiday. Rabbi Daniel Stein will be pleased to act as your agent for this transaction by selling it along with the hametz of Congregation B'nai Shalom.

HOW?

If you would like Rabbi Stein to sell your hametz, **please complete the following form and either email it to: rabbistein@bshalom.org [HAMETZ in the subject line] or return it to the synagogue office by 11:30am on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.** The hametz will be sold that morning, Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Please note that it is permissible for one person to sell the hametz on behalf of their entire family. However, to teach the importance of this mitzvah (commandment), all members of the household are encouraged to sign this form. If you have any questions, please call Rabbi Stein: 925-934-9446 X 108.

MA'OT HITTIM: Helping Those In Need:

Before Passover, it is customary to give charity called, *Ma'ot Hittim*, (literally "Wheat Money"). This money goes to assist individuals and families in need, here and abroad, and to enable them to celebrate the holiday. A contribution enclosed with this form will be divided among two sources at B'nai Shalom. We will use funds collected to support our communal second Seder. Additional funds will be distributed by the Tikkun Olam committee to support local and national needs.

WHEN?

Completed forms must be returned to the B'nai Shalom Office no later than **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 11:30am**. Rabbi Stein will make sure that all hametz will be sold before Passover. The Rabbi cannot be responsible for forms that arrive after this date and time.

Please note that Rabbi Stein will arrange a post-Pesah hametz "buy back" for Fri., April 10, 2026, at 9:00am. One should not use or unpack their hametz before then.

AUTHORIZATION OF PROXY 5786

We/I hereby authorize Rabbi Daniel Stein to sell all *hametz* that may be in our/my possession. We/I understand that she will sell all *hametz* wherever it may be: at home, in my place of business, car or elsewhere, in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish law.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Hebrew Name: _____

(Please feel free to write in Hebrew or in Transliteration. Please contact the rabbi if you need assistance.)

Home Address: _____

Additional Names/Addresses: [You may use the back if necessary]

Please email or return this proxy to the synagogue office no later than Wednesday, April 1 at 11:30am.



Community Passover Seder

Thursday, April 2

@6:00pm

*Presented by Congregation B'nai Shalom, CBS Men's Club
& Women of B'nai Shalom*

Join us for our Second Night Passover Seder, led by
Rabbi Daniel Stein & Hazzan Sandy Bernstein
Catering by Oakland Kosher Foods

Early Bird: \$54 (until March 23)

Regular Price: \$64 (after March 23)

Patron Tier: \$72*

Oakland Kosher Foods
Glatt Kosher • The Healthy Choice!

OKF



**supports seder meal for those in need, and includes recognition at the event*

Kids (age 6-12): \$20; Kids under 6: Free

RSVP to 925-934-9446

office@bshalom.org

Please give advance notice of vegan/vegetarian
requirement by March 27

You may bring your own kosher for Pesach wine if you desire

If you need financial assistance to attend, reach out
directly to Rabbi Daniel Stein.

Congregation

B'nai Shalom



**Annual Tikkun Olam Fundraiser
Providing Passover Basics to
East Bay Seniors**

**Donations of any amount
gratefully accepted**

**Questions? Please contact
office@bshalom.org**

**Please earmark your donation to
Tikkun Olam Passover Fund
Mail your check to the synagogue office or email
nthrowe@bshalom.org
or [click here](#) to make your donation**



**JEWISH FAMILY &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
EAST BAY**



**Congregation
B'nai Shalom**





כָּל דֹּכָפִין – יִיתִי וְיִיכַל, כָּל דְּצָרִיךְ – יִיתִי וְיִפְסַח

All those who are hungry, let them enter and eat.
All who are in need, let them come celebrate the Passover.

Do you have a place to go for seder?
Do you have extra space at your table?

Please contact the office and let us know either way. We will match those with space to those with needs and help to make sure everyone has a seat at the seder table. Call the office at 925-934-9446 or email office@bshalom.org.



Congregation B'nai Shalom ~ 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 ~ 925-934-9446 ~ bshalom.org