



# JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

100 YEARS









President Alain Murad



Executive Director Michael Crelinsten

## Message from the President and the Executive Director

100 years ago the first annual report and the 1914 Annual general meeting were supported by *Terdiman's Delicatessen* ("...the best and most delicious salamis, sausages, corned beef, tongues and smoked fishes...), *Segals' Agency for Transatlantic tickets* ("...we send money by telegram to Russia in four days with a guaranteed rate... (so that you) are able to come to the help of (your) family..." ) and *M. Shluker* ("...patronize the only Jewish lumber yard...give your orders for coal – a \$500 reward will be given to any person who finds that he has not been given the exact weight in coal.")

These ads provided revenue for the new JPL - the tradition continues. This past year has seen a focus on our **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign** and, as was the case with Messrs. Terdiman, Segal and Shluker, the community continues to support this noble institution. In recent months, in the context of unprecedented local and national media profile, the JPL inaugurated and celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Our **Rare Books** exhibit and presentation, the **Archival** exhibit (*Stories Told: 100 Years of the Jewish Public Library*), a reception at the **Hôtel de Ville de Montréal** and a unique reception at the home of **Alvin and Emmelle Segal** and the **Salon de Livres** were all stellar events. Most significantly, in some important respects, was the formal launch of our Archival Exhibit and Campaign at **Bibliothèque et Archives nationale de Québec**. That this event was so warmly welcomed and generously hosted at BAnQ is a statement not only about the JPL itself, but also about the role and exceptional contribution of the Jewish community to the history, economy and social fabric of

Quebec. In context, both historically and given contemporary events, this is a very significant statement. There remain still more major celebrations to take place in the coming months including a major full-day **Symposium** on the history of the JPL and the future of libraries and a community wide celebration at **Quartier Cavendish**.

This past year saw the usual array of **cultural events** at the JPL ...although there is nothing "usual" about them at all. From **Ruth Wisse** on Jewish Humour and why it matters, to the poignant and inspirational film, **No Place on Earth**, screened in the presence of the Stermer family, to **Michael Bar-Zohar's** compelling presentation on the Israeli Mossad, our community was offered world class events of exceptional relevance and timely interest. Israeli author, Ron Leshem, the **Kotler family** sponsored film *Orchestra of Exiles*, the **Max Margles** Memorial Lecture by author Martin Fletcher and the **Vineberg** Lecture by Ronald Balson added to an already rich banquet of programmes. These speakers join the roster of illustrious invitees who have spoken at the JPL over the years including Sholem Aleichem, Mordecai Richler, Saul Bellow, E.L. Doctorow, J.I. Segal, Naïm Kattan and Rochl Korn.

Our **Archives** has been focused on our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was instrumental in producing the exhibits that appeared at the City of Montreal and the BAnQ (and now in the FCJA atrium). These exhibits not only enabled the JPL to reach new audiences, but showcased our community to the entire city as well as summer tourists. We also launched our virtual exhibit platform

through the generous support of the **Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund**. This resource will be invaluable as an online platform for our Archival Exhibit as well as presenting digitized archival materials that will support our outreach efforts particularly intended to engage young people. In addition to our *M'dor le dor* project with Akiva School, which exposes students to community heritage and their own family's history (further augmenting the work of JPL's **Jewish Genealogical Society**), we continue to build our reputation as a vital research centre, this year loaning archival material to, for example, Musée Pointe-à-Callière, Bibliothèque et Archives nationale du Québec, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax.

We sustain our roots through broad offerings in Yiddish classes in conversation and reading, literature and history as well as a range of cultural programmes. In the latter instance, the JPL sponsored a lecture by Professor **Kalman Weiser**, through the Yentl Fishman Endowment, a book launch with **Sidney Zoltak**, a celebration of 100 years of Yiddish song and poetry, sponsored by the Augenfeld family, Avi Morrow, Canadian Heritage and the borough of CDN/CDN as well as an evening honouring **Sholem Aleichem**.

The JPL continues to move forward now offering iPad use to our patrons, access to Netflix and participating in the Lire Montreal Festival as well as collaborating with BlueMet and Urban Shetl. We are on the cusp of a major renovation of our multi-media centre. With the support of TD Bank, we have expanded our YA collection. Award winning author, Laurel Snyder, was our Jewish Book Month honoree. She spoke at 7 different schools to some 1350 kids about the trials and tribulations of growing up. We teamed up with Cummings Senior Centre, West Island, to provide a grandparents/grandchildren a pre-school programme of songs, stories and, of course, snacks. The **Norman Berman Children's Library** continues its, by any objective measure, world class work through *Girls Night Out* (author Lauren Oliver), our annual holiday concert (Grammy Award winner Jennifer Gasoi), Family Literacy Day and Mother/Daughter Book Discussion groups.

All of this costs money and we have worked assiduously, during this 100<sup>th</sup> year, to raise funds, increase our endowment and secure our future. Earlier in this note we highlighted some of the key 100<sup>th</sup> events that have taken place. A thorough review of our fundraising activities can be found a little further long in this report. One year ago, we announced that we had raised just over \$930,000. A year later that number stands at a little over

\$2,353,500. We are still in full 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign mode and intend even better numbers in the very foreseeable future.

All of the above is the result of hard work and commitment. Three women who have recently left the Library personify the JPL's great strengths as expressed through talent, knowledge, loyalty, no small amount of tenacity, perseverance and hard work. **Sheila Rovniak** began working at the JPL in 1991. **Valentina Rojinskaia**, joined the Library in 1997 and **Sonia Smith** began in 1999. They brought excellence to their work and leave a host of wonderful memories and large gaps to be filled. To them, we say, thank you. And to our Friends, members and supporters, we say thank you as well, as we head into our second century.

Alain Murad  
President

Michael Crelinsten  
Executive Director





## Special Projects and Library Outreach

### ***\*NEW\* IPADS AT THE JPL***

Thanks to a generous donation from a member of our community, the Jewish Public Library received several iPads for library use. Three of these iPads are now available for loan to members of the JPL at the circulation desk. With subscriptions to Netflix and NextIssue, members have the chance to sit and watch a movie, browse the latest magazines, check their e-mail or browse the web. Members over 18 in good standing can borrow these for three hours at a time, returning them to circulation one hour prior to closing. For more information, members are asked to inquire at the circulation desk.

### ***NETFLIX***

Now in the computer room of the JPL! Members of the JPL now have the chance to watch Netflix, a live streaming service with popular and indie films, television shows, documentaries and comedy. Members can browse and watch during JPL's business hours. Free for members of the Library.

### ***SCHOOL VISITS, TOURS, AND PRESENTATIONS***

Once the school year began, the JPL opened its doors to elementary, high school, CEGEP and University students. With general interest tours as well as workshops crafted specifically for particular student groups, the JPL staff helped to make our collections and information more accessible. We arranged scavenger hunts for younger students to learn how the library is structured and rare book workshops for high school students learn-

ing about the evolution of information and its distribution. CEGEP and university students regularly visited our unique collections for more focused research, while those participating in the Mission to Montreal came through our doors to learn about the Montreal community and organizations.

### ***MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS***

The JPL continued its successful partnership with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The MMFA offered JPL members free tickets to their main exhibitions as part of their Sharing the Museum initiative. JPL members were delighted to attend the following exhibits:

- Splendore a Venezia: Art and Music from the Renaissance to Baroque in Venice
- Fabulous Fabergé, Jeweller to the Czars Exhibit

### ***COURSES AT THE JPL***



#### **Creative Writing Course "In Your Own Voice"**

For the first time, the JPL offered a creative writing course. Led by award-winning novelist and short story writer, Ami Sands Brodoff, the course helped individuals find creative inspiration and the momentum to begin to craft their words.

With nine men and women sitting around the table, this intensive workshop inspired pen to paper.



**Jewish Culture Course “Treasures of Yiddish Song”**. The JPL continued to offer informal learning opportunities, with a course that explored a selection of Yiddish songs from the Haskalah until the twentieth century. Using the medium of music to understand the culture and history of the Jewish people, Janie Respitz led

students through the songs of Manger, Gebirtig, Warshavsky, among others.

## ***YIDDISH LANGUAGE COURSES***

The JPL Yiddish courses were a resounding success this past year! With a Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Course to select from, anyone with an interest in the language had the chance to enrich their skills. From learning the aleph beys to developing conversational skills and reading the Yiddish classics, our dedicated instructors, Sheila Witt and Lorna Smith, welcomed those passionate about learning and discovering the joys of Yiddish. The courses were so popular, that we had to cap enrollment on our Beginners course!





Who says love is a good thing?

# Girls' Night Out



## The Norman Berman Children's Library

As the JPL celebrates its centennial year, the Norman Berman Children's Library has surpassed many milestones of its own. Our **preschool music, story time and Shabbat classes** held 6 days a week and led by experienced, devoted animators Linda Kravitz, Selina Eisenberg Smith, Janice Cohen and Alyssa Rosellini, were once again filled to capacity necessitating the addition of extra classes.

Adding to the joy and fun of our classes, the Library's youngest patrons are welcome to come in before and linger after our classes. They can browse our collection of approximately **40,000 titles in English, French, Hebrew and Yiddish** and play with our **toy collection**. When they need help, our staff of children's librarians is ready with ideas and suggestions for their reading and learning fun.

Once again the registrants in our **Summer Reading Club**, sponsored by TD Canada Trust, were able to beat the summer slide by reading whatever books they chose to read. No pressure here! Partnering with the Bronfman **Jewish Education Centre's Mack Belson Summer Reading Camp**, we gave their registrants free summer and NBCL Reading Club memberships so they could continue to improve their reading skills. We also teamed up with the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors West Island Prime Time as we presented a preschool program for grandparents and their grandchildren. While attending a Sunday morning multigenerational *Sail on Noah's Ark- A Musical and Craft Adventure*,

the young and old alike participated in songs, stories and crafts, and enjoyed a snack.



October brought Atlanta author **Laurel Snyder** as our **Jewish Book Month** honoree. Laurel is an award winning writer of 12 children's books, as well as some adult titles. She delights in portraying bright, curious children making sense of the often-senseless world around them. Her deeply human stories of com-

munity and friendship remind us of what is essential for a strong and happy life. Laurel's books convey important messages of identity in an engaging manner, with the result that her readers learn a little something about themselves, each other and about growing up into the people they want to be. Laurel connected very easily to her audiences – 1,350 children from 7 different schools' grades 2 through 6 - in a marathon 9 sessions over a 3-day period. By hearing her straight-forward recounting of the difficulties that she had growing up in Baltimore, moving to a new home and being bullied, the children learnt from her how to handle whatever might happen to them. They were motivated and touched by her candor and honesty: in one school, a 12-year-old tearfully confided her own struggles to Laurel in a private conversation; while in another, Laurel's talk earned her a standing ovation from the assembled grade 5 and 6 students.

Laurel attended a session of our **Mother Daughter Book Discussion Group**. She discussed the theme behind her semi-autobiographical novel *Bigger Than a Breadbox* and talked to the girls about writing and her own experiences getting published.

Our very own Selina Eisenberg Smith told her stories and was very well received by students of Royal Vale and Hebrew Foundation Schools as well as the pre-schoolers of CPE Maimonide.

On November 17th, in honor of the **Global Day of Jewish Learning**, the Norman Berman Children's Library offered a FREE story time with a theme of "Creating Together: Jewish Approaches to Creativity and Collaboration". We welcomed all children ages 3 to 6 years old, and their parents, for this program as part of our Sunday Children's Story Time. It included wonderful tales from books such as *Yossi and Laibet Learn to Share* by Dina Rosenfeld, Phyllis Root's *One Duck Stuck*, *How Dalia Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box* by Linda Heller, Holly Heller's *Help! A Story of Friendship*, and more. Following story time, families were able to put the day's theme into practice, as the children had the opportunity to make a craft to take home. These wonderful activities are great tools for teaching children about togetherness and collaboration, and a great way of engaging family members with each other, with a very tangible sense of cooperation.



Times' bestselling author Lauren Oliver. The committee put together a wonderfully organized, fun event that included innovative desserts, SWAG bags filled with all kinds of goodies, raffles and free prizes galore. Lauren mesmerized the 170 girls and their moms, aunts, cousins and grandmothers with her story and encouraged everyone to persevere in their chosen field. As she told her fans, she really was not a great writer when she started out, but she just loved writing. She enrolled in postgraduate courses, listened to the comments and criticisms from all sources, and faced many rejections until she finally reached that New York Times Bestsellers' List. Her honesty and openness totally captivated our attendees – our best judges of a program's success. One remarked that "Lauren was informative, honest & real.....thereby quite inspirational. I also loved seeing the extremely long lineup of girls waiting for their books

to be signed and pics taken with the author". Another said that "Lauren Oliver was warm, open, and authentic. I was especially interested in her thoughts on 'talent' versus practice. As usual, everything about the evening was great – from the décor to the delectable sweets to the quantity and quality of the door prizes".



Winter found us hosting the NBCL's longtime friend **Jennifer Gasoi** for our annual **Holiday Concert**. They were dancing and singing in the aisles as we hosted a capacity crowd of over

500. Jennifer went from Montreal to Los Angeles where she won a coveted well deserved **Grammy Award** for Children's Album of the Year – *Throw a Penny in the Wishing Well*.

Despite the bitter cold, January's **Family Literacy Day** had a capacity crowd as Janice Cohen told stories based on fairy tales. The children made a prince or princess sock puppet to take home to continue the fun.

Members of our **Mother Daughter Book Discussion Group** actively debated the fascinating books chosen this year from all genres. We delved into pertinent issues, as decided by the participants, in a relaxed and jovial atmosphere.

In the past 100 years, our children's library has led the change in attitudes and noise levels! Those who still think of the Library as a spot where everyone, including children, should be quiet are always invited to check out our classes. Encouraging early learning means more toys, more noise, more art and even more mess. Almost anything goes as our library days involve parents and children reading, playing, singing, creating and talking in a fun relaxed atmosphere. As we provide this space and our services, we are a lot more than children's librarians; we are early learning specialists creating lifelong readers.





Mr. Guy Berthiaume, former President and CEO of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec and presently Librarian and Archivist of Canada, helped to open the *Stories Told* at the Grande Bibliothèque.

## The Archives of the Jewish Public Library

### THE JPL ARCHIVES CELEBRATES

The past year in the JPL-A was dedicated to the Library's 100th anniversary celebrations. Two major exhibits occupied most of the staff's time. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Library launched an exhibit at Montreal City Hall with a vernissage for Board members, Friends of the JPL and past employees. The exhibit was then opened to the public and gave Montrealers and hundreds of tourists the opportunity to learn about this historic institution.



At the same time, the JPL-A's new virtual exhibit platform went live at [www.jpl-presents.org](http://www.jpl-presents.org). This exciting new tool was made possible through the generous support of the Peter

and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund. This new site provides an online platform for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit, as well as future exhibits of our digitized archival materials. JPL-presents will also be used in outreach efforts, particularly in connecting young students with primary resources.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, along with the launch of the JPL's centenary campaign, the Library's archival exhibit, *Stories Told: 100 Years of the Jewish Public Library*, was unveiled in the Collection Nationale space at the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. The exhibit included photographs from the last century, a selection of rare books and materials from the JPL-A's collections, as well as arte-

facts from the Library. The hosting of *Stories Told* at the BAnQ marks the first occasion an exhibit from Montreal's Jewish community was presented at the Grande Bibliothèque. *Stories Told* was not just an opportunity for the Library to reach new audiences, but for the entire community to be showcased to the city. This exhibit will be presented again when it returns to Cummings House in August 2014.

Beginning last September, the JPL-A presented weekly blogs on various events and milestones from the Library's history. All of these blog posts can be found at [www.jewishpubliclibrary.org/blog](http://www.jewishpubliclibrary.org/blog).

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

The JPL-A staff is continuing to work on projects related to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including a YouTube series that will present a selection of oral history interviews and past programmes.

Along with centenary celebrations, the JPL-A is busier than ever with research requests and general outreach activities. This year marks the fourth year that the JPL-A and Akiva School have worked together on the M'dor le dor/Generation to Generation project. The project, which exposes students to archives, community heritage, and their own family's history, is hugely successful. Plans are in the works for expanding this project within the community.

The JPL-A's reputation as a vital research centre continues to grow. In addition to ever increasing visits and requests from researchers around the world, the JPL-A

also loaned archival material for exhibits and productions by various institutions, including: the Musée Pointe-à-Callière, Bibliothèque et Archives nationale du Québec, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

The successes of the JPL-A would not be possible without the continued support of the Alex Dworkin Foundation for Jewish Archives.

### **RECENT ARCHIVAL DONATIONS & TRANSFERS**

Alan Handel Fonds  
Alexander Massey Fonds  
Ida Maze Fonds (addition of new material from  
Alexander Massey)  
Jacob Steinberg Fonds



New material donated by Irving Massey include photographs of his mother, poet Ida Maze, with her contemporaries. Pictured here is Maze with fellow poet and long-time contributor to the Library, Melech Ravitch. Rivière à Simon, Christieville, ca. [194-].

### **SAMPLE OF TOPICS RESEARCHED THROUGH THE JPL ARCHIVES**

Rita Briansky  
Reuben Brainin  
Ida Maze  
The YM-YWHA  
Rochl Korn  
Joseph Grossman  
Sam Gesser  
Jewish Public Library  
Jewish Canadiana Collection  
Jewish People's and Peretz Schools

Jewish internees in Canada during World War II  
Social services in the Jewish community  
Jewish Family Services/Ometz  
Lea Roback  
Joseph Berman  
Jewish painters  
Keneder Adler  
Baron Byng High School  
General genealogy research  
Mollie Schwartz  
B'nai Brith  
Saidye Bronfman Centre  
Jewish education in the 1920s  
Manny Lecker – Jewish veterans  
JPL Sheet Music Collection  
Sholem Aleichem  
Chaim Grade  
Saul Bellow  
Jewish Montreal and Zionism  
Jewish theatre in Montreal, early 20th century  
Monument National  
Mount Sinai Sanatorium  
Ariel Bension

### **PRACTICUM STUDENTS**

Kuniko Matsuo – John Abbott College

### **EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEERS**

Maurice Amiel  
Justin McKinney  
Caroline Goulding  
Leona Kolber



Michael Bar-Zohar,  
Jewish Book Month Keynote Speaker

## Cultural Programmes 2013-2014

Under the aegis of **6 cultural committees**, there were a total of **68 events and programmes** in five different languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian.

- 1 Theatrical Play
- 10 Film Presentations
- 6 Lectures
- 9 Book Launches
- 4 Canada Council Readings
- 1 "Conversations" Event
- 1 Russian Event
- 9 Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal lectures
- 10 Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Sunday Morning Workshops
- 1 Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal – Annual Film Night
- 4 Special Events (Rachel Bluwstein, Michael Bar-Zohar Keynote, MMFA Exhibit Talk, Salon du livre)
- 6 Book Reviews
- 2 Yiddish Cafés
- 2 Exhibitions & Lectures
- 3 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibits (City Hall, BANQ and Fed CJA Lobby)

Attendance was as follows:

English events: 5,994  
French events: 368  
Hebrew events: 1,983  
Yiddish events: 780  
Russian events: 420  
**With a total attendance of: 9,545**

### CULTURAL PROGRAMMES 2013-2014

As a center for Jewish culture, the Jewish Public Library flourished this past year, offering exceptional adult programming and bringing high-calibre authors and films to Montreal. This year some of the highlight events included the JPL's 100th Anniversary Exhibit at the BANQ, the Keynote Event for Bloomsday 2014 with Marilyn Reizbaum, and much more.

### SEPTEMBER

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal Sunday Morning Family Tree Workshops**, were held monthly and gave aspiring genealogists a chance to hone their skills and receive assistance in investigating their family trees.

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *The Jewish pioneers of Ste-Sophie-St-Lin, New Glasgow – 100th Anniversary of a unique community 65 kilometers north of Montreal*, with **Freddy Rudy, Murray Goodz, and Pearl Zaritsky**.

**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL**  
In association with the  
**JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY**




**Freddy Rudy, Murray Goodz, Pearl Zaritsky**  
*The Jewish pioneers of Ste-Sophie-St-Lin, New Glasgow – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a unique community 65 kilometers north of Montreal*

All three grew up and attended the same school as the Wilfred Laurier did in New Glasgow. Pearl's mother was a teacher in the district of the time when all members of the Jewish community lived in the same house. Murray's father was a writer in Yiddish. Murray's father and his father had a small shop in the district. All three grew up in the same district.

We have you to listen to their fascinating stories. With Rudy (Freddy's father) who was the only Jewish Mayor of the district and Murray (Murray's father) who was the only Jewish Mayor of the district and Rudy (Rudy's father) who was the only Jewish Mayor of the district.

The meeting will be held on:  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2013**  
**7:30 pm**  
Gelber Conference Centre  
5151 Cote Ste-Catherine / Carré Cummings  
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1A4  
484-0969

**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL**  
In association with the  
**JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY**




**John Diener**  
*Austria, Poland, & Ukraine - 3 Countries, 5 Archives & 12 Wonderful Days of Discovery*

In April of this year, John Diener travelled to Austria, Poland, and Ukraine. Accompanied by Gelber Centre President, Pamela Webberger, he visited five different archives, had an amazing dinner with Count Peter (Pete) de la Roche, and attended the opening of the new Museum of the History of the Jewish People in Warsaw.

The meeting will be held on:  
**Tuesday, October 08, 2013**  
**7:30 pm**  
Gelber Conference Centre  
5151 Cote Ste-Catherine / Carré Cummings  
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1A4  
484-0969

**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL**  
In association with the  
**JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**"Between Assimilation and Annihilation: Jews in Germany and Their Children"**

After centuries of persecution, Jews became citizens of equal rights in Germany in 1871. From this date until 1933, a majority of German Jews opted to integrate into mainstream society. Many married non-Jews, but their children did mostly not adhere to the Jewish faith. Taking as an example my own ancestors, I will guide you on a journey along this path.

The meeting will be held on:  
**Monday, December 09, 2013**  
**7:30 pm**  
Gelber Conference Centre  
5151 Cote Ste-Catherine / Carré Cummings  
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1A4  
484-0969

**Interview with author Barbara Kay by son Jonathan Kay**, Comments Pages editor and journalist of the National Post, on her book *Acknowledgements: A Cultural Memoir and other Essays*.

## OCTOBER



**Film Screening** of *La longueur de l'alphabet*, by Joe Balass; a film that pays tribute to Naïm Kattan and his cultural contributions to Canada and Quebec in French with English subtitles. The screening was followed by a discussion featuring **Joe Balass** and writers **Naïm Kattan** and **Sophie Jama**. Sponsored by N.E. Mendelson Endowment Fund.

The **Afternoon Book Review Series** grew this year, with some of our largest audiences ever! Our popular review series featured bestsellers and hidden gems, including stories from around the world and from within the Jewish community. In October we welcomed **Ami Sands Brodoff** who reviewed *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini.

**Book Launch** with **Professor Ira Robinson** on the publication of *Canada's Jews: In Time, Space and Spirit*. This consists of a series of essays written by experts in their respective fields covering a wide variety of topics from history and religion to the intellectual and cultural contributions of Canada's Jews.

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *Austria, Poland, & Ukraine – 3 Countries, 5 Archives & 12 Wonderful days of Discovery*.

**Reading and Wine Reception** with author **Dr. Vincent Lam**, who read from his book *The Headmaster's Wager* and was introduced by Trudis Goldsmith-Reber.



**The Janie Cooper Endowment** of the JPL presented a **film screening** of *Kaddish for a Friend*, a multiple award winning movie premiere by Leo Khasin in Arabic and German with English subtitles. A true story about divided loyalties, misguided love and the betrayed becoming the betrayer set against the backdrop of a tumultuous and anti-semitic Poland in 1968.

## JEWISH BOOK MONTH – OCTOBER 19 THROUGH NOVEMBER 18

**Readings and documentary screening** in Hebrew with English subtitles/introductions, *Perhaps... From Rachel's Window – the Best of Rachel the Poetess*. A café style evening devoted to the poetry of Rachel Bluwstein featuring poetry readings, musical performances, a sing along with Dafna Tzur and the screening of a documentary revealing the personal story of this Israeli icon.

**Warsaw, Vilna, or New York: Noah Prylucki and the Fate of Yiddish on the Eve of the Holocaust**. Professor Kalman Weiser lectured about Noah Prylucki (1882-1941), a leading Jewish cultural and political figure in pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe, who was a proponent of Yiddishism, a movement that promoted secular Yiddish culture as the basis for Jewish collective identity in the twentieth century. Sponsored by the Yentl Fishman Endowment.

**The Galkin Family Annual Lecture Endowment** of the JPL presented an evening with **Ruth Wisse**, *Does Jewish Humor Win Friends and Why Should It Matter?* on the publication of *No Joke: Making Jewish Humor*. Introduced by Prof. Gershon Hundert, Professor of History and Jewish Studies at McGill University.

**The Paul and Babey Trepman Memorial Lecture** screened the feature film *No Place on Earth*, in English with French subtitles. The film tells the story of five Jewish families who survived the Holocaust by hiding for 511 days in underground caves in the Ukraine that were later discovered by Chris Nicola. Film followed by a discussion with the **Stermer family** (survivors), **Janet Tobias** (director) and **Chris Nicola** (speleologist). New York.

## NOVEMBER

**An Evening of Russian Culture – “Sing, Love and**



**Remember”**. The eighth incarnation of this popular evening featured talented performances by poets, dancers, musicians, and actors. Featuring special guest and international singing sensation Svetlana Portnyansky. Sponsored by Barbara and Ronny Kay, and by AGATE Russian Books.



**Yiddish in Latin America – Ilan Stavans** took the audience on a journey through Jewish life in Latin America from the mid-19th century to the present with Yiddish as a companion. His lecture reflected on the rise and fall of di mame loshn in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico from the mid-19th century to the present. Sponsored by the Nathan Igelfeld Endowment.

**The Marvin A. Drimer Foundation's Jewish Book Month Keynote Address** *Mossad – The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service* with **Michael Bar-Zohar**, a writer, legislator, soldier, speaker, globe-trotting reporter and author of more than 30 books of fiction and non-fiction. The book unveils the defining and most dangerous operations that have shaped Israel and the world at large.

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *Find Your Israeli Family & Locating Holocaust Era Resources* with **Michael Goldstein**.

**The N.E. Mendelson Endowment Fund** presented *Where We Grew Up* by **Idit Cébula**, a movie in French with English subtitles about a Jewish family that reunites after their mother's funeral.

**Reading with Wine Reception** with author **Anne Michaels** and artist **Bernice Eisenstein** presenting their work *Correspondences*, an unforgettable visual and poetic experience.

The **Afternoon Book Review Series** continued with **Larry Weller** presenting *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* by Mohsin Hamid.

**Girls' Night Out** (see the NBCL section)

**An Evening with Thomas Harding**, author of *Hanns and Rudolf: The True Story of the German Jew who Caught the commandant of Auschwitz*. Thomas Harding is an author and journalist who has written for the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*. In collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

**Book Launch** of *My Silent Pledge: A Journey of Struggle, Survival and Remembrance* with author Sidney Zoltak. Sidney Zoltak is a child survivor, a child of survivors, and a grandchild of a survivor that has written a chronicle about a remarkable journey through the Holocaust into a rich and full life. In collaboration with MiroLand and sponsored by the David Zysman Endowment.

**A guide from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** presented an overview of the exhibit *Splendore a Venezia: Art and Music from the Renaissance to Baroque in the Serenissima*. Spon-



sored by the N.E. Mendelson Endowment.

## DECEMBER

The **Afternoon Book Review Series** continued with a presentation by **Shelley Pomerance** reviewing *The Translator* by Nina Schuler.

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *Between Assimilation and Annihilation: Jews in Germany and Their Children* with Andreas Schwab.

## JANUARY

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented their *11th Annual Film Night*.

**The Chaim and Clara Spilberg Endowment** presented **The 7th Annual Israeli Film Festival** (January and February). Five fantastic films were shown, including:



*The Other Son*, a film based on a true story about a Palestinian boy and an Israeli Jewish boy that were switched at birth, in Hebrew and French with English subtitles; *Zay-toun*, a fictional story about a man captured by the P.L.O. during the 1982 Lebanon War in Hebrew, English, and Arabic with English subtitles; *God's Neighbours*, a fictional film about three young Orthodox boys in the Breslau Hasidic community in Hebrew and English with English subtitles; *Up The Wrong*

*Tree*, a film about an environmental battle against real estate sharks in Hebrew with English subtitles; *Hunting Elephants*, a light crime comedy about robbing a bank in Hebrew with English subtitles.

## FEBRUARY

**Yiddish Writers' Monologues** – Two Films Directed by **Boris Sandler**. Sandler, Yiddish novelist and *Forverts* editor, came to introduce two of his films about Yiddish writers, *Josef Kerler, Poet and Dissident* and *Avrum Karpinovitch: Vilna, My Vilna*. These two very different writers were featured for their unique voices, lives and work, and the audience had the opportunity to ask questions afterward as well as purchase the entire set of this DVD series. Sponsored by the Miriam Blacher Glasrot and Josef Glasrot Endowment.

## MARCH

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *The Little Known and Fascinating History of the Jews in Hudson-Vaudreuil-Soulange Region (1819-1905)* with **Elaine Steinberg**.

**Canada Council Reading** of *Life on the Home Front: Montreal 1939-1945* with author **Patricia Burns**.



**Exhibition and Lecture** on *Les juifs du Liban: cent ans d'histoire*, featuring old photographs that recount the story of Jews in Lebanon with Lucienne

Namer, Gabrielle Elia, Gabriel Politis and Maurice Elia.

The **Afternoon Book Review Series** opened the Spring season with a review by **Claire Holden Rothman** of the novel *Dear Life* by Alice Munro.

**The Mervin (Mesh) and Avriel Butovsky Memorial Lecture Series** with writer **Ron Leshem** in Hebrew and English. The writer spoke about Israel's growing relationship with Hollywood over the past 19 years, and about his own award-winning novel *Beaufort*, which was the basis for the Oscar-nominated film of the same title.

**Hidden Treasures: Celebrating 100 years of Yiddish Song and Montreal Poets at the Jewish Public Library.** The Yiddish Cultural Committee at the JPL performed an outstanding feat this year, recounting the 100 years of our Library's history through our Montreal writers' songs, stories, poetry and prose. Beginning with Reuben Brainin's words exclaiming how he loves books, and taking the audience through a tour of the political and cultural history of our institution, this event was truly unique to our Library. A PowerPoint slideshow accompanied the performance. Sponsored by the Augenfelf Family Endowment, Heritage Canada, Mr. Avrum Morrow and the borough of CDN-NDG.

## APRIL

**Documentary** in English *Orchestra of Exiles* by **Josh Aronson**, a suspenseful chronicle of how one man helped save Europe's premiere Jewish musicians from obliteration by the Nazis during WWII. In conjunction with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and sponsored by Adriana and the late Haim Kotler z"l.

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *What's New on Ancestry and Search Techniques for Finding 'Invisible' Records about your Ancestors* with **Alan Greenberg**.

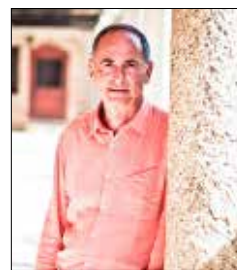
**Canada Council Reading** with author **Linda Spalding** on her award-winning novel *The Purchase*, inspired by her own ancestors.

**Community Book Launch** of *Recovering from Genocidal Trauma* by **Myra Giberovitch**, founder of Services for Holocaust Survivors at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors. The novel is a guide to understanding Holocaust survivors and responding to their needs. In partnership with the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre.

**Legacy for Learning Series, in cooperation with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute** presented *Conversations – A Jewish Women's Literary Circle* as well as a public lecture with **Joy Ladin**, about *A Jewish Journey Between Genders*, her memoir of gender transition. Sponsored by the Helen Bassel Endowment.

## MAY

**The Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies in collaboration with JPL** presented *Kabbalah in Safed: Masters, Disciples and Spiritual Practice*. In the lecture, Professor **Ronit Meroz** examined the ways in which the Safed kabbalists reinterpreted the rituals of the Zohar.



**The Max Margles Memorial Fund** of the JPL presented *From Fact to Fiction* with **Martin Fletcher**, former NBC Middle-East correspondent who discussed his book *Jacob's Oath*, a story of two Holocaust survivors confronting their past.

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *From Galicia to Barbados, Guatemala, Montreal and Toronto – a Genealogist's Journey* with **Dr. Simon Kreindler**.

**Shtetl, Baby! And Lire Montreal** – The fourth edition of the Lire Montreal Festival took place on May 3-5, 2014. A festival celebrating the unique literary and artistic culture of different neighborhoods in Montreal, this fourth edition of the festival took it upon itself to "read" its way through Côte-des-Neiges. With free events throughout the neighborhood, the JPL participated, inviting young and old to come through its doors for a very special story time with the group Urban Shtetl and award-winning singer Fran Avni. Urban Shtetl, a contemporary grassroots organization, plans local events to foster a love and passion for Yiddish to keep this vibrant culture alive and spread to future generations. Through a program of songs, rhymes and finger games, Fran Avni shared the mame loshen with an overflowing room of parents, grandparents and kiddies, of all of ages, races, religions and backgrounds. All were welcome for this free event, with our story integral to a 'reading' of our neighborhood!



**Vernissage:** *A Roomful of Dwellings: the Antiquarian Books of the Jewish Public Library.* Dr. Michael Paul discovered this collection through the JPL website and as a former Montrealer, decided the collection needed to be shared publicly.

The **Afternoon Book Review Series** continued with a review by **Rabbi Lisa Grushcow** of the novel *A Guide for the Perplexed* by Dara Horn.



**1er Salon du livre juif de Montréal** avec journaliste **Normand Saint-Hilaire**. Une grande foire du livre rassemblant les écrivains locaux pour parler de avec tous ces auteurs talentueux qui s'intéressent de près ou de loin au judaïsme.

The **Miriam Schachter Vineberg Foundation** of the JPL presented *Once We Were Brothers* with author **Ronald Balson**. The story follows Ben Solomon as he accuses wealthy Chicago philanthropist Elliot Rosenzweig of being his foster brother and former SS Officer Otto Piatek "the Butcher of Zamosc". Introduced by Robert Adams, renowned book-reviewer and author.

The JPL traditional **Evening in Honour of Sholem Aleichem** was a huge success this year. Raizel Candib read Sholem Aleichem's will and our sister organization, the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre, visited for a special performance of *The Lottery*. Talented local artists performed Yiddish and English readings and songs. Sponsored by the Chana Gonshor and Etta Michtom Miransky Funds.

## JUNE

**100th Anniversary Exhibit "Stories Told: 100 Years of the Jewish Public Library in Montreal"** showcased



the JPL's contributions to Montreal city life over the past century with original photos and artifacts from JPL's holdings. After the presentation at the BAnQ,

the exhibit was put on display at the Cummings House from August 15 until September 23, 2014.

The **Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented their *Annual Three Presenters Program* with **Evey Silver, David Kimmel** and **Dr. Julius Erdstein**.

In partnership with **Bloomsday Montreal**, the JPL presented the Keynote Event for Bloomsday 2014 *Joyce, Ulysses, and the Jews* talk with **Marilyn Reizbaum**, Harrison King McCann Professor of English at Bowdoin College, Maine.

The **Afternoon Book Review Series** ended the year on a high note, with a review by **Lorraine Levinson** of *I am Forbidden* by Anouk Markovits.



**Hebrew Theatrical Production** of a play by **Savyon Liebrecht** and directed by **Rachelle Glait**. *Rochale is Getting Married* is an intense, lyrical and complex drama about love and the skeletons in the family closet.

## AUGUST

The **Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal** presented *How I planned my genealogical trip and found the places where my family lived in Riga (Latvia) and Zagare (Lithuania)* with **Jo Ann Goldwater**.



100th Anniversary Event at the home of Alvin and Emmelle Segal

## Fundraising

Fundraising efforts have been in full force throughout the year at the JPL with the lead up to, and launch of, our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign. We are very excited to report that, as of June 30, 2014, we have received gifts and pledges totalling over \$2.2 million. This puts us well on our way towards our total campaign goal of \$5 million.

We wish to express our most heartfelt thanks to the many donors from throughout the community who have shown their generosity through gifts in support of the Campaign. We could not have come this far without the help of each and every one of you.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Alvin and Emmelle Segal and to Roslyn Margles for their transformative, leadership gifts to the Campaign. These exceptional philanthropists have given great momentum to our fundraising efforts and helped to ensure a bright future for the JPL. We are also most grateful to major donors Adriana and the late Haim Kotler z"l, the Gelmont Foundation, TD Bank Financial Group, Norman Heimlich, Trudy Cusmariu and Aaron Ain and three other anonymous donors for their most generous gifts. We give our very special thanks to our Board of Directors and Presidents' Council and to our Development Advisory Committee members: Beverlee Ashmele, Bill Bell, Irwin Browns, Marvin Corber, Peter Jacobs, Alain Murad, Eva Raby, Micky Rosenthal, Gerald Soiferman, and Harvey Wolfe. Their advice, support, and most generous gifts have been an engine of force behind the 100th Campaign.

We also express our most grateful appreciation to Alvin and Emmelle Segal, who in addition to their exceptional gift to the Library, hosted a most elegant private event in their home in June 2014, in support of the JPL's 100<sup>th</sup> Campaign. Through Alvin and Emmelle's generosity and hospitality, the JPL was granted a unique opportunity to thank major donors who have already made gifts to the Campaign and to showcase the Library's accomplishments to other potential key donors.

The table on page 18 lists donors who made gifts of \$5,000 and more to the 100th Campaign. We are also very grateful to the many other donors whose generosity has moved the Campaign forward.



**On June 9, 2014, we proudly celebrated the official launch of our 100th Campaign at the Grande Bibliothèque de Bibliothèques et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ).**

250 guests – Friends of the Library, donors, Board Members, Development Advisory Committee members, descendants of the JPL founding families, civic leaders, diplomats, and more, all joined us for a festive and memorable evening. Guests enjoyed an elegant cocktail party and a private viewing of our 100th Anniversary Archival Exhibit, *Stories Told: 100 Years of the Jewish Public Library in Montreal*. Our guest speaker, Roch Carrier, beloved author of *The Hockey Sweater*



and former National Librarian of Canada, brought smiles and sometimes tears to guests' faces when he spoke of the magical role that reading played for him, as a child. "Every kid who has the opportunity to learn to read becomes somebody with wings." He then stressed that libraries are a meaningful investment and urged guests to support the JPL's 100<sup>th</sup> Campaign.

We wish to thank Dr. Guy Berthiaume, former Chair and Chief Executive Officer of BAnQ, and his staff for their steadfast support of our exhibit and launch event. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our launch sponsors: Peter and Ellen Jacobs, Adriana and the late Haim Kotler z"l, Herschel and Jane Segal, The Generations Fund, The Jewish Community Foundation, Freda and Irwin Browns, Browns Shoes, Canadian Heritage, Chartwell Castel Royal, MNP and Tux Productions, who made the exhibit and event possible.



**Gifts to our 100<sup>th</sup> Campaign have permitted us to offer an array of special 100th Anniversary events and to fund special projects** throughout the year.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Dr. Michael Paul and Canadian Heritage, for their support of our rare books exhibit *A Roomful of Dwellings: the*

*Antiquarian Books of the Jewish Public Library*. Thanks again to Dr. Paul and to the Jewish Community Foundation for supporting rare books outreach workshops for high school students. We thank Canadian Heritage, again, for their support of *Hidden Treasures: Celebrating 100 Years of Yiddish Song and Montreal Poets at the JPL*. We would also like to recognize TD Bank Financial Group's outstanding gift to our Young Adult (YA) collection. With that gift, we have remodeled and expanded the YA shelving area and enhanced the YA collection.

The Norman Berman Children's Library hosted its **9th Annual Girls' Night Out** on November 17, 2013. Over 160 tween & teenage age girls and the ladies who love them gathered to rub elbows with Lauren Oliver, New York Times bestselling author of the *Delirium* novels. Guests listened to an intimate and inspirational talk by Lauren, who was very candid about her life, her work and her thoughts on love. Totally enthralled, the girls then showered Lauren with questions about her books and writing. After the talk, prizes and yummy desserts abounded. We wish to extend our thanks to the devoted organizing committee and the numerous companies and individuals who donated gifts for our girls' goodie bags, with special thanks to Groupe Marcelle and Magid

Brothers Distribution. Proceeds from *Girls' Night Out* will be used to fund Norman Berman Children's Library programmes and collections.

**The Friends of the JPL** once again showed their boundless devotion and generosity to the JPL this year. At our many cultural programmes, they were by our side, planning, selling tickets, introducing speakers, and keenly attending events. Our most fervent spokespeople, the Friends spread the message about their JPL to friends, colleagues and family throughout the community. We are extremely grateful to our Friends for the tremendous support they have provided to our 100th Campaign by donating generously and by encouraging others to give -- so many of our major gifts have come from Friends of the JPL. We also thank our Friends for the critical support they have provided again this year, through their membership fees, to fund Judaic materials and technology to support our research and reference services.



Friends gathered, in November, for the Jewish Book Month Keynote Cocktail Reception in the Library's main reading room. Keynote speaker Michael Bar-Zohar, Israeli historian, politician and the acclaimed novelist of *Mossad: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service*, regaled Friends with memorable anecdotes and little known stories of Mossad, providing them with an exclusive sampler of the riveting tales to come at the Keynote Address. Friends also enjoyed a lively reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres, generously sponsored by the Cummings family, steadfast Friends of the JPL. After a private book signing, Friends moved to the Gelber Centre where they were front and centre, among 550 guests, for a captivating Keynote Address. Without the use of a single note, Bar-Zohar wove an intricate picture of the origins of Israel's famed espionage agency and of the lives of its secret operatives!

**The Library and its Friends were deeply saddened** by the loss of Rosalind Goodman, z"l, esteemed Friend, benefactor and Honorary Director of the JPL. Admired by all who knew her for her unique humanity, generosity and grace, she will be greatly missed. We mourn, too, the loss of long-time Friend and generous supporter, Haim Kotler, z"l, beloved husband of Adriana Kotler, JPL

Vice President. We were also broken hearted by the passing of Nitza Parry, z"l, beloved Chair of our Hebrew Programming Committee. The JPL expresses great sadness, too, at the loss of Montreal philanthropist David Azrieli, z"l, Friend of the JPL and a great benefactor of our Archives. We were also deeply saddened by the loss of another Montreal philanthropic leader, Lilliane Stewart, a JPL benefactor and Honorary Director of the JPL Board.

**Once again this year, we are most grateful for the host of gifts** we received from our many generous donors to ensure the success of Jewish Book Month and other cultural programmes. Warmest thanks to the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation, Barbara and Ronny Kay, Adriana and Haim Kotler, z"l, Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, the Canada Council for the Arts, Assaf Drori, and Zwi Zaffir, among others, for supporting our programmes.

We are sincerely grateful to the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, for its grant in support of collections and services; Service Canada for two Summer Student grants and to the Alex Dworkin Foundation for Jewish Archives, the Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund and the Canadian Council of Archives, for gifts in support of the JPL Archives. Our deepest gratitude goes to the Trottier Family Foundation and Doherty Associates, for their generous grants in support of Library operations. Thanks also to the Labour Zionist Alliance of Canada for their support of our JPL Book Fund. Many of our fine services and programmes could not continue were it not for the support of these generous donors.

The JPL was once again most fortunate to be in the hearts and minds of so many, throughout the community, who gave generously to our Library, this year, in celebration of birthdays and special occasions and in commemoration of loved ones lost. These thoughtful and generous gifts funded book purchases and endowed programmes. We extend our special thanks to the estate of Gertie Lazarus for a gift to the NBCL and to the many other families who left us generous bequests and made planned gifts to ensure the future of our Library.

## **THANKS TO OUR**

### **100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DONORS** (\$5,000 and more)

#### **\$500,000**

Alvin Segal Family Foundation  
Roslyn Margles  
Anonymous

#### **\$50,000 to \$75,000**

Gelmont Foundation  
Norman Hemlich  
Adriana and the late Haim Kotler z"l  
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Two anonymous donors

#### **\$20,000 to \$49,999**

Trudy Cusmariu and Aaron Ain  
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#### **\$10,000 to \$19,999**

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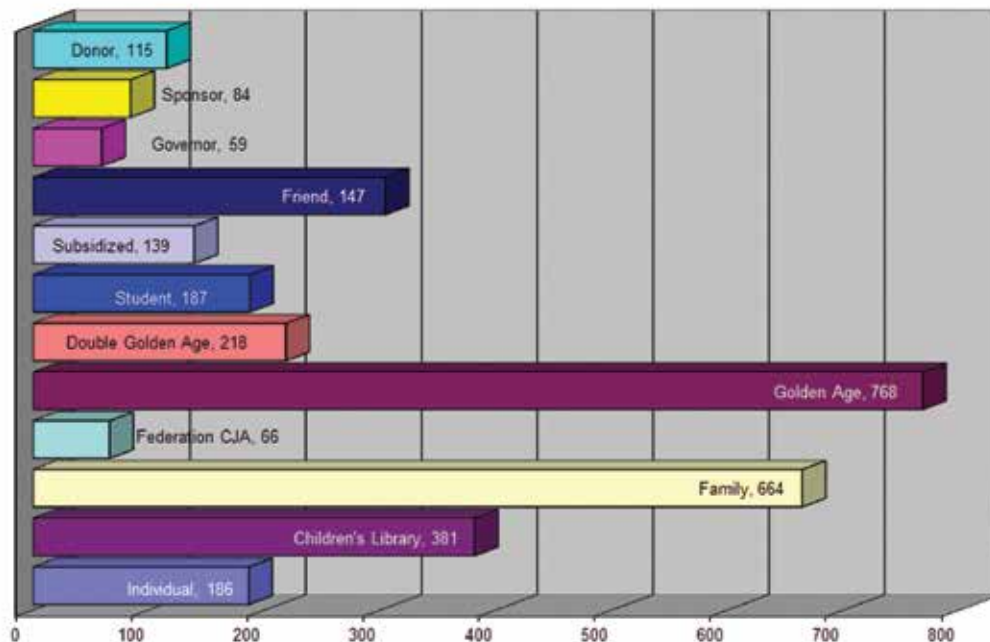


## Statistics

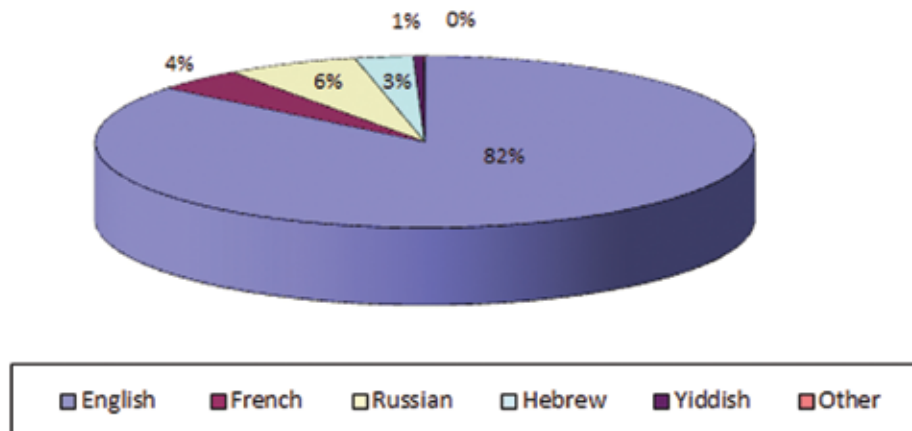
In 2013 the Library counted 3,171 members that were composed of the following membership categories.

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

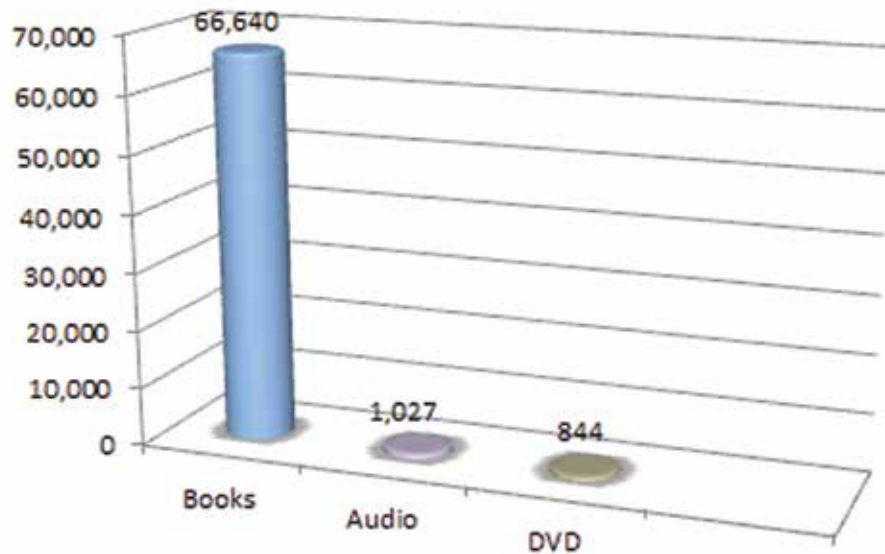
### MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY



### Circulation by Language 2013

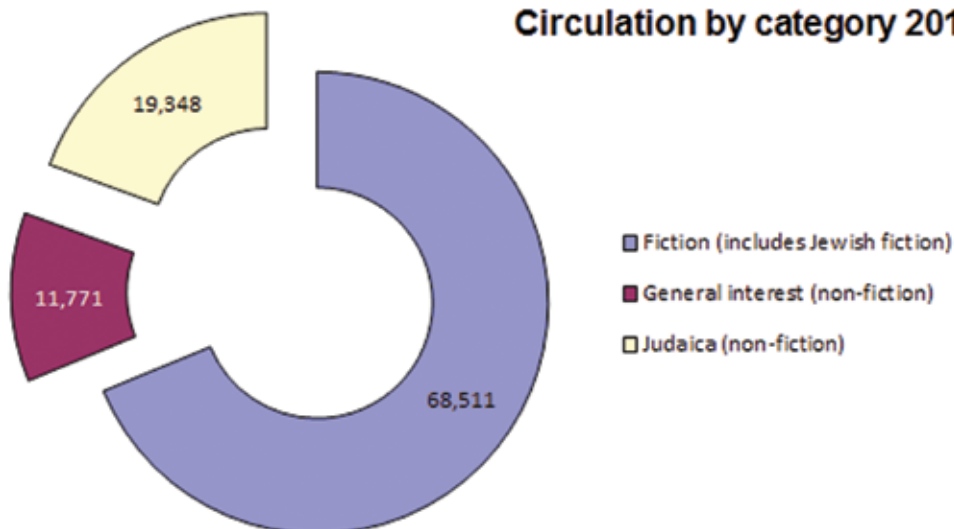


108,250 items were circulated in 2013. The chart shows the split by language.



This chart demonstrates the circulating items by medium in 2013.

### Circulation by category 2013



The items circulated in 2013 by category (does not include music or DVDs).





Members of the Management Committee  
and Board of Directors, 1933-34

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# Thank you to our Volunteers

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 work on our library committees, we have an army of volunteers who bring their skills and dedication to support library services and programmes in all sorts of ways. Some of these tasks include shelving, delivery of books to our frail elderly, data entry, and book processing. They contribute hours and hours of their time each week. This contribution is greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank the following:

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Connie Abramovitch  
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