

פרץ פאפירן **Peretz Papers**

September - October 2003



We wish you a GUT YONTIF, a happy and healthy new year!

Fraytik Tsu Nakht

We invite you to participate in our monthly secular shabbes observance: Candle lighting, wine, challah, a fabulous potluck meal, and a talk by a guest speaker:

September 19, 6:30 PM :

Ken Eisner, Film Critic for the Georgia Straight, *Is there such a thing as "Jewish time?"* Short film (Israeli, with subtitles) and discussion..

Oct. 17, 6:30 PM:

Sheila Delany, SFU Professor of English, *Viva la revolución!* Talk and slideshow on her trip to Cuba, May Day 2003.



Bearing Witness in European Concentration Camps: Dramatic Reading, Sculptures & Photographs

*A multi-faith view of
experiences during a recent visit
to the concentration camps.*

Saturday, October 4, 7:30 PM

at the Peretz Centre

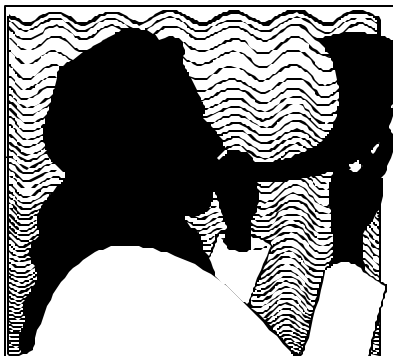
**Suggested Donation: \$10
(proceeds going to the
Holocaust Centre)**

Join the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir!

What better way to spend your Tuesday evenings than singing the songs of the Jewish people, in Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino, and even English? What could be more satisfying than observing joyous holidays and solemn occasions and celebrating Jewish musical culture by singing together?

First rehearsal of the new season: Tuesday, September 2, 7:30 PM.

First performance: September 11, 7:00 PM, the Choir will participate, along with the Solidarity Notes Labour Choir, in *The World Remembers Chile, September 11, 1973: an evening of history, politics, stories, music and images commemorating the 30th anniversary of the military coup.*



Join us for our annual Secular Humanist Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur observance

Followed by a VEGETARIAN/DAIRY/FISH potluck lunch*

Sunday, September 28, 2003, 11:00 AM
\$5/member, \$7/non-member; children free

Please bring a contribution of non-perishable food for *tsedoke*

* the Peretz Centre and Vancouver's new, progressive congregation, Ahavat Olam, will be sharing lunch.

We welcome these groups to our Centre ...

Forget-Me-Not Montessori School

*Show me,
And I'll remember today.
Teach me,
And I'll remember tomorrow.
Allow me to discover,
And I'll remember
FOREVER!*

This poem expresses the philosophical basis of the new Montessori Preschool/Kindergarten now using our beautiful, bright schoolrooms. The highly qualified Montessori and Early Childhood Educators with many years of teaching experience provide a rich program and emergent curriculum.

Register now for September morning or afternoon classes.

For more information, phone 604-324-1035.

Project Isaiah: Tsedoke far Yontif

Please bring your contribution of non-perishable food for Project Isaiah's Jewish Foodbank Drive during the High Holidays period. There will be a collection box in the Centre lobby and we would like to fill it up.



The Vancouver Academy of Dance

is now offering dance classes for all ages and levels at the Peretz Centre. The dance school offers quality training in ballet (RAD & ISTD methods, examinations), hip hop, breakdancin', jazz, Chinese dance, lyrical, tap and musical theatre.

The faculty consists of dedicated and experienced instructors, and in the last year students performed for the Queen of England, the Prime Minister and the International Olympics Committee (IOC) for the 2010 Sea to Sky bid.

For more information: 604-231-8293 or info@vancouverdance.com.

Yiddish Class with Chaya Fuchs Newman

Whether you want to reacquaint yourself with your *mameloshn* or learn Yiddish as an additional language, this is the class for you.

Yiddish, the language of the Jewish people of Eastern Europe, is one of the richest languages in the world. It incorporates elements from many different languages and was the inspiration for the international language, Esperanto.

Chaya provides reading, conversation, songs and fun for all levels and ages. Day or evening classes. First class: Tuesday, October 7, 7:00-9:00 PM. Additional classes TBA.

The Jewish Festival of the Arts

As of July, the Jewish Festival of the Arts (a.k.a. Jewish Film Festival) has moved its office into our Madriach room. Festival organizers Morey Altman and Kathy Evans will be using the office full time during the months leading up to the festival and part time during the rest of the year. We welcome this opportunity to support one of Vancouver's premiere cultural events and to broaden the scope of the Peretz Centre's commitment to furthering *yidishkayt* and Jewish culture.

Ahavat Olam at the Peretz Centre for Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur

We are proud to announce that Vancouver's new, vibrant and progressive congregation, Ahavat Olam, under the leadership of Rabbi David Mivasair, will be holding its first High Holiday services at the Peretz Centre.

Ahavat Olam has invited the Peretz Centre to share a vegetarian pot luck lunch with them and to participate in afternoon workshops.

After lunch, Reb David and Moslem scholar Nurdin Shanani will share teachings and lead a discussion about the Sarah-Hagar story in the Jewish and Moslem traditions, focusing on new ways understanding this story for the future.

Following will be three concurrent workshops: Reconciliation; Transforming our Relationship to Judaism; and Ha-Yom Harat Olam: Theology and Thermodynamics.

For information, phone Reb David at 604-875-1781.

Jewish Food Bank

Over 740 people rely on the Jewish Food Bank each month. The JFB's basic requirements are:

- 640 cans of salmon
- 1000 cans of tuna
- 950 cans of vegetables
- 320 cans of tomato paste
- 550 packets of pasta
- 680 packets of macaroni cheese
- 80 kg of rice
- 100 lbs of prunes
- 450 cartons of juice
- 4800 tea bags
- 320 jars of jam
- 50 kg of kasha

You can help! Please add your contribution to the collection box in the Peretz Centre lobby.



A warm THANK YOU to Jennifer Wolf, who has retired from teaching our Sunday School. Jennifer, we hope you enjoy your new role as a parent/supporter!



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We are rapidly approaching Rosh Hashanah, the time for reflection and renewal. Our organization is collectively poised for just such an endeavour as we enter our new season. We are continuing our well established programs, planning new ones and preparing a number of special events which I know will be of great interest. In this spirit of renewal, I am extending an invitation to all of you to participate in this planning process by joining one of our committees or by putting yourself forward as a candidate for our Board.

I would also like to welcome all of you to the new season which I hope you will find interesting and rewarding. I especially want to encourage parents to attend *Bagels*, etc. on Sunday mornings after dropping your children off. You won't be sorry.

To quote from the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, of which we are an affiliate:

Looking for a way to be culturally Jewish with your family and within a Jewish community group? Looking for a way to connect your Jewishness through history, civilization, literature and ethical values? Looking for a way to celebrate holidays and life cycle events with relevant and meaningful words and music? Looking for a way to express a Jewishness that's progressive, modern and personal? Looking for a Jewish community that welcomes multicultural families, gay men and women and self-identified Jews? Looking for an educational or enrichment program for your children or yourself?

The Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture is for you.

— David Skulski

Please allow me to introduce myself ...

Many of our members and readers know me, but for those of you who don't, I'm pleased to introduce myself.

I've been a volunteer at the Peretz Centre since I joined the Choir about five? six? years ago (time moves quickly when you're having fun, as they say). After a couple of years, I joined the Choir Committee. A few years later I joined the Peretz Executive, where I served for two years, and the Program Committee, of which I am still a member. When the Program Coordinator position became available this past Spring, I applied and was the successful candidate.

My first task was to clean up the mess that had accumulated during the six or so months the Peretz Centre was without a Coordinator and to set up the office and computer according to my work style. After that, in

addition to the small daily jobs of managing an office, major projects I've been working on have included getting the website (designed by Jean Stadnicki Leggett) up and adding content, creating a database for our membership and mailing lists, coordinating the Third Seder, Choir Spring Concert and B'nai Mitzvah events, and getting the Peretz Papers going again.

I'm thrilled to be working at the Peretz Centre; I enjoy the job and the people I work with and talk to daily. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the Board of Directors and members to increase our membership and profile in the Jewish Community, and continue to fulfill our commitment to furthering secular humanistic Judaism and *yidishkayt* in our community.

— Donna Becker MacDermot, Program Coordinator

Peretz Centre Schedule, Fall, 2003

Youth

Detailed schedules, including holidays and special events, will be given out during the first classes.

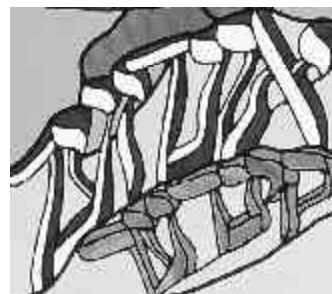
B'nai Mitzvah Class graduating June 2004: Sundays, 10:30–12:30. **First class: Sunday, September 14.**

B'nai Mitzvah Class graduating June 2005: Sundays, 10:30–12:30. **First class: Sunday, September 21.**

Club Peretz (8-11 years old): Sundays, 10:30–12:30. **First class: Sunday, September 14.**

Sunday School (5-7 year olds): Sundays, 10:30–12:30. **First class: Sunday, September 14.**

Youth Group (post-B'nai Mitzvah): moving to Friday evenings. **First meeting: Friday, September 19.**



Adults and Seniors

Always on Sunday: Lox & Talks, 11:00. **First meeting: Sunday, September 14.** David Skulski will read a story by IL Peretz, followed by a discussion. Future schedule TBA.

Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7:30–9:45 PM. **First rehearsal: Tuesday, September 2.**

Yiddish Evening Class: Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00 PM. **First class: Tuesday, October 7.** Ten sessions per term.

Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM. **First meeting: Friday, September 12.**

Fraytik Tsu Nakht (Secular Shabbes celebration and guest speaker): one Friday per month, 6:30 PM. **September 19, October 17, November date TBA.**



Special Events

September 7, 10:30 AM:	Registration, refreshments, and shmooze
September 28, 11:00 AM:	Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur observance.
October 4, 7:30 PM:	"Bearing Witness" in European Concentration Camps
November 2, 10:30 AM:	Annual General Meeting
November 22, time TBA:	Annual Banquet
December 21, time TBA:	Chanukah celebration
March 7, time TBA:	Purim celebration
April 10, time TBA:	Community Third Seder
June 5, time TBA:	Jewish Folk Choir Annual Spring Concert
June 20, time TBA:	Closing Sunday

The Peretz Centre Annual General Meeting

will be held November 2, 2003, at 10:30 AM. That gives you about two months to think about joining the new Board of Directors that will be selected at the AGM.

We urge all members to consider becoming part of the group that makes the decisions about future directions for the Centre.