



THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG

Welcoming all who seek a Progressive vision of Jewish life

SHABBAT SHALOM

15 – 16 April, 2016

8 Nisan 5776

Parashat Metzora
(Leviticus 14:1-15:33)
Shabbat HaGadol

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

From the Rabbi's desk

This Shabbat is Shabbat HaGadol, The Great Sabbath that precedes Pesach. Traditionally, this Shabbat was the occasion for a lengthy and detailed sermon on the prohibitions against eating or possessing chametz during Pesach. I am not going to give such a sermon on Friday night, nor will I do so now. It does seem appropriate, however, to offer what the wonderful ladies in the UJC office would call "Gentle Reminders" (hereinafter, GR).

GR 1. If you have not yet reserved your place at the UJC Seder you should do so in the right now timeframe. There is a hard upper limit on our capacity this year, so please do not delay.

GR 2. Pesach begins on Friday night, the 22nd of April. There will be an expeditious Friday night service at 6:00pm that night in the UJC Sanctuary, just before the seder. Please join us.

GR 3. If you want to participate in Mechirat Chametz (The Sale of Chametz) make sure to return the attached form by Thursday, 21st April. This is a way to remove your packed away, bulk chametz (like the contents of your liquor cabinet, for example) from your possession for the duration of Pesach. In case you are curious, Nancy Lui is the buyer.

GR 4. Shorashim families - make sure you are on time for kinnus this week. Trust me, you are not going to miss what we have planned for you on Sunday.

GR 5. Plan on joining us for festival services this Pesach. The schedule is as follows:

April 23rd First Day - 10:00am - Kiddush following services

April 24th Second Day - 10:00am

April 29th Seventh Day - 8:00am (Aaron Liebling will be reading Torah at this service)

April 30th Eighth Day/Yizkor 10:00am - Kiddush following services

These services are lovely and haimish. Please come and help make the minyan and continue the celebration of Pesach after the sedarim.

I think that's enough Gentle Reminders for now, except for this one:

Have a sweet and kosher Pesach. An early chag sameach to the whole UJC family.

All Blessings

Rabbi Z

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14th April 2016