



THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG

Welcoming all who seek a Progressive vision of Jewish life

SHABBAT SHALOM

15 – 16 January, 2016

6 Shevat 5776

Parashat Bo
(Exodus 10:1-13:16)

Rabbi Stanton M. Zamek

Rabbi Martha Bergadine, Education & Programming Director

Cantor Melissa Berman, Cantor/Programming Associate

From the Rabbi's desk

After much anticipation and much preparation, 500 Guests is almost here. I can't wait to see all our hosts and guests gathered together at services Friday night before we disperse to our various dinners.

I want to express my gratitude to our hosts. Thank you so much for opening your homes. Your generosity and warmth are what make The UJC such a special kahal. What you are doing is more than nice. You are not just serving dinner. You are engaging in the Mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim, of sacred welcoming. The Talmud teaches that this act is greater even than receiving the Divine Presence.

But where would we be without our guests? You also deserve thanks. I can't thank you enough for being willing spend Shabbat with people you might not yet know. It is no small thing to extend yourselves in this way. We naturally prefer the company of our established social circle. In agreeing to step outside it for the night, you will forge new connections that will make The UJC stronger and enrich all our lives.

Our chevre will be spread all over Hong Kong Friday night, but what happens at each dinner is part of the life of our kahal as a whole. Please share your experiences with all of us. Write us a note about the dinner you attended or hosted and send us some pictures. We are planning to publish a 500 guests wrap-up in Shabbat Shalom next week.

Todah Rabbah to the 500 guests committee - Holly Schwartz, Cheryl Blanco, Josh Lavin, Cantor Melissa, and Rabbi Martha - to the indispensable Nancy and Charlene, to all our hosts, and to all our guests. Thanks to all your efforts we can look forward to a very special evening. Shabbat cannot come fast enough.

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

14th January 2016