

Summary of the 2018-2019 year:

1. HaSifriyah and the Adult Education Committee hosted a successful third Temple Emanu-El Author Series, bringing such diverse authors as Rachel Kadish, Rabbi Deborah Prinz, Udi Goren, and Jenna Blum to the Temple. All four events were very well attended. Stuart Mandell, in memory of his beloved wife, Ada, Cowan Insurance Agency, and Pentucket Bank were patrons for the series; H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Homes and Smith Motor Sales of Haverhill were sponsors. Their support allowed 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 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 Don Kumis for his help readying Starensier for our events and 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 *The Weight of Ink*, by Rachel Kadish; *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*, by Yossi Klein Halevi (a joint discussion with Israel Chavurah); *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*, by Nathan Englander; and most recently, *Those Who Save Us*, by Jenna Blum, who joined our discussion via videoconference.
3. The following meeting dates have been scheduled on the 2019-2020 calendar: Sunday, October 6 and Saturday, November 2, 2019; Sunday, January 26, and Saturday, March 21, 2020. Other dates will be added.
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 \$360.00 for the library. Since our affiliation with the program in November 2010, we have raised over \$4700. All funds are used to acquire books, magazines, music, videos, and supplies for the library. Please use our link, and tell your friends!
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. The library remains a popular meeting place for parents during religious school.
7. We have added approximately fifty titles to the collection in the past year through both purchase and member donations.
8. The HaSifriyah page on the Temple's website continues to be updated with library and book club news.
9. We have received a variety of donations to HaSifriyah, including new and used books, CDs, and DVDs from congregants.
10. *BookNotes*, a column focusing on new acquisitions and other library news, continues to appear in the Temple bulletin.

11. 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.
12. 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 fourth series, to be held in the fall of 2019. We are in the process of contacting authors and reaching out to local businesses for sponsorship. If you know of anyone who might be interested in supporting the series, please contact Paula Breger or Karen Newborn.
2. With the success of Jenna Blum's videoconference participation in our book group, we hope to invite other authors to visit during book club meetings (either in person or by video) and join in discussions of their work.
3. We will continue to acquire current titles for the collection, primarily via Amazon Associates royalties.

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