

KESHER קשר



Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School

INSPIRING CURIOSITY HONOURING DIVERSITY CREATING COMMUNITY

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Your Weekly "Connection" from  
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.  
Friday, April 15, 2011  
11th of Nisan 5771

**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY**

**PASSOVER**

**הג סמה**

**Paul Penna DJDS will be CLOSED  
for Passover April 18th - 27th  
Classes Resume: April 28, 2011**

#### IN THIS WEEK'S KESHER

1. From the Principal
2. Kol Hakavod!
3. New & Noteworthy - ON THE WEB
4. From Your School Eco Team
5. Paul Penna DJDS Student Newspaper
6. Help Welcome Next Year's Shinshinim
7. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year Event - Roots Walk
8. Weekly Calendar
9. Paul Penna DJDS Co-Sponsors Launch of Yuvi's Candy Tree
10. Community Events
11. Parents' Corner

#### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

##### Demonstrating Mastery

During the past several weeks, students across several grades have demonstrated knowledge, skill mastery, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and confidence to

their parents and the community. Such demonstrations provide teachers and coaches with rich information about the "stickiness" of their students' learning. Students get the opportunity to "show what they've got" by applying their understandings and skills in a compelling, shared experience that often even includes a bit of pressure.

Some recent examples:

Our teams performed extremely well at communal events - playing strategic games of chess and spelling accurately at regional competitions, singing beautifully at Zimriyah and dancing gracefully at Rikudiyah, playing well executed games of basketball (and winning one of them) at the Jewish Day School tournament, and making cogent and effective arguments (and competing in the final round) at the first ever Jewish Day School debate tournament.

Tuesday, Grade Three shared with parents their deep understanding of the diverse ethnic groups living in Israel by presenting results of their research, inviting conversation, and encouraging questions. One student who chose a different path prepared a PowerPoint presentation on Israel's natural environment that was shown as the "in-flight movie" during the El Al trip families took to arrive in Israel.

Later that same day, Grade Five students shared the results of the human rights photo shoots they conducted, each telling the story of a different local issue. They led their parents through complex human rights case studies, true dilemmas with no easy answers.

Grade Four, culminating their study of Medieval Times, jointly created a Lego castle with accurate detailing of Medieval defensive systems, then donned appropriate costumes and enjoyed a Medieval style feast together.

May you have a sweet and happy Passover, a refreshing break, and more immediately, a Shabbat shalom!

Best, Rhonda

**KOL HAKAVOD!**

**Paul Penna DJDS Debate Team**

On Monday, April 11th, six students from Paul Penna DJDS competed in the First Annual Jewish Day School Debating Tournament, held at the Toronto Heschel School. Twelve teams from three schools (Paul Penna DJDS; Heschel; RHA Bathurst) participated in two rounds of impromptu debate, followed by a final round between the top two teams and witnessed by all the other participants, plus students from Heschel and Leo Baeck.

Congratulations to all of our sharply-dressed Debaters:

Sam Brooks

Jake Katz

Zach Levine  
Micah Maerov  
Jeremy Penn  
Gavi Swayze

And a special Mazal Tov to Sam and Gavi for qualifying to compete in the final round! Although they were beaten in the finals by the team from RHA Bathurst, the audience witnessed a very high standard of debating.

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### **RIKUDIYAH 2011**



On Sunday, April 10th, Paul Penna DJDS was represented at the city wide, UJA sponsored Rikudiyah. Dancers came out wearing bright blue bandanas and put on a great show for parents, friends and the community. In preparation for the festival, the girls learned eight dances and even added one more to their repertoire at the event. They worked hard and represented Paul Penna DJDS with pride. Special thanks to Anne Harari for working with our grade 3 & 4 girls.

### **NEW & NOTEWORTHY - ON THE WEB**

#### **Paul Penna DJDS is now on Facebook & Twitter!**

Paul Penna DJDS now has our own Facebook Page and Twitter account. You can keep up with the latest news about events at school by adding "Paul Penna Djds" to your friends on Facebook. To join our group on Facebook just [click here](#).

If you are a Twitter fan feel free to ["tweet"](#) away @PaulPennaDJDS.

## FROM YOU SCHOOL ECO TEAM

*When God created the first person, God took him and led him around all the trees of the Garden of Eden, and said to him, "Behold my works, how beautiful, how splendid they are. All that I have created, I created for your sake. Take care that you do not become corrupt and thus destroy My world. For once you become corrupt, there is no one after you to repair it." Ecclesiastes Rabba 7:13*

In order to be true to this Jewish environmental text, students in grades SK-8 are taking part in the 20-Minute Toronto Makeover today, Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a citywide event to get everyone outside and cleaning the city's local parks for twenty minutes; perfect timing for Passover cleaning! Because of the hard work of our students, teachers and volunteers, there are five parks that will be a lot cleaner! Kol Ha'Kavod!

## PAUL PENNA DJDS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

**The student newspaper wants you!**

We are now accepting articles for our third and final edition FOR THE 2010-2011 school year. Students from all grades are encouraged to participate. Students can submit anything, including, but not limited to, articles, surveys, book reviews, poetry, drawings, favourite recipes or whatever else you can dream up. All submissions must be written by the student; our super duper editorial team will edit it with them!

Please email articles directly to Natalie Fingerhut at [winterhut@rogers.com](mailto:winterhut@rogers.com) or if you have any questions, please email Judith Librach at [judithlibrach@yahoo.com](mailto:judithlibrach@yahoo.com)

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submissions is **Friday, May 6th**.

\*All published editions are now available to view online on the school website in the "NEWS" section!

## HELP WELCOME NEXT YEAR'S SHINSHINIM TO OUR COMMUNITY

### **Bringing Israel into your Home**

**Would you like your family to experience a unique encounter  
with a young Israeli?**

***....Then consider opening your home to Toronto's Young Emissaries, Israeli youth who will be spending a year living in our community as part of UJA Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel's MAKOM Israel Engagement Initiative.***

While in Toronto, the young emissaries are involved in all aspects of our community, including the First Narayever synagogue, the Downtown Jewish Community School and the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. These young Israelis provide a living bridge between our community and Israel.

The Young Emissary Initiative recruits Israeli youth who have graduated from high school to come to North America for a year to volunteer in a community. The candidates postpone their army service for one year, and, following their year of selection and preparation in Israel, are sent to a North American Jewish community to work for a year as shlichim.

This coming school year, we are delighted to welcome two wonderful Young Emissaries: Roni Ben Zikry and Itay Buchnik. Roni comes from Ashdod and has both an Ashkenazi and Sephardic background. She has a strong background in the Israeli scout movement. Her high school specialty is media and Middle Eastern studies. She loves the outdoors and enjoys long-distance running. Itay is from Ashkelon and is of Sephardic background. He is studying physics and computer science. He has a passion for math, drama and public speaking. He volunteers with the Magen David Adom ambulance service as well.

If you would like to host a young emissary in your home and meet the following requirements, we would be glad to hear from you. The requirements include\*:

1. A vacant bedroom for approximately three months
2. The desire and ability to make the young emissary feel at home and a part of your family
3. You are a member of the Narayever and/or you have a child(ren) at Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School or the Downtown Jewish Community School.

Please contact Morah Debbie at [debbie@djds.ca](mailto:debbie@djds.ca) OR Sid and Karen at [israel@narayever.ca](mailto:israel@narayever.ca), so that we may ensure the Young Emissaries are warmly welcomed while they are far from their home.

\* Full requirements available upon request

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH YEAR EVENT - ROOTS WALK**

**SAVE THE DATE!! Wednesday, May 25th 1-5pm**

Please mark your calendars to join us for a fun filled afternoon celebrating our school's place in the history of Jewish Downtown Toronto.

You are invited to join your children on a beautiful Walking Tour of downtown Toronto's Jewish Heritage followed by a "picnic style" dinner at the JCC.

Our event will be the culmination of "Roots Week" at school, where our children will be exploring their own roots and the roots of Toronto's downtown Jewish community. All of this is part of our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year; honouring our past to build our future.

More details will follow over the next few weeks, so PLEASE plan to join us on Wednesday, May 25th from 1-5pm.

Looking forward to seeing you at our event,  
The Roots Team  
Danielle Adler: [danielle@memotext.com](mailto:danielle@memotext.com)  
Scott Greene: [rafibess@gmail.com](mailto:rafibess@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**REMINDER: CLASSES RESUME ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011**

### THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

Grade 6 - JF & C Family Life  
9:00-9:45am

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PIZZA LUNCH

### FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

Waste Free Lunch

### MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011

Yom HaShoah  
In Class Program

### TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

SWIM: SK - 9:45-10:45am  
Gr 2 - 1:30-2:30pm  
Gr 3 - 2:00-3:00pm  
Gr 5 - 2:30-3:30pm

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SUSHI LUNCH

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011

Rosh Chodesh Iyyar  
In Class Program  
9:00-10:30am

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PASTA LUNCH

**THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011**

SWIM: Gr 1 - 9:45-10:45am  
Gr 7/8 - 11:00am-12:00pm  
Gr 6 - 1:45-2:45pm  
Gr 4 - 2:15-3:15pm

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Grade 5 - "Queens Park"  
12:45-3:30pm

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Grade 6 - JF & C Family Life  
9:00-9:45am

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PIZZA LUNCH

**FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011**

Coffee with Rhonda  
9:00am-10:00am  
Room 317A

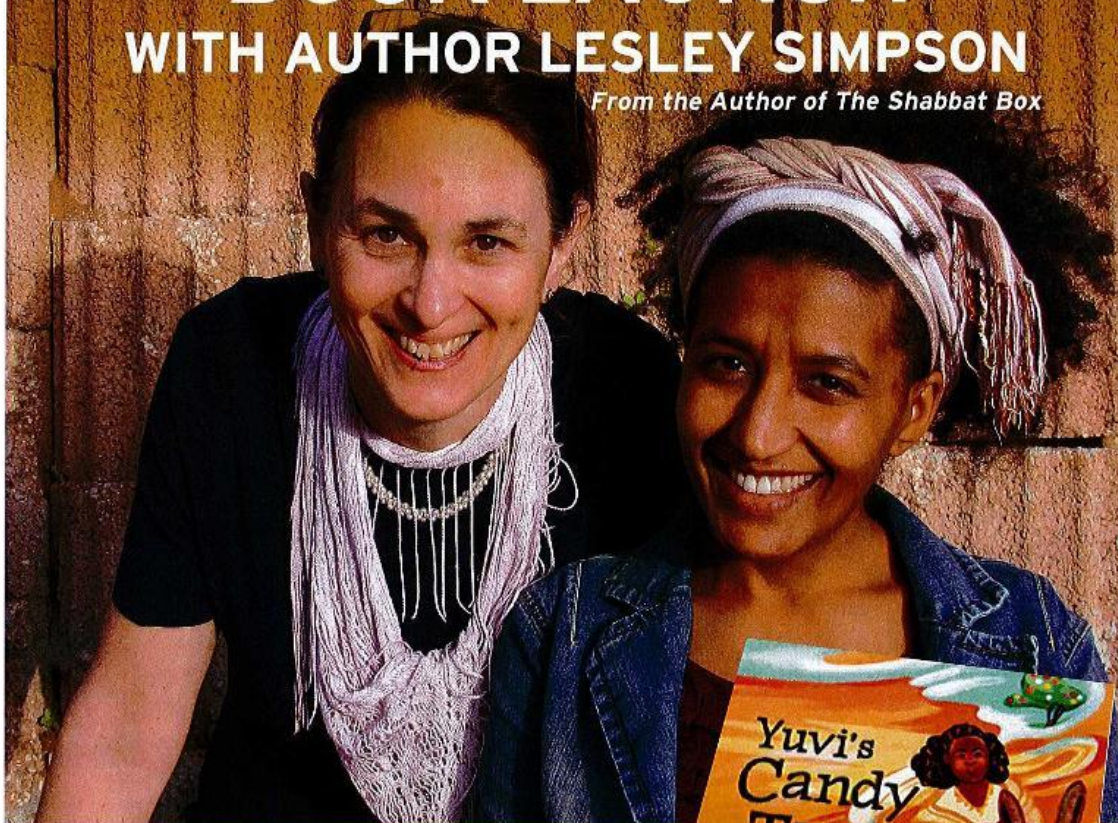
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Grade 5 - Artist in Residence  
Drama  
2:30-3:30pm

**PAUL PENNA DJDS CO-SPONSORS LAUNCH OF YUVI'S CANDY TREE**

# YUVI'S CANDY TREE BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR LESLEY SIMPSON

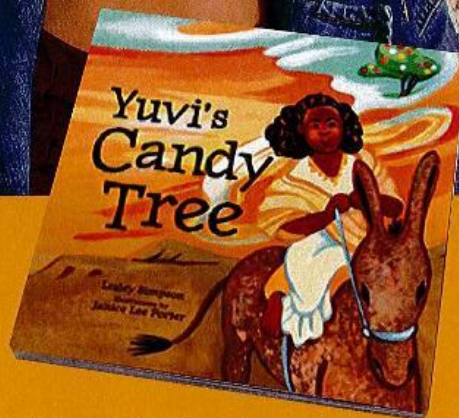
*From the Author of The Shabbat Box*



Based on the true story of Yuvi's difficult journey from Ethiopia to Israel. A beautiful children's book about an extraordinary modern-day exodus.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22**  
**10:00 - 11:30 AM FREE**

MNJcc - 750 Spadina (at Bloor)  
INFO: 416-924-6211 x 277 sarahbn@mnjcc.org



The event will include book reading, a craft for children age 3 - 10 and a visual presentation



New Israel Fund of Canada  
קקן החדשה לישראל



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Seder & Seudah: How the Pesach Seder Sheds Light on the New Jewish Food Movement (and vice versa)**

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**A post-kiddush talk  
with Nigel Savage, Founder and Executive Director of Hazon  
Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Kiddush around 1:30pm**

The new Jewish food movement has built powerful bridges between contemporary issues and Jewish tradition. On this Shabbat Hagadol, Nigel will lead a discussion connecting remarkable Jewish texts, the Pesach Seder and a series of key contemporary issues.

A leader of the Jewish food movement, Nigel Savage founded Hazon, America's largest Jewish environmental organization, in 2000. Hazon creates healthy and sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond, through a series of bike rides and hikes in the US and Israel (in which a number of Narayever members, including Rabbi Ed, have participated!), a network of over 40 Community-Supported Agriculture projects (including the Narayever CSA), an annual food conference, food-related curricula for day schools and adult education (which Rhonda piloted in another school), an award-winning blog, "The Jew & The Carrot," and untiring activism for improved food policies around the world. Nigel has an MA in American Jewish History from Georgetown, and has studied at Pardes, Yakar, Hebrew University, and Jerusalem Fellows. He is infamous in the UK for his cameo appearance in the cult Anglo-Jewish movie, *Leon The Pig Farmer*.

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**MATZAH BAKE AT DUFFERIN GROVE PARK**

Please join us at Dufferin Grove Park on Sunday, April 17, 2011 from noon till 3:00 p.m. to bake Matzot in a wood burning outdoor oven. See if you can mix, knead, roll, and bake in 18 minutes or less.

Materials and instructions provided (bring your own timer if you want to aim for 18 minutes).

Coffee will be provided by Ezra's Pound Cafe.

Everyone is welcome; bring the kids.

Questions? Email [mitchdavis@rogers.com](mailto:mitchdavis@rogers.com).

Look for "Dufferin Grove Park Matzah Bake" on Facebook.

Dufferin Grove Park is located near Bloor and Dufferin, across from the Dufferin Mall, one block south of Bloor on the east side of Dufferin. Meet at the South side of the rink house, which is near the north end of the park. If it rains, we will work

indoors.

Cost: By donation to cover expenses. Suggested donation: \$5 per family.

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### LAG B'OMER PICNIC

Please join our Shinshinim and the Narayever in celebrating Lag B'Omer at Dufferin Grove Park on Sunday May 22nd from 2 to 5 PM. We'll be building a bonfire, playing games led by Reut and Yuval and Narayever teens, roasting potatoes and marshmallows, making s'mores and singing! Bring a picnic, your musical instruments and your enthusiasm. Come and enjoy new friends and familiar ones.

Dufferin Grove Park is located just south of the Dufferin Station on the Bloor-Danforth Subway line and across from the Dufferin Mall.

Teens interested in helping out with this program please contact Reut and Yuval at [yuval@narayever.ca](mailto:yuval@narayever.ca) [reut@narayever.ca](mailto:reut@narayever.ca) or on Facebook at "Narayever".

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### UJA WALK WITH ISRAEL - FAMILY CHALLENGE

We are thrilled to introduce a new, exciting and unique opportunity created for families just like yours: the [UJA Walk with Israel Family Challenge](#).

**Join the Challenge today; it's as easy as four simple steps:**

1. Get your family together into a family team and *get ready to fundraise!*
2. Go online to [www.walkwithisrael.com](http://www.walkwithisrael.com), register your family team and start collecting your donations online!
3. As soon as you *raise \$1,000*, your family will get to choose a [great reward!](#)
4. On *Sunday, May 29* show your love and support for Israel and **Walk with Israel**. Kick off party begins at 9:00am at Coronation Park.

For more information about UJAs Walk with Israel Family Challenge, please contact [Anita Robins](#) | 416.631.5708 or visit [www.walkwithisrael.com](http://www.walkwithisrael.com)

# ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Join us on **Sunday, May 29** for

**UJA WALK WITH ISRAEL**



The ultimate family project, the Family Challenge will bring your family and friends together for a fun, important and unforgettable event.

**register at**  
**[WALKWITHISRAEL.COM](http://WALKWITHISRAEL.COM)**

**Raise a minimum of \$5,000 and create a custom family video.**

**Raise a minimum of \$1,000 and receive incredible rewards.**

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