

NEWSLETTER

429 DANFORTH AVENUE, SUITE 125
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4K 1P1
TEL: (416) 825-7431
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JANUARY 2005

A new year... a new beginning

It's been a while, we know, since the last newsletter. There have been some changes in personnel, as you'll see below. Mean time, here's hoping that the new year found you and your loved ones healthy, happy and relaxed.

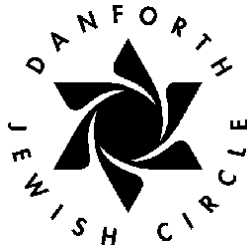
A message from the Board

Thanks to all who came to the DJC annual meeting that was held Dec. 13. I'm pleased to report that all resolutions were passed, and to tell you that the new board is charged and eager to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

Here is the new board followed by their position and main activities:

Mark Zaret	President	msz@sympatico.ca
Avrum Jacobson	Vice President (Rituals and Practice)	avrumj@sympatico.ca
Gail Dobbs	Treasurer	gdobbs@rogers.com
Susie Waldman	Secretary, Governance, Fundraising	thedifference@rogers.com
Lynne Raskin	Director, Adult Education	lraskin@srhc.com
Larry Till	Director, Communications, Web Site	wisetill@rogers.com
Marlee Novak	Director, Social/ Cultural, Cemetery	marlee_novak@yahoo.com
Howard Shrier	Director	howard.shrier@lcbo.com

The two most significant issues that the board is working on are hiring a new rabbi and the need for a DJC cemetery.



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DJC Rabbi and Fundraising

The rabbi committee has a number of applicants that are very interested in joining us, and yes, this will become a reality. The initial response to our fundraising effort was very positive, but it's time to ask everyone who hasn't responded to dust off the pledge form and to please consider supporting this important step in the evolution of the DJC. The board recognizes the enormous contribution that our own members make in our services. Please be reassured that this will NOT change. We are a unique community looking for a unique rabbi. The primary difference this time around is the higher expectations for our leader throughout the year. This will be more expensive, hence the fundraising campaign. So please do what you can to help.

Rabbi search committee

There will be a community meeting on **Monday, Feb. 7** at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church, 662 Pape Avenue (just south of the Danforth, on the west side) from 7:30-10 pm. Take advantage of this opportunity for the rabbi search committee members to hear your thoughts, concerns and preferences about both the search process, and the kind of individual we should seek.

DJC Cemetery

Our leader will be there to assist us through Jewish life cycle events. And while no one wants to discuss death, it is time for the DJC to offer not only a leader to guide us through when loss hits our families, but also to have our own DJC burial grounds. And once again, our unique community presents a number of difficult challenges in this area.

So, please mark your calendar and plan to attend the upcoming information night. This is your way to be involved, to express your concerns, insights and preferences. We will all learn something in the process.

The cemetery committee is planning a community-wide meeting so members can find out more about what's being planned and to address any concerns. The burial committee will walk us through the complexities surrounding this issue, followed by a question/answer and comment session.



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The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on **Wednesday, March 30** at Eastminster United Church. For more information, contact **Marlee Novak** (marlee_novak@yahoo.com).

Mark Zaret, President
In other DJC news...

Havdallah on Ice

The Havdallah ceremony formally marks the end of Shabbat, affirming the distinction between the Sabbath and other days of the week, between the sacred and the secular. Traditionally, the ceremony takes place when three stars can be observed in the sky, indicating the evening has arrived. The three ritual items necessary to perform Havdallah are a cup of wine, a braided candle and a box of spices. After pouring a cup of wine to overflowing, we kindle the braided candle.

Please join the DJC Jewish Studies Havdallah ceremony for a family skating party at 4:00 (in Withrow Park) Feb. 12 followed by Havdallah (with Timbits, hot cocoa and a warm heart) at approximately 5:15 pm.

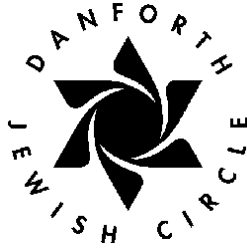
We hope to see you there. Dress warm! If there is a weather concern, check the school phone at (416) 831-7301 in case of cancellation.

Community news

Faith Goldberg of B'nai Brith Canada has written to the board, following her appeal for volunteers from Toronto's downtown Jewish community to deliver Chanukah baskets to those in need in the east end. DJC members heeded the call, and she remarked how pleased she was with the response.

Nice job!

Maybe you've noticed those snazzy new DJC cards and return envelopes. Like all good things, they took work – in this case, on the part of artist extraordinaire **David Wyman**. Thank you, David, for your contribution and your creativity.



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Simchas and sympathies

A collective note of sympathy to the family of **Mitzi Wolfe and Eyal Zohar**. Mitzi's mother, **Rosemary Wolfe**, passed away recently. Mitzi and Eyal are long-standing members of the DJC, and Mitzi sang at our High Holiday services this past year.

Next Shabbat

Even in the depths of winter, we can look forward to the light that Shabbat brings into our lives. And this winter is no exception. In fact, given the gloomy weather, we all need all the light we can muster. So mark your calendars now – our next Shabbat service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Friday, February 4** at the home of **David and Linsay Cornfield**. They're at 140 Galt Avenue, one block west of Jones, north of Gerrard. Look for the red door.

Tikkun olam

In this time of global need, the DJC board has made a \$360 donation to **Ve'ahavta** on behalf of the community. Anyone who can should also consider making a personal donation to any one of the many relief organizations, including Ve'ahavta, now doing such important work in so many communities around the world.

High holidays

It may seem like a long way off – because it is! – but here's a request for this coming year's high holidays: We're in need of a **new leader** for our much-beloved children's services. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Kathy at info@djctoronto.com.