

Guidelines for Program Funding

prepared by Alice Heffner, Programming Committee Chair

There are 4 sources of funds that can be used for Temple programming:

1. **Designated Funds** - those such as our Kahan Holocaust Memorial Fund or the David Nalven Memorial Youth Activities Fund which were established to underwrite efforts that advance the purpose of the fund. Criteria for the use of these funds must be met and interested parties should contact Harry Plonskier who is working on a protocol for the use of these funds. A committee chair should also check with their respective Vice President when seeking to use Designated Funds.

2. **Auxiliary Funds** - Sisterhood, Men's Club, Renaissance, BarTy and the Preschool Parent's Association collect dues and sponsor fundraisers to support their various social, religious, cultural, and spiritual activities throughout the year. Auxiliaries can draw from these funds to cover the costs of their programming and they can charge fees to their members if need be. This is an internal decision - it doesn't require input from the Programming Committee. We appreciate the contribution of money and in-kind support that the auxiliaries provide to the Temple; the amount of any financial contribution that the auxiliaries make to the General Fund is included in the budget.

3. **General Fund** - most committees have a budget from the General Fund. Costs for programming should have been figured into the budget and each committee should have developed a plan of specific programs that would be offered throughout the year. However, we know that the calendar is a fluid thing and often opportunities for speakers and other special events land in our laps. This is the hardest application of our "no new expenses" policy. If there is no money for the activity in the committee's budget and a collaborative arrangement cannot be reached with another committee or designated fund, then we need to decline the opportunity (except in the case of charging for the event - see #4 below).

The question about "angels" has come up. The answer has been stated in a previous document regarding our Temple's priorities:

"Given the difficult economic picture, we want to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to help families who request Special Circumstances to defray the cost of their Temple membership. We also recognize that sponsors make possible the excellent programs that help us to retain members and reinforce the quality of programming that makes us who we are.

For this year, in the face of our current economic climate, we seek to help potential sponsors see the need to support the community overall, rather than a specific program. If there are individuals who are passionate about supporting a particular program or effort, then their request will be considered by the Programming Committee."

We are already acting on this policy in the form of our Community Support Fund, with gratifying results. We need to be sensitive to fact that we have requested donations for this fund and that our Free Will campaign is coming up.

4. **User fees** - it is also possible that a committee might choose to charge a fee to cover the cost of the program. This is certainly a good option but it must be considered within the broad context of other programs that might also be offered for a fee. It is disconcerting to members who already pay dues to be asked to pay additional fees to attend a special program, particularly if they're asked to do so several times throughout the year. We need see the totality of our offerings to make sure we're not "going to the well" too often. A committee chair should check with the Programming Committee Chairperson before charging a fee to cover a program's cost.

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It has been said that our Temple calendar is commensurate to the calendar of much larger shuls which also have more staff. Often by the end of the year we are exhausted from tremendously successful but energy-intensive programming. I think it's important for us to realize that we do not have to implement every great idea that comes our way if we do not have the means to make it work. We should always look for synergy and ways to leverage the resources we have, without overtaxing them. It is OK to say no; our financial situation dictates that we might have to do this more often than we'd like or did in the past.