

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

Ok, kid – ya got talent...



The first Danforth Jewish Circle Coffeehouse, held on Saturday, November 19, was a roaring success! With more than 100 people attending, the Victory Café was standing room only and the audience was treated to an evening of poetry, script and song. Emcee extraordinaire **Howie Shrier** kept the evening moving, and the show highlighted the impressive range of talent that is found in the DJC community. Many thanks go to Howie, all of the performers – you were amazing! – and the DJC Adult Programming Committee.

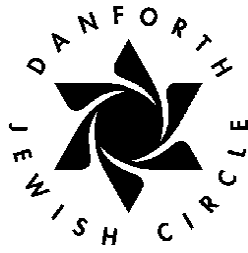
Most of all, thank you to those who attended the event and helped to make it an evening that we'll be sure to remember... and hopefully repeat next year!



Some of the many voices that make the DJC such a special place – (l-r) Harriet Wichin, Aviva Rajskey and Lisa Kent, with guitarist and emcee extraordinaire Howie Shrier in the background.

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Divine inspiration

Rabbi **Eliza Kukla** paid a visit to the DJC Jewish studies program on November 24. The visit delighted the young people who populate the school, and gave them and Eliza a chance to get to know one another.

Incidentally, Eliza's next visit is also coming up soon – the weekend of December 16-17. Stay tuned to your in-box for more information.

So that's a couple of exciting, recent developments. And in the other?

We're pleased to introduce everyone to the new administrator for our Jewish studies program. **Siobhan Devine** will assume her duties December 1, 2005. She and her illustrious predecessor, Debbie Plested, will overlap for about a month to ensure a smooth transition.

After 10 years as a public relations gal working for places such as the government of Canada, Covenant House and Children's Aid Societies, Siobhan went off to seek her fortune as a filmmaker. No fortune was ever made, but the life of the self employed suited her and she has done many part time and contract jobs over the years.

Siobhan is married with two children and is thrilled to become the new registrar of the Danforth Jewish Circle's Jewish studies program.

Again, our thanks and gratitude to Debbie for all her work and dedication in ensuring the smooth functioning of our school these past few years. We wish her continuing good luck in all her endeavours.

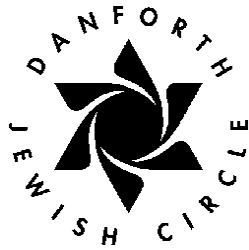
Welcoming Shabbat, Riverdale-style

Approximately 30 souls gathered on November 4 for the latest Friday night service. This one, at the home of **Marlee** and **David Wyman**, was ably led by DJC legend **Emil Sher**.

But a picture, they say, is worth 1,000 words. So here's a metric tonne of photographic fun:

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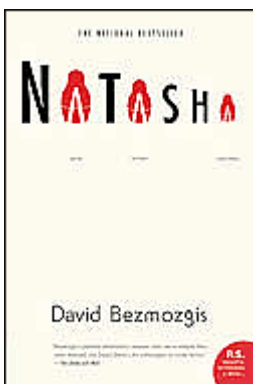


Our thanks to host Marlee Wyman for providing these images. And yes, the observant among you (pun intended) will have noted that's the second photo credit for her family in the past two months. Quite a creative household, wouldn't you say?

Our next Shabbat service will take place this Friday, December 2, at the home of **Allie Lehmann** and **Paul Bender**, 138 Wolfrey Ave. RSVP 416 466-6427. Finger food refreshments are appreciated.

Cover to cover

On Thursday, November 24, stalwart book club members of the Danforth Jewish Circle braved Toronto's first snow storm to come to the home of **Christel Kleitsch** and **Avrum Jacobson**, where facilitator **Arlene Botnick** gave her insights on the second selection of the season, "The Pieces from Berlin," by **Michael Pye**. Arlene, who herself braved a snowy drive from Mississauga, gave a penetrating analysis of this challenging book, and left many members still hotly debating the novel over a delicious spread put out by the hosts. Judging by the level of discussion, many enjoyed this thought-provoking evening.



Next up: David Bezmozgis's first book, "Natasha and Other Stories," which has won numerous awards, been nominated for several others and translated into 12 languages.

Nu? What's the fuss? Find out when the DJC Book Club gathers for the first time in 2006 – on Thursday, January 26 – with facilitator **Heather Kassel** to discuss Torontonians Bezmozgis's book about Russian immigrants to Toronto in the 1980s. For more information, or to be added to the mailing list for this or future book club meetings, please contact the DJC at info@djctoronto.com.

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