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Jewish Public Library

Annual Report 2019



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President Howard Krosnick



Executive Director Michael Crelinsten

Message from the President and the Executive Director

A few years ago, The Arts Council of England, concluded a study on the measurement of value and impact in the cultural sector. They described the exercise as "... impossibly complex and ultimately unknowable...". Nevertheless, they gave it their best shot – the report runs more than 150 pages - the Executive Summary runs 19 pages. Essentially, what they argued is that there are two types of impact: those where culture makes a contribution to wider policy areas (economic growth, health and education) and those which are associated with benefits to the individual (happiness or inspiration). The report concluded that 'cultural value' cannot always adequately be expressed in traditional units of measure and that, indeed, the cultural value of an experience may be lost if it is assessed in traditional terms.

So, while measuring impact may be difficult, we note American Supreme Court Justice, Potter Stewart's comment on the ambiguity of definition with regard to obscenity, famously stating that, while he could not precisely define it, "I know it when I see it." One could say the same about impact in the cultural sector – here are just a very few examples of the JPL at work:

Libraries help people learn about their own history. Some time ago, an elderly man was led to the JPL Archives by a volunteer from the Montreal Holocaust Museum. He explained, in halting English that all he wanted to find out was what had happened to his parents during the war – on March 19th, 1944, the Nazis

occupied his hometown in Hungary and herded some 11,000 Jews from the area into a ghetto. "Laszlo", then 4 years old, was given over to a non-Jewish couple who raised him. Eventually, he emigrated to Montreal, married, and raised a family on Montreal's south shore. Over a period of 2 weeks, we searched genealogical databases, consulted with experts in Jewish genealogy, emailed officials in Hungary and Israel and, eventually, were able to secure a list of the names of inhabitants of Laszlo's ghetto quarter, to where they had been deported and when they had perished, in Auschwitz. When Laszlo returned to the Library, he was presented with a large file consisting of our research. He took it over to a study carrel, carefully read through it and left. He had closed a 40 year breach in his life. We helped him learn about his history. We are not certain how to measure that impact but we know it when we see it.

Libraries help new immigrants to integrate. Albert Einstein said – *"The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library."* For newly arrived immigrant families, their first year is made easier through being members of the JPL where they can go on their own, when they want, with no stigma attached, regardless of finances or circumstance. Our children's library now has a French story time twice a month to engage the growing French immigrant community. They also borrow reading materials for their children and themselves, in English and French, beginning to adjust to the language of their new home. That first year of membership is free, allowing for access our to computer

Our Books on
Wheels service
serves some 40
individuals

The JPL animates identity and belonging in our community

center where they can create and send out CVs for job applications, scan and send lease agreements, passport documents, visas and Medicare applications, search for apartments, set up their internet connection and phone line and contact family back home or accomplish something as simple as finding a shop that sells that particular brand of chocolate, which they so enjoyed back home.

Almost 6000 Russian items circulated last year, the second most borrowed language in the library. The JPL runs a Russian Literary Club that began with a simple book exchange. Over the course of two years, it's grown from about a dozen individuals to more than 200 members with monthly meetings hosting journalists, performers and authors. We also convene an annual evening of Russian culture with more than 400 people enjoying local Russian talent. Ex-soviet Russian Jews delight in visiting the familiar sounds, tastes and sights of their youth. Attendees are intergenerational, with young adults bringing their parents and their children to share with each other and the non-Russian population. This is integration at its best and attendees keep coming back – unlike hospitals or prisons, the JPL, as with theatres, museums, concert halls, and purchasing in the private sector, sees repeat visits as a success indicator. This strikes us as significant impact – we know it when we see it.

Libraries provide economic value to the community and, in particular, to vulnerable individuals.

Drawing on the first of the Arts Council of England's definitions of impact (economic, health and education), and as only one example of many from amongst our some 3000 members, one of our families has borrowed \$41,893.81 worth of materials from the Jewish Public Library including everything from inspirational Jewish fiction, to children's books to Young Adult literature, cook books and series about historical figures, to educate their children.

Our Books on Wheels service serves some 40 individuals, who are often isolated and alone. The JPL provides one of their only contacts with the outside world. We



Howard Krosnick
Interim President

bring to our shut-in members not only books but also social contact and, if necessary and appropriate, we can alert Ometz as to important issues. In the past year, we calculate that, through some 350 deliveries a year, we delivered more than 9,800 books to our shut-in members providing them with more than \$340,000 in book value, assuming that they would have been able to access these books themselves, which they cannot.

In the past year, the value of everything borrowed by users in the JPL subsidized and newcomer membership categories amounted to almost \$375,000. The total circulation for the Library in 2018, to be precise, was 88,323 items with a value of some \$3,080,000. We believe that this is a good example of how the JPL meets the terms of reference for the Arts Council of England's first definition of impact.

The JPL animates identity and belonging in our community.

Drawing on the Arts Council's second definition of impact (happiness and inspiration), we have, for example, given over 20 rare book workshops in the past year to over 500 people in secondary schools (Jewish and Catholic), CEGEPS, universities, synagogues, and churches. These workshops, increasingly known and in demand, have become spaces in which people come together to learn about their own histories and the histories of others through the lives of books. If you want to see impact, watch the OMG expressions on the faces of young people, whose reading experience has been virtually entirely off of screens, as they hold and look at Flavius Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews, which was printed in 1481.

This, and much more, is what the JPL does. We may remain not entirely certain as to how to measure all this but, going forward, we will be working to calibrate and assign metrics to these things and to use the information that we glean to re-tool, grow, adjust and improve. And we will bear in mind that, with regard to the impact of what the JPL and cultural institutions do, while we may not always be able precisely to define or measure it, we know it when we see it.



Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director



Librarian **Nicole Beaudry** shows the pages of a rare and antiquarian book from the JPL's Rare Book Collection at the Dr. Michael David Paul Rare Books Friends' Cocktail and Workshop, June 20, 2019.

Library Outreach

Reaching out to students, new immigrants and the unaffiliated

- Herzliah High School
- Congregation Shaar Hashomayim
- The Sacred Heart School of Montreal
- Bialik High School
- Vanier College
- Holy Family Parish
- McGill University – Dept. Of Jewish Studies
- McGill University – School of Information Studies
- Adath Israel Congregation of Montreal
- Congregation Dorshei Emet
- The Unitarian Church of Montreal
- Université de Montréal, Institut d'études religieuses (seminar – La Kabbale et la mystique juive)

The Dr. Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative Library

In 2019, the JPL formalized an agreement with Dr. Michael Paul whose support of our rare books collection has extended beyond the initial cataloguing, description, and exhibit that took place during the library's centennial in 2014. In the last 5 years, JPL staff have given over 40 workshops in schools, synagogues, community centres, and other libraries. The workshops are not just sessions in knowledge-sharing: they are interactive and participatory gatherings in which we contextualize the Jewish narrative from our research of the back stories that together form the religious and socio-political nexus of Jewish thought, printing, and inter-communal associations within the narrative of Jewish book history. 2018-19 saw the highest number of workshops in any one year: we travelled to over 15 locations and gave more than 20 workshops to over 500 high school students, synagogue members, Jewish Studies and Information Science students at McGill, as well as to a class in Jewish mysticism at l'Université de Montréal. For the very first time, we also have workshops in 2 churches: Holy Family Parish and The Unitarian Church of Montreal. These experiences were extraordinary since in both cases, we had the opportunity to teach non-Jews about some of the foundational texts that comprise the Jewish canon.

Other projects within this initiative were devoted to building profile. Nicole Beaudry, one of the three JPL staff was invited to submit a background of the workshop to la Société bibliographique de France as part of its blog *Le blog de la Société bibliographique de France*.

We also produced a paper that Nicole Beaudry gave at the 2019 conference of the Bibliographical Society Of Canada in Vancouver.

Current and forthcoming:

- The completion of a new website devoted to the rare books we have been sharing at the workshops by the end of the year.
- Cataloguing and description of the 250 rare books held at the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives.
- Additional workshops within Montreal and in Ottawa.

Jewish Genealogy in the Schools – “Where do You Think You Come From”

Thanks to Anthony Shine, the restructuring of his late father's endowment for books on Jewish genealogy has been reconstituted as an historical literacy educational programme that the JPL is developing for use in secondary schools. We are developing a module that will be used as a pilot project at Bialik High School in 2020,

which will teach young people how to research their family histories as an adjunct tool to learning historiography. The JPL is working with experts from the Montreal Jewish Genealogical Society to develop this program that will be deployed just prior to when students travel on the March of the Living in the spring.

The Rosenberg Ilan

In 2013, Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg and his brother Barry donated an artefact created by their great-great grandfather, the illustrious Rabbi Yehuda Yudel Rosenberg, a Hasidic rabbi from Skarashev in Poland. Rabbi Rosenberg was a renown scholar, scribe, holistic doctor, artist, storyteller, with a broad interest in science and the world beyond the yeshiva. Yehudah Yudel is also Mordecai Richler's grandfather.

The artefact in question is an ilan, a kabbalistic tree in the long tradition of divinity maps produced by Jewish mystics since the Middle Ages. It is a 12-foot rotulus (rolled vertically as opposed to horizontally like a scroll) made of cotton rag paper and drawn with iron gall ink, material highly-susceptible to humidity and temperature change. This past year, the ilan was sent to the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa where it will be treated and stabilized. In the autumn of 2020, the JPL will be presenting it in conjunction with a symposium that is currently in the planning stages.

Art Hives with the Archives

As a way of bringing our archival collections to life, the JPL ran an interactive series of workshops surrounding various items in the archives, accompanied by an adult craft. Our "Paint Night" for instance, explored the history of the Schmatta business in Montreal while participants painted a still life of an archival treasure, our very own sewing machine. The workshops were led by Jessica Zimmerman.

JPL Next Chapter

Two sessions of Books and Booze, formally Reading between the Wines took place this year, targeting a wide range of topics which appeal to the 25-40 age demographic. From Rachel S. Harris' analysis of women's representation in Israeli film in line with her book *Warriors, Witches, Whores: Women in Israeli Cinema* to the duo of Bethany Ball and Spencer Wise, authors of *What to do about the Solomons* and *The Emperor of Shoes*, each evening was intimate, small and thought-provoking.

Russian Outreach

The Russian Literary Club, "Sobesednik" (Conversations), led by Valentina Rojinskaia has had a very successful year. Meeting monthly, with over 150 members, concerts, theatrical performances and literary discussions keep attendees coming back for more. 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 13th year with a sold out show entitled "Maple Leaves, Russian Parks". The JPL also held courses in Russian for Beginners.

Disability and Inclusion

This year, the library participated in Jewish Disability, Awareness and Inclusion Month with an American Sign Language Storytime led by Susanna Opedissano for children and their families looking to learn ASL. In order to better serve the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community, The JPL held courses in American Sign Language both at the Beginners' and Intermediate levels. The finale of the Israeli Film Festival "Shoelaces" was also part of the JDAIM calendar, the story of a complicated relationship between an aging father and a disabled son. The Library staff was also able to benefit from training on disability awareness and inclusion through a partnership with the Sylva Adams YM-YWHA through a Pushing the Boundaries: Disability, Inclusion and Jewish Community grant.

BreakOut Games

The JPL held a number of Breakout Games for camps and after school programs this year. 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 and have been brought to schools, community centers and day camps.

Books-On-Wheels

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

Outreach through collaborations

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 at the Cummings Center for seniors.

Writing Workshops and Support for Local Authors

The JPL, for the 5th consecutive 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 weekly write-in drop-ins, as well as a launch party with snacks and coffee for ambitious writers. There were also two sessions of writing workshops led by Michelle Franklin.

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The Norman Berman Children's Library

We continue to build a programming calendar that is engaging, educational and inspiring to children of all ages and their families. We strive to provide enriching activities that are affordable and accessible to all reaches of the local Montreal community.

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

Music is just as important as books and reading at this pivotal stage of development. The generosity of the **Azrieli Foundation** allows us to offer a diverse pre-school music program with daily "mom and tot" music classes, a drop-in music and stories morning that serves up to 3 daycares per week and three preschool music concerts per year. We have expanded our music repertoire by offering classes with **La La Lesley** and **Monkey Rock Music** in addition to our long-time musical performer **Linda Kravitz**.

Our annual Holiday Concert with Grammy-award winning singer/songwriter **Jennifer Gasoi** saw 300 guests fill the Gelber Conference Hall. In April, we partnered with the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA to host **Will Stroet of Will's Jams on CBC Kids** for a family concert that welcomed over 100 people. In July, **Bach Before Bedtime** saw 80 people come for a classical music and story interlude in which the children came in their pyjamas and were invited to engage with the musicians and their instruments.

We offer **drop in story time** during the week and in the summer "**Bedtime Storytime**" for young children and their caregivers. We continue to host weekly storytimes for the children of **Yaldei school**. During the summer, **Yaldei summer camp** and **Trails of Summer camp** for children with special needs have been coming to the library for special story times and activities in the library.

Sunday mornings are continually evolving with new and engaging programs. **Sunday morning story time** now also hosts musical appearances by **La La Lesley**, **Getting Moving with Lilly** and stories and crafts with our new storyteller **Tania Baladi**.

Jewish Book Month in November was incredible; we were fortunate to have two authors come to Montreal for school visits. Jacqueline Jules, who spoke to grades 1-4, and Marsha Skrypuch, who spoke to upper elementary and high school students, were both dynamic and engaging, leaving their audiences clamoring for more. It is our intention to continue to bring in two authors, one for younger grades and one for older, to broaden our range of appeal and relevance to students and school visits.

We launched the NBCL's first annual **Hannukah Extravaganza**, in which we took over the entire Children's Library with music, stories, crafts, 3D art and of course latkes and sufganiyot. Over 80 people joined us for what was the start of a beautiful tradition!



The second manifestation of the **MTL YA FEST** at the end of May was a great success. We hosted 22 authors from all over Canada and the United States for a full day event. What a boon to have Order of Canada recipient and Governor General award winner Tim Wynne-Jones. We saw a 30% increase in attendance; some of our participants came from as far as Boston, MA, Michigan, Toronto and Ottawa. This year we collaborated with **CBC Montreal** to feature their Indigenous Fiction **“Turtle Island Reads”** program. The three authors featured in their program hosted a panel dedicated to Indigenous and First Nations fiction. The finale to the Turtle Island Reads feature was a musical performance by Inuit Throat Singer Nina Segalowitz and Montreal fiddler and musician Jonathan Moorman. It was a lively festival atmosphere with music, books and book merchandise and the buzz of avid readers engaged and inspired.

Educational and creative programming supported by the Maurice Pollock Foundation:

- Makerspace drop ins and workshops with 3D pens, WeDo 2.0 robotics, Cubelets
- Shabbat in the Park with PJ Library and Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA
- Good Deeds Day with Auberge Shalom and PJ Library
- Family Books and Brunch
- Holiday cooking series with PJ Library and Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA
- Astronomy with Plateau Astro
- Paint and Pizza
- Bracelets and Bookmarks with Michelle the Beadlady
- Origami with Amami



Exhibition launched in partnership with the Cummings Centre featuring the work of Rita Briansky in celebration of Dov Okouneff's film, *The Wonder and Amazement: Rita Briansky on her Life in Art*.

The Archives of the Jewish Public Library



Moderated by Sarah Deshaies of CJAD radio, Edith Kuper of the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre Archives, Aviv Milgram from the Museum of Jewish Montreal, and Jessica Zimmerman, Director of the Jewish Public Library Archives, discuss the preservation of local cultural heritage in honour of the premier of *A Century Songbook* at the Segal Centre.

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 25,000 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 endeavors the Archive has engaged in.

Kicking off the season with a successful in-house exhibition featuring Rita Briansky's artwork, the JPL-A has launched a year full of visual displays. Over the last twelve months, the JPL-A has partnered with the Pointe-à-Callière Museum, who debuted two large scale projects using resources from the JPL-A. The Archives and its materials have been 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. In addition, 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.

Additionally, researchers from Place des Arts have been busy working in Archives over the last year, curating material for their newest exhibition on the Women's Symphony Orchestra. In particular, rare and fragile recordings from the Ethel Stark collection (founder of the orchestra), have

been digitized and will be premiered to the public for the first time at the exhibition launch. The show is expected to open in the fall.

This year, the JPL-A has been the recipient of many new accessions. In addition to over forty-five new personal/family collections, the Archive has recently acquired large community collections from B'nai Brith Hillel, the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre, Ometz, and the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Montreal. In total, the JPL-A has accessioned over 60 linear feet of material in the last year.

Specialized outreach and programming continues for classrooms, organizations, individual groups and more. Examples of the Archive's recent initiatives include Bar/Bat Mitzvah groups for Doshei Emet, "historical detectives" programs with United Talmud Torah, volunteering groups with St Georges High School, and a student-driven podcast program undertaken with McGill University.

For the fifth 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 awarded to Tim Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan is continuing essential inventory and collection management protocols. In addition, the archive would like to thank its dedicated roster of over 10 volunteers for their participation and support.



Cultural Programmes 2018-2019

A total of 67 events and programmes in 5 languages with over 10,278 people in attendance

Under the auspices of **seven cultural committees**, there were a total of **67 events and programmes** in five languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian, with **10,278** people in attendance.

Courses:

- 2 Beginner Yiddish courses
- 2 Intermediate Yiddish courses
- 2 Advanced Yiddish courses
- 2 Beginner Russian courses
- 2 Writing Workshops with Michelle Franklin
- 1 Yiddish Reading Circle (“Leyenkrazz”)
- 1 Hebrew Literary Club
- 9 meetings of the Russian Literary Club

Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal:

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

Events:

- 15 Lectures
- 7 Films
- 2 Concerts
- 5 films at the Israeli and Jewish Film Festival
- 4 Special Events
- 2 “Books & Booze” events
- 2 Yiddish Cafés

ATTENDANCE

English events*	4,735
French events	328
Hebrew events	2,781
Yiddish events and courses	904
Russian events	1,034
Outreach and special events	681
TOTAL	10,278

**These figures include collaborations between English and Yiddish committees*

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 2018

► Documentary film screening: ***Black Honey: The Poetic Life of Abraham Sutzkever*** by director Uri Barbash. Sponsored by the Yetta Feldman Chmiel Endowment.

► Projection de film : ***La Douleur*** d'Emmanuel Finkiel. Présenté par le fonds N.E. Mendelson, en collaboration avec le Musée Holocauste Montréal.

► “**Paint Night**” event presented as part of JPL’s Art Hives with the Archives.

► Jewish Book Month Opening Event: British author **Philippe Sands** on ***East West Street: On the Origins of ‘Genocide’ and ‘Crimes against Humanity’***, accompanied by pianist Guillaume de Chassy. Presented by The Paul and Babey Trepman Memorial Fund of the JPL and the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

► Canadian-American author and political commentator **David Frum** speaking on *Trumpocracy: The Corruption of the American Republic*, presented by the Mary Heimlich Cultural Endowment and the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation in collaboration with the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

November 2018

► JBM KEYNOTE with British historian **Sir Simon Schama**: ***“Belonging: The Experience of the Jews between the renaissance and Zionism”***. Presented by the Strategic Charitable Giving foundation in collaboration with the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

► American author **Eddy Portnoy** presented his book ***Bad Rabbi: And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press***. Presented by The Nathan Igefild Endowment

► Film screening: ***Winter Hunt*** by Astrid Schult. Presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Goethe Institute of Montreal and the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Sponsored by the Janie Cooper Memorial Endowment Fund.

► “**Maple Leaves, Russian Parks**”, our 13th annual evening of Russian culture, sponsored by the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation in collaboration with the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation; also sponsored by Barbara and Ronny Kay and Henriette and Marcel Korner.

► National Jewish Book Award winner **David Fishman** spoke on ***“The Book Smugglers of the Vilna Ghetto: A Story of Cultural Resistance”***. Presented by The Yentl Rubin and Mordko Fishman Memorial Endowment Fund in partnership with McGill University Department of Jewish Studies and the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

► The **50th anniversary gala of the J.I. Segal Awards** was held to honour winners for their creative works on Jewish themes. This year’s winners included **Ariela Freedman’s** *Arabic for Beginners*, **Pierre Ancil’s** *Histoire des Juifs du Québec* and **Edith Jorisch’s** film *L’Héritier (The Inheritor)*. Presented by the J.I. Segal Cultural Foundation, founded by the late Dr. Hirsh Rosenfeld and Mrs. Dvora Rosenfeld.

► JBM Hebrew Concert: **“#Israel @ 70 Unplugged”** was a musical tribute to Israel’s anniversary with **Cantor Daniel Benlolo**, accompanied by **Jason Rosenblatt’s** group ***Shtreiml***.

► JBM Closing Event: ***“My Story”*** by and with **Herbert Marx**, Montreal lawyer and entrepreneur, and former cabinet minister and Justice of the Quebec Superior Court.

► **Books & Booze** event with author **Rachel S. Harris** speaking on her book ***Warriors, Witches, Whores: Women in Israeli Cinema***. Sponsored by The Reuben Brainin Endowment Fund.

January –
February 2019

► **JPL's 12th Israeli and Jewish Film Festival:** five Israeli films in Montreal premiere, presented by the Chaim and Clara Spielberg Endowment. Projection de film: *Mr. Gaga, sur les pas d'Ohad Naharin*. Sponsored by the N.E. Mendelson Fund.

► **Yiddish Café** presented its annual Love Café "*Oy, Mama, Am I in Love*" featuring love songs and poems performed by Montreal talent. Sponsored by the Augenfeld Family Endowment.

March-April 2019

► Documentary film screening: *The Prince and the Dybbuk* by Elwira Niewiera and Piotr Rosolowski. Co-presented with the Polish Cultural Institute New York and the David Zysman & Galkin endowments.

► Film screening: *Desert Wounds*, with Israeli director **Nili Dotan** in attendance and in a panel discussion with Irwin Cotler, PC, OC, David Berger and Zoë Freedman. Sponsored by Shirley Braverman.

► Projection de film: *Simon et Théodore* de Mikael Buch, avec débat modéré par professeur de l'UQÀM Olga Hazan. Présenté par le fonds N.E. Mendelson.

► "Conversations" Jewish Women's Literary Circle dinner and lecture with **Mary Morris**, author of *Gateway to the Moon*. Presented by The Helen Bassel Endowment of the JPL in cooperation with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. Also sponsored by The Henry & Berenice Kaufmann Foundation.

► **Books & Booze** event with American authors **Bethany Ball** and **Spencer Wise**, sponsored by the Reuben Brainin Endowment Fund.

May 2019

► Film screening: *The Interpreter* by Martin Šulík. Presented in collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Museum and sponsored by The Delores and Harry Rosen Fund of the JPL.

► Israeli author **Orly Castel-Bloom** spoke about her book *An Egyptian Novel*, presented by the N.E. Mendelson Endowment of the JPL.

► **Denise Bombardier** en conversation avec **Elias Levy**, sur son livre *Une vie sans peur et sans regret*. Présenté en partenariat avec le Centre Cummings.

► Activist, writer and politician **Ayaan Hirsi Ali** on "*Islam, Muslims and National Security*", presented by the Max Margles Memorial Fund of the JPL.

► **Georgia Hunter**, NYT bestselling author of *We Were the Lucky Ones*, presented by the Miriam Schachter Vineberg Foundation of the JPL.

► **Benjamin Balint** spoke about researching his book *Kafka's Last Trial*, presented in collaboration with Concordia University Azrieli Institute of Israeli Studies and the Goethe Institute.

► "*An Evening in Honour of Sholem Aleichem*" presented by Yiddish Café and sponsored by the Chana Gonshor, Yetta Feldman Chmiel, Hella Holtzman and Etta Michtom Miransky funds.

► "*Hyphenated identity: Irish-Jewish Autobiographies*" with Irish professor **Pól Ó Dochartaigh**, presented in partnership with Festival Bloomsday Montréal, and in collaboration with Concordia University's School of Irish Studies, the National University of Ireland, Galway and Ulster University in Northern Ireland. Sponsored by the Joseph Kage Cultural Endowment Fund, the Philip and Gertrude Batist memorial Endowment Fund and the Grossman Endowment of the JPL.

► Le rabbin français **Gérard Zysek** dans une conférence : « *L'Intelligence artificielle, surpopulation et réchauffement climatique : le Talmud nous aide-t-il à y réfléchir?* ». Présenté par le fond N.E. Mendelson.

► **Michael Ondaatje** in conversation about *Warlight* with **Joseph Rosen**. Sponsored by the Jonathan and Susan Wener Canadian Writers Lecture Fund.

June 2019

COLLABORATIONS

- Akiva School
- Arrondissement Notre-Dame-de-Grace-Cote-des-Neiges
- Art Against Humanity
- Atwater Library's Film Festival of Canadian Artists and Architects
- Austrian Consulate General
- Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies at Concordia University
- Babar Bookstore
- Beth Tikvah West Island
- Blue Metropolis Literary Festival
- Bronfman Jewish Education Center
- CBC Montreal
- Centre d'histoire de Montréal
- Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs at Concordia University
- Congregation Shaar Hashomayim
- Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Cummings Centre for Seniors
- Czech Consulate General
- Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre
- Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives
- Festival Bloomsday Montreal
- Festival interculturel du conte de Montréal
- Foundation For Yiddish Culture In Honour of Jacob Zipper And Shloime Wiseman
- Fraser-Hickson Library
- Galway and Ulster University of Northern Ireland
- Gen MTL
- Goethe Institute Montreal
- Hadassah Brandeis Institute
- Jewish Book Council
- Jewish Genealogical Society
- Jewish Learning Lab
- KlezKanada
- Lea Roback Foundation
- McGill Department of Jewish Studies
- Montreal Holocaust Museum
- Montreal Jewish Museum
- Moshe House
- Mountain Lake PBS
- National University of Ireland
- Penguin Random House
- PJ Library
- Polish Cultural Institute New York
- School of Irish Studies at Concordia University
- Segal Centre for Performing Arts
- Slovak Consulate General
- Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue
- Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA
- Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom
- Turtle Island Reads
- Yiddish Book Center



Financial Resource Development

JPL staff join “Connie”, a devoted **Books on Wheels** volunteer, to celebrate her special birthday. Championed by Janis Levine through the Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation in tribute to Marion Greenwood, the JPL homebound delivery service is a vital, visible extension of the Library’s commitment to support lifelong learning.

Taking Stock - Taking Action

This past fiscal year was one of transition and renewal. We took stock of what skills, training and structures we need to succeed in achieving our fundraising goals and continue putting into place the resources and processes necessary to build financial stability for the Jewish Public Library over the long term.

Under the leadership of the Executive Director and with the encouragement and support of the Library Board, a new Director of Development, Sarah Tobias, and a new Development Associate, Na’ama Freeman, were hired to set the Library up for fundraising effectiveness focusing on long-term operational support.

We assembled a team comprised of Library staff and several Board members and began Year One of a four-year partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Life & Legacy Programme. The purpose of this collaboration is to acquire the training and skills we need to work with our donors to create legacy gifts for the Library.

We have been training on Blackbaud’s Raiser’s Edge so we can leverage data to make more informed fundraising decisions and deepen our understanding of our donors’ philanthropic interests.

Year after year, we are most grateful to Federation for the core support they provide to the Library through the annual CJA Campaign and to the longstanding support of a major Foundation (anonymous) for cultural programmes. We would like to recognize and thank the Cote-des-Neiges-Notre-Dames-de-Graces Borough for their support of our community outreach activities and the Canadian Federal Government for their support of the Summer Student Programme.

This past fiscal year was marked by several extraordinary gifts from individuals, families and foundations, as well as by substantial revenue raised by the Library’s treasured circle of Friends. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to two individuals who have been loyal and generous friends over many years. Dr. Michael Paul of Memorial University in St. John’s Newfoundland, and Sharon Steinberg of Montreal. The JPL has benefitted enormously by their vision, their leadership and the support that is shaping the Library’s future and ensuring it remains relevant and engaging for the next generation.

This past year, the special Rare Books Workshop/Cocktail dinatoire was organized for Library Friends and co-chaired by Nancy Cummings Gold and Roslyn Slawner. Library Friends were treated to a unique opportunity to become more closely acquainted with some of

the treasures in our Rare Books Collection. Thank you, Nancy and Ros, for this wonderful evening of friendship and learning. Our warmest thanks to the Cummings and Gold Families and to our Friends, numbering over 200 at this time, for their dedicated support that helps sustain the Jewish Public Library and helps to make the Norma Cummings, z”l, Annual Keynote Reception an uplifting and inspiring celebration, year after year.
















The Library is proud to announce that we have received almost 100% of pledges made in support of the 100th Anniversary fundraising campaign, a five-year fundraising initiative of which this fiscal year is the fifth and closing year. We extend our deepest thanks to the corps of 100th Anniversary donors who came forward to support the Library.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Azrieli Foundation, The Morris & Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation, the Maurice Pollack Foundation, the Schwartz Family, the Alvin Segal Family Foundation, Sharon Steinberg and Reitmans (Canada) Limited.

Through the generosity of the Mack Belson Foundation, Roslyn Margles and The Max Margles Memorial Fund, the Protech Foundation, The Delores and Harry Rosen Fund, the Chaim and Clara Spilberg Endowment Fund, the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, the Paul and Babey Trepman Fund, and the Trottier Family Foundation, the Library continues to play an empowering role in our community.

We would like to thank the Helen Bassel Endowment Fund for support of Jewish-based learning; the Alexander Dworkin Foundation and the Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund for their respective investment in making the Jewish Public Library Archives more accessible to a wider public.

This past year, the Officers, Board, staff and volunteers of the Library were deeply saddened by the loss of long-standing supporters, friends and patrons and we honour their memory:

-  Liba Augenfeld, z”l, wife of the late David Augenfeld, z”l;
-  Yaron Baruch Butovsky, z”l, son of Rebecca (Rivka) Butovsky;
-  Mitzi Dobrin, z”l, wife of the late Mel Dobrin, z”l;
-  Tibie Rome Flanders, z”l, daughter of the late David Rome, past-Executive Director of the JPL;
-  Claire Lightstone Friedes, z”l, wife of Joseph Friedes, wife of the late Norman Berman, z”l;
-  Dr. William Goldsmith, z”l, husband of Trudis Goldsmith;
-  Lillian Laks, z”l, past-President of the JPL
-  Herbert Laks, z”l, husband pf Lillian Laks;
-  Dr. Edward Levinson, z”l, husband of Lorraine Levinson
-  Ben Meltzer, z”l, husband of Shirley Meltzer
-  Toby Miller, z”l, wife of the late Harry Miller, z”l;
-  Avrum Morrow, z”l, husband of Dora Morrow;
-  Sarah (Sukie) Nadler, z”l, wife of Martin Nadler;
-  Dr. Harry Rosen, z”l, husband of Delores Rosen;
-  Herschel Stern, z”, husband of Claire Stern.

Thank You, A Groisen Dank, Merci, Toda Raba, Spasiba

We thank our donors for making the 2018-2019 year a most successful one!

The Library is deeply grateful to our community of individuals, foundations, corporations and institutions for their ongoing philanthropic commitment and would like to recognize gifts and pledge payments made during the period of April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Individuals

Anonymous
Estate of Liba Augenfeld
Beverlee Ashmele
Jordan Berson
Shirley Braverman
Cindy Bassel Brown, Jeff Brown, Jeremy, Alexandra and Hannah
Freda and Irwin Browns
Rebecca (Rivka) Butovsky
Harriet and Marvin Corber
Cummings and Gold Families
Claire Berger Fagen and Alvin Fagen
Nechama Glasrot
Norman Heimlich
Robert Issenman
Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives Fund
Barbara and Ronny Kay
Marlene and Joel King
Henriette and Marcel Korner
Adriana Kotler
La Noue Family Trust
Herbert Laks
James Laks
A. Jacob Livinson Memorial Trust
Roslyn Margles and The Max Margles Memorial Fund
Edna Mendelson
Dr. Michael David Paul
Eva and Jacob Raby
Sandra and Ira Robinson
June Satler
Hannah and Mark Shapiro
Estate Lionel Shine Fund
Roslyn and Abraham Slawner
Soryl and Gerald Soiferman

Chaim and Clara Spilberg Memorial Fund
Sharon Steinberg
Sara and Irwin Tauben
Dr. Eliezer Trepman
Ida Vool Trust
Susan and Jonathan Wener
Shulamis Yelin Fund for Arts & Literature

Foundations and Corporations

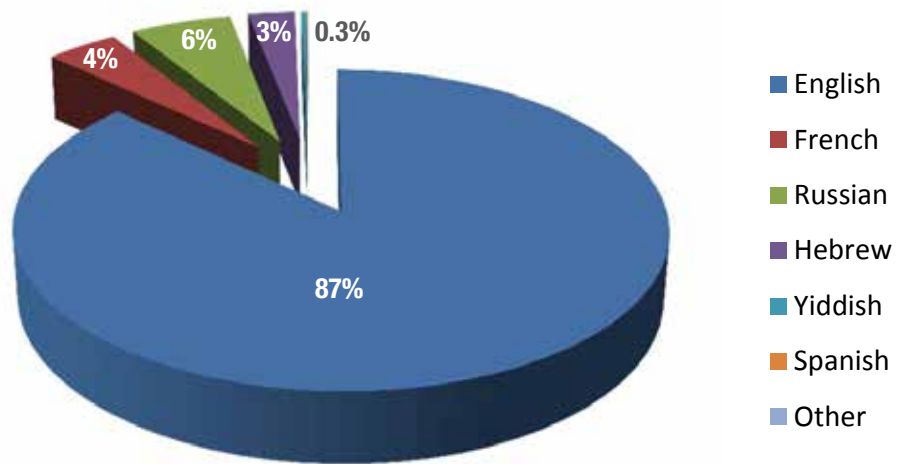
Felicia and Arnold Aaron Foundation
George and Sylvia Aikins Foundation
Azrieli Foundation
Becker-Newpol Family Foundation
Mack Belson Foundation
Michael and David Cape Foundation
Doherty and Associates Co. Ltd.
Marvin A. Drimer Foundation
Alexander Dworkin Foundation
Gluskin Sheff & Associates
Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
J.I Segal Fund for Jewish Culture
Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation in tribute to Marion Greenwood
Maurice Pollack Foundation
Protech Foundation
Reitmans (Canada) Limited
La Fondation Lea Roback
Frances & David Rubin Family Foundation Inc.
Alvin Segal Family Foundation
Blema and Arnold Steinberg Family Foundation
Mireille and Murray Steinberg Family Foundation
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
Trottier Family Foundation

In attempting to recognize all donors who have contributed support to the Jewish Public Library during the past fiscal year period (April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020, we may have unintentionally omitted a donor name and we apologize in advance for this oversight.



Statistics

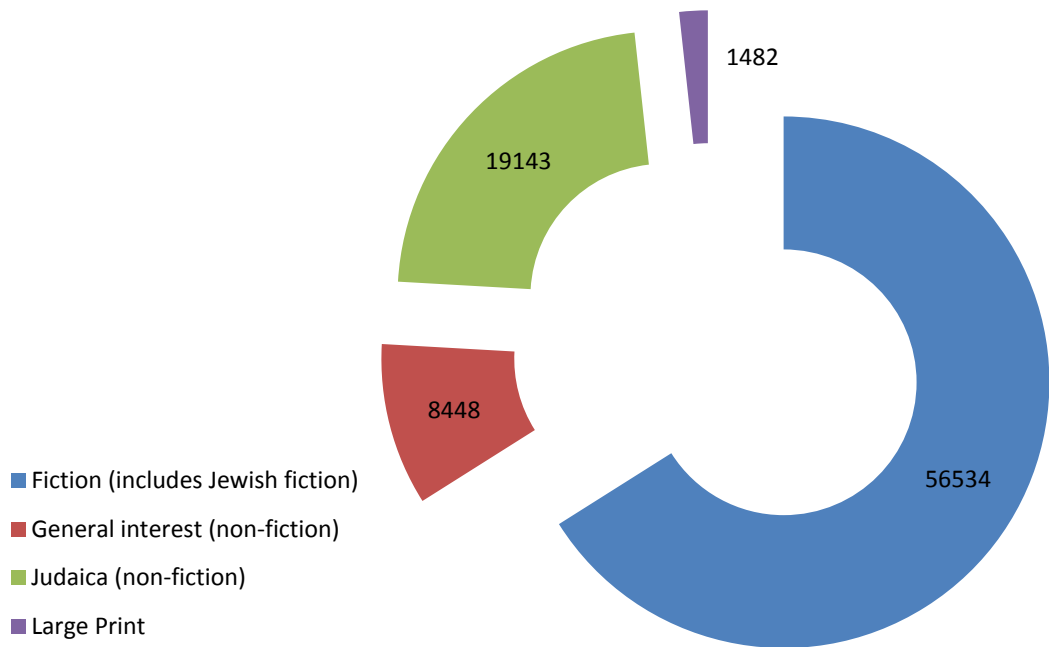
Circulation by language 2018



85,712 items were circulated in 2018. The chart shows the split by language.

Circulation by category 2018

The items circulated in 2018 by category (does not include music or DVDs).



Website visits 2018



In 2018 the JPL website counted close to 90,000 page views by 18,000 users.





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

Executive, Board of Directors 2018-19

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President

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Immediate Past-President

Reuben Abitbol,
Vice President

Rachel Cohen,
Vice President

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Treasurer

Roslyn Slawner,
Secretary

Michael Crelinsten,
Executive Director

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Eva Raby
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Staff Representative

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Gerald Soiferman

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Norma Cummings, z"l
Rosalind Goodman, z"l
Pearl Lighter
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The late Liliane M. Stewart
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Dana Zinman
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Executive Director

Ombudsman

Daniel Frajman

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Estie Kleinfeld
Eugene Orenstein
Jewel Sarna
Robert Schwartzwald
Shoshana Sebag
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Virginie Soffer

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Cindy Bassel Brown
Shirley Braverman
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Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo
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John Hobday

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Janice Steinberg
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Oro Anahory
Sylvia Assouline
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Tova Lazimi
Dina Sabbah
Andrée Sasson
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Virginie Soffer
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Rivka Augenfeld, Co-Chair
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Jenny Lewis
Matthew Meland
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Gabby Samra
Jennifer Solomon
Timothy Sullivan
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Benjamin Wexler
Dana Zinman

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Taylor Lacaillade
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Veronica Schnitzer
Timothy Sullivan
Michel Tebeka

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Norman Heimlich

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Rivka Augenfeld
Claire Berger Fagen
Robert Bohbot
Rachel Cohen
Alain Murad
Danielle Pollack

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Emmanuel Kalles
Eugene Orenstein
Rhona Blanshay

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Rivka Augenfeld
Judy Gardos Bergman
Howard Krosnick
Eva Raby
Roslyn Slawner
Dana Zinman
Michael Crelinsten

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Natalia Konovalova

Accounting-Membership

Allan J. Oberman

Chief Operating Officer

Angelina Spilberg

Senior Secretary

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Head of Library Services/
Main Library

Janet Forbath

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

Director, Archives

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Nicole Beaudry

Children's Librarian/
Social Media

Janice Cohen

Library Assistant

Leticia Cuenca

Children's Librarian/
Cataloguer

Talya Pardo

Director, Norman Berman
Children's Library

PROGRAMMING, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

Roxana Brauns

Head of Programming

Barbara Wisnoski

Programming Assistant

Leo Hubermann

Director, Marketing &
Communications

Edna Mendelson

(until December 2018)

Director, Development

Sarah Tobias

(as of May 2019)

Director, Development

Na'ama Freeman

Development Associate

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
Gabriel Atkin
Shira Atkinson
Hannah Bartels
Sylvie Baril
Marlene Danies
Haim Deraï
Roslyn Dorenfeld
Julia Fekete
Peter Forbath
Eiran Harris
Suzanne Herscovitch
Malca Hubner
Diane Israel
Ivana Jaworksi
Kees Klerks
Batia Kolda
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Henie Kristalka
Taylor Lacaillade
Melanie Lagasse Valle
Leonard O Hanley
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Reesa Rosenfeld
Phyllis Rudin
Gallia Singer
Michaela Tutu
Jenna Wajcer
Mona Wu

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Oro Anahory
Ruth Ballon
Cindy Bassel Brown
Dado Ben-Brith
Shirley Braverman
Freda Browns
Carla Burshtein
Miriam Cohen
Arlazar Eliashiv
Sarah Fogg
Mireille Galanti
Trudis Goldsmith-Reber
Louise Goldstein
Barbara Harris
Sophie Jama
Edna Janco
Guilda Kattan
Eytan Kern
Estie Kleinfeld
Tova Lazimi
Robin Mader
Marilyn Nayer
Marm Rapp
Delores Rosen
Miriam Rosenblum
Jewel Sarna
Shoshana Sebag
Helen Segal
Laetitia Sellam
Frumet Singer
Arlene Slepchik
Virginie Soffer
Gina Steinberg
Janice Steinberg
Claire Stern

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Ivy Rabinovitch
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