

Annual Report of HaSifriyah, The Jewish Community Library
May 6, 2018

Summary of the 2017-2018 year:

1. HaSifriyah and the Adult Education Committee hosted the second annual Temple Emanu-El Author Series, which was extremely successful, bringing such diverse authors as Tova Mirvis, Eshkol Nevo, Dov Waxman, Rabbi Art Green, and Dr. Tammy Bottner to the Temple. All five events were very well attended. Cowan Insurance Agency and Pentucket Bank were sponsors for the series, allowing us to maintain the quality of our speakers and defray costs. Copies of the authors' most recent books (and some of their backlist) have also been added to HaSifriyah's 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 thank you goes to Temple Executive Director Nancy LaFleur for her assistance and support.
2. The Temple Emanu-El book club continues to meet. Since the last annual meeting, we have held discussions about *Fugitive Pieces*, by Anne Michaels; *Homesick*, by Eshkol Nevo; *Among the Reeds*, by Tammy Bottner; short stories by Savyon Liebrecht and Aharon Megged; and most recently, *Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan*, by Ruth Gilligan. A few new members have joined the group this year, bringing new perspectives and adding greatly to our discussions. Due to popular request, a summer 2018 date will be added. Watch your email for the date and title to be discussed.

The following Sunday meeting dates have been scheduled on the 2018-2019 calendar: September 23, October 28, and December 2, 2018; January 6, March 3, and April 28, 2019.

3. 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 \$375.00 for the library. Since our affiliation with the program in November 2010, we have raised over \$4375. All funds are used to acquire books, magazines, music, videos, and supplies for the library. Please use our link, and tell your friends!
4. 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.
5. The library remains a popular meeting place for parents during religious school. Circulation has increased among both students and other congregants.
6. We have added over one hundred titles to the collection in the past year through both purchase and member donations.
7. The HaSifriyah page on the Temple's website continues to be updated with library and book club news.

8. We have received a variety of donations to HaSifriyah, including books from the religious school in honor of students receiving awards for the 2017-2018 school year and a large number of new and used books, CDs, and DVDs from congregants.
9. *BookNotes*, a column focusing on new acquisitions and other library news, continues to appear in the Temple bulletin.
10. 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.
11. Wi-fi continues to be available to members in HaSifriyah. The password and usage policy are posted in the library.

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 third series, to be held in the fall of 2018. We have already received commitments from two local businesses and one individual to sponsor 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