

# פרץ פאפירן **Peretz Papers**

January - February 2004



I.L. Peretz



## Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir to Participate in the Second *Festival of Jewish Choirs*

If you attended the first Festival of Jewish Choirs a couple of years ago, you'll be as excited as we are that Cantor Steve Levin of the Beth Israel Congregation is organizing a second Festival. You won't want to miss this concert, which will take place February 8, 2:00 PM at the Beth Israel, 4350 Oak Street, Vancouver. The Jewish Folk Choir will perform three or four of our favourite Yiddish pieces, and, along with all the other choirs, will participate in an unbelievable grand finale.

As the *Peretz Papers* goes to press, we have no information other than time and place, but this event will be widely publicized by both the B.I. and the Peretz Centre.

## Fraytik Tsu Nakht

**W**e invite you to participate in our popular monthly secular shabbes observation: Candle lighting, wine, challah, a fabulous potluck meal, and a talk by a guest speaker.

**January 30, 6:30 PM :**

Catherine Youngren, President, Jewish Geneological Institute of British Columbia, *Suddenly Jewish: Discovering My Jewish Roots*.

**February 20, 6:30 PM:** Speaker TBA.

To attend, you may bring a dish **or** pay (\$8/members, \$10/non-members). **Please RSVP to Gallia, 604-322-6077**, and let her know what you will be bringing or if you will be paying.

## Music at the Peretz Centre

*A colourful, eclectic concert series showcasing Jewish music and musicians*

### **Pacific Clarinet Trio, February 15**

Consisting of Rob Ronald (clarinet), Lon Rosen (cello) and Dietmar Schmuecker (piano), the Pacific Clarinet Trio will present a special program ranging from the late Baroque (C.P.E. Bach) to the twentieth century (the exciting *Fantasy Trio* by Robert Muczynski), and will feature the world premiere of a *Trio Concertante* by Antonin Reicha as arranged for clarinet trio, and the beautiful and emotional trio by Jewish composer Alexander Zemlinsky.

**Olam, April 17:** Klezmer-influenced world beat  
**West Coast Symphony, May 21:** featuring Karl Goldmark's *Rustic Wedding Symphony*

Ticket prices: Members: adults, \$18, seniors/students \$12. Non-members: adults \$20, seniors/students \$15. Call 604-325-1812 to reserve tickets.

Reserved tickets must be picked up ½ hour before concert. Tickets available at the door. All concerts 8:00 PM.

## ***B'nai Mitzvah Program***

The B'nai Mitzvah is one of the Peretz Centre's flagship programs. The two-year program was established in 1989 by Soli Jackson and aims to inspire participants with a love of Jewish culture, history and traditions.

In June 2004, 14 boys and girls will participate in a group Bar/Bas Mitzvah ceremony, at which they will present the results of the research projects they have chosen and completed.

The B'nai Mitzvah '05 class has some spaces available for January.



*In a simulation of what it was like to work in the needle trades in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, students in the B'nai Mitzvah '04 class, with teacher Shane Dyson looking on, get fed up with the horrible sweatshop conditions they've had to put up with and join together to demand better working conditions.*

## **Films and snowboarding for our youth**

**W**e'll again be running a series of video and popcorn nights for our younger members. The Peretz Jewish Youth Film Festival will be held over several Saturdays to help overcome the February doldrums.

Your suggestions for titles are welcome. Send an e-mail to [peretz-centre@telus.net](mailto:peretz-centre@telus.net) with your ideas.

And if the weather continues to bluster and blow, chances are good we'll be able to arrange a snowboarding trip in the new year. Watch for further details.

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### **PHILADELPHIA OR BUST!**

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**W**e're going to do it this time. We're again launching a campaign to get our younger Peretz members to the CSJO youth conference in May in Philadelphia.

Interestingly, there are usually more delegates attending the youth conference than the concurrent adult conference. This certainly bodes well for the future of the member organizations in the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations.

We have some funds put aside from our fundraising efforts last year but it's a little more costly sending delegates to Philadelphia than to Toronto. But we're not asking for your help in that regard just yet.

We want to know if you can think of any graduates of the B'nai Mitzvah program (there are over 100) who might be interested in going to the three-day conference from May 29-31, 2004. Please have him or her contact Leslie Dyson so she can provide further information. Call 604-857-0115 or e-mail [dyson@uniserve.com](mailto:dyson@uniserve.com).

— Leslie Dyson

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## **Forget-Me-Not Montessori Preschool and Kindergarten,**



which uses our beautiful schoolroom, is starting an afternoon session in January, and there are still some spaces available.

Contact Michelle Gould, 604-324-1035, for information or to register your child.



## Parking Pass Alert!

*The white electronic passes that give access to the Peretz Centre building and parking garage are provided as a service to our members.*

*If you are not a current member but still have your card, please return it to the Centre.*

## Mazel Tov!

to grandparents Gyda Chud and Roland Bishop and great-grandmother Gallia Chud on the birth of Julius and Sarah Bishop's son Jackson.

## A Sheynem Dank!

*to all the volunteers who contributed to making our Annual Fundraising Banquet a great success. Special mention to Yvonne Green, Shopper, Kitchen Coordinator, Cook, Server, Cleaner-Upper and all around great team player; Josh Berson for his charming (if somewhat controversial) and successful appeal, and Stephen Kaplan, who once again emceed this event.*

Since the last edition of the *Peretz Papers*, we have had our Annual General Meeting and have elected a brand new Board. Well, almost brand new; it's important to have continuity. I will be continuing as President along with Sylvia Friedman and Al Stein as Vice-President and Treasurer respectively. Also returning are Yvonne Green as Recording Secretary and Gallia Chud, Member at Large. We are happy to welcome to the Board Lena Sverdlova, Corresponding Secretary, and Harold Berson and Karen Coulter, Members at Large. Claire Osipov was also elected as an alternate.

The Board is eager to hear from you about any matter that concerns you. If you have anything you would like us to consider, simply contact me to have it put on to our agenda. The Board meets on the third Thursday of the month.

A major event took place in our auditorium on December 6: a concert by the Saul Berson Quartet. It was what is called an "artistic triumph", i.e. a wonderful performance but poorly attended. This was our first venture into concert production and we are confident that an audience will develop for our series, *Music at the Peretz Centre*, each concert in which showcases Jewish music and/or musicians. But we need you to do your part. Please support *Music at the Peretz Centre* and Jewish music in general by attending the second concert in the series: the Pacific Clarinet Trio (with our own Lon Rosen), February 15.

— David Skulski

## Make our Tree of Life Grow and immortalize your message: buy a leaf or a brick.

Our beautiful and unique Tree of Life, created by Adam Berson, has lots of branches but not a lot of leaves.

You can help make our Tree blossom. For a \$200 tax-deductible donation, you can add a leaf, inscribed with your message. \$500 adds a small brick, while a large brick costs \$1,000.

As an added bonus,



the Board has voted to include a free one-year membership for all donations over \$500. Membership entitles you to discounted fees for our programs and special events, a parking pass, and the mitzvah of supporting Vancouver's secular Jewish organization..

# Peretz Centre Schedule, January - February

## Youth

### First day for all classes: January 11

B'nai Mitzvah 04: Sunday January 11, 18, February 8, 15, 29, 10:30-12:30.

B'nai Mitzvah 05: Sunday January 11, 25, February 8, 22, 10:30-12:30.

Sunday School (ages 7-10): January 11, 25, February 8, 22. On the other Sundays, there is one large class for all children.

Sunday School (ages 5-6): every Sunday, 10:30-12:30.

## Adults and Seniors

Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:45 PM. **First rehearsal: January 6.**

Yiddish Class: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM. **First class: January 27.**

Fraytik Tsu Nakht (Secular Shabbes celebration and guest speaker): **January 30, 6:30 PM:** Catherine Youngren, President, Jewish Genealogical Institute of B.C., *Suddenly Jewish: Discovering Jewish Roots*. **Feb. 20: TBA.**

Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM. **First meeting: January 9.** Speakers and topics:

Jan. 9: Andre Gerolymatos, SFU Professor of History, *Iraq and the Middle East*.

Jan. 16: Phil Rankin, Attorney, topic TBA

Jan 23: TBA

Jan 30: Marilyn Hover Rosen, *Self-Regulation Therapy: a Psycho-Physiological Approach to Well-Being*.

February topics and speakers: TBA

**The Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir invites you to join us in January and sing with us at the Festival of Jewish Choirs on February 8. We welcome all new singers, but if you are a soprano or tenor, we'll roll out the red carpet!**

## Special Events

February 8, 10:30: Tu b'shvat Community Sunday

February 8, 2:00: Festival of Jewish Choirs at the Beth Israel

February 15, 8:00 PM: *Music at the Peretz Centre: the Pacific Clarinet Trio*

March 7, time TBA: Purim Community Sunday

April 10, time TBA: Community Third Seder

April 17, 8:00 PM: *Music at the Peretz Centre: Olam*

May 28, 8:00 PM: *Music at the Peretz Centre: the West Coast Symphony*

June 5, time TBA: Jewish Folk Choir Spring Concert

June 20, time TBA: Closing Sunday

## Special showing of *Wanderings*

**M**ark your calendars for **10:30 AM on Sunday February 15:** students and teachers in the B'nai Mitzvah '04 class invite you to join them in seeing a special screening of *Wanderings: A Journey to Connect*.

*Wanderings* tells the story of Sarah Cole and her videographer mom Nikila's travels around the Jewish diaspora, to places as diverse as Southeast Asia, Iceland, Spain, Holland, the Caribbean, and India, in search of connections to their heritage and culture.

The 50-minute video will be followed by a discussion led by Sarah and Nikila.

