



THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG

Celebrating 20 Years of Progressive Judaism in Hong Kong

SHABBAT SHALOM

20- 21 August, 2010

11 Elul 5770

Parashat Ki Teitzei
(Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)

Rabbi Stanton M. Zamek
Education & Programming Director Rabbi Martha Bergadine
Cantorial Soloist/Programming Assistant Diego Edelberg

From the Rabbi's desk

The highlight of this week at the UJC was the arrival of Diego Edelberg, our new Cantorial Soloist. Bob Cooper and I were the reception committee. We both marveled at his youthful energy. After two hideously long flights, Diego arrived in Hong Kong ready to rock. Within a few hours of picking him up at the airport, we had dumped Diego's belongings at his new apartment and were stuffing him with veggie Chinese food at a restaurant in Causeway Bay.

He was still conscious after that and he wanted to go see the UJC offices, the Sanctuary, and the JCC. Oh, to be young again.

I have to say that the in-person Diego is even more charming, enthusiastic, and creative than the telephonic Diego. At one point during this first day Diego said, "I came to work." I believe it. And I believe, even more strongly than I did in June, that we made the right choice. Many thanks to Ana Scherer, Amy Cohas, Rabbi Martha, and to our able chairman, Joshua Goldman-Brown for their meticulous work on the Cantorial Soloist Search Committee. Diego is going to make you proud.

Given the time of year, Diego is jumping rather than easing into life at the UJC. In the coming weeks, Diego and I will be putting in many hours crafting High Holiday services, B'nai Mitzvah tutoring will begin, and Diego will take up his position on the Shorashim faculty. Knowing what is coming, I would have been fine with giving Diego this Shabbat off, but he wants to start. I have a contingency plan in case jet lag ultimately trumps enthusiasm, but the smart money is on Diego being on the bima this Friday.

I know I can count on the UJC chevre to give Diego a warm welcome and help him make the transition to life in Hong Kong. Diego is going to be swamped, so he may not be able to accept every invitation that comes his way immediately. Please be patient and you will have your chance to get to know this warm and talented young man. I think you will agree that we are fortunate that he has chosen to become part of the UJC.

All Blessings
Rabbi Z
(rabbizamek@ujc.org.hk)

19th August 2010