

Summary of the 2019–2020 year:

1. HaSifriyah and the Adult Education Committee hosted a successful fourth Temple Emanu-El Author Series, bringing such diverse authors as Jessica Shattuck, Joshua Rubenstein, Angela Himself, and Jamie Bernstein to the Temple. All four events were very well attended, especially the Jamie Bernstein event, which had over 125 attendees. The series had three patrons (Stuart Mandell, in memory of his beloved wife, Ada; Cowan Insurance Agency; and Smith Motor Sales of Haverhill) and two sponsors (H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Homes and Pentucket Bank). Their generous support allowed us to maintain the quality of our speakers and defray costs. Copies of the authors' most recent books have 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 the building 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 *Judas*, by Amos Oz; *The Women in the Castle*, by Jessica Shattuck; and *Waking Lions*, by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen. The following meeting dates have been scheduled on the 2020–2021 calendar: October 4, November 1, and December 6, 2020; and January 3, February 7, and March 7, 2021. All meetings are on Sundays at 10:00 am. Other dates may be added.
3. We switched our online catalog services to TinyCat, for a cost savings of approximately \$319 per year. TinyCat is also significantly more user-friendly than our previous online catalog. Our collection can be accessed via a link on HaSifriyah's webpage and from iOS and Android mobile devices.
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 \$205.00 for the library. Since our affiliation with the program in November 2010, we have raised over \$4900. 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 have added approximately one hundred titles to the collection in the past year through both purchase and member donations.
6. The HaSifriyah page on the Temple's website continues to be updated with library and book club news.
7. *BookNotes*, a column focusing on new acquisitions and other library news, appears periodically in the Temple bulletin.

8. 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.
9. 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 fifth series, to be held in the fall of 2020. 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. 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