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## Deals & Steals – 1/10/11

January 10, 2011 By [Deb](#) 1 Comment

It's back! This is the first edition of the new Deals & Steals, now to be weekly here on JAMTOT, every Monday. So here's the information I've come across recently and want to pass along to you! 😊

*Note: Many of these are not in my own words, but taken straight from the e-mail or press release that I received. I have re-worded or re-written where I thought it was necessary or helpful, but am not responsible for the content of these items or anything that may be posted on their sites.*



The inimitable [Mama Doni](#) brings her special brand of "funky music with a Jewish twist" to a new "Challah-Day" album, with the March 22 release of Shabbat Shaboom (Mama Doni Productions, \$15, run time 42 minutes, all ages). Doni Zasloff Thomas, aka Mama Doni, is the lead singer/songwriter in The Mama Doni Band. Doni's "wacky, Jewish indie-rock band for kids" won the Simcha Award for Inspiring Joy Through Music in competition with more than 100 bands from 15 different countries at the 2008 International Jewish

Music Festival in Amsterdam. Quirky, zany, offbeat, and unpredictable, The Mama Doni Band expands the horizons of traditional Jewish music with a contagious and unexpected blend of reggae, rock, disco, Latin, klezmer and "Jewgrass" – all woven together with a hip Jewish sensibility.

The original songs and stories on Shabbat Shaboom transport listeners to a place where the album's warmly sincere pop-rock title track happily melds with a Gloria Estefan-meets-Fiddler on the Roof conga line tune, "Challah-Day," where the reggae-influenced "Mazel Tov" meets a disco ditty, "Sabbath Queen." Shabbat Shaboom touches on such aspects as lighting candles, being with family (mishpocha), celebrating bat mitzvahs, and even the "workout" that Mama Doni mischievously terms "synagoguersizing."

Shabbat Shaboom marks the first Mama Doni CD to showcase the entire Mama Doni Band. Says Doni, "Shabbat Shaboom is really an evolution for us. It's a little less shticky than my previous CDs. Don't get me wrong, it's still fun! But this album has a slightly different vibe. It's more sophisticated musically than my earlier work, a bit more soulful, you might say." The raison d'être of Mama Doni's presentation goes deeper than surface "shtick." What's important to Doni is the idea of giving children their own current and positive musical voice. Doni lays out her mission: "I want to share with kids of all ages and backgrounds the humor and richness that effervesces throughout Yiddish language and Jewish culture. Through my music I hope that they can access the joy in this culture in a new way and have a rockin' good time in the process!"

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