

THE SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION OF NEWTON



*Join Our Family of Friends
and Neighbors...*

556 Ward Street
PO Box 590315
Newton Centre, Mass. 02459
Tel: 617-244-9643
Fax: 617-663-6424

E-mail: info@sephardic-newton.org

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Newton Centre, MA 02459

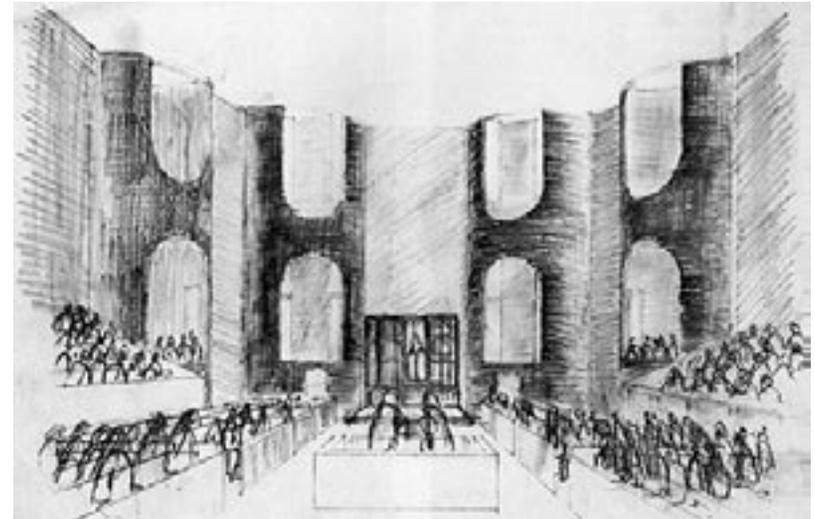
Introducing...

The Sephardic Congregation of Newton

Two Sephardim met after *Kol Nidre* in 1987 and bemoaned the state of prayer in Boston. “It needs to be sung,” said they, “the way we were brought up.” From such beginnings did the Sephardic Congregation of Newton begin a journey that led from services twice a month to weekly to full participation in the Sephardic liturgy, including the songs of *selichot*, the early morning prayers that trumpet the High Holiday season. We would like to inspire you to join us in the new holiday season of the year 5766 and beyond, as we grow toward a full-service congregation providing for all the needs and life milestones of our community.

First, a little bit about us. From two to 10 to a growing congregation of 35 families the Congregation has expanded since 1987. It is the first congregation of the Sephardic rite (Jews of Spanish and Middle Eastern origin) to be established in Newton, following the establishment of sister Sephardic congregations in neighboring Brookline. Early members prayed in the Brookline synagogues but soon were numerous enough to stay together in Newton. We have been fortunate to be able to hold our services at Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel, the congregation that opened its doors to us and that we have called home for nearly 20 years.

Early members were James Kugel, Simon Levy, and Houchangue Toubian, the initial driving forces. They were joined quickly by Elias Cohen, Suleiman Mizrahi, and Michel Maman. All came from Middle Eastern and North African countries. Robert Soll and Simon Laskey, Newtonites, also joined at an early time. When the



“ועשו לי מקדש ושכנתי בתוכם” שמות כה, ה.

“Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them!” — EXODUS 25, 8

*Please complete the form below indicating your Dedication choices, and mail with your contribution in an envelope. Contact any member of the Steering Committee if you have questions. Make checks payable to **The Sephardic Congregation of Newton**. Thank you. Your generosity makes our congregation possible.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dedication Item 1: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Dedication Item 2: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Dedication Item 3: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

OUR NEW HOME. Happily, the congregation opens the next chapter, on the brink of a new adventure, the establishment of its own home across the street from Beth-El. Our friends and benefactors Helene and Edmund Shamsi helped to purchase property at 556 Ward St. to be converted into synagogue space and renovations have begun. See the List of Dedication Items and join us as we complete two wonderful mitzvot, the building project and the consecration of our new synagogue.

על שלשה דברים העולם עומד:

על התורה ועל העבודה ועל
גמילות חסדים.

“THE WORLD RESTS ON THREE FOUNDATIONS:
STUDY OF TORAH, PRAYER, AND ACTS OF LOVING
KINDNESS”
(*PERKE AVOT: WISDOM OF OUR FOREBEARS*)

SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION OF NEWTON STEERING COMMITTEE

Abraham Golshirazian	516-805-0854	joshpckg@aol.com
Simon Levy	617 244-9643	sefarad92@yahoo.com
Alain Mizrahi-Arnaud	617-527-1066	aarnaud@gmail.com
Ralph Philosophe	617-332-9064	rphilosophe@SturdyMemorial.org
Ruthy Philosophe	617-332-9064	Philosophe@rcn.com
Houchang Toubian	617 969-7282	htoubian@aol.com

congregation reached the power of 10 it began meeting for weekly Shabbat services. Observance of the holidays followed soon after. In this time span, the congregation has been involved in helping many Sephardic institutions in Boston: on the occasion of ‘Sepharad 500,’ in 1992, the congregation memorialized the 500 years since expulsion from Spain with lecture series and sent its leader to be part of the Jewish Community Relations Council commemoration committee. Throughout its history the congregation has organized Sephardic events and food tastings such as *Mimouna*, welcoming the blend of cultural traditions in Boston. True to the ‘melting pot,’ members joined the congregation whose spouses are not Sephardic but all found a place to pray under the umbrella of Beth-El in the Boston Jewish community.

The first task was raising funds to purchase Sephardic prayer books followed soon by the commissioning of works of art in velvet to adorn the Ark and reader’s desk. Its first *Bat-Mitzvah* was that of Melanie Sarah Levy and its first wedding, Sharona Mizrahi and David Nahoumi. Renovations of the Beth-El chapel were undertaken in 1996, with Sephardic *Sefer Torahs*, wooden scrollwork, and Persian rugs, while bigger space was sought time and again to accommodate High Holiday attendance surpassing 100 people.

Every member’s story is unique. You could say that each has re-lived the Sephardic path in each and every life with the common thread the desire to carry on a heritage in danger of being lost in corporate America. Considering Sephardic history as a trail of tears—happy and sad—cupped by the bowl of the Mediterranean Sea, members of the Sephardic Congregation of Newton have flowed from all sides of the bowl. Today the congregation is a big family with roots in Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Israel, Canada, France, Egypt, Yemen, and Turkey.

LIST OF DEDICATION ITEMS

Take a moment to consider how the new synagogue is being constructed. The dedication list that follows contains the flourishes that will stamp our building with its own character, in keeping with the style of the synagogues that our members cherish from the cities and countries of their birth. The reader's desk is toward the center of the room. The Torah scrolls will be housed in a fireproof safe encased in lovely woodworking by a renowned cabinetmaker, who also is engaged to build the reader's desk and the *Mechitsah*. The backdrop is of Jerusalem stone, recalling the Western Wall. The members of the congregation sit in a semicircle around the reader's desk.

You are invited to participate in bringing our building to fruition by dedicating these items.

<u>Dedication</u>	<u>Proposed Offering(\$)</u>	<u>Dedication</u>	<u>Proposed Offering(\$)</u>
Naming of the New Synagogue	Reserved	Parochet #1	Reserved
The Main Sanctuary	Reserved	Parochet #2	Reserved
The Main Heichal	Reserved	Parochet #3	Reserved
Sefer Torah, ea	52,000.00	Set of Talmud for the Library	3,600.00
The Social Hall	50,000.00	Light Fixture Over Bimah	3,600.00
Library Room	36,000.00	Name Plate - Sponsors, each	2,600.00
Bimah (Reader's Desk)	36,000.00	Set of Mishnayot for the Library	1,800.00
The Main Kitchen	30,000.00	Bimah Cover, each	1,800.00
Ner Tamid - Eternal Light	18,000.00	Name Plate - Chai Club, each	1,800.00
Memorial Plaque Frame	18,000.00	Main Entrance Mezuzah	1,800.00
Jerusalem Stone Mizrach Wall	Reserved	Stationary Menorah in the Sanctuary	1,800.00
Kitchen Appliances	10,000.00	Menorah for Hannukah	1,800.00
Name Plate - Founders	10,000.00	Main Sanctuary - Bookcases	1,800.00
Books for the Library	5,200.00	Tallit Cabinets/ Racks	1,800.00
Mechitsah	5,200.00	Garden Bench, ea	1,800.00
Tile on Major Gift Wall, each	5,200.00	Mezuzahs, each (12)	260.00
Sukkah	5,200.00	Memorial Plaque, each	180.00
Netilat Yadayim Station	5,200.00	Chumash, art scroll, ea (30)	101.00
Framed Color Prayer - Modim Derabanan	5,200.00	Main Sanctuary Chairs, each (100)	101.00
Framed Color Prayer - Menorah	5,200.00	Tables, each (6)	101.00
Framed Color Prayer - Berich Shemah	5,200.00	Social Hall Chairs, each (50)	52.00