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Jewish Public Library

Annual Report 2016



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President Claire Berger Fagen



Executive Director Michael Crelinsten

Message from the President and the Executive Director

The only
constant is
change.

The only constant is change. The JPL continued, in 2016, its change management and planning exercises. Phase I of our business planning exercise had credibly established the utility of Libraries and the alignment of the JPL with FCJA service priority and strategic objectives. Phase 2 of that process identified a number of issues including the need for work on focusing and clarifying the Board's role and expanding the skill base around our Board table.

We also continued a review of our operations through the development of Task Prioritization Plan which identifies core priorities for the next year in each operational area of the Library.

Finally, we are embarked on a Strategic Planning process that will re-visit our mission and vision and, in the process, will look closely at governance, evaluation, programming, marketing and communications, financial resource development, relevance and impact. Many of these issues points were identified in our business planning process as in need of close attention and they are all appropriate points of focus in a strategic planning process intended to create a sustainable and thriving future for the JPL.

As we move forward, we will examine the working agenda of our Board of Directors and the Board's role in establishing coherent strategic direction and values based leadership for the JPL. How is this communicated effectively to our complex roster of committees and operational sections?

How do we ensure that these goals are adequately pursued and evaluated? What is the role of the Cultural Programme Coordinating Committee in this process? How do we ensure that the President's Council of the JPL can effectively advise and communicate with current leadership? How do we ensure a broad and complimentary set of skills around our Board table? How do we ensure reliable and innovative leadership succession? All of these issues, and more, have been on the table for discussion in 2015/'16 and will continue to occupy our attention in '16/'17.

That being said, we have, of course, continued to operate our Library day to day in 2015/'16. With four Russian speaking staff, we have significantly opened up and expanded our services to the Russian community of NDG/CDN and the Montreal Jewish community. Almost 8,000 Jewish people for the former Soviet Union now live in Montreal. To engage and serve them well, we continue to offer our unique Russian evening of culture and we have significantly added to the gamut of programmes that we offer. We now have the largest adult collection of Russian books in the city, we collaborate closely with the Russian Sunday schools in the Burrough, we have opened up a Russian reading area in the Library with the JPL, we have offered Russian computer courses for beginners, organized a Russian book swap, hosted a bilingual Russian/English chess club and held Russian and Hebrew story time for the community. These initiatives have not gone unnoticed and we continue our conversations regarding an expanded role for the JPL in the NDG/CDN Burrough.

We note the resurgence of libraries, internationally, and the new investment that continues. The New York Public Library system, for example, after years of budget cuts, was the beneficiary of a dramatic increase in additional funding for this year. We have enjoyed no such largess but we have seen significant new investment in our Library. One of the most striking examples is a major, 100th Anniversary gift from Adriana and the late Haim Kotler which has enable us to take our children's library into a leading position in Montreal with the establishment of the Haim Kotler Genius Lab that accesses our kids to the most advanced and innovative learning technologies available.

We have expanded our e-books collection, introduced French story time and shifted staffing responsibilities and budget allocations so as to enhance our outreach abilities. We continue to collaborate with other like-minded institutions in the city including the Jewish Community Centre, the Museum of Jewish Montreal, The Segal Centre, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, Bloomsday, Blue Met, the Cummings Centre and more than 10 different Consulates in our city.

All of this costs money and the Library, like most other not for profit organizations, continues to work hard to ensure a viable financial future. Our 100th Anniversary Campaign raised some \$3,300,000. We have returned to implementing annual galas and, this year, collaborated for the first time, to this end, with Gloria's Girls. We continue in our efforts to establish a standing Financial Resource Development Committee and have, in consultation with a working group, established core development priorities for '16/'17. These include, amongst other efforts, a focus on a major gifts campaign, the development of a planned giving effort and the implementation of a Friend's recruitment campaign.

Indeed, the only constant is change. Thank you, all, for joining and staying with us on this journey.



Special Projects and Library Outreach

New Outreach Initiatives: JPL Next Chapter

Based on ideas generated by the Outreach Think Tank, a committee group created in 2015 which focuses on targeting a younger audience, and thanks to the Reuben Brainin endowment fund, the JPL was able to run a number of exciting new programs for the 18-35 age cohort. *Reading Between the Wines*, a twist on the classic book review, brings reviewers to new locations across the city. Two took place in the Fall: Jimmy Gutman reviewing graphic novel *Louis Riel* by Chester Brown at Drawn & Quarterly comic book store and Andrea Borrod reviewing *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin at Librairie Olivier.

Up, Up, and Away, a family-oriented baseball-themed event took place in partnership with the YM-YWHA in which baseball expert and author Jonah Keri was interviewed by Paul Graves as baseball fans enjoyed popcorn, hot dogs and a pitching machine.

Russian Outreach

Thanks to a generous gift in loving memory of the George Kon z"l and Marion Goldberg Kon z"l, the Jewish Public Library was able to create a brand new Russian children's collection in a separate section of the library to complement our existing adult collection. The launch brought over 50 families to cut the ribbon, enjoy a Russian storytime,

snacks and partake in crafts. The JPL has partnered with Gramota Russian school to develop this collection. We were also able to fund a themed series of Russian story times and crafts.

For adults, the Russian book exchange *Knigovorot* continues to grow, enabling Russian patrons to trade books amongst themselves and with the library. A season of Russian computer classes for seniors also took place over the Spring and was full. This Fall, a Russian literary circle run by Valentina Rojinskaia will begin and our Annual Russian Cultural Evening will be taking place for the 11th year.

Coding Classes

This spring, Kids Code Jeunesse hosted a weekly workshop to teach a class of JPPS students to code using MIT-designed program Scratch. The class of 25 came in with their teachers to design their own mini game over the course of 8 weeks in the children's activity room. They used concepts of character design, music integration and animation, and then proudly presented their games to their peers at the end of the course.

Chess Club

The JPL held a very popular bilingual (Russian and English) beginner's chess club for children 7-14, taught by Ukrainian chess champion Alex Levkovsky. Both sessions were full.

Reaching out to
students, new
immigrants and
the unaffiliated

Outreach through collaborations

Storytelling/Oral History

In partnership with the Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal (IMJM), the JPL hosted a storytelling night on the theme *In Montreal/Out of Montreal* at Articule Gallery, capturing stories from around the world for the museum and for the JPL archives.

Mini-Library Displays

For the duration of the Segal Center's presentation of *The Secret Annex*, the library offered attendees the chance to browse our collection of books on Anne Frank in English, French and Hebrew with a mini-library display in the Segal Center's lobby. The JPL also displayed its extensive Kosher and vegetarian cookbook collection at Jewish Food Project's cooking event with Ksenia Prints.

School visits, tours & 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. 52 students from the Limmud Center also participated in a number of programs at the library as part of their informal learning curriculum. The JPL also visited Mount Sinai hospital as part of their speaker series, as well as the Cummings Center for seniors.

Outreach to the English-Speaking Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community

The JPL held its first ASL storytime, bilingually, with a certified American Sign Language interpreter in partnership with Seeing Voices Montreal and in collaboration with the Deaf Anglo Literacy Center. More than 30 families attended to see Jack Volpe presenting a Deaf folk tale: *The Lumberjack and the Tree*.

Summer Book Club

The library launched its first adult book club for "New Adults" who prefer teen reads. The club meets throughout July and August.

Rare Books

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Michael Paul, a selection of the Jewish Public Library's Antiquarian book collection was brought to Jewish Day schools alongside a presentation on the history of print and its historical and social significance. A presentation was also given at Cote-des-

Neiges community center on the rare books by Mr. Eddie Paul.

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: *Colours of Jazz*, *Pompeii*.

Chartwell Castel Royal Afternoon Book Reviews

In Collaboration with the Cummings Center for seniors, the Afternoon Book Review Series continued to thrive this year. It featured bestsellers and hidden gems. Our diverse selection of talented local speakers led animated discussions: Steven Lapidus reviewing *UnAmericans* by Molly Antopol, Father John Walsh reviewing *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind* by Yuval Noah Harari. Barbara Kay reviewing *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson, Joel Yanofsky reviewing *The Seven Good Years* by Etgar Keret, Ami Sands Brodoff reviewing *A Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman and Eva Roskies Rabi reviewing *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks.



The Norman Berman Children's Library

The NBCL entered its second century with a big bang.

An average of **7 registered preschool programs** ran for 3 sessions and hosted 15 toddlers plus their caregivers per week. A total of **210** registrants weekly enjoyed reading, singing and dancing at the Library.

"My son was coming to Linda's mostly music classes on Wednesday in the spring session. Sadly we weren't able to continue after April because my father passed away and I had to rush back to Pakistan. Apologies for not having informed you earlier.

Zayd didn't attend alot, but whatever he did he loved them!! Special thanks to Linda, who is so so good with the kids and at what she does. So warm, loving and patient. It's a lovely environment and so good for the little ones.

...Will keep a lookout for more activities at the library for him." –Hina (Zayd's Mom!)

Lesléa also spoke to 16 members of our **Mother Daughter Book Discussion Group** and their friends with a total of 25 listening to the stories of Lesléa's life experience.

Our own NBCL resident storyteller, **Selina Eisenberg Smith**, entertained 200 children from 4 schools in 3 sessions. Selina told stories from our tradition to great reviews as she led these interactive story programmes.

Our 11th annual **Girls' Night Out** featured well-known *New York Times* Bestselling author **Sarah Dessen**. Sarah spoke to over 225 mothers, daughters, patrons, volunteers, librarians, aunts and grandmothers. Everyone came away with creative SWAG bags, having had a great time.

Our annual **Holiday Concert** Concert with Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter **Jennifer Gasoi** was a great success as over 400 parents and their toddlers trooped into the Gelber Centre on a cold November morning.

Our special free story times – **The Global day of Jewish Learning** and **Family Literacy Day** welcomed 165 children and their caregivers and daycare teachers as they listened to wondrous stories on Love and about the infamous "Eloise". Each child went home with a craft that they created as a memory of the day.

As a partner of **Blue Met Children's Festival**, the NBCL hosted 60 children as they listened to the stories and took home the original drawings of award-winning Argentinian political caricaturist **Liniers**, who has published over 3,600 comic strips.



Lesléa Neuman

Our **free Wednesday and Sunday drop in story times** hosted an average of 90 children per week, 52 weeks of the year. The children came from the neighborhood and from all across the island each week no matter what the weather.

Our **Jewish Book Month** had 2 honorees this year; Award-winning author **Lesléa Neuman** spoke to 790 students from 5 schools over a marathon 2 days. She has written over 65 books and counting.



Rita Briansky with her husband Joseph Prezament.
The Rita and Joe exhibit is still viewable at www.jpl-presents.org

The Archives of the Jewish Public Library



Lea Roback's family photographs were digitized under the Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives fund and can be viewed at www.jpl-presents.org.

The JPL-A would like to extend its gratitude to its students and volunteers for the last year.

Nicole Beaudry,
(McGill University)
Nadia Sulek,
(John Abbott College)
Brittany Wright,
(Concordia University)
Benjamin Wrubel,
(McGill University)

The Jewish Public Library Archives (JPL-A) has had a busy and fruitful year, continuing with its digitization and access efforts but also participating in several events that increased the profile of the Library. To date, over 10,000 pages of historical documents have been digitized and made accessible on the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network (www.cjhn.ca), due in large part to the support of the Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund. These digitization efforts also helped to create new exhibits for the Archives virtual exhibit site, www.jpl-presents.org, which now has a total of 10 exhibits highlighting the collections of the JPL-A.

In addition to virtual exhibits, the JPL-A was also pleased to present *Rita and Joe: A Life in Sketches* from May 5th to June 23rd in Cummings House. The exhibit highlighted the sketches, photographs, and etchings of Montreal artists Rita Briansky and Joseph Prezament, donated by Ms. Briansky to the JPL-A in 2012. Combined, the two collections consist of over 2,000 items and represent the largest donation of artists' material gifted to the JPL-A to date.

The Canadian Jewish Heritage Network (CJHN), co-founded in 2011 by the JPL-A and the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives, was excited to announce the addition of a new partner to the online database, the Ottawa Jewish Archives. The Ottawa Jewish Archives becomes the seventh heritage institution to have its collections made publicly available on the CJHN.

For the second year, the JPL-A was able to offer an internship to a young person looking for experience in the archival world. The Sonia and David Oberman Archival Internship was awarded to Jessica Zimmerman. Ms. Zimmerman is continuing work by the 2015 intern in developing the JPL-A's education materials for Montreal's 375th anniversary and Canada 150.

The JPL-A organized the loan of the Library's 100th anniversary exhibit *Stories Told: 100 Years of the Jewish Public Library* to the Memphis in May International Festival in Memphis, Tennessee. The exhibit was presented at the Memphis Jewish Community Center during May and the festival also provided for a presentation by JPL Head of Bibliographic and Information Services, Eddie Paul.

Director of Archives, Shannon Hodge, also represented the JPL-A at two major events with high profile in the Canadian archival community. In November, Ms. Hodge was a presenter at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa for the launch of Canada's Archives: A New Blueprint. The event was a strategy launch to release the work of the Canadian Archival System Working Group. Throughout the year, Hodge also acted as the Host Chair of the Association of Canadian Archivists' annual conference, which took place in Montreal from June 2nd-4th.



SON OF HAMAS

Cultural Programmes 2015-2016

A total of 117 events and programmes in 5 languages with almost 10,000 people in attendance

Under the auspices of six cultural committees, there were a total of 117 events and programmes in five languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian.

Courses:

- 2 Beginner Yiddish classes
- 2 Advanced Yiddish classes
- 1 session on Jewish Culture (*The Legacy of Sholem Aleichem*)
- 1 Beginner Computer class (in Russian)
- 2 Facebook for Beginners classes

Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal:

- 8 Sunday Morning Workshops
- 8 Lectures
- 1 Film screening

Events:

- 8 Book Reviews
- 4 Book Launches
- 1 *Conversations* event
- 4 Films
- Israeli Film Festival with 5 movies
- 15 Lectures and Book Launches, including Bloomsday
- 10 Special Events
- 1 Yiddish Café
- 2 Performances of the JPL Hebrew Theatre

ATTENDANCE

English events	5,133
French events	279
Hebrew events	2,960
Yiddish events	503
Russian events	605

TOTAL	9,480
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Courses

Jewish Culture Course

“Legacy of Sholem Aleichem”

Janie Respitz led a course on Sholem Aleichem. One hundred years since his death, this great Yiddish writer, poet and dramatist is still revered as one of the best and most influential writers. This course examined the life, works and influences of this larger than life individual.

Yiddish language courses

The JPL continued to have very successful Yiddish courses. With a Beginners and an Intermediate/Advanced course to select from, our dedicated instructors, Sheila Witt and Lorna Smith, welcomed those passionate about learning and discovering the joys of Yiddish.

Facebook for Beginners

Andrea Ciurria taught two sessions of Facebook courses for beginners, delving into account creation, liking, photo sharing and social media safety and security.

Highlights

As a centre for Jewish culture, the Jewish Public Library flourished this past year, offering exceptional adult programming and bringing high calibre authors and films to Montreal.

October 2015

► *The Son of Hamas: The Voice of Truth, a Hope for Peace*, with Mosab Hassan Yousef. An extraordinary talk by 'The Green Prince.' Sponsored by the Max Margles Memorial Fund and Roslyn Margles.

► *Run Boy Run*, directed by Pepe Danquart. Danquart was at JPL in person to introduce his 2014 film which tells the true story of Yoram Fridman. Sponsored by the Paul and Babey Trepman Memorial Fund of the JPL and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. In conjunction with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Consulate General of Israel and the Goethe-Institute Montréal.

► Conférence en collaboration avec le Dialogue judéo-chrétien de Montréal « *Nostra Aetate, un point tournant des relations entre chrétiens et juifs* ». 50 ans de dialogue entre l'Église catholique et la communauté juive.

► *Magical Musical Performance* with cantor Adam Stotland. A fantastic evening of diverse Jewish music and celebration, sponsored by Adriana and the late Haim Kotler z"l Lecture.

November 2015

► JBM KEYNOTE An evening with Alice Hoffman, who discussed her life and work, and her novel *The Marriage of Opposites*. Sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation in collaboration with the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

► Dr. Norman Doidge's accessible and engaging discussion of his book *The Brain's Way of Healing*. Sponsored by the Norman Berman Memorial Lecture Fund.

► *The Best of Times*. Our 10th annual evening of Russian culture, honouring JPL community members. Sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, Henriette and Marcel Korner, the Honourable

and Mrs. E. Leo Kolber in honour of Marcel Adams, Barbara and Ronny Kay, and AGATE Russian Books.

► 9th Annual Israeli Film Festival. Five premieres representing the best of Israeli film: *The Kind Words*; *Apples from the Desert*; *Bulgarian Rhapsody*; *Hill Start*; *Do You Believe in Love*. Sponsored by the Chaim and Clara Spielberg Endowment Fund in collaboration with Castel Royale.

► « *Le rôle de l'authenticité dans la mémoire de la Shoah* ». Avec le docteur Piotr M.A. Cywinski, historien et directeur depuis 2006 du Musée national Auschwitz-Birkenau.

► *Sounds of Exile*, an intimate concert performance by renowned Austrian musicians Sigrid Hagn (piano) and Julia Ammerer Simma (cello). Sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum of the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa. Presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of Israel in Montreal.

► *The Best Place on Earth*. Lively interview (by Joseph Rosen) with Israeli-Canadian writer Ayelet Tzabari, who discussed her life, writings and recent collection of short stories. In collaboration with Blue Metropolis. Sponsored by the Mervin (Mesh) and Avriel Butovsky Memorial Lecture.

► *Chagall-Malevich*, an excellent 2014 Russian film directed by Alexander Mitta. Sponsored by the Delores and Harry Rosen Fund.

► *Conversations* with Leah Lax about leaving Hasidic life. Sponsored by the Helen Bassel Endowment, in cooperation with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, and the Henry Berenice Kaufman Foundation.

► *Bloomsday – An Epic of Two Races: Jewish and Irish Memory in Joyce's Ulysses* with Abby Bender. In partnership with Bloomsday Montréal and sponsored by the Joseph Kage and Philip and Gertrude Batist Memorial Funds and by the Embassy of Ireland.

► *The 14th JPL Hebrew Theatre – Stern-Bloom Pharmacy* by Goren Agmon and directed by Rachelle Glait.

January – February 2016



March 2016

April 2016

May 2016

June 2016

Yiddish Events

Film ***Muses of Isaac Bashevis Singer***. In collaboration with the English Programming Committee, Director Asaf Galay presented his film on Isaac Bashevis Singer, to the delight of a large audience.

I. L. Peretz the Architect of Modern Jewish Culture: In Honour of the Centenary of his Death by **E. Mason Hopper**. Eugene Orenstein explored the rich legacy of I. L. Peretz, followed by a screening of Peretz's *A Gilgl fun a Nign, Metamorphosis of a Melody* performed by Rafael Goldwasser.

From the Part to your Plate: The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook with **Eve Jochnowitz**. Eve Jochnowitz delighted audiences at Fond Centre Hillel with a food presentation and detailed look into the context in which *The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook* by Fania Lewanda, was written. A 1938 Yiddish cookbook, beautifully translated and illustrated, was the center of this incredible event. The Yiddish committee prepared a number of dishes for guests to enjoy. Sponsored by the Nathan Igelfeld cultural endowment.

Here Dwells the Jewish People: An evening with Dr. Avraham Novershtern. Avraham Novershtern, professor of Yiddish Literature at the Hebrew launched his Hebrew book on Yiddish culture in North America *Here Dwells the Jewish People* and delighted our audience with tales of the evolution of Yiddish culture in New York. Sponsored by the Epstein Lashinsky and David Zysman Endowments.

Yiddish Café:

Love Café: Our yearly love café took place in February, bringing Yiddish speakers together for an evening of entertainment and pleasure. Our theme this year was *Oh! Wha a Beautiful Night!* An evening of Yiddish songs performed by young and old on piano, guitar, accordion and violin were enjoyed by attendees. At this event, the JPL was awarded the Leon Skop and Fela Rosenbaum Foundation Award for its contribution to Yiddish language and culture.

Evening in Honour of Sholem Aleichem: The annual Evening in Honour of Sholem Aleichem was a huge success this year. Songs, spoken word poetry and a full house. Talented local artists performed Yiddish and English readings and songs. Sponsored by the Chana Gonshor and Etta Michtom Miransky Funds.





JONAH KERI talks Montreal & Baseball:

In Interview with PAUL GRAIF

Join them as they discuss Montreal's love affair with baseball, cherished memories of the Expos, and if there is a future for Major League Baseball in Montreal.



YM-YWHA
5400 Westbury Ave.

TUESDAY

Marketing & Communications

The Marketing and Communications department has had a busy year integrating new methods to better communicate electronically with our community as well as by taking new approaches to expand the JPL's market reach to include a younger demographic.

Here is a brief overview of some of the things that have been accomplished during the past year:

Digital Marketing

> Website and eNewsletter

We continued our long-term transition to MailChimp – an email marketing service provider that facilitates communications to our more than 4,300 subscribers. ALL of our mass communications are now going out through this program including all press releases, community flyers and emails, which enables us to better target and track our findings.

> Social Media

Facebook: We continue to be active on Facebook and are running more frequent sponsored ads and campaigns to promote certain JPL events and happenings. We are also engaging and connecting with other organizations in the cross promotion of events. The JPL currently has 709 friends on Facebook.

Twitter: We have become much more active on Twitter this year and are expanding our following and reach on a continual basis. The JPL currently has 317 followers on Twitter, many of whom are organizations, media and groups that retweet our events, making the reach much larger.

Media

- “JPL Corner”, a monthly column in the Canadian Jewish News conceived and written by JPL staffer Cindy Davis, has been extended again for another year by the CJN. The column promotes various goings on at the library and discusses general topics of interest to the community.
- The JPL continues to strengthen its relationship with local media and has been covered by many media outlets again this year, including:
 - The Montreal Gazette
 - Breakfast Television (City TV)
 - CBC radio
 - The Suburban
 - CJAD radio
 - TSN 600 radio
 - The Free Press
 - The Canadian Jewish News (online and print)
 - And many others...

Our events continue to be listed on various local community calendars, blogs, websites and lists. Media is notified of events through press releases that are sent out to all print, radio, tv, and web media in advance of all happenings and events.

Environmental Design

Modernization of the facility through the creation of new internal signage, plaques and donor boards.

Advertising

The biannual **program book**, created by the marketing and communications team, continues to be a top marketing tool and is delivered to 6000 Montreal households.

We continue to advertise our events on **CJAD 800 radio** and in various newspapers.

Flyers, ads and promotional material market the individual events.

Branding, events and partnerships

In working closely with our Programming and Outreach departments, the Marketing and Communications teams spearheaded the development of new and innovative programming and collaborations geared towards a demographic of 18-40 year olds. Such programs included:

- A baseball-themed event with guest speaker Jonah Keri in collaboration with the YM-YWHA.
- Our gala featuring mentalist Oz Pearlman, which was held in collaboration with Gloria's Girls. The Marketing team developed a microsite specifically for this event which offered online ticket purchasing.

In addition, the Marketing and Communications team developed branding and communications strategies to roll out these and other new initiatives. "The Next Chapter" series and logo was initiated denoting some of the events for this demographic.



Fundraising

The 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign raised over \$3 million

The Library continued to focus on securing and collecting pledges made to the 100th Anniversary Capital Endowment Campaign that officially came to an end over the winter months. We are pleased to report that the 100th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign has raised a total of \$3,290,595.

Gifts received thus far have permitted us to build our endowment and to offer a number of exciting new lectures, collections and activities that will help ensure that the JPL continues to be a vibrant and engaged pillar of Jewish identity, culture and heritage.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks, in particular to Emmelle and Alvin Segal whose support of the Jewish Public Library has been exemplary throughout our entire 100th Anniversary, most recently, as gracious sponsors of our 100th Anniversary closing cocktail and donor board inauguration, held at the JPL on November 12, 2015.

We are also deeply appreciative of the exceptional generosity of major donors The Azrieli Foundation for its generous support of our preschool music programming, Reitmans (Canada) Limited for its generous support of our reference services as well as the members of the Bassel family for their most generous gifts in support of the Helen Bassel Memorial Endowment Fund.

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

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 programs. Warmest thanks to the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation, The Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, CHARTWELL Castel Royal, Barbara and Ronny Kay, Schwartz Levitsky Feldman, Adriana Kotler, Assaf Drori, William and Marla Drori, Zvi and Jeannette Zaffir, Henriette and Marcel Komer, The Honourable and Mrs. E. Leo Kolber, amongst many others, for supporting our programs.

On November 15, 2015, the Norman Berman Children's Library (NBCL) held its 11th Annual *Girls' Night Out*. The JPL extends its sincere thanks to the hardworking GNO organizing committee under the chairmanship of Joy Melnick Smith, supporters and 200 guests who made the event a success. The JPL extends a very special thank-you to Joanne Garfinkle and Mitchel-Lincoln Packaging, as well as Susan Tepner Novack, for their long-standing volunteer leadership and financial support.

On May 18, 2016, the JPL, in collaboration with Gloria's Girls, presented *A Magical Night* at the Rialto Theatre with one of *America's Got Talent* 2015 top finalists –mentalists and magician Oz Pearlman. 330 guests attended a cocktail and “meet & greet” with Oz Pearlman followed by the main performance where over 600 guests enjoyed an evening of breathtaking magic with Oz's remarkable mind-reading abilities and world-class sleight of hand. We thank all of our donors, sponsors and guests who made the evening a great success with special thanks to our two lead donors, sisters Sharon Steinberg and Leesa Steinberg.

We are sincerely grateful to the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, for its grant in support of our outreach activities, Service Canada for two Summer Student grants, the Alex Dworkin Foundation for Jewish Archives, the Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund, The Sonia and David Oberman Archival Internship Fund, Sara and Irwin Tauben and Gluskin Sheff + Associates for gifts in support of the JPL Archives. Our deepest gratitude goes to Doherty & Associates, for their generous grant in support of Library operations. Many of our fine services and programmes could not continue, were it not for the support of these generous donors.

The JPL was deeply saddened by the loss of long-time Friends and supporters Clayre Kogan z”l, John Lanfer z”l, Jack Ratner z”l and Arnold Steinberg z”l. We were also deeply saddened by the loss of Victor Goldbloom z”l, a long-time member and generous supporter of the JPL.

The JPL was once again most fortunate to be in the hearts and minds of so many, throughout the community, who gave generously donated 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 programs.

We extend our special thanks to the Estate of Deena Eliossoff and the Estate of George Kon as well as to the many other families who left us generous bequests and made planned gifts to ensure the future of our Library.

Thanks to our 100th Anniversary Donors (\$5,000 and more)

\$500,000

Roslyn and the late Max Margles z”l
Alvin Segal Family Foundation
Anonymous

\$100,000 to \$150,000

The Azrieli Foundation
The Cummings and Gold Families
in loving memory of Norma Cummings z”l
The Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
Norman Heimlich

\$50,000 to \$75,000

Gelmont Foundation
Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund
Adriana and the late Haim Kotler z”l
Reitmans (Canada) Limited
Jane and Herschel Segal
Sharon Steinberg
TD Bank Financial Group
The Trottier Family Foundation
Anonymous

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Trudy Cusmariu and Aaron Ain
Liba Augenfeld
The Becker-Newpol Family Foundation
Marvin A. Drimer Foundation
Dr. Michael David Paul
Protech Foundation
Delores and Harry Rosen
Dundi and Lyon Sachs
Blema and Arnold Steinberg Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Freda and Irwin Browns
Mitzi and Mel Dobrin Family Foundation
Rosa and the late David Finestone z”l and Family
Bryna and Michael Garmaise
Brenda and Samuel Gewurz
Ethel and Michael Gold and Family
Riva and Thomas O. Hecht
GEN J and Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal
Jane Mappin and Nicholas Kasirer
The Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation in tribute to Marion Greenwood
Pearl and Saul Lighter
Mitchel-Lincoln Packaging
Sonia and David Oberman

Danielle Pollack
Sandra and Ira Robinson
Liane Feldman and Hillel Rosen
Michael Rosenthal
Soryl and Gerald Soiferman
Mireille and Murray Steinberg Family Foundation
Sara and Irwin Tauben
Susan and Jonathan Wener
Norman Zavalkoff Family Foundation
Anonymous

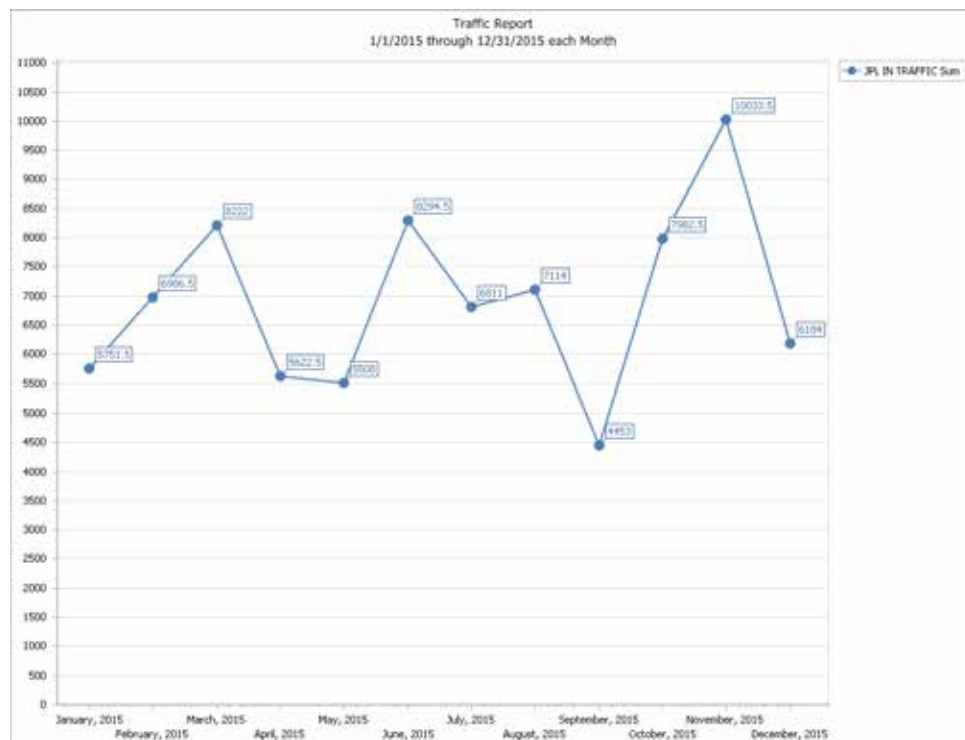
\$5,000 to \$9,999

Cindy Sylvia and George Aikins
Beverlee Ashmele
Danielle and Lorne Bassel
Cindy Bassel Brown, Jeff Brown, Jeremy,
Alexandra and Hannah
Jackie Bassel, Michael Flatt, Joanna, Mitchell
and Jason
Dana and Bill Bell, Felice z"l and Barry Pascal
and Family
Robert Bohbot
Braverman and Pripstein Families
Rivka Butovsky in memory of Mervin (Mesh) z"l
and Avriel Butovsky z"l
In celebration of Alexis z"l, Ethan and Liam Crelinsten
Claire Berger Fagen and Alvin Fagen
Raizel Fishman Candib and Anna Fishman Gonshor
Harriet and Marvin Corber
Nina and Harry Hart
Canadian Heritage
Alta and Harvey Levenson
Gustav Levinschi Foundation
The Honourable and Mrs. E. Leo Kolber
Robin Scott Mader
In Memory of Charles Maldoff z'l
Gloria Stermer and Alain Murad
Marilyn and Paul Nayer
Paperman & Sons
Miriam Roland
Roslyn and Abraham Slawner
Leesa Steinberg
Brenda Stermer
Mrs. Nathan Stermer
Vicki and Stanley Zack

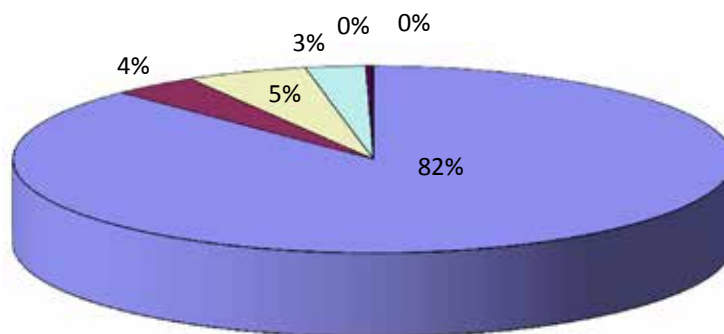


Statistics

In 2015 the Library welcomed over 100,000 people to its facility. This includes general visits to the Library as well as those attending the Children's programs of the Norman Berman Children's Library and all attending the many cultural events of the JPL.



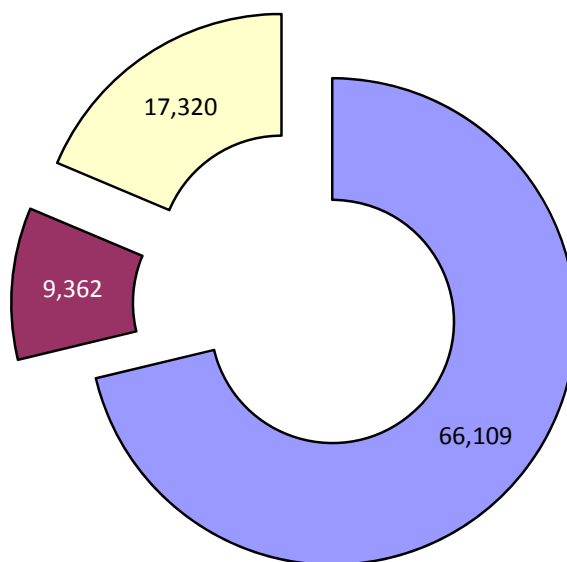
Circulation by language 2015



95,906 items were circulated in 2015. The chart shows the split by language.

English French Russian Hebrew Yiddish Other

Circulation by category 2015



The items circulated in 2015 by category (does not include music or DVDs).

Fiction (includes Jewish fiction)
General interest (non-fiction)
Judaica (non-fiction)

Website visits 2015



In 2015 the JPL website counted over 76,000 page views by more than 15,500 users.





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

Executive, Board of Directors 2015-16

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Immediate Past-President

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Vice President

Jennifer Gold,
Vice President

Janis Levine,
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Treasurer

**Mia Swartzman
Barsheshat,**
Secretary

Michael Crelinsten,
Executive Director

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Julien Bauer
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Susan Elias
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Trudis Goldsmith-
Reber
Adriana Kotler
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Marilyn Nayer
Danielle Pollack
Jewel Sarna
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Roslyn Slawner
Sharon Steinberg
Father John Walsh
Dana Zinman
Shannon Gaskell,
Staff Representative

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Alice Lehrer
Daniel Lighter
Murray Lippman
Irwin Litvack
Janie Respitz
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Gerald Soiferman

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Murray Yudin

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Janis Levine
Robin Mader
Roslyn Slawner
Gerry Soiferman
Michael Crelinsten,
Executive Director

Ombudsman

Oscar Respitz, Q.C.

Library Committees 2015-16

Cultural Programming Committees

Cultural Programming Coordinating Committee

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Raizel Candib
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Trudis Goldsmith-Reber
Louise Goldstein
Merle Kastner
Estie Kleinfeld
Tova Lazimi
Marilyn Nayer
Eugene Orenstein
Jewel Sarna
Robert Schwartzwald
Shoshana Sebag
Roz Slawner
Janice Steinberg
Samuel Suss

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Ruth Ballon
Cindy Bassel Brown
Claire Berger Fagen
Shirley Braverman
Freda Browns
Carla Burshtein
Miriam Cohen
Louise Goldstein
Edna Janco
Pearl Lighter
Robin Mader
Roslyn Margles
Gregory McCormick
Marilyn Nayer
Ruth Plotnick
Marm Rapp

Ira Robinson
Delores Rosen
Helen Segal
Arlene Slepchik
Janice Steinberg
Brenda Stermer
Claire Stern

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Robert Abitbol
Victoria Aresteanu
Sylvia Assouline
Julien Bauer
Claire Berger Fagen
Julia Coriat
Anna Dysert
Philippe Elharrar
Hélène Engel
Mireille Galanti
Dina Sabbah
Jacques La Salle
Tova Lazimi
Ira Robinson
Gérard Samet

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Shoshana Sebag, Co-Chair
Hanna Afuta
Mia Barsheshat
Dado Ben Brith
Claire Berger Fagen
Hanna Eliashiv
Jennifer Gold
Yael Gutman
Edna Janco
Eytan Kern
Estie Kleinfeld
Talia Patcher
Miriam Rosenblum
Menachem Rotstein
Robert Schultz
Shmulik Spiegelman
Samuel Suss
Osnat Skoblinski
Raz Tidhav

Yiddish

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Rivka Augenfeld, Co-Chair
Sylvia Aikins
Liba Augenfeld
Celina Brettschneider
Raizel Candib
Esther Frank
Anne Glassman
Anna Fishman Gonshor
Matthew Meland
Doris Resnick
Janie Respitz
Boris Sela
Goldie Sigal
Naomi Tencer

J.I. Segal Committee

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Rivka Augenfeld
Claire Berger Fagen
Marc Felgar
Rosa Finestone
Esther Frank
Emily Kopley
Eugene Orenstein
Norman Ravin
Beverly Shaffer

Girls' Night Out Committee

Joy Melnick-Smith, Chair
Cindy Bassel Brown
Tracey Blonder
Joanne Garfinkle
Heidi Gossack Majnemer
Talya Pardo
Jennifer Solomon
Tamara Stendel
Susan Tepner Novack
Leigh Zimmer
Dana Zinman

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Lainie Berger Davis
Andee Shuster
Andrea Borod

Stephanie Weinstein
Keren Ludvig
Tamara Kramer
Flannery Brown
James Gutman

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Budget and Investment committee

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Howard Berish
Claire Berger Fagen
Norman Heimlich
Alan Murad

Governance (By-laws ad-hoc) Committee

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Claire Berger Fagen
Robert Bohbot
Rachel Cohen
Alan Murad
Danielle Pollack
Julie Shugarman

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Claire Berger Fagen
Marc Felgar
Shannon Hodge
Howard Krosnick
Allan Oberman
Danielle Pollack
Julie Shugarman
Roslyn Slwaner

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Stanley Diamond
Linda Dennick
Howard Krosnick
Robin Mader
Jewel Sarna

Roslyn Slawner
Arlene Slepchik
Heather Sokoloff
Father John Walsh
Dana Zinman

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Anna Fishman Gonshor
Emmanuel Kalles
Eugene Orenstein
Rhona Blanshay

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Rivka Augenfeld
Susan Elias
Howard Krosnick
Eva Raby
Roslyn Slawner
Dana Zinman
Michael Crelinsten

Library Staff 2015-16

ADMINISTRATION

Michael Crelinsten

Executive Director

Natalia Konovalova

Accounting-Membership

Allan J. Oberman

Director of Operations

Angelina Spilberg

Executive Assistant

ADULT LIBRARY

Karen Biskin (on maternity leave until August 2016)

Head of Library Services
& Community Outreach

Andrea Ciurria

(until May 2016)

Part time Reference

(as of June 2016)

Children's Librarian

Janet Forbath

Circulation Assistant

Shannon Hodge

Director, Archives

Oxana Pasternak

Circulation Assistant

Eddie Paul

Head of Bibliographic and
Information Services

Ivy Rabinovitch

Circulation Assistant

Maria Ressina

(until August 2016)

Head of Library Services
& Community Outreach

Valentina Rojinskaia

Serials Cataloguer/
Reference Librarian

Eleanor Steinberg

Head of Circulation

Eddie Stone

Hebraica Cataloguer/
Reference Librarian

NORMAN BERMAN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Janice Cohen

Programs & Technical
Services

Penny Fransblow

Director, Norman Berman
Children's Library

Jessica Maldoff

(until February 2016)

Cataloging, Social Media,
Reference

Debby Mayman

Cataloging, Marketing
and Programming

PROGRAMMING, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

Roxana Brauns

Director, Programming

Cindy Davis

Public Relations and
Social Media Manager

Isolde Dyson

Programming Assistant

Shannon Gaskell

Director, Development

Leo Hubermann

Director, Marketing &
Communications

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:

Main Library

Sylvie Baril
Danies, Marlene
Roslyn Dorenfeld
Haim Deraï
Tzvi Fradkin
Victoria Galperin
Reesa Greenberg
Eiran Harris
Suzanne Hersvovitch
Malca Hubner
Diane Israel
Batia Kloda
Esther Levy
Penny Levine
Ian Levitt
Ian Levitt
Phyllis Rudin
Brittany Wright
Mona Wu

Student Intern from the McGill School of

Information Studies

Amber Laude

Staff Volunteers

Janice Cohen
Nicole Beaudry
Cindy Davis
Carina Dumitru
Isolde Dyson
Janet Forbath
Penny Fransblow
Natalia Konovalova
Debby Mayman
Oxana Pasternak
Ivy Rabinovitch
Maria Ressina
Valentina Rojinskaya
Eleanor Steinberg
Angelina Spielberg
Jessica Zimmerman

Children's Library

Diane Israel
Roslyn Dorenfeld
Phyllis Rudin
Michael Asseraf
Haim Bouhadana
Justin Nuhme
Anthony Gentile
James Kelly
Marc-André Caedinal
Phillip Pinck
Noah Solomon
A.J. Solomon
Aaron Lohner
Jonathan Obadia
Niv Abecassis
Matthew Wersternoff

Student volunteers completing community hours

Aaron Lohner
Shana Kleiner Graur
Molly Lohner
Hannah Nizard
Deborah Nizard
Jonathan Harper

Archives

Tina Ferstman
Andrea Ciurria
Alexandra Stermer
Maurice Amiel
Elissa Sperling