

BEIT SASSON

THE SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION OF NEWTON

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Message from *Beit Sasson*'s President

August 2025

Dear Members and Friends of *Beit Sasson*,

As we approach the New Year, we take a moment to reflect with gratitude on all that our community has accomplished together and to look forward with hope and determination to the year ahead.

This past year was filled with growth and blessings. Under the leadership of Rabbi Simhi, we successfully completed our Family Learning Program on Motzaei Shabbat during the winter, and enhanced the Teen Minyan services, milestones that enrich the lives of our youngest members and deepen their connection to our heritage. In addition, we remodeled our second and third floors, creating beautiful new spaces including a Beit Midrash, Library, Study Room, and an office for the Rabbi. These rooms now serve as centers for learning, prayer, and community—an investment in the spiritual future of *Beit Sasson*.

At the same time, we are deeply aware of the challenges facing the Jewish people today. The situation in Israel and the rise in anti-Semitism around the world remind us of the importance of strength, resilience, and unity. In the coming year, *Beit Sasson* will be focusing on enhancing both physical and virtual security, to ensure that our synagogue remains not only a place of prayer and study, but also a safe haven for every member of our community. We are grateful to Dan Geller and Nir Maimon for leading our Security Team.

Looking ahead, with our congregation growing, B'H, we have started plans to **expand and reconfigure the Sanctuary**. We need more seating space, a second egress, a larger front entrance, and better flow when exiting the Sanctuary. We are grateful to Lewis Muhlfelder, architect extraordinaire, for his help.

None of this would be possible without you—our devoted members and supporters. Your commitment, generosity, and presence sustain *Beit Sasson* and allow us to continue building a vibrant and strong Sephardic Congregation in Newton.

5786 High Holy Day Services: we are delighted to invite you and your family to join us for the High Holy Day Services. Rosh Hashanah begins on Monday evening September 22. Yom Kippur begins on Wednesday evening October 1st. The complete High Holy Day schedule is enclosed.

In keeping with Sephardic tradition, everyone, member or otherwise, is always welcome to worship at *Beit Sasson*. Since space is limited, we highly encourage people to become members and to buy seats for the High Holy Days; purchasing is the only way to guarantee a seat. Please note that we have kept the High Holy Day Seats and Membership dues low to encourage wider participation. Please go to <https://www.sephardic-newton.org/highholidays> to conveniently make Seat Reservations, fill up Membership forms, and to make payments/donations. Under the leadership of George Garcia, we have implemented a new website and portal where members can access their account and make payments.

As we enter 5786, may we all be blessed with health, joy, and peace. May Hashem watch over Am Yisrael in Israel and around the world, and may our community go from strength to strength.

On behalf of the leadership of *Beit Sasson*, we wish you and your families a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah—a good and sweet New Year.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sincerely,

Haim Senior
President, *Beit Sasson* Executive Committee