

## The Minstrel and the Storyteller stories and songs of the Jewish People



Photo by Frank English.

with  
**Peninnah Schram**  
Storyteller  
and  
**Gerard Edery**  
Singer/Guitarist

Storytelling takes many forms—and here is an inspiring new type of program which interweaves story and song: *The Minstrel and the Storyteller*. Peninnah Schram and Gerard Edery combine their vibrant talents in performing word and music to bring you an intimate connection with the Jewish oral tradition.

**PENINNAH SCHRAM**, an internationally known storyteller, is noted for her elegant and dynamic way of telling stories.

**GERARD EDERY**, a world renowned singer, guitarist, composer, and recording artist, brings a classically trained baritone and the skills of a virtuoso guitarist to his immense repertoire of Jewish songs. Considered one of the leading interpreters of Sephardic Song, he has been honored with the Sephardic Musical Heritage Award and has received a Meet the Composer grant for his original songs.

**“Gerard Edery gave a sterling performance.”** *New York Times*

### Programs for Performance by The Minstrel and the Storyteller

**THERE IS A TIME** – A celebration of the Jewish Lifecycle

**ON EAGLE’S WINGS** – Carrying Passover tales in story and song

**LOVE, COURTSHIP & MARRIAGE** – Tales and folksongs from the Jewish Oral Tradition

**8 TALES FOR 8 NIGHTS** – Songs and stories for Chanukah

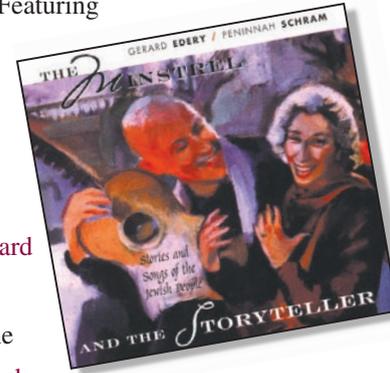
### For Bookings, contact:

**Gerard Edery** or **Peninnah Schram**  
(212) 924-3746 (212) 787-0626

Please visit the website: [www.sefaradrecords.com](http://www.sefaradrecords.com) for more information about performances and CDs of *The Minstrel and the Storyteller*

Their CD: *The Minstrel and the Storyteller: Stories and Songs of the Jewish People*, was released in 1999. Featuring six Jewish folktales interwoven with songs, this 72 minute CD is available through

**SEFARAD RECORDS**  
[www.sefaradrecords.com](http://www.sefaradrecords.com)  
[management@sefaradrecords.com](mailto:management@sefaradrecords.com)



“This enchanting blend combines the rich baritone of Sephardic singer-guitarist, Gerard Edery, with the captivating skills of storytelling doyenne, Peninnah Schram.”  
Hadassah Magazine

“The aptly chosen songs, artfully interjected into the stories and entwined around them, polish this Jewish folk-literature gem.”  
Ellen Mandel  
*Booklist*, American Library Association

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### Reviews

“Peninnah Schram has enchanted audiences young and old with her stories told with humor and depth.”  
Elie Wiesel

“It was a joy to work with you, to listen to the beautiful telling of your stories, and to see you enliven our stage.”  
Rabbi David Woznica, Director  
92nd Street Y Bronfman Center for Jewish Life, NYC

“Last week, we had a special treat – a storyteller came to our school. Peninnah Schram told very, very, good stories... the best we ever heard.”  
A student at S/A/R Academy, Riverdale, NY

“When Peninnah Schram tells a story, even the leaves on the trees stop trembling to listen.”  
Jane Yolen, Author

“Peninnah Schram is the doyenne of today’s Jewish storytellers.”  
Phyllis Ellen Funke, Hadassah Magazine

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For further information and fees, please write or call:

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[Peninnah1@aol.com](mailto:Peninnah1@aol.com)

# Storyteller



# Peninnah Schram

# She mixes love with magic and shares it

## About Storytelling

Storytelling has always played an important role in people's lives in all cultures. Wit and wisdom, traditions and customs, values and morals, history and identity have been most effectively transmitted from one generation to the next through the art of the storyteller. When people listen to a story, their imaginations are unleashed and can carry them on flights of fancy which may possibly be an influence on their dreams and goals for the future.

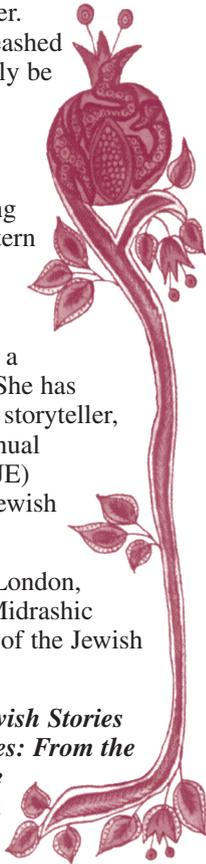
## About the Storyteller

**PENINNAH SCHRAM**, storyteller, teacher, recording artist, and author, is Professor of Speech and Drama at Stern College of Yeshiva University. As a storyteller, Peninnah travels across the United States and other countries presenting storytelling workshops and performances of stories from Jewish oral tradition. She is often invited as a keynote speaker and as scholar/storyteller-in-residence. She has appeared at major conferences and festivals as a featured storyteller, including the National Storytelling Festival and at the annual Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) Conference. Peninnah is the Founding Director of The Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92nd Street Y, NYC.

Peninnah first heard stories from her parents in New London, Connecticut. Her father, a cantor, told her Biblical and Midrashic tales, while her mother shared the proverbs and folktales of the Jewish people.

Peninnah is the author of several books, including *Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another*, and *Stories Within Stories: From the Jewish Oral Tradition*. She has also recorded a CD, *The Minstrel and the Storyteller*, with singer/guitarist Gerard Ederly.

As a storyteller, Peninnah is a recipient of the prestigious 1995 Covenant Award for Outstanding Jewish Educators awarded by The Covenant Foundation. The National Storytelling Network has presented her with two distinguished awards: The Circle of Excellence Award (1999); and the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award "For sustained and exemplary contributions to storytelling in America."



## About the Programs

Through the masterful use of her voice, her animated facial expressions, and the spoken word, Peninnah Schram reaches out to involve her listeners in the story. Often Peninnah incorporates song (a nigun, a lullaby, or a love song) and audience participation into her stories. In this way, the dialogue of storytelling continues to strengthen the Jewish heritage.

Jews are a storytelling people with a rich treasure-house of stories that includes thought-provoking and serious tales, as well as clever humorous folktales, which teach, entertain and enlighten.

The stories Peninnah tells are legends, parables and folktales from Biblical, Talmudic, Midrashic, Hasidic, Ashkenazic, Sephardic and Israeli sources—from written and oral Jewish tradition. Programs explore either a specific theme/character/value or various types of stories.

**THE ORAL TRADITION** – A series of talks on the Jewish oral tradition illustrated by a wide variety of stories. Tailored for Adult Education programs, Scholar/Artist-in-Residence, conferences.

**HUMOR & HOKHMA WITH A DETOUR THROUGH HELM** – Wit and wisdom stories (with commentary), including fool and trickster tales.

**STORIES OF CELEBRATION** – Stories of the holiday or life cycle event, and focusing on the values and customs of that holiday or celebration.

**ONE GENERATION TELLS ANOTHER** – Personal and family stories, as well as traditional tales of the Jewish People.

**AN EVENING WITH ELIJAH THE PROPHET** – Meet the master of miracles in his many disguises through tales that range from faith-inspiring to humorous.

### Titles For Other Programs:

- SACRED STORIES FOR SHABBAT
- SEPHARDIC LOVE STORIES
- YIDDISH TALES: MOSTLY ENGLISH
- A TABLE WITH PEOPLE
- THE VOICE OF THE WOMAN IN JEWISH FOLKTALES

## Workshops

**KERNELS OF A POMEGRANATE** – A participatory workshop teaching the art of storytelling for educators, clergy, parents.

**TRAVELING IN TIME** – A participatory workshop in finding and telling your personal and family stories.

## Storytelling Resources written by Peninnah Schram

*Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another* – Jason Aronson\*, 1987. 64 stories and folktales from Jewish oral and written sources. Foreword by Elie Wiesel.

*Tales of Elijah the Prophet* – Jason Aronson\*, 1991. 36 folk stories of Elijah the Prophet, the master of miracles. Foreword by Dov Noy.

*Chosen Tales: Stories Told by Jewish Storytellers* – Edited by Peninnah Schram – Jason Aronson\*, 1995. 68 favorite tales. Foreword by Rabbi Avraham Weiss. Winner, 1995 National Jewish Book Award.

*Stories Within Stories: From the Jewish Oral Tradition* – Jason Aronson\*, 2000. 50 frame narratives, mostly folktales from the Israel Folktale Archives. Foreword by Howard Schwartz.

*The Hungry Clothes And Other Jewish Folktales* – Sterling Publishing Co., 2008. Illustrations by Gianni De Conno. 22 wisdom-filled folktales from Ashkenazic and Sephardic oral tradition, including legends, trickster and Helm tales, and riddle tales.

*The Magic Pomegranate* – Milbrook Press (Lerner Publishing Group), 2007. A Jewish folktale about three brothers who obtain unusual gifts and cure a princess. Full jewel-colored illustrations by Melanie Hall.

*The Purim Costume* – URJ Press, 2005. The story of Purim as a *Purimspiel* is framed by an original contemporary story of a child choosing a costume for the Purim contest. Full color illustrations by Tammy L. Keiser.

*The Chanukah Blessing* – URJ Press, 2000. An original Elijah the Prophet story based on folktale motifs with full color illustrations by Jeffrey Allon.

\*Jason Aronson is an Imprint of Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Cover photo by Clarence L. Thorne. Pomegranate design by Tsila Schwartz.