

Hazzan Isaac Azose was born in Seattle, Washington on July 14, 1930. Having been born to parents who were born and raised in Turkey, he spent his early years attending Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation, one of the two Sephardic synagogues in Seattle, which was founded by Turkish Jews. While growing up, he drank in every little word and nuance of the prayers from all of the 'old country' hazzanim (Cantors).

He graduated from Garfield High School in 1947, spent three years at Yeshiva University in New York, and came back to Seattle in 1951. Isaac enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War. He was married in March, 1962 to the former Lily Shemia, of Cairo, Egypt. In September, 1965, he tried out as hazzan at Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, the other of the two Sephardic synagogues in Seattle, whose pioneers came from the Island of Rhodes. He was hired on a full-time basis in March, 1966. That was the beginning of a long, warm, and caring relationship. In 1999, when he was thinking of retiring, he determined to leave a legacy for his synagogue and recorded a two CD set, the Liturgy of Ezra Bessaroth. He retired from the Ezra Bessaroth on January 1, 2000.

He perceived a need for updated prayer books, closer to the Turkish and Rhodes tradition than those that had been in use and determined to do something about it. In January, 2002, after having worked on the project on and off for eight years, he published the Zehut Yosef Daily/Sabbath Prayer book, which is the standard used at both Seattle Sephardic synagogues, as well as other synagogues in the U.S. and South Africa, with Turkish and Rhodes traditions. In 2007, he published Zihron Rahel, a prayer book for the Festival Holidays, Pesakh, Shavuot and Sukkot. In 2009, he recorded a double cd set of Ladino Romansas and Folksongs, which he called Ladino Reflections. He then finished the fourth and fifth prayer books, a book for the Five Fast Days, and a prayer book for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

He has four children by his first wife Lily, who passed away at the end of 2001. He is currently married to the former Elisa Chrem of Lima, Peru, whom he married in March, 2003.