



THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG SHABBAT SHALOM

6 - 7 March, 2009

11 Shevat 5769

Parashat Tetzaveh
(Exodus 27:20–30:10)

Rabbi Stan Zamek
Song Leader Shani Ben Or

From the Rabbi's desk

It has been busy week at the UJC as we prepare for the joyous festival of Purim. The Purim schpiel has been written and rehearsals have begun. The distinguished cast members have devoted nearly countless minutes preparing for their parts. Competition was fierce for the principal roles. Yes, only a handful of you volunteered to be in the schpiel, but I can only assume that you felt unworthy of the monumental honor of being a schpieler. I commend you for your wisdom and humility and concur that most of you are not cut out for this. This schpiel requires a special blend of hubris, recklessness, and shamelessness that few possess.

We take this schpiel very seriously, which is why we sent a videotape of the show to a select group of drama critics from around the world. Their input was most helpful. Here is a small selection:

"Of all the schpiels you will ever see, this is certainly one of them."

"There are no words in the English language to describe how this made me feel. How does one capture retching in print?"

"At a certain point, I lamented having eyes and ears."

"It was a religious experience, akin to what Armageddon would be like."

"Run, don't walk. .. Oh just run."

While I prefer to keep the schpiel a complete surprise, our insurance carrier requires that we make certain disclosures prior to the show. Please be advised:

- A) The schpiel makes use of incendiary devices and explosive effects.
- B) When Haman enters a strobe effect is used. When used during rehearsals this caused several people to crave radishes for a week.
- C) For reasons of authenticity, the schpiel is in Persian. Please ask the ushers for a translation headset upon arrival.
- D) No ferrets or porcupines were harmed in the making of this schpiel, but at several points it seems so.
- E) The schpiel may be upsetting to audience members between the ages of 3 and 92.
- F) The use of video cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited. The cast members have requested that there be no record of their participation.
- G) Several Ecuadorian Whooping LLamas will be available to give rides to the kiddies. Please meet the gauchos at the Castle Steps entrance.

Notice required by Hong Kong Public Safety ordinance 27.3-9: All of the above was a jape, jest, and/or a general act of foolery. The following, however, is factual:

- A) There is a schpiel on Monday, March 9 at 7:30 PM.
- B) You will be in attendance.
- C) You will be amused.
- D) Following the teaching of our tradition regarding drinking on Purim is in your best interest.
- E) I wish you a boisterous, rollicking, and partially debauched Purim.

All Blessings

Rabbi Z

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5th March, 2009