

# פרץ פאפירן Peretz Papers

Newsletter of the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture

November - December 2006: Our 60th anniversary year



I.L. Peretz

## Friday, Nov. 3, 6:30: Fraytik tsu Nakht

Our regular monthly non-religious Shabbes ceremony, pot luck dinner. Guest speaker: Julio Gomberoff, on his trip to the former Soviet Union in the early 1970s with assassinated Chilean president Salvador Allende. *Admission: a dish or \$10. RSVP Gallia, 604-322-6077.*

## Saturday, Nov. 4, 6:00: Tanguería

Argentinean-born Vancouver tango teacher Gabriela Rojo and her team of dancers will perform, followed by a tango lesson, dancing, music, food and socializing. MC: well-known Argentinean actor Matias Hacker. Latino food, beer, wine available. *Admission: \$10.*

## ¡Festival Judío!



Third Annual  
Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture  
November 3-5, 2006

## Sunday, Nov. 5, 11:00:

**Film: *Los Gauchos Judíos* (Jewish Gauchos)**

Followed by a talk by descendents of a Jewish gaucho [cowboy].

**1:00: Lunch** (bagels and lox/empanadas).

**2:00: Film: *Memórias del Sur* (Memories of the South)**

A group of Argentinean Jews who were children

together have a reunion 30 years later. They discover that three of their childhood companions are amongst the disappeared. Followed by a panel discussion by Jewish survivors of detention in Argentina and Chile.

*Admission \$10; includes both films and lunch. RSVP Donna, 604-325-1812.*

## Happy Khanike

to all our members  
and friends!



## Khanike\* Concert and Party

Saturday, December 16, 4:00 PM

*Admission: \$5; children under 13 free*

Light the menorah and enjoy presentations by the Sunday School and B'nai Mitsuah children and the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir's Khanike repertoire, including a sing-along section, followed by a pot luck early supper. We'll supply *latkes*, chocolate *gelt*, *dreydlakh*, *sufganyot*, and entertainment; you supply food and shmooze – sounds like a great Khanike party!

\* Yiddish for Chanuká, Hannukáh, etc.

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2006, 10:30 AM

October 20, 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting scheduled for **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006** at **10:30 AM** in the Seniors' Lounge on the main floor of the Peretz Centre, 6184 Ash Street, Vancouver.

The agenda will include the election of officers for 2006-2007, the annual Financial Report, the President's Report and other year-end reports.

Only adult members (18 years of age or over) in good standing (i.e. paid 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 in some other way contributing.

Yours truly, Richard Rosenberg, President

## Reserve your seat now for our Annual Banquet: Saturday, December 2, 6:00 PM

We invite you to the Peretz Centre's major annual fundraiser. This year's banquet, honouring our founders, will be the closing event of our 60th anniversary celebrations.

So, come, enjoy a fabulous brisket or vegetarian dinner, and enjoy some great entertainment by recent alumni of

our B'nai Mitzvah program.

Adults: \$20. Children 6-13: \$10.

**Advance Reservations Required:  
604-325-1812**

### *News from the Sholem Aleichem Seniors ...*

**T**he Sholem Aleichem Seniors are working with **Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers**, a Canada-wide organization set up by the Stephen Lewis Foundation that raises funds for African grandmothers who are looking after their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren.

To help in this campaign, a large jewelry sale will be held in the Spring. If you have any jewelry that you no longer want or need, please consider donating it to this cause. You could either leave it at the Peretz Centre or call Gallia Chud, 604-322-6077, to arrange for pickup.

**P**atsy George, a prominent social worker, instructor and community activist, will speak at the Dec. 8 meeting of the Sholem Aleichem Seniors at 10:30 AM in the Seniors Lounge.

Included in her wide range of professional and voluntary experience has been her interest in immigrant and visible minority women. Ms George is currently president of the United Nations Association in Canada, Vancouver Branch, and director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Among her many awards and recognitions, she is a recipient of the Order of British Columbia.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



# A Sheynem Dank!

Usually, I use this column to thank our volunteers. And indeed, our volunteers have been giving us their all for the past few months, and we're not finished asking them for help yet, what with the Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture coming up November 3-5.

This issue, I need the space for another purpose. So I must simply give a huge collective thank you to everyone who helped at Rosh Hashbona/Yom Kippur. You all made our observance of this very important day in our calendar possible.

I also give a warm collective thanks to everyone who organized and put on the hugely successful Gala Weekend. Those of you who attended one or more of the events know what I mean when I express my pride in our history and community.

I must single out for special mention **Claire Osipov**, chair of the Rosh Hashbona and Gala Weekend committees. Not to mention coming out of retirement and gracing us one more time with her beautiful voice and emotional interpretation of the Yiddish repertoire. And also, **David Millard**, who did a yeoman's job at our High Holidays observance.



It happens: large publications with short deadlines and minimal staff wind up containing errors and omissions. The errors in the gala weekend souvenir program are probably obvious, so I want to mention here some of the omissions.

♥ Peretz alumna, friend, and gala weekend Patron **Lynn Zlotnik's** greeting.

♥ The greeting from Sponsors **Rose Harrod and family**. It should have read: Mazel tov. We are happy to share in this wonderful celebration and hope we will be here for many more generations—Rose and Cy Harrod, Katherine, Sally and Paul Headrick.

♥ Sponsor **Bernice Kastner's** greeting.

♥ **Joan Beckow's** greeting: Mazel tov on reaching such a special anniversary.

♥ **Arlene Jackson** was a member of the Gala Weekend committee.

We are grateful for your contributions to the gala weekend, and I apologize to you all.

— Donna Becker MacDermot, Program Coordinator

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Long may we continue to grow and prosper



We are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture, our *Shule*. Several of our members recall the first anniversary and the hopes and expectations of the founders. Well, we are still here, still talking, singing, teaching, remembering, and looking forward with hope and conviction. We must not forget our heritage. We must rededicate ourselves to their vision and to our commitment to serve a diverse Jewish community, to educate our children and their children about the best of Jewish culture, history, and ethics.

So we gather again, in our building, to enjoy the music, one another's company and our hopes for the future. We are here! Let all those who value our vision come and join us as we continue to grow and change, but we will never waver from our resolve to teach and to learn, to give and receive, and to provide an alternative view of Judaism.

Mazel tov to all our friends and supporters. You have made it happen. Long may we continue to grow and prosper. *Biz a-hundert-un-tsvantszik!*

— Richard Rosenberg

(Reprinted from the Gala Weekend Souvenir Program)

President's Corner



New at the Peretz Centre:



Join us on Saturday afternoons, 1:00-3:00, beginning November 18, for an informal chess club. All levels welcome. For older teens, adults, seniors. Drop-in fee: \$1.00.



# Peretz Centre Schedule, November – December

No school November 12. Last school day December 17. School reopens January 7.

## Youth

- ⊗ B'nai Mitzvah '07 and '08: Check with your teachers
- ⊗ Sunday School: 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 (Friday night Secular-Humanist Shabbes celebration): November 3, 6:30 PM: Julio Gomberoff on his experiences accompanying assassinated Chilean President Salvador Allende to the Soviet Union in the late 1970s. December 8, 6:30 PM: Khanike celebration and sing-along
- ⊗ Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM. Dec. 8, Patsy George, president of the United Nations Association in Canada, Vancouver Branch, and director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Other speakers and topics TBA

## Special Events

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Nov. 3–5           | <i>iFestival Judío!</i> Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture |
| Nov. 19, 10:30 AM  | Annual General Meeting  |
| Dec. 2, 6:00 PM    | Annual Banquet  |
| Dec. 10, 1:30 PM   | Latke-making party  |
| Dec. 16, 4:00 PM   | Peretz Centre Khanike Party                                       |
| Feb. 4, 11:00 AM*  | Tu b'Shvat Seder  |
| Mar. 4, 11:00 AM*  | Purim Party   |
| Apr. 7, 6:00 PM    | Third Seder   |
| May 6, time TBA*   | Lag b'Omer Picnic   |
| Jun. 27, 10:30 AM* | Last day of classes   |

On Wednesday, November 22, 8:00 PM, Peretz friend and recently retired SFU Professor of English and Comparative Literatures Sheila Delany will be giving a talk and audio-visual presentation on Elias



Levita at the JCC as part of the annual Cherie Smith Book Fair. (Book fair schedule: [www.jccgv.com/BookFest2006/BF\\_Brochure06.htm](http://www.jccgv.com/BookFest2006/BF_Brochure06.htm).)

Levita's rip-roaring *Bovo-Bukh*, reworked from an Italian verse romance, revolutionized Yiddish literature, became a staple of Yiddish culture for centuries, and gave us the term *bobe-mayses* (tall tales). Sheila's presentation honours Levita's achievement in its fifteenth-century cultural context: German anti-Judaism, the Italian Renaissance, the first ghetto, the woman reader, attitudes toward Islam and Catholicism.

Admission is free. Everyone is welcome.

*This talk is presented in association with Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture and the Shaya Kirman Memorial Foundation for Yiddish Culture.*

## Latke-making party at the Peretz Centre



Sunday, December 11, 1:30–3:30

Bring your spatula and a frying pan and let's make latkes, have a coffee and a shmooze. Everyone is invited.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY –  
COME LEARN

The latkes will be served at the Khanike party December 16, 4:00.