

פרץ פאפירן

Peretz Papers

Newsletter of the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture
November - December 2011



I.L. Peretz

**Annual General Meeting, followed by a bagels and lox brunch:
Sunday, Nov. 6, 11:00 AM. See page 2 for details.**

Fraytik tsu Nakht

Please join us in honouring our people's Shabbes traditions of candles, wine, challah, and food; in our case, a fabulous potluck meal, plus a talk by a guest speaker.

Admission: a contribution to the potluck or \$12/person.

**Please RSVP: Gallia
604-322-6077**

November 18, 6:00 PM: Richard Berwick, *Miscommunicating interculturally and a few historical humdingers.*

December 16, 6:00 PM: Our annual Khanike sing-along and party.

Happy Khanike
to all our members
and friends!



For her 55 years of service to the Peretz Centre & to the Jewish Communities of Vancouver, Canada and the United States;

For her dedication to singing in memory of the six million who perished in the Holocaust & in honour of those who survived;

For her contribution to preserving Yiddish through song;

The Peretz Centre is proud to honour



CLAIRE KLEIN OSIPOV

*at the
Annual Banquet*

Sunday, December 4, 2011, 6:00 PM

Entertainment: Claire will be singing, accompanied by Wendy Bross Stuart and Saul Berson, plus other surprise guest performers. Plus 50/50 draw.

MC: Stephen Kaplan

Menu: Our traditional brisket dinner (vegetarian option upon advance request), including wine

*Admission: Before November 22: \$45, after November 22: \$50.
Children under 13 and b'nai mitzvah grads under 25: \$25*

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011, 11:00 AM

Dear Members and Friends,

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 6th, 2011, at 11:00 AM in the Peretz Centre Seniors' Lounge, 6184 Ash Street, Vancouver. The agenda will include the election of officers for 2011-2012 and the annual reports from the President, Treasurer, and various committees.

Only adult members (18 years of age or over) in good standing (i.e. paid-up members) are permitted to vote. You may take out or renew your membership at the meeting, or by contacting the office prior to the meeting.

We thank our group of dedicated volunteers, and hope that you will consider becoming one of them by running for the Board, joining a committee, volunteering at events, or contributing in some other way.

Following this year's meeting, we will enjoy a bagels and lox brunch.

Yours truly,
Richard Rosenberg, President

Letter from Sula Boxall regarding the B'nai Mitzvah grads stay-connected group:

Hello everyone!

It was nice to see you again. Thanks for your input and suggestions for future events. I have some work for you to do. We need to come up with a good name for our group! Brainstorm away!

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, Nov. 20th from 2PM-5PM.**

What: Swimming at Hillcrest Aquatic Centre and then a walk to Solly's Bagels. The slides, etc., will be open until 4PM.

Drop-off: 2PM at Hillcrest Aquatic Centre, 4575 Clancy Loranger Way (Ontario St. & 30th Ave.) 604-257-8680. We will meet inside the building at the entrance for the pool.

Pick-up: 5PM at Solly's Bagels 189 E. 28th Ave. (1/2 block west of Main St.) 604-872-1821.

Swimming Cost: \$3.25 (Age 12); \$4.60 (Ages 13 +).

Solly's Cost: Bring enough for a bagel, cinnamon bun, etc.

Please feel free to invite friends along. You had mentioned a few people who you thought might be interested. The more the merrier.

RSVP please!

See you then,

Sula 604-418-8117 sulaboxall@gmail.com





A Sheynem Dank!

First of all, I hope to see you at the banquet on December 4th, where the Peretz community will be honouring Claire Klein Osipov. We will be having our traditional brisket dinner, entertainment, a 50/50 draw and a financial appeal. We're keeping the entertainment details a secret so we can surprise Claire, but it's going to be great. Best of all, Claire is going to sing, accompanied by Wendy Bross Stuart and Saul Berson. Claire doesn't perform all that much these days, so this is a rare treat for all of us. Don't miss it.

Rosh Hashonah/Yom Kippur: so many people to thank for your contributions to our annual and very meaningful secular observance!

- ⊗ First of all, special thanks as always to Claire Osipov, who as Chair of the Program Committee is the event co-coordinator. Claire is on top of the readers, the parts, the volunteers, the table of symbolic objects—all the elements that, when well organized, make the day run smoothly.*
- ⊗ Thank you to our readers, who did a great job: Seemah Berson, Saydie Bubniw, Gallia Chud, Sheila Delany, Sylvia Friedman, David Granirer, Paul Headrick, Katherine Headrick, Gene Homel, Louise Miller, Judy Nicol-Smith (MC) and Matreya Scarrwener—a multi-generational group that ranged in age from young teens to octogenarians. Just what we want in our community! It was wonderful that you all volunteered.*
- ⊗ Then there were the people who produced the event: the kitchen crew, dessert recruiter Gallia Chud; kitchen workers Louise Miller, Bluma Field, Arlene Jackson, Claire Osipov, Marcia Beekil, Maureen Bubis, Irene Dawson and Dolly Scarr; bakers Louise Miller, Bluma Field, Arlene Jackson, Claire Osipov, Gallia Chud, Sylvia Friedman, Judy Nicol-Smith and Chichi Berdichevsky; and Judy and Colin Nicol-Smith at the door. Thanks to you, everyone got to their seats, and after the ceremony, enjoyed coffee, juice, pastry and, of course, apples and honey.*
- ⊗ Special thanks to Stephen Aberle for his deeply moving singing of the Kol Nidre. We don't in general present material from the liturgy, but do make an exception for this, one of the most gorgeous pieces of music in our religious tradition.*
- ⊗ I'm always so pleased with the beautiful sounds we produce in the sing-along portions of our observance. As a member of the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir, I of course won't neglect to thank them for their contribution in leading the sing-along and opening the Yiskor section with their beautiful rendition of Yesh Kochavim/We Remember, a musical setting of a Hannah Senesh poem. Thanks to all of you who joined in the singing! And special thanks to Elliott Dainow*

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As always, this Vinkl precedes the Annual General Meeting which will, this year, take place on November 6 at 11 AM. As always, we will hear reports by the president, treasurer, and others, but most importantly, we will elect our new Board. Let me urge you to attend the meeting and to let your voice be heard. Please seriously consider standing for election. If you want to see new programs initiated. or old programs improved. you must participate. New, enthusiastic Board members are welcome and indeed encouraged. Please go for it. As compared with previous years, the average age of the current Board has been reduced and we have all benefitted from the infusion of new ideas. Let's continue this trend.

Let me add my voice to the announcement of our Annual Banquet to take place on Sunday, December 4, at 6 PM. We will be honouring Claire Osipov, and I cannot imagine a more joyous occasion. Claire has been involved with the Peretz Centre for many years and her commitment has benefitted us all. Her wonderful voice, her warmth, and her regular presence have been a hallmark of most events. Now we will come together to honour her. On a personal note, I cannot imagine an event at the Peretz Centre without the presence of Claire. Please come. A great time will be had by all.

The struggle to maintain and improve our programs is ongoing. We are housed in a wonderfully inviting building and we have an active membership that unfortunately is not growing. I renew, again, my regular appeal for more members, for more committed members, and for more volunteers to share the burdens and the pleasures. These are not just words; we must grow or else we will be reduced to managers of a building and little else. Please ask your friends who

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President's Corner

Peretz Centre Schedule, November – December

No classes during public school break: Dec. 18–Jan. 2

Youth

- ⊗ B'nai Mitzvah '13: check with your teacher for the schedule
- ⊗ Sunday School: every Sunday except as noted above, 10:30–12:30.
- ⊗ B'nai Mitzvah grads stay-connected group. Open to all recent B'nai Mitzvah grads: Nov. 20. Check with the office for the activity planned for this date.

Adults and Seniors

- ⊗ Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7:30–9:30 PM.
- ⊗ Yiddish Class: Wednesdays, 4:00–6:00 (Advanced) and 7:00–9:00 PM (Beginners).
- ⊗ Fraytik tsu Nakht (Friday night Secular-Humanist Shabbes celebration): Nov. 18, 6:00: Richard Berwick: *Miscommunicating interculturally and a few historical humdingers*; Dec. 16, 6:00: Khanike party.
- ⊗ Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM. Oct. 28: Current Affairs Discussion Group, led by Ralph Levy. Nov., Dec. programs TBA.
- ⊗ Community Sunday Adult Discussion Group. Explore a wide range of philosophical, ethical, historical and sociological topics pertaining to secular Jewish life and thought. November 27: Seemah Berson will lead a discussion based on *Burdens of Proof: Faith, Doubt and Identity in Autobiography*, by Susanna Egan. December 18: Irving Ozier will lead a discussion based on *The Pagan Christ* by Tom Harpur.

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might be interested in secular Judaism to try the Peretz Centre; they will like it. Invite them to attend our events. Identify them as guests and we will do our best to make them feel at home. We need to grow. We need to make the Peretz Centre an integral part of our lives. It depends on you. I apologize for repeating myself but not for the message.

— Richard Rosenberg

Dunbar bungalow available from Dec 11, 2011 to Jan 22, 2012. Please contact Jackie at kizpolo@yahoo.ca

Special Events & Holiday Observances

Please note: there have been several dates added or changed

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| Nov. 6, 11:00 AM | Annual General Meeting |
| Nov. 18, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| Nov. 27, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |
| Dec. 4, 6:00 PM | Annual Banquet honouring Claire Klein Osipov |
| Dec. 16, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| Dec. 18, 10:30 am | Adult Discussion Group |
| Jan. 20, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| Jan. 29, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |
| Feb. 5, 11:00 AM | Tu b'Shvat Seder |
| Feb. 17, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| Feb. 26, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |
| Mar. 16, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| Mar. 4, 11:30 AM | Purim Party |
| Mar. 25, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |
| Apr. 1, 5:30 PM* | Community Seder |
| Apr. 20, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| Apr. 29, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |
| May 25, 6:00 PM | Fraytik tsu Nakht |
| May 27, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |
| Jun.* | B'nai Mitzvah dress rehearsal |
| Jun. 24* | Choir spring concert |
| Jun. 24, 10:30 AM | Adult Discussion Group |

* Date and/or time to be confirmed

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for accompanying on piano.

⊗ And extra-special thanks to choir conductor David Millard, who displays his multi-talented self at our High Holidays observance. Not only did he lead the group singing and organize the rounds, he is also our shofar-blower, and believe me, our shofar is pretty hard to get a sound out of.

⊗ And, as always, thanks to Iosif Gershstein for setting up the room and doing the after-event clean up.

I hope I haven't mistakenly left out your name; if I did, please let me know so I can acknowledge you in our next issue.

— Donna Becker, Program Coordinator