



**THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG**

*Welcoming all who seek a Progressive vision of Jewish life*

## **SHABBAT SHALOM**

25 – 26 March, 2016

16 Adar II 5776

Parashat Tzav  
(Leviticus 6:1-8:36)

Rabbi Stanton M. Zamek  
Rabbi Martha Bergadine, Education & Programming Director  
Cantor Melissa Berman, Cantor/Programming Associate

### **From the Rabbi's desk**

While the songs of the Megillalele, our Hawaiian/Beach Movie/Beach Boys inspired Purim schpiel, are still echoing in my head, I want to take a moment to thank the people who made last night's celebration possible.

A big *mahalo rabbah* to the cast of the schpiel: Rachel Fleishman, Laura Kaufman, Gregory Kim, Swing Lau, Emma Lavin, Josh Lavin, Aaron Liebling, Opher Mansour, Laura Marschall, Cantor Melissa Berman, Ross O'Brien, Claudia Paradis, Barbara Thomas, Alicia Weisberg-Roberts, and Rachamim Zamek. I love writing the Purim schpiel (surprise, surprise), but it is so much more fun to watch it come to life. This year's cast took the foolishness of the Megillalele very seriously. Consequently, the show was a hoot and a half. Many, many thanks to our devoted schpielers for their time and effort and for being such good sports.

Cantor Melissa's role as music director was critical to the success of the schpiel - Beach Boys songs are deceptively difficult - and her vocal and guitar skills took our Purim schpiel to a new level. Also, she rocked the Elvis costume. A special thank you is due to Swing Lau. Her accompaniment on the keyboard added so much to the schpiel and she was invaluable at rehearsals. It was great to have her back. Many thanks also to Emma Lavin and Claudia Paradis for adding the Jewaiian/Persianesian choreography to the show. Not only did their efforts add to the spectacle of the schpiel, but they also seem to have created a new dance form. I would call it the "Jewla". Mahalo to Rabbi Martha for her assistance backstage, for arranging Purim refreshments (the punch was a Cantor Melissa recipe, concocted by Ann), and for helping transform the Sanctuary into the island paradise of Jewaii. As always, I am grateful for the support of Nancy and Charlene, who make all things at The UJC possible.

Lastly, many thanks to the kahal. We had a full and appreciative house last night. Thanks so much for coming to our Purim luau and supporting The UJC's schpielers. There is nothing more joyous to me than when our Sanctuary is filled with laughter.

Chag Purim Sameach  
All Blessings  
Rabbi Z  
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24<sup>th</sup> March 2016