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Jewish Public Library

Annual Report 2020



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Message from the President and the Executive Director

Bringing our
collections into
different
communities
through our Rare
Books workshops

Another very busy year has passed as we handled almost 5,000 queries on our **Collections** and saw circulation increase by 8%. We moved out into the community offering 34 Rare Books workshops, supported by Dr. Michael Paul of St. John's Newfoundland, in universities, churches, CEGEPs, synagogues and seniors' residences. We began a "family roots" genealogy pilot workshop, at JPPS/Bialik, in partnership with the Jewish Genealogical Society, teaching students how to trace their family trees.

Our **Archives** deepened its digital capacity this year. We continued to digitize the Photograph Collection, Allan Raymond Collection, Trepman Fonds, and more, in order to provide researchers with greater digital access through the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network (CJHN) website. That website, in partnership with the Alexis Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives, provides online access to the holdings of Jewish memory institutions across Canada. Even in a year of partial closure, the Archives handled over 140 research requests from researchers as far away as Goethe University Frankfurt and Rutgers. This year we thanked Jessica Zimmerman for her service and welcomed a new Director of Archives, Maya Pasternak, who is already shoring up the Archives' digital repositories with the help of the Sonia and David Oberman Archive Intern, Sean Sallis-Lyon.

Our **Norman Berman Children's Library** continued its tradition of story times, as well as holiday celebrations, in English, French, Hebrew, Russian and Yiddish, for our youngest patrons. Drop-in makerspace activities

included knitting, coding, 3D pens, robotics, LEGO and "fairy gardens" animated new skills and STEAM competencies. Young Adult programming continued to flourish through our YA collection, our JPL YA Fest and our increased Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr followings.

Our renowned **cultural programming** continued its tradition of excellence with some stellar presentations including our Jewish Book Month Keynote address by Daniel Libeskind, the Spring Keynote Speaker with Norman Lebrecht, Marek Halter, in conversation with journalist Elias Levy, and Rabbi Yehuda Sarna in conversation with Rabbi Poupko.

This year, we implemented, with Centre des Organismes Communautaires, a demographic audit of Jewish Book Month, through focus groups and online surveys.

As part of our **outreach** efforts, the JPL expanded our children's holiday programming into the Adath Israel synagogue and engaged the Russian community through our popular Russian evening as well as through monthly get-togethers of more than 100 Russian speaking community members. We collaborated with FederationCJA's inclusion programme including Jewish Disability, Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion month. We continue our Books on Wheels programme to isolated, homebound seniors and offer programmes, through American Sign Language, to the deaf/hard of hearing community. We continue our collaborative work, locally and internationally with, for example, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, The Segal Centre, The

The JPL reacted quickly and offered virtual events for the well-being of our communities

Museum of Jewish Montreal, the Department of Jewish studies at McGill University, Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, the Yiddish Book Center and the Foundation for Yiddish Culture, the University of Texas, University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee, University of Chicago and the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. We have worked hard to increase our online presence and have seen some encouraging numbers – increased reach, through Facebook, by 63% in '19/'20 and increased engagement by 24%.

And then...COVID. The single greatest impact, of course, was that the Federation building and, thus, the Library, was, and remains closed to the public – no browsing of our collections or periodicals, no access to public use computers, no gatherings in the Library as a third space, no activities in the Children's Library, no students receiving tutoring, no Rare Books or Genealogy workshops, our YA Festival cancelled, a planned international symposium, in collaboration with 3 universities (McGill, Concordia, Université de Montréal), and more, cancelled. In our Cultural Programming sector alone, more than 30 programmes were cancelled or postponed in the adult library and more than 50 in the Children's Library.

Despite this, the Library team pivoted the JPL and, to support the well-being of our community, shifted to online programming. The JPL reached an international audience (6,221 participants since March 13th) across Canada (Toronto, Vancouver), in the United States (Florida, Boston, New York), France and Israel (Haifa, Tel Aviv). Our weekly story times and music for children drew 1379 views for online story time and 592 views for special needs story time. Through yet another generous grant from Sharon Steinberg, we further expanded our e-book collection, enabling an increase in usage by +19%, +29% and +42% in April, May and June,

respectively, up 17% overall, from last year. We have also restarted our YouTube channel in May and, to date, there have been 975 views totalling almost 84 hours of watch time.

We opened our curbside service on July 13th and, during the first three weeks of the service, we were able to check out 2435 items, renew 900 outstanding loans and take 1734 holds on books already out. There were another 1127 requests for holds on books that we do not have because we have frozen purchasing for budgetary reasons. This totals almost 6,200 transactions over a three week period being open only four hours a day, four days a week. Through our homebound recipients of our Books on Wheels service, we were able to service 383 holds by 45 individuals.

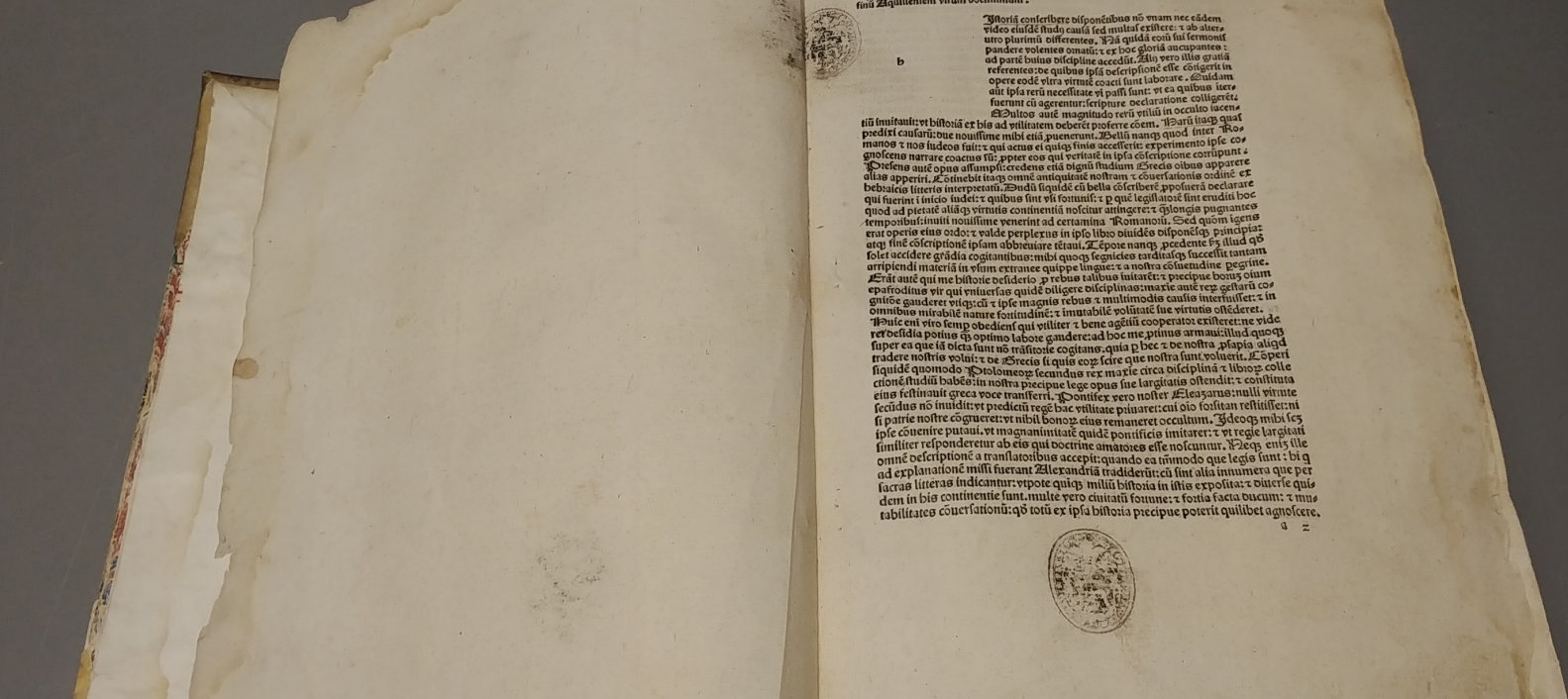
The COVID environment has, of course, necessitated closer self-reflection at how our Library operates. Stay tuned for more news. On behalf of everyone at the JPL we wish to thank you so much for your continued support.



Rachel Cohen
President



Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director



This is the JPL Rare Books collection's earliest printed book, produced in Venice a mere 31 years after Johannes Gutenberg first successfully tested his revolutionary invention, the printing press.

Library Services and Outreach

The Dr. Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative

JPL Librarians gave 34 workshops as part of the Dr. Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative (Risen Leaves). Over 800 participants in institutions ranging from secondary schools (both Jewish and non-Jewish), universities, CEGEPs, synagogues, churches, and seniors residences.

The inception of a pilot workshop programme called **"Where Do You Think You Come From?"** In a partnership with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, JPL librarians facilitated genealogy workshops at 3 classes at JPPS/Bialik, teaching students how to trace their family trees, learn alternative methods of historical inquiry through the JPL's database of historical Montreal Gazette issues, and interviewing grandparents. Approximately 75 students participated in these sessions that ran from January 2020 through the beginning of March.

- Review, consolidation, and de-accessioning of journals against electronic availability, freeing up much-needed shelf space (over forty titles representing hundreds of bound volumes).
- Cataloguing completion of the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives rare books collection which formed a part of the Offenbach Repatriation Effort in the early 1950s. Approximately 300 volumes

were catalogued during the summer of 2019.

- Normalization of an annual internal collections and usage review.

Curbside Service

The Jewish Public Library staff has been thrilled to prepare books, magazines, and DVDs for our public beginning in July. We have taken safety precautions and have been quarantining all returned library materials, as well as preparing each order for contactless pick up at the JPL. Our members placed their requests online, over the phone, or by email, and our staff have scheduled their pick up times to avoid any crowds. Children and families have also been enjoying themed book kits for their children based on age, reading level and interests. In the first three weeks of service, we have checked out over 2,400 items and renewed 900, as well as placing 1,700 holds.

Book Deliveries

While the Federation CJA building remained closed, as soon as our staff were permitted entry, we began delivering books to our most isolated and vulnerable members.



Jennifer Gasoi Concert, 2019

The Norman Berman Children's Library / JPL Youth Space

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

The NBCL has always focused on the youngest in our community and their families with a diverse offering of services and programming. The first half of the year brought programming galore for all ages: A generous grant from the Azrieli Foundation brought a diverse range of preschool music programming with daily "parent and tot" music classes (Monkey Rock with Shanti, Crafty Tales with Tania, Let's Get Moving with Lily, Music with La La Lesley, Mother Goose & Music with Linda Kravitz), a drop-in music and stories morning that serves up to 3 daycares per week and three preschool music concerts per year (*Monkey Rock*, *Will's Jams* and our annual *Holiday Concert* with Grammy-award winning singer/songwriter Jennifer Gasoi). Geordie Theater and Maggie Winston also brought theatrical performances for our little ones and their families.

Jewish holiday celebrations were, of course, included in our programming, with partners and delightful programming for kids, from our Chanukah Extravaganza, to our Sukkot at the Adath, to a Purim party. For Jewish Book Month, the incredible Emil Sher visited schools to inspire children and teens to write, read and follow their passions.

Educational and creative "maker" programming was supported through the generosity of the Maurice Pollock Foundation: *Makerspace drop ins and workshops with 3D pens, Robotics with Ross, Sharpie Art Button Making Workshop, Beginner Knitting with Nicole, 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, ArtWill Studio with Deirdre Potash, Paint and Pizza, Eco Projects and art with the Peek-a-Boo Center and Origami with Amami.*

With the departure of beloved Children's Librarian Talya Pardo, librarian Nicole Beaudry took over as interim director of the Children's Library from January to June 2020, succeeded by Maria Ressina, who moved into the position from her former role as Director of Outreach at the library.

For teens, a chess club, the teen advisory group and makerspace programmes brought the 12-16 year old demographic. The MTL YA Fest, established by Talya Pardo in 2016 as the first teen literary festival in Montreal, was underway for its 3rd year with a full day of

panels, games and time spent with authors. 22 authors had been confirmed. The festival has had to postpone to 2021 as it was scheduled for the end of May. The festival is a partnership with Babar Books.

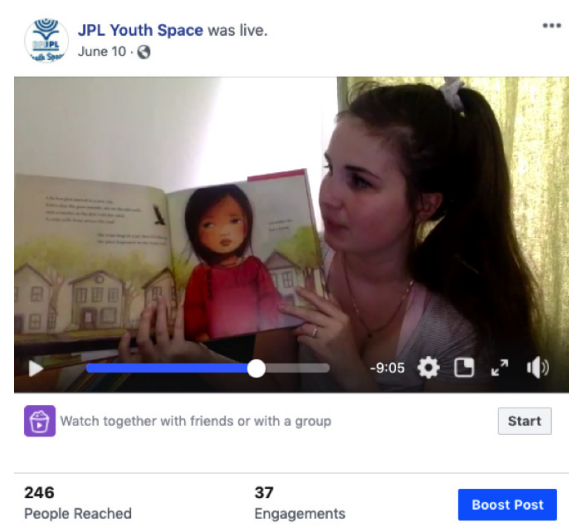
An expanded online presence enabled NBCL to serve patrons outside of the library's physical space and allowed us to pivot to an online format quickly and efficiently. Within a week of the library's closing to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the children's library offered Storytime and songs for free 4 days a week for our youngest patrons and twice a week for school-aged children with picture book Storytime. Parents told us that it gave them and their children a sense of normalcy and connection during the time of strongest restriction. Videos and messages about children singing Nicole Beaudry's "Kissy Kissy Fish" song poured in. A special storytime for the International Friendship Circle was also set up through Zoom, as well as a storytime for Explorations, a group of special needs adults and their

families. Agence Ometz and the NBCL partnered on French storytime over Zoom and an online chess course during the summer.

Curbside pickup began in July for the JPL after nearly 4 months. In the interim, eBooks were available, as well as Tumblebooks. However, as soon as the opportunity came, families scheduled appointments to obtain physical books and pick up our new "Kid Kits", which gather books around selected themes for parents while they cannot enter the library building. As the NBCL heads into the Fall, our preschool programming returns safely over Zoom, as well as many of our annual programmes, until we are able to reconnect again "IRL".



Top: Let's get moving with Lily, September 2019, Rosh Hashanah Celebration
Right: Facebook Live Storytime, June 10 2020





The Archives of the Jewish Public Library

The Jewish Public Library Archives (JPL-A) is pleased to welcome its new Director, Maya Masha Pasternak. Pasternak has directed a number of archives and their digitization in the cultural sector in Israel, as well as curated archival exhibitions and programs internationally. She looks forward to meeting the challenges of this moment and says, "It's an honour to oversee this community treasure."

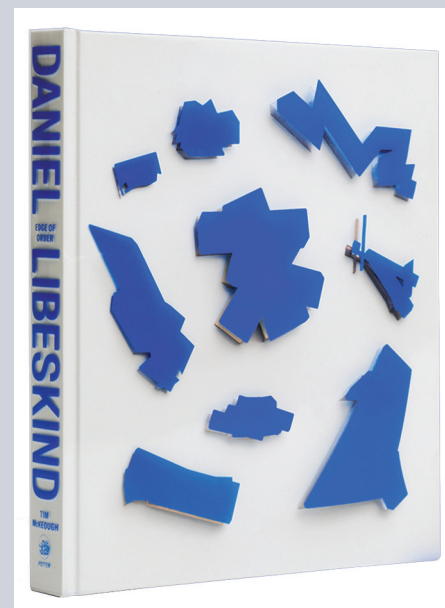
Pasternak is joined in the JPL-A by Sean Sallis-Lyon who has been awarded this year's Sonia and David Oberman Archive Internship. This marks the sixth year in a row that the JPL-A was able to offer an internship to a young person looking for experience in the archival world. Sallis-Lyon is a Masters student in McGill University's Information Studies program. He is focusing on developing the archives' digital repositories and information systems.

Throughout this year, the Archives assisted researchers from McGill, Concordia, Université du Québec, Western University, Parks Canada, Rutgers University, Goethe University Frankfurt, and others. Researchers looked into the rich histories of Ida Maze, Moritz Liebling, Allan Handel, Dora Wasserman, Saidye Bronfman, Chayele Grober, Dan Daniels, Sam Gesser, and other important figures, as well as topics of Moroccan Jewry, internment camps, and the voice of women.

The JPL-A continues to collect material from Jewish Montreal including institutions, organizations, families and individuals covering all aspects of socio-cultural history. This year, the JPL-A has been the recipient of new accessions, which include the Rachel Cohen fonds, the Nathan Mendelson fonds, and the Maison Parent-Roback fonds.



Daniel Libeskind



Cultural Programmes 2019-2020

A total of 70 events and programmes in 5 languages with over 16,776 people in attendance

The JPL Cultural department is and continues to:

- Reinforce the JPL's essential role in the community
- Promote and ensure access for Jewish and general communities, locally and internationally, to a broad range of programming
- Encourage the use of JPL collections and resources by connecting programming and services (e.g. materials loan, archives, reference)
- Focus on reading and cultural literacies as a major component of lifelong learning, emphasizing Jewish culture and diversity
- Target audiences, outcomes and objectives with a regular cycle of program evaluation
- Continue and increase co-sponsorships and partnerships synergistically for programming
- Maximize audiences and revenues by offering a more precise, targeted slate of higher-prestige programming

Under the auspices of seven cultural committees, there were a total of **70 events** and programmes in five languages: English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian, with **16,776 people** in attendance, either in person or virtually.

Events:

- 42 Lectures
- 13 Films
- 3 Concerts
- 1 Special Event
- 5 Book Reviews
- 1 Yiddish Cafe
- 5 Yiddish courses

ATTENDANCE

English	10,433
French	2,643
Hebrew	1,392
Russian	765
Yiddish	2,233
TOTAL	16,776

**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.

Fall 2019

► English

6 lectures

- JBM Keynote Speaker
Daniel Libeskind: 510 attendees
- **Anne Nelson:** 165 attendees
- **Marie Benedict:** 200 attendees
- **Roxanne Veletzos:** 250 attendees
- **Kate Quinn:** 180 attendees
- **Yousef Bashir:** 204 attendees

1 movie

- **Transit:** 220 attendees

2 book reviews

- **Eva Echenberg** and **Ariela Freedman:** 52 attendees

► Russian

1 show

Russia #14: 405 attendees

Russian Literary Club:

5 meetings, 360 attendees in total

► French

1 movie

- **Quitter le bercail:** 70 attendees
- 1 lecture
- **Marek Halter:** 92 attendees

► Hebrew

1 concert

- **Songs of Israel** with **Cantor Adam Stotland:** 233 attendees

Israeli and Jewish Film Festival

- 5 movies: **Lady Titi, Shooting Life, Working Woman, Morning Trail, Rabbi from Hezbollah:** 1,005 attendees in total

► Yiddish

1 movie/lecture

- **Sam Kassow:** 210 attendees

1 lecture

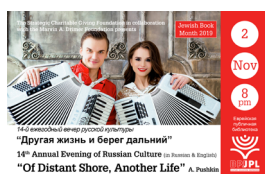
- **Anita Norich:** 80 attendees

Yiddish Café

- **Love Café:** 110 attendees

► Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal:

- **5 lectures:** 339 attendees
- **5 workshops:** 278 attendees



SPRING/SUMMER 2020

This spring the Programming department has almost instantaneously adapted and is adapting to ongoing pandemic by organizing and presenting a diverse array of virtual events (e.g. lectures, films, courses) in order meet the community's changing needs in the present environment.

Outreach: Canada-wide, USA-wide, France, UK and Israel.

► English

- Spring Keynote: **Norman Lebrecht:** 791 views

16 Online Reading/Talks

- **Ariela Freedman:** 591 views
- **Ami Sands Brodoff:** 716 views
- **Elaine Kalman Naves:** 802 views
- **Joel Yanofsky:** 479 views
- **Mark Frutkin:** 174 views
- **Marianne Ackerman:** 485 views
- **Endre Farkas:** 169 views
- **Sherry Simon:** 262 views
- **Norman Ravvin:** 260 views
- **Taras Grescoe:** 285 views
- **Mary Soderstrom:** 226 views
- **Dr. Wiviott:** 320 views
- **Rabbis Sarna/Poupko:** 489 views
- **Sean Michaels:** 563 views
- **Vikki Stark/Susan Schwartz:** 300 views
- **Richard King:** 205 views

2 movies

- **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit:** 323 views
- **Resistance:** 471 views

3 book reviews

- **Save Me the Plums:** 36 views
- **The Giver of Stars:** 50 views
- **Where the Crawdads Sing:** 90 views

► French

2 movies

- **Je ne rêve que de toi:** 449 views
- **Outremont et les Hassidim:** 84 views

5 literary capsules

- **Pierre Anctil:** 645 views
- **Yolande Cohen:** 306 views
- **Sonia Sarah Lipsyc:** 314 views
- **Jessica Roda** and **Malky Weingarten:** 20 views
- **Helene Engel:** 633 views

► **Hebrew**

2 musicals

- ***Bustan Sepharadi*** : 44 views
- ***Naomi Shemer Concert***: 110 views

► **Yiddish**

1 author reading/lecture

- **Goldie Morgentaler**: 564 views

2 movies

- ***Yiddish***: 150 views
- ***Beyle***: 1,110 views (with post discussion)

Yiddish online class

- **Janie Respitz**: 7 participants

COLLABORATIONS

- Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre
- Goethe-Institut Montreal
- Jewish Book Council
- Jewish Genealogical Society
- Montreal Holocaust Museum
- Montreal Jewish Museum
- Paragraphe Book Store
- CSUQ
- Centre Aleph
- Yiddish Book Center
- KlezKanada



*Building the future of the
Jewish Public Library together*

*Let us work with you to shape
a legacy gift that meets your
family's philanthropic goals
and supports the future of the JPL.*

Financial Resource Development

Rising to the challenge

Fiscal year 2019-2020 has been a disorienting one for all of us, with economic uncertainty and the health care crisis combining to create unanticipated FRD set backs and road bumps around every corner.

However, despite the enormous fundraising challenges for JPL presented by COVID-19, and with heartfelt thanks to the vision, graciousness and generosity of our JPL Circle of Friends and Donors, we are making headway to regain our financial equilibrium from both operational constraints and imperilled funding streams during 2020.

One of our priorities over the past year has been to invest the time it takes (in close consultation with the JPL FRD Committee) to get our “data house” in order, harnessing vital tools from data to analytics and raising the bar on how we relate to and recognize donors, working toward a gold standard of personalization and accountability.

Establish a standing FRD committee (for the first time)

Guided by the FRD Committee members, we have established a Naming Policy with guiding principles and

parameters and we are in the final stages of completing a detailed inventory of named donations throughout the history of the Library.

Ironically, this pandemic has been a launching pad for JPL to become more agile in digital fundraising, shifting from offline to online and more accountable in working with our donors to measure outcomes and assess the impact of donations on the wellbeing of Community.

On March 18, 2020, we were set to launch “It Takes A Library To Build Community” – JPL's first crowd funding campaign. We had a very positive response from our donor community but due COVID-19, we had to put this campaign on hold. We are planning to reschedule the campaign launch in the spring of 2021 and will be connecting with all our supporters in advance to invite you to celebrate with us as we recognize your terrific show of support, both in contributions as well as in volunteer time.

This past year, FRD as been working closely with specific constituencies that include the JPL Board; the FRD Committee and the JPL Senior Management team, to cultivate an FRD mindset, an important step to building a culture of philanthropy across the organization.

Board members have come through in so many ways over the past year, not only in lending financial support

but in becoming personally involved in tapping their personal networks, sharing knowledge, leveraging specific talents, skills and know-how to help JPL strengthen, expand and diversify its base of support.

In a similar manner, the FRD Committee members have devoted many hours of volunteer time focusing on helping JPL become more effective and efficient in its FRD policies and practices.

Members of the Senior Management team have been most generous with their time and feedback as JPL puts into practice new policies and procedures to become more donor-centric and to set up a system of continuous improvement, whereby FRD learning and donor feedback are integrated back into operations.

In close partnership with the Director of Marketing and Communications, FRD is adapting to an internet model of fundraising. Together this past year, we tested new initiatives such as #GivingTuesdayNow, a global movement that engages donors to celebrate and encourage giving. We also are exploring ways to monitor and measure how often and how well we communicate with donors.

Our goal is to ensure the compatibility of the FRD message with multiple channels, comprising of website, social platforms, email outreach, search engines, content, digital marketing, mobile strategy and tools and data tracking and integration.

Here are a few inspiring stories we thought we would share with you about just a few special JPL donors from the past year.

Stepping up and stepping in to support operations

The Trottier Family Foundation, a longstanding supporter of JPL, joins a number of donors who have come forward to provide JPL with unrestricted, multi-year operational support. This level of support demonstrates not only a deep appreciation and understanding of how critical it is to ensure non-profit organizations can cover overhead costs and stay financially healthy during their recovery phase but what trust-based philanthropic partnerships are all about.

Unrestricted, flexible operating support is essential, giving JPL the flexibility we need to carry out the JPL mission. We are so thankful for the insightfulness and generosity of these visionary community leaders.

Paying tribute to their mother

For Martin, Jeffrey and Alan Schwartz, supporting the JPL Renovation Fund presented a way of honouring their mother and her love of books. The Laura A. Schwartz Reading Room, named to honour the memory of Laura Schwartz, will become a vibrant and light-filled learning space with access to the latest digital information sources, for Library users of all ages and backgrounds.

Focusing on the horizon

Setting a wonderful example that is serving to inspire other donors, Sharon Steinberg continues to build an incredible philanthropic legacy in partnership with the JPL, both in a volunteer capacity as a member of the JPL Board and FRD Committee and in her recent gift that is focused on how the Library will engage the next generation of patrons. The Sharon Steinberg JPL E-Book Collection set a record this past year for the number of users during peak months (Leo, please check with Eddie how to phrase this and what numbers will be relevant for this text).

Building institutional and community capacity

This year, JPL will be working closely with members of the Sephardi communities in Montreal and the Jewish Community Foundation and other strategic cultural and educational community partners to integrate into our current JPL learning and teaching models opportunities to celebrate Sephardi contributions to the history and richness of the Montreal Jewish Community.

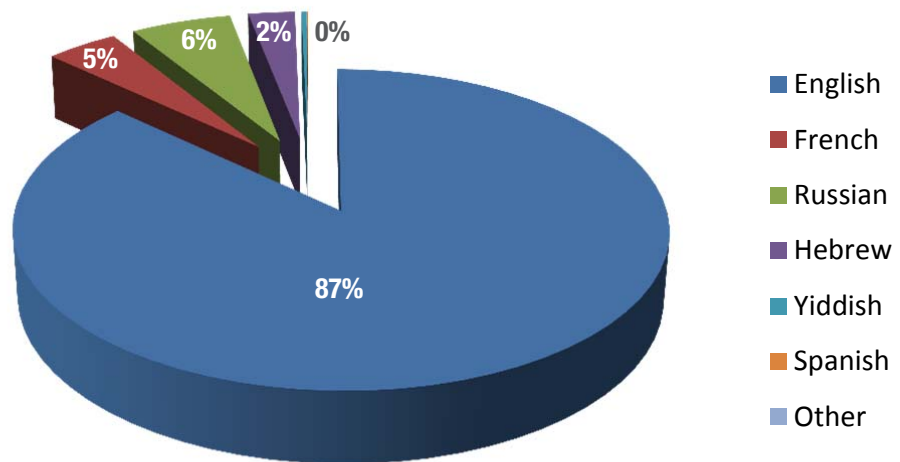
Nova Grant by the Jewish Community Foundation

The JPL was awarded a Nova Grant by the Jewish Community Foundation in order to set into motion an organization-wide recalibration of programmes and services to ensure it is creating value for the Sephardim and the Ashkenazim, that goes far beyond French language capacity, creating intercultural dialogue and rewriting the future of the organization to be inclusive and representative of the diversity of our Jewish community.



Statistics

Circulation by language 2019

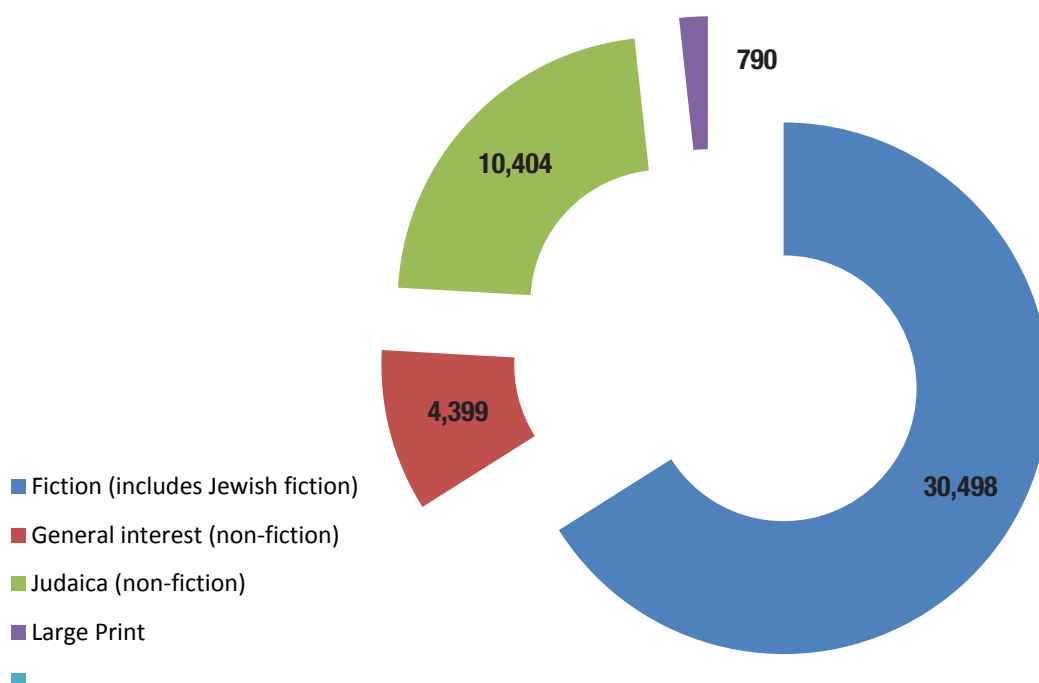


46,072 items* were circulated in 2019. The chart shows the split by language.

* This number reflects the Library's closure during the COVID-19 pandemic and the limited service hours as of July.

Circulation by category 2019

The items circulated in 2019 by category (does not include music or DVDs).



Website visits 2019



In 2019 the JPL website counted over 82,000 page views by over 18,000 users.





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

Executive, Board of Directors 2019-2020

Comité de direction

Rachel Cohen,
President

Howard Krosnick,
Immediate Past-President

Reuben Abitbol,
Vice President

Roslyn Slawner,
Vice President

Robert Bohbot, CPA, CA,
Treasurer

Erica Fagen,
Secretary

John Hobday,
Officer at-large

Michael Crelinsten,
Executive Director

Conseil

d'administration

Yolande Amzallag
Cindy Bassel Brown
Anthony Davis
Harvey Elman
Avi Finegold
Kathryn Gabinet Kroo
Arlene Greenberg
Marian Levy
Barbara Maldoff
Marilynne Malkin
Eva Raby
Sharon Steinberg
Jean Teboul
Leo Hubermann,
Staff Representative

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Alain Murad
Aaron Ain
Joanne Garfinkle
Bryna Garmaise
Anna Gonshor
Aron Gonshor
Peter Jacobs
Emmanuel Kalles
Barbara Kay
Lilian Laks z"l
Alice Lehrer
Daniel Lighter
Murray Lippman
Irwin Litvack
Janie Respitz
Ira Robinson
Gerald Soiferman
Howard Krosnick

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Liba Augenfeld z"l
Rivka Augenfeld
Norma Cummings z"l
Rosalind Goodman z"l
Pearl Lighter
Marilyn Nayer
Hillel Rosen
Howard Schnider
The late Liliane M.
Stewart
Ernest Strolovitch
Murray Yudin

Nominating Committee

Claire Berger Fagen, Chair
Rivka Augenfeld
Cindy Bassel Brown
Susan Elias
Judy Gardos Bergman
Eva Raby
Dana Zinman
Michael Crelinsten,
Executive Director

Ombudsman

Daniel Frajman

Library Committees 2019-20

Cultural Programming Committees

Cultural Programming Coordinating Committee (CPCC)

Yolande Amzallag,
Rivka Augenfeld
Arlazar Eliashiv
Trudis Goldsmith-Reber
Rachel Cohen
Estie Kleinfeld
Melanie Lagassevalle
Eugene Orenstein
Jewel Sarna
Robert Schwartzwald
Shoshana Sebag
Roz Slawner
Virginie Soffer

English Programming Committee

Trudis Reber Goldsmith,
Co-Chair
Jewel Sarna, Co-Chair
Ruth Ballon
Cindy Bassel Brown
Freda Browns
Carla Burshtein
Miriam Cohen
Sarah Fogg
Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo
Louise Goldstein
John Hobday
Edna Janco

Adriana Kotler
Pearl Lighter
Robin Mader
Roslyn Margles
Rachel McCrum
Lois Miller
Marilyn Nayer
Marm Rapp
Delores Rosen
Helen Segal
Arlene Slepchik
Janice Steinberg
Claire Stern

French Programming Committee

Yolande Amzallag, Co-chair
Virginie Soffer, Co-chair
Oro Anahory
Sylvia Assouline
Julien Bauer
Éric Debroise
Mireille Galanti
Sophie Jama
Tova Lazimi
Géraldine Libraty
Dina Sabbah
Andrée Sasson
Nicole Sebag

Hebrew Programming Committee

Shoshana Sebag, Co-Chair
Arlazar Eliashiv, Co-Chair
Hanna Afuta
Carmela Aigen
Ariela Cotler
Gina Steinberg
Chaya Goldman
Edna Janco
Eytan Kern
Estie Kleinfeld
Irina Koffler Fabian
Miriam Rosenblum

Yiddish Cultural Committee

Eugene Orenstein, Co-Chair
Rivka Augenfeld, Co-Chair
Sylvia Aikins
Celina Brettschneider
Raizel Candib
Esther Frank
Anne Glassman
Anna Fishman Gonshor
Jenny Lewis
Matthew Meland
Janie Respitz
Goldie Sigal
Gita Shapiro
Naomi Tencer
Salena Sporn
Sebastian Schulman
Sivan Slapak
Yuri Vedenyapin

J.I. Segal Committee

Robert Schwartzwald, Chair
Rivka Augenfeld
Rosa Finestone
Esther Frank
Emily Kopley
Eugene Orenstein
Richard King
Stephen Ross

MTL YA Fest! Committee

Talya Pardo
Nicole Beaudry
Raven Desroches
Chloe Chiasson
Vicky Ouimet
Timothy Sullivan
Christopher Chaban
Janice Cohen
Teffer Ruth
Benjamin Wexler
Arwen Low
Shazia Khan
Ivy Rabinovitch
Tracey Blonder
Cindy Bassel Brown
Megan Byers
Debby Mayman
Zehava Cohn
Gabby Samra
Jennifer Solomon
Alissa Rosellini
Elise Dubois
Erica Fagen
Susan Tepner Novack

Young Professionals Committee

Mélanie Lagasse-Vallé,
Chair
Hannah Bartels
Christopher Chaban
Taylor Lacaillade
Mélanie Lagasse-Vallé
Veronica Schnitzer
Timothy Sullivan
Michel Tebeka

Administrative Committees

Budget and Investment Committee

Robert Bohbot, CPA, CA,
Chair
Howard Berish
Norman Heimlich

Governance (By-laws ad-hoc) Committee

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

Materials Collection Committee

Ira Robinson, Chair
Anna Fishman Gonshor
Emmanuel Kalles
Eugene Orenstein
Rhona Blanshay

Nominating Committee

Claire Berger Fagen, Chair
Rivka Augenfeld
Cindy Bassel Brown
Susan Elias
Judy Gardos Bergman
Eva Raby
Dana Zinman
Michael Crelinsten

Library Staff 2019-20

ADMINISTRATION

Michael Crelinsten

Executive Director

Natalia Konovalova

Accounting-Membership

Allan Oberman

Chief Operating Officer

Angelina Spilberg

Senior Secretary

ADULT LIBRARY

Karen Biskin

Head of Library Services/
Main Library

Maya Pasternak

(as of July 2020)

Director, Archives

Janet Forbath

(until April 2020)

Circulation Assistant

Eddie Paul

Head of
Bibliographic Services

Ivy Rabinovitch

(until April 2020)

Circulation Assistant

Maria Ressina

(until June 2020)

Head of
Community Outreach

Valentina Rojinskaia

Russian Cataloguer/
Circulation Librarian

Eleanor Steinberg

Head of Circulation

Eddie Stone

Hebraica Cataloguer/
Reference Librarian

Jessica Zimmerman

(until January 2020)

Director, Archives

NORMAN BERMAN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Nicole Beaudry

(until June 2020)

Children's Librarian/
Social Media

Janice Cohen

Library Assistant

Leticia Cuenca

Children's Librarian/
Cataloguer

Talya Pardo

(until January 2020)

Director, Norman Berman
Children's Library

Maria Ressina

(as of July 2020)

Director, Norman Berman
Children's Library

PROGRAMMING, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

Roxana Brauns

Head of Programming

Barbara Wisnoski

Programming Assistant

Leo Hubermann

Director, Marketing &
Communications

Sarah Tobias

(until July 2020)

Director, Development

Na'ama Freeman

(until March 2020)

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
Elisa Chaudet
Marlene Danies
Haim Deraï
Arsh Deep
Roslyn Dorenfeld
Peter Forbath
Eiran Harris
Suzanne Herscovitch
Malca Hubner
Diane Israel
Batia Kolda
Elena Konopleva
Henie Kristalka
Taylor Lacaille
Melanie Lagasse Valle
Leonard O Hanley
Patrick O Reilly
Reesa Rosenfeld
Phyllis Rudin
Galina Shapiro
Gallia Singer
Elize Therien-Fortier
Michaela Tutu
Olga Usachov
Jenna Wajcer
Mona Wu

Programming

Barbara Harris
G. Kattan
Howard Mitchell
Ivy Rabinovitch
Olga Usachov

Staff Volunteers

Janice Cohen
Nicole Beaudry
Janet Forbath
Natalia Konovalova
Ivy Rabinovitch
Maria Ressina
Valentina Rojinskaya
Eleanor Steinberg
Angelina Spielberg
Jessica Zimmerman

Children's Library

Cindy Bassel Brown
Tracey Blonder
Haley Bucovetzky
Erica Fagen
Joanne Garfinkle
Dana Lohner
Alissa Rosselini
Maya Oberman
Alissa Rosselini
Phyllis Rudin
Gabby Samra
Sarah Schlesinger
Jennifer Solomon
Susan Teppner Novack
Leigh Zinman

Archives

Claire Drummond
Eiran Harris
Sean Sallis-Lyon