A FINDING AID TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE’S SCHOOLS
& PERETZ SCHOOLS
Jewish Public Library Archives, Montreal
INTRODUCTION

This finding aid was prepared in the Winter of 2008 at the Jewish Public Library Archives under the McGill School of Information Studies practicum programme. The Jewish People’s Schools and Peretz Schools Fonds was donated to the Jewish Public Library Archives directly by the schools at various periods of time. Further accruals are expected. The finding aid follows the guidelines for arrangement and description as dictated by the Rules for Archival Description.

Practicum Student
Jean-Marc Tremblay

Archivist
Shannon Hodge

Translation Assistance
Eiran Harris
FONDS DESCRIPTION
JPL002
Title: Jewish People’s Schools and Peretz Schools Fonds
Extent: 5.1m. textual material; 39 photographs; 5 items, and multiple media

Institutional History
The Jewish People’s Schools & Peretz Schools (JPPS) was formed through the merger of the two schools in 1971. At the time of the merger, the Jewish People’s Schools student population was 865, while the Jewish Peretz Schools was 260. The merger amalgamated all aspects of the schools including budget, finance, pensions, administration, education goals and philosophy. The union of the schools was a difficult process. One of the more pressing needs for the merger was the financial difficulties of the Jewish Peretz Schools, including the inability to honour teachers’ wages and a debt totalling $250,000.

The education goals and philosophy of JPPS includes the need to instil in students the importance of a Jewish studies program (the study of Yiddish and Hebrew, and Jewish history); an attachment and a sense of responsibility to the State of Israel and its people; and a sense of general social justice.

Once the schools were united, JPPS was able to pursue the goal of creating a day high school. Bialik High School was founded in 1972. In 1984, Bialik High School was moved to 6500 Kildare Road, where it is currently located. This school system as a whole is commonly known as JPPS-Bialik.

By 1984, JPPS elementary consisted of two campuses: Van Horne and Cote St-Luc. In 2004, JPPS/Bialik made the controversial move to merge these two elementary campuses. The pressure to merge was partially due to an influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union (who generally could not speak English or French), adding considerable strain to the Cote St-Luc campus. As a result, the Cote St-Luc location was closed. JPPS elementary is now located at 5170 Van Horne Avenue. That same year, the JPPS celebrated its 90th anniversary.

The JPPS is funded by enrolment tuition and fees, provincial government grants, the Federation CJA, fundraising campaigns, and private contributions.

Important student events organized by the JPPS consist of the JPPS Music Festival, the Concert Society’s Annual Concert, and the Bialik Festival of the Arts and the organization of student trips to Israel.

JPPS also runs a Children's Centre, located at 7950 Wavell Road.
### Principals of JPPS (Van Horne)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nachum Wilchesky</td>
<td>1971-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Moss</td>
<td>1981-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Cohen</td>
<td>1985-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sid Melech</td>
<td>?-1989-1994-?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Kovalski</td>
<td>?-2002-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adina Matas</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Principals of JPPS (Cote St. Luc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estelle Cooperstone</td>
<td>1984-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaffa Ritter</td>
<td>1985-7?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Weinberg</td>
<td>?-1989-1994-?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellie Grumberg</td>
<td>?-2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Principals of Bialik

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Max Newman</td>
<td>1972-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Robinson</td>
<td>1973-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Packer</td>
<td>1977-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estelle Cooperstone</td>
<td>1985-1994-?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raizel Candib</td>
<td>?-2001-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Wisenthal-Milech</td>
<td>2002-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Executive Director of JPPS-Bialik

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Borenstein</td>
<td>?-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merle Wolofsky Frankel</td>
<td>1975-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Rishikof</td>
<td>2001-2002-?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Custodial History
This material was donated to the Jewish Public Library Archives (JPL-A) directly by JPPS.

Scope and Content
The fonds consists of: minutes of meetings; records related to history, campaigns and building development; financial records; school programs; files relating to different stakeholders (teachers, students, and parents); files relating to the Concert Society; publications; correspondence; files relating to Bialik High School; JPPS publicity; records from the Office of the Principal; and audio visual collection. The form of the records consists primary of textual records with some photographs, items, and audio visual material. The fonds consists of fourteen series, organized by subject.

SERIES 1 (Board of Directors) – Containers 001, 002, 027-033
SERIES 2 (History) – Containers 003, 026, 031
SERIES 3 (Budget and Finance) – Containers 004
SERIES 4 (Programs) – Containers 005-007, 031
SERIES 5 (Teachers) – Containers 008-011, 031, 034
SERIES 6 (Students) – Containers 012-014, 031
SERIES 7 (Parents) – Containers 015, 016, 031, 035
SERIES 8 (Concert Society) – Containers 017
SERIES 9 (Publications) – Containers 018
SERIES 10 (Correspondence) – Containers 019, 031
SERIES 11 (Bialik High School) – Containers 021, 022, 031, 034, 035
SERIES 12 (Publicity) – Containers 020
SERIES 13 (Office of the Principal) – Containers 025, 031
SERIES 14 (Audio Visual) – Containers 023, 024, 025

Arrangement Note
This Fonds was arranged intellectually and physically following the principle of original order. The series groupings are based on the original organization of the archival material as it arrived first from the Jewish Peretz Schools and Jewish People’s Schools as individual entities and then after the merger in 1971.

Languages of Material
English, French and Yiddish.

Restrictions
No restrictions were placed on the material in the Jewish People’s Schools and Peretz Schools Fonds.

Finding Aid
Detailed file listing available to researchers.

Sources Consulted
In addition to research conducted from material in the Jewish People’s Schools and Peretz Schools Fonds, the following sources were consulted:

<http://www.jppsbialik.ca/en/jpps/>
<http://www.jpps.ca/newspages/newsARCHIVE1.htm>
SERIES I DESCRIPTION
Title: Board of Directors
Extent: 2.1m textual material
Container: 001, 002, 027-033
Scope and Content: This series consists of Board of Directors and Committee minutes, and other records relating to Annual Meetings, Administrative Council, Officers records and the Directorate.
Language: English and Yiddish.

SERIES II DESCRIPTION
Title: History
Extent: 0.15m textual material 33 photographs; 1 audio cassette; 1 item.
Container: 003, 026, 031
Scope and Content: This series consists of records relating to history, constitution, mergers, anniversaries, building extension and memorial service.
Language: English, Yiddish and French.

SERIES III DESCRIPTION
Title: Budget and Finance
Dates: 1970-1984
Extent: 0.1m textual
Container: 004
Scope and Content: This series consists of records relating to budge, maintenance, campaigns, scholarships, and insurance.
Source of Supplied Title: Title based on the content of the series.
Language: English

SERIES IV DESCRIPTION
Title: Programs
Extent: 0.3m textual
Container: 005-007, 031
Scope and Content: This series consists of records relating to registration, curriculum, holidays, Jewish Book Month, donations to Israel, textbooks, learning aids, cultural events and policy.
Language: English and Yiddish

SERIES V DESCRIPTION
Title: Teachers
Dates: 1970-2001
Extent: 0.6m textual
Container: 008-011, 031, 034
Scope and Content: This series consists of records relating to applications, rule/regulations, schedules, lists, duties, correspondence, contract negotiations and training.
Language: English and Yiddish
SERIES VI DESCRIPTION
Title: Students
Extent: 0.3m textual
Container: 012-014, 031
Scope and Content: This series consists of files relating to the general subject of students, including graduation files, reports on classes and other programs, agendas and yearbook.
Language: English and Yiddish

SERIES VII DESCRIPTION
Title: Parents
Dates: 1970-2006
Extent: 0.4m textual
Container: 015, 016, 031, 035
Scope and Content: This series consists of files relating to parents, including lists, associations, meetings with teachers, correspondence, information packages from the school and surveys.
Language: English and Yiddish

SERIES VIII DESCRIPTION
Title: Concert Society
Dates: 1971-1985
Extent: 0.1m textual
Container: 017
Scope and Content: This series consists of files relating to the Concert Society and its annual concerts.
Language: English and Yiddish

SERIES IX DESCRIPTION
Title: Publications
Dates: 1974-1990
Extent: 0.1m textual
Container: 018
Scope and Content: This series consists of various JPPS publications.
Language: English and Yiddish

SERIES X DESCRIPTION
Title: Correspondence
Extent: 0.2m textual
Container: 019, 031
Scope and Content: This series consists of various JPPS correspondence.
Language: English and Yiddish.
SERIES XI DESCRIPTION
Title: Bialik High School
Dates: 1969-2004
Extent: 0.5m textual; 6 photographs; 4 items
Container: 021, 022, 031, 034, 035
Scope and Content: This series consists of files relating to the Bialik High School, including Board of Director minutes, files relating to students, teachers, parents, building and development, curriculum, and yearbooks.
Language: English, Yiddish and French.

SERIES XII DESCRIPTION
Title: Publicity
Dates: 1965-1985
Extent: 0.05m textual
Container: 020
Scope and Content: This series consists of JPPS publicity.
Language: English and Yiddish.

SERIES XIII DESCRIPTION
Title: Office of the Principal
Dates: 1965-1985
Extent: 0.1m textual
Container: 025, 031
Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence mostly in Yiddish and a discussion paper.
Language: Yiddish and some English.

SERIES XIV DESCRIPTION
Title: Audio Visual
Dates: 1954-2004
Extent: 0.15m multiple media; 47 film reels and other material
Container: 023, 024, 035
Scope and Content: This series consists of the audio visual material of the fonds.
Language: English and Yiddish.
A Finding Aid to the Jewish People’s Schools and Peretz Schools Fonds
Jewish Public Library Archives
SERIES I – Board of Directors
Extent: 2.1m textual

CONTAINER 001

CONTAINER 002

CONTAINER 027

CONTAINER 028
CONTAINER 029

CONTAINER 030

CONTAINER 031


CONTAINER 032

CONTAINER 033
SERIES II – History
Extent: 0.15m (textual); 33 photographs; 1 audio cassette; 1 item.

CONTAINER 003
4. Merger & Building campaign. – 1970-1975. – 1 audio cassette (ca. 45min)

CONTAINER 026
1. 60th Anniversary Scrapbook. – 1975. – 33 photographs : b&w ; 20.3 x 25.5 cm.

CONTAINER 031
SERIES III – BUDGET & FINANCE
Dates: 1970-1984
Extent: 0.1m (textual)

CONTAINER 004
SERIES IV – PROGRAMS
Extent: 0.3m (textual)

CONTAINER 005

CONTAINER 006
1. Text Books & Learning Aids.

CONTAINER 007
5. Soviet Jewry.
6. Yom Haatzmaut.
7. Yom Hashoah.
11. Yiddish Courses.

CONTAINER 031

SERIES V – TEACHERS
Dates: 1970-2001
Extent: 0.6m (textual)

CONTAINER 008

CONTAINER 009


CONTAINER 010


CONTAINER 011


CONTAINER 012

CONTAINER 031

CONTAINER 034
3. Contract with Teachers’ Union. – Existing.
SERIES VI – STUDENTS
Extent: 0.3m (textual)

CONTAINER 013

CONTAINER 014
2. Principals in Afternoon School.
9. Afternoon Classes. – Songs.

CONTAINER 031
SERIES VII – PARENTS
Dates: 1970-2006
Extent: 0.4m (textual)

CONTAINER 015

CONTAINER 016

CONTAINER 031

CONTAINER 035
SERIES VIII – CONCERT SOCIETY
Dates: 1971-1985
Extent: 0.1m (textual)

CONTAINER 017
SERIES IX – PUBLICATION
Dates: 1974-1990
Extent: 0.1m (textual)

CONTAINER 018
SERIES X – CORRESPONDENCE
Extent: 0.2m (textual)

CONTAINER 019

CONTAINER 031
SERIES XI – BIALIK HIGH SCHOOL
Dates: 1969-2004
Extent: 0.5m (textual); 6 photographs; 4 items

CONTAINER 021
5. Application for Teacher’s or Principal’s Position. – 1973.

CONTAINER 022
CONTAINER 031

CONTAINER 034

CONTAINER 035

SERIES XII – PUBLICITY
Dates: 1965-1985
Extent: 0.05m (textual)

CONTAINER 020
1. Publicity. – 1965-85.
SERIES XIII – OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
Dates: 1965-1985
Extent: 0.1m (textual)

CONTAINER 025
5. Prof. Tzvi Adar. – 1981.
CONTAINER 031
SERIES XIV – AUDIO VISUAL

Dates: 1954-2004
Extent: 0.15m (multiple media); 47 film reels; 6 audio cassettes; 5 videocassettes; audio reel; 1 optical disc

CONTAINER 023

CONTAINER 024
1. JPPS 75th Anniversary Master. – 1989. – 2 audio cassettes (ca. 180 min.)
2. N. Wilchefsky / Joe King. – 1989. – 3 audio cassettes (ca. 180 min.)
3. JPPS School Hymns. – Nov. 18, 1989. – 1 audio cassette (ca. 30 min.)
4. Concert Society of the JPPS / Movie Festival. – Mar. 1992. – 1 videocassette ; VHS.
5. The First 75 Years (JPPS). – 1989. – 1 videocassette ; VHS.
6. Dedication of Van Horne Branch. – 1954. – 1 videocassette ; VHS.
7. Untitled. . – 1 videocassette ; VHS.

CONTAINER 035
4. 60th Anniversary of JPPS. – Dec. 13, 1975. – 1 audio reel (ca. 150 min.) : 2 track; 17.5cm + program.