



NEWSLETTER

429 DANFORTH AVENUE, SUITE 125
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4K 1P1
TEL: (416) 825-7431
info@djctoronto.com

FEBRUARY-MARCH
2005

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Thanks to all that attended the Rabbi search meeting on Feb. 7. It was an interesting and informative experience, and a wonderful example of democratic process as so many members are involved.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there will be a community information night to be held on Wednesday, March 30 at Eastminster United Church at 7:30 to cover the topic of DJC burial. The cemetery committee has been hard at work assessing the various options available for burial and would like to explain the issues and its recommendations.

Also, to further assess our needs, a survey has been created and will be distributed to everyone in the community by March 28. You can fill out the survey and return it to us, but the board recommends that you attend this meeting to best understand the options, and then fill out the survey.

So please do try and attend this important evening.

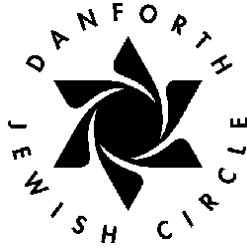
Mark Zaret, President

NEXT SHABBAT

Daphne Woolfe and Rex Hagon have graciously offered their home for our next Shabbat service. They're at 19 Playter Blvd.(one block west and north of Carrot Common). The service is this Friday, March 4, beginning at 7 pm. Please RSVP at 416-469-1300. Finger foods, as always, would be most welcome.

PURIM CARNIVAL – HEY, MAN

The 2005 DJC Purim Carnival is being held Thursday, March 31 at the site of our DJC school program (Miss Miriam's Play Centre, 583A Danforth Avenue - on the second floor above Sun Valley) from 5 - 7:30 p.m. As always, the Purim Carnival is open to the entire DJC community – so come out and be a kid even if you don't have one to bring! A festive "Purim Shpiel" will be performed from 5:15 – 6 pm by a professional story telling troupe – "Voyageur Story Telling." The shpiel will include puppets, costumes, music and of course, the telling of Esther's unforgettable story!



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Between 6 and 7:30 pm, it's Carnival Time! Highlights include:

- A Purim café where you can purchase pizza, cold drinks and
- Hamantashen (nut-free)
- Carnival games with prizes and a trade-up table
- Arts and crafts and face-painting

As usual, volunteers are sorely needed, so please consider volunteering 45 minutes of your time to help everything run smoothly. And, as an added bonus this year our volunteers will receive free tickets for drinks and pizza.

Please call Jackie Goldman at 416-385-0040 if you're able to help out, or for more information.

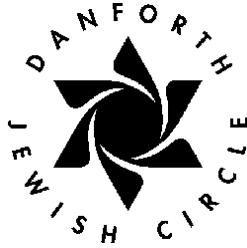
And while we're on the Purim thing...

	<p>MAKE A TEAM AND FULFILL A MITZVAH OF HELPING SOMEONE CELEBRATE PURIM</p> <p>DRIVERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SUNDAY MARCH 20, 2005 15 HOVE STREET STARTING AT 8:30 AM</p> <p>HOURS CAN BE COUNTED TOWARDS YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT.</p> <p>PLEASE CONTACT FAITH AT B'NAI BRITH CANADA (416) 633-6224 EXT 109</p>
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HAVDALLAH ON ICE

In spite of the unseasonably warm weather, Havdallah on Ice was once again a great success.

On the afternoon of Saturday, January 12th an excited group of DJC members arrived at Withrow Park in anticipation of skating with friends and family under sunny skies. Unfortunately, the skies were too sunny and the weather too mild, hence the rink was closed. Nevertheless, in fine Jewish tradition we soldiered on, scarfing down Timbits and hot chocolate while catching upon each others' lives.



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All this spring weather merriment was followed by a “Havdallah Beside Ice” ceremony, in which blessings were said as the braided candle was lit, the spice box was smelled and the non-alcoholic wine was sipped and then used to douse the candle. In spite of the lack of aerobic exercise, it was a fine way to say farewell to Shabbat!

Check out the pictures from Havdallah On Ice at:

<http://ca.pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/jleizer@rogers.com/album?.dir=/fa8f&.src=ph&.tok=ph5QYhCBJ9flhtmD>

Finally there were a few questions about Havdallah that are answered below:

Does the spice have to be any particular spice(s)?

The spice box can be a container of any kind and should be filled with fragrant spices – it is traditional to use a spice that gives off a sweet smell, such as clove. The sweet smell is supposed to offset the sadness that one feels as Shabbat departs.

Why does one look at the reflection of the candle in their finger nails?

We draw a distinction between light and dark, between – the twinkle of the light in our fingernails and the dark shadow covering the palm of our hand. That is what Havdallah is all about: Seeing the distinction; separating.

RABBI SEARCH UPDATE – THE PEOPLE, THE PROGRESS

There were 20 applications. This was short-listed down to 12 strong choices. These candidates were asked to respond in writing to three questions. The Search Committee, made up of about 25 congregants, will read the responses and make recommendations. A Hiring Committee of six – three appointed by the Board (the three who have been spearheading the search from the beginning) and three to be elected by the Search Committee – will then interview the top choices. We expect to have a new rabbi by the end of April. The rabbi will be hired for a short term, about one year, so that the congregation can then decide collectively whether this is the rabbi we want.

So far we have raised \$17,000. That’s not enough, folks. If you haven’t yet contributed, now is the time.

And to those who have given: Thanks!



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VOLUNTEERS – NO GUILT, JUST ACTION

Remember those volunteers forms you filled out when you joined Danforth Jewish Circle in the new year? **We're calling on you!**

We need a committed, core group of willing members, eager to roll up their sleeves and get to work, and help plan our parties, festivities friend-raisers and fundraisers.

The DJC has such a wellspring of diverse, multi-talented people – let's join our collective, creative energies to get these parties started!

For more information, contact:

Marlee Novak	Chair, Social/Cultural Committee	marlee_novak@yahoo.com
Kathryn Miller	Administrator	info@djctoronto.com

SCHOOL UPDATE

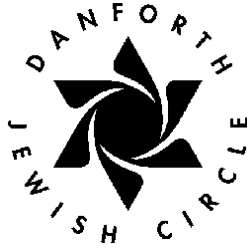
We have just passed the midway point of this year's DJC Jewish School program. As principal, I have had the privilege of working in a wonderful community – staff, students, parents and members alike put the best of themselves forward to create a warm and stimulating learning environment for all. I appreciate all of the effort invested, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers, in particular, who work so hard to make the school the success that it is.

The fall semester ended with a festive Chanukah party, which included songs, a short play, and the lighting of the Chanukiah. Recently, several families joined us for *Havdallah on Ice* (which became *Havdallah Beside Melting Ice* due to the warm weather).

Upcoming events include a DJC community Purim Carnival, Shabbat potluck dinners and a trip to the Anne Frank photo exhibit at the BCE place for the grade fives and sixes.

For more information about school programs, please contact Debbie Plested (debbie@oxfordcomputer.ca).

Jason Leizer, Principal



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EVENT	KEY DATE(S)	CONTACT(S)
March Shabbat service	March 4, 7 pm	Daphne Woolfe and Rex Hagon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSVP 416-469-1300
Open House, Downtown Toronto Jewish Day School	March 8, 7:30 pm	RSVP to Doris Alter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone 416-928-3537 • E-mail: doris@djds.ca
Passover food drive (through National Council of Jewish Women)	March 18- April 17, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone: 416-633-5100 • Fax: 416-633-1956 • Web: www.ncjwc-ts.org • E-mail: pfd@ncjwc-ts.org
DJC Cemetery Committee Eastminster United Church	March 30, 7:30 pm	Marlee Novak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marlee_novak@yahoo.com
DJC Purim Carnival	March 31, 2005, 5-7:30 pm	Jackie Goldman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone: 416-385-0040 • Fax: 416-980-4900 • E-mail: jackie.goldman@rogers.com

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Purim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunset, Thursday, March 24
Passover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st seder: Saturday, April 24 • 2nd seder: Sunday, April 25
Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 5, 2005