



**THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG**

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

## **SHABBAT SHALOM**

16 – 17 September, 2016

14 Elul 5776

Parashat Ki Teitzei  
(Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)

Rabbi Stanton M. Zamek

Rabbi Martha Bergadine, Education & Programming Director

Cantor Melissa Berman, Cantor/Programming Associate

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

Chaverim,

After a refreshing holiday and a fruitful Sabbatical, I am home again. I am still feeling a bit addled from jet lag, so I will keep this message short. I did want to tell you all how much I missed you and how excited I am that we are beginning another year together at the UJC.

The biggest event on the horizon is obviously the High Holidays. As you know, we will be home in the UJC Sanctuary for all High Holiday services this year. As much as I have yet to do to get ready, the thought of greeting 5777 in our own haimish and holy space is giving me tremendous shpilkes, as is the prospect of leading High Holiday services with Cantor Melissa for the first time.

Although we are still at the tail end of 5776, our programmatic year has already begun. Opening day of Shorashim was last Sunday. The first of this year's B'nai Mitzvah, Clementine Assayag, will be called to the Torah on September 24th. That evening is Selichot. Please plan on joining us for a showing and discussion of the short film "Advice and Dissent" and for the moving Selichot service that follows (details can be found in this edition of Shabbat Shalom). Adult education will not begin until after the Tishri holidays, but now is the time to make sure that you have the materials you will need for Questions of Belief and One Congregation/One Book. It would be a good thing to go into the New Year ready to fulfill the mitzvah of Talmud Torah.

As always, the UJC calendar is filled with programs, activities, and celebrations. Before things get too crazy and the summer becomes a distant memory, I want to thank those who made it possible for me get my R&R and to have the quiet space for some enriching and uninterrupted study. Todah rabbah to all those who volunteered to lead services and to give divrei Torah in my absence: Josh Lavin, Aaron Liebling, Opher Mansour, Mara Constantin, Rachel Fleishman, Bob Cooper, Alicia Weisberg-Roberts, Sergio Fernandes de Lima, Karl Herrup, and Barbara Thomas. Huge thanks are also due to my fellow Klei Kodesh, Rabbi Martha and Cantor Melissa, for picking up the slack while I was gone. I am grateful too to the tireless and talented Nancy and Charlene, who were on hand to make sure the UJC stayed up and running while the members of our clergy team were in and out of Hong Kong over the summer. Thanks to you all.

I hope to see all of you before Rosh HaShanah, but in case I don't: Shanah tovah u'metukah, a good and a sweet year to the whole UJC family. It is so good to be back with you and to be starting another exciting year in the life of our precious kahal.

All Blessings,

Rabbi Z ([rabbizamek@ujc.org.hk](mailto:rabbizamek@ujc.org.hk))

15<sup>th</sup> September 2016