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נ"ס"ד

## HAZAN ISAAC AZOSE 90<sup>th</sup> -BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

If there is a person that deserves the esteem and admiration of an entire congregation and community, it is our Hazan Isaac Azose. His work and involvement has enriched our lives not only with his beautiful voice, but with his wonderful and infectious personality.

When I arrived in Seattle over 30 years ago to be the Rabbi of Sephardic Bikur Holim, I was immediately inspired by Hazan Azose's tremendous knowledge of Sephardic liturgy, Ladino romanzas and his ability to interpret them. Our Rabbis say: "Rachamana Liba Ba'eh" - GD requires the heart. Hazan Azose, with his life-long devotion to Tefilah, has fulfilled this requirement.

Hazan Azose has helped so many people navigate the difficult task of learning their Bar Mitzvah in a perfect and elegant manner, as well as helping anybody who was in need of learning the intricate rituals of our Synagogue. We have benefitted tremendously from all his liturgical publications, according to our Sephardic customs; and as a result of his research, he has established our Sephardic liturgy.

It is always my pleasure to listen to Hazan Azose's Hazanut and his renditions of all the Ladino romanzas. We are very fortunate to celebrate Hazan Azose's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we wish him many more healthy and productive years.

*Rabbi Simon & Cecilia Benzaquen*