

## BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

**Peri Smilow** is a nationally recognized contemporary Jewish singer/songwriter, performer, educator and community activist. As a touring artist her music and message of *tikkun olam* have been heard throughout the US, Canada, England, Singapore and Israel. She has been seen as a headline performer at the URJ (Reform Movement) National Biennial Conventions and as Artist-in-Residence at the World Union for Progressive Jewry's international Connections Conference in Jerusalem. In addition to her life in music, Peri holds an Ed.M from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and has spent 25 years working with teenagers as an educator and "non-profit entrepreneur" in under-served urban communities.

Peri has released three recordings of original contemporary Jewish music including *Songs of Peace* and *Ashrey*. Her most recent recording *Peri Smilow and The Freedom Music Project: The music of Passover and the Civil Rights Movement* features an electrifying 18-voice choir of young Black and Jewish singers celebrating the freedom music of their traditions. The Freedom Music Project is the subject of several feature stories broadcast nationally on NBC and ABC TV, National Public Radio's Weekend All Things Considered and internationally on Voice of America radio. Peri Smilow and The Freedom Music Project was nominated Best Gospel Album of the Year (2002) by the Just Plain Folks Music Awards and is now available for replication nationally as The Freedom Music Project: Concert-in-a-Box.

Peri's brand-new recording titled BLESSINGS is scheduled for a November 2009 release.

These days Peri is at work combining all of her passions to create the *Tikkun Olam Community Arts Project*, a model for congregations to use the arts as a tool for social change. She recently completed a year as Artist-in-Residence at Temple Ner Tamid of Bloomfield, NJ and currently serves in that capacity at Temple Emanu-El in Edison, NJ.

Peri is married to a terrific TV sports reporter who sings. They share their love with their daughter Allie.

*Peri's audio music and sheet music are now available for download at [www.oysongs.com](http://www.oysongs.com)*

*To learn more go to:*

[www.PeriSmilow.com](http://www.PeriSmilow.com)