



# THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG SHABBAT SHALOM

26 - 27 June, 2009

5 Tammuz 5769

Parashat Korach  
(Numbers 16:1–18:32)

Rabbi Stan Zamek  
Song Leader Shani Ben Or

## From the Rabbi's desk

I am going to keep my message very simple this week. I just want to say thank-you and l'hitraot. I will begin with thanks.

Todah Rabbah to the entire UJC family. This has been an exciting and enriching year for me and for my family. Thanks to you we had a very soft landing here in Hong Kong. In every way but one (the miserable summer weather), we could not have chosen a place more different than Baton Rouge as our new home. Your warmth, support, and friendship smoothed the way for us and allowed us to enjoy and appreciate the congregation and this amazing place.

I have to thank you again for your embrace of my Ayelet on her Bat Mitzvah. We knew that Ayelet would do well and that we would burst with pride, but what we did not know was how it would feel for us to celebrate our simcha in a new place. When the day came, the haimish and loving atmosphere in the Sanctuary was so palpable that a visitor joining us for the first time would never have known that our family was so new to the community. Hamon todah, many thanks, once again.

I also want to say l'hitraot — I will see you soon. Early next week we are leaving for our holiday in the US. I am looking forward to the opportunity to step back and reflect on this eventful year. While admittedly I will spend some time purely goofing off, I will also be refueling my mind and neshama for our next year together. I feel very fortunate that I will be with you as the UJC celebrates twenty years of Jewish learning and living.

These days visions of Taos Mountain, the Rio Grande Gorge, and huevos rancheros (with green chile please) are dancing in my head. I can't say I ever get tired of these things, but I know that at a certain point this summer I will begin to yearn for the excitement of Hong Kong, for the UJC, and for the company of all of you. Have a safe and relaxing summer and get ready for one of the most exciting years in the history of the UJC.

May HaShem guard our going out and our coming in, now and forever.

All Blessings  
Rabbi Z  
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*25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009*