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Jewish Public Library

Annual Report 2017



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Interim President Peter Jacobs



Executive Director Michael Crelinsten

Message from the President and the Executive Director

... a golden age
for libraries.

It may seem counter-intuitive, given what some are describing as the Age of Google, but this moment in time can also be seen as a golden age for libraries. The predictions of the impending demise of libraries are not only premature but also run counter to a clear and evident global trend to invest in and build new libraries. This is a fact, locally, in St. Laurent, TMR, Brossard, NDG, Montreal North and elsewhere. It is a fact nationally in Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary – in fact, the Province of Saskatchewan just reinstated \$4.8 million in Library funding saying that the decision to cut this budget “...was a mistake...”. It is also a fact internationally in such diverse locales as Brazil, Colombia, Amsterdam, New York, Frankfurt, Belarus, Egypt, Singapore, Japan, and Seattle. The decision to build these libraries has been taken by cash strapped governmental authorities, all of whom are managing very tight budgets, all of whom are severely buffeted by countervailing, crisis based pressures and needs and all of whom are trying to juggle competing demands. Nevertheless, a strategic, values-based focus led to appropriation decisions that have directed billions of dollars to building architecturally iconic libraries that operate as community centres with the explicit strategic goals of building capacity, investing in social capital and skills development, revitalizing neighbourhoods and sustaining and enhancing community — all objectives that should resonate for

our own community, all objectives pursued by the JPL. For its part, the JPL, fiscal challenges notwithstanding, is thriving.

We have been, for 103 years, and remain, the only Jewish public lending library in North America. Some 40-45% of the books in our collection are not available through a public lending library anywhere else in North America. Our Rare Book collection, supported generously by Dr. Michael Paul of St. John’s, Newfoundland, is priceless - we will be collaborating, in November, with the Library and Archives of Canada to present some of the treasures of our JPL collection alongside equally remarkable tomes from the LAC Jacob Lowy Collection of old and rare Hebraica and Judaica. Together the JPL and LAC collections represent a significant part of Canada’s cultural and literary heritage and will be made available to the public this autumn through an exhibition and associated workshops. *This is what Libraries are doing. This is what the JPL does.*

The NBCL Children’s Library is another exceptional and treasured JPL service in our community. Our music programmes (supported by the Azrieli Foundation), Storytime (in English, French, Hebrew and, now, in Russian as well), Shabbat, Passover, Purim, Chanukah and Girls Night Out programmes, are well-known and very well attended. They bring youngsters, parents,

The JPL continues to innovate

grandparents and caregivers into the Federation building and into the Library. They engage all streams of Judaism. In addition to these programmes, the innovative and highly in demand Haim Kotler Genius Centre and, with Adriana Kotler's support, soon to be expanded Maker-Space, captivate our kids and their families. Like our recent "fairy garden" programme, they bring Ultra-orthodox, Conservative and Reform families together, participating side by side. Our Monkey Rock concert drew Francophone Quebecois families to our library to enjoy preschool music. Libraries the world over are becoming community centres, third spaces, that animate, educate and enliven the lives of all, bringing the entire spectrum of their communities together, in shared common experience. *This is what libraries are doing. This is what the JPL does.*

Our **JPL Archives is unique in our community** and, through the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, which was co-founded by the JPL and the former Canadian Jewish Congress Archives, uniquely serves other communities and institutions across Canada.

Amongst many initiatives, an important example sees our Archives currently collaborating with the Museum of Jewish Montreal in developing a new walking tour focused on Montreal's Sephardic Jewish community in the Cote-des-Neiges area. Historical material related to the Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Quebec, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Grand Rabinat du Québec, the publication La Voix Sepharade and, in particular, materials from David Rome's legendary Jewish Canadiana collection, are all being utilized to support this research and explore this rich legacy.

If our history and community patrimony are important, the human dimension of the JPL Archives is equally impactful. As only one of many stories that plays out repeatedly in our Archives, we were recently approached by an elderly gentleman who related to us that, on March 19th, 1944, the Nazis occupied his hometown of Nyiregyhaza in Hungary. 11,000 Jews from his and surrounding villages were herded into the ghetto. "Laszlo", then 4 years old was given over to a non-Jewish couple who raised him. After the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, he emigrated to Montreal to try to make a life for himself. Following a visit to the Montreal Holocaust Museum, he came to us and, in halting English, and with evident fear, explained that he simply

wanted to find out what had happened to his parents. Weeks of extensive international genealogical database searches and consultations finally led to an association of Nyiregyhaza survivors in Israel and we learned that Laszlo's parents had been deported and, tragically, perished in Auschwitz. Laszlo took the research file, that we had created, to a quiet study carousel in the Library, read it and left. We never saw him again but this routine research by the JPL Archives allowed him to close a 40-year breach in his life.

Here's one more. A low profile but brilliant gem of an organization, The Jewish Genealogical Society, or JGS, is closely associated with the JPL. Through the JGS, a woman in our community had learned that her mother had been adopted. While she only learned of this years after her mother had passed away, she had suspected as much given that there had been no pictures of her mom prior to a certain age. She contacted us and using one of our databases, we were able to find her mother's adoption record. She followed this up with DNA testing and was able to find cousins of hers she never before knew existed. *This is what libraries are doing. This is what the JPL does.*

The JPL continues to innovate in the services that it brings to our community. Our Books on Wheels programme to elderly shut-ins connects them to the outside world and enriches their daily life. We are a safe and culturally rich haven for the disadvantaged and a trusted source of literature and Internet technology for our Orthodox community. Our *ASL Story Time* resulted in one family's son beginning to learn American Sign Language so that he could speak to his hearing disabled brother, for the first time. Our Russian Computer Courses for Russian seniors enables them to connect with their grandchildren across the world, some for the very first time. These are merely some of the programmes and services offered by an evolving JPL that also continues to offer world class lectures to our community. This autumn, we will welcome Salman Rushdie to our podium as we welcomed A.B. Yehoshua years ago, Mordecai Richler before that and Saul Bellow before that. *This is what libraries are doing. This is what the JPL does.*

As has become the case worldwide, **libraries have expanded their role** as value-added, creative and responsive institutional members of their communities – and, as such, they have been publically supported

and have seen their usage soar. The Jewish community has a long history in this regard, often during the most desperately trying of circumstances. On December 13, 1942, there was a major celebration marking the circulation of the 100,000th book in the Vilna Ghetto Library. One of the hundreds of attendees that day was

15-year-old Yitzhak Rudashevski, whose diary entry for that day eloquently expressed the meaning and value of that Library, "The reading of books in the ghetto is the greatest pleasure for me. The book unites us with the future; the book unites us with the world." This is what libraries are doing. *This is what the JPL does. We will continue to do so.*



Peter Jacobs
Interim President



Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director



The Russian Literary Club

Library Outreach

JPL Next Chapter

Two sessions of *Reading between the Wines* took place this year, one with **Su Sokol** on her book *Cycling to Asylum* and the other with **Teva Harrison** on her graphic novel *Between Days*, which took place at Drawn & Quarterly comic book store.

Thanks to Litwin CPA and Mr. Michael Litwin, the JPL was able to run five financial literacy workshops entitled *Mind over Money*. Young professionals and families alike joined us to discuss starting your own business, taxation for young families, the foundations of investing, a guide for first time home buyers and tax planning for the family's lifetime. Simultaneously, financial literacy workshops were run for children thanks to RBC Wealth Management.

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 continues to grow its Russian children's collection as well as Russian storytimes. For adults, a very successful Russian Literary club has flourished, led by Valentina Rojinskaia and meeting once a month with over 80 members. At each of these sessions, the JPL's book exchange *Knigovorot* brought members to bring books from their personal collections to exchange for those of other members and a few provided by the library. The

Annual Russian Cultural Evening celebrated its 11th year with a sold out show entitled *Autumn Legends*. The JPL also held courses in Russian for Beginners and computer courses for Russian seniors.

Filipino Community Outreach

Marvin Rotrand and more than 20 leaders from the Filipino community toured the library in August 2016 to explore the library's offerings to their community. The library continues to grow its connection with FAMAS, the Filipino and Suburbs, the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs.

Teen Outreach

Chess Club has expanded at the JPL. Following a number of Beginners' courses, the library has had to create an intermediate level, taught by Ukrainian chess champion Alex Levkovsky. Both sessions were full.

The Library also hosted a session for this year's *Battle of the Books*, between Centennial Academy, Herzliah High School, Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramps School for Girls and Bishop's College School and Emmanuel Christian School.

The Benny Fablab visited the NBCL on June 11, featuring a 3D printer and LEGO Mindjet robots.

Reaching out to students, new immigrants and the unaffiliated

Rare Books Workshops

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Michael Paul, a selection of the Jewish Public Library's Antiquarian book collection was brought to high schools, Jewish and non-Jewish, as well as to the DDO Beth Tikvah after school program, alongside a presentation on the history of print and its historical and social significance. A presentation was also given at the *Bibliothèque Interculturelle de Montreal*.

Special Needs Services

In partnership with the Kids Write Network, YCC Daycamp and Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival, the JPL launched a book, written in-house, with the Manhigim group of teens from YCC day camp. It has also worked extensively with Yaldei School, which opened its doors on Van Horne nearly one year ago.

In order to better serve the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community, The JPL held its first ever American Sign Language for Beginners course.

BreakOut Games

The JPL now offers educational Breakout Games. Like the popular "Adventure Rooms", these games are educational, team-building and entertaining. The Library caters its games to the particular group, whether it's a corporate team-building activity, an opportunity to learn research skills for a class of elementary school students or a lesson in geography. Breakout experiences are portable.

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*.

Books-On-Wheels

The Books-on-Wheels program grew by 25 new home-bound patrons this year with the addition of those from the Fraser-Hickson Library.

Schools 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. From homeschooled groups such as the Limmud Center, to Bar/Bat Mitzvah groups, to 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.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

The JPL, for its third year, was a drop-in location for National Novel Writing Month, in which aspiring authors challenge themselves to write 10K words during the month of November. The library held 2 formal write-ins.

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 exhibit: *Chagall: Colour and Music*.



The Norman Berman Children's Library

The NBCL entered its second century with a big bang.

As a community library and safe haven for some of the community's most vulnerable, the JPL strives to offer children from families of modest means access to high-quality educational activities during their important formative years of life. Our goal is to create programming that is accessible and affordable for all.

The Norman Berman Children's Library (NBCL) is a safe and welcoming environment, not only for Jewish children and their families, but for families of all faiths and origins. The NBCL is open 6 days a week, including after school and on several evenings. We give families of all shapes and sizes a place to bond over books, do homework, play educational computer games or just relax and be together.

New this year, we have the "Art Box", a box of art supplies that is available for anyone to make use of with their children when they come to the library. We often have families or daycares classes spending time in the library, inspiring their creativity to produce imaginative works of art.

Children thrive on music. Music is as critical and instrumental as books and reading at this pivotal early stage of development. Thanks to the continued generous support of the **Azrieli Foundation**, the JPL's NBCL offers pre-school music classes 4 days a week, 10 months a year. During the summer we offer two classes weekly, and enjoy the outdoors with music in the Peace Garden.

The NBCL thanks the **Azrieli Foundation** for allowing us to provide access to under-privileged families who otherwise do not have the means or resources to provide their infant children with this beneficial programming.

Our music program helps babies and toddlers learn how to associate sound and words, build their vocabulary and engage in interactive games that maintain their interest and attention while developing hand and movement coordination. The children benefit socially, physically and developmentally from their weekly hour long visits to the library.

What is even more impactful is the benefit to the parents and families of those children involved. For mothers at home with their babies, the NBCL music classes provide a weekly opportunity to gather in a safe environment where they can identify with other mothers in similar stages of family life. The NBCL music classes provide camaraderie, new friendships, motherly sharing and support as they talk and connect about their experiences with motherhood. A strong support system is essential, as it is well-known that healthy mothers make for healthy babies.

In December, Grammy award winning singer/songwriter **Jennifer Gasoi** performed a Holiday Concert that drew over 150 attendees. Children enjoyed dancing and sing-

ing along to Jennifer's original songs mixed with traditional holiday Hanukkah songs. This year her ensemble featured **Cantor Adam Stotland** who joined her for the holiday portion of the concert.

The **"Monkey Rock Music"** concert took place in July; a free outdoor concert for children under the age of 6 and their parents, made possible by the **Azrieli Foundation**.

Drop in storytimes took place twice weekly with young children and their caregivers or daycare classes coming to experience enrichment time in the library with over 2200 children attending throughout the year. On Sundays, our story time included an artistic element with thematic art projects following the related stories. The NBCL also hosted weekly storytimes for the children of **Yaldei school**.

Thanks to the outreach arm of the **Israeli Consulate**, the **Israeli House** facilitated twice monthly **Hebrew storytimes** and arts & crafts drawing 15 children and their families to each each event.

The NBCL kicked off **Jewish Book Month** in November with author **Frieda Wishinsky** talking to more than 1100 day school students over 3 days about her books, having them act out fun scenes from her stories and regaling them with tales about life and writing career.

Rounding out the end of Jewish Book Month, the NBCL's annual "Girls Night Out" event in November became **"Author's Out Loud"** with former Montrealer **Judy Batalion** returning home to talk about her book "White Walls" to an audience of over 120.

In April, the NBCL hosted an event for **Blue Metropolis Literacy Festival** with **Monique Polak** leading 70 lucky Jewish day school students in a writing workshop

Educational programming

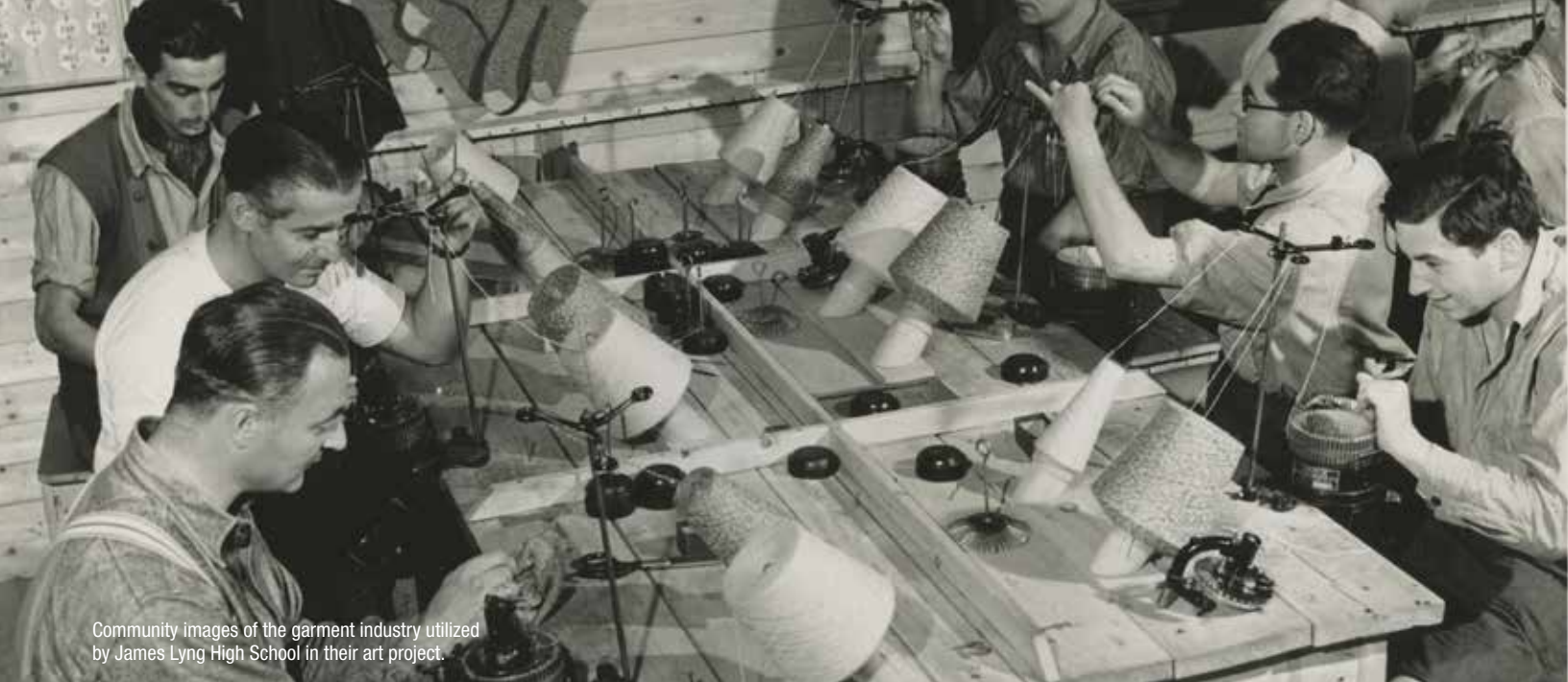
This spring, we established new partnerships that allowed us to develop and expand our programs offered:

- With **RBC**, we hosted a 4 week program **"Financial Literacy for Kids and Teens"**
- **"Yoga for Kids"** with Veronique Abecassis from Little Cobras Yoga ran for 12 weeks, and
- Two sessions of **"CPR for Parents and Caregivers"** in partnership with **Protect Enfant**.

Creative Programming for Children

Our events calendar was jam packed with new events that drew over 120 attendees in total:

- In February, the NBCL hosted the **Fancy Nancy Launch Party** in partnership with the **Segal Centre** to kick off the opening performance of their smash hit musical "Fancy Nancy" performed by the **Cote St Luc Dramatic Society**.
- In April, **"Good Deeds Day"** story and art activity was part of the global organized initiative of "Good Deeds Day".
- In May, the NBCL held **"Make a Mother's Day Bouquet"** and art activity, with beautiful flowers generously donated by **Edgewood Florist**, and we had **"Make your own Fairy Garden"** outdoors in the Peace Garden on a beautiful day at the end of the month.
- In June, we customized coffee mugs for Dad for Father's Day in our **"Sharpie Mug Father's Day"** activity.



Community images of the garment industry utilized by James Lyng High School in their art project.

The Archives of the Jewish Public Library



All in it together: Children hold hands as a part of Operation Solomon, a covert Israeli military operation to airlift Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1991. Photograph digitized as part of the Sonia and David Oberman Internship.

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 15,000 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 have fueled the specialized and diverse educational endeavors the archive has engaged in.

Over the last year, the JPL-A has been working closely with professors at the UQTR, the University of Sherbrook, as well as the Directeur des services d'accueil et d'éducation interculturelle at the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES). This collaboration has resulted in a dynamic French language pedagogical guide for teachers who want to breach the history of the Jewish community in Quebec.

Another recent and exciting partnership made by the JPL-A is the Industry and Labor History Art Program developed with James Lyng High School. Aiming to inform identities by promoting an environment of exploration, reflection, and understanding, the program identifies the manner in which various immigrant populations, including the Jewish people, have contributed to the development and growth of the city. Angled towards exploring the development of industry,

unionization, as well as the suffrage and labour movements, students use material provided by the JPL-A for the creation of original artworks which map the transition of the city around us. In addition, Fall 2017 will see the launch of a mural project at James Lyng in collaboration with both the JPL-A and local street artists.

A grant from Library and Archives Canada has allowed the JPL-A to focus on the translation and indexing of a selection of underutilized Yiddish archival material. Montreal's Jewish contribution to the social and political activism in early 20th century Quebec and Canada was monumental, and the materials document early efforts to organize unions and labour action. They reference federal and provincial election history, literary and cultural events, the role of communities in World War I and II, immigration debates, and much more. The project has also added a crowdsourcing platform to the JPL Archives virtual exhibit platform, www.jpl-presents.org, and allows for the presentation of digitized Yiddish materials alongside their translations or indexing in English and French.

For the third 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 Elyse Fillion. Ms. Fillion is continuing the digitization and description of important Holocaust imagery.



Jewish Book Month Kreynote Speaker
Lawrence Wright

Cultural Programmes 2016-2017

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 95 events and programmes in five languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian, with **7,715** people in attendance.

Courses:

- 2 Beginner Yiddish classes
- 2 Intermediate Yiddish classes
- 2 Advanced Yiddish classes
- 1 Beginner Russian class
- 2 Beginner Computer classes (in Russian)
- 1 American Sign Language class
- 5 Financial Literacy Workshops
- 1 Yiddish Reading Circle Session (“Leyenkraz”) in partnership with the MJM
- 8 meetings of the Russian Literary Club

Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal:

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

Events:

- 21 Lectures
- 5 Book Reviews
- 1 *Conversations* event
- 5 Films
- Israeli Film Festival with 5 movies
- 2 Book Launches
- 11 Special Events
- 2 Yiddish Cafés
- 2 Performances of the JPL Hebrew Theatre

ATTENDANCE

English events	4,189
French events	372
Hebrew events	1,724
Yiddish events and courses	643
Russian events	512
Outreach events	275
TOTAL	7,715

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

September 2016

► **Shane Baker** *Lakhn in Gezunt* in Honor of Sholem Aleichem. Sponsored by The Nathan Igelfeld Endowment.

► Film Screenings: *A Blind Hero – The Love of Otto Weidt*. Sponsored by The Janie Cooper Endowment. *The Law* by Christian Faure (France, 2015).

► *Carry Me* with **Peter Behrens**. Lecture sponsored by Jonathan and Susan Wener.

► A Beacon for Oral History: Visual History Archive Launch with the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

October 2016

► *Fever at Dawn* directed by Peter Gardos. In partnership with the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Sponsored by the Paul and Babey Trepman Memorial Fund.

► *Distilled: A Memoir of Family, Seagram, Baseball and Philanthropy* with **Charles Bronfman**, in conversation with **Howard Green**. Sponsored by Mary Heimlich Cultural Endowment.

► Panel Discussion: *Du témoignage au récit de vie: l'avenir de la mémoire*, with **Mélanie Loisel, Eszter Andor, Aviv Milgram** et **Kat Romanow**.

November 2016

► JBM KEYNOTE: An evening with **Lawrence Wright**, discussing his novel *The Terror Years: From Al-Qaeda to the Islamic State*. Sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation in collaboration with The Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

► **Rosemary Sullivan's** book launch of *Stalin's Daughter* and lecture on *The Art of Biography*. Sponsored by Adriana Kotler and Family Fund.

► **Ian Buruma** in conversation with Eleanor Wachtel about *The Promised Land*. Sponsored by The Norman Berman Memorial Lecture Fund.

► **Autumn Legends**. Our 11th annual evening of Russian culture. Sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, Henriette and Marcel Korner, Barbara and Ronny Kay.

► **Me'orav Tel Aviv Troupe** featuring songs of Ofra Haza. Sponsored by the Braverman and Pripstein Families.

► **The J.I. Segal Awards Gala**, honouring winners in nine categories for their creative works on Jewish themes.

► JPL's 10th **Israeli Film Festival**. Five premieres representing the best of Israeli film: *Wounded Land, The Milk Trial, Mr. Predictable, A.K.A. Nadia*, and *Orange People*. Sponsored by The Chaim and Clara Spielberg Endowment Fund.

► **Yiddish Love Café** *As Long as We Can Be Together*. Sponsored by the Augenfeld Family Endowment.

► *Reading Between the Wines* with **Su Sokol** on *Cycling to Asylum*. Sponsored by the Reuben Brainin Endowment Fund.

► *CASTING LOTS: Creating a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World* by **Susan Silverman**. In partnership with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Sponsored by the Mervin (Mesh) and Avriel Butovsky Memorial Lecture.

► *Yiddish for Pirates* with **Gary Barwin** in conversation with **Stephen Ross**. In partnership with the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival. Sponsored by the Lashinsky Epstein and the N. & E. Mendelson Endowment Funds.

► "Yiddish Fiction" with **Ezra Gliner** *Have I got a Story for You: Yiddish Fiction and the Forward*. In partnership with the Museum of Jewish Montreal.

► *Conversations* with **Lauren Belfer** about *And After the Fire*. Sponsored by The Helen Bassel Endowment, in cooperation with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, and The Henry Berenice Kaufman Foundation.

► *Tout ce que vous voulez savoir sur la musique Klezmer* with **Henri Oppenheim**. Sponsored by M. E. Mendelson and David Zysman Funds.

January – February 2017

March 2017

April 2017

May 2017

► *Good Deeds Day* display, story time and craft in partnership with Good Deeds Day organization.

► *Ukrainian-Jewish Relations: Ukraine Today and Human Rights Issues in the Region*, The Dr. Victor C. Goldbloom Memorial Lecture with the Honourable **Irwin Cotler**, P.C., O.C. In partnership with the Ukrainian-Jewish Dialogue of Montreal.

► *Anatomy of Malice* with **Joel E. Dimsdale** in conversation with **Stephen Toope**. In collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Museum and Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival. Sponsored by the Tauben Family Foundation.

► *Orphan #8* with author **Kim van Alkemade**. In collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Sponsored by the Miriam Schachter Vineberg Foundation.

► *The Secret of Chabad* with **David Eliezrie**. Sponsored by the Galkin Family Annual Lecture Endowment.

► 2 Film Screenings: *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps War* by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky. In collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Museum and in partnership with Canadian Friends of Mountain Lake PBS. Sponsored by the Delores and Harry Rosen Fund.

Premiere of *The History of Love* by Radu Mihaileanu. Sponsored by Lois and Danny Miller.

► *JPL Mega Book Sale*. Over 3,000 books sold.

► *JPL Mega Book Sale*. Over 3,000 books sold.

► *God is Calling: Don't Leave Him on Hold* with **Father John Walsh** in conversation with **Rabbi Lisa J. Grushcow**. Sponsored by the Rebecca and Jacob Grossman Foundation, and in partnership with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

► *The "Den Mother" of Yiddish Montreal: An Afternoon in Honour of Poet Ida Maze*. Sponsored by the Miriam Blacher Glasrot and Josef Glasrot Endowment.

► *Bloomsday – Introducing Mr. Joyce's Ulysses* with **Michael Kenneally**. In partnership with the Bloomsday Festival of Montréal and sponsored by The Joseph Kage Cultural Fund and Philip and Gertrude Batist Memorial Funds.

► **The 15th annual JPL Hebrew Theatre**. *The Guest* by Savyon Liebrecht and directed by Rachelle Glait. Sponsored by Assaf Drori and Ziki Zaffir.

June 2017



Library supporter, Theodore Goloff, presents the JPL a watercolor by Donna Barmish Goloff, z"l. Left to Right: Michael Crelinsten (Executive Director), Theodore Goloff (Donor), Sharon Steinberg (Board Member), Alyson Lozoff (Director of Development).

Fundraising

2017 marked the launch of the **JPL's Friends Campaign**. Between January and March, the JPL welcomed 46 new Friends Members to the Library. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Anonymous Donor** who matched new Friends donations throughout the Campaign, and who is no longer anonymous! **Peter and Ellen Jacobs** made this donation in honor of their **50th wedding anniversary**. On behalf of the JPL, we wish them continued love and a lifetime of happiness. Our Friends will receive a special welcome at the Salman Rushdie event this fall. We extend our sincere thanks to this loyal category of JPL supporters.

The JPL would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to **Ms. Sharon Steinberg**, long-time JPL supporter, avid reader, and whose generous support allows our eBooks, audio books and audio CD collections to continue to grow and expand. We would also like to extend our thanks to new Friend, **Aaron Zevy**, who generously donated free access to children's eBooks through **Tumble Books**.

The month of June saw the JPL's first ever participation in a grassroots, online fundraising campaign in honor of Canada's 150th. **The Great Canadian Giving Challenge** was an excellent platform for the JPL to reach Facebook fans, Twitter followers and email sub-

scribers, letting them know of the important work we do and what an impact their generosity makes. Thank you to all who supported us in this initiative. We especially appreciated your kind comments and words of encouragement throughout the month.

The JPL held a **Mega Book Sale** in May, welcoming waves of avid readers for a great cause. Thousands of books found new homes and our readers helped the JPL to raise over \$2,500 through this event.

The JPL is grateful for the continued support of the **Borough of Cote-de-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grace**, for its grants in support of our collections and in support of the "Human Library" program; **Service Canada** for two Summer Student Grants; and the **Alex Dworkin Foundation** for their support of the JPL Archives.

The JPL is grateful for the many donations made in honor of special lifetime moments and occasions, birthdays, and in commemoration of lost loved ones. These important gifts enable our Library to continue to offer quality services and programs to our loyal patrons. The JPL also helps donors to fulfill their goal of leaving a

lasting legacy by assisting with planned gifts. We extend our gratitude to the **Estate of Louis Engelberg** and the **Estate of Anna Krantzberg**.

The JPL was profoundly saddened by the loss of long-time supporter of the JPL and deeply respected philanthropist, **Mickey Rosenthal**. We will honor his commitment to the community and to literacy and education at our annual Friends Keynote cocktail this fall.

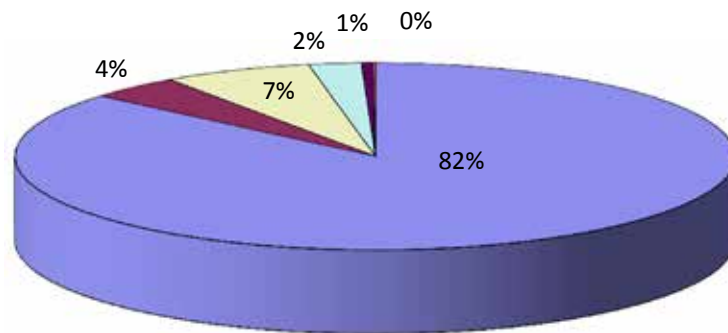
The JPL would like to thank the following major donors for their contributions this year:

Adriana Kotler
Ann Weinstein
Dana & Jonathan Goodman
Doherty & Associates Co. Ltd.
Freda & Irwin Browns
Gustav Levinschi Foundation
Jarislowsky Fraser Partners Foundation
Leesa Steinberg
Morris & Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
Norman Zavalkoff Family Foundation
Peggy & John Lanfer Foundation
Perry Shak
Peter and Ellen Jacobs
Protech Foundation
Robert Bohbot
Sharon Steinberg
Spiegel Sohmer
Theodore Goloff
William Rosengarten

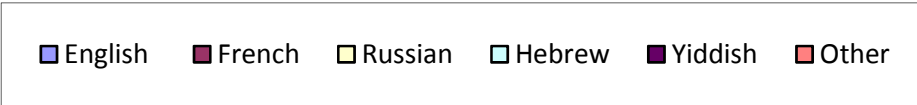


Statistics

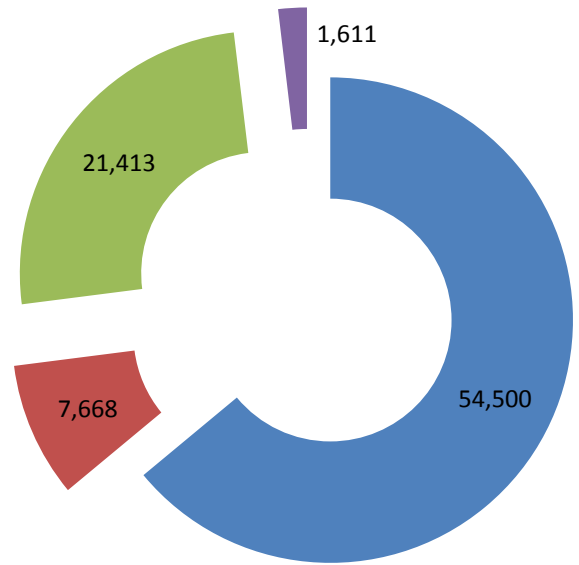
Circulation by language 2016



85,192 items were circulated in 2016. The chart shows the split by language.



Circulation by category 2016



The items circulated in 2016 by category (does not include music or DVDs).

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

Website visits 2016



In 2016 the JPL website counted over 74,000 page views by more than 15,000 users.





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Hanna Eliashiv
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Andrei Kelner
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Goldie Sigal
Naomi Tencer

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Marc Felgar
Rosa Finestone
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Eugene Orenstein
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Oxana Pasternak
Marina Privorotsky
Cassandra Ricafort

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Alan Murad
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Julie Shugarman

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Howard Krosnick
Allan Oberman
Danielle Pollack
Julie Shugarman
Roslyn Slwaner

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Marilynne Malkin
Woodrow Rosenbaum
Father John Walsh

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Rhona Blanshay

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Dana Zinman
Michael Crelinsten

Library Staff 2016-17

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Natalia Konovalova

Accounting-Membership

Allan J. Oberman

Director of Operations

Angelina Spilberg

Executive Assistant

ADULT LIBRARY

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Head of Library Services/
Main Library

Janet Forbath

Circulation Assistant

Oxana Pasternak

Circulation Assistant

Eddie Paul

Head of
Bibliographic Services

Ivy Rabinovitch

Circulation Assistant

Maria Ressina

Head of
Community Outreach

Valentina Rojinskaia

Russian Cataloguer/
Circulation Librarian

Eleanor Steinberg

Head of Circulation

Eddie Stone

Hebraica Cataloguer/
Reference Librarian

Jessica Zimmerman

Acting Director, Archives

NORMAN BERMAN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Nicole Beaudry

Children's Librarian/
Social Media

Janice Cohen

Library Assistant

Leticia Cuenca

Children's Librarian/
Cataloguer

Debby Mayman

Cataloging, Marketing
and Programming

Talya Pardo

Director, Norman Berman
Children's Library

PROGRAMMING, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

Roxana Brauns

Director, Programming

Cindy Davis

Public Relations and
Social Media Manager

Isolde Dyson

Programming Assistant

Shannon Gaskell

(until October 2016)
Director, Development

Leo Hubermann

Director, Marketing &
Communications

Alyson Lozoff

(as of December 2016)
Director, Development

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

Connie Abramovitch
Sylvie Baril
Judith Cohen
Marlene Danies
Roslyn Dorenfeld
Haim Derai
Peter Forbath
Victoria Galperin
Eiran Harris
Suzanne Hersvovitch
Malca Hubner
Valentina Ionescu
Diane Israel
Batia Kloda
Esther Levy
Sarah Moore
Yacov Rigler
Reesa Rosenfeld
Phyllis Rudin
Karla White
Mona Wu

Student Intern from the McGill School of Information Studies

Amber Laude

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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 Spilberg
Jessica Zimmerman

Children's Library

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Tracey Blonder
Joanne Garfinkle
Dana Lohner
Heidi Majnemer
Joy Melnick-Smith
Susan Tepner Novack
Phyllis Rudin
Jennifer Solomon
Leigh Zinman

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Shana Kleiner Graur
Molly Lohner
Hannah Nizard
Deborah Nizard
Jonathan Harper

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Alexandra Stermer
Maurice Amiel
Elissa Sperling