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Jewish Public Library

Annual Report 2018



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President Howard Krosnick



Executive Director Michael Crelinsten

Message from the President and the Executive Director

Over 100,000
visitors a year

The Jewish Public Library continues to welcome over 100,000 visitors a year and to offer an exceptional array of programmes and services developed by our exceptional staff. By way of example, following are some highlights of the 2017 – 2018 programming year.

Our Norman Berman Children's Library is thriving under the leadership of Talya Pardo and her staff. The recent Montreal YA Festival was ground breaking, not only for the Library but, indeed, for our country – it is the first and only Young Adult festival of its kind in Canada. Made possible through a grant from Marilyn Takefman, it drew participants from Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto and New York to listen to and engage with 19 YA authors.

Our makerspace programme, in the NBCL, supported by Adriana Kotler in memory of her late husband, Chaim, has added a range of high tech learning tools teaching the building blocks of robotics and coding and enabling young people to explore their imaginations freely with our 3D pens. These programmes, supported by a Pollack Foundation grant, are attended by kids from a range of backgrounds, including Orthodox Jewish families whose participation is growing.

Jessica Zimmerman, our Director of Archives, is carrying on a tradition of excellence in the JPL Archives. During the past year, we collaborated closely with the McCord Museum on their Shalom Montreal exhibit about our Jewish community. Indeed, Jessica is featured in their film on young, local Jewish professionals.

Our Archives are partnering with the Pointe-à-Callière Museum on two exhibits. One is a permanent exhibit entitled “Les Bâisseurs de Montréal”, which is a visual journey into Montreal's past under French and British regimes. The second is a 10-year exhibit looking at the history of Montreal from the village of Hochelaga to a 21st century metropolis.

We have been working closely with professors at the University of Sherbrooke, as well as the Directeur des services d'accueil et d'éducation interculturelle at the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur. This collaboration has resulted in a French language pedagogical guide for educators who wish to teach the history of the Jewish community in Quebec.

This year also saw us convening the extraordinary Léa Roback exhibit in association with the Léa Roback Foundation. The exhibit was a retrospective on her life, which was nothing short of revolutionary, in the Quebec labour and industrial movements.

Our Outreach Committee, chaired by Erica Fagen, has worked hard to grow our membership in the 18-30-year-old range, as well as partnering through various organizations to expand our reach.

Maria Ressina, our Head of Outreach, and Karen Biskin, our Head of Library Services, led the convening of “I'm an Open Book: The Human Library of Montreal”. In honour of Montreal's 375th Anniversary, the JPL's first ever human library was initiated in collaboration with the

The JPL continues to focus on inclusion

Museum of Jewish Montreal and the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Our Human Library was a collection of real people sharing their personal stories with an audience of readers who “checked out” these real people in a face-to-face experience. It gave voice to many personal stories and brought together the extraordinary diversity of Montreal’s Jewish experience.

The Jewish Public Library continues to focus on inclusivity and access for all and, in this regard, Maria has initiated a course in American Sign Language. We’re striving to expand our community’s offerings to the hard-of-hearing, deaf and American Sign Language communities. We’ve had the pleasure of partnering with Seeing Voices Montreal, the Deaf Anglo Literacy Center and the Montreal Association for the Blind.

We have also, in partnership with the Jewish General Hospital Volunteer department, expanded our e-books service to the JGH and we are looking to do so with the Montreal Children’s Hospital as well as Auberge Shalom. Our ability to do this stems from a 5-year grant from Sharon Steinberg, whose support of this Library is nothing short of extraordinary.

Our longstanding Books on Wheels programme, supported by the Henry and Bernice Kaufmann Foundation, through the intervention of Janis Levine, and in tribute to Marion Greenwood, allows patrons, who cannot leave their homes, to receive books and audiobooks from the JPL. The service has grown through our partnership with the Fraser Hickson library. This partnership came about at the request of the Côte des Neiges/NDG Borough with whom we have an increasingly engaged relationship. There are, presently, 66 homebound patrons to whom we delivered 1,084 books, audio-books and DVDs. The programme is carried out by dedicated volunteers, none more extraordinary than Connie Abramovitch who, along with her late husband, Sid, made, and now, on her own, makes deliveries, through rain and snow to people rather a good deal younger than she.

By way of outreach, this year some of our library’s Rare Books were exhibited along-side the Library and Archives of Canada’s Jacob Lowy Collection in Ottawa. This was orchestrated by our thoroughly unique, and uniquely talented, Eddie Paul, supported by Nicole Beaudry and Eddie Stone. Eddie Stone, who flies well under the radar, is a resource of indescribable value to the JPL. Our rare book workshops remain popular in both Jewish and non-Jewish schools and local community centres.

As for our cultural programming, Roxana Brauns secured, and we welcomed, an eclectic range of authors including Jewish Book Month Keynote author, Nicole Krauss, Haroon Moghul, in conversation with Rabbi Lisa Grushkow, and Dr. Dan Miron on *The Book Peddler* by Sholem Yankev Abramovitch. We also hosted our annual Russian evening and our Yiddish Café – this year celebrating Israel’s 70th Anniversary with “Sholem Aleichem and the Dream of a Jewish State”. Stephen Greenblatt was erudite and humorous in his presentation of his book, *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve* and the Mary Heimlich Cultural Endowment sponsored piano recital by Anna Magdalena Kokits left us breathless. And then there was the brilliant and very personal evening with Sir Salman Rushdie, made possible by Roslyn Margles in memory of her late husband Max.

In the context of cultural programming, we have also re-structured and re-focused our Cultural Programme Coordinating Committee and established uniform selection and evaluation tools with the aim of improving and rationalizing our programme selection process.

With the leadership and guidance of Ros Slawner, and the very active involvement of the JPL’s COO, Allan Oberman, we have implemented a comprehensive review and update of the organization’s HR policies and procedures. We have completed the first year of a series of comprehensive performance assessments with our management team. This year we implemented 2 online and 4 hard copy surveys of our cultural programmes, an evaluation survey of our Israeli Film Festival attendees and a demographic survey of the 4,600 people in our database. This will be followed, this autumn, by a service evaluation survey of the same audience. These planning and evaluation initiatives are all linked closely to our 3-year strategic plan and are intended to enable an integrated and coherent approach to planning and change management for our Library. While we have long understood the need for such a management approach, and while these initiatives are autonomous and internally generated, it is fair to say that FederationCJA, in the context of grounded and frank allocation discussions, both challenged and supported us in this regard.

Finally, a long considered renovation of our Library is now getting underway. After a competition, we have selected the architectural firm Architem, who are well-known, respected and experienced in library design. We are beginning to assess our evolving needs, what new technologies should be imported into our Library, how to best serve our community through form and function and how this can best be reflected in a renovated facility.

The Atlantic's James Fallows, in his book, *Our Towns*, draws an on-the-ground portrait of American civic life, which contrasts with the media narrative we hear about. Amongst other observations, he notes that, while discourse at the national level has become raw, vulgar

and erudition-starved, at the local level, there is a library revival. Libraries continue on their track of “becoming more rather than less popular and central to civic (and, I would add, civil) life.” So it can be said of the Jewish Public Library.



Howard Krosnick
Interim President



Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director



Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada.
Rare Books presentation in partnership with LAC (Library and Archives Canada)

Library Outreach

Human Library

This past year, the JPL hosted *I'm an Open Book: The Human Library of Jewish Montreal* as part of Montreal's 375th celebration. The Human Library was a collection of real people sharing their personal stories with their audience of 'readers.' Unlike attending a lecture, this was a face-to-face experience, a chance to converse with someone whom you would be unlikely to meet otherwise. Our Human Library celebrated the remarkable stories of Montreal's own Jewish community, giving voices to many diverse, fascinating, moving and exciting personal stories. This was an opportunity for anyone, Jewish or not, to gain an understanding of another's world and to help build bridges across the many paths that connect us, in partnership with the Montreal Holocaust Museum, the Museum of Jewish Montreal and the Jewish Learning Lab.

Many outreach events brought archival treasures to the forefront this year. Fashion in the Archives, in partnership with the Museum of Jewish Montreal, brought photographs and textiles from the archives alongside a compelling presentation from Jessica Zimmerman, Director of the JPL Archives. Art Hives with the Archives brought forward a different set of tales from the archives: a paint night inspired by Ethel Stark's childhood violin and the career of the incredible woman to whom it belonged; a Valentine's Day event of folding recycled books while

listening to scandalous love stories from letters in the archives; and a paper flower folding event that included stories of Canada's first Jewish farming families.

Mega Book Sale

This year, for the first time in many years, the JPL held a Mega Book Sale, earning over \$2,000 for the library. The JPL would like to thank its many volunteers at this event, as well as those who generously donated books towards the sale.

JPL Next Chapter

Four sessions of *Reading between the Wines* took place this year, targeting a wide range of topics which appealed to the 25-40 age demographic. Topics were diverse and inspiring: In the fall, **Ami Sands Brodoff** spoke on her book *In Many Waters*, discussing the experience of displacement and refugees in the world, whereas **Maria Guzzo** spoke of parenting and nutrition, how to feed one's family in a busy world. In the spring, author **Michelle Franklin** hosted a writing workshop, and **Gabrielle Zevin** spoke in honour of International Women's Day on modern feminism, the #metoo movement and representations of women in literature and the media.

Reaching out to students, new immigrants and the unaffiliated

Russian Outreach

Thanks to a generous gift in loving memory of 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, "Sobesednik" (*Conversations*), led by Valentina Rojinskaia, met once a month and now has over 100 members. At each of these sessions, the JPL's book exchange "Knigovorot" has members 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.

Rare Books Workshops

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Michael Paul, from November 1-3, 2017, staff from the JPL travelled to Ottawa to participate in a joint exhibit with the Jacob Lowy Collection of **Library & Archives Canada** commemorating the 40th anniversary of their rare book collection. The exhibit, entitled *Decanting Memory: a Celebration of 500 years of Jewish Printing* showcased a selection of the JPL's rare books alongside titles from the Lowy collection.

Along with the joint exhibit, which featured books like the JPL's incunabula **1481 edition of Josephus's Antiquities**, we also brought along books for three group workshops. Two classes from Ottawa's Jewish day school system as well as the Ottawa branch of Hillel participated in what has become an ongoing initiative to teach people about the history of Hebrew printing and of the unusual stories behind these books, their authors, and printers.

Rare Book workshops were also held at community centres and schools such as Beth Tikvah and Herzliah High School.

Special Needs Services

In order to better serve the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community, The JPL held courses in American Sign Language at beginners' and intermediate levels. Both courses were well attended.

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 for high school students. Breakout experiences are portable and have been brought to schools, community centers and day camps.

Books-On-Wheels

The Books-on-Wheels programme has expanded to offer free eBooks to patients at the Jewish General Hospital. New homebound patrons continue to be added and the programme is continuously in demand. The JPL continues to partner with the Fraser Hickson Library on this programme.

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 CEGEPS (Dawson College, Marianopolis College) and universities (McGill, Concordia). The JPL also brought a number of visits and presentations to the Cummings Center for Seniors.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

For a fourth year, The JPL 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 weekly write-in drop-ins, as well as a launch party with snacks and coffee for ambitious writers.

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

The MMFA offered JPL members free tickets to their main exhibitions as part of their *Sharing the Museum* initiative.



The Norman Berman Children's Library

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

The NBCL offers pre-school music classes 5 days a week for 10 months per year.

Children thrive on music. Music is just as important as books and reading at this pivotal stage of development. With this in mind, the JPL's NBCL offers pre-school music classes 5 days a week for 10 months per year. During the summer we offer two classes weekly, enjoying the outdoors with music in the Peace Garden.

The generosity of the **Azrieli Foundation** allows 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. The grant allows us to offer music classes to local daycares in the community free of charge. In addition to regular preschool music programming, we also offer 3 annual concerts free of charge with refreshments provided. This has proved to be highly successful with over 100 attendees at each event.

In December the Grammy-award winning singer/song-writer **Jennifer Gasoi** performed her **Holiday Concert** and drew over 150 attendees. The children enjoyed dancing and singing along to Jennifer's original songs mixed with traditional holiday Hanukkah songs. In February and July we have "**Monkey Rock Music**" concerts for children under the age of 6 and their parents.

We have **drop in story times** three times per week for young children and their caregivers or daycare classes to enjoy enrichment time in the library. On Sundays our story time mornings are packed with fun, starting with stories and crafts in English, followed every week with a rotation of Hebrew, French or Russian storytimes and crafts. We also host weekly storytimes for the children of **Yaldei school**.

Jewish Book Month in November was a blast with Montreal-based author and illustrator Alan Silberberg to various day schools talking to students about his books and entertaining them with spontaneous and hilarious drawing demonstrations.

Our 13th and final **Girls' Night Out** event brought author Jennifer E Smith to speak to a new audience of young girls and their mothers.



At the end of May, we launched Canada's first ever YA Author Festival, the **MTL YA FEST!** We had 19 authors from all over North America – and one from Mexico City! – here to spend a day participating in author discussion panels, games and meeting their fans. Over 100 people came from far and wide –some as far as Quebec City, Toronto and New York City – to attend our full day event that also featured live music and fun creative activities. We look forward to next year's event and are already working hard on planning!

Educational and creative programming:

- Makerspace drop ins and workshops with 3D pens, WeDo 2.0 robotics, Cubelets
- Shabbat in the Park with PJ Library
- Good Deeds Day with Auberge Shalom
- Story book Party
- Mother's Day Fizzy Heart Art
- Father's Day painted rock photo holders
- Book Launch "Passover Family" by Monique Polak
- Medieval March break – making shields, catapults, astles and dragons
- Israel Activist Hen Mazzig
- Book Launch of "The Bad Mood and the Stick" illustrated by Montreal-based illustratr Matt Forsythe
- And many more events and activities!!



Lea Roback

The Archives of the Jewish Public Library



The ST Imaging Viewscan 4 is recognized as the leading microfilm scanner available. A state of the art machine, it allows for crystal clear, instant access to over 250 years of microfilmed periodicals.

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 exhibitions and events that increased the profile of the library. To date, over 20,000 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.

Kicking off with the successful exhibition and evening realized by the Lea Roback Foundation, the JPL Archives has launched a year full of visual displays. Over the last twelve months, the JPL-A has worked closely with the McCord Museum for the launch of their newest exhibition, *Shalom Montreal*, which highlights the history and achievements of the local Jewish community. The JPL-A provided information and resources, and invited the McCord's curators into our collections in order to make selections of photographs and documents. The result was a show that highlights some of the best pieces and strongest narratives in the Archives; community politics, culture and entertainment, labour and civil rights, etc. The exhibition is on until November 11, 2018.

Another recent and exciting partnership made by the JPL-A is with the Pointe-à-Callière Museum, who will launch two large scale projects in the fall using resources from the JPL-A. The Archives and its materials will be

included in a permanent exhibition titled, "Les Bâisseurs de Montréal", a visual journey back in time to Montreal's past under the French and British regimes. Additionally, for a period of ten years, images from the Archives will be included in a multimedia show at the museum. The project will evoke the history of Montreal, from the village of Hochelaga to a city of the 21st century.

This year, the JPL-A has been the recipient of gifts and new collections; most notably, the generous support of the Trepman family has allowed the Archives to purchase a new, state of the art microfilm machine, granting unprecedented access to hundreds of years of microfilmed Jewish periodicals. Important items and collections that were accessioned into the repository include oversize minute books, ledges, photographs and documents from the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Montreal, dating back to the early 1800s. Additionally, the JPL-A received the Thomas Munk collection of photographs and negatives from the Westmount Public Library/ Westmount Historical Association, documenting events, traditions, and celebrations that cover decades of the communities history.

For the fourth year in a row, 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 award to Tim Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan is continuing essential inventory and collection management protocols.



Sir Salman Rushdie
© Beowulf Sheehan

Cultural Programmes 2017-2018

A total of 82 events and programmes in 5 languages with over 7,500 people in attendance

Under the auspices of **seven cultural committees**, there were a total of **82 events and programmes** in five languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian, with **7,540** people in attendance.

Courses:

- 2 Beginner Yiddish courses
- 2 Intermediate Yiddish courses
- 2 Advanced Yiddish courses
- 2 Beginner Russian courses
- 2 Beginner American Sign Language class
- 2 Intermediate American Sign Language class
- 1 Yiddish Sing-a-long Workshop
- 2 Yiddish Reading Circle Sessions (“Leyenkrazz”)
- 2 meetings of the Russian Literary Club

Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal:

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

Events:

- 11 Lectures
- 2 Book Reviews
- 6 Films
- 4 Concerts
- 5 films at the Israeli Film Festival (renamed the Israeli and Jewish Film Festival)
- 1 Book Launch
- 9 Special Events
- 4 “Reading Between the Wines” events
- 2 Yiddish Cafés

ATTENDANCE

English events	3,739
French events	311
Hebrew events	1,536
Yiddish events and courses	514
Russian events	494
Outreach and special events	793
Other courses	153
TOTAL	7,540

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.

September 2017

► *Wrestling with Life*: Richard King in conversation with author **George Reinitz**. In collaboration with Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA and the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

► **Anna Magdalena Kokits in Concert**, piano recital celebrating Austrian and Canadian music. Sponsored by The Embassy of Austria and The Mary Heimlich Cultural Endowment.

► *Found in Translation: The Art of Yiddish Translation*. Lazer Lederhendler moderated a discussion with Helen Mintz, Stephen Ross and Sebastian Schulman, considering recent efforts to translate Yiddish literature. Presented by The Nathan Igelfeld Endowment.

► *A Traveler Undisguised: Mendele Moykher Sforim as a Modern Jewish Intellectual*. **Dr. Dan Miron** presented a lecture on Sholem Yankev Abramovich (1836-1917) – better known by his pseudonym, Mendele Moykher Sforim, Mendele the Book Peddler. Presented by The Yentl Rubin and Mordko Fishman Memorial Endowment Fund

► An evening with **Sir Salman Rushdie**: “Public Events, Private Lives: Literature and Politics in the Modern World”. Sponsored by The Max Margles Memorial Fund.

► JBM KEYNOTE: *Forest Dark* lecture with **Nicole Krauss**, author of *The History of Love*. Sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation in collaboration with the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

► **Shauna Singh Baldwin** reading from *Reluctant Rebellions*. Sponsored by The Jonathan and Susan Wener Canadian Writers Lecture fund.

► *Aux creux de l'oreille*, un spectacle de contes et de musique avec l'artiste et conteur **Jean-Jacques Fdida**. En collaboration avec le Festival interculturel du conte de Montréal et la Synagogue Spanish & Portuguese.

► “Reading Between the Wines” event with **Maria Guzzo** reading from her recent book *#smartbites*. Sponsored by the Reuben Brainin Fund of the JPL.

► Film screening: *The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel*, with director **Yonathan Nir** in attendance. Sponsored by The Paul and Babey Trepman Memorial Fund of the JPL and the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

► **Haroon Moghul**, author of *How to be a Muslim: An American Story*, in conversation with **Rabbi Lisa J. Grushcow**. Sponsored by The Adriana Kotler Family Fund.

► JBM Closing Event: film screening of *Across the Waters* by Danish director Nicolo Donato. Sponsored by The Janie Cooper Endowment of the JPL and the N.E. Mendelson Endowment Fund.

► “**Far Away from Moscow**”, our 12th annual evening of Russian culture. Sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation in collaboration with the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation, Henriette and Marcel Korner, and Barbara and Ronny Kay.

► “Reading Between the Wines” event with **Ami Sands Brodoff** reading from *In Many Waters*. Sponsored by the Reuben Brainin Fund of the JPL.

► Projection de film: *Mr. Gaga, sur les pas d’Ohad Naharin*. Sponsored by the N.E. Mendelson Fund.

► **Norman Ravvin** reviewed *Arabic for Beginners* by Ariela Freedman.

November 2017

October 2017

**January –
February 2018**

► **Elaine Kalman Naves** reviewed *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi.

► **JPL's 11th Israeli Film Festival.** Five premieres representing the best of Israeli film: *Between Worlds*, *The 90-Minute War*, *Beyond the Mountains and Hills*, *Saving Neta* and *The Settlers*. Funded by the Chaim and Clara Spilberg Endowment Fund.

► **Yiddish Café** presented its annual Love Café “*You, you...*” Sponsored by the Augenfeld fund.

March 2018

► “Reading Between the Wines” event with **Gabrielle Zevin**, New York Times best-selling author of eight novels for adults and young adults. Sponsored by the Reuben Brainin Endowment Fund.

► *China through Yiddish Eyes* presentation by **Dr. Kathryn Hellerstein**, poet, translator and scholar of Yiddish poetry. Sponsored by the Lashinsky Epstein Endowment.

► *Squaring the Circle: Mahatma Gandhi and the Jewish National Home* lecture with **Professor P. R. Kumaraswamy**. Co-sponsored by the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies at Concordia University.

► The inaugural **MTL YA!Fest** took place at the JPL, bringing readers of all ages to celebrate Young Adult literature.

April 2018

► “Reading Between the Wines” writing master class with fiction author **Michelle Franklin**. Sponsored by the Reuben Brainin Endowment Fund.

► *Hear the Desert Roar: A Revealing Journey through Israel's Backyard*, book talk with Israeli author **Ayelet Gundar-Goshen**. Presentations in English and Hebrew. Sponsored by The Mervin (Mesh) and Avriel Butovsky Memorial Lecture.

► *Viva Léa!* exhibition and vernissage celebrating the life of author and activist **Léa Roback**. Funded by the Léa Roback Foundation, in collaboration with the Jewish Public Library.

► *Last Yiddish Heroes: Lost and Found Songs of Soviet Jews during World War II* concert and lecture with **Dr. Anna Shternshis** and musician **Psoy Korolenko**. Sponsored by The Miriam Blacher Glasrot and Josef Glasrot Endowment.

► *Musiques du Maghreb* concert-conférence animée par **Yolande Amzallag** et **Adil Abara** avec **l'ensemble Tessala** sous la direction du compositeur **Samuel Bonnet**. Présenté par le fonds M. E. Mendelson.

► *Uprooted: How 3000 Years of Jewish Civilization in the Arab World Vanished Overnight* book talk with author **Lyn Julius**. Sponsored by The Rebecca & Jacob Grossman Foundation.

► **Yiddish Café's** *Sholem Aleichem and the Dream of a Jewish State*, with stories and songs in celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary. Sponsored by the Chana Gonshor, Yetta Felman Chmiel, Hella Holtzman and Etta Michtom Miransky Funds.

► *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve* lecture by Harvard professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Stephen Greenblatt**. Sponsored by the Norman Berman Memorial Lecture Fund.

► Film screening: *Bye Bye Germany* by German-born director Sam Garbarski. Sponsored by the Delores and Harry Rosen Fund of the JPL.

May 2018

► Film screening: *Seul dans Berlin* directed by Vincent Perez, presented in collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Museum

COLLABORATIONS

- Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Goethe Institute Montreal
- Montreal Holocaust Museum
- Blue Metropolis Festival
- The Israeli House
- The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Festival interculturel du conte de Montréal
- Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue
- Yiddish Book Center
- McGill Department of Jewish Studies
- Montreal Jewish Museum
- Concordia University
- Foundation for Yiddish Culture
- Cummings Centre for Seniors
- Montreal 375
- The Jewish Learning Lab
- Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
- Art Against Humanity
- Seeing Voices Montreal
- Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA
- Gramata Russian School
- Léa Roback Foundation
- Library and Archives Canada
- Akiva School
- Beth Tikvah West Island
- Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives
- KlezKanada
- YidLife Crisis
- Bronfman Jewish Education Center
- Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies
- Temple Emmanu-El
- Congregation Shaar Hashomayim
- Jewish Genealogical Society
- Fraser-Hickson Library
- Blue Metropolis Literary Festival
- Bibliothèque interculturelle de Montréal
- Arrondissement NDG-Cote-des-Neiges
- Bibliothèque Benny
- Kids Write Network
- James Lyng High School
- Royal Vale High School
- Atwater Library's Film Festival of Canadian Artists and Architects
- Maison de la culture NDG
- Corporation d'habitation Jeanne-Mance
- Centre d'histoire de Montréal
- Direction des services d'accueil et d'éducation interculturelle at the MEEES



Left to Right: Lana Harper, Russell Harper, Nancy Strohl, Michael Crelinsten (Executive Director)

Fundraising

The year 2017-2018 was marked not only by some extraordinarily generous gifts from individuals and Foundations but also by substantial revenue raised from small yet frequent donations marking significant events in the lives of our members and their loved ones. Our 100th Anniversary Campaign, progressed extraordinarily well, with multiyear pledges being paid fully and on time. We thank all the donors who participated, and continue to participate, in this Campaign which contributes to sustaining our Library.

We would like to thank **Sharon Steinberg** not only for her extraordinary generosity but also for her support and friendship of the JPL. We extend special thanks to **Dr. Eliezer Trepman** for his generosity, as well as to **Norman Heimlich, Adriana Kotler** and **Marilyn Takefman** for their generous gifts.

The support of the **Azrieli Foundation, The Maxwell Cummings Family Foundation, The Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation, Protech Foundation, Reitmans (Canada) Limited, The Chaim and Clara Spilberg Endowment Fund, The**

Dolores and Harry Rosen Fund, The Paul and Babey Trepman is indispensable to our Library programmes including the Norman Berman Children's Library.

Once again, this year, the November Jewish Book Month and other cultural programs were made possible through a host of very generous donors. Warmest thanks go to the **The Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, Roslyn Margles and The Max Margles Memorial Fund, Betty (Berliner)** and **Assaf Drori** and **Zvi and Jeannette Zafir**.

We are sincerely grateful to the **Borough of Cote-Des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grace** for its grant in support of the Library's outreach activities and to **Service Canada** for our two Summer Students grants.

This year we hosted Nancy Strohl, Lana Harper and Russell Harper of **The Maurice Pollack Foundation**, who contributed generously towards the renovation of the Library through the naming of our circulation desk.

We thank our donors for making
the 2017-2018 year
a most successful one!

Donors of \$1,000 and over

Robert Bohbot
Freda and Irwin Browns
Cindy (Bassel) and Jeff Brown
Marvin Corber
Betty (Berliner) and Assaf Drori
Claire (Berger) and Alvin Fagen
Joanne Garfinkle
Theodore Goloff
Norman Heimlich
Robert Issenman
Ellen and Peter Jacobs
Nicolas Kasirer
Barbara and Ronny Kay
Marlene and Joel King
Henriette and Marcel Korner
Adriana Kotler
Peggy Lanfer
Marilyn Nayer
Dr. Michael David Paul
Danielle Pollack
Roslyn and Abraham Slawner
Soryl and Gerald E. Soiferman
Zvi Soiferman
Leesa Steinberg
Sharon Steinberg
Marilyn Takefman
Sara & Irwin Tauben
Dr. Eliezer Trepman
Susan and Jonathan Wener
Jeannette and Zvi Zaffir

**Foundations and Corporations
Donations of \$1,000 and over**

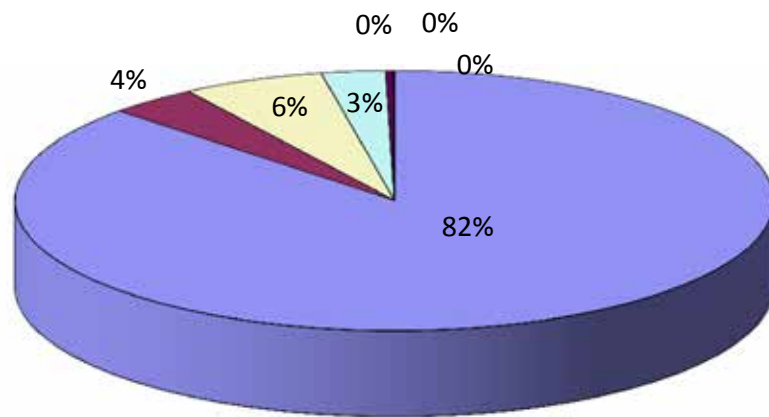
Felicia and Arnold Aaron Foundation
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Thank You, A Groisen Dank, Merci, Toda Raba, Spasiba



Statistics

Circulation by language 2017

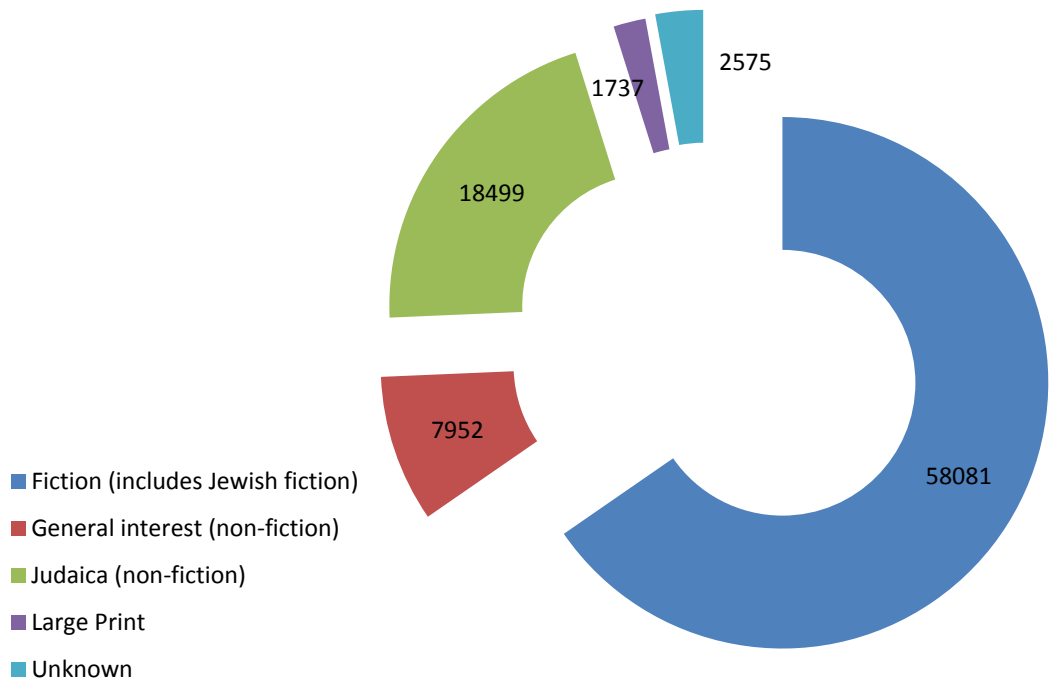


88,793 items were circulated in 2017. The chart shows the split by language.

■ English ■ French ■ Russian ■ Hebrew ■ Yiddish ■ Spanish ■ Other

Circulation by category 2017

The items circulated in 2017 by category (does not include music or DVDs).



Website visits 2017



In 2017 the JPL website counted close to 80,000 page views by more than 15,000 users.





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Children's Library

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(as of February 2018)

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Communications

Alyson Lozoff

(until October 2017)

Director, Development

Edna Mendelson

(as of December 2017)

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:

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