

פרץ פאפירן Peretz Papers

March - April 2004



I.L. Peretz

Join us for Peysakh at our Community Third Seder

Featuring

- Reading of secular Haggadah
- Holocaust memorial ceremony
- Full course traditional Passover meal
- The Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir

Saturday, April 10, 6:30 PM

Members

\$25/person \$45/couple

\$60/family \$8/children 6-13

Non-Members

\$30/person \$50/couple

\$70/family \$10/children 6-13

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

604-325-1812

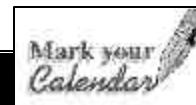
Fraytik Tsu Nakht

We 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.

March 26, 6:30 PM: Seymour Levitan, *Peretz's Memoirs*.

April 16, 6:30 PM: Errol Durbach, Professor, Theatre, UBC, "*The King of Shnorrers*."

To attend, you may bring a dish or pay (\$8/members, \$10/non-members). **Please RSVP to Gallia, 604-322-6077.**



Sunday May 16, 10:30 AM:

Community Meeting to brainstorm the future of our Peretz community. See Prezidents Vinkl for details.

Music at the Peretz Centre

A colourful, eclectic concert series showcasing Jewish music and musicians

Olam: April 3, 8:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE

Olam is a Klezmer-influenced world-beat group that draws on the rich musical traditions of Eastern Europe and the Middle East and combines them with modern funk, jazz and Latin beats to create an energetic fusion that transcends ethnic boundaries. Critics and audiences alike have been thrilled by the exotic diversity of Olam's passionate music, coining phrases such as Acid Klezmer, Balkan Blues, and

Yiddish Bebop to describe the sound. Promises to be a wonderful evening!

Next concert (final concert of this series):

West Coast Symphony, May 28, 8:00 PM: 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 1/2 hour before concert. Tickets available at the door.

It's snow fun for our youth



If you're 12 years old and older, we've got some mountain fun coming up.

On Saturday, March 6 at 9 AM a group will be leaving the Peretz Centre to travel by vans to Cypress Mountain for a day of

snowboarding and tobogganing.

If you need equipment, it's cheaper to rent from Comor-Go Play Outside Sporting Goods than up on the mountain—boots and boards for \$35 a day (instead of \$55). A good price and a huge time saver over waiting in long, slow line-ups on the mountain.

Comor's is located at 1090 W. Georgia as well as 3700 Hastings (call 899-2111). To book a seat, and to tell us whether you want to go snowboarding or tobogganing, call Victor Neuman at 272-1552 or e-mail vneuman@telus.net. We'll tell you the costs and what else you'll need to bring.

Plants for Peretz youth

Young people from the Peretz community will be flying to Philadelphia in late May for the youth conference of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. A number of fundraising activities are being planned to help subsidize the cost.

Those of you with a green thumb can help by repotting some of the perennials we'll be dividing this spring to sell at our Pesach Community Third Seder in April. The sooner you pot them, the better they'll look in April.

Please call Leslie (604-857-0115) or Ann (261-0088) for more information.



Go Online to Browse the Peretz Centre Library

The online cataloging and organizing of the Paula and Shaya Kirman Library is now complete. This work, built on the groundwork established by librarian Richard Brail, has taken almost a year and was accomplished with the help of a grant from the Vancouver Jewish Community Foundation which enabled us to contract the services of an enthusiastic and patient library technician, Regan Lawrence.

The Kirman Library houses Western Canada's largest collection of Yiddish books and journals (close to 2000 titles), as well as nearly 1000 English language Judaica titles, a small number of Hebrew titles and a children's collection. The publication dates of this diverse collection range from the 1890s to just last year.

The library also has on display an historic Yiddish map of Pinsk, donated by Mordecai Briemberg, that identifies the Jewish locations in the city from 1506 to 1941.

We are now planning a gala opening to celebrate the completion of this work and the availability of this extraordinary resource to the community.



To begin with, the library will be open Friday morning and Sunday morning, but if you have access to a computer, you can browse the collection whenever you want to. Please note that Yiddish and Hebrew titles have been Romanized (transliterated in English) using the YIVO standard.

To view and search for items in the online catalog:

1. go to www.librarycom.com/opac/
- 2.. Fill in the blanks as follows:
Library Name: Peretz Library
Branch Name: [leave blank]
Username: peretzlibrary [1 word, lower case]
Password: [leave blank]
3. Click the box to Access Library as a Guest and press ENTER..

Please leave a message for me at the Peretz office, 604-325-1812, if you have any questions.

— Al Stein, Chair, Library Committee

A Sheynem Dank!

The last edition of the Peretz Papers came out just before Chanuka. At the risk of sounding like an Oscar winner, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make our Chanuka party a big success. The list includes, among many others:

- ♥ *Leslie Dyson, for all her great ideas about how to make sure Chanuka was fun for the kids*
- ♥ *Gloria Diaz, Sylvia Friedman, David Skulski, Judith Vosko—and me—champion latke makers all*
- ♥ *Joanne Smith, Belle Smith and Shlomo Booklin, for organizing and leading the children's crafts*
- ♥ *David Skulski and Mya Friedman, who helped me make the papier mache dreidl piñata—the “hit” of the party*
- ♥ *Harold Berson, for his delightful emceeing*
- ♥ *David Millard and the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir for once again contributing their Chanuka concert repertoire and at the same time moving in the direction of more audience participation*
- ♥ *All the people who took or accepted leadership at a moment's notice to fill gaps: Annie Olafson, for taking on the kitchen and making sure we all ate; B'nai Mitzvah 04, who acted with generosity and community spirit by stepping in to light the menorah; Tamara McKenzie, who rehearsed, costumed and directed the children through a sterling performance of Latkes Latkes Latkes; Robert Santos, who was recruited to take money at the door; the impromptu labour crew, for quickly setting up extra chairs and tables; Victor Neuman, Kal Skulski, David Skulski and Harold Berson, for setting up the piñata and supervising its destruction; and Victor again for stick handling the underground parking.*

Thank you all—and all the others I didn't mention—YOU MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE!

—Donna Becker MacDermot, Program Coordinator

One of the core principles of our organization is a secular humanist approach to Jewish traditions. Although it's been around since the *haskole*, (the 18th century Enlightenment) it is still in the process of inventing itself, each community developing its own activities within the broad framework of a world-wide movement.



This on-going challenge of how to be Jewish without being religious and how our organization should respond to the need for both *hemshekh* (continuity) and *veltikhkayt* (secularism) is the focus of our community meeting scheduled for May 16 at 10:30 AM.

Should we adopt a more congregational style, with more life-cycle services? Should we bring back after-school classes? What programs would you like to see offered? Should we change our name—again—in response to a recent suggestion (that “secular” is redundant) to Peretz Centre for Jewish Culture?

Think about these questions and bring your ideas; let's have a stimulating time (during which we will undoubtedly embody the principle, Three Jews – Five Opinions).

— David Skulski



**We invite you to join the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir
– call 604-325-1812 for information**

Peretz Centre Schedule, March - April

* no classes Sunday March 14 (Spring Break) or April 11 (Easter)

Youth

B'nai Mitzvah 04: Sunday March 7, 28; April 4, 35
 B'nai Mitzvah 05: Sunday March 7, 28, April 4, 18
 Sunday School (ages 7-10): Sunday March 7, 28, April 4, 18.
 Sunday School (ages 5-6): every Sunday except as noted above, 10:30-12:30.*

Adults and Seniors

Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:45 PM.
 Yiddish Class: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM.
 Fraytik Tsu Nakht (Secular Shabbes celebration and guest speaker): **Mar. 26, 6:30 PM:** Seymour Levitan, *Peretz's Memoirs*; **Apr. 16:** Dr. Errol Durbach, "The King of Shnorrers."
 Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM. Speakers and topics:
 Mar. 5: Purim luncheon. Entertainment by Howard and Rikki Hoffer and Sylvia Friedman
 Mar. 12: Aleck Ostry, Asst. Prof. Health Care & Epidemiology: *Overview of Jewish History—part 2*
 Mar. 19: Marvin Nider, Pharmacist: *The Natural Alternatives to Pain Relief*
 Mar. 26: Bernardo Berdichewsky, Professor Emeritus: *Anthropology: The Development of Jewish Ethnicity*
 Apr. 2: TBA
 Apr. 9: Closed for Good Friday
 Apr. 16: Richard Rosenberg, Professor, Computer Science: *The Impact on Civil Liberties of 9-11 and Subsequent Events*
 Apr. 23, Apr 30: TBA



Lag B'omer picnic, May 9 at Garry Point park, Steveston. Details in the next issue.

Special Events

March 6, 9:00 AM Snowboarding/tobogganing at Cypress Bowl
 March 7, 11:00 AM Purim Children's Party
 April 3, 8:00 PM *Music at the Peretz Centre: Olam*
 April 10, 6:30 PM Community Third Seder
 May 9, 10:30 AM Lag b'Omer Picnic at Garry Point Park, Steveston
 May 28, 8:00 PM: *Music at the Peretz Centre: the West Coast Symphony*
 June 5, time TBA: Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir Spring Concert
 June 20, time TBA: Closing Sunday



**Purim
 Children's Party
 Sunday, March 7
 11:00-12:30**

**Come dressed as your favourite
 Purim character**

*Crafts, games, homentashn,
 megilla reading
 Hot dogs, juice for sale*



Admission: Free

Thanks for Wanderings

The students and teachers of the B'nai Mitzvah '04 class would like to thank Nikila and Sarah Cole for coming in February to show and talk about their film *Wanderings: A Journey to Connect*. Close to 60 people attended the event to learn about Jewish communities in the Diaspora.