
B'NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

327 NORTH NEGLEY AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15206



Jan. 2, 1974

Dear Doris:

First of all, may I wish you and yours a very contented and blessed New Year.

You will recall, Doris, my mentioning to you that I have decided to give up my braille chairmanship which I've had for almost 20 years. About two months ago I broached the subject of assuming this chairmanship to one of our group who took the braille course and became certified, and asked that she think about it. I really felt it would be physically impossible for her to take over as she is a vice-president and is extremely active in Sisterhood, but I thought it didn't hurt to ask! With the exception of one other brailist who is also active in Sisterhood, and due to health problems could not accept, all our other brailists are living out of town--Greensburg, McKeesport, Wexford, Morgantown, W. Va., etc. In order to take care of the needs of our braillists, someone centrally located (Pittsburgh, in this case) is needed.

I got in touch with the head of volunteers at the Library of Congress to ascertain if our women could work directly through them, instead of my getting the books to be brailled, then distributing them to the braillists as needed. Mrs. Glennon advised that the L. of C. was considering dropping this method of sending books to the various group chairmen and that there was a possibility of the braillists shifting their requests for books to the Regional Library for the Blind in Philadelphia.

I asked Mrs. Glennon if (should the women get their books direct from the Regional Library) the Library of Congress would pay for the braille paper. She said they could not, but that when a book was completed, and reported as having been brailled, to the Library of Congress, the brailist could take her book for proof-reading to our same proof-reader; that the Library of Congress would pay him for the proof-reading, and that whoever supplied the paper would be reimbursed \$1.00 per volume transcribed as has been done in the past.

To pursue this further, I phoned the Regional Library in Phila. to ask if THEY would pay for paper and I was told "no"; that ^{all} their volunteers were willing to pay for their own paper. I then wrote to the American Printing House for the Blind from whom we have been getting our braille paper and they advised individual braillists could buy the paper from them at the same price the Sisterhood's been paying. I relayed this information to the Library of Congress but was informed by Mrs. Glennon that should the individual brailist buy her own paper, then request reimbursement from the Library of Congress, they would be unwilling to undertake all the bookkeeping such an arrangement would involve. I haven't as yet broached the subject of paying individually for paper to our braillists until I hear from ~~our~~ Executive Board about this: When our braillists are transferred to the Regional Library in Phila., requesting books directly from them, will the Sisterhood look favorably upon the idea of continuing to supply the necessary paper, having it delivered to the Synagogue office where the braillists can pick it up as needed, under which plan the Library of Congress will reimburse the Sisterhood for all ~~the~~ paper? The only draw-back to this ~~is~~: should the supply of paper run down someone will need to assume the task of re-ordering.

However, I feel ~~that~~ personally, I am willing to purchase my own paper and should any ^{of} our group object, I will suggest that they join another group (I've been wondering if the Temple group would absorb ours). Mrs. Lowenthal is willing to continue braille classes--we do have 9 brailers in excellent condition) but she needs a chairman to assist her.

Please consider all I've written with your Executive Board and ~~do~~ let me hear from you before the end of the fiscal year. My husband is retiring, fully, within the next year or so and our plans are to move South for most of the year, which is why I wish to make this transition as smooth as possible for our braillists and ^{for} Sisterhood.

