

# “A PEEK INTO PROGRAMMING IN LIBRARIES: Beyond Research and Reading in the Library”

Association of Jewish Libraries 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention

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**Elizabeth F. (Liza) Stabler** is the librarian at Temple Emanu-El in New York. Previously Liza worked at the 92nd Street Y, where in addition to her library responsibilities, she initiated book discussion groups and launched the Summer Camp Reading Club. She is the immediate past president of the NYMA chapter of AJL. Liza graduated with an AB in Anthropology from Bryn Mawr College and received her MS from Columbia University's School of Library Service with honors.

Focusing on library-based and relevant programs rather than institution-wide programming

## **What we'll cover in the next 20 minutes:**

- Why bother to program events in the library?
- I'll outline some examples
- Discussion
- Resources

## **The Whys and Wherefores of Programming**

- Brings new people into the library
- A way of highlighting the collection and its strengths
- Serve diverse segments of the community
- Takes your expertise beyond the library's four walls
- An opportunity to “network” with colleagues in your institution as you plan, etc.
- Invaluable means to contribute your strengths as a librarian to your institution
- Fulfilling your institution's mission
- Any other reasons?

## **Examples of Programs**

- Reading Groups – Facilitated or Group-Led
  - Adult
  - Teen
  - Parent-Child
- Book Clubs – self-run – great for pre-teens or teens
- Online wiki or blog to support the reading groups or book clubs
- Summer Reading Club for children
- Lectures by resident or visiting experts
- Meet-the-Author Events (newly published books, usually)
- Library Blogs to support events
- Library wikis for event schedules and information
- Tzedekah Projects
- Storytimes for picture book audiences (establish parental participation guidelines)
- Lapsits for toddlers (“)
- Reading Marathons
- Bake-offs using Library's cookbook collection for holiday or special foods

- Book and crafts workshops based on books, media or library's arts & crafts collection
- Programs for parents during school and Hebrew school hours
- Split parent/child programs
- Holiday programs: Wine tasting for Pesach featuring Haggadah collection
- "One Book, One Congregation / School / Staff"
- Day of the Book (as organized by Chaya Wiesman and Esther Nussbaum at Ramaz)
- Displays to coordinate with institutional events or curriculum events

**Discussion:**

- What worked in your library
- What *didn't* work

**Resources, or, Some Help with How to Program**

- Read your local newspapers for ideas
- Talk to people at your local AJL chapter.
- Professional organizations

AJL Proceedings 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention : "Starting and Running Book Discussion Groups: Reading Groups and Book Selections Including What Constitutes a 'Jewish Book'" by Elizabeth F. Stabler

<http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/publications/proceedings/proceedings2001/stablerliza.pdf>  
 AJL Newsletter; February/March 2007 "One Synagogue, One Book: Organizing A Congregational Readalong" ; Elizabeth F. Stabler pp.25-26

AJL's Resources: Book Club Reading Lists

[http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/resources/bookclub\\_lists06.htm](http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/resources/bookclub_lists06.htm)

ALA publishes many programming guides for all ages