



THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG

Welcoming all who seek a Progressive vision of Jewish life

SHABBAT SHALOM

19 – 20 February, 2016

11 Adar I 5776

Parashat Tetzaveh
(Exodus 27:20-30:10)

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

From the Rabbi's desk

I am writing this note to you during a brief break from working on the script for this year's Purim schpiel. Writing silly jokes and ruining perfectly good songs is surprisingly difficult work. Schpielcraft (yes, that is a word) is a harsh mistress, but I am mindful that it is a great gift to have foolishness be part of one's job description.

I have such shpilkes to share some of this year's schtick with you, but you will find no spoilers here. The theme will remain a secret for now. There is, however, one way that a few of you can know what I know. It is a path that can be walked only by those who are brave, shameless, and perhaps have little left to lose. You could join the cast of the Purim schpiel. Many schpiel veterans are returning to the stage this year, but there are new faces and room for more.

What does it take to be a schpieler? Do you have to be an accomplished actor or singer? Of course not (have you been to the schpiel?). All you need to be is a good sport, to act the fool in the spirit of the wonderful holiday of Purim.

So are you up for some sacred silliness? If so, let me know and I will send you the rehearsal schedule. Quicker than you can say "schpieler's remorse" you will be initiated into the ancient art of schpielery (also a word). Your life will never be the same.

In all seriousness, there is no schpiel without schpielers. The joy of Purim, like everything else that happens at the UJC, is the product of the efforts of people like you. So if you would like to help create some holy hilarity this Purim, give me a call or drop me a note.

And remember, of all the Purim schpiels in the world that you could be a part of, the UJC schpiel is certainly one of them.

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

18th February 2016