

CONGREGATION EZRA BESSAROTH
5217 S. BRANDON STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98118
(206) 722-5500
office@ezrabessaroth.net

Membership Application

Welcome to our family. We hope you enjoy the benefits of membership at the Ezra Bessaroth.

EARLY HISTORY OF CONGREGATION EZRA BESSAROTH

The first of our congregation to make the journey from Turkish Island of Rhodes to Seattle was Nessim Alhadeff (1904). Within three years all of his brothers and others followed him. By 1909 the first steps at formal organization were taken. Moved by the leadership of Haim DeLeon, the original group of Rhodeslis formed (Succoth 1909) the KOUPA OZER DALIM ANSHE RHODES - (the fund for the aid of the poor, people of Rhodes) with Solomon Alhadeff as President, Nessim Alhadeff as Treasurer and Harry Franco as Secretary. Funds were raised from within the group and were sent to the needy Jewish community of Rhodes.

Following some disagreement between some of the members, Rabbi Samuel Koch of Temple De Hirsch mediated the differences at the home of Asher Cohen. Rabbi Koch managed to achieve a positive result with his mediation and he prevailed upon the small group to reunite (1912), under the name of KOUPA EZRA BESSAROTH OF RHODES. The name EZRA BESSAROTH (a help in time of need) is based on a verse in Psalms (46: 2) "G-d is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Marco Franco was elected president of this reunited group.

Articles of Incorporation with the state of Washington were filed in June 19, 1914. Solomon Alhadeff served as the first President of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth the official name under the Articles of Incorporation. Dues were set at 25 cents a month. Counting on your generosity, we will be asking you for a bit more.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES AND OBSERVANCE

Congregation Ezra Bessaroth was founded in the early years of the 20th century as a charitable organization. The congregation maintains its Sephardic character and traditions in worship and life. Shabbat and holiday services are still conducted similar to the way they were in Rhodes, a mixture of Hebrew, Ladino and now English, all the while maintaining the tunes and liturgy of our past.

TuB'shevat, Purim, Yom Ha'atzmaut, and Hanukkah celebrations for the entire family have gained the recognition of the larger community, which attend en masse.

The synagogue offers a great variety of classes for all everyone in the family. Please review the newsletter and bulletin, and Ladino classes which keep the traditional language of Sephardim alive.

One of Ezra Bessaroth's greatest assets is the Ladies Auxiliary, which runs the Purim Bazaar and maintains the Ladino and Sephardic delicacies for all of us and our children. They are also responsible for teaching the traditional Sephardic recipes to families. Ezra Bessaroth is known for its hospitality committee which welcomes visitors and takes care of those in need. Although our synagogue is Sephardic in orientation, Ezra Bessaroth welcomes all Jews.

SEPHARDIC RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The Sephardic Religious School is jointly supported by Congregation Ezra Bessaroth and the Sephardic Bikur Holim. Classes are held at the Mercer Island Jewish Community Center.

SEPHARDIC ADVENTURE CAMP & DAY CAMP

Sephardic Adventure Camp is a two-three week overnight camp held in late June – early July for 3rd graders and up. Sephardic Day Camp is held the first three weeks in August for grades pre-K-6th. Both camps are supported jointly by Congregation Ezra Bessaroth and Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregations.

BAR & BAT MITZVAH TRAINING

Training for Bar Mitzvah (boys) is conducted by our Hazzan and Rabbi and is included in your membership. The Hazzan or Rabbi offers a one year Bar Mitzvah training program that will instruct the Bar Mitzvah candidate in Shabbat services, Torah Perasha, Tephillin, etc. The Rabbi offers a rich six-month Bat Mitzvah training program that equips girls with knowledge and strong ties to traditions that help organize the Bat Mitzvah ceremonies in an exciting and Orthodox manner. For Bat Mitzvah training and celebrations, contact the Rabbi. We encourage participation by the girls and are attempting to make their experience as robust and memorable as possible.

WEB SITE

To learn more about the benefits of membership and more about our community, please visit our website www.ezrabessaroth.net .

DUES

Basic Annual Dues for Congregation Ezra Bessaroth begin at around **\$2,000** per member/family and include High Holiday seats. However, many members have assumed dues above the basic annual dues based on their income and desire to support the synagogue. Members experiencing financial hardships may request an adjusted dues schedule, based on their income, from the dues committee by attaching a letter of request with this application or later sending the letter to the synagogue office with attention to the Treasurer. These requests will be held in the strictest confidence.

For those who are currently members of a different congregation and would like to also be a member of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth to enjoy our liturgy, customs and hospitality, we have an Associate Membership category with dues at **\$1000** per family and include High Holiday seats. The Associate Membership category is for those who are members at another synagogue or live out of town. Certain services are not provided (fee-free Bar Mitzvah & Weddings, member rental rates, etc) for members of this category.

CONGREGATION EZRA BESSAROTH
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Check one below:

I am applying for **Basic membership** **Co-Membership** of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth
The following Ezra Bessaroth Member suggested I apply for membership _____

Applicant's Name: _____ **DOB:** _____
(Maiden name if applicable)

Father's Name: _____ Mother's (Maiden) Name: _____

Hebrew Name: _____ Mother's Hebrew Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Fax #: _____ Email: _____

Occupation & Company: _____ Work Phone: _____

Check One: Kohen Levi Yisrael

If convert to Judaism, please answer:

1. Date of Conversion: _____

2. Place: _____

3. Beth Din: _____

Check One: Single: Married: Divorced: Widow:

Date of Marriage: _____ Place of Marriage: _____

Rabbi Officiating: _____

Co-Applicant's Name: _____ **DOB:** _____
(Maiden name if applicable)

Father's Name: _____ Mother's (Maiden) Name: _____

Hebrew Name: _____ Mother's Hebrew Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Fax #: _____ Email: _____

Occupation & Company: _____ Work Phone: _____

If convert to Judaism, please answer:

1. Date of Conversion: _____

2. Place: _____

3. Beth Din: _____

It is important that all of the information above be complete. All applications must be reviewed by the Rabbi of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth prior to processing. Questions? Call 206-722-5500.

Member Signature

Date

The following may be completed following processing of application. More children? Add a sheet.
CHILDREN (regardless of age):

1st Child's Name	Hebrew Name
_____	_____
Birthday	School Grade
_____	_____
Name of School	

2nd Child's Name	Hebrew Name
_____	_____
Birthday	School Grade
_____	_____
Name of School	

3rd Child's Name	Hebrew Name
_____	_____
Birthday	School Grade
_____	_____
Name of School	

4th Child's Name	Hebrew Name
_____	_____
Birthday	School Grade
_____	_____
Name of School	

5th Child's Name	Hebrew Name
_____	_____
Birthday	School Grade
_____	_____
Name of School	

Are you willing to host singles or families (circle one or both) who might need a host over Shabbat? Is your home kosher?

Who else do you know that might be interested in joining the Ezra Bessaroth?

Name	Phone	E-Mail
_____	_____	_____

May we call them and use your name? _____

Do you have adult children who might be interested in joining? _____

MELDADO INFORMATION

(Please list so office can send you yearly notification of observance & service time)

Name of Deceased

Deceased Hebrew Name

Mother's Hebrew Name

English Date of Death

Hebrew Date

Before/After Sundown

Relationship to Member

Name of Deceased

Deceased Hebrew Name

Mother's Hebrew Name

English Date of Death

Hebrew Date

Before/After Sundown

Relationship to Member

Name of Deceased

Deceased Hebrew Name

Mother's Hebrew Name

English Date of Death

Hebrew Date

Before/After Sundown

Relationship to Member

Name of Deceased

Deceased Hebrew Name

Mother's Hebrew Name

English Date of Death

Hebrew Date

Before/After Sundown

Relationship to Member

Attach a separate page for any additional Meldathos for which you wish to be notified.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

SYNAGOGUE COMMITTEES

Please indicate if you would like to be involved with any of the following committees by circling the appropriate committee name. We want you to participate. This is also an effective way to develop relationships with members of the community and other congregants.

ADULT EDUCATION & PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Congregation Ezra Bessaroth provides lectures, classes and various social events. In addition to proposing the nature of the programs, the Adult Education & Program Committee is responsible for the booking and running these events.

YOUTH PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Promote activities for youth to contribute to their knowledge of Jewish tradition, respect for Jewish religion and their participation in wholesome social activities. Coordinate all youth activities of the Congregation and coordinates NCSY activities with CEB youth. This committee also has overall responsibility for Sephardic Adventure Camp & other day camps. This is a seasonal sub-committee that has great challenges and fun. It works with Sephardic Bikur Holim to fill the positions of Camp Director and counselors, strives to include all children who wish to attend camp, arranges for financial support, and secures and appropriate camp site.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for making recommendations and carrying out policies of the Board with respect to religious schooling. This committee is also a focal point for EB to all other Jewish Religious Schools in the Seattle area.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

This Committee is dedicated to mitzvot. When a member is hospitalized, the Hospitality Committee sends flowers. When a new mother returns home with her baby, the Committee provides a hot meal for the family. If a visitor requests lodging over Shabbat, the Committee tries to find a host family.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This Committee seeks and interviews potential new members, providing them pertinent information regarding Ezra Bessaroth, and presents their names to the Board for membership approval. This committee also looks for ways to cultivate and maintain current members. Recommend new programs and events to involve general membership with EB.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The House Committee is responsible for the structural health of the synagogue, all building alterations and improvements, as well as regular maintenance issues.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

All membership dues and annual budget are initially discussed and established by the Finance committee, which then presents their proposals to the Board of directors for approval.

RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE

The Religious Committee is the keeper of the traditions of Ezra Bessaroth, and works with our Rabbi to determine protocol where there is a question.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Please indicate if and how you would like to participate in any of the following regular synagogue activities. Also, please indicate which member of your family would be interested by writing their name after the appropriate activities:

Adult Education and Programming _____

Adult Religious Study _____

Seuda Shlishit * _____

Men's High Holiday Choir _____

Social Event Planning _____

Fundraising Campaigns _____

Hosting Out-Of-Town Visitors for Shabbat _____

Distributing Meals for Infirm members _____

Community Outreach _____

Care for the Cemetery (Sephardic Brotherhood) _____

Baking with the Ladies Auxiliary _____

Purim Bazaar _____

Seniors Programs, such as Lunch & Lashon ** _____

Sephardic Cultural Enrichment (History/Food/Language) _____

Youth Activities, Regularly scheduled or Holiday Events _____

Summer Camps, Overnight or Day Camp _____

Volunteer (Maintenance, Repairs or Office Work) _____

Other _____

Please list any skills or talents you would like to share with the synagogue (eg: music, art, previous experience, professional abilities) _____

* Saturday evenings, between Mincha and Arvit, the synagogue hosts a Seuda Shlishit light meal.

** Lunch and Lashon is a hugely popular community lunch for seniors, held monthly.