

Does one need to be a member to sponsor a Kiddush?



According to the Kiddush list in the social hall, there is no kiddush dedicated for the next five weeks. We would appreciate if that some of you would sponsor and dedicate a Kiddush. Please email us at SephardicCongregation@gmail.com, with details of date and type of Kiddush or even better, visit our website BenaiAsher.org and select sponsor a Kiddush and fill in the appropriate fields or call Ida.

Acknowledging this need, we were asked if the policy to charge more to non-members to sponsor a kiddush is actually counterproductive. We have asked the board to again have this discussion.

Present policy stipulates that if a member is having a Kiddush for a Shabbat, they pay the Kiddush charge or bring in their own approved caterer, but a non-member pays an additional fee to help cover expenses not covered by the charge. We all must realize that the kiddush charge only partially covers the food. Every kiddush we have is highly subsidized as we want everyone to share in this.

Our membership fee is extremely reasonable and covers perhaps twenty percent of our budget (and our budget is one of the smallest budgets of any Synagogue on Long Island) Again this is so as many of you as possible can pay for membership. It's less than \$11.50 per week for a family and less for an individual.

The same present policy also states that a non-member is required to pay an additional kiddush fee of \$300. (This does not include additional donations required when celebrating a simcha in the synagogue). This \$300 really helps to cover the actual cost of a kiddush (bread, cakes, plates, utensils, table cloths, service, etc).

Please keep in mind that most synagogues use the kiddush fee to help cover their synagogue expenses. Many synagogues have a minimum \$1000 to \$5000 fee. Even with the \$300 non member fee, our Kiddush is a relative bargain.

We realize that some don't agree with this rule, but at the moment we feel this is the fairest policy specifically relating to our synagogue. We want as many of you to be members and as many members as possible to give a Kiddush. We are also thankful for the support of some silent sponsors; and with that support, we don't mind supplementing the cost.

So if you're not a member, please become one. And if you can sponsor a kiddush, please do so. And if you chose for whatever reason not to be a member, please understand the need to pay the supplement. It simply helps to cover our costs.

As always anyone needing financial assistance with membership costs can speak with Ida or our Vice President, Dr. Waldman. We hope not to turn anyone away.