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Jewish Public Library

Annual Report 2021



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President Rachel Cohen



Executive Director Michael Crelinsten

Message from the President and the Executive Director

While people have been homebound during the pandemic, the Library has found its way into homes, near and far.

It is no mystery that the past year has been unusual. Certainly, few of us at the Jewish Public Library (“JPL” or the “Library”) anticipated that, following our last Annual General Meeting (“AGM”), we would still be dealing with the impact of the COVID pandemic and that our 2021 AGM would once again be online. The fact is that we are, and the fact is that the JPL staff have risen to the challenge. As at the outset, our shift to online cultural programming and workshops has been seamless and has broadened our reach to a national and international audience including not only the rest of Canada and in the United States but also to the Ukraine, Russia, Armenia, the United Kingdom, Israel, Romania, Austria, the Netherlands, South Africa, Singapore, France, Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic, Mexico and Italy – 18 countries in all. While people have been homebound during the pandemic, the Library has found its way into homes, near and far. As we embraced the need for remote access and a strong virtual presence, arising from pandemic-related restrictions and closures, we saw first-hand the power that a robust virtual presence can have on extending the borders of our community. We heard stories of families separated by hundreds of miles, coming together to attend workshops and events as a family, on-line. Academics in numerous institutions could discuss their shared interests and an individual patron could simply enjoy some entertaining distractions from all too often unwanted isolation. Put simply, the Library transformed itself into an integral part of our on-line social infrastructure, transcending time zones, borders, and demographics alike.

Amongst many programmes, services and accomplishments over the past year, we note, in particular, the JPL continued its Books on Wheels service to the elderly and shut-ins. This service, implemented primarily through the efforts of Rivka Augenfeld and Reesa Rosenfeld, and supported instrumentally by Janice Levine through the The Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation, in memory of Marion Greenwood, has shown that the social contact through a visit from the Library was as important as the books themselves. As such, it has been recognized by Federation CJA as an essential service in support of our community's well-being.

Our curb service has been robust since its outset just over a year ago and our recent partial re-opening for time limited perusing of the stacks, has been well and enthusiastically received. Our Archives have re-opened, albeit on a limited basis, for research and, driven by Eddie Paul, 500-year old books have been given a second life through our Rare Books workshops. In the challenging context of 2020/21, the JPL librarians were able to shift and pivot these workshops in ways that expanded our reach beyond North America. We gave 13 workshops over the last year to synagogues, community groups, and libraries in Montreal, Toronto, Barrie, Vancouver, and Victoria and, for the first time, held joint workshops with university libraries that also presented their own remarkable collections. We partnered with The Fisher Rare Books Library (University of Toronto), McGill Rare Books and Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (along with artifacts shown by curators of the Montreal Holocaust Museum).

In the Spring of this year, the JPL Archives also launched its first public viewing of the Rosenberg Ilan, a 17-foot long kabbalistic rotulus

We also shared a 90-minute session with the National Library of Israel and were treated to one of the most remarkable collections of ancient Judaica in the world, coupled with our own.

In the Spring of this year, the JPL Archives also launched its first public viewing of the Rosenberg Ilan, a 17-foot long kabbalistic rotulus that had been donated by Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg and his brother, a number of years ago. The Ilan was previously owned by their great-uncle, Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg, a well-known figure in Montreal's early rabbinical history. We presented a 3-part series entitled "Unscrolling the Kabbalistic Tree" featuring Professor Ira Robinson (Concordia University) who launched his new biography of Rabbi Rosenberg, *A kabbalist in Montreal: the life and times of Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg*, Prof. Yossi Chajes from the University of Haifa who spoke about the history and evolution of kabbalistic ilanot which originated in the early medieval period and Crystal Maitland from the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa, who spoke about the processes involved in restoring and preserving the rotulus.



Rachel Cohen
President



Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director

The Library has more than weathered the past year: it has continued to offer unique, diverse programming and services to our communities in the most creative and meaningful ways and has seized the opportunity to expand our audience globally. These have been remarkable achievements.

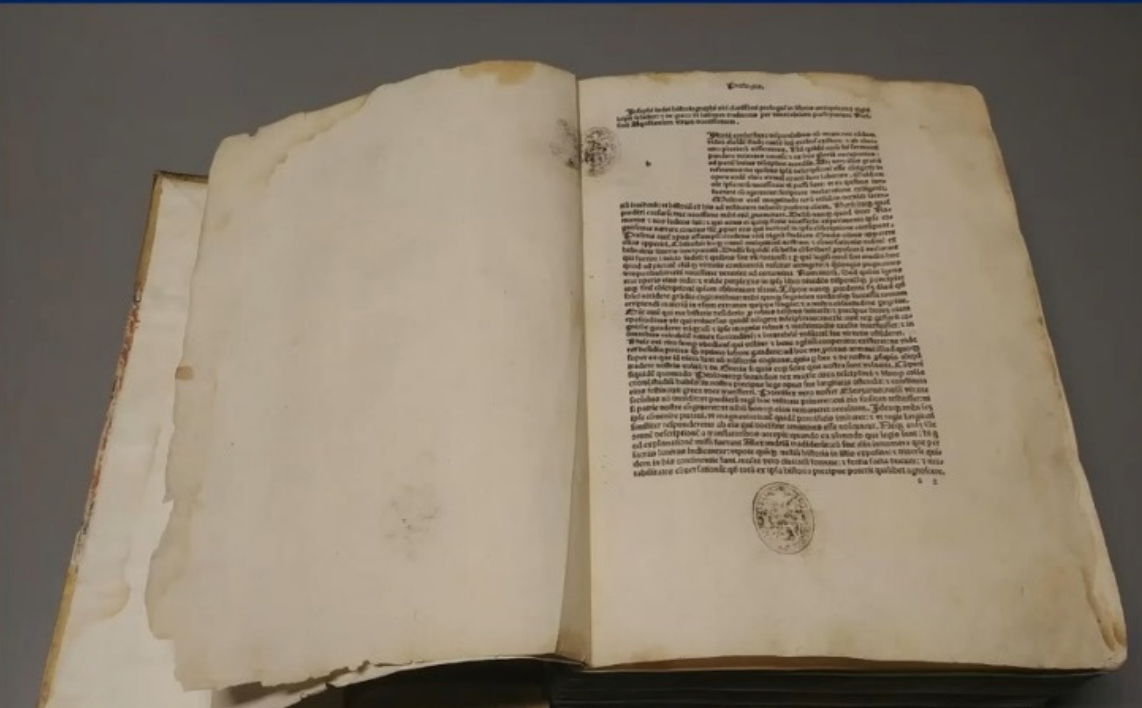
We approach this coming year with a feeling of accomplishment and a renewed sense of the instrumental role that the JPL plays in the well-being of our community. As we now begin to move towards more complete re-opening this autumn, and, in light of these extraordinary times, we take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, the staff of our Library. To say that they have stepped up, over the past year, would be euphemistic, to say the least. We stand on their shoulders.



The Antiquitates Judaicae
Yosef ben Matiyahu
 aka
Titus Flavius Josephus

Reynaldum di Novimagio
Venice, 1481

- **The Jewish Wars** (history of the Jewish-Roman conflict)
- **The Antiquities**: an attempt to reconcile Biblical chronology and secular history.
- **Against Apion**: apologetic text – defense of Judaism and Jewish history
- **Vita**: Josephus's autobiography.
- Notably, in Book 18 of the *Antiquities*: the *Testimonium Flavianum*, J states the following which is one of the reasons these works survived for so long...



Dr. Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative: "Writing with Many Pens: the first printed Hebrew books from the National Library of Israel and the Jewish Public Library", March 21 2021

Library Services and Outreach

The Dr. Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative

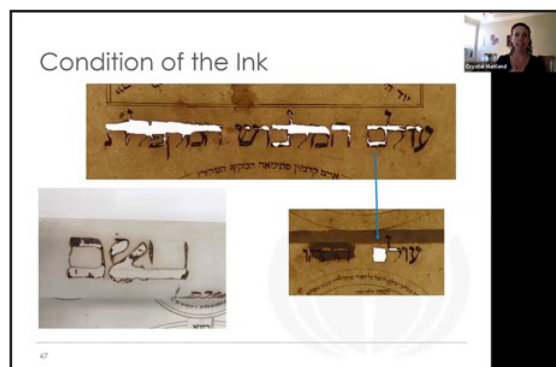
500-year old books have been given a second life in this programme, and in 2020/21, the JPL librarians were able to shift and pivot these workshops in ways that expanded our reach beyond North America. We gave 13 workshops over the last year to synagogues, community groups, and libraries in Montreal, Toronto, Barrie, Vancouver, and Victoria, and for the first time, held joint workshops with university libraries who also presented their own remarkable collections. We had collaborations with The Fisher Rare Books Library (University of Toronto, McGill Rare Books, and Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (along with artifacts shown by curators of the Montreal Holocaust Museum). We also shared a 90-minute session with the

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We presented a highly successful 3-part series entitled "Unscrolling the Kabbalistic Tree" featuring Professor Ira Robinson (Concordia) who launched his new biography of Rabbi Rosenberg, *A kabbalist in Montreal: the life and times of Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg*, Prof. Yossi Chajes from the University of Haifa who spoke about the history and evolution of kabbalistic ilanot which originated in the early medieval period, and Crystal Maitland from the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa, who spoke about the processes involved in restoring and preserving the rotulus.

Right: Unscrolling the kabbalistic tree: The Rosenberg Rotulus at the JPL Archives, June 2021



Library Services

Barely one week passed following the JPL staff's ability to re-enter the library after complete lockdown last March, that a dedicated group of volunteers were assembled to organize book deliveries to our homebound users. With the instrumental support of Janice Levine through the Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation, over the course of the year, more than 200 work hours have been spent collecting, organizing, and delivering over 1200 books not only to our elderly members, but to all our members who were affected by the lockdown. Amongst our group of volunteers, we would like to extend our special thanks to Reesa Rosenfeld and Rivka Augenfeld whose delivery of books not only formed a vital part of this service, but also enabled us to remain connected and close to our members whose experience in the isolation of lockdown constituted the JPL's vital presence in the lives of its members and supporters over the last year.

A system was put in place to offer curbside service in early July 2020 in which members could either call, email, or place requests directly from their user account for books that our staff would retrieve, organize and check-out material based on a pickup schedule that operated 4-5 half-days a week. This service is ongoing and in July 2021, we were given authorization to admit a limited number of library users by appointment for short segments of time during the week in addition to continuing with curbside service.

Several experiments in remote reference unfolded throughout 2020, as several researchers from both the United States and Israel requiring access to our Yiddish microfilmed newspapers entered our virtual space by connecting our microfilm reader to a Zoom session; using remote access, these researchers were, with minimal assistance from one of the reference staff, able to scroll through microfilmed pages of the Keneder Adler. The recent acquisition of a Hovercam – a desktop camera attached to a computer – has already been used in conjunction with our workshops, and will also open up our Archives and special collections to researchers using similar technology and workflows.



The JPL Youth Space team is thrilled to be able to welcome families into our space again.

The Norman Berman Children's Library / JPL Youth Space

While the methods have changed, the needs of families remain consistent: Connection, culture, education and entertainment.

This has been a year of challenges, successes and innovation in the Norman Berman Children's Library. While the methods have changed, the needs of families remain consistent: **Connection, culture, education and entertainment**. In light of that, throughout the pandemic, our team has continued to offer a variety of diverse, exciting events and programmes for our families.

We offered a variety of online programmes for all ages. **Linda's Storytime** ran for three sessions with the tiniest babies from home over Zoom with classic children's songs, puppets and bouncing babies brought joy to Thursday mornings. Linda's alumni joined us at many of these sessions to help baby siblings bounce along. 3 sessions of **Hebrew Storytime "Laila Tov"** took place in partnership with Gen MTL's PJ Library and Federation CJA's Israeli Engagement Initiative. This 7 pm Storytime taught Hebrew language and culture on Tuesdays before bedtime. Every Wednesday morning, Librarian Raven brought **Raven Storytime streaming live on Facebook**. With a generous grant from the arrondissement of CDN/NDG, the NBCL was able to offer inclusive storytimes **teaching American Sign Language** in collaboration with Seeing Voices Montreal, a local Deaf theater and Deaf advocacy organization. Alongside our

collections, the JPL also offered craft kits with play dough and sensory materials to families of preschoolers. Kits and collections were able to be purchased through the generous support of the Mack Belson Foundation. Our annual **Jennifer Gasoi Holiday concert** was streamed live online, in collaboration with the Segal Centre for Performing Arts. Jennifer performed with her band and warmed hearts on a cold winter morning.

For school-aged children, the **JPL Youth Space** brought **author Erica Perl** to Jewish Day Schools throughout the city for **Jewish Book Month**, **Judy Batalion** in honour of the launch of her book *The Light of Days*, as well as Israeli author **Orit Gidali in June for Hebrew Book Week**, in partnership with the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre (BJEC) and Federation CJA's Israeli Engagement Initiative. As schools were closed to visitors, these visits took place over Zoom. Participating schools were: JPPS/Bialik, UTT/Herzliah, Solomon Schechter Academy, École Maimonide (Campus Parkhaven and Saint Laurent), Hebrew Foundation School and Hebrew Academy. 3 sessions of the **JPL Chess Club** took place of six weeks each, in collaboration with Ometz, enjoyed by students ages 7-14 with a theory component taught by Alex Levkovsky and a practice component on Lichess.org.

The **MTL YA Fest**, a literary festival in its third iteration, took place on May 22nd, 2021 over Zoom, a partnership with Librairie Babar in Pointe-Claire. There were a total of 35 diverse authors of Young Adult and Middle Grade books in attendance with 3 panels running at every hour. Over 200 attendees including students, librarians, teachers and other readers of young adult fiction were present, including a strong turnout from Toronto and New York. The keynote speaker was indigenous author **Angeline Boulley**, whose debut novel *The Firekeeper's Daughter*, was named Amazon's Best YA Book of 2021. Our closing speaker was the founder of the festival and former director of the NBCL, **Talya Pardo**. The festival also gave the JPL a platform from which to create our first TikTok account. The festival's reach goes far beyond the one day of celebrations – it has created a community of YA readers and authors on multiple social media platforms, engaging with YA literature throughout the year. Five young people from grades 4-11 won literary prize packs from Babar Books through the MTL YA Fest's Writing Competition. Other sponsors were Penguin Random House Teen Canada, Simon & Schuster Canada, Owlcrate, the Ontario Library Association and YA! Podcast. The hardworking committee behind the festival has already begun to plan MTL YA Fest 2022.

Throughout the Summer, the JPL is participating in the **TD Summer Reading Program** to encourage children of all ages to read throughout the summer months. This year, we are also participating in the library sisterhood

program through TD and have been partnered with La Bibliothèque de Verdun. We have also partnered with the YCamp at the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA to offer memberships for campers throughout the summer. A Storywalk™ has also been put in place along Westbury leading from the YM-YWHA to the Jewish Public Library.

Our collections have become more accessible as of July 5th, 2021 as families are able to return to browsing the collection Monday-Thursday between 10 am and 2 pm. During the closing, the librarians worked hard to reorganize our space, weed damaged and obsolete materials and to feature our most popular collections including the Russian Children's Collection, our Orthodox Fiction and our extensive picture book collection. We've also added board games that can be borrowed for family game nights and a New Adult Collection, which is specifically for YA which targets a slightly older demographic, a bridge between the YA and the Main Library. **Shelley the Turtle** is excited to welcome children and their guardians back into our space and we've opened and rejuvenated our doll house, including the addition of new Calico families for children to play with while they visit with us. Curbside service remains available from 2-4 pm. As always, our eBook Collection on Overdrive is available 24/7.

It has been a challenging year for the NBCL, but we're excited to slowly reopen our doors while maintaining our online program offering for the coming year.



Top: Let's get moving with Lily

Right: Jennifer Gasoi Concert, 2020





Jewish Public Library Board of Directors. Photograph, 1932.

The Archives of the Jewish Public Library



From top to bottom:

Groyen & Richtman
Yiddish typewriter from
pre-revolutionary Russia
(1912). Donated by Greg
Gransden.

A new Archives display
asks the public to help
identify members of the
JPL's 1932 Board of
Directors.

"Memory organizations can use trauma-informed practice to do liberatory memory work, engaging with past wrongs, and working with affected communities to move toward healing."

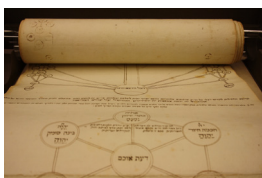
~Kirsten Wright & Nicola Laurent (Safety, Collaboration, and Empowerment; Trauma-Informed Archival Practice)

Conversations around equity and inclusion are frequent in the field of Archives because of how Archives bear such a strong responsibility to collective memory and history. At this year's Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) virtual conference, archivists were introduced to trauma-informed practice and were asked to think critically about the impact of descriptive and access practices for racist archival records.

The workshop on anti-Black archival materials led by Melissa J. Nelson inspired a conversation between previous JPL-A Director, Shannon Hodge, current Director, Maya Pasternak, and Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives Director, Janice Rosen, about records that might require revisiting. As a result, we have updated records that depict Blackface with a description that contextualizes the racist practice instead of normalizing it. We think it's important not to censor challenging archival materials, but to present them in a way that shows accountability and understanding. It is a work in progress and we welcome our publics' patience and help on the journey.

While the Archives' doors were physically closed for the greater part of this year, we offered remote reference services to researchers from around the globe, and provided them with archival materials for their fascinating and varied projects, included among them:

- An online concert series by Gili Loftus called "Ida's Salon" which celebrated the legacy of Ida Maze
- The book, "Send Them Here: Religion, Politics, and Refugee Resettlement in North America" by Geoffrey Cameron
- A historical exhibit at Temple Emanu-el Beth Sholom curated by Magdalene Klassen
- Articles about Ethel Stark and Ida Steinberg in Le Journal de Montréal, by Mylène des Cheneaux and Éliane Bélec
- A public installation project on Saint-Laurent Boulevard called "La Main en histoire"
- A conference presentation titled "The Disappearance of Hebrew Women Writers in America" by Michal Fram Cohen
- A Parks Canada site-specific exhibit called "Barracks Secrets – new permanent exhibit at Fort Lennox National Historic Site" (Secrets de caserne – nouvelle exposition permanente au Lieu historique national du Fort-Lennox)



From top to bottom:

Erin Richardson is 2021's Sonia and David Oberman Archival Intern.

The Rosenberg Rotulus (1835-1837) returned from the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) where it underwent conservation treatment.



The newly acquired Lilly Toth (z"l) collection is made up of 1,119 miniature books.

- A book titled "15 women who made Quebec history" (15 femmes qui ont fait l'histoire du Québec) which includes Lea Roback
- A book titled *The person above all. From clinical judgment to the specialized educational intervention process* (La personne avant tout. Du jugement clinique au processus d'intervention en éducation spécialisée) which includes a section on Manny Batshaw
- A scholarly article titled, *Artist Albert Rappaport: from Viekšniai to Montreal* by Vilma Gradinskaite from the Lithuanian National Museum of Art
- A textbook on "World War II" for Nova Scotia's provincial Social Studies curriculum
- An on-site film at Pier 21 by the Canadian Museum of Immigration
- A publication by the Quebec government called *50 Remarkable Quebecois* (50 Québécoises remarquables) which includes Lea Roback and Ida Stern
- An encyclopedia entry on Adele Wiseman in the Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women

Forthcoming projects include:

- The film *Staline/Hitler* by Siècle Productions
- The book *History of the Jews of Quebec* by Pierre Anctil
- The book *London Yiddishland* by Vivi Lachs
- The book *Free as a Jew* by Ruth Wisse
- The book *Wanderungen durch innere Kontinente* (Migrations through inner continents) which includes a selection of Chava Rosenfarb's works, translated in German
- The article *Rethinking Moroccan Transnationalism: Sephardism, Decolonization, and Activism* by Roy Shukrun for American Jewish History

On July 6, the Archives reopened its doors for in-house research appointments. We also reintroduced ourselves to our Library members with a new vitrine on the main floor that speaks to the JPL's unique history through archival artefacts. It includes a photograph of the JPL's 1932 Board of Directors. We hope visitors will take a moment to help identify any figures that they recognize.

The JPL-A continues to collect material from Montreal's Jewish communities. You can visit the new "Donate Materials" section of the website for instructions. We wish to thank everyone who has shown an interest in making archival donations this year. Unfortunately, we postponed many transfers due to limited staffing and the need to honour social distancing. This year's new accessions are as follows:

- The Erica Pomerance fonds contains films and video footage from the production of the documentary film *Yiddish Montreal*.
- A Groyen & Richtman antique Yiddish typewriter from pre-revolutionary Russia (1912) was donated by Greg Grandsen to our Artefact Collection.
- The Peter Jacobs fonds presents predominantly textual documents from Jacobs' terms as JPL President and philanthropist to JPL programming.
- The Lilly Toth (z"l) collection is made up of 1,119 miniature books. Toth was born in 1925 in Budapest, Hungary. She was an avid collector. The books span numerous languages (including English, German, Russian, Yiddish, and Finnish) and includes canonical authors like Shakespeare, Carroll, and Munsch, as well as unique historical pieces like the Common Prayer Finger Bible (1890).

We are overjoyed that an acquisition from 2013, the Rosenberg Rotulus, has been returned to the Archives from the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) where it underwent conservation treatment to stabilize its condition. The rotulus is a vertical scroll which was used in Kabbalistic practice.

For the seventh year in a row, the JPL-A was able to offer a paid internship to a young person looking for experience in the archival world thanks to the Sonia and David Oberman Archival Internship. This year's internship was awarded to Erin Richardson, a student in McGill's Masters of Information Studies program. Richardson worked on all aspects of our dynamic archives: reference, arrangement and description, digitization, maintaining inventories and increasing access. Initiatives like these provide critical support to a community archives.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Sonia and David Oberman. The internship has allowed us to mentor seven young professionals since 2015 and realize important projects with their help.

We continue to look to donors to collaborate on new frameworks that help the Archives grow and meet its promise of excellence.



Daniel Levitin,
Jewish Book Month Keynote Address 2020

Daniel J. Levitin
author of *This Is Your Brain on Music*

Successful Aging



A Neuroscientist Explores the
Power and Potential of Our Lives

Cultural Programmes 2020-2021

A total of 29
events and
programmes
in 5 languages
with 5,443 people
in attendance

The JPL Cultural department continued to connect beyond pandemic isolation.

The Programming Department managed to readapt and reinvent itself offering **29 programmes** in five languages under the auspices of five cultural committees.

A broad range of programming from book launches, lectures, film presentations and festivals, musical programmes, concerts, shows, and panel discussions brought **5,443 people** in attendance.

The JPL's Programming Department continued 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

- Increase co-sponsorships and partnerships synergistically for programming
- Maximize audiences and revenues by offering a more precise, targeted slate of higher-prestige programming

Events:

- 14 Lectures
- 8 Films
- 1 Concert
- 1 Special Event: J.I Segal Gala
- 2 Book Reviews
- 1 Yiddish Cafe
- 2 Yiddish courses

ATTENDANCE

English	3,080
French	176
Hebrew	1,716
Russian	124
Yiddish	252
J.I. Segal	95

TOTAL 5,443

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

Fall 2020

► English

3 lectures

- JBM Keynote Speaker **Daniel Levitin** about *successful Aging and lessons from Jewish teachings* with 151 attendees
- *Clandestine letters into a Nazi prison* with **Helmuth Von Moltke**, 103 attendees
- *A Journey into Memory and Soul* with **Isabel Allende**, 246 attendees

1 movie

- **Windemere Children** (collaboration with MHM and PBS), 220 attendees

2 book reviews

- **Claire Holden** and **Alice Lehrer**, 163 attendees

2 shows

- **Russia #15 – At Home In the World**, 124 attendees
- **Yidlife Crisis** (cross-committee event in partnership with Segal Centre, Y, Cummings Senior Centre), 673 attendees

► French

1 lecture

- **Karine Tuil** : *Les Choses Humaines*, une entretien avec Marie-Andrée Lamontagne - il y avait 39 personnes

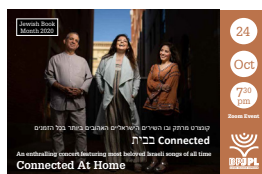
► Hebrew

1 concert

- **Connected At Home** with **Gitit Shoval**, **Ron Druyan** and **Tutti Druyan**, 55 attendees

Israeli and Jewish Film Festival

- 5 movies: **Esau**, **The Dead of Jaffa**, **Sublet**, **Love in Suspenders**, **The Van Goghs**: 1,661 attendees in total



► Yiddish

1 course

- **Janie Respitz**, 7 participants

2 lectures

- **Ilan Stavans** and **Josh Lambert**: *How Yiddish changed America*, 55 attendees
- **Alyssa Quint**: *Mississippi, A Yiddish Play*, 75 attendees

► Jacob Isaac Segal Awards

The awards have been consolidated to three:

- > Best Quebec Book on a Jewish Theme
- > Dr. Hirsh and Dvora Rosenfeld Award for Yiddish Literature
- > and the Rosa and David Z"L Finestone with 95 attendees

With this new format, we also honour the contribution of Jewish culture to a richly diverse contemporary Quebec.

- **Le Meilleur Ouvrage Québécois Sur Un Thème Juif** a été décerné à **Pierre Samson** pour *Le Mammouth*.
- **Dr. Hirsh and Dvora Rosenfeld Award for Yiddish Literature** was awarded to **Boris Sandler** for *Antiques from My Travel Bag*
- **The Rosa and David Z"L Finestone Translation Award for a Book on a Jewish Theme** was awarded to **Lori Saint-Martin** and **Paul Gagné** for *Le Yiddish à l'usage des pirates* and to **Goldie Morgentaler** for *Confessions of a Yiddish Writer*.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

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

Outreach: Canada-wide, USA-wide, France, UK, Israel, Singapore, Mexico, Denmark, Norway.

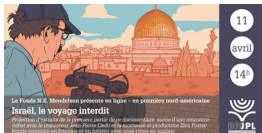
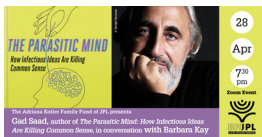
► English

6 lectures

- *How Ruth Bader Ginsburg Became the Notorious RBG* by **Irin Carmon**, 268 attendees
- *Art and Science: The Impact of AI on Human Connection* by **Ian McEwan**, 217 attendees
- *The Light of Days* by **Judy Batalion**, 402 attendees
- *The Parasitic Mind: How Infectious Ideas Are Killing Common Sense* by **Gad Saad**, 220 attendees
- *How to Pronounce Knife* by **Souvankham Thammavongsa**, 90 attendees
- *The Splendid and the Vile*: **Erik Larson** in conversation with **Jeffrey Brown**, 139 attendees

1 movie

- **The Keeper**: 188 attendees



► French

1 lecture

- **“Cafés littéraires”** : Présentations d'écrivaines juives, musulmanes, kabyles et québécoises et de leurs récents ouvrages, il y avait 100 personnes

1 movie

- *Le Voyage Interdit* par et avec **Jean Pierre Lledo**, il y avait 37 personnes

► Yiddish

1 lecture

- *In League With the Future; Yiddish Stories for Children and their Grown Ups* by **Miriam Udel**, 32 attendees

1 show

- *Hope, Hope, Hope... Spring Is Almost Here – Purim Yiddish Café*, 76 attendees

1 course

- **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
- Bibliophile Bookstore
- Paragraphe Bookstore
- CSUQ
- Centre Aleph
- Jewish Book Council
- Yiddish Book Center
- KlezKanada
- The Segal Centre for Performing Arts
- Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies
- Blue Metropolis Literary Festival
- Cummings Centre for Seniors
- YM-YWHA
- Consulate General of Poland in Montreal
- PBS

Legacy is not
what I do for myself.
It's what I'm doing for
the next generation.



Un héritage n'est pas ce
que je fais pour moi.
C'est ce que je fais pour
la prochaine génération.

Financial Resource Development

This past year continued to be a year replete with challenges. With the JPL's complete shut-down, we recognized that some creative thinking and execution was crucial to ensure that the Library could maintain its financial footing. Thankfully, our supporters and members continued to show their dedication and loyalty even as we were all forced to stay home. We marked this unique year not only with some extraordinarily generous gifts from individuals, families, foundations, and other organizations but also by vital revenue raised from small yet frequent donations marking significant events in the lives of our members and their loved ones.

The Work of our FRD Committee

Even with the Library's doors closed, the FRD Committee continued its work. Besides lending their own financial support, Committee members were active in sharing their knowledge, experience, and networks to help further deepen a culture of fundraising at the Board level. Out of these discussions, a new focus is developing around impact reporting, donor collaboration and stewardship.

Friends of the JPL

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to our "Friends of the Jewish Public Library". This membership category includes those patrons who are most committed to the spirit and sustainability of the Library. Although pandemic

restrictions rendered many of their benefits temporarily unavailable, countless Friends reaffirmed their support. Thank you!

Planned Giving – Life & Legacy at the JPL

The JPL had fantastic success as one of only 14 community organizations chosen to participate in the Harold Grinspoon Life & Legacy Program. With the help of the Jewish Community Foundation, the JPL obtained the tools and expertise to encourage our supporters to make legacy giving an important component of achieving their philanthropic goals. The Library would like to thank those who, by joining our Legacy Circle, made the commitment to remember and honour the Library as part of their legacy:

Rivka Augenfeld	Allan Oberman
Claire Berger	Corey and Tiffany Phelps
Jordan Berson	Eva Raby
Beth Blackmore	Joshua Rubin
Rachel Cohen	Celia Shulman
Michael Crelinsten	Roslyn and Abraham Slawner
Harvey Elman	Marilyn Takefman
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John Hobday	Eileen Thalenberg
Peter and Ellen Jacobs	Sarah J. Tobias
Alice Becker Lehrner	Laura Yarros
Robin Mader	Anonymous
Marilynne Malkin & Miki Lane	Anonymous

Grants

The Library continues striving toward serving and representing all our communities. We are grateful for the Jewish Community Foundation's \$30,000 Nova Grant, which will allow us to deepen our commitment and ability to serve our Sephardi and French speaking communities. As well, we are actively pursuing other grants in the areas of children's programming, archival preservation, and digital transformation.

Multi-Year and Major Gifts

As always, multi-year gifts and major gifts provide financial certainty during uncertain times.

We would like to thank Sharon Steinberg for her continued generous support of the Sharon Steinberg eBook Collection, which brought books into the homes of our members during shutdown. Never has the importance of embracing new technologies been more apparent.

With the support of our generous donors, the JPL programming team was able to quickly pivot to online programming when we could no longer gather in person. The resulting lineup of events brought together families and audiences of all kinds, from across at least 16 countries. Warmest thanks goes to Roslyn Margles and the Max Margles Memorial Fund of the Jewish Public Library, Dr. Michael Paul, Dr. Eliezer Trepman and Carole Stipelman, Harvey Elman, the Chaim and Clara Spilberg Fund, Adriana Kotler, the Miriam Schachter Vineberg Foundation, Gluskin Sheff & Associates, Babar Books, Bob Bassel Realities and the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation for supporting programming during these unprecedented times.

We are sincerely grateful to the City of Montréal and the Government of Canada for providing the JPL with the financial assistance it required during the pandemic and for grants in support of the Archives and programming.

Gifts of \$25,000 or More

- Alexander Dworkin Foundation
- Norman Heimlich
- Roslyn Margles and the Max Margles Memorial Fund of the Jewish Public Library
- Dr. Michael Paul
- Sharon Steinberg
- Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation

Gifts between \$10,000 and \$25,000

- Mack Belson Foundation
- Rachel Cohen and Marty Lucht
- Cummings and Gold Families
- Harvey and Margo Elman
- The Estate of Jeannette Goldwater Moscovitch
- Protech Foundation
- Miriam Aaron Roland Charitable Fund
- The Nathan Schachter Family Fund (Bea and Hershie Schachter)
- Alvin Segal Family Foundation
- Chaim and Clara Spilberg Fund
- The Trottier Family Foundation

Gifts between \$5,000 and \$10,000

- Leonard Albert Family Foundation
- Jordan Berson
- Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation
- Labour Zionist Alliance, in trust
- Miriam Schachter Vineberg Foundation
- Ida Vool Trust

Gifts between \$1,000 and \$5,000

- Phyllis Amber
- Babar Books Inc./Livres Babar Inc.
- Bob Bassel Realities Inc.
- Bristol Realty Co. Ltd.
- The CRB Foundation (Charles and Rita Bronfman)
- Doherty and Associates Co. Ltd
- Anita and Rony Gabbay
- Gluskin Sheff & Associates
- Ronith Kolber
- Seymour Kornbluth
- Adriana Kotler
- Peggy and John Lanfer
- Shirley L. Levene
- Louis and Irene Morissette
- Marilyn and Paul Nayer Endowment Fund
- Eva Raby
- Jacob Raby
- J.I. Segal Cultural Foundation
- Gerald and Soryl Soiferman
- Ezra Soiferman
- Brian H. Stein
- The Abe Stern Foundation
- Mia Swartzman

In attempting to recognize all donors who have contributed support to the Jewish Public Library during the period of April 1, 2020 through the time of writing, we may have unintentionally omitted a donor name and we apologize in advance for this oversight.

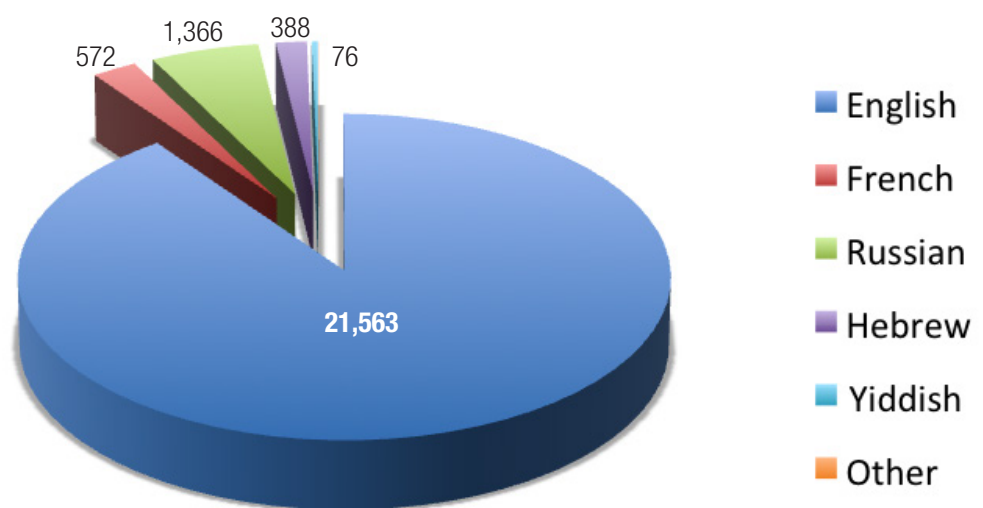


Statistics

Circulation by language 2020

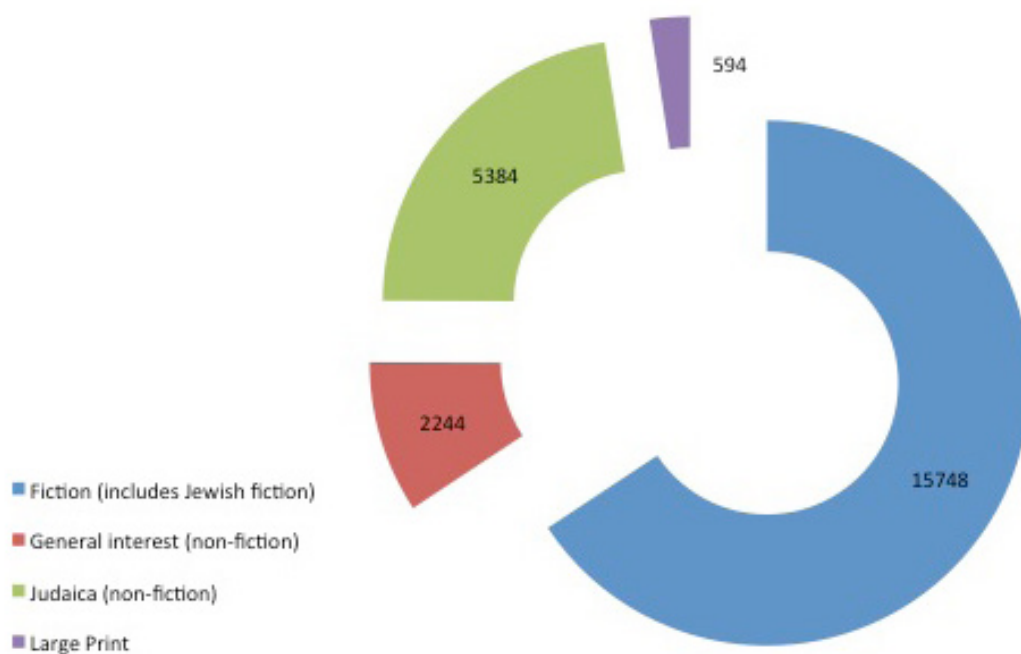
23,970 items* were circulated in 2020. The chart shows the split by language.

* This number reflects the Library's closure during the pandemic.



Circulation by genre 2020

The items circulated in 2020 by genre.



Website visits 2020



In 2020 the JPL website counted over 75,500 page views by over 16,000 users.

[Collections](#)
[Library Services](#)
[Events & Courses](#)
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[Archives](#)
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Upcoming Events

2021

VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE VIRTUELLE

JPL Annual General Meeting

Free

September 13, 2021, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

[Buy Tickets »](#)

The Boss Maidel Conversations with Nadia Hashimi

Free

October 5, 2021, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

[Buy Tickets »](#)

How many Kabbalists does it take to Redeem sparks broken by the Light Bulb?

Free

October 6, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

[Buy Tickets »](#)



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and Board of Directors, 1933-34

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Roxana Brauns
Michael Crelinsten
Avi Finegold
Arlene Greenberg
John Hobday
Eddie Paul
Maria Ressina
Roslyn Slawner

Library Staff 2020-2021

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Michael Crelinsten

Executive Director

Natalia Konovalova

Accounting

Allan Oberman

Chief Operating Officer

Angelina Spilberg

(until January 2021)

Senior Secretary

ADULT LIBRARY

Karen Biskin

(until November 2020)

Head of Library Services/
Main Library

Maya Pasternak

Director of Archives

Eddie Paul

(as of January 2021)

Senior Director of Library
& Learning Services

Valentina Rojinskaia

Circulation/Russian
Engagement

Eleanor Steinberg

Circulation & Reader
Services

Eddie Stone

Cataloguing/Reference
Librarian

NORMAN BERMAN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Raven Desroches

Student Services Librarian

Maria Ressina

Director of Children's
Library & Youth Space

PROGRAMMING, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

Roxana Brauns

Director of Cultural
Programming Services

Leo Hubermann

Director of Marketing &
Communication Services

Emily Jocks

(until July 2021)

Development Associate

Melanie LaGassé Valle

(as of August 2021)

Development Associate

Angelina Spilberg

(as of January 2021)

Development Assistant

Kimberley Tepperman

(as of November 2020)

Director of 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:

Rivka Augenfeld

Batia Kloda

Elena Konopleva

Reesa Rosenfeld