



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

MESSAGE FROM DJC CHAIR

Dear Fellow DJC members,

Summertime is coming – and many of us are looking forward to slowing down a bit, spending time with friends and family, perhaps enjoying some well-earned summer vacations.

The DJC Jewish Studies program's kindergarten to Grade 6 students ended their school year with a beautiful children-led Shabbat service on May 7. And two weeks later, the DJC B'nei Mitzvah ceremony saw the Bethminster sanctuary filled to the rafters with family members and friends of the ten graduating students. (Please see Daphne Woolf's thoughts below, as her son David was one of the graduates). I'd like to extend warmest congratulations to our graduates – you truly represent the future of the DJC!

Our last Shabbat service before the High Holidays was held last Friday, guest hosted by Rabbi Miriam Margles. Rabbi Miriam's wise words, gentle spirit, and beautiful voice helped us welcome the Sabbath together in prayer, story and song. I can hardly wait for September, when Rabbi Miriam will join us again to lead our High Holiday services. Luckily, the High Holidays begin early this year, on September 8, so the wait won't be too long! I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Until then, I wish you all a warm and wonderful summer!

- Josie Lalonde

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The B'nei Mitzvah ceremony: a parent's perspective...

Under the guiding hands of Cantor Lisa and teachers Assaf and Alysse, ten of our children and their families worked together for a year to create a two-hour B'nei Mitzvah ceremony that many felt was moving beyond words. Imagine the sight and sounds of ten Torah readings, ten speeches and ten Holocaust twinning dedications. Ten relatively diverse families came together over a nine month period and we created a bond that cannot be replicated and will not soon be forgotten. Every Sunday these kids (and a rotating circle of parents) got together to study, to plan and to prepare. They gave it their all, and on the big day they shone! Each family contributed as much as we could, and reaped more than we ever imagined.

The ultimate testimonial came from my mother, who is 80 years old and chose not to

invite any of her friends to the ceremony, not knowing what to expect (and maybe fearing the worst...) Towards the end, she turned to me and said, "I so regret not inviting some of my friends. This has been the most beautiful Bar Mitzvah ceremony I have ever attended."

I looked around, beyond my mother. Surrounding me were the kids themselves, their families and friends and the broader DJC community. Looking around the sanctuary – filled to the max – I was overwhelmed by feelings of a deeply-felt connection. It didn't matter who I looked at and whether I knew them personally or not. That, to me, is what this memorable ceremony and what the DJC is all about: a connection to oneself, to each other, to a treasured community.

- Daphne Woolf

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TORAH READERS NEEDED



We need some Torah readers for our upcoming High Holiday services; particularly women and young people... for example perhaps a recent Bar/Bat Mitzvah youth would be interested? We would love for the volunteers to be willing to chant the melody. We can provide a recording of the melodies and the copy, both with vowels and as it appears in the Torah.

All those interested, please write to info@djctoronto.com

Our High Holiday invitation packages will be mailed on **June 30, 2010** with an **Early Bird special for registration received by **August 22.***

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DJC CHILDREN'S JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

2010-2011 REGISTRATION

Registration is now underway for our **2010/11 school year**. We'd like to invite any new and returning families to

register at this time. For more information and/or to register your children in our Children's Jewish Studies grades JK/SK - 6 please write to Kathy: info@djctoronto.com

Currently, all grades are open for enrolment.





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Classes begin September 23, 2010.

To register online (or to download a registration form) go to website link:
http://djctoronto.com/participate/jewishstudies_registration.php

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IN - HOME SHABBAT

Led by Emil Sher

***When:* Friday, August 6**

***Time:* 7:00 pm**

***Host/location:* Joan Asner - #602 - 1 Deer Park Crescent* - just north of St Clair Ave W, east of Avenue Rd, and west of Yonge St.**

Details/What to bring: Joan is preparing a dish so we can share a Shabbat meal together with our in-home service. Please bring a potluck contribution for the meal.

All are welcome. RSVPs are required.

***To RSVP, call Joan: 416-324-9263**

***Google map link:**

http://maps.google.ca/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=602-1+Deer+Park+Crescent,+Toronto,+Ontario&sll=49.891235,-97.15369&sspn=25.783423,56.513672&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=1+Deer+Park+Crescent,+Toronto,+Toronto+Division,+Ontario+M4V+1M7&z=16

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DJC BOOK NEWS

The Danforth Jewish Reading Circle



Attention all readers! The DJC book club is alive and well, but will reappear this fall under a new name: **The Danforth Jewish Reading Circle.**

As its new, inclusive name suggests, members of the DJC no longer will be asked at High Holiday services to join a book club, but rather will sign up for the sessions as they appear in the newsletters. The roster for the coming season promises to be

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exciting.

The Danforth Reading Circle will continue its delightful tradition of meeting in the homes of members. Would those who would like to offer their homes as a venue kindly contact Anne Amitay at annejohn@sympatico.ca

We look forward to sharing the circle with you!

Happy summer reading...

- The Danforth Jewish Reading Circle planning committee

COMMUNITY NEWS

Upcoming performance this weekend:* **The Satin Dolls vocal jazz quartet

I've been busy working on a very special project: a fantastic show with **The Satin Dolls vocal jazz quartet**. I'm sending you this to give you a chance to book ahead to ensure that you get a seat as our **showcase last year was completely sold out!**

We'll be doing a matinee show at **Hugh's Room on Sunday, June 20th** which just happens to be Father's Day. It's an excellent opportunity to take the whole family out for some top drawer entertainment at a beautiful venue. You can choose to have a late brunch during the show (<http://www.hughsroom.com/menu.htm>) or just a glass of something cool as you tap your toes to some hot rhythms and ease into some lush harmonies.

To reserve your tickets right now, just go to <http://www.thesatindolls.ca/iWeb/Site/Upcoming%20shows.html> and click on the link below the photo. If you need any more info, please feel free to email me. I look forward to seeing you there!

Ilana Waldston

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HARRIET'S HOUSE **A play by Tara Goldstein**

A meditation on mothering and daughtering, **Harriet's House** examines how a Jewish mother and her three daughters negotiate the challenges and politics of international adoption in a same-sex family.

Why the play might be of interest to the Danforth Jewish Circle

Harriet's House is a story about a contemporary Jewish family that is seldom, if ever, represented on the stage. It would give me great pleasure to engage a Jewish as well as a non-Jewish audience in the story of a Jewish same-sex family.

A Gailey Road Production: **June 24, 25 and 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.**



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

Hart House Theatre, 7 Hart House Circle

Tickets: \$18.00

U of T Box Office: 416 978 8849 or uoftix.ca

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Danny Cohen's Australian Cartooning Camps have come to Canada!

We are a Jewish company in Sydney, Australia & we will be coming to Canada to run a program for local Jewish children in Toronto from **Monday August 9th to Friday August 13^h, 2010.**

With Shalom,

Danny Cohen
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