



The **United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong**
Celebrating 20 Years of Progressive Judaism in Hong Kong

SHABBAT SHALOM

5 - 6 February, 2010

22 Shevat 5770

Parashat Yitro
 (Exodus 18:1-20:23)

Rabbi Stanton M. Zamek
 Cantorial Soloist Shani Ben Or

FRIDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY

Early Family Shabbat Dinner 6:00 PM – JCC Coffee Shop
Shabbat Service 7:00 PM – UJC Sanctuary
UJC Shabbat Dinner 8:00 PM – JCC Coffee Shop

Shorashim class Kitah Bet will participate in this Shabbat Service. Children whose birthdays occur in January and February (and anyone who may have missed out earlier this year) will also receive a special birthday blessing and sweet treat.

Shabbat Dinner Cost: HK\$125 (Adult), HK\$65 (Children's meal up to 12).

SATURDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY

Torah Study 9:30 AM – Apt 3C, One Robinson Place

SUNDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY

Shorashim 9:30 AM – UJC Sanctuary
Bagels and Bina 10:00 AM – UJC Sanctuary

TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY

Introduction to Judaism Class 7:00 PM – UJC Sanctuary

FRIDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY

Shabbat Service 7:00 PM – UJC Sanctuary
UJC Shabbat Dinner 8:00 PM – JCC Coffee Shop

Shabbat Dinner Cost: HK\$125 (Adult), HK\$65 (Children's meal up to 12).
 Please RSVP with the UJC office by **Thursday, 11th February**.

Todah Rabah

Thanks to **Sharon Ser** for sponsoring the Shabbat dinner last Friday.

Yahrzeits

The following yahrzeits will be observed at services **this week**:

Cissie Spencer—Tuesday, 2nd February. Grandmother of Stuart Spencer.

Pearl Granek—Tuesday, 2nd February. Grandmother of Ilene Levy.

Emanuel Kirwin—Wednesday, 3rd February. Grandfather of Daniel Kirwin.

Matilda Marcus—Wednesday, 3rd February. Grandmother of Sharon Cooper.

Robert Abraham Sherman—Wednesday, 3rd February. Grandfather of Jordan Potash.

Theodore Garber—Thursday, 4th February. Father of Rebecca Haase.

Gerald Morill Robbins—Thursday, 4th February. Father of Andrew Robbins.

The following yahrzeits will be observed at services **next week**:

Lois Adele Stein—Sunday, 7th February. Mother of Garry Stein.

Baruch Dayan Ha'emet

We mourn the recent passing of **Roslyn Goldman**, friend of **Melvin and Paulette Bazerman**.

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Family Shabbat

This **Friday, 5th February**, Shorashim class **Kitah Bet** will participate in Shabbat Services at 7:00 PM in the UJC Sanctuary.

Children whose birthdays occur in **January and February** (and anyone who may have missed out earlier this year) will receive a special birthday blessing from Rabbi Zamek and a sweet birthday treat from the UJC!



There will also be an **Early Family Shabbat Dinner** at 6:00 PM in the JCC Coffee Shop. We'll eat and sing songs, then head down to services.

Please join us to celebrate Shabbat and support Kitah Bet. Regular Shabbat dinner will follow services as usual.

Cost: HK\$125 (Adult), HK\$65 (Children 5-12).
 Please RSVP to the UJC office.

Purim Celebration

Join the UJC Purim Celebrations.

Incredibly Awesome Megillah Reading + Purim Schpiel

Join us for a parody service, megillah reading, and a fabulous Purim schpiel.

For all ages!! Kids will love it!!
Much material for adults
(wink, wink, nudge, nudge, say no more).



When: **Saturday, 27th February at 7:30 PM**
 Where: **UJC Sanctuary**

Be prepared to (a) laugh, (b) drink, and (c) drink some more.
 * Note: The schpiel will be much funnier or at least more enduring if special attention is paid to items (b) and (c) above.

Please RSVP to the UJC office by Thursday, 25th February.

CIRQUE DU PURIM – THE UJC PURIM CARNIVAL

Lots of fun activities like Hamantashen Bakery, Grogger Factory, Mask Decorating, Face Painting, Games and “Surprises” are waiting for you!!

Date: **Sunday, 28th February**
 When: **10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**
 Where: **UJC Sanctuary**

Cost: HK\$100 per child—for UJC members
 HK\$120 per child—for Non UJC members
 * Free admission for parents.



Please RSVP to the UJC office by Thursday, 25th February.

Mazal Tov

To **Brett, Rivi and Noa Rochkind** on the brit of their son and brother, **Eli** on Thursday, 28th January.

Shorashim

Shorashim as usual this Sunday, 7th February.

Don't forget the Early Family Shabbat Dinner this **Friday night, 5th February**, at 6:00 PM in the JCC Coffee Shop.

There will be no Shorashim on 14th & 21st February as we will be on break for Chinese New Year.

Finally, **Sunday, 28th February** from 10:00 AM–12:00 Noon is **Cirque du Purim—The UJC Purim Carnival**. Full details are listed under "Purim Celebration".

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday at Shorashim.

Rabbi Martha

For information on UJC services and events, visit: www.ujc.org.hk

From the Rabbi's desk

This past Sunday I went on the Tu B'Shevat Family Outing to the Hong Kong Wetland Park. Despite the heat, it was a marvelous day. Many thanks to Jenny Selevan for organizing the event. I am sure that taking care of that many Jews off the reservation was a chore, but it was well worth the effort.

I was very excited about this trip as this would be my first chance to visit one of Hong Kong's prime birding areas (*I prefer "birder" and "birding" to "birdwatcher" and "birdwatching," but anything is better than the British term "twitchee"*). As I would be birding in unfamiliar territory, I did a bit of preparation. I flipped through my copy of the [Birds of Hong Kong and South China](#) and tried to learn the identifying marks of the species I was likely to see. Birder and author, Lyanda Lynn Haupt, writes that such preparation enhances our perception. "The more we prepare," she says, "the more we are 'allowed' to see." In my experience this is true and so I studied for the trip the night before. More than this, I also reviewed the blessing that is said for the privilege of seeing beautiful creatures:

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-Olam sh'kacha lo b'olamo
Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe who has such as these in His world*

So I went to the Hong Kong Wetland Park with the hope of being permitted to see some of the birds I had studied. More than this, I hoped to see something that would move me to offer thanks to HaShem. I was not disappointed on either count.

When we got to the park, I skipped the interpretive displays and headed straight for the birding hides. At the Mudflat Hide I saw what I had been most hoping to see. There on the mudbank, amidst the grey herons, common sandpipers, and ring-necked plovers (good birds in themselves), I saw some black-faced spoonbills. And I said my b'racha.

According to [The Avifauna of Hong Kong](#), a massive tome I bought at the Wetland Park gift shop, there are only 660 of these birds in the world. A large part of this population winters in Hong Kong. 660 in the entire world and I saw seven of them. If that was not an experience worthy of a blessing, I don't know what is.

I was elated at seeing these birds, at seeing something not only so beautiful, but so rare. But I felt sadness also. The population of black-faced spoonbills is perilously small. Disease or some natural or man-made disaster could decimate them. Is this one of those species environmentalists have dubbed "the living dead"—a species whose small numbers make extinction inevitable? I hope not. In addition to saying a blessing over the privilege of seeing them, I should have offered a prayer for them. I do this now. Ribbono shel Olam, Master of the Universe, may we not let this reflection of You be blotted out from the world, further defacing the Seder Bereishit, the Order of Creation.

In the mundane sense, we can do without black-faced spoonbills. If tomorrow the nesting grounds of these birds were destroyed by development or avian influenza wiped out this small, vulnerable population, few would notice and life in the material world would go on as before. But of course, one can be materially rich and spiritually destitute. If these birds perish our spiritual GNP will certainly suffer.

The Hong Kong Wetland Park is only a hint of the wild. It is surrounded by high-rise development. It is an oasis in an urban desert. And yet nature needs only the smallest opening to entrance us. We do not need to travel far to see sights that make the soul take flight like a great bird stretching its wings to catch the wind.

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

HK Jewish Community

Carmel School Association Purim Baskets 2010

Enjoy this festive time of year and share with your Hong Kong family and friends the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot.

Purim is quickly approaching on Sunday, 28th February. Please complete the order form and send it with your payment before the **19th February deadline**.

As always, the more you send, the more you save:

Send 1 basket: HK\$150 each

Send 2 baskets: HK\$140 each

Send 3 baskets: HK\$130 each

Send 4 baskets: HK\$120 each

Send 5 baskets or more: HK\$100 each

Due to the size and complexity of this project, any orders received after the deadline will incur a 20% late fee and no guarantee orders will be processed.

Please go to www.carmel.edu.hk for order forms and details.

Please direct any questions to Lydia Goldfeld at lydiagoldfeld@hotmail.com or 6055-2077 or to Holly Rofe at hollyr@attglobal.net or 9151-5628.

The UJC gratefully acknowledges the following gifts to the 20th Anniversary Torah Project. Donations made between 28th January and 3rd February 2010 are :

Parasha Sponsors

Scott and Nydia Gaynor

Proceeds from the Torah project will be used to ensure the long-term vitality of The UJC.

Currently 29% of The UJC's membership has participated in The Torah Project. We invite everyone to participate in the writing of our new Torah and helping to secure the next chapter in The UJC's history.

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**TORAH CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE GRANT**

As our Year of Torah enters its fourth month, we are excited to announce a significant development in the campaign – the issuance of a challenge grant that could double the value of your pledge!

An anonymous UJC member has generously pledged up to HK\$360,000 to the Torah campaign in the form of a challenge grant. From 1<sup>st</sup> January, every gift to the Torah campaign of HK\$18,000 or above will be matched with an additional HK\$18,000. Please consider being one of the 20 pledges that will help us reap the full benefits of this challenge!

Sponsoring a loved one's bar / bat mitzvah portion or a portion that commemorates some other special life cycle event is a wonderful way to interweave your family's story with the ongoing story of The UJC. For your convenience, a sponsorship form can be downloaded from The UJC website ([www.ujc.org.hk](http://www.ujc.org.hk)) or please contact The UJC office. If you would like to discuss which portion to sponsor or have any other questions please contact Rabbi Zamek ([rabbizamek@ujc.org.hk](mailto:rabbizamek@ujc.org.hk)), Daniel Kirwin ([dkirwin@beaconevents.com](mailto:dkirwin@beaconevents.com)) or Samantha Kriegel ([samkriegel@yahoo.com](mailto:samkriegel@yahoo.com)).

Our goal is for 100% of members to participate in the scribing and sponsorship of our new Sefer Torah. We hope that our anonymous donor's generosity in issuing this challenge grant will encourage many of you to join us in fulfilling this mitzvah and showing your support for our special community!

**Upcoming UJC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Events**

**March 12–14, 2010**

*PROFESSOR ALAN COOPER, Scholar-in-Residence*

Dr. Cooper is a world-class Bible Scholar and a favorite teacher of both lay people and students at The Hebrew Union College and The Jewish Theological Seminary.

**April 15–18, 2010**

*RABBI JOEL OSERAN*

Vice President for International Development of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and former UJC Rabbi.

**May 25–June 3, 2010**

*TORAH SCRIBE JAMIE SHEAR*

Our sofer Jamie Shear returns to Hong Kong. Don't miss your chance to write in The UJC Torah with Jamie.

**May 29, 2010**

*THE UJC 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA*

An evening of dining, dancing and celebrating 20 years of Progressive Judaism in Hong Kong.

More details to follow.

*Now write for yourself this song, and teach it to all the children of Israel*

Deuteronomy 31:19

# UJC Calendar

| February 2010                                    |                                |                                                                    |                              |                                  |                                                                            |                                                                     | Shevat / Adar 5770 |        |         |           |          |        |          |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday                                           | Monday                         | Tuesday                                                            | Wednesday                    | Thursday                         | Friday                                                                     | Saturday                                                            | Sunday             | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|                                                  |                                | 1<br>7:00pm Introduction to Judaism class                          | 2<br>7:30pm Purim Rehearsal  | 3<br>6:30pm Carmel Annual Dinner | 4<br>6:00pm Early Family Shabbat Dinner<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner | 5<br>9:30am Torah Study                                             |                    |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 7<br>9:30am Shorashim                            | 8<br>7:00pm ExCo Meeting       | 9<br>7:00pm Introduction to Judaism class                          | 10<br>7:30pm Purim Rehearsal | 11                               | 12<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner                                      | 13<br>9:30am Torah Study                                            |                    |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 14<br>No Shorashim                               | 15<br><i>UJC office closed</i> | 16<br><i>UJC office closed</i><br>No Introduction to Judaism class | 17                           | 18                               | 19<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner                                      | 20<br>9:30am Torah Study                                            |                    |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 21<br>No Shorashim                               | 22                             | 23<br>7:00pm Introduction to Judaism class                         | 24<br>7:30pm Purim Rehearsal | 25                               | 26<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner                                      | 27<br>9:30am Torah Study<br>7:30pm Megillah Reading & Purim Schpiel |                    |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 28<br>No Shorashim<br>10:00am UJC Purim Carnival |                                |                                                                    |                              |                                  |                                                                            |                                                                     |                    |        |         |           |          |        |          |

| March 2010             |                             |                                             |                                             |          |                                       |                                      | Adar / Nisan 5770 |        |         |           |          |        |                                                                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday                 | Monday                      | Tuesday                                     | Wednesday                                   | Thursday | Friday                                | Saturday                             | Sunday            | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                                                               |
|                        |                             | 1<br>7:00pm Introduction to Judaism class   | 2                                           | 3        | 4                                     | 5<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner |                   |        |         |           |          |        | 6<br>10:00am Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Woolf |
| 7<br>9:30am Shorashim  | 8<br>7:00pm ExCo Meeting    | 9                                           | 10                                          | 11       | 12<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner | 13<br>9:30am Torah Study             |                   |        |         |           |          |        |                                                                        |
| 14<br>9:30am Shorashim | 15                          | 16                                          | 17                                          | 18       | 19<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner | 20<br>9:30am Torah Study             |                   |        |         |           |          |        |                                                                        |
| 21<br>9:30am Shorashim | 22                          | 23                                          | 24                                          | 25       | 26<br>7:00pm Shabbat Service & Dinner | 27<br>9:30am Torah Study             |                   |        |         |           |          |        |                                                                        |
| 28<br>9:30am Shorashim | 29<br>6:30pm Passover Seder | 30<br>8:00am Passover Day 1 Morning Service | 31<br>8:00am Passover Day 2 Morning Service |          |                                       |                                      |                   |        |         |           |          |        |                                                                        |