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• ED BEDDOME • TOMMY & JIMMY DORSEY

The Transcona Country Club and the  
Memory Lane Orchestra  
(Winnipeg's Finest 16-piece Dance Band)  
invite you to attend a

## Valentine Tea Dance

Sunday Afternoon, February 11, 1996



1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
at the  
Transcontinental Ballroom  
(Dugald and Plessis Road)  
Optional brunch will be served  
from 12:00 Noon  
For reservations please call Beverley  
222-1640  
Admission \$15.00 per person  
(Brunch additional)

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• FOX TROT • SAMBA • POLKA • BALLROOM

### Annual Chai concert promises to inspire audience

Brand new Oriental music, a Yiddish meringue and two exciting new works by an innovative choreographer from Mexico City will highlight this year's annual concert of the Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble, scheduled for February 6 and 7 at Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain (CCFM).

Chai, which appeared last year at Mexico's Festival Aviv Carlos Halpert and which will perform in February at Walt Disney World's Epcot Centre, is known internationally for its unique blend of Jewish culture new and old. Now in its 32nd year of operation, Chai is North America's oldest and largest Israeli folk dance and music group, and the only group of its kind to perform to live musical accompaniment.

Artistic Directors Tamar Barr and Casey Chisick have assembled an eclectic mix of material for this, Chai's 25th annual concert and its second appearance at the more intimate venue offered by the CCFM. "We are confident that there is something for everybody in this year's show," said Chisick, who is busily preparing the renowned Chai orchestra for the event. "It's a show the whole family can enjoy together."

Indeed, the concert promises to be one of the most action-packed and exciting Chai has ever offered. From the opening "Hava Nagila", a medley of traditional Israeli songs brought to life by the renowned choreographer Alberto Zirlinger of Mexico City, to the closing "Yalda Yechefa", a Mediterranean suite created by the well-known Guillermo (Memo) Treisman and first performed in Winnipeg by Mexico's Ma'agal CDI at Folklorama 1994, the show is a whirlwind of style, color and life.

The influence of Zirlinger is especially evident in this year's concert. Zirlinger visited Winnipeg last October, conducting several Israeli dance workshops, staging two new works for Chai and making many new friends and admirers in the process. In addition to "Hava Nagila", Chai will also be performing "Machol Ro'im" ("Dance of the Shepherds"), a thrilling medley originally created by Zirlinger and his wife, Dafne, for their own group, Achshav U Le Tamid. Interestingly, both Alberto and Dafne Zirlinger will be joining Chai onstage next month when the group performs at Walt Disney World's Epcot Centre.

All this is not to suggest that no creative juice flows outside Mexico, though. Dance director Tamar Barr will premiere a brand

new suite of Yemenite and Oriental dance, entitled "Tsa'ad Mizrahi" ("Oriental Step"), which she has created along with Shachy Leven, a longtime Chai dancer making her Chai choreography debut this year. The suite builds on the innovative themes Barr has explored in her previous Yemenite works, and features chart-topping music by Israeli artists Achinoam Nini (Noa) and Etti Ankri, among others.

Assistant dance director and veteran choreographer Merav Barr, who last year collaborated with her sister Tamar on the wildly successful "Klezmer Jamboree" musical comedy suite, will turn her talents in a different direction with her new work, "Shlosha Yamin" ("Three Days"), a modern piece also set to the music of Achinoam Nini. In addition, the Barr sisters have collaborated again this year on the unique "Alle Brider", a familiar Yiddish song given an unusual twist by the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band. (How does a Yiddish meringue sound to you?)

Chai regulars will be able to enjoy such perennial audience favorites as "Zeh Hazemer", "Adon Olam" and "Rumania", among others. They will also, as always, be entertained by the talented and versatile Chai singers, now under the co-direction of Cal Reich and Tracy Kasner. The singers will be featured throughout the show, including new works adapted from the Israeli artists David Broza and Araf. The Chai orchestra, conducted by Casey Chisick, will also be on hand, lending its uniquely energetic and professional touch to the proceedings.

Chisick confirms that although Chai's focus has become increasingly centred on international travel in recent years, the annual Winnipeg concert is still very much the group's priority. "We really look forward to the opportunity to showcase our new material to our home audience and supporters. In particular, we hope that parents and grandparents will be sure to bring their children and grandchildren along this year, to help expose a new generation to the magic of Israeli music and dance. There's no better way to help Jewish youth connect with their culture - and that's a responsibility we in Chai take very seriously. We are committed to putting on a show that will thrill and inspire our audience."

Don't miss out on this opportunity to spend an evening with the internationally-acclaimed Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble. It promises to be a multi-faceted, culturally rich event to remember.

### Around town / U.S. news

#### Jewish cyberspace links Torah talk from S.F. to N.Y. and beyond

By LESLIE KATZ  
Jewish Bulletin of Northern California  
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - Classes on Maimonides or the application of halachah to daily life aren't exactly easy to find for Jews in, say, Hong Kong or remote areas of the Pacific Northwest.

But in cyber-space, those classes and others are available to anyone with a modem, a telephone line and an Internet connection. "Internet classes are never going to be as good as a live learning experience," says Rabbi Yaakov Menken, an expert in cyber-Jewish education.

"But it is a valuable resource for those who don't have time for classes outside and those who live in places where there are not the local resources."

Menken founded and maintains Project Genesis: Torah on the Information Superhighway, a Jewish learning center on the Internet offering classes on Jewish philosophy and practice as well as Jewish archives, Torah commentaries and general information about happenings in the Jewish world.

The 30-something Orthodox rabbi, who holds an engineering degree from Princeton University, operates Project Genesis from his home office in Spring Valley, N.Y.

He visited San Francisco recently to talk with staff at

the Bureau of Jewish Education and Hebrew Academy about Torah on the information super-highway.

Currently, there are more than 10 interpretations of the weekly Torah portion available on the Internet. Four are available through Project Genesis, as is one interpretation of the Haftarah.

The privately funded project started in 1993 with a

single class exploring a specific work on Jewish ethics. Since then, it has expanded to become the largest Jewish learning center in the cyberworld, with more than a dozen classes and approximately 5,000 students downloading class material. Those subscribers come from as far away as Sweden, Norway, Argentina and Brazil.

#### Jim Carr to speak at Shaarey Zedek

Jim Carr has recently returned from the Middle East where he has been reporting on the Palestinian election, the peace process, and relations between Israel and Syria, for the *Winnipeg Free Press*. He will be the featured speaker at the Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood's annual Inter-Faith Luncheon which will be held at the synagogue on February 7.



JIM CARR

Carr is a well-known Winnipeg politician and journalist who served as a Liberal MLA from 1988 to 1992, and has been a regular contributor to the CBC and the *Globe and Mail* as well as the *Free Press*. He recently received a Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship for a period of study in London this spring.

More information about the February 7 luncheon is available from Shaarey Zedek Synagogue.

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SARAH SOMMER CHAI FOLK ENSEMBLE

in concert

Tuesday, February 6 and  
Wednesday, February 7, 1996

8:00 p.m.  
Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain  
340 Provencher Blvd.

Tickets \$18.00 adults / \$9.00 students & seniors, available at:  
Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre  
1588 Main Street  
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### Around town

#### "Granpa was a goy, Bubbie was a yid. I'm a fatalistic atheistic mixed up kid."

From the pen of one of Canada's best young writers comes the witty and irreverent "The League of Nathans", a co-production of Winnipeg Jewish Theatre and Prairie Theatre Exchange.

With humor, compassion and honesty, award-winning playwright Jason Sherman explores friendship, loyalty, and the quest for identity among three 30-something Jewish men, all boyhood friends who have drifted apart and are reunited by a mysterious telegram. Indeed, it was Sherman's own personal quest that led to his penning "League", winner of the 1992 Chalmers Canadian Play Award.

"I wrote 'The League of Nathans' because I needed to sort out my confusion about what it means to be a Jew, particularly in the era of 'the Jewish state'."

"Like many Jews of my generation (I'm 33), I grew up learning and believing in the myth of Israel as little David to the Arab world's monstrous Goliath. I grew up living in fear of my life and the lives of the Jewish people because of the constant threat of destruction at the hands of 'the Arabs' - the scenario of 'the Jews being pushed into the sea.'"

"I sat transfixed in front of the TV as Israeli athletes were murdered; I collected every article I could find about the kidnapping. I was told all Arabs are terrorists. I had no reason to disbelieve what I was told."

"I recall, at the start of the Yom Kippur War, one teacher at my Hebrew night school widening her eyes and warning us of the dangers to all of us 'if Egypt wins the war.' 'I grew up believing that Jews owed it to

the world to occupy a higher moral ground; that Jews took seriously their own commandments; that Israel considered itself a moral beacon in the western world."

"And then I lost my naiveté."

"I realized that 'Jews' were one thing: 'Israelis' another; 'Zionists' yet another."

"I learned that 'Arabs' were one thing: 'Palestinians' another; 'Terrorists' a third."

"I learned that there is more to the history of Israel than David and Goliath."

"I watched the news reports of the destruction of Lebanon and wondered how the morally superior Jews could do such a thing."

"I saw the pictures of the Holocaust and asked how such a thing could be done to the Jews."

"In short, I was confused; terribly confused. I didn't understand how a Jew could support the violent policies of the State of Israel and remain a Jew."

"So I invented three friends and created a story that would allow me to show how three young boys, all of them growing up with the same myths and legends that I grew up with, could come to take up different positions; one a believer; the other a doubter; a third indifferent to all."

"There are of course many 'positions' one can take to the problems of the Middle East."

"I hope 'The League of Nathans' shows how people come to take up those positions."

"The League of Nathans" runs from February 1-17 at Prairie Theatre Exchange, 3rd floor Portage Place. For more information, call PTE.

Winnipeg Jewish Theatre  
& Prairie Theatre Exchange  
present

## The League of Nathans

by Jason Sherman

Recipient - 1995 Governor General Award  
directed by Richard Greenblatt

February 1 - 17  
Prairie Theatre Exchange  
3rd Floor, Portage Place

Winner 1992 Chalmers Canadian Play Award  
1992 Dora Award Nomination Outstanding New Play

"startlingly funny and true" - *Theatrum Magazine*  
"ambitious theme...intelligent dialogue" - *Globe & Mail*

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Pépinière / Ronde villageoise  
Hendel / Four Temperaments  
Rota / String Concerto  
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\$21 adult / \$19 senior / \$12 student  
Tickets available at Mary Scorer Books  
McGill-Hobson Booksellers  
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manitoba chamber orchestra

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## Hunt with the predator!

# MISERERE

by Peters  
February 10, 13 & 16, 1996

Predator and prey. Nosferatu explores the heart of a vampire who feeds off the life blood of a corrupt people. In this Manitoba Opera premiere of Randolph Peters' masterpiece, Nosferatu's daughter, played by Heidi Klassen, embarks on a quest to find her father and to make sense of her own life. She encounters the insoluble paradox that he is at once the powerful protector of the outcasts, the Dispossessed People, and a horrific though immortal predator.

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February 1st, 7:30 PM  
University of Manitoba, (University Centre) Multi-Purpose Room