



SEPHARDIC JEWISH BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

Membership Packet

Bienvenidos! Welcome to the Sephardic Community!



The Sephardic Jewish
Brotherhood of America
La Ermandad Sefaradi

Welcome to Our Sephardic Family

Dear Friend,

Bienvenidos! On behalf of the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America, we want to welcome you as a prospective Member of our community. We are excited to have you join the ranks of the national umbrella organization for Sephardic Jewry in America. Once we receive your initiation fee and annual membership payment, we will issue you a membership file number that will track your registration and ensure all your information is kept accessible by our staff.

Since 1916, the Sephardic Brotherhood has proudly served our Sephardic Community in the United States through employment placement, educational scholarships, bereavement support, funds for the needy, immigration assistance, Holocaust survivor relief, cultural engagement, and so much more. In these uncertain times, know that the Brotherhood continues to stand with you whatever you may need.

We encourage you to learn more about the work we are doing to connect the next generation of young Sephardic Jews together at www.sephardicbrotherhood.com, as well as keep up to date on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We also hope you'll consider getting more involved by volunteering on one of our Community Committees, helping us develop innovative programming, or supporting another one of our initiatives.

Sedat Behar
President

COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP

1,500 Families

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

15 Synagogues

EDUCATION

50k in Scholarships

YOUTH

9 Special Initiatives

Organizational Profile



The Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America is the largest Sephardic benevolent organization of its kind in the United States. Our mission is to support the financial, social, educational, and religious welfare of Sephardic families who derive their lineage from the Ladino-speaking Jewish communities of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkans. Through a host of services and programs, the Brotherhood is dedicated to caring for and strengthening our Sephardic community.

Today, the Brotherhood is proud to serve over 1,350 member families from across the United States and continues to support the Sephardic community in the spirit laid out by our society's founders. In addition to providing burial services for its members, the Brotherhood has expanded its programs to support the future generations of our community and reinvent what it means to be Sephardic in the 21st Century.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

- Largest Sephardic benevolent organization in the United States
- Over 105 Years of History serving the Community
- Over a dozen affiliated Sephardic Congregations nationwide
- Scholarship and educational benefits for children
- Sephardic rabbinic & Religious Life Resources
- Sephardic Youth & Young Professional Development
- International Community Engagement

Our History

WHERE WE CAME FROM

The Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America is the largest Sephardic benevolent organization of its kind in the United States. Founded in 1916 by Jewish immigrants from Ottoman lands, the Brotherhood has worked to serve the most needy in our community and create a home for Sephardic Jews from around the world.

The organization began as a volunteer mutual aid and burial society, where membership dues were 10 cents per week at a time when laborers earned as little as \$5 per week. During the 1920's and into the Great Depression, it created a secret fund - *fundo secreto* (now named the Henry J. Perahia Funds for the Needy) to help community members in need, and established a scholarship program for its members' children. It held night classes at its Sephardic Center for new English-language learners and assisted in job placement support for new immigrants to the United States. Along with other Jewish fraternal organizations, the Brotherhood was a founding member institution of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies (later reorganized as the UJA-Federation of New York). The Brotherhood also supported the creation of Sephardic synagogues in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens well into the 1950's and 1960's.

During World War II, it united the Sephardic communities in the United States to form a War Refugee Relief Committee to help Jewish Community members in Greece and the Balkans. In partnership with the Joint Distribution Committee, it helped hundreds of Sephardic Holocaust survivors reunite with their relatives in the United States after the war, and assisted with relocating Sephardic community members housed in Displaced Persons camps.

Over the years, other Sephardic community organizations that traced their ancestry from Istanbul, Rhodes, Izmir, Adrianople (Edirne), and other Mediterranean cities merged with the Brotherhood, serving to further unite our Sephardic community in the United States. In the 1960s and 70s, the Brotherhood ran a successful Sephardic youth program through its Sephardic Youth League, and was a founding member institution of the Sephardic Home for the Aged. Coupled with its advocacy for Sephardic rights and education in Israel, partnerships with major American Jewish institutions like Yeshiva University, and crisis relief for Jews in Turkey in the 1950s, the Brotherhood has played a historic role in Jewish affairs throughout the United States and around the world.

CORE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Every full member of the Sephardic Brotherhood is entitled to both our **core benefits** along with our wonderful **social benefits**. These benefits can touch on all stages of a member's life and are here to make sure our Sephardic community is supported and. It is important to note that these specific **core benefits** are NOT extended to those who take the status of social membership (membership without benefits), namely Burial Rights, Scholarships, or Funds for the Needy.

HEVRA KEDISHA BURIAL SOCIETY

Every full member is guaranteed a burial plot for themselves, their spouse, and Barminan (G-d forbid) a child under the age of 18. This includes the right to be buried in any of our national cemeteries, along with special mortuary and monument benefits issued at the time of a member's passing to their next of kin to defray the cost of a funeral. This also includes access to our national network of Sephardic Rabbis & Clergy to make sure members have both the emotional support they need during a difficult time along with someone to conduct a funeral service in our Sephardic tradition.



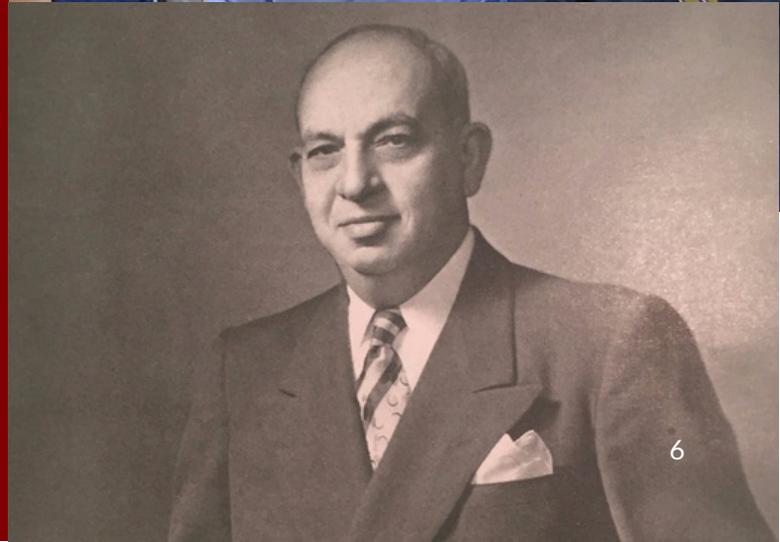
SEPHARDIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Since our founding, the Brotherhood has worked to ensure our youngest members never see money as an impediment to their educational goals. Our Scholarship & Education Committee awards financial scholarships annually to High School, College, and Graduate students based on academic achievement and financial need. Every member and their children are guaranteed the rights to apply for scholarships for up to four years to help pay for the cost of advancing their education



HENRY J. PERAHIA FUNDS FOR THE NEEDY

Should a member ever, G-d forbid, fall on hard times, the Sephardic Brotherhood is here to support you. Through our Henry J. Perahia Funds for the Needy, we issue financial support for members who cannot afford to pay rent, buy groceries, or need help with medical expenses. This also includes special access for those who cannot afford to send their children to our summer Sephardic Adventure Camp or celebrate the Jewish High Holidays properly.



SOCIAL BENEFITS

In addition to our core benefits, full members have wide access to our social benefits throughout the United States. These benefits are also available to our social members (members without core benefits).

All members have the right to discounted rates for our **Sephardic Jewish Citizenship Program**, guaranteeing them our Certificate of Sephardic Heritage which helps attest to their Sephardic identity and Jewish status. Members receive discounted rates at our public events such as our **International Ladino Day**, and receive our print quarterly magazine, **The Sephardic Brother**, to help them stay in the loop on what's happening in the community. Members' children can also access many of our youth programs including our **Sephardic Birthright Trip to Israel** and **Young Professionals Network**. Our members also have access to our **network of more than 15 Sephardic Synagogues** and community institutions nationwide.

SEPHARDIC DIGITAL ACADEMY

Our new Sephardic Digital Academy - a national partnership project to connect and educate our Sephardic community institutions, synagogues, Rabbis, educators, and members across the United States, has revolutionized Sephardic education in the United States. We are partnering with more than a dozen affiliated synagogues and institutions to bring you new weekly classes and series on **Sephardic Torah, History, traditions and customs, Ladino language instruction, Sephardic cooking**, and so much more.

“Brilliant. The Sephardic Digital Academy is a remarkable and innovative way of revitalizing our culture and heritage. Well done!”

All classes are **FREE** and open to all, with participation via zoom and live-streamed on our Facebook Page and Youtube Channel.



Youth Engagement

DISCOVER HOW WE SUPPORT OUR NEXT GENERATION



SEPHARDIC BIRTHRIGHT
TRIP



SEPHARDIC YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS



CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING

We are proud to offer a number of engagement initiatives to empower our next generation of Sephardic Leaders. Through the **Sephardic Young Professional Network**, our leaders in their 20s & 30s organize monthly Sephardic Shabbat dinners throughout the country, Professional Development programs, Sephardic Cooking Classes, and a whole lot more. This includes special Young Professionals **Tours of Jewish Greece and Jewish Turkey**, exploring the cities of their grandparents and reconnecting with their heritage. Through our **FREE Sephardic Birthright Trip to Israel**, Sephardim from 18-26 get to discover the incredibly rich Sephardic history of Israel and connect with their roots.

From trying delicious Sephardic foods and learning new Ladino words, to rafting down the Jordan River and hiking Masada, our trip participants get the chance to have a life-changing experience. Our **programming for Young Sephardic Families** gets our kriaturas (kids) excited about their identity, using Ladino words, Sephardic customs, and fun songs with famous educators like Sarah Aroeste. Lastly, through the amazing **Sephardic Adventure Camp**, our affiliated Jewish camp in the Pacific Northwest, our children get to have an amazing summer experience while learning to become Jewish leaders. This beautiful center of Sephardic and Jewish pride invites over 100 kids between 8-16 every summer.

Membership Responsibilities Dues & Elections



Membership fees are due at the beginning of the year for both full and social members of the Sephardic Brotherhood. Members receive dues notifications via email and must submit a payment of \$118 within a month of receiving a notification. Failure to do so can result in an expulsion of membership from the Sephardic Brotherhood, so it's important to submit your dues on time. Full members are also responsible for paying a one time initiation fee depending on their age bracket.



Full members are responsible to vote in our national elections every four years for our Central Council (Board of Directors) and receive ballots to their home addresses. Full members also have the right to run and hold office in the Sephardic Brotherhood. Members are responsible to update our central offices if they move to a new residence, change phone numbers, emails, or other important contact information. Members should share if they have exciting new announcements in their families, such as a wedding, new family member, or other important events that we can celebrate together as a Sephardic community. Lastly, members are responsible to get involved in our community in any way they can! Consider joining one of our committees or organizing a new community event.



Our Community Hubs

DISCOVER OUR SEPHARDIC COMMUNITIES & SYNAGOGUES NATIONWIDE



International Engagement

WE ARE PROUD TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OVER A DOZEN SEPHARDIC JEWISH COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

Our International Partner Communities

The Jewish Community of Turkey
The Jewish Community of Athens
The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki
Central Board of the Jewish Communities of Greece
The Sephardic Community of Mexico City
S&P Sephardi Community of the United Kingdom
The Sephardic Community of Buenos Aires
The Jewish Community of Bosnia & Herzegovina
The Jewish Community of Bulgaria
The Jewish Community of Serbia
The Jewish Community of Florence, Italy
The Jewish Community of Rome, Italy



Sephardic Brotherhood Delegation on a visit to Istanbul with the Chief Rabbi of Turkey - Haham Bashi Isak Haleva



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

The Sephardic Brotherhood is proud of all the amazing work we've been able to accomplish, yet there is still a lot of good work that can be done. This is why we need your help to bring our community to the next level.

Consider making a gift to one of our key new initiatives to help ensure our community continues to grow and flourish. Help us bring on new Jewish professionals that can ensure a robust, strong, and warm *Kommunita Sefaradi* (Sephardic Community) for years to come.

Interested in supporting the Brotherhood in the future? Consider making a legacy or estate commitment to solidify your impact on our community for generations to come. You can donate today via our website at www.sephardicbrotherhood.com or email info@sephardicbrotherhood.com to speak with a member of our team.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We value your feedback and new ideas! Consider proposing a new program, class, or new event. Interested in finding out more about our strategic plan and general programming? Have a new proposal? Reach out to us! Email info@sephardicbrotherhood.com

GET INVOLVED

Volunteerism is an integral part of our community. Consider volunteering for any of our numerous committees, events, or annual programs that help makes the Sephardic Brotherhood go above and beyond. Email us at info@sephardicbrotherhood.com to get started.

- Scholarship & Education Committee
- Young Families Committee
- Membership Committee
- Young Professionals Committee
- Finance & Investments Committee
- Communications & Engagement Committee



SEPHARDIC JEWISH BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

*"The Voice of Our Sephardic
Community in America"*



Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America

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