



December 4, 2020

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Dear Hazan Isaac Azose:

It is our great honor to send special wishes and blessings to you as you celebrate the milestone of reaching 90 years young! They call you "Hazan Azose", but you have been much more than a hazan. Rabbi Bouskila during our many SEC Shabbatons in Seattle referred to you as "Haham", for that is what you truly are! You are our Encyclopedia Sephardica, our liturgical Wikipedia, our Ladino Google, our go-to "search engine" par excellence! When it comes to learning about our Rodesli or Turkino heritage, I don't use my iphone, I use my "Ike-phone"- and the answer is usually enough to use up my entire data plan!

I have been fortunate and blessed to have known you for many years and during that time have called on you many times with a query or clarification related to the Sephardic heritage you have so carefully preserved for us all, and invariably received a dissertation on the subject in return (with joy!). You practice what we at the SEC like to call "Judaism with a smile", which makes every word you share so special.

I would like to designate you a National Treasure to keep you with us for many more years in good health and pray that your search engine keeps optimizing so that you continue to take our queries and share your vast database with us, your avid users.

We love you, Ike, and on behalf of Rabbi Bouskila and our entire Board wish you "muchos i buenos kon alegria i salud".

Sincerely,

Neil J. Sheff
President