

Jewish Public Library Annual Report 2011



Farewell to

Eva Raby



Jewish Public Library
Bibliothèque publique juive
הספריה היהודית העממית
ידישע פאלקס ביבליאטעק



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JPL's President Gerald Soiferman with Executive Director Eva Raby.

Message from the President and the Executive Director

This has been a year of repositioning, restructuring and transition. Although we were pleased that we did not have to endure budget cuts for yet a third consecutive year, we have nevertheless struggled to meet rising costs, salary increases and infrastructure upgrades. Regretfully, we have to date been unable to bring back several positions vacated or cut back due to budget restraints. On the positive side, staff restructuring has resulted in the establishment of a Head of Library Services and Community Outreach, the re-establishment of the Head of Programming to full-time status, a new focus on public relations, and a lateral move by the Programming administrative assistant to the Administration Offices. One impact of staff cuts has been the continued closing of the Library during the winter New Year break and it has been an ongoing struggle to maintain our current opening hours. On the positive side, the JPL staff has yet again risen to the challenge and offered continued and ongoing excellent service to growing numbers of borrowers and library users, managing their workloads under very difficult conditions.

This year, prompted by a new initiative from Federation CJA, and guided by Rivka Augenfeld, the Library revisited its governance practices. Under the able chairmanship of Alain Murad, the By-Laws Committee undertook a major overhaul of the by-laws in order to remain compliant with corporate governance requirements and in furtherance of good business practice. Key changes have included the formalized statement of the Library's purpose; the definition of the duties of the Immediate Past president and Executive Director; the establishment of the Standing Committees of the Library and the requirements of Directors and Officers to sign a conflict of

Interest Policy and a Code of Conduct formalizing their various fiduciary obligations to the Library. There was also a major revision of the Library's cultural committee structure in an effort to streamline the planning process and to involve younger participants who will represent a broader community perspective. The Library also participated in the pay equity process, resulting in the revision of two salaries.

Once again this year we have seen a steady growth in both the circulation of library collections and attendance at cultural events. We have initiated programs for varied audiences, reaching out to younger and diverse groups. Outreach services have included increased numbers of class visits by high schools, elementary schools, CEGEPs, universities and bar/bat mitzvah programs through which students receive tours, library instruction and specialized bibliographies. In addition, outreach to high school students and young adults through the new YA book collection has been wildly successful, as have the mother-daughter book club, the Book Lovers Circle and Education Heritage program in schools carried out through the Archives. We urge you to read the exciting details of all these programs and initiatives elsewhere in this report. On the technical side, the Library's website has been upgraded and several important Judaic online data bases have been acquired. As well, an upgrade to the online public catalogue is almost complete. The Computer Centre is constantly booked to capacity and the various study areas are heavily used, especially at exam time.

The Norman Berman Children's Library continues to thrive, its pre-school programs - all fully booked - now

taking place six days a week. There has been considerable outreach to schools, Jewish and non-Jewish, with thousands of students participating in numerous author visits as well as visits throughout the year by day care centres, neighbourhood schools and day camps. The diverse and up-to-date children's collections, an impressive stock of toys and puzzles and the welcoming, knowledgeable staff members have all contributed to increasing visitors to the Library. The Head of the children's library continues to supervise the PJLibrary program in Montreal, a GenJ initiative.

On June 6, in partnership with the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee national Archives (CJCCCNA), we launched the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, a virtual platform for the combined resources of both the JPL Archive and the CJCCCNA. This has been the culmination of an active year at the Archive, including a larger web presence, extensive use by growing numbers of researchers, and the acquisition of significant collections. We are proud to note that Shannon Hodge, our indefatigable archivist, was awarded the Professional Excellence 1 Award by Federation CJA in September 2010.

In addition to our close and warm relations with Federation CJA and its agencies, we have fostered continued and new partnerships with the Alliance Israelite, Concordia University, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Blue Metropolitan Festival, the Montreal Association of Independent Libraries and so many others. A special collaboration with the National Yiddish Book Centre in Amherst, Massachusetts will result in the digitization of the complete collection of JPL's Yiddish talking books as well as its extended collection of recorded library events, ensuring that the voices of Yiddish literature will resound for generations to come. Among the many special events hosted by the JPL this year we note the visit in May by a cultural delegation from Shanghai and the hosting of the 46th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Montreal in June.

A consequence of shrinking community resources has been our growing dependency on membership fees, grants, endowments, bequests, the Friends of the Library, donations and special fundraising initiatives to meet our operating expenses. Membership fees in most categories were raised in January, for the first time in over twenty years. This year's Gala Fundraiser, honouring four extraordinary couples and featuring the one-man show "Zero Hour", was a great success and a most enjoyable evening. The Girls' Night Out fundraiser continues to attract audiences and is a vital support to the activities of the Children's Library. Our annual grant from the City of Montreal, granted by the Borough of Cote-des-Neiges/Notre Dame de Grace, ensures that we fulfill the needs of our patrons for fiction and general interest materials. Once again, grants from the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation, Morris and Beverly Baker Foun-

dation, Alliance Israelite Universelle, and Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies have supported cultural initiatives. We are grateful to the Azrieli Foundation for a grant over three years towards the ongoing viability of the JPL Archives. A grant from Service Canada enabled us to hire two summer students, while the EJLB Foundation's grant helped purchase additional books and supplies for the Norman Berman Children's Library.

As always, we thank the many volunteers who enable us to do our work and fulfill our mission. They plan our programs and staff events; they shelve books and call for overdue materials; they deliver books to shut-ins and they stuff envelopes; they process books and they check in books; they are judge and jury of awards evenings and they staff events for children. In short, we cannot exist without them, and they are what make our Library special. We are both fortunate to have them and grateful for their dedication.

This is the last time that we report to you, our devoted members. The leadership of our institution is changing as the President is stepping down and the Executive Director is retiring. After a lengthy and widespread search process that took place over many months, the Officers and Board of the Jewish Public Library are pleased to welcome Michael Crelinsten as the next Executive Director. The Nominating Committee has also worked diligently to ensure that the Library will be under the capable leadership of Alain Murad and a dedicated group of Officers and Board members, many of whom represent the young leadership of our community. We look forward towards the 100th anniversary of the Library in 2014 in the hope that it will continue to grow and thrive.



Library Outreach

School visits and tours

Students from Montreal's Jewish day schools, bar and bat mitzvah programs, cégeps and universities regularly visit the JPL to benefit from our specialized collection of material and learn about the library's role in the community. Students from Dawson College visited us for their Integrative Seminar focusing on War and Genocide, and spent time huddled in teams learning about the differences between primary, secondary and tertiary sources. Students from TAV visited the library for library instruction on conducting term paper research, and the JPL had a special visit from the Friendship Circle, a non profit organization that provides assistance and support to children with special needs and their families. The teen group came to learn about libraries and library etiquette. The JPL also continued its successful annual partnership with Marianopolis College. Students in one professor's class spent several weeks using the JPL resources and learning about Biblical commentaries and exegesis. Their professor wrote:

"My students told me that their favourite part of their entire semester was huddling around the tables in the JPL surrounded by piles of books, reading out loud to each other all the wonderful and often wacky interpretations they were uncovering. They felt like researchers for the first time, and a bit like Sherlock Holmes. I think this research project, supported by you and your team, introduced them to the universe of books in a way that was until then, entirely unexpected for most of them."

A special collaboration with the National Yiddish Book Center

In the 1980s and 90s, the JPL recorded some of Montreal's last European-born native Yiddish reading the most popular Yiddish books, creating the world's largest collection of unabridged Yiddish audio books. Until recently, 15 of these books have been available and sold through the National Yiddish Book Center. The JPL and the Center are now working together to digitize the remaining works and make them available online for free. These recordings are the last chance many people will have to hear Yiddish literature in the voices of its original readers. Summer interns from the NYBC visited us to pick up the original copies of these recordings in order to re-master the works and distribute for them for free online. What makes the tapes so important is that they're one of a kind and can never be produced again.

A visit from Shanghai's scholars

Where would be more appropriate for the Chinese translator of Sholem Aleichem to make his first Canadian visit than the Jewish Public Library? The JPL was honoured to receive Prof. Yao Yi'en, a senior research fellow at the Shanghai Institute of Culture and History, on his first visit to Canada. Prof. Yao's delegation was in Canada at the invitation of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations, which recommended that their itinerary include the JPL. Prof. Yao presented the library with his translations of Sholem Aleichem into Chinese and spoke with the library's staff and Yiddish Cultural Committee, who continue to commemorate and celebrate the great Yiddish writer annually on the day he died. Over green tea and danish, the JPL and the Chinese scholars discussed the universality and international appeal of Sholem Aleichem.

Association of Jewish Libraries



The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) held its 46th annual convention in Montreal from June 19 to 22, 2011. Librarians, educators, archivists,

scholars and authors from around the globe met to share their interest in Judaic librarianship and related topics. A special focus this year was the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Montreal Jewish community, including a special visit to the unique Jewish Public Library. As part of the conference proceedings, the delegates came for tours of the Jewish Community Campus and to hear presentations at the Jewish Public Library, including those by JPL staff Shannon Hodge, Eddie Paul and a collaborative presentation from the staff of the Norman Berman Children's Library. A special reception was held at the JPL for the delegates who marveled at a public library serving and supported by the Jewish community.

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

The Jewish Public Library is proud to have launched a special partnership with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. As part of the Museum's outreach initiative, Sharing the Museum, the MMFA offered members of the JPL a number of free passes to their current exhibit. This collaborative educational programme for non-profit community organizations helps to make the museum's collections and exhibitions accessible to the public. The MMFA's rich programme of educational activities and exhibits is a natural complement to the JPL's own mission in supporting the cultural interests of our community.



Filming our library

Beginning on the 22nd of August, the Historia channel will begin airing a new series titled "Mon Dieu," which will provide an introduction to the world's monotheistic religions. The director and film crew visited the JPL this year in order to further their research and record many of the library's rare religious texts. The film crew of The Heart of Auschwitz also visited the JPL. Our library now makes its own appearance in the movie, which centers on a small handmade booklet in the shape of a heart, on display at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

Matane Festival

Follow the Saint Lawrence River north for eight hours to discover the city of Matane, Quebec. City organizers in Matane prepared a two-day festival celebrating Israel, and the JPL helped to provide books and resources to educate and promote understanding of the country.

"Destination Israel" was the idea of local Parti Québécois member of the National Assembly, Pascal Bérubé. The Festival was held May 18-19 with the participation of the City of Matane, the Consulate of Israel in Montreal and the Quebec-Israel Committee. The JPL offered tourism guides, Israeli films, books and histories of the country.

Who the Jew Are You?

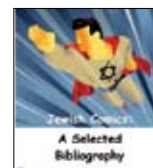
The JPL picked up and took its cultural evening on the road, working with the creator and host of the radio station Shtetl on the Shortwave and Shtetl Montreal, Tamara Kramer. The JPL screened the documentary "Who the Jew Are You?" to an intimate audience in the heart of the Plateau district of Montreal. The film's director, Alan Goldman, came from Vancouver and spoke about how it felt to document his own journey through Jewish identity. Goldman wrote to the JPL saying, "of all the screenings that I have attended that one particular was the best in terms of thoughtful responses." The audience of young adults and adults spoke about the challenges and expectations of what being Jewish means to them.

Book Lover's Circle

As a new initiative, the JPL offered book lover's an opportunity to meet and discuss their favourite books. Our reader's circle happened on a monthly basis, and developed an avid group of regular attendees for free hourly drop-in sessions.

Reading suggestions, bibliographies and staff picks

The JPL continued to provide an array of material to help support ongoing programming and provide reading suggestions to the public. These bibliographies included read-alikes for the runaway hit Secret Daughter, Staff Picks, Hannukah books, Jewish comics and more.



The Jewish Public Library is proud to thank its many partner organizations who visited us and collaborated with us this past year:

- Academie Taryag D'Arizal
- Akiva School
- L'Alliance Israélite Universelle
- Association of Jewish Libraries
- Ben Weider YM-YWHA Daycare
- Bialik High School
- Blue Metropolis Foundation
- Bnai Brith House
- Bnai Brith Lecture Bureau
- Bronfman Jewish Education Centre
- Canada Council

- Castel Royale
- Canadian Jewish Congress
- Chez Soi Residence
- Communauté sépharade unifiée du Québec
- Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies
- Congregation Dorshei Emet
- Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Consulate of Israel
- Dawson College
- Elizabeth Ballantyne School
- Friendship Circle
- Global Day of Jewish Learning
- Goethe-Institute
- Habait Halsraeli
- Hadassah Brandeis Institute
- Hebrew Academy Elementary and High Schools
- Hebrew Foundation School
- Herzliah High School
- Hillel
- Jewish Book Council
- Jewish Communal Network
- Jewish Genealogical Society
- Jewish General Hospital School Program
- Jewish People's and Peretz School
- The Jewish-Ukrainian Dialogue of Montreal
- Jewish Women International Canada
- Lower Canada College
- Mack Belson Summer Reading Camp

- Marianopolis College
- Marymount Academy
- Merton School
- McGill University Department of Jewish Studies
- McGill University School of Information Studies
- Miss Edgar and Miss Cramp School
- Mission to Montreal
- Montreal Association for Independent Libraries
- Montreal Holocaust Museum Centre
- Montreal International Yiddish Theatre Festival
- Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
- National Yiddish Book Center
- Ohr Sheli Day Care
- Roslyn School
- Royal Vale School
- Segal Centre for Performing Arts
- Selwyn House School
- Shaare Zion Congregation
- Shtetl Montreal
- Solomon Schechter Academy
- Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue
- St. George's School
- TAV Intitute
- Temple Emmanuel
- United Talmud Torahs Elementary School
- West Island Y
- Westpark School
- Yeshiva Gedolah

Professional Development

In order for the library to continue to maintain relevancy and currency, our staff attended various conferences within the worlds of Jewish books as well as those of library and archival associations. These conferences help us to continue to be able to plan exciting and dynamic programming as well as maintain and develop new services. Additionally, several library staff presented at one of the following annual conferences, helped organize the following annual conference, or served on the board of the following associations:

- Association of Jewish Libraries
- Jewish Book Council
- Quebec Library Association
- Benchmarks of Historical Thinking (hosted at Library Archives Canada), put on by the Teaching History Education Network (UBC)

The library staff also had the opportunity to visit the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre in order to familiarize themselves with the Museum, which in turn allows the JPL staff to better serve and inform the public. The library thanks the MHMC for accommodating our staff.



L'Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec / Quebec Library Association awarded the Anne Galler Award for Outstanding Library Service to the JPL's Executive Director, Eva Raby. Each year the Quebec Library Association presents an award to a librarian for outstanding library service. This award recognizes an individual who has enriched librarianship in Quebec and has made a lasting contribution to the profession.



Special Collections acquired

Jewish Studies Source

In order to better serve our clientele, the JPL has now subscribed to a database which allows our members to have access to a wide-range of full-text Jewish studies sources. **Jewish Studies Source** includes over 400 full-text titles, including the leading academic journals as well as magazines and newspapers with Jewish content. Whether searching for historical, biblical, cultural or political information, this database will search its hundreds of periodicals for results based on your search. Some key titles available include: *Holocaust & Genocide Studies*, *Jewish Political Studies Review*, *Journal of Jewish Education* and *Jewish Bible Quarterly* as well as over 1600 biographies of leading historical and contemporary Jews. Articles from Jewish Telegraphic Agency date back to 1922 and include interesting primary source material, while other periodicals have more recent holdings.

To access the database, you need to login to our website using your library barcode and password. Articles can be printed or e-mailed from the database. For more information, please contact the reference desk: (514) 345-2627 ext. 3001.

Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World

Until now, there has never been a comprehensive reference work which compiled the historical figures, ideas and themes which have influenced Jews in the Islamic world. The recently released *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World* covers these areas of Jewish history, religion, and culture. This 4 volume work is the winner of the Association of Jewish Libraries Judaica Reference Award. The Encyclopedia aims to fill the gap in academic reference literature on the Jews of Muslim lands par-

ticularly in the late medieval, early modern and modern periods. It has been compiled by over 350 internationally-renowned scholars from North America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and is a valuable addition to the library's collection.

***Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil: Yiddish Culture in Montreal, 1905-1945* by Rebecca Margolis**

In 1931, ninety-nine percent of Montreal's sixty thousand Jews reported that Yiddish was their mother tongue. In the succeeding decades, Yiddish culture has continued to have a prominent place in Montreal's social landscape. In *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil*, Rebecca Margolis shows that the city's vibrant Yiddish culture is the legacy of a driven group of the city's Jews who devoted themselves to the revitalization of the Jewish community, creating a long-lasting infrastructure and institutions that have bolstered Yiddish identity. Margolis, associate professor in the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa, details the **Jewish Public Library's** own history in her work, and will launch her book at the JPL in the Fall 2011.



The Norman Berman Children's Library

"A Storied History"

Whether captured in brightly colored images on a page, carried by a song's melody and rhythm, or brought to life by a speaker's facial expressions and gestures, children's and their caregivers' experiences with stories and storytelling can deeply, powerfully and positively influence their lives. There's no better proof to be found of that statement than by looking back to our Library's own history and to our story this year.

Not long after the Library opened in 1914, we started offering **story times** for children. Puppets, finger plays, songs and rhymes play a key role in bringing books and kids together. Over the past 30 years, we have evolved from offering story time for school-aged children to story, music and art programs for babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their caregivers.

We now run 10 full classes, 6 days a week. No other Montreal library even comes close to that schedule! Courses range from 30 minute **Music and Movement** classes, a 45 minute **Mother Goose** group, and a 60 minute **Shabbat class** with art and music components, to our popular 75 minute **Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time** sessions. Our experienced animators, Selina Eisenberg Smith and Linda Kravitz, are both professional educators with many years of experience at helping caregivers start to bond with their babies through books.

Impressive - yet all the entertainment activities described above represent just the first chapter in our ongoing efforts to encourage children and caregivers to engage and bond with the world of reading and literature.

From experience, we know our Library can play an important role in preschool and early childhood education. This period is often the time when caregivers are the least likely to realize just how much impact their support has upon their children's literacy development. We therefore also included advice to parents and caregivers as part of our classes; if they can understand the underlying educational and developmental objectives, it's more likely they'll model our techniques elsewhere in their lives. To this end, we provided resources such as a significant **picture book collection** and **reference help** in using books and other materials with young children.

We further strengthened our bonds with our clientele by extending their Library experiences to more than just attending courses. Our stock of toys and puzzles beckoned for play and interaction; we welcomed kids and grownups to linger, mingle and chat with us at any time, including before and/or after classes; and our various programmes and events opened them up to the world of literature that exists outside of a book's pages.

During the summer, **Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time** spurred hundreds of children to continue reading (and, just maybe, win a prize too) in our **Summer Reading Club**. Story teller Marielle Miller's **Summer Bedtime Stories** was filled to capacity each Wednesday night through July and August. Last summer, we also encouraged children registered in the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre's **Mack Belson Summer Reading Camp** to keep reading by offering them a free Library membership and Summer Reading Club registration.

In November, our **Jewish Book Month** events gave our guests some unique ways of seeing how other people may share experiences, thoughts and dreams similar to theirs.

For starters, award winning Canadian author **Cary Fagan** spoke to 1,462 elementary students from various Montreal-area public and private schools in 9 sessions over 3 days. Carey's talk was organized, well thought out and very entertaining; he even played his mandolin for some of the younger groups and taught them a pirate's song which they greatly enjoyed.

Our sixth annual **Girls' Night Out** held on Sunday, November 14th was our most financially successful and best attended one ever. 250 female fans from all across Montreal (and a contingent who travelled especially from Ottawa) joined us. Prior to the event, whose proceeds went towards purchasing items for our ever-expanding **Young Adult book** collection, several sponsoring patrons enjoyed a terrific privately catered "Supper with Sara". That would be honoree and speaker **Sara Shepard**, author of the bestselling (2 million copies!) "Pretty Little Liars" series – now also a hit TV show.

Even with all the accolades, Sara remains a very down-to-earth, funny woman who the girls adored "hanging out with", and she proved to be equally as worthy of and worthy to her audience. She ably evoked and examined how teens today are as vulnerable and unsure of what to make of the emotions they encounter as she and we may have been.



Just before our December holiday break, our wildly successful **Holiday Concert** with award-winning musical artist **Jennifer Gasoi** had close to 400 preschool-

ers and their parents singing and dancing in the aisles. Janice Cohen, leader of our popular Wednesday morning **Drop-In Story Time**, also hosted a **Family Literacy Day** in January where all children were invited to make their own penguins and listen to amusing penguin stories.

The Norman Berman Children's Library participated in the **Global Day of Jewish Learning** in November as our popular Sunday morning story time animator, Ruthy Silva Smith told stories based on the theme of "Sharing – Tzedaka". All children ages 3 to 6 years old and their parents were welcome to join us for this special session. Story time included wonderful tales from books such as *Bagels from Benny* by Aubrey Davis, *Ten Tzedakah Pennies* by Joni Klein-Higger, *The Peace Book* by Todd Parr and *Rabbit's Gift* by George Shannon with a puppet reading of *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback. Following story time, families were able to further engage as children had the opportunity to decorate their own charity boxes to take home. These wonderful activities are great tools for teaching children about



sharing and caring, and also a great way of engaging families to befriend each other and to learn of the wonderful theme of *Tzedakah*.

In Spring 2010, we were privileged to host **John Boyne**, author of the New York Times' bestseller "**The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**". John spoke to an audience of over 400, which included secondary school students and adults

from all over the Montreal metro region. He sadly noted that the physical and metaphorical fences in his book still exist in the real world, and are unlikely to ever fully disappear. Yet he also inspired listeners with the idea that if enough people start talking about those fences, they might eventually choose to live without them.

The Library was once again asked to collaborate with the **Blue Metropolis Children's Festival**. Last year, our contribution was a talk given by well known Montreal author **Paul Bracegirdle** and was attended by 250 students. This past April, we were lucky to host well-known British author **Anne Fine**. By all accounts the over 400 students and chaperones in the audience thoroughly enjoyed her talk.

Our **Mother Daughter Book Discussion Group** was filled to capacity as we welcomed popular author and cartoonist **Allan Silberberg** to our opening session. In subsequent sessions, we read fascinating books and discussed pertinent issues in a relaxed atmosphere. The Group ended its year with a delicious supper and private discussion with popular Canadian author Shilpi Somaya Gowda, of "**Secret Daughter**" fame.

The Children's Library also managed the **PJ Library**, a community-wide GEN J initiative funded by both the Harold Grinspoon Foundation – the primary worldwide sponsor of the program – and by Montreal's Marlene and Joel King Family Foundation. This program seeks to engage Jewish families through age appropriate books or CDs mailed free of charge each month to registered children in participating communities. As part of our leadership in this program, the Library helped coordi-



nator **Cindy Davis** organize and fund 2 very successful Sunday afternoon outings. 250 children and their families gave a hearty **"Hurray for Hanukkah"** at our music animator Linda Kravitz's sing-a-long concert. As well, Decarie Square's Dollar Cinema served as the venue for a **Purim Shalom Sesame Story Time and Movie Screening** that attracted a sellout crowd of 400. Due to overwhelming demand, many more potential registrants had to be turned away.



So that is the story of our Library for this year. Even as it becomes part of our history, we are already looking forward to helping children and caregivers discover their own place in stories still to be written and told about the upcoming year at our Library.



Jewish internees playing hockey at one of the internment camps in Quebec, ca 1940-1943.

The Archives of the Jewish Public Library

JPL Archives Bust Out of the Boxes

As reported in the 2010 annual report, the JPL Archives engaged in a partnership with the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives (CJCCNA) under a grant from the Sam and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation. The result of this partnership was the establishment of the *Canadian Jewish Heritage Network* (www.cjhn.ca). The Network is a virtual platform for the combined resources of both the JPL Archives and the CJCCNA. Researchers and users can now search through over 25,000 database records of archival material dating back to the 18th century, browse thousands of digitized photographs and posters and read through hundreds of pages of digitized documents. Both the JPL Archives and the CJCCNA continue to add new material weekly.

This partnership has also led to stronger collaboration in the work of preserving community records and memory. Both institutions consult regularly on outreach for saving material from obscurity or destruction as well as continued collaboration on the CJHN site.

With the larger web presence of the JPL Archives, both with the Jewish Montreal of Yesterday blog (www.jplmontreal.org/blog), the JPL Archives Flickr page, the JPL Archives Twitter feed, and the CJHN site, there has occurred a significant increase in research requests, particularly from French Canadian academics and media. Material from the JPL Archives was used in a myriad of productions and publications including: an exhibit by Parks Canada on the World War II Jewish internees at Île-au-Noix, a production by the National Film Board, as well as numerous academic articles and books. The JPL

Archives continues to offer a high level of service to all requests from across North American and around the world.

This past September, JPL Archivist Shannon Hodge was awarded the Professional Excellence I Award at the Annual General Meeting of Federation CJA. The award recognizes "exemplary performance by a Jewish community professional."

Recent Archival Donations

Montefiore Club Collection
Education Resource Centre Collection
Levine Family Photograph Collection
Stanley Yetnikoff Fonds
Rapkin/Rosenfeld Families Fonds

Professional Association

In June, the JPL Archivist attended the week-long Benchmarks of Historical Learning institute at Library and Archives Canada, thanks to a bursary awarded to her by the University of British Columbia's Teaching History Education Network. The institute provided invaluable training and networking that will be used in the JPL Archives ever-developing education outreach efforts.

A special thank you should be noted to the wonderful students and volunteers the JPL-A hosted this year. Their work was invaluable in achieving high standards and new goals.

Topics Researched Through the JPL Archives

1932 Olympics
A.M. Klein
Canadian Zionism
Chava Rosenfarb
Chava Shapiro
Doctors' Hospital
Family histories
Fred Rose
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
J.I. Segal
Jewish hotels in the Laurentians
Jewish immigration
Jewish internees in Canada during World War II
Jewish Junior Welfare League
Jewish Public Library
Jewish schools in Montreal
Kadia Molodowsky
Keneder Adler
Léa Roback
Louis Rubenstein
Naïm Kattan
Nana Mouskouri and Harry Belafonte in Montreal
(Sam Gesser Fonds)
Reuben Brainin
Rochl Korn
Sam Gesser
Shulamis Yelin
Social work in Montreal
Yiddish theatre in Montreal
Young Men's-Young Women's Hebrew Association
Young Men's Hebrew Association – Golden Gloves
tournaments

Practicum Students

Marrie Barta –
McGill University School of Information Studies
Olga Danilova –
John Abbott College, Information and Library Technologies Program

Volunteers

Maurice Amiel
Kate Brothers
Kate Fletcher
Janice Kerfoot
Sarah Jane Mathieu
Anna McDonald



Screenshot of the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network homepage, www.cjhn.ca



Rodger Kamenetz, Jewish Book Month Keynote Speaker

Cultural Programmes 2010-2011

Under the aegis of 6 cultural programming committees, there were **61 events and programmes** in eight different languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, German, Spanish, and Arabic.

- 2 Theatrical plays and stage readings
- 11 Film presentations
- 13 Lectures
- 1 Book launch
- 7 Canada Council Readings
- 2 *Legacy for Learning* lectures and 2 "Conversations"
- 1 Russian cultural event
- 8 Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal lectures
- 8 Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Sunday Morning Workshops
- 8 Special events

Total attendance for

English events:	3,915
French events:	523
Hebrew events:	1,686
Yiddish events:	1,010
Russian events:	400
With a total attendance of:	7,534

Cultural Programmes 2010-2011

The Jewish Public Library is proud to present some of Montreal's best and most varied cultural programming. We offer something to stimulate everyone and to inspire a life-long love of learning. This year, highlight events included the presentation of the J. I. Segal Awards, a lecture from a Man Booker Prize-winning author, Hebrew

theatre, and premieres of international feature films.

The Year in review

SEPTEMBER

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Sunday Morning Family Tree Workshops held monthly were an opportunity for neophyte genealogists to get assistance in researching their own family histories.

Canada Council Readings with **Michael Blair**, the critically-acclaimed crime writer, who read from his novel *Depth of Field*.

OCTOBER

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal presented *A Tailor's Tale from Transylvania to Tennessee*, with Robert Friedman.

The Norman Berman Memorial Lecture with **John Loftus**, the internationally recognized historian and

Michael Blair
"Depth of Field"

Michael Blair began writing at age sixteen. He has been a member of the CBC and the author of several novels, including "The Book of David," "The Book of David," and "The Book of David." His latest novel, "Depth of Field," is a gripping story of a man's journey through the Holocaust.

Wednesday September 15, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Jewish Public Library
1000 Avenue du Parc, 2nd floor
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2Y4
Tel: 514 392-1111 ext. 222

Bonnie Burnard
"Suddenly"

Bonnie Burnard's debut novel, "Suddenly," is a powerful story of a woman's journey through the Holocaust. It is a gripping story of a woman's journey through the Holocaust.

Wednesday October 13, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Jewish Public Library
1000 Avenue du Parc, 2nd floor
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2Y4
Tel: 514 392-1111 ext. 222

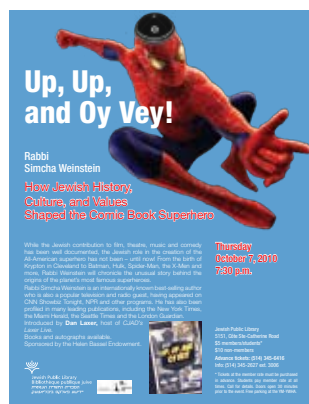
Eric Sibiin
"The Cello Suites"

Eric Sibiin's debut novel, "The Cello Suites," is a powerful story of a woman's journey through the Holocaust. It is a gripping story of a woman's journey through the Holocaust.

Monday November 22, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Jewish Public Library
1000 Avenue du Parc, 2nd floor
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2Y4
Tel: 514 392-1111 ext. 222

author of six books, who discussed *Secrets Behind Headlines: Past and Present*. He gave a fascinating talk about intelligence affairs inspiring the audience to re-think what they had previously accepted as conventional wisdom. Loftus was introduced by David Smajovits.



Legacy for Learning lecture with **Rabbi Simcha Weinstein**, the author of *Up, Up, and Oy Vey! How Jewish History, Culture, and Values Shaped the Comic Book Superhero*. He discussed the Jewish role in the creation of the most enduring all-American superheroes. He was introduced by CJAD radio personality Dan Laxer.

Canada Council Readings with **Bonnie Burnard**, an award-winning novelist and short story writer, who read from her latest book, *Suddenly*.

JEWISH BOOK MONTH – OCTOBER 17TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 18TH

Staged Play Reading in Hebrew of *Mistress of the Castle*, a haunting drama set in a mysterious, remote castle in post-war Central Europe introduced the audience to four intriguing characters who captured the imagination. This classic was written by Leah Goldberg and directed by Aviva Ravel.

Legacy for Learning Series, in cooperation with the **Hadassah Brandeis Institute** presented **Conversations – A Jewish Woman's Literary Circle** with **Varda Polak-Sahm**, who used the intimate setting to discuss her book, *The House of Secrets: The Hidden World of the Mikveh*. Sponsored by the Helen Bassel Endowment.

Lecture in Yiddish with **Eddy Portnoy**, *Little Smart Alecks: Professional Mirth Makers Zuni Maud and Yosel Cutler and their Puppets*, tells the story of the Modicut Yiddish puppet theatre of New York in the 1920s. Sponsored by the Nathan Igelfeld Foundation.

Jamie Cooper Endowment of the JPL presented *Nora's Will* a film from Mexico about a Jewish family that is turned upside down when a long-held family secret is revealed. It won nine Mexican Academy Awards.

The JPL and Jewish-Ukrainian Dialogue of Montreal presented a lecture by **Professor Roman Serbyn**, *Famine Relief in Ukraine: The Forgotten Role of the Joint Distribution Committee*. He illuminated the little-known details of how the Joint Distribution Committee brought relief to Jews and non-Jews during the 1921-23 famine in southern Ukraine. Introduced by Dr. Victor Goldbloom, CC, OQ, MD. Presented in collaboration with the

Canadian Jewish Congress and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Lecture with **Professor Justin Cammy**, *When Yiddish was Young: Avrom Sutzkever and the Legacy of Secular Yiddish Culture*, a discussion of the life of one of last great poets to write in Yiddish. Introduced by Anna Fishman Gonshor, lecturer in Yiddish Studies at McGill. Sponsored by the Yentl Fishman Fund.

NOVEMBER

The Marvin A. Drimer Foundation's Jewish Book Month Keynote Address "Burnt Books" with **Rodger Kamenetz**, a past winner of the National Jewish Book Award, who discussed the deeper meaning of the word for the people of the book in the digital age.

The Galkin Family Annual Lecture Endowment of the JPL presented **Robert Adams** delivering a spellbinding review of *The Forgotten* by Elie Wiesel.

French Keynote address for Jewish Book Month – the acclaimed novelist Marek Halter launched his book *Histoires du People Juif : 400 ans d'histoire*.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal lecture meeting with **Rona Baran**, discussing *Suddenly Jewish*.

J. I. Segal Awards Gala honoured the winners in eight categories on Jewish themes. These prestigious awards are conferred biennially. The 2010 recipients were: Professor David E. Fishman and Boris Sandler for the Dr. Hirsch and Dora Rosenfeld Prize for Yiddish and Hebrew Literature; Rhea Tregebov for the Shulamit Yelin Prize in English Fiction and Poetry Prize on a Jewish Theme; Jeffrey Veidlinger for the Tauben Prize in English Non-Fiction on a Jewish Theme; Maurice Chalom for the Prize in French Literature on a Jewish Theme; Moshe Dor for the Barbara Kay Prize in Translation of a Book on a Jewish Theme; Esther Trépanier and Allan Levine for the Prize in Canadian Jewish Studies; Nira Friedman for the Yaacov Zipper Prize in Education; Garry Beitel for the Michael Moskovitz Prize in Film on a Jewish Theme.

An Evening of Russian Culture "No. 5" provided a cornucopia of Russian culture, including song, dance, music, food, and drink. Sponsored by Barbara and Ronny Kay and the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

6th Annual Girl's Night Out with **Sara Shepard**, author behind the hit teen book and television series, *Pretty Little Liars*.





The Paul Trepman Memorial Lecture was a double bill, featuring the Montreal premiere of the German-Israeli co-production of the feature film **Menachem & Fred**, and the book launch of *Are the Trees in Bloom Over There?* with **Menachem Mayer** and **Fred Raymes**. Theirs is the journey of two Jewish brothers who survived the Holocaust, each to go on separately to live very different lives.

Presented in partnership with the Consulate of Germany, Goethe-Institute Montreal, the Consulate-General of Israel, and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

More than a Book Launch with **Yann Martel**, winner of the Man Booker Prize and author of *Beatrice & Virgil*, an allegorical novel about the Holocaust. This was the closing event for Jewish Book Month.

Canada Council Readings with **Eric Soblin**, journalist, documentary filmmaker, and author of *The Cello Suites*.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Lecture Meeting with **Hymie Reichstein** discussing *Major Discoveries in My Quest to Find My Roots*.

DECEMBER

The Wedding Song, a feature film in French and Arabic with English subtitles, is the story of a Jew and an Arab, best friends in Tunis during the Second World War. The film was followed by a discussion led by Mireille Galanti.

Chaim and Clara Spilberg Endowment Fund presents **JPL Israeli Film Festival**. Four feature films were presented in collaboration with Habait Halsrael. They included *A Matter of Size*, a sensitive film about obesity, in Hebrew and French with English subtitles; *The Loners*, based on the true story of two Israeli soldiers jailed for selling arms to Hamas, in Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles; *Seven Minutes in Heaven*, about a young woman who survives a suicide bus bombing, in Hebrew with English subtitles; and *Jerusalem Syndrome*, a comic romp across Israel, in Hebrew with English subtitles.

JANUARY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal presented its annual feature film night.

Too Early to be Quiet, Too Late to Sing, a feature film in Hebrew and Yiddish with English subtitles, documents the efforts of singer and songwriter Chava Alberstein to interview the last living Yiddish poets. Sponsored by the

Miriam Blacher Glasrot and Josef Glasrot Endowment.

FEBRUARY

Yiddish Café presented *Love Café*, an evening of Yiddish love songs and poems. Sponsored by the Augenfeld Family Endowment.

MARCH

Canada Council Reading with **Avi Friedman**, discussing his book, *A Place of Mind: The Search for Authenticity*, which is about the development of successful environments where people congregate and feel comfortable. He was introduced by Véhicule Press co-publisher Simon Dardick.

Alternative Movie Screening of *Who the Jew Are You?* with director Alan Goldman, who spoke of his search for the relevance of Judaism in his own life. Funded by the N. and E. Mendelson Endowment.

Lecture in Yiddish with **Avrom Novershtern**, discussing *Chaim Grade: The Struggle of the Self and the Striving for Harmony*. A Professor of Yiddish Literature at Hebrew University, Novershtern analyzed Grade's post-Holocaust writing. Sponsored by the Yetta Feldman Chmiel Endowment, David Zysman Endowment, and the Rebecca and Jacob Grossman Endowment.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Lecture Meeting with **David Reich**, a presentation on his family research and its history.

Legacy for Learning presented **Andrés Spokoiny** lecturing on *Judaism and Modernity: From Hasidism to Reformism – Understanding the Supporting Philosophies*. The CEO of Federation CJA shared his learning on Judaism. Sponsored by the Helen Bassel Endowment.

APRIL



Montreal Movie Premiere of the Israeli hit *The Matchmaker*, in Hebrew with English subtitles. This coming-of-age story was nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Legacy for Learning Conversations – A Jewish Women's Literary Circle presented **Dani Shapiro** in an intimate conversation

about her memoir cum spiritual detective story, *Devotion*. The author appeared via Skype, which proved to be a very effective tool for interaction. Sponsored by the Helen Bassel Endowment and the Henry & Berenice Kaufmann Foundation.

The JPL, in collaboration with the Concordia University Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies, presented **Professor Harold Troper** discussing *The Defining Decade: Identity, Politics, and the Canadian Jewish Community in the 1960s*. He recounted how the events of the '60s dramatically altered Canada's Jewish community. Introduced by Professor Norman Ravvin, Chair of the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. Sponsored by the Tauben Family Foundation of the JPL.

The JPL, in collaboration with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, presented a **Lecture Meeting** with **Elisa New**, who discussed how she traced her family history from Lithuania to America in her new book, *Jacob's Cane*.



French Conference with Esther Trépanier on *Les Artistes juifs et la scène montréalaise des décennies 1930 et 1940*. The speaker explored the themes that inspired the Jewish artists of the period and the aesthetic they developed to express them.

Canada Council Reading with **Avner Mandelman**,

award winning author of the thriller, *The Debba*. Introduced by novelist Glen Rotchin.

Movie Premiere of **Anita**, the award-winning Argentinean film, in Spanish with English subtitles, about a woman with Down's syndrome who becomes lost in Buenos Aires following the bombing of the Jewish community centre in 1994. Sponsored by The Philip and Gertrude Batist Memorial Endowment Fund.

MAY

Feature film presentation of Five Brothers in French and Arabic with English subtitles. An action drama about a close-knit family of Algerian Jews set in Marseilles.

Max Margles Fund of the JPL presented **Rebecca Newberger Goldstein**, the renowned philosopher and novelist to discuss her latest book, *36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction*. The author spoke of her views on the clash between faith and reason and the tension between religion and doubt.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Lecture Meeting with **Jon Kanter** presenting his *Reflections on his Tour of Jewish Belarus*.



Yiddish Café presented **An Evening in Honour of Sholem Aleichem**, a popular annual event to commemorate the life of the great Yiddish writer in stories and songs. Sponsored by the Chana Gonshor and the Etta Michtom Miransky Endowments.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Lecture "Capturing Memories: How I Researched and Wrote My Family History" with **Dr. Muriel Gold Poole**, who provided a practical template for budding genealogists.

Lecture with **Shilpi Somaya Gowda**, who discussed how she became a writer and the inspiration behind her bestselling debut novel, *The Secret Daughter*. Before addressing a sell-out crowd, Gowda shared a dinner with the JPL's Mother-Daughter book group. Funded by the N. and E. Mendelson Endowment.

The Miriam Schachter Vineberg Foundation of the JPL presented **Ariel Sabar** lecturing on *Paradise Lost and Found: How a Jewish Kid from Los Angeles Traveled to Wartime Iraq in Search of Roots, Identity and His Father's Improbable Life Story*. The award-winning author of *My Father's Paradise* attracted a younger audience than often attend Library events, as well as many members of the Iraqi and Sephardic communities who were particularly interested in the subject matter.



Montreal documentary film premiere, Song of the Lodz Ghetto, a haunting musical about a street singer and the despotic Nazi head of the ghetto. Presented in association with KlezKanada, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, and the Bronfman Israel Experience Centre.

JUNE

Canada Council Readings with **Howard Richler**, who presented his latest book, *Strange Bedfellows: The Private Life of Words*. A long-time logophile, he discussed some of the bawdy origins of English words.

The Hebrew Theatre of the Jewish Public Library under the chairmanship of Nitza Parry presented **Havdala**, its milestone 10th production. Set in the turbulent era of the Six Day War, this family drama addressed highly charged topics with wit.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Lecture Meeting held its *Three Presenters Program* with Marilyn Hayes, Ervin Spinner, and Arira Schiffman.

Jewish Public Library Annual Fundraiser in honour of Freda & Irwin Browns, Pearl & Saul Lighter, Chava & Ingie Respitz, and Helen & Jerrick Segal presented the Montreal premiere of **Zero Hour**, the off-Broadway hit starring Jim Brochu as Zero Mostel.



Yiddish Concert, in collaboration with the **International Yiddish Theatre Festival at the Segal Centre for Performing Arts**, featured original music by long-time music teacher, choir director, and composer David Botwinik, performed by internationally acclaimed soprano Lisa Willson and pianist Elena Berman.

Lecture on Yiddish Cinema with **Eric A. Goldman**, in collaboration with the **International Yiddish Theatre Festival at the Segal Centre for Performing Arts**. A lecture from the author of *Visions, Images and Dreams: Yiddish Film Past and Present*. Eric Goldman, Ph.D. is a cinema historian and lecturer on Yiddish, Israeli and Jewish film and founder and president of Ergo Media, a publishing company specializing in Jewish and Israeli videos.



L-t-r: Ingie & Chava Respitz, Pearl & Saul Lighter, Freda & Irwin Browns, Helen & Jerrick Segal

Fundraising

The 90th Anniversary Capital Endowment Campaign officially ended and the dedication of the Wall of Honour took place on March 24, 2011. We are now beginning to plan for the 100th anniversary of the Library in 2014. Once again, grants from the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation, Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation, Alliance Israélite Universelle, and Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies have supported Jewish Book Month and other cultural initiatives.

We are grateful to the Borough of Cote-Des-Neiges.-Notre Dame-des-Graces, for a 3.7% increase to its annual grant in support of collections and services; Service Canada Centre for two Summer Student grants; the EJLB Foundation for a grant in support of additional books and supplies for the Norman Berman Children's Library and to the Azrieli Foundation for a grant over three years towards the ongoing viability of the JPL Archives.

In November, the Norman Berman Children's Library held its sixth annual Girls' Night Out evening. Over 250 mothers and daughters came to hear popular YA novelist, Sara Shepard and the monies raised were used to continue purchasing much needed books for the young adult book collection. The Library celebrated its 97th anniversary with an outstandingly successful Gala fundraiser, at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, honouring Freda & Irwin Browns, Pearl & Saul Lighter, Chava & Ingie Respitz and Helen & Jerrick Segal and featuring Jim Brochu in the off-Broadway show Zero Hour, a one man show about Zero Mostel. This year's ad book appeared as an insert in the September 7, 2011 issue of The Suburban.

As always, the continued support of the Friends of the JPL is a valued source of income for the purchase of Judaic materials.

We are grateful to all the members of the JPL for their continuous support and wish to express our thanks to the countless donors who have commemorated important life events by donating books, bookshelves and endowments in the name of loved ones. As well, several bequests have been received this year in support of Library collections, including those of Jack Gitlitz, z"l and Conrad Cohen, z"l.



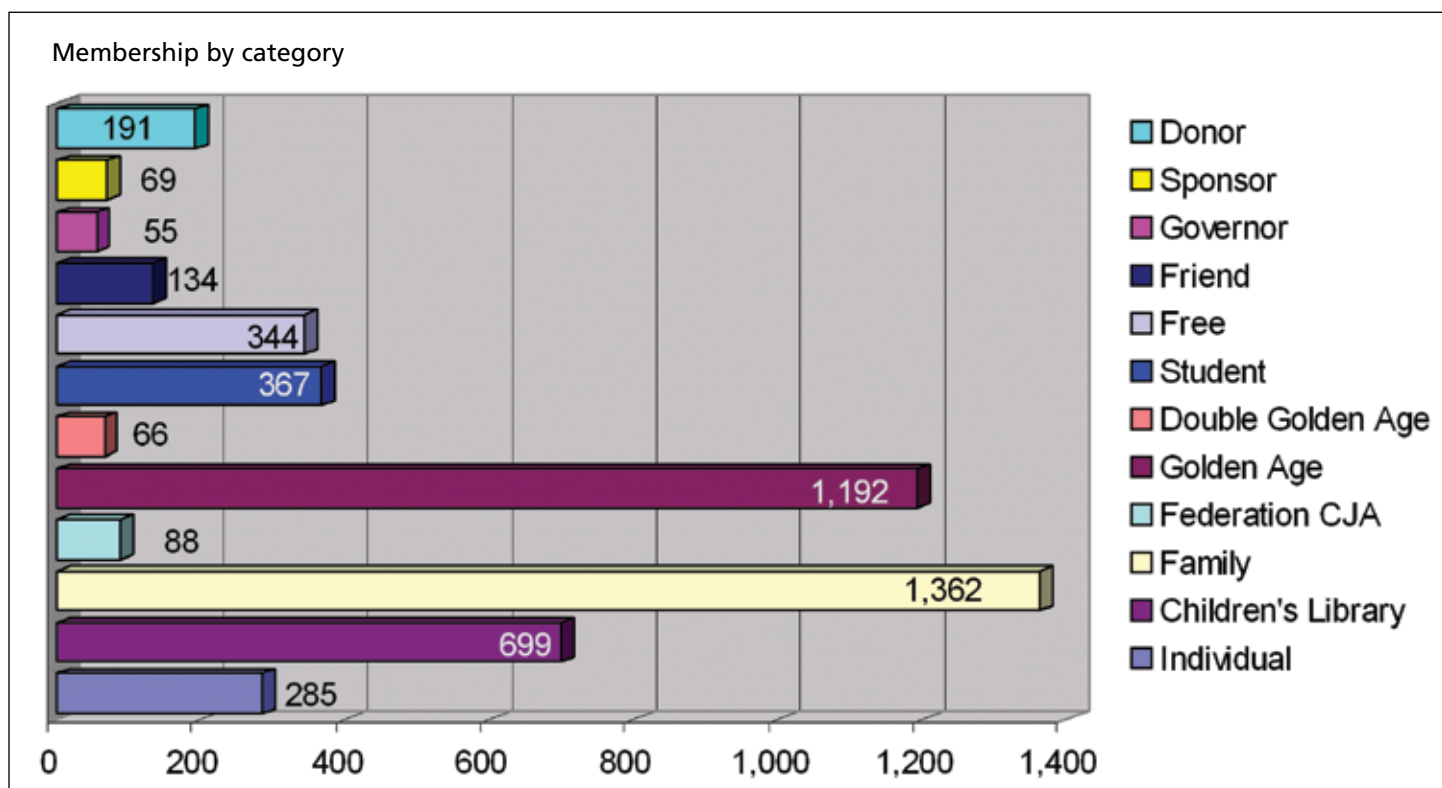


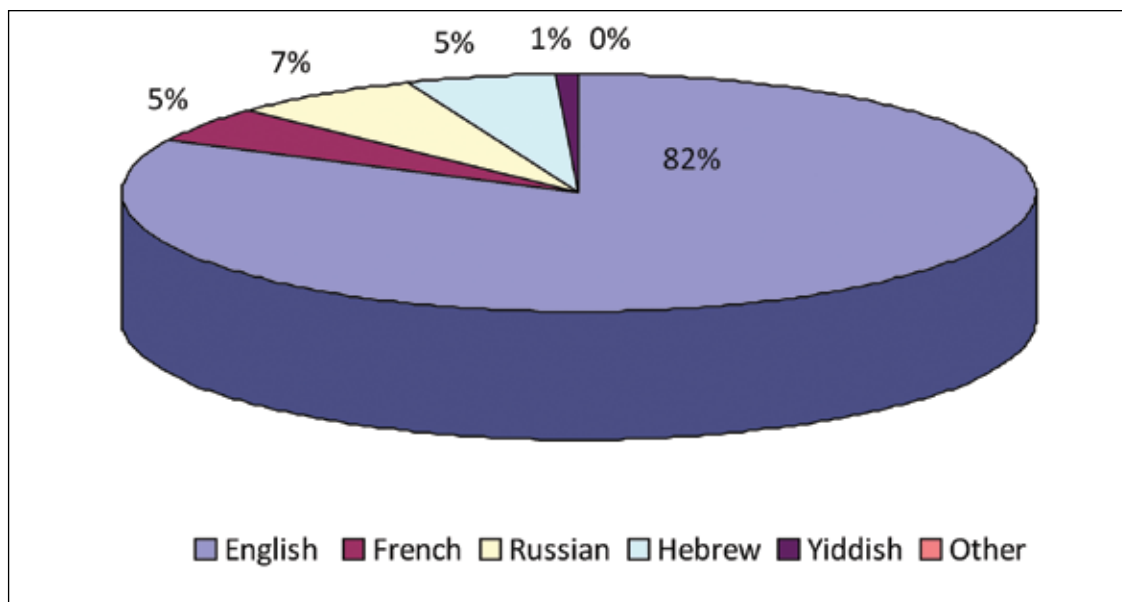
Statistics

As our library continually grows in members, programs, and services, we also continue to increase in the relevancy of our collection and respond to user interests and needs. Library circulation has increased again, with 132,643 items circulated in 2010. This represents a 23 per cent increase

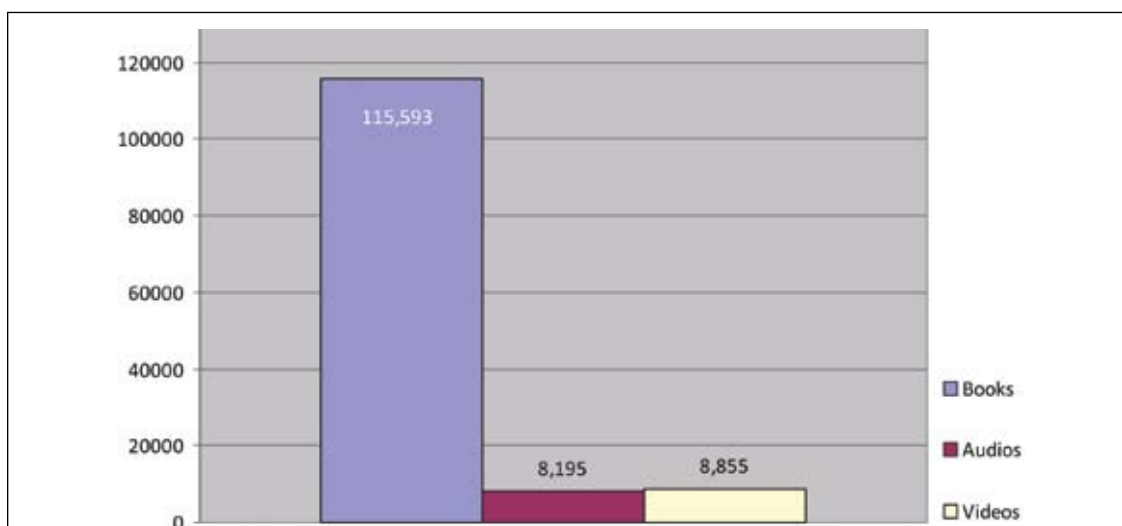
from 2007, an 11 percent increase from 2008 and a 2 percent (1,908 items) increase from 2009.

The charts below represent the division of these by format, language and genre and circulated items.

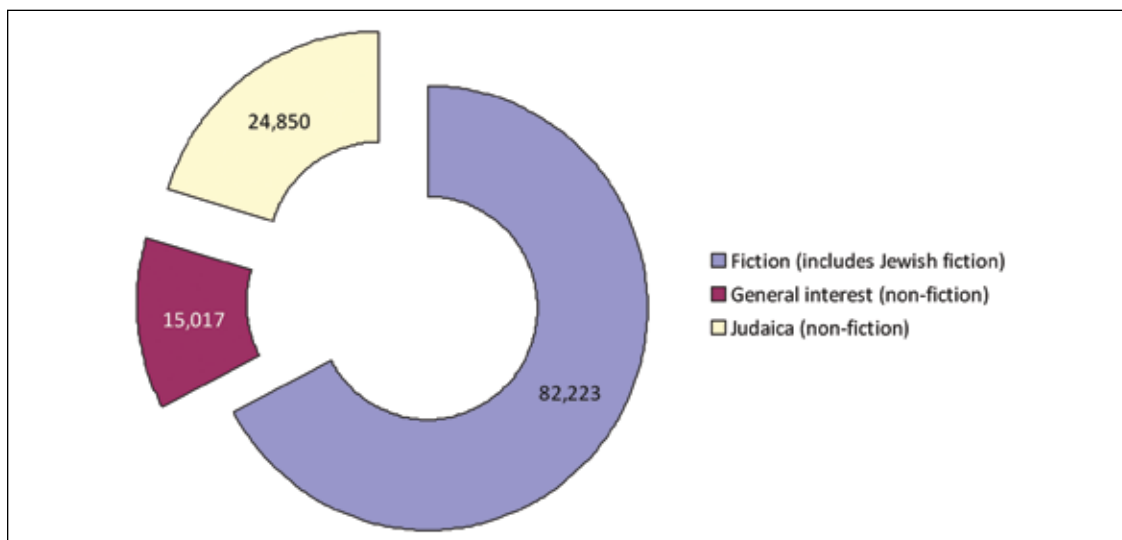




132,643 items were circulated in 2010. The chart shows the split by language.



This chart demonstrates the circulating items by medium in 2010.



The items circulated in 2010 by category.

Top 25 borrowed books of 2010

1. The girl who played with fire by Stieg Larsson
2. The help by Kathryn Stockett
3. The elegance of the hedgehog by Muriel Barbery
4. The lost symbol: a novel by Dan Brown
5. The girl who kicked the hornets' nest by Stieg Larsson
6. Smert' na brudershaft: roman-kino by Boris Akunin
7. Frantsuzskii bez truda segodnya by originalnyi text Anthony Bulger i Jean-Loup Chere
8. The Girl with the dragon tattoo by Stieg Larsson
9. House rules: a novel by Jodi Picoult
10. Deliver us from evil by David Baldacci
11. Sarah's key by Tatiana de Rosnay
12. The yellow notebook: a novel by Devorah Rosen
13. True blue: a novel by David Baldacci
14. Shlavim classics 2-in-1 by written and illustrated by Ruth Beifus. (NBCL)
15. Solar: a novel by Ian McEwan
16. Eat, pray, love: one woman's search for everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert
17. Still Alice: a novel by Lisa Genova
18. The lacuna: a novel by Barbara Kingsolver
19. Twenties girl: a novel by Sophie Kinsella
20. The reluctant fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid
21. Devushka, kotorai vzryvala vozdushnye zamki by Stieg Larsson
22. South of Broad: a novel by Pat Conroy
23. The 6th grade nickname game (NBCL)
24. The bishop's man by Linden MacIntyre
25. Two and a Tevi: firecracker wars! by written by R. Shatz (NBCL)

Top 10 borrowed DVDs of 2010

1. Uncle Moishy and the Mitzvah men
2. The Duchess of Duke Street
3. Sherlock Holmes
4. Tout va bien
5. It's complicated
6. Julie and Julia
7. Ghost writer
8. The Young Victoria
9. The Inspector Lynley mysteries
10. The Life of Mammals



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The Jewish Public Library exists only with the support of the community and the hard work and determination of its many volunteers and layperson committee members. In addition to the many exceptional individuals who have worked on our library committees, volunteers have helped us process books, deliver books to the elderly, shelve library material, in addition to much needed clerical work, library upkeep, and many more important tasks.

We would like to thank the following:

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