



Rabbi Emeritus
Haham Amram Assayag

Sunday September 6th, 2020
17 Elul 5780

Rabbi
Rabbi David Kadoch

*Founder and
Honorary President*
Jacques Benquesus

Founder
Samuel Serruya

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Meyer Keslassy

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Avi Azuelos

Shaliah Tzibur
Marc Kadoch

*Honorary Executive
Vice President*
Maurice Benzacar

Past Presidents
Max Benaim
Eli Toby

Dear members of the Sephardic Kehila Centre,

We are thrilled to welcome you back to our Kehila for another year. It is no secret that we have been presented with many challenges to our community since the onset of COVID-19. The reopening of Places of Worship during Stage-2, although graciously welcome, still meant that we had to overcome the logistic obstacles that were put in our path. For the most part, we have succeeded and were able to maintain consistent prayer services for the last 3 months.

As the High Holidays approach, we are faced with new hurdles to defeat. With an increased number of registrants, we needed to discover ways to conduct the Tefilot in a safe manner adhering to physical distancing guidelines, yet at the same time maintain the beauty of our prayers during this auspicious time. The Religious Committee and Board Members met virtually multiple times to determine the best way to conduct the Tefilot. Many factors were taken into consideration: Capacity, timing, distancing, family seating, general seating, halachic obligations, audible ranges etc... **Each option that was discussed presented an inconvenience in some way or another.** In other words, there is no perfect solution.

After carefully reviewing the numbers and options, we have decided to initiate the following protocol for Rosh HaShanah.

- **MEN**

- Men will be seated in the lower section and the upper section (Ezrat Nashim/Ladies Section)
- Social distancing rules of 2 chairs between seats will be in effect excluding immediate family members and people in the same bubble.
- The total amount of men in the lower section is 105. (We have allocated additional seats on the first floor behind the partition leading to the banquet hall.)
- The total amount of men in the upper section is 75.
- Therefore, the total amount of men permitted in the sanctuary is approximately **220**.
- **Seats will be taken on a first come first serve basis.** (There will be no assigned seats). Once the capacity is reached on the main floor, males will be directed upstairs.

7026 Bathurst Street | Thornhill | Ontario L4J 8K3





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- WOMEN

- Women will be seated behind the additional seats allocated to the men in the partition.
- Social distancing rules of 2 chairs between seats will be in effect excluding immediate family members and people in the same bubble.
- Since this is officially designated as the "Banquet Hall," we don't expect the ladies attendance to exceed the capacity of that room.
- **Seats in the Ladies Section will be taken on a first come first serve basis.**

We are aware of the slight inconvenience this will be to the ladies in attendance and we hope that you understand that due to the men's halachic obligations of praying with a minyan and listening to the shofar, that this was the best option for us to utilize based on the Rabbinical guidance we received. As mentioned above, there is no perfect decision and we ask for your understanding and acceptance so that you can still join us and be a part of our services.

- SERVICES

- We will work diligently to find appropriate ways to shorten services in order to limit the time that we are all in the building. Please understand that all of our Tefilot are holy and simply cutting large sections of it isn't justified without seeking proper Rabbinical guidance.
- The aim will be to finish prior to 1pm.
- We will be offering a Shofar Blowing outside in the parking lot on Sunday September 20th at 1pm for those who don't wish to be inside the building due to COVID-19.

At this time, we are still undecided about Yom Kippur services. The Religious Committee and Board Members will reassess the situation following Rosh Hashanah and determine the best form of action to employ. We will keep you posted as soon as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Kadoch and the Board of Directors

