

Peretz Papers

פרץ פאפירן

September - October 2004



I.L. Peretz

Gut yontif to you and your family - may you have a sweet and healthy year!

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

October 15, 6:30 PM: Al Stein, *The Jewish Underworld*.

To attend, you may bring a dish **or** pay (\$8/members, \$10/non-members).

Please RSVP to Gallia, 604-322-6077.

Yiddish Classes

with Chaya Fuchs Newman

Reading, conversation, songs and FUN
for all levels and all ages

CLASSES BEGIN IN OCTOBER:

Wednesdays or Thursdays, 7:00 PM
(Which do you prefer?)

Please call the office for information or to regis-

Revival!

of our SMASH HIT program

Jewish Young People's Theatre

directed by Noah Lepawsky

First meeting:
Sunday, Oct. 3
10:30 a.m.

Future meetings
to be decided at
first meeting

acting
directing
writing
sound
lighting
costume
makeup



JOIN US for our Secular Humanist Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur Observance

Followed by a pot-luck early supper

Sunday, September 19, 4:00 PM

\$5/member, \$7/non-member; children free.
Childcare available if requested in advance

Please bring a contribution of non-perishable food for tzedoke
(goes to Jewish Food Bank)

his past May, Leslie Dyson accompanied youth members Kerry Dyson, Ben Neuman, Mark Neuman and Anton Friedman to the CSJO (Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations) youth conference in Philadelphia.

In this and the next two issues of *The Peretz Papers*, we will publish their reports, in alphabetical order. We are very proud of these young men.

Dear Peretz Executive,

I would like to thank you for paying my registration for the CSJO conference and I will try to explain why helping us go to Philadelphia was worth it to the Peretz community.

The CSJO conference helped me understand more about the Jewish culture in other areas like Toronto and Philadelphia. I found out that there are other organizations like the Peretz Shule and they represent the same group of people but are still very different.

At the conference there were workshops about youth racism, humour and faux mitsvahs (when non Jewish kids have a bar or bas

mitsvah without having to do any lessons or community presentation, they just have a big party). At the faux mitsvah we discussed what we thought about them and what we think should happen with them. Not everybody agreed but that made the discussion more interesting. I believed that we should let them have them but everyone else was against it.

At the humour workshop we played drama games and everyone had a great time.

On the first night all the kids and young adults got together to have a "ice breaker". This was great because you got to know

everybody's name and each person told a little about themselves. This was also fun because of all the different accents everybody had.

Every night the kids and young adults got together and played ultimate Frisbee until about three or four o'clock in the morning. During the day all the kids hung out and got to know about each other and learned about where the others lived.

I am definitely going to go back next year and I am saving money already.

I think I have found my people (landsmen).

— Kerry Dyson, June 14, 2004

Top 10 Reasons to Join the Peretz Centre

1. You get to belong to a diverse, inclusive community of non-religious Jews.
2. Your non-Jewish partners and friends are welcomed and encouraged.
3. You pay reduced fees for all Peretz events and programs.
4. You get a free subscription to *The Peretz Papers*.
5. You can rent facilities at the Peretz Centre (fantastic for weddings, receptions, meetings, etc.) at a reduced rate.
6. You and your family have access to B'nai Mitsvah, Sunday School, Youth programs and the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir. (These programs are available to members only).
7. You get free access to the Paula and Shaya Kirman Library.
8. You get to call the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir "our choir."
9. You get the mitsvah of supporting Vancouver's only secular humanist Jewish organization.
10. It's FUN!!



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

A Sheynem Dank!

I'd like to give a general Thank You to all the people who jumped in and helped out at the final events last spring—the very successful closing concert in Music at the Peretz Centre series and the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir's Spring Concert..

I didn't keep notes—hey, I thought I'd remember—but as usual, members of our Board worked tirelessly behind the scenes, especially President David Skulski and Secretary Yvonne Green. I also remember Jackie Weiler, Willie Low and Mendel Skulski serving drinks in the kitchen. Rose Harrod as always was a huge help organizing the choir concert, phoning choir members I can't reach by email as well as making the phone calls that bring out the audience.

I especially want to thank retiring B'nai Mitzvah teachers Shane and Leslie Dyson. Shane team-taught with B'nai Mitzvah program founder Soli Jackson for eight years and then with Peretz Centre Treasurer Al Stein for two. For the B'nai Mitzvah 04 class, Leslie Dyson joined Shane—a proven team. Together they introduced great innovations, most notably a debate on the survival of Jewish culture vs assimilation and a role play of the appalling conditions that existed in the sweatshops many of our ancestors worked in.

Thank you, Leslie and Shane. And thank you, volunteers, those I mentioned and all the others I didn't mention—YOU MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE!

—Donna MacDermot, Program Coordinator

On August 8, we held a brainstorming meeting which was attended by about 30 members and friends. There were some new faces and lots of new ideas, many of which had considerable merit, but as usual we need to muster the human and financial resources—your volunteer help, membership and donations—to bring these ideas to fruition. A full report is posted on our website, or call the office to get a copy.



On behalf of the Board, I'd like to welcome new member Pamela Hyland, who not only attended the visioning meeting but volunteered to serve on the committee organizing our new program, the Philosophers Cafe. A vareme bagrisung to you.

Finally, this mailing includes our new rentals brochure, designed by Leslie Dyson. Please help us spread the word—our beautiful building is available for weddings and other simchas, meetings, classes, etc. Special rates for members.

Gut yontif, a sweet and healthy new year to you and your family.

—David Skulski

Jewish Community Foundation Grants Support Peretz Centre Projects

The Board and membership of the Peretz Centre would like to acknowledge and thank the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver for three grants that have enabled us to undertake the following projects:

1) The online cataloguing and organization of the Shaya and Paula Kirman Yiddish and English library.

2) Security systems upgrade, including the installation of closed circuit TV monitoring of the entrance foyer, the installation of a lexan panel to protect Rob Friedman's valuable stained glass windows, enhanced lighting at the front entrance and throughout the parkade.

3) Computer transcription of Searle Friedman's large collection of handwritten scores and arrangements of

Jewish choral music. The preservation of this legacy will ensure that Jewish choral music will continue to be available for performance by various community choirs. This project is currently underway.

To learn more about the Jewish Community Foundation's support of various community agencies, check their website at www.vancouverjewishfoundation.com

Peretz Centre Schedule, September - October

* no classes Sunday, October 10 (Thanksgiving)

Youth

B'nai Mitzvah 05: **First class: September 19**

B'nai Mitzvah 06: **First class: TBA**

Sunday School: every Sunday except as noted above, 10:30-12:30*. **First class: September 12.**

NEW! Jewish Young People's Theatre (ages 11 and up) is starting up again, led by JYPT graduate and professional actor Noah Lepawsky. **First meeting: October 3, 10:30 AM.** Time/days of future meetings will be decided at the first meeting.

Adults and Seniors

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

Yiddish Class: Wednesdays or Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM. *Which works better for you?* **First class: October 5 or 6**

Fraytik Tsu Nakht (Friday night Secular-Humanist Shabbes celebration): **First FTN: October 15, 6:30 pm.** Speaker: Al Stein, *The Jewish Underworld.*

Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM. **First meeting: October 1.** Speakers and topics TBA

Special Events

- Sep. 19, 4:00 PM: Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur observance
- Oct. 29-31, times TBA: iFestival Judío! Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture
- Oct. 30, 8:00 PM: Music at the Peretz Centre
- Nov 7, 10:30 AM: Annual General Meeting
- Nov. 27, time TBA: Annual Banquet
- Dec.4, 8:00 PM: Music at the Peretz Centre
- Dec. 12, time TBA: Peretz Centre Chanuka Party
- Jan. 23, 11:00 am: Tu b'Shvat Seder
- Mar. 5, 8:00 PM: Music at the Peretz Centre
- May 14, 8:00 PM: Music at the Peretz Centre
- Jun. 5, time TBA: Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir Spring Concert
- Jun. 18, time TBA: Closing Sunday

In the works: *The Peretz Centre's new Program Committee is currently developing some exciting new programs. Details will be announced as soon as they are available. Or, check our website for updates. The committee welcomes your ideas, or consider joining. Call Seemah Berson, 604-327-6799.*

New programs:

- Philosopher's Cafe (starting in January)
- Teen Choir, ages 12 and up, directed by Claire Osipov, singing an international folk repertoire, mostly in English
- Community Sundays and Family Friday Nights

**We wish a speedy recovery
to Gallia Chud**



...to Arleen Jackson and the clan on the birth of her first granddaughter, Haleigh Sage, to Cori Jackson and Darren Scott.

...to Rose Harrod, on her 80th birthday.



**Saturday September 11, 8:00 PM:
Cantata Santa Maria de Iquique
Performed by Solidarity Notes Labour
Choir and Latin American Musicians
For information: 604-460-0891**