

Annual Report of HaSifriyah, The Jewish Community Library
May 7, 2017

Summary of the 2016-2017 year:

1. HaSifriyah and the Adult Education Committee hosted the very successful Temple Emanu-El Author Series, which brought such diverse authors as Linda K. Wertheimer, Larry Tye, Susan Harris O'Connor, and Anita Diamant to the Temple. All four events were very well attended, with a crowd of over 125 (members and non-members alike) coming to hear our final speaker, *New York Times* bestselling novelist Anita Diamant. Copies of the authors' most recent books have also been added to the collection. Thanks to the members of the Adult Education Committee for all their hard work in planning and executing the Author Series, to all who brought food for our breakfasts and spread the word about the program, and to everyone who attended the series and helped make it such a success. A special thanks goes to Temple Executive Director Nancy LaFleur for her assistance and support.
2. HaSifriyah worked with the Chesed Committee to create a grief resource area for families who have suffered a loss or are caring for a sick loved one. This area contains books and articles (for both adults and children) that might be useful in such difficult times. The resource area can be found on the shelves to the left of the television in the upper room of the library.
3. The Temple Emanu-El book club continues to meet. Since the last annual meeting, we have held discussions about *A Guide for the Perplexed*, by Dara Horn; *The Boston Girl*, by Anita Diamant, immediately prior to her appearance at the Temple; *Saving Sophie*, by Ronald Balson; and, most recently, *The Finkler Question*, by Howard Jacobson.

The following Sunday meeting dates have been scheduled on the 2017-2018 calendar: October 15, November 12, and December 3, 2017; January 7, February 11, and March 11, 2018.

4. Fundraising through the Amazon.com Associates Program is ongoing. HaSifriyah receives a referral fee for all purchases made by clicking through our dedicated link (available on the Temple's website). Since last year's annual meeting, purchases by Temple members and their friends and family have generated approximately \$450.00 for the library. Since our affiliation with the program in November 2010, we have raised over \$4000. All funds are used to acquire books, magazines, music, videos, and supplies for the library.
5. We continue to use the LibraryWorld as an online catalog. Our collection can be accessed via a link on HaSifriyah's webpage and from iOS and Android mobile devices.
6. Periodic visits to HaSifriyah by all religious school classes have resumed.
7. The library remains a popular meeting place for parents during religious school hours and is used for individual tutoring and visits by religious school classes. Circulation has increased among both students and other congregants.
8. We have added over one hundred titles to the collection in the past year through both purchase and member donations.
9. The HaSifriyah page on the Temple's website continues to be updated with library and book club news.

10. We have received a variety of donations to HaSifriyah, including books from the religious school in honor of students receiving awards for the 2016-2017 school year and a large number of new and used books, CDs, and DVDs from congregants.
11. *BookNotes*, a column focusing on new acquisitions and other library news, continues to appear in the Temple bulletin.
12. Library displays over the past year include: Jewish Book Month, National Reading Group Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Women's History Month, National Poetry Month, National Short Story Month, new titles, and various Jewish holidays.
13. Wi-fi continues to be available to members in HaSifriyah. The password and usage policy are posted in the library.
14. Unfortunately, we have seen some incidents of vandalism causing damage to the keyboards at the workstations in the back of the library. Maintenance of the workstations also continues to be something of a problem, as members and others reconfigure them for their own use, resulting in workstations that are missing components (such as keyboards or mice) or which have been disconnected from the Internet. We ask you to please refrain from reconfiguring or modifying the workstations in the library so that they are in working order for all members wishing to use them.
15. The Kindle Paperwhite purchased several years ago remains underutilized; it will therefore be traded-in to Amazon and its trade-in price used for additional print book purchases.

Plans for next year:

1. In light of the success of the Temple Emanu-El Author Series, we have received funding from the Board of Directors to plan a second series, to be held in the fall of 2017. We also hope to engage several sponsors to defray costs of the series.
2. We hope to invite authors to visit the Temple Emanu-El book club (either in person or via Skype) and join in discussions of their work.
3. We will continue to acquire current titles for the collection, primarily via Amazon Associates royalties.
4. We have exhausted the generous donation made several years ago for new equipment and several years of LibraryWorld subscription fees. Amazon Associates royalties are not available for these expenses, so we will need to solicit donations for continuing LibraryWorld use.

Thanks to everyone who has donated funds, books, and time to the library and to those who have made it a vibrant gathering place and educational resource.

Paula Breger
Librarian