

THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG

Welcoming all who seek a Progressive vision of Jewish life

SHABBAT SHALOM

22 – 23 January, 2016

13 Shevat 5776

Parashat Beshalach
(Exodus 13:17-17:16)

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

From the Rabbi's desk

The results are in - 500 Guests was a great success. New connections were made at Shabbat tables all over Hong Kong. Many will be able to trace the beginning of new friendships to the dinner they shared on January 15th as part of this community building project. Thanks to everyone who played a part in establishing what I believe will be a new UJC tradition. Todah Rabbah to the 500 Guests Committee, to our hosts, to our guests, to the wonderful ladies in the office, and to Ron Wolfson, whose teachings inspired this undertaking. This is something we all did together.

500 Guests was an important event in the life of The UJC. I want to savor the moment a bit with you by offering a few "testimonials" by some of our participants and a few photos from this special evening. Enjoy!

From Mark

The international nature of Hong Kong, and the Jewish community were illustrated by the multitude of nationalities around the table, including Brazilian, Canadian, British, French, Chinese and a Hong Konger. We had in common the desire to welcome in the Shabbat in a traditional way, with joy and music. Exchanging stories, reflecting on the situation of Jewish communities around the world, eating, drinking and especially singing were the order of the evening. We hope that our guests enjoyed the evening as much as we did, and hope that we can repeat the experience soon.

From Rachel

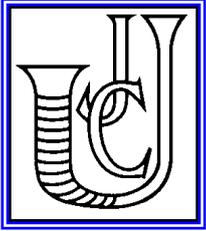
It was a truly novel opportunity to get to know a few of the warm and talented members of our community. We had a lovely dinner and feel even more entwined (is that the right word? integrated? embedded? inextricably a part of?) the UJC.

From Holly

For us learning everyone's "story" was the most fascinating part of the evening. How they came to the UJC and what they love about its welcoming vibe etc. We also talked about summer travel and that made for a fun-filled conversation in all directions.



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From the Rabbi's desk (con't)

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From Gregory

I hope the "500" experience was as positive for the rest of the congregation as it was for us. We all bonded quite nicely and (if I must say) my wife is an amazing chef.

From Aaron

The dinner went off great! Kids ended up sleepy at the end, probably because they tired themselves out playing.

From Sergio

[It was] a celebration and reaffirmation of Jewish living, values and traditions. Shabbat songs. Becoming closer to old friends and making new ones. And great food to go with it! What else could we have asked for? This is how our dinner turned out to be. It was such a pleasant Shabbat evening, we talked for hours and just went home because it was getting too late. This was a most memorable event, and I look forward to the next one!

All Blessings,
Rabbi Z

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21st January 2016