

For Immediate Release

## **New Koret-Taube Initiative to Fuel Jewish Cultural Innovation**

(Foster City, CA. August 3, 2009) – The Peninsula Jewish Community Center (PJCC) in Foster City announced today that it has received a \$500,000 grant from the Koret Foundation and Taube Philanthropies to launch the Koret-Taube Initiative on Jewish Peoplehood. The four-year grant will support innovative expressions of Jewish culture; intellectual engagement with Jewish history, thought, and peoplehood; and building bridges with the people and the State of Israel.

The Koret Foundation and Taube Philanthropies selected the PJCC for this initiative because of its demonstrated commitment to Jewish programming and because the Center has developed an audience for innovative Jewish programs with broad appeal. Thanks to the Koret-Taube Initiative on Jewish Peoplehood, the Center will provide an increasingly high caliber of stimulating and enriching Jewish programming, encompassing film, music, lectures, art, history, and explorations of contemporary Israel. Working in collaboration with other local JCCs and universities, the PJCC will offer a variety of opportunities and avenues to connect to all things Jewish.

Anticipated guest speakers at the PJCC will include leading scholars such as Dr. Hava Tirosh-Samuelsan, an author and professor of Jewish history at Arizona State University, and author Rabbi Deborah Prinz. Arts programming will feature painter Jill Nathanson, Israeli Artist-in-Residence Elyasaf Kowner, and Zach Pine, an environmental artist. Symposia are scheduled to address topics such as Jewish ethics, food and the environment, Judaism and healthy eating, and adult Jewish learning led by distinguished educators.

An integral part of the Initiative will be a selection of innovative arts and culture events sure to appeal to a broad demographic, such as the August 16 concert starring The Wronglers and Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys. This bluegrass event will feature “Jewgrass,” a fusion of Eastern European Klezmer and Bluegrass styles. From literary festivals to award-winning art exhibits, the Koret-Taube Initiative at the PJCC will continue to pave the way for cutting-edge explorations of modern Jewish life.

“This generous grant will help the PJCC to enhance Jewish programming, bringing the highest-caliber presenters to our community,” says Deborah Pinsky, PJCC Executive Director. “We are honored to partner with the Koret and Taube foundations to explore an even broader array of Jewish cultural and educational opportunities.”

To learn more about the PJCC and the Koret-Taube Initiative on Jewish Peoplehood programs and events, please visit [www.pjcc.org/Koret-Taube](http://www.pjcc.org/Koret-Taube). The PJCC is located at 800 Foster City Blvd. in Foster City, CA. For more information, please visit [www.pjcc.org](http://www.pjcc.org) or call 650.212.PJCC (7522).

### About the Koret Foundation

*An entrepreneurial spirit guides Koret in addressing societal challenges and strengthening Bay Area life. Koret adds to the region's vitality by promoting educational opportunity, contributing to a diverse cultural landscape, and bolstering organizations that are innovative in their approaches to meeting the needs of the Jewish and general communities.*

### About the Taube Foundation

*Guided by a long-term commitment to both secular and Jewish life, the Taube Philanthropies provide direct and indirect support to projects and institutions that advance the concepts and principles of a free, democratic society, including open economic enterprise, academic freedom of inquiry, and limited government, and programs that support Jewish heritage, survival, and cultural celebration.*

### About the PJCC

*The Peninsula Jewish Community Center (PJCC) was established over 60 years ago and partners with various organizations around the Peninsula to help build a more caring and connected community. Offering life-enhancing programs for people of all ages, faiths and backgrounds, the PJCC is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. For more information, visit [www.pjcc.org](http://www.pjcc.org) or call 650.212.PJCC (7522).*

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