

Summary of Readers Association Activity in 2013

Nadia Zeldes: Chairperson

1. Meetings with the Administration

--In 2013 the Readers Association continued to meet with members of the library administration

--A summary of the May 2013 meeting is available on our website:

<http://www.nlreadership.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/may-meeting-eng.pdf>

2. Special Session at the World Jewish Congress of Jewish Studies

--In July 2013 the members and friends of the Readers Association met in a special session held at the WJC.

--A summary of the session is available on our website:

<http://www.nlreadership.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/summary-of-EGM2013approvedeng.pdf>

3. Planning of the event in honor of the Judaica Reading Room librarians

--From September to December, the vaad collected letters for the album printed in honor of the retired librarians of the JRR: Elona Avinezer, Zipporah Ben Abu, Ruth Flint, and Alisa Alon. The event was held in January 2014 and also honored the previous head of the JRR, Michael Riegler. The album, remarks by some of the speakers, and photos have been posted to our website:

http://www.nlreadership.org.il/?page_id=28

4. Meetings with the Curators: December 2013

--A summary of the meeting is available on our website:

http://www.nlreadership.org.il/?page_id=323

5. Points raised at internal vaad meetings

--We discussed whether or not to accept the administration proposal that the Manuscripts Reading Room be available to a restricted number of readers when the regular reading rooms are closed early because of events. We decided to accede, albeit under protest, and to inquire how many readers can be accommodated.

--We decided to accept Orly's invitation to hold another meeting with the administration in which we could set the agenda and topics to be discussed.

--We raised the following issues:

- The possibility of renovating the current building (with the addition of the nearby Ross building) instead of the new building. We also discussed whether to contact the current head of the Knesset Education Committee, Amram Mitsna.
- That the library provide in addition to the Pardes program grants to writers, grants to scholars who would publish editions of manuscripts held by the library.
- Problems with book ordering, both from the remote storage and the stacks. Orders from the remote stacks receive negative answers. It turned out that the books are not yet accessible.
- Problems with electronic ordering. Books that are part of series are especially hard to locate.
- We suggested that the library financial report be made available to the public
- The problem of the retirement of the experienced librarians and the possible shortage of skilled librarians.
- We again raised the question of whether early closing for events is justified.

- Safety issue: the passage between the ORR and the GRR is narrow.

6. *Future Topics*

--Our representatives to the building committee.

--In October 2013 the administration suggested that we appoint two representatives to meet with the building committee responsible for planning the new building on our behalf. Despite a reminder in January 2014, the committee has yet to contact or invite our representatives. We plan to raise this issue with the administration in the near future

--The functioning of the reading rooms

The level of service, noise, rotation of student workers, lack of acquaintance by student staff with the collections.