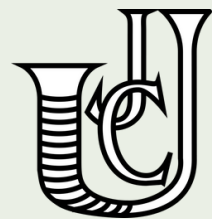


UJC Scholar-in-Residence Presentation by Rabbi Joshua Plaut, PhD.



Friday, 12th December 2025

Shabbat Service, Pot-luck Dinner, and Service Honoring our New Members

7:00 PM in The UJC Sanctuary

Our evening program begins with a Kabbalat Shabbat service honoring our new members, and continues with festive dinner at 7:45 PM, and then with a special presentation by Rabbi Joshua Plaut, our scholar-in-residence for the week of December 11-17.

Rabbi Plaut is a noted folklorist, historian, and photographer and he will speak about his book, "A Kosher Christmas - 'Tis a Time to be Jewish", which begins with an exploration of what Jews in North America typically do on Christmas - notably eating Chinese Food and volunteering in Mitzvah projects, and continues with insights on how Jews find ways to affirm their Jewish identity while also participating in the majority culture.

The Pot-Luck dinner is an opportunity to share (kosher-style, vegetarian or dairy) dishes contributed by congregants. We will also order food to make sure we can have a full and festive meal. We recognize that not everyone may find it convenient to bring food items, and so we also encourage a contribution of HK\$150 per person/HK\$300 per family if not bringing food. Please contact the UJC office to arrange for a contribution. RSVP to the UJC office by Monday, 8th December is ESSENTIAL!

Saturday, 13th December 2025

Text Study with Rabbi Plaut

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON at Rabbi Kudan's Residence

Rabbi Plaut will share Jewish legal texts that explore how Jews can respectfully share in the celebrations of non-Jewish neighbors and friends while still affirming our values and honored traditions. RSVP to the UJC office.

Here are some brief notes on Rabbi Plaut's interests and background as an historian:

Rabbi Plaut is the author of the book: A Kosher Christmas: 'Tis the Season to Be Jewish, (Rutgers University, October 2012) (www.akosherchristmas.org). As the first book to be written on Jews and Christmas, it is the product of 20 years of research -- a serious, analytical yet fun survey of 150 years of Jewish responses to the December holiday season, with emphasis on the past thirty years. A documentary film on the subject is in the early stages of development. Plaut's first book, now in its fourth printing is "Greek Jewry in the Twentieth Century, 1913-1983: Patterns of Jewish Survival in the Greek Provinces Before and After the Holocaust" (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1996). Plaut also served as the executive director of the Center for Jewish History in New York.

Joshua Plaut is from a long line of distinguished scholars and reform rabbis. Born in Great Neck, New York, Rabbi Plaut made Aliyah as a child with his family. Settling in Jerusalem in August 1967. In Israel, he attended a Youth Aliyah Boarding School, Alonei Yitzhak, near Givat Ada. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1986. Rabbi Plaut and his family divide their time between Martha's Vineyard and Manhattan.

Rabbi Plaut's work is often cited in the press. Of note is the linked article in published in the China Daily https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-12/27/content_19180327.htm



(This program is made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Salata Family.)