

Chabad of Bondi: Seat Reservation and Rental Policy and Procedures

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Introduction

We are excited to welcome the community into a new era with the opening of our new Shul. This is a significant milestone for Chabad of Bondi, and we look forward to sharing many joyous moments together in this new space. Our seating policy has been designed to ensure fair and transparent allocation of both seat reservations and annual seat rentals.

The Seat Committee conducted extensive research into how other Shuls in Sydney manage their seating and considered the feedback from the recent seat survey, as well as additional comments and opinions expressed by members of our community. The Committee had the challenging task of balancing community needs with the fiscal responsibilities of the organisation and believe this policy reflects the best possible solution.

For the first year of operation, seat reservations will open on 6 Elul (9 September), with annual seat rental options (without reservations) becoming available from 20 Elul (23 September), based on availability. This staggered process ensures fairness and gives everyone an opportunity to secure a seat.

1. Overview

Permanent Seat Reservation:

When purchasing a Permanent seat, an initial payment set out below is required in addition to the annual seat rental fee. This guarantees a seat of your choosing (subject to availability), adorned with a personalised name plaque.

- *Note:* Purchasing a Permanent seat reservation does not replace the requirement for an annual seat rental.
- Permanent Seat reservations will be available from 13 Elul (17 September 2024)

Annual Seat Rental:

Provides a reserved seat of your choosing, for all services, including the High Holiday Period.

- Annual rentals without Permanent seat reservations will be made available from 22 Elul (25 September 2024) to 8 Tishrei (10 October 2024), based on availability and rates set out below.

2. Pricing

Permanent Seat Reservation Pricing:

- Men's Section:
 - Row 1 (A): \$5000
 - Row 2 (B): \$4000
 - Rows 3-5 (C-E): \$1000
- Women's Section:
 - Row 1 (A): \$3000
 - Row 2 (B): \$2000
 - Rows 3-4 (C-D): \$1000
- *Benefit:* All seat reservations come with a personalised name plaque.

- *Permanent Seat Reservation are non refundable*

Annual Seat Rental Pricing:

- Men: \$1970
- Women: \$1680
- For those who purchase a seat rental without a Permanent seat reservation a sticker will be placed on the seat indicating you have rented it for the High Holidays.

3. Procedures

Permanent Seat Reservations:

- **Booking:**
Reservations open each year from 1 Elul (August/September Period) until 1 Tishrei and can be made via the Chabad of Bondi website or by contacting the office. Payment is required in full at the time of reservation or via an approved payment plan.
- **Confirmation and Seating Assignment:**
Once payment is received, a confirmation will be sent with details of your seating assignment.
- **Seating Allocation:**
Your seat will be shown on the map at the entrance to the sanctuary and also have a seat plaque.

Annual Seat Rentals:

- **Renewal Process:**
 - Annual seat rentals must be renewed by 1 Elul (August/September Period) of each year for Permanent seat reservation holders.
 - For the first year, annual rentals without Permanent seat reservations will be available from 20 Elul (23 September) until 8 Tishrei (10 October 2024), based on availability. Subsequent years annual seat rentals without a Lifetime seat reservation will be available also from 1 Elul (August/September) to 8 Tishrei (day before Yom Kippur).
- **Application and Payment:**
Annual rentals can be applied for or renewed online or by contacting the office. Payments can be made in full or quarterly.
- **Seating Assignments:**
Renewing members of seat rentals will retain their current seat if renewed before the cut off time. New applicants and late renewals will be assigned seats based on availability.

4. Failure to Maintain Annual Seat Rental

If a person who has secured a Permanent seat reservation and does not renew or maintain their annual seat rental by 1 Elul the following year:

- **Notice of Renewal:**
The person will be issued a notice, giving them 14 days to renew their annual seat rental and retain their seat reservation.
- **Loss of Reservation:**
If the annual seat rental is not renewed after the 14-day grace period, the seat reservation will be made available to individuals on the waitlist, in the order they applied.
- **Exceptional Circumstances:**
In exceptional cases, the Seat Committee may grant an additional grace period at its discretion before placing the seat reservation back on the market.

5. Special Considerations

We understand that some members of our community, including pensioners and disadvantaged individuals, may face financial challenges. For those in need of assistance, we encourage you to contact Eran Lobel at the Chabad of Bondi office for a confidential and discreet conversation. After this, Yaakov will present your case to the head of the Seat Committee and Rabbi Ulman, who will make a decision regarding assistance. Rabbi Ulman has the final discretion in these matters to ensure that all members of our community are treated with respect and dignity.

6. Payment Terms

- **Permanent Seat Reservation Payments:**
Payments can be made in full or through an approved payment plan.
- **Annual Seat Rentals:**
Payments can be made in full or divided into quarterly instalments.

7. Use of Seats and Decorum when asking someone to move

On a regular Shabbos it is very common for someone to sit in a different seat to their purchased seat for whatever reason that may be. In addition, you may arrive on Shabbat or the High Holidays and find someone in your seat. We kindly ask that everyone is treated with respect and decorum when you find them in your reserved seat.

- **On Shabbat and High Holidays**
 - If you find a person in your seat during a High Holiday service please kindly let them know you have reserved this seat/s for you and your family ask them in a respectable manner if they could move. This is your seat, and you have every right to sit there. We just want to keep the atmosphere in the shul friendly and warm.

- On Shabbat when the shul will be less populated if someone is in your seat you can ask them to move in the manner similar to above. Also, if you want you may decide to sit somewhere else if this situation arises and please feel free to do so.

8. Contact Information

For any inquiries or assistance regarding seating, please contact the Seat Committee at the following:

- Eran Lobel, Operations Manager
Email: seats@chabadofbondi.com
Phone: +61 404 911 989

The Seat Committee is available to assist with any questions or concerns and will do its best to accommodate all requests within the framework of the policy.