

The Shofar

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

July/August/September, 1998



'Havana Nights' celebration honors Charles Monat, Bob Green UJC Tenth Anniversary Gala Raises \$320,000

The UJC celebrated its 10th anniversary in black tie and costume June 6 under the stars at the Hong Kong Country Club with its first-ever, fundraising gala.

The impressive talents and energies of co-chairpersons Cara Case and Mary Seddon and their corps of volunteers made for a highly-successful evening measured in both fun and financial terms.

Delicious hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, professional salsa dancers, some of Hong Kong's top musicians, and a potent punch, the ingredients donated by Bacardi, were part of the carefully-orchestrated warm-up to the evening.

Elaborate decorations consisting of palm trees drooping with a variety of tropical fruits and flowers 'grew' from the center of each table. Guests at the sold-out dinner dance went home with attractive table favors including unique candle-lanterns and tee shirts commemorating the event.

A good part of the fundraiser's success derived from Ms Seddon's contribution who underwrote the cost of the decorations; the sale of raffle tickets organized by Mel Bazerman; and a bellwether donation by founding member Robert L. Meyer.

Emcee Neal Horwitz both praised and poked gentle fun at the honorees, Chuck Monat and Bob Green, UJC members instrumental in launching the Congregation in 1988. Trustee Robert Dorfman toasted the pair for their contributions to the Jewish Community of Hong Kong.



Celebrants (from left): Joyce Barnathan, Rabbi Joel Oseran, Shai Oseran, Dan and Diana Goldman

Most donations were accompanied by comments in a Tribute Book edited by Merle Wolin and Prucie Belman. The Trustees, Rabbi John Levi, Rabbi Sam and Dori Joseph, Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman and family, Robyn Helzner, and Dr. Will Recant also submitted remarks praising The UJC and honorees.

Mr. Meyer drew many laughs as the announcer of the raffle prizes.

Ms Elly Brooks had the winning ticket — two business class round-trip tickets on Northwest Airlines to any destination in North America, donated by Northwest; Mrs. Suzi Schwartz walked away with a 1.02 carat heart-shaped diamond ring valued at \$45,000, donated by SIBA Rare Jewels; and Mr. Alan

Jacobson took the third prize — two his-and-hers Movado Vizio watches valued at \$19,800 from Swissam Limited.

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New Fund to Help UJC Teens Visit Israel *Fund named in memory of brother of a UJC founder*

Plans are underway to help send one or two UJC teenagers to Israel each summer, the result of a decision to establish a fund honoring the memory of David R. Green, brother of founding member Robert L. Green.

Details and the selection process are still being worked out for the new fund, announced by Neal Horwitz at The UJC's 10th anniversary gala celebration June 6.

In remarks at the celebration, Mr. Green said he was 'deeply moved' by the honor. 'It was my brother and the values he represented that inspired my efforts in the Jewish community here in Hong Kong.'

'One of the great challenges we face today as Jews is how to transmit our heritage and values to our children', he said. 'How much more so here in Hong Kong where our children grow up so distant from the mainstreams of Jewish tradition!'

Green said there were few more powerful experiences or ways to impress a sense of Jewish identity on young people than a visit to Israel. 'For The UJC, therefore, to establish a fund in David's name that makes such a trip easier to afford is the most meaningful way to me personally for the Congregation to transmit our values to new generations. It is the way I would most want to be honored.'

Over a period of 41 years, NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) Israel programs have 'transformed over 22,000 young people by turning a spark of interest into a summer of exciting challenges, wonderful new friends, and a life-long involvement with Judaism,' according to a promotional brochure.

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See
*'Thoughts on
Turning Ten'
— reflections
by Charles Monat
and Bob Green,
page 5*

From the Rabbi's desk . . .

There was one thing about life in Australia that just never seemed right to me. I adjusted to winter in July and summer in January. I adjusted to doors opening out and water going down the drain counter-clockwise. I even adjusted to driving on the left and calling the rear end of the car the *boot*. But I never adjusted to having the High Holy Days in the Spring.



You see, in ancient times, Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, and Sukkot and Simhat Torah after them, were all seasonal events determined by the celestial movements of the Northern Sky. They were centered around the autumn harvest season. They marked an agricultural new year of growth. In more contemporary times, for those of us who grew up in the North, Rosh HaShanah did mark the beginning of a new year, even if we were not farmers. It marked a new year more significant and transformational to us than even that new year that comes at the beginning of January. It was the beginning of the new school year.

New classes, new teachers, new classmates, new books and school supplies, new extra-curricular activities, new clothes and shoes; it was one big *Shehecheyanu* event. After the Labor Day long weekend the summer officially came to an end (pack away those whites!), autumn commenced, and with it school. It made perfect sense to gather together then with the community to celebrate a new year, repent for our sins of the past year (that C-minus in French) and start it all anew with a clean slate. What could be more natural?

Well, in Australia, my Northern world was turned upside down. The new school year began in February (right after the Australia Day long weekend, but it was still really hot), and educationally and socially, everything continued full-tilt up to, and through, the High Holy Days. No two month break to catch up on my reading and start to prepare sermons, no 'down-time' to complete unfinished business and catch up on incomplete projects. No time to look to the future and no time to peer into the past. Nothing really 'new' about the new year. It made it difficult, I found, to really enter into the spirit of the High Holy Days.

Since we came to Hong Kong at the end of June, I have savored the summer and celebrated the time made available to me, to acclimate to a new city and congregation, to prepare for a new year of classes and programs, and to spiritually retune myself for the approaching *Yamim Noraim*. I have thanked God for bringing me back to the North.

Lest you think that too much savoring and celebrating has led to sloth, Cantor Cohen and I have been busy, eagerly arranging all sorts of new programs and classes to commence either just before or after the High Holy Days. You can read about many of them in this month's *Shofar* and you will be hearing about them often during the month to come.

Of special note is the expanded program of Shabbat events that I hope will interest you and your family.

There is the return of Tot Shabbat and Family Shabbat, beginning this month and continuing regularly on the second and last Shabbat respectively of each month. These age-appropriate family activities have been supplemented by Shabbat *Chevre*, a new, fun, Shabbat afternoon program for primary school age students and their families which will take place on the third Saturday of each month. Hopefully, this program will bring together the families of students who attend the Carmel School, Ezekiel Abraham school and other programs for a distinctive UJC Jewish educational experience.

Another initiative will be the launch of our weekly Shabbat Morning Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Torah Study. For many years now the highlight of my week has been gathering with others each Shabbat morning for coffee and bagels and to study the *Parashat HaShavua* (weekly Torah portion) in an informal and free-wheeling manner. The discussion always proves to be meaningful, if not entertaining. This year we will couple the study with a brief, yet more traditional style of service that I believe will appeal to many members of our community. This approach to Shabbat Morning at the UJC is very much in formation, and I hope you will come along and give us your involvement and input. The Shabbat Morning Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Torah Study will commence on Shabbat *Bereshit*, Saturday, October 17, and continue every week, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Even though we've only arrived, I want to welcome everyone back from their summer of travels. I genuinely look forward to the chance to meet the many members of the UJC community and get to know you well. Janece, Zachary and I are enormously pleased to be with you here in Hong Kong, a beautiful and unique corner of the globe. We look forward to working together to build an even stronger and more active United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong. For us, this is another true *Shehecheyanu* event, and I hope for the community as well. What a wonderful way to start the New Year. I wish you a happy, healthy and enriching New Year. *Shana Tova U'M'tukah*.

■ Rabbi Jordon D. Cohen

Calling All Shofar Blowers

If you own a Shofar, can blow it, and would like to join a shofar 'orchestra' to blow the final *Te-kiah Gedolah* of Yom Kippur, please contact Rabbi Cohen.

If you own a Shofar, can not blow it but would like to, private lessons can be arranged in time for the up-coming *Yamim Noraim*. Also contact Rabbi Cohen.

Praise God with a Blast of the Shofar!

— Psalm 150



notes from the Cantor

We have been in Hong Kong for a month now, and are really starting to feel at home. I have especially enjoyed meeting many of you as you return from your wonderings abroad. Now it's time to turn my energies from moving in and getting settled, to preparing for the holiest time in the Jewish year, the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe.



If I could make a wish for The United Jewish Congregation during this, the month of Elul, it would be that The UJC would become a true spiritual home for all of its congregants. Over the twenty years that I have been serving progressive congregations as Cantor, I have come to realize that while the slogan, 'We Are One!' voices the genuine desire of Jews to be one people, when it comes to religious observance, the whole concept is invalid. Every one of us brings with us the religious traditions of our childhood. These traditions vary so extraordinarily from one to another that it's a wonder that any of us can pray in the same style and space at all.

Of course, there is an answer to this dilemma, and it really is quite simple. We must try to discover the beauty in the worship traditions of each and every person within our community. To experience the good in modes of prayer different to our own. My parents gave me a great gift as I was growing up. We belonged to all three synagogues in Tucson, Arizona: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. While I received my Jewish education from the Conservative Movement, I have always felt comfortable in all styles of services. I have learned to enjoy traditional davening as well as a folk guitar camp service. The style of the service was not nearly so important as was the desire of the participants to pray. I have tried to approach worship with an open mind. I welcome songs from the heart, whether they be choral, congregational, solo, accompanied or unaccompanied. The only barriers to prayer I have ever found is when a service becomes rote and unchangeable or when people have been intolerant of one another's spiritual needs.

I believe that we can treasure our own traditions as well as embrace the good in other peoples' forms of prayer. If we only approach each service as a living, breathing, growing experience, we will be so much the richer for it. Think of our prayers as a beautiful melody being enhanced and embellished by the most exquisite harmonies, the prayers of the community surrounding us.

As the High Holy Days near, let us remember that we all must approach God in our own way, and that only by having the freedom to do so can our prayers be truly satisfying for all. Then the phrase 'We Are One!' can be true. We will be a community that can pray together in beautiful harmony.

Jordan, Zachary, and I join together in wishing you all a good and a sweet New Year.

Musically Yours,

Cantor Janece Erman Cohen



the organization of

The Hong Kong Jewish Youth Choir

under the direction of
Cantor Janece Erman Cohen

Beginning in September
this performing, touring choir
will rehearse on a weekly basis.

Participants will be able to select either a week-day, after-school practice session, or come on Sunday mornings.

All interested singers (or parents thereof) please contact The UJC office or Cantor Cohen for more information.

Hong Kong Folkdance Association

in cooperation with the
Consulate General of Israel (organizers)
Israeli Chamber of Commerce (sponsors), and
Hong Kong General Social Services Society

presents

Israeli folkdance workshops Israeli food, crafts and films

Program includes folk dance performance by
Hora Jerusalem Troupe from Israel

Israeli songs performed by
Cantor Janece Erman Cohen

Sunday, 30 August, 1998
10:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.

Wu Kwai Sha YMCA Youth Village
Ma On Shan, NT

Pre-registration required
\$100.00 (includes transportation, entry and program)
\$125.00 (includes above plus lunch)

Applications available through The UJC office
For more information, contact Ms. Yuen
at 2529-6091, fax, 2865-0220

Message from the chairman . . .



This month's key word should probably be 'welcome.' We would like to welcome UJC members who are returning from summer journeys away from Hong Kong, as well as new members who have joined the UJC during the summer months. And we want to extend a particularly warm welcome to Rabbi Jordan, Cantor Janece and Zachary Cohen, who arrived in early July and have hardly had a chance to take a breath — despite supposedly being in the midst of the 'slow season.'

We are very excited about the coming year. As you will see elsewhere in this issue, our Rabbi and Cantor already have planned numerous activities and programs that will be exciting, enriching and designed to appeal to various segments of our community.

The UJC Executive Committee will try to carry its share of the load. Fortunately, we have a group of talented and dedicated volunteers ready to work with the Rabbi and Cantor to serve the needs and desires of UJC members.

For example, Kee Cronin has responsibility for the children's education portfolio; Ann Lubart and Frank Lavin are taking the lead on membership matters (for both new and established members); Cara Case and David Zweig will be working on fundraising; Ken Bell will remain concerned with ritual matters; Dan Kirwin will work on administrative issues; Bob Green will continue to produce *The Shofar*; and Joy Zweig and her team will oversee social/holiday activities. Bob Meyer will ably handle the treasury and countless other issues, while Terry Paule

and Jon Feiger are involved in almost everything. Chuck Monat is always there for us.

I am grateful for all of these excellent leaders. But this doesn't mean we don't need help from members interested in education, religious matters, social events, fundraising, membership or other areas. We do, and hope that you will want to participate and to help with something that interests or inspires you. Please contact me, any of the people I've mentioned or Jackie in the UJC office to volunteer some of your time.

Of course, we will be calling on some of you, as well. We know that our congregation is rich in talented and experienced people, and hope to use this invaluable asset more effectively than we have in the past. We welcome you all to make the UJC better and more responsive to all of you. I look forward to working with you.

A final note: In the midst of welcomes, we have to say very reluctant goodbyes to some others. I want to single out two families in particular: the Oserans and the Goldmans. During the 10 months they were here, Joel, Rachelle, Shai, Ilan and Ariel Oseran made an enormous contribution to The UJC and the larger Jewish community in Hong Kong. Diana and Dan Goldman and their (now) three daughters have made The UJC stronger and more vital with their willingness to do what needed to be done, and do it so well. We will miss the Oserans and Goldmans — a lot. They take with them our love, gratitude and best wishes for the future.

■ Mark Michelson

Fund Helps Teens Visit Israel

(continued from page 1)

David Green, a student at the University of Cincinnati, was, in the words of Dr. Benny Kraut, former head of the University's Judaic Studies Program, 'a social activist' who by the time of his untimely death at the age of 21, had involved himself in efforts to free Soviet Jews, feed the hungry, and establish a Judaic Studies program at the University of Cincinnati.

A David R. Green Memorial award established by a cousin Leonard Roth is given every year to two students at UC who combine good grades with a commitment to Jewish communal and cultural life.

Congregations offering assistance for summer visits to Israel have similar guidelines. Teenagers selected for the awards usually participate in special educational programs created to prepare them for such a trip and share their experiences with their peer groups and Congregation after their return.

Anniversary Gala Great Success

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Frank Lavin won best male costume with his 'revolutionary' garb; Nadine Newlight took the award for best female costume with a swirling, layered red dress with shawl and fan; and Joy and David Zweig in black and white combinations won as best couple.

Based on the success of the celebration, it is expected that this will become an annual UJC fundraising event.

Lost, Found, & Missing

The UJC office has a growing collection of baby cups, clothes, toys and other items which have been left behind at our functions and services during the year. Please contact the office to reclaim your 'stuff.'

Members who have borrowed prayer books or may have inadvertently taken home *kippot* or other items belonging to The UJC are urged to return these to Jackie or Michael in order that we may have these items in time for the High Holidays.



Thoughts on Turning Ten

BY CHARLES S. MONAT

I feel great pride when I look back at ten years of The UJC existence. I think of the dinner I had with Bob and Grace Green in May 1988 at The American Club, when their son David could not have his Bar Mitzvah, and now of the gala celebration to celebrate our tenth anniversary, and how much has happened in between.

In the beginning we had the idea only to provide religious services and facilities for non-Orthodox Jews in Hong Kong, under the then existing setup. There was no organization, only a vision of what was needed.

I think of my days on the Jewish Recreation Club Committee in 1988-9, arguing to help carve out a respectable place for Liberal Jews. I had a vision of Orthodox and Liberal Jews worshipping in close proximity, sharing and enjoying our common heritage, under the facilities granted to all the Jews in Hong Kong under the 1903 Sassoon Trust.

In 1989, just before our Liberal group had its first Rosh HaShanah service at the China Fleet Club, I pleaded with the Jewish Recreation Club committee to put up a big tent on the lawn, so that non-Orthodox Jews could worship together, in close proximity to their Orthodox brethren!

Lord Lawrence Kadoorie made a commitment to us, as chairman of the Incorporated Trustees of the Jewish Community of Hong Kong, that if we could show there were a good number of Liberal Jews in Hong Kong, he would support this group. Indeed, he made good on his word. He and his wife Muriel were among the first arrivals at our first Rosh HaShanah services in 1989 (nearly 250 people attended!) and starting in 1993, the Trust began allocating funds to assist The UJC.

I reminisce with warm feelings when I think of Rabbi John Levi who initially came up from Aus-

tralia to perform the Bar Mitzvah for David Green and later for others and to conduct several services. I am deeply moved by the time and effort put in by Bob Meyer, Janet Golden and others over the years.

It was tremendously exciting when Rabbi Sam Joseph came out to Hong Kong to run our first Rosh Hashanah Service and when Jerry Schneider, our volunteer cantor, sang at that service. A chill ran down my spine. It was also leading up to that service that Janet Golden, Al and Sharon Fine, Carol Betson and Tommy and Veronica Frankenberg became active supporters.

I am very touched that the Havana Nights party was so well planned and organized. In particular, I want to thank Marie Seddon, Cara Case, Terry Paule, Frank Lavin, and all the others who made this gala affair such a great success.

My reward has been the thanks the UJC members have expressed over the years, for the many friends I have made along the way, for the plethora of activities, from religious services to educational classes, to social events and life functions that have emanated from this, and for the satisfaction of seeing come to pass both worship facilities and a flat for our Rabbi, and our active participation as a major component of the Hong Kong Jewish Community.

Most importantly, I want to thank Bob Green, my best friend, who took the bull by the horns and unselfishly chaired the UJC for nine years, edited *The Shofar*, and committed a great deal of his personal time for the benefit of the UJC. I also want to thank him for the great fun and laughter we have enjoyed together in this pursuit and for the mitzvah he has done for me and others. I am both proud and humbled to be able to be part of this legacy.

BY BOB GREEN

First, I want to thank my wife Grace who realized quite clearly, I think, that a reward in heaven — which was the only prospect of pay that The UJC offered — would not pay for our two sons' college education nor would it be accepted by the bank as collateral for a loan. As the Congregation demanded more and more of my time, Grace stepped in and ran our business far better than I ever could myself. So thanks to Grace, I was able to dedicate my energies for whatever they were worth to The UJC and for that, I think, she deserves our appreciation.

As much as Chuck and I appreciate all the kind things said about us and written in the Tribute Book, the tribute we cherish the most, what has given us the most satisfaction, is The UJC itself — seeing the extent to which the Congregation has given shape, content, definition, and added dimension to peoples' lives.

The tribute resides in seeing friendships made, in seeing people becoming involved, in seeing the seats fill up at High Holidays, seders, and shabbat services, and in seeing things like the Shanghai project coming together so successfully.

Many of you know the story of my son's bar mitzvah which I believe was a catalyst, or defining event that led to a change in the complexion of the entire Hong Kong Jewish community, not just those professing Reform or Conservative beliefs. The UJC, from its inception, committed itself to one of the most basic injunctions laid upon us as Jews — to welcome the stranger.

Ironically, the strangers were our own wives, husbands, children and close companions — the strangers were ourselves. Hong Kong is not home for most of us and even the Trust document, written in 1903, refers not to the Jewish residents of Hong Kong but to Jewish people 'temporarily residing in Hong Kong'. The extent to which we make the stranger feel welcome and wanted — the extent to which The UJC exudes this feeling, this spirit of warmth and welcoming, has been and will be, I believe, the measure of our success in future years.

Opportunities for Life-Long Jewish Learning

Introduction to Judaism

taught by Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen
Wednesdays, 8:00-9:30 P.M., J.C.C.

5759/1998-99

Introduction to Judaism is a year-long, continuous overview of the basics in Judaism and Jewish life. If you are considering conversion or an Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah, missed out on a formal Jewish education as a child and want to learn more, or are just interested in a refresher course on an individual topic, this class is for you. Each session covers a distinct topic, so you can join the class at any time. And, since the course will continue on the same cycle again next year, you don't have to worry about missing a thing.

Topics will touch on all aspects of Jewish life and thought, from traditional forms of Jewish literature, Jewish institutions and community, Holidays and Festivals, The Jewish lifecycle, Israel, theology, music, cooking, and much more. Each topic will be discussed from both a traditional and contemporary point of view, and appropriate texts, in both Hebrew and English, will be presented for discussion.

For more information, Contact Rabbi or Cantor Cohen.

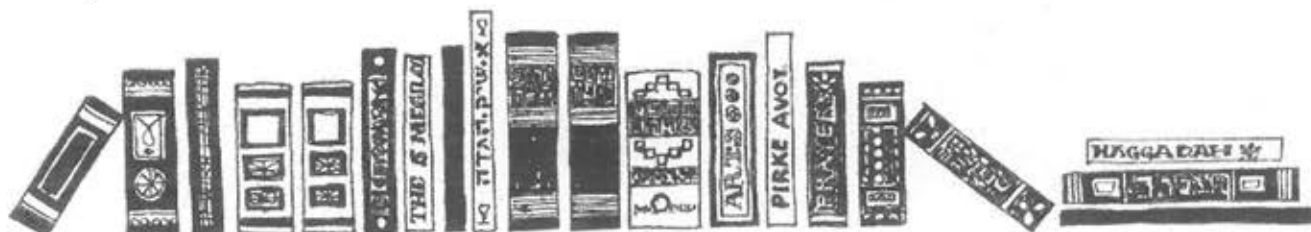
09 September	High Holy Days I
16 September	High Holy Days II
23 September	No classes
30 September	No classes (Yom Kippur)
07 October	Sukkot/Simchat Torah
14 October	Written Torah: TaNakh & Commentaries
21 October	Oral Torah I: <i>Halakha & Aggadah</i>
28 October	Oral Torah II: Codes & Responsa
04 November	Mystical Traditions
11 November	Modern Jewish Movements
18 November	Judaism & Other Religions
25 November	Shabbat I
2 December	Shabbat II
9 December	Chanukkah
16 December	The Jewish Calendar
13 January	<i>Brit U'Mitzvot</i> — Covenant & Commandment
20 January	Jewish Music
27 January	The Jewish Lifecycle I — Intro, Marriage
03 February	The Jewish Lifecycle II — Birth & Youth
10 February	The Jewish Lifecycle III — Death & Mourning
17 February	Public Holiday - No classes
24 February	Purim

03 March	Pesach
10 March	Jews & Asians
17 March	No classes
24 March	No classes
31 March	First Night Pesach Seder - No classes
7 April	<i>Yom HaShoah</i> — Anti-Semitism & the Holocaust.
14 April	<i>Yom HaZikaron/HaAtzmaut</i> — Israel & Zionism I
21 April	Israel & Zionism II
28 April	The Jewish Home & Family
05 May	Gender in Judaism
12 May	Jewish Cooking
19 May	Shavuot
26 May	The Synagogue
02 June	The Jewish Community I
09 June	The Jewish Community II
16 June	Ask the Rabbi... Members

Hebrew — 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Hebrew I — For Absolute Beginners
taught by Rabbi Jordan Cohen

Hebrew II — *Brachot* and *Tefilot*
taught by Cantor Janece Erman Cohen



Family Shabbat Service

last Friday, 6:30 P.M.

AUDITORIUM

followed by

Communal Shabbat Dinner
JCC COFFEE SHOP

A Special Way for the Whole Family to Welcome Shabbat

Songs, stories and prayer to appeal to the entire family

Includes a special blessing for everyone who celebrated a birthday during the month

Begins Friday, August 28



Shabbat Chevra

third Saturday every month
4:30-6:30 P.M.

AUDITORIUM

Shabbat Learning & Fun for School-Age Children and their Families

A special, monthly UJC program for school-age children, designed especially to compliment the Jewish education received at Carmel School, Ezekiel Abraham School, or elsewhere.

Come get to know other UJC families and enjoy Shabbat afternoon with:

- *Seudah Shlishit* (third Shabbat meal)
- activities for all ages
- Havdalah

Begins Saturday, October 17

Tot Shabbat

second Saturday, every month
11:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM

A Shabbat Experience for young children and their families

A special Shabbat service and activity for the pre-school set, following by lunch. Fun guaranteed for all. Be sure to bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

Begins Saturday, September 12

Parashat HaShavua

every Saturday

9:00 — 11:00 A.M.

APARTMENT 3C

ONE ROBINSON PLACE

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Torah Study

Join us every Shabbat morning for

- fresh bagels, coffee
- prayer and study

in an informal yet traditional style

Together we will daven through the Shabbat morning prayers, then join together in a lively discussion of the *Parashat HaShavua*, the Torah portion of the week, drawing on both traditional and contemporary sources.

What a better way to start a Saturday
Definitely worth waking up for!

Begins Shabbat Bereshit
Saturday, October 17
All are welcome



Kabbalat Shabbat Service

every Friday, 7:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM

followed by

Communal Shabbat Dinner
J.C.C. COFFEE SHOP

Come, let us welcome the Sabbath...

Join us every week for a pre-Shabbat reception at 6:30 P.M. followed by our service to welcome Shabbat at 7:00 P.M. Plan on staying for The UJC's Communal Shabbat Dinner, each week, following services.



YOU can make a difference in The Mitzvah Corps

a weekly, program of study, communal involvement and fun for post Bar/Bat Mitzvah teens

Learn

about the needs in our community

Discover

how our tradition teaches us to respond to these needs and then

How do something about them!

Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.
with Rabbi Cohen

Not a formal class but a hands-on opportunity to make a difference.

Later in the year the students in Mitzvah Corp will choose a project to work on together for the rest of the year.

You made a commitment at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Now is the time to do something about it! Come and make a difference!

New Committee Brings Wealth of Talent, Skills to The Table

Interested in serving? The UJC has again been most fortunate in attracting high caliber members dedicated to community service. We take this opportunity to introduce the recently-elected (and re-elected) members of the Executive Committee, not only to acquaint Congregants with The UJC's leadership, but to attract other members to serve as well. At present, Exco has 13 members with openings for two more (and you don't have to be a graduate of the University of Michigan, as a number of our members are).



Mark Michelson, chairman, is Managing Director of APCO Asia Ltd., a subsidiary of Grey Advertising providing expertise in public affairs and communications to business and government organizations throughout the world. A 30-year veteran of the region, 18 of those in Hong Kong, Dr.

Michelson has served as chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce here and on a number of Hong Kong Government and community boards and committees. He has organized and directed business forums and client programs, written articles on Asian business issues for local and international publications and is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars in Asia/Pacific and North America. Dr. Michelson earned his BA from Carleton College and doctorate from the University of Illinois. Active in the UJC for nearly 10 years, he became chairman last year after serving two terms as a vice-chairman. Dr. Michelson and his wife Kate have two sons, Max, 12, and Aaron, 8.



Terry Paule, vice-chairman since 1997 and now serving her third term on the Committee, was instrumental in bringing Rabbi Jordan and Cantor Janece Cohen to Hong Kong as head of the rabbi search sub-committee. A native of Kalamazoo, Michigan and graduate of University of Michigan, she moved

to Hong Kong nearly four years ago from Los Angeles. She is on leave of absence from her position as an administrative law judge for the State of California. She and her husband Jeff, an executive with the Walt Disney Company, have two daughters, Sarah, 17, and Melinda, 14. She is looking forward to working with the new Rabbi and Cantor in developing a unique liturgy for The UJC.



Jonathan Feiger, vice-chairman for a second term, is also chairman of the Jewish Community Centre. A Chicago native with a degree in law, he and his wife Nancy Laben, also a lawyer, have lived in Hong Kong for four years. They have two children, Leah, 6 and Jayce, 4.



Robert L. Meyer, treasurer since 1997 and a founding member, has brought extensive experience to Exco from the worlds of finance and law. Founder, Chairman, and Managing Director of Special Assets Limited, a publicly-held investment and fund management company of which he is the single largest shareholder, Mr. Meyer was born in

New Jersey, received a BA from Columbia College and *Juris Doctor* degree from Columbia University School of Law. He came to Hong Kong 20 years ago with the international law firm Coudert Brothers. He was co-founder of the First Pacific Group and a director of First Pacific Company Limited and First Pacific Davies Limited. Mr. Meyer was appointed a director of The Hong Kong Futures Exchange in 1987. He has three children, Michael, 17, Benjamin, 16, and Rachelle, 10.



Ken Bell, secretary, has been a member of the UJC for over three years and Exco for over two. He is also secretary for the Jewish Community Centre board. A resident since 1995, Dr. Bell is Senior Geotechnical Engineer on Pacific Bechtel Company's West Rail Project for KCRC. The Rockville Centre, New York native lived in North Poto-

mac, Maryland before coming to Hong Kong where he also worked for Bechtel. Dr. Bell received his BS, MS, and PhD from the University of Maryland in Engineering. He and his wife Debbie have three daughters, Robyn, 18, Marisa, 15 and Alexis, 15, all in school in the United States.



Cara Case's professional skills have been of great benefit to the Congregation in raising funds to purchase a Torah, assist disadvantaged children and the elderly in Shanghai, and decrease the UJC's budget deficit. She has served on Exco since December 1995. Mrs. Case moved to Hong Kong four years ago from New York where she

was a fundraiser for the New York City Ballet. She begins work this September for the Asia Society in the areas of fundraising and membership. A University of Michigan graduate, she and her husband, Andrew, a lawyer at Merrill Lynch, have a son, Zachary, 2.



Kee Cronin, a newly-elected member, has taken on the education portfolio on Exco, inspired by her experience as a volunteer at the Carmel School. 'I hope to take this inspiration and devote my time and energy to the children of the UJC.' Born and raised in a small rural town, Greenwood Mississippi, Mrs. Cronin spent her freshman year of college at Haifa University in Israel. She received a BA from State University of New York (Albany)

(continued next page)

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you'. (Ezekiel 36:26)

(continued from previous page)

in Geography and Urban Planning and studied Interior Design in Chicago. She has worked in town planning, architectural lighting, and residential interior design. She and her husband David, who is with American Express, have two children, Charlotte, 8, and Dylan, 4, both attending Carmel.



Janet Golden, a founding member now serving as honorary member, says it has been a 'great pleasure to work with the community' [which has resulted in] 'many wonderful friends and experiences.' A native of Flint, Michigan and graduate of University of Michigan, she has organized numerous holiday and festival events and helped design and produce a number of UJC publications. She is 'looking forward to working with Rabbi Jordan and Cantor Janece Cohen and to welcoming new members to the community at High Holidays.' Ms Golden has worked at Hongkong Telecom since 1995.



Bob Green, a founding member and former chairman, is editor of The UJC's newsletter, *The Shofar*. Born in Akron, Ohio, the University of Michigan grad served as an officer in the U.S. Army in Korea and Washington DC, worked for teacher training programs in Vietnam and Taiwan, and was a freelance journalist for *Time* and *Life* and *The New York Times* before coming to Hong Kong in 1969 with NBC News. He started his own business in 1973, Amazing Grace Elephant Company, Limited, which he runs with his wife, Grace. They have two sons, David, 22, working at Northwestern and Jonathan, 20, a senior at Brown.



Daniel Kirwin, serving his third term, has been active in various fundraising projects for The UJC and in the area of administration. The New York City native received his BA in Asian Studies with a focus on China from the University of Virginia. He later worked in the University's development office researching large gifts and donations. A UJC member since moving here four years ago, he works for the Institute of International Research, an international conference, exhibition and publishing company responsible for business development and sales in Asia. He travels often to China and other areas in Asia.



Frank Lavin, a newly-elected member, has taken up the membership portfolio. He moved to Hong Kong in 1996 with his wife Ann and three children, Abby, 14, Nat, 9, and Elizabeth, 6, all students at HKIS. Mr. Lavin works at Citibank where he is a Vice President in Corporate Banking, responsible for

the energy/power and chemical/pharmaceutical sectors in the region. An Ohio native, Mr. Lavin previously worked in Washington DC where he served in the White House and the National Security Council staff, among other assignments. Mr. Lavin has had articles published in *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times* and elsewhere and is an officer in the Navy Reserves.



Ann Lubart has given valuable help to the fundraising, social, and havurah sub-committees in the past year, despite heavy demands on her time from Chase Manhattan Bank where she is a vice president. A newly-elected Exco member, Ms Lubart will be devoting her energies to recruiting and helping with new members. The Vassar grad received her BA degree in Latin American studies and speaks French, Spanish, and Russian (favorite poet: Pushkin). Born in Hurley, New York, Ms Lubart lists her interests as reading and writing.



Charles Monat, a founding member and Exco member ever since, was born in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He worked as a caseworker for New York City's Welfare Department before entering the U.S. Army. After completing Officer Candidate School at Ft. Lee, Virginia, Lieutenant Monat went to Thailand where he served until 1969. He moved to Hong Kong in 1970 and started his own insurance business with agency and brokerage divisions specializing in life, health and employee benefits. Mr. Monat is also General Agent for Transamerica Life Companies. He worked as a volunteer assisting refugees in Cambodia in 1979 with a Munich-based group 'Soforthlife' and with UNHCR, ICRC and other NGOs. He was later named a director of Refugees International in Washington, DC. Mr. Monat has also served on the General Committee of the Jewish Recreation Club.



David Zweig, serving his second term on Exco, is Associate Professor in the Division of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and director of the graduate program in the division. A native of Toronto, he taught for many years at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and was a Post-doctoral Fellow at Harvard University in 1984-85. His Ph.D. is in political science from The University of Michigan (1983), with a specialization in Chinese politics and political economy, a field in which he has written a number of books. Dr. Zweig was actively involved in The UJC's Shanghai fundraising project and will continue on the Committee in a fundraising role. He and his wife Joy, president of The Product Workshop, have a daughter Rachel, 6, and son, Aaron, 2.

Report from Jerusalem: A Tale of Two (former UJC) Rabbis

Kol HaNeshama — A Congregation That Attracts Like A Magnet

When 300 to 400 worshipers appear regularly for Shabbat eve services and tour buses shuttle in masses of visitors, one suspects an unusual type of magnetism is operating. The institution responsible for the magnetic draw is Congregation Kol HaNeshama which, since 1985, has created a new kind of liberal religious experience in Jerusalem.

Many people attribute the success of Kol HaNeshama — the name is from the verse in Psalms 'every soul praises God' — to the spirituality of its rabbi, Levi Weiman-Kelman. Others credit the congregation's program that emphasizes social action, study, and integration into the life of Israel. The open egalitarian atmosphere that permeates all activities appeals to the sensibilities of many in Jerusalem. As a result, the congregation has attracted an amazingly diverse and knowledgeable membership that spans the spectrum from Reform to Orthodoxy.

Social Action and Study

Kol HaNeshama has built a close relationship with the residents of Bet Magen, a home for mentally-challenged adults. According to one member of Kol HaNeshama, if the congregation existed for no other reason than because of its close bond with Bet Magen, it would have accomplished its purpose. For the past ten years, residents of Bet Magen have worshipped at Kol HaNeshama every Shabbat morning. They have entered fully into the life of the synagogue with activities like baking *challah* to bring on Shabbat and making masks for Purim. The take pride in opening and closing the ark curtain during the Shabbat service and in being greeted by name by congregants. Youth groups from

Israel and abroad often come to Kol HaNeshama to work with the adults from Bet Magen.

The congregation's Jerusalem Forum concentrates on problem issues within [the city]. Last winter, they assisted a Bedouin tribe that was temporarily driven from their land. Currently, the group is focusing on promoting religious pluralism.

They have established a dialogue with Orthodox groups and are working with the Israel Religious Action Center to investigate how funds are disbursed to religious institutions in Jerusalem.

In their study program, Kol HaNeshama offers four different classes during the week in traditional texts. Sixty-five youngsters attend their three nursery school sessions.

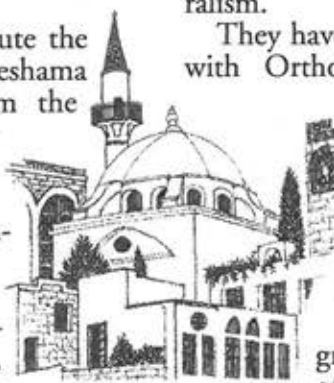
The Prayer Service

A prayer service at Kol HaNeshama is a uniquely spiritual experience. Usually led by Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, whom congregation president David Wapner describes as a 'Hassidic Reform rabbi,' the entire service is chanted in unison by the worshipers. If the rabbi is away from the city, a congregant — often a woman — will lead the service. Worship at Kol HaNeshama, regardless of the leader, conveys a spirit of sanctity not easily forgotten.

The guiding principle of Kol HaNeshama, explained Wapner, is to increase the presence of Jewish tradition in the practice of its members while maintaining the spirit of Reform.

[Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman served as The UJC's rabbi from 1996 to 1997 while on sabbatical from Kol HaNeshama]

■ this article which originally appeared in a Jewish publication was submitted by Robert L. Meyer



Letter from Rabbi Joel

I write these words in Jerusalem only three weeks after leaving Hong Kong. It is so very hard to comprehend how so much can change in such a brief period of time.

Jerusalem wastes no time in 'reclaiming' its returning souls. It has tremendous experience in this undertaking as well. We arrived back on a Friday morning (July 10) and were already back to our work places on Sunday morning (ugh! remember the work week begins on Sunday in Israel!).

The kids have already attended our Reform movement summer camp and updated their friends about their Hong Kong experience.

My colleagues at work have been most welcoming and have gone out of their way to make me feel 'at home' once again. Those colleagues who inherited much of my work load during my absence are walking around now with broad smiles on their faces — I can't understand why.

So what can I say now that we are 'back home' and our Sabbatical Year is behind us? My first inclination is to catch the next El Al flight for Hong Kong! I really do have the instinctive desire to get back to 70 Robinson Road; to our beautiful apartment with Victoria Harbor in the distance; to Lourdes our helper who would be disbelieving of how many times I've washed clothes and mopped the floors since returning; and most importantly to our many friends in The UJC who made up our 'world' for the past year. How difficult it is to suddenly leave and not see you.

But enough denial! Just like the Shabbat would not be the special, holy time that it is without the six days of ordinary work preceding it, so must we approach the wonderful meaning we found in our Sabbatical Year.

It is now time to return to the years of regularity, years where we will continue to make our modest contribution to the Jewish People here in our beautiful Jerusalem. There is much for us to do here. Already my calendar is full with

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A Passage to Israel in the Fullness of Middle Age

A First-time Visitor to the Holy Land is 'Surprised by Nothing, Staggered by Everything'

'So why,' said the guide at the Israel Museum, a gentle *tch* of reproach in her voice, 'have you never come to Israel before?'

Again that question, like an alternative form of *shalom*. I'd been in Israel just 24 hours and had already heard it four times.

Well, it's not a bad question. There are so many of us American Jews whose bags are always packed for London, Paris and Rome, who've been to Rio, Moscow and Marrakesh, who've stuffed the nickels of our childhood into ubiquitous blue-and-white tin boxes for trees for Israel, but have never managed to get ourselves to the Holy Land. Why? I hadn't a clue, but it had been nagging at me.

I never much wanted to go until recent years, in the fullness of middle age. When I finally got there, in April, it stunned me. Not by being so different from what I'd expected — we all know, from lifetimes of reading and hearing, what to expect — but by being so much of what I'd expected. A powerful essence of itself. I wandered about like an intimate stranger, surprised by nothing, staggered by everything.

Of course I had known that Israel would show its age. But what could have prepared me for this patina?

Mot antiquities, because they are stone, are gray. In Israel, by some alchemy, they are gold. 'Here,' said a guide at The Cardo, that Madison Avenue of antiquity preserved far below the Old City, 'you can see what archeology means in Jerusalem.' What you see is history made palpable as I'd never seen before. It made me cry, though I couldn't have said for whom or for what.

Of course the country would be small. Hadn't I known that? But knowledge was light-years removed from standing with a friend on a hotel-room balcony in Eilat, facing the Gulf of Aqaba. 'Look' she said, pointing to the left to shoreline no more than a mile away. 'That's Jordan. Now see those industrial stacks?' Pointing perhaps six, or eight miles further south. 'That's Saudi Arabia. And over there,'

pointing now to the right, to land that might have been Riverdale as seen from Riverside Park, but closer, 'that's Egypt.'

Of course I knew Jerusalem would be beautiful. But not like this.

I was staying at the famous residence for artists and academics overlooking the Old City, Mishkenot Sha'ananim. Some view. I stared for hours at those walls, and walked my feet to nubs within them. Outside them too, on hills ringing-in the city, I explored avenues graced with splendid modern architecture and new neighborhoods as golden as the old, filled with parks, parks, parks. I wondered, when travelers list The World's Most Beautiful Cities, how Jerusalem, not Paris or St. Petersburg, wasn't listed as the goldenest oldie of them all.

And then that nagging question: Why was I never here before? . . . Then I heard Kaplan's Theory, which gave me long pause.

Mendel Kaplan, whom I met at an Independence Day event, was born in South Africa, lived for some time in America, went to Columbia College, and has had a home in Jerusalem since the 1970s.

'Visit a Jewish school in England or Canada,' he said, 'and ask "How many of your families have been to Israel?" Half the kids raise their hands. In America, no. And I'll tell you why:

"There are three separate Jewish worlds — Israel, America and the rest. The average English or French Jew still feels like a second-class citizen. He is Jewish first, and then English or French. But American Jews feel so secure in America that they don't identify with Israel. They don't feel its relevance to them. They feel American first and second and third and fourth, and then Jewish. And then — maybe — Zionist."

True enough (though I do not feel Jewish fifth, I feel Jewish second, by a nose). Also, there is the issue of security. But I think it has as much to do with mortality. In the second half of our lives we start to ask the predictable questions, and thoughts of where we're going

beget thoughts of where we've been, which beget thoughts of Israel.

It is not like looking for your roots. To schlep around the dour reaches of Eastern Europe in search of Tara, as thousands of us have done in recent years, is a different kind of trip. It is concrete and literal. You can stand in a place and know, yes, this was the birthplace of my parent.

Whereas this other, this passage to Israel, is far more symbolic, metaphorical and beautiful. It is not about roots but taproots. Founts, geneses, sources. The Source. Which is to say, it's a journey.

Ms Lear, the author of *Heartsounds* (Simon & Schuster) lives in New York. Abridged and reprinted from *Forward*, July 3, 1998

Letter from Rabbi Joel

(continued from page 10)

meetings concerning our Reform Movement activity with new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, with our activity inside the Former Soviet Union and with our other educational projects in Israel.

And soon the High Holidays will be upon us. I will be leading services in the oldest Reform congregation in Israel — Har El congregation in Jerusalem. I will think back, for sure, to the beautiful services we had with you last year at the APA. I will remember the wonderful fireworks display after Rosh HaShanah services — as if all of Hong Kong was wishing us a Happy New Year!

All of the Oserans wish you a most happy and healthy New Year to come. We wish Jordan and Janice much success as well! We are already thinking of ways to come back this year to visit — waiting for the next Sabbatical is just too long to contemplate!

May the New Year be a good one for Hong Kong, for the UJC, and for each and every one of you. And Peace be upon Israel.

In friendship and in love,

Rabbi Joel D. Oseran

[Rabbi Oseran was The UJC's rabbi from 1997-1998 on sabbatical from The WUPJ]

Don't Miss!

Visiting Rabbi-in-Residence
Maurice Michaels
speaking on

What Makes a Jewish Community a Caring Community?

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 P.M.
JCC Garden Room



Rabbi Maurice Michaels, an expert on institutional management and organizational development, is former Chairman of both the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain and the Leo Baeck Rabbinic College in London. He currently serves as Rabbi of the Edgeware and District Reform Congregation.

A latecomer to the rabbinate, Rabbi Michaels worked many years in the world of industry. He was also active as a volunteer, serving as governor, chairman, and member of a number of boards and councils in both the Jewish and general communities. His main interest today is Jewish education. During his brief, two-day visit, Rabbi Michaels will conduct various workshops with our Executive Committee and new leadership.

*Please join us to welcome
this exceptional Jewish leader
as our September guest.
Everyone is Welcome*

High Holidays Music Workshop

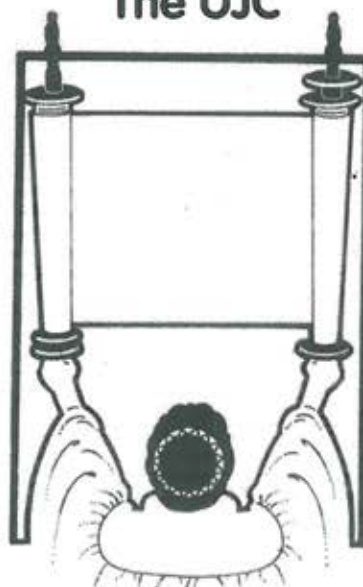
with Cantor Janece Erman Cohen

Wednesday, September 9, 7.30 P.M.
Venue to be announced

- Learn the important melodies of the High Holy Days so that you can sing along with services!
- Learn to harmonize some of the tunes so that High Holiday services will be more beautiful than ever

RSVP with UJC office so we can prepare your packet of music

Celebrate Simchat Torah with The UJC



Family Service, Songs and Dancing

with Rabbi Jordan Cohen
and Cantor Janece E. Cohen

followed by
coffee/tea, juice, cookies
and snacks for the children

*A wonderful way
to introduce your
children to the
joys of being Jewish*

Sunday, October 11
6:00 P.M.

Monday, October 12
9:00 A.M.

Auditorium,
Robinson Place





Family Shabbat & Birthday Celebration

The UJC invites all those celebrating birthdays to our monthly Family Erev Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings which will take place August 28, 6:30 P.M. for August birthdays, September 25, 6:30 P.M. for September birthdays and October 30, 6:30 P.M. for October birthdays. You don't have to have a birthday to attend!

July

- 01 Titi Liu
- 02 Alexander Meyer
- 03 Charlotte Cronin
- 04 Ines Hannah Colmey
- 07 Gerson Sloven
- 08 Justin Dorfman
- 09 Brannon Fetzer
- 11 Sandra Birnbaum
- 11 Zachary Cohen
- 11 Karl Steiner
- 12 Marisa Bell
- 12 Abby Lavin
- 13 Benjamin Kaminsky
- 13 Rebecca Ray
- 15 Raphaela Weiman-Kelman
- 19 Michael Kadoorie
- 19 Viviane Meyer
- 21 Carly Dorfman
- 21 Lara Mushkat
- 22 Rafael Nishihira
- 22 Sacha Slone
- 26 Susan Nishihira
- 27 Jessica Berman
- 27 Raphael Shure
- 29 Alison Miller-Day
- 29 Margaux Stanton
- 29 Rachel Zweig
- 31 Kenneth Somers

August

- 01 Kurt Steiner
- 01 Paula Weiman-Kelman
- 03 Harry Charles
- 03 Xoli Durbin
- 04 Jacqueline Birnbaum
- 05 Lisa Hoffman
- 06 Daniel Booth
- 07 Ricky Clennar
- 07 Bill Driscoll
- 08 Jacob Borenstein
- 08 Federico Cucker

- 08 Lena Lockhart
- 09 Charlotte Milner-Barry
- 09 Josef Szende
- 10 Katie Greenberg
- 12 Zeb Hosking
- 12 Mike Sherman
- 14 David Frankenberg
- 15 Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph
- 16 Jennifer Sherman
- 17 Brooke Fetzer
- 19 Tom Charles
- 19 Jason Kasten
- 19 Anais Ross
- 20 Bettina Kadoorie
- 22 Elizabeth Samelson
- 22 Michael Theil
- 25 Jason Sander
- 26 Renata Axler
- 26 Melinda Paule
- 27 Daniel Birnbaum
- 28 Drusilla Belman
- 28 Dr. Julian Groves
- 29 Zachary Chaitman
- 31 Maina Handmaker
- 31 Abigail Raffell

September

- 01 Alan Bacher
- 01 Alexandra Lahm
- 02 Brian Auld
- 03 Sara Auld
- 05 Ben Dasaro
- 05 Jonathan Shaw
- 06 Deborah Alexander
- 06 David Kaptzan
- 08 Laura Dodwell-Groves
- 08 Mitchell Feigenberg
- 08 Susannah Kroeber
- 09 Rachel Blumenthal
- 09 Matthew Miller
- 09 Samuel Rosichan
- 12 Gil Lempert-Schwarz
- 13 David Handelman
- 14 David Green
- 14 Theodore Miller

- 15 Sacha Gregory
- 16 Jessica Chaitman
- 17 Andrew Kuzmik
- 17 Larry Lipsher
- 18 Michael Auld
- 18 Skyler Butts
- 18 Jules Theil
- 20 Zachary Case
- 24 David Auld
- 24 Alexis Bell
- 24 Emily Garber
- 24 Lucas Sloven
- 25 Nathalie Ellis Einhorn
- 25 Julia Van Zwieten
- 29 Sarah Jenya Kasoff
- 29 Rami Zwick

October

- 03 Haris Bazerman
- 03 Cantor Janece Cohen
- 03 Sophie Neville
- 04 Jake Drutchas
- 04 Uri Lempert-Schwartz
- 05 Ayssa Aaron
- 05 Jacob Berman
- 08 Danita Mushkat
- 09 Rachel Goldman
- 09 Rachel Nixon
- 10 David Haase
- 10 Neal Horwitz
- 10 Benjamin Richman
- 11 Benjamin Colmey
- 11 Christina Paris
- 11 Charles Rosenblum
- 12 Jenifer Somers
- 14 David Graubard
- 17 Tamara Frankenberg
- 21 Mary Seddon
- 22 Ray Birnbaum
- 24 Anna Strasser
- 26 Peter Meyer
- 26 Sarah Milner-Barry
- 28 Samantha Fox
- 30 Alexis Drutchas
- 30 Laura Sander

Havana Nights



Havana Nights co-chairpersons (from left)
Mary Seddon and Cara Case



From left: Sarah Ackerman and 'Prucie' Belman



From left: Neil Horwitz, Mel & Paulette Bazerman



Dan and Tina Kushner



Best costume winners (from left) Joy Zweig, David
Zweig, Nadine Newlight, Frank Lavin



Sukkot *under the* *Sun & Stars*

with Rabbi Jordan Cohen
and Cantor Janece Cohen

A celebration of the harvest, of the fulfillment of labor, and of life itself — the pleasures, senses and joy of being human. Help us build, decorate, and celebrate with beautiful music and delicious food. Join us for our great, fun, family project, study session, and Sukkot services in the heart of Central.

Sunday, October 4

Sukkah Building/Decorating Party. 4:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Great fun for the kids! Parents too!

followed by dinner and
Erev Sukkot Service

Monday, October 5

Sukkot Morning Service, 9 A.M.

Wednesday, October 7

Brown Bag Lunch & Sukkot Study Session, 12:30 P.M.

Friday, October 9

Shabbat Sukkot Evening Service, 6:30 P.M.

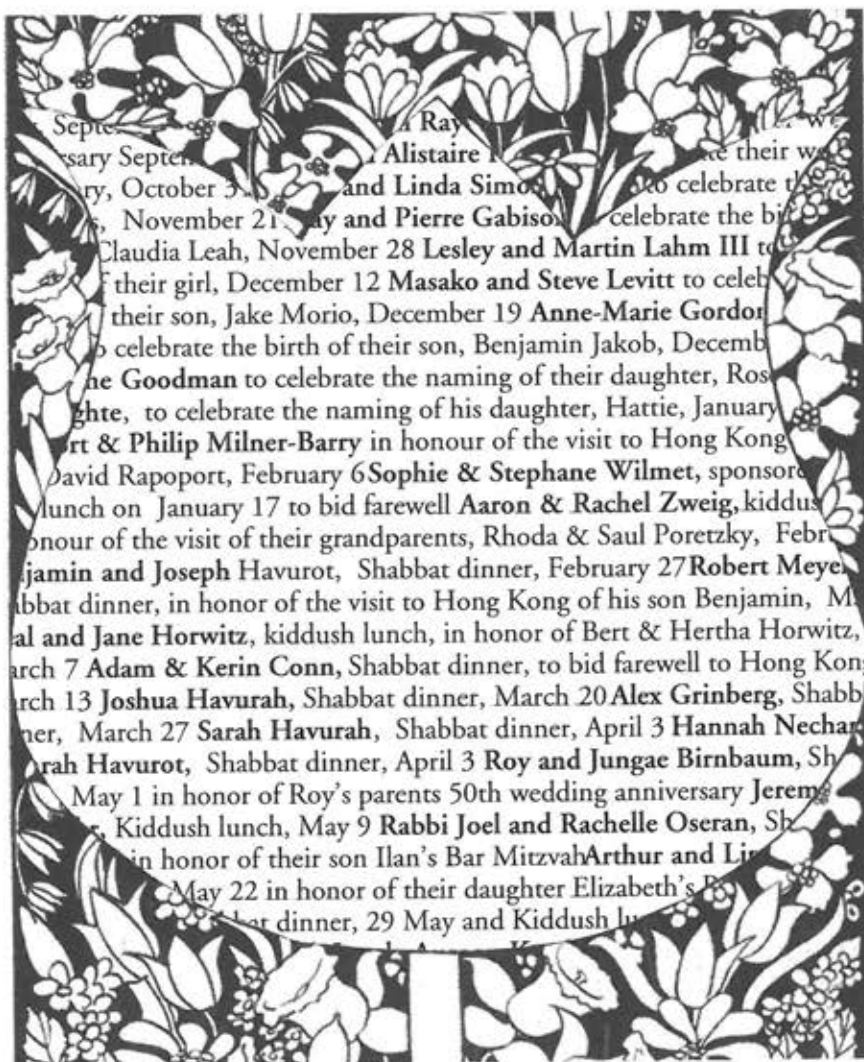
The Terrace

Special Assets Limited
6f, Diamond Exchange Building
8 Duddell Street, Central



Make The UJC Shabbat Your Shabbat

and let the cup runneth over



It only takes a mitzvah to make yourself a name.

Share a special occasion in your life with us —
birthday, visit, anniversary, graduation, recovery from illness, birth,
baby naming, bar/bat mitzvah — we can think of dozens of reasons —
and become a UJC Shabbat Dinner Sponsor.

It's the way we keep our invitation open
to members and new folks in town.

Host a dinner. Do a mitzvah. Give us your name.

Call Jackie or Michael, 2523-2985

Shabbat dinner & kiddush sponsors

Hannah Nechamah & Sarah Havurot, Shabbat dinner, April 3

Roy and Jungae Birnbaum, Shabbat dinner, May 1 in honor of Roy's parents 50th wedding anniversary

Jeremy and Fiona Leifer, Kiddush lunch, May 9

Rabbi Joel and Rachelle Oseran, Shabbat dinner, May 15 in honor of their son Ilan's Bar Mitzvah

Arthur and Linda Belfer, Shabbat dinner, May 22, in honor of their daughter Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah

Alan and CC Bacher, Shabbat dinner, May 29 and Kiddush lunch, May 30 in honor of their son Joshua's Bar Mitzvah

Lynda Aurora, Keesler Cronin, Molly Homler and Ellen Levi-Minzi, Kiddush lunch, May 31, to celebrate their B'nai Mitzvah

Ted and Marie Axler, Shabbat dinner, June 19, to celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary

Jonathan and Louisa Ross and Pierre and May Gabison, Shabbat dinner, June 26, to bid farewell to Rabbi Oseran and family and in honor of May's conversion

Steven Sperber, Shabbat dinner, July 3 to welcome Rabbi Jordan and Cantor Janece Cohen

Rabbi Jordan and Cantor Janece Cohen, Shabbat dinner, September 25, in celebration of their wedding anniversary

Make the cup runneth over

One of the things which has contributed so much to The UJC's success is our open invitation to members and visitors to join us for Shabbat dinners and kiddush lunches. Almost more than anything else, it has helped characterize us as a 'welcoming' congregation.

Combining, as they do, Jewish and social aspects, the community Shabbat meals have always been one of the highlights and hallmarks of UJC programming, member Ben Frankel wrote in *The Shofar* when the program was launched two years ago. 'They are an ideal way to meet new friends and visit with old ones; a much-needed oasis from the rigors of our busy, Hong Kong lives; and a meaningful way to welcome Shabbat'.

Funding of the program depends on members who take this as an opportunity to share their special occasions with the entire community. The cost of sponsoring a Shabbat dinner is around \$2,000 and somewhat less for a kiddush lunch.

Without much effort, members can come up with dozens of reasons to host, or join with friends to co-host a Shabbat dinner. Sponsorships will be publicized in advance to enable special friends to join with sponsors and the rest of the community in celebration or commemoration.

Donations to the General Fund

Paul Alexander

Jean Candiotte

Andrew and Cara Case, in memory of Mary Olevsky

Allen and Diane Clennar

Eliot J. Cohen, in honor of Ilan Oseran's Bar Mitzvah

Adam and Kerin Conn

Dr. Michael Cooke

Brian and Rebecca Dlugash

Jill Dodwell-Groves

Matthew and Joanna Fung Ginsburg

Joshua Goldman and Lauren Brown

Bob and Rebecca Haase to wish April Kaminsky a speedy recovery

Bob and Rebecca Haase, in memory of Ella Silverstein

Stewart and Molly Homler (2)

Ira Kaye

Jeremy and Fiona Leifer

Saul Lockhart

Basil and Debbie Marcus

Robert L. Meyer

Mark & Kate Michelson

Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin

Mike Sherman

Paul and Cindy Theil

Andrew Pleatman and Ellen McNally

Yahrzeits

Isidore Shriman, July 6, grandfather of Mike Sherman

Ted Kasoff, July 11, father of Ira Kasoff

Jennie Shapiro, July 11, mother of Ira Kasoff

Helen Goldman, July 23, mother of Joshua Goldman

Irwin Lockhart, July 29, observed by Saul Lockhart

Helen Sobil Wolin, August 7, mother of Merle Linda Wolin

Edward R. Somers, August 13, father of Ken Somers

David Lewis Meyer, August 13, brother of Robert L. Meyer

Mortimer W. Meyer, Jr., August 25, father of Robert L. Meyer

Deborah Elaine Meyer, September 6, wife of Robert L. Meyer, mother of Michael and Benjamin

Freda Mendelson Gendler, September 6, grandmother of Amy Gendler

Leon Russianoff, September 8, observed by Steven Mietus and Linda Simon-Mietus

H. Lee Gendler, September 16, father of Amy Gendler

Lawrence Cohen, September 21, father of Eliot Cohen

Morris Jacob Fine, October 7, father of Albert Fine

Abraham Gendler, October 16, grandfather of Amy Gendler

Beatrice Masian, October 28, grandmother of Mike Sherman

Mazel Tov

Sacha & Matthew Miller on the birth of their son Joshua Max, April 11

Susan Finder and Kun Lu on the birth of their son Aaron, April 20

Molly and Stewart Homler on the birth of their son Samuel, July 3

Diana and Dan Goldman on the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Sarah, July 16

Jane and Simon Neville on the birth of their son Luke Andrew Josch, 26 July

Todd Daum and Kairavi Patel on their marriage, June 28, in the U.S.A.

Paul and Cindy Theil on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Emily, May 2

Joel and Rachelle Oseran on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ilan, May 16

Arthur and Linda Belfer, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elizabeth, May 23

Robert and Carol Auld on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael, June 20, in the U.S..

Robert and Sherri Dorfman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Carly, August 22, in the U.S.

Alan and Diane Clennar on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ricky, August 22, in Sydney

Lynda Aurora and May Gabison on their conversions

Kee Cronin, Lynda Aurora, Molly Homler, & Ellen Levi-Minzi on their adult B'nai Mitzvot, May 31

Albert & Prucilla Belman, on their 4th wedding anniversary, October 1

Thanks!

Mary Seddon and Cara Case for organizing the UJC's 10th anniversary gala celebration; also — Diana Goldman, Jonathan Feiger, Jane Horwitz, Ann Lubart, Amy Meyer, Stacy Palbaum, Terry Paule, and Frank Lavin; all the UJC kids for selling raffle tickets on the night of the gala; everybody who contributed so generously to the tribute book; and all the raffle donors for their generous support

Prucie Belman and Merle Linda Wolin for editing the Tribute Book

Neil Horwitz and Robert Meyer for acting as emcees for the 10th anniversary gala celebration

Al and Sharon Fine for donation of High Holiday flowers

Ken and Debbie Bell for donation of High Holiday flowers

Robert Meyer for housing, hosting Rabbi Cohen and Cantor Cohen upon their arrival in Hong Kong

Sharon Ser for donating flowers for Shabbat services on May 15 in honor of Lynda Aurora and for services for the entire month of July

Ken and Debbie Bell for donation of a kiddush cup and sponsoring flowers on many occasions

Welcome New Members

Ronen (Israel) and Caroline (U.K./Israel) Arbel
Arbel : gemologist

Caroline: conference producer
talents, skills: Caroline — trained as barrister

Alan (USA) and Concepcion (P.I.) Bacher and Ilan, 14, Joshua, 13, & Anastasia, 10

Alan: businessman
prev. affil.: Temple Judea, Tarzana, CA

Leeanna Carter (USA)

prev. affil.: Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, New York

Sidney Frank and Ivy Lerner-Frank (Canada) and Joshua, 9, Simon, 7

Sidney, Ivy: diplomats, Consulate Genral of Canada
prev. affil.: Beijing Jewish Community

John Gordon (USA) and Xin Sun Gordon (PRC)

John: attorney, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
special talents, skills: attorney, Mandarin-speaking

Dr. Julian Groves (U.K.)

lecturer, H.K. University of Science & Technology
special interests: meeting Israelis

prev. affil.: former member of The UJC

Lisa Hoffman and Bill Driscoll (USA)

Lisa: lecturer/graduate student, Shanghai
Bill: managing director, Paces Hong Kong
prev. affil.: Shanghai Jewish Community and Temple Beth Am, Seattle (Reform)

Bruce Hut (USA)

analyst, Credit Lyonnais Securities
prev. affil.: Greenwich Reform Temple, Greenwich, CT

Dr. Gary Katzenstein (USA)

professor, H.K. University of Science & Technology

May Chun Kaufmann (H.K.)

Amy and Peter Meyer (USA) and Alexander, 5, Nicholas, 2

Amy: homemaker
Peter: banker, J.P. Morgan
prev. affil.: UJC, H.K.; UHC, Singapore

Kenneth and Faye Somers (USA)

and Aaron, 16, Jennifer, 13

Kenneth: consultant, Towers Perrin
special skills: Faye — active in Singapore, edited UHC newsletter

prev. affil.: United Hebrew Congregation, Singapore

Samuel and Beth Weinberger (USA)

Samuel: manager, V.P. Basic Chemicals, Exxon

Beth: artist, teacher

prev. affil.: Temple Emanu-el, Houston, TX (Reform)

Sharon (USA) and Robert van Zweiten (Dutch) and Julia, 2, Claire, 9 mos.

Robert: treasurer, G.E. Capital

Sharon: homemaker

prev. affil.: United Hebrew Congregation, Singapore

Is there life without The UJC?

Leaving, Visiting Hong Kong?

Even though you may be leaving Hong Kong or just visiting, we'd like to keep you as part of our congregational family through The UJC's non-resident membership program.

By taking advantage of this opportunity, you will enjoy the following benefits:

when visiting Hong Kong

- receive High Holiday tickets free of charge
- participate in all other UJC activities and programs, join us for holiday celebrations and Shabbat dinners
- enjoy the kosher restaurant, recreational, educational and cultural facilities of the beautiful Jewish Community Centre at no extra charge

when back at home

- stay involved and hear about our growth and progress, new programs and services and special events through *The Shofar* and periodic information updates
- keep you in touch with your Jewish friends in Hong Kong

By continuing to be part of our future, you help maintain The UJC's presence in Hong Kong as the only home away from home in the Far East for Progressive Jews from all over the world.

UJC Non-resident Membership: HK\$1378 or US\$178 (short form)

Name (s) _____
 Address _____

 City _____ State _____
 Country _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 VISA/MC# _____
 Exp. Date: _____
 Signature _____

Please make checks payable to: The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong
 Jewish Community Centre, One Robinson Place
 70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong

fax: (852) 2523-3961
 ujc@hk.super.net

Please return the short form to the address above. You will receive the UJC membership application shortly thereafter. Complete and return this form as well. The UJC will notify you of action on your application after the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

Farewell

Lori Amada, to USA

Ronen & Caroline Arbel, to Israel

Fran and Joel Berman, to USA

Karen Burgman, to Israel

Jean Candiotte, to Singapore

Adam & Kerin Conn, to England

4, Priory Close; Totteridge; London N20 8BB
 United Kingdom

Thomas Doctoroff, to Shanghai

Dan & Diana Goldman, to USA

Robert Fetzter & Rosanne Zimmerman

The Phillips Club, Apt. 505; 1965 Broadway; New York, NY 10023

Eric Geier, to USA (22 Aug.)

Marvin & Carol Goldberg

121 Meadow Lark Lane; Bealsburg, PA 16827

Wayne & Lynn Goodman, to USA

Jody Hirsh

JCC of Milwaukee; 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

Milwaukee, WI 53217-4353

e-mail: jodyhirsh@aol.com

Bert & Hertha Horwitz

3317 Almar Drive; Vestal, NY 13850

David & Phyllis Johnstone

Finola Lewis, to Thailand

Laurent & Delphine Olivier, to USA

Bryan and Stacy Palbaum, to USA

Richard & Amy Reingold, to USA

c/o Sandman, 5006 Tilden Street North West;
 Washington DC

Jeffrey Rosichan & Christy Dittrick

219 Sunset Avenue; Ridgewood; NJ 07450

Robert & Roberta Rothbart, to USA

Eli Schwarz & Sussie Lempert-Schwarz, to USA

Richard Selby, to UK

Jodie Siff and Peter Scherr, to the USA

Condolences

to Ellen Diamond
 and family

on the death of her mother

Tilly Bass

*The memory of the righteous
 is a blessing*

Jewish Community of Japan

High Holiday Services

Jewish Community Centre
C3-8, Hiroo 3-Chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
tel: (03) 3400-2559; fax 3400-1827

Rosh HaShana

Sunday, September 20, 6:30 P.M.
community dinner follows

Monday, September 21, 9:00 A.M.
Minha services and Tashlich
at Arisugawa Park

Monday, September 21, 6:30 P.M.
community dinner follows

Tuesday, September 22, 9:00 A.M.

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 25, 6:30 P.M.
community dinner follows

Saturday, September 26, 9:45 A.M.
kiddush follows

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 29, 5:20 P.M.

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, Sept, 30, 9:00 A.M.
complimentary coffee & cake follows

The United Hebrew Congregation of Singapore

High Holiday Services

Royal Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Crown Ballroom, 25 Scotts Road

Rosh HaShana

Sunday, September 20, 6:00 P.M.
buffet dinner follows

Monday, September 21, 10:00 A.M.

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 29, 8:00 P.M.

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, Sept, 30, 10:00 A.M.
Break-Fast service, 6:00 P.M.
buffet dinner follows

For details re: tickets and reservations:
United Hebrew Congregation (Singapore)
c/o Alice Gugelev, 29 Grange Road, #06-03
Grange Tower, Singapore 239701

The Jewish Community of Beijing

Kehillah Beijing

www.gorpbrothers.com/sinogogue

High Holiday Services

Ballroom, 3/f, Capital Club Athletic Center
Capital Mansions, 6 Xin Yuan Nan Road
Chao Yang District

Rosh HaShana

Sunday, September 20, 6:30 P.M.

Monday, September 21, 9:30 A.M.

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 25, 7:00 P.M.

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 29, 8:00 P.M.
(buffet dinner at 5:30 precedes the service)

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, Sept, 30 9:30 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.
Break-the-Fast meal, 7:00 P.M.

Payment required in advance

For details re: tickets and reservations:

Elyse Beth Silverberg
eslvrbrg@public3.bta.net.cn
tel: (8610) 6512-6662 ext. 112; fax 6512-9903

B'nai Yisrael

The Jewish Community of Shanghai

High Holiday Services

Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Rosh HaShana

Sunday, September 20, 5:37 P.M. 4/f

Monday, September 21, 9:45 A.M. 8/f

Monday, September 21, 6:36 P.M. 8/f

Tuesday, September 22, 9:45 A.M. 8/f

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 25, 5:31 P.M. 8/f

Saturday, September 26, 9:45 A.M. 8/f

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 29, 5:26 P.M. 4/f

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, Sept, 30 9:45 A.M. & 7 P.M. 4/f

All services (except Kol Nidre) followed by meals

RSVP before Sept 10

For details re: tickets and reservations:

Susan Schulman, 6279-7089 tel, 6279-8610 fax
schulman@public.sta.net.cn
or tel. 6289-9903 (Cindy), fax 6289-9957
sjcchina@usa.net

Prayer, Worship, Study, Events

(see page 22 for High Holiday information)

Shabbat services conducted by Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen and Cantor Janece Erman Cohen are held every Friday night in the Auditorium, Robinson Place, Jewish Community Centre, 70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels, followed by dinner in the JCC coffee shop. A pre-service Fellowship Oneg begins at 6:45 P.M. Saturday morning services (when scheduled) are usually followed by a kiddush/lunch. Sukkot services are held at The Terrace, Special Assets Limited, Sixth Floor, 8 Duddell Street, Central, Hong Kong.

Friday, August 28, 6:30 P.M.
'Family Friendly' Shabbat Service

Friday, Sept. 4, 7:00 P.M.
Erev Shabbat Evening Service

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 8:00 P.M.
Introduction to Judaism

Friday, Sept. 11, 7:00 P.M.
Erev Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, Sept. 12, 11:00 A.M.
Tot Shabbat
(kiddush/lunch follows service)

Saturday, Sept. 12, 9:00 P.M.
Havdalah & Selichot Services
(come for dessert)

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 8:00 P.M.
Introduction to Judaism

Friday, Sept. 18, 7:00 P.M.
Erev Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, Sept. 25, 6:30 P.M.
Family Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, Oct. 2, 7:00 P.M.
Erev Shabbat Evening Service

Sunday, Oct. 4, 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Sukkah building & decorating
(dinner follows)

Erev Sukkot Service follows
The Terrace, Special Assets Limited

Monday, October 5, 9:00 A.M.
Sukkot Morning Service

Wednesday, October 7, 12:30 P.M.

Lunch & Sukkot Study Session
The Terrace, Special Assets Limited

Wednesday, October 7, 8:00 P.M.
Introduction to Judaism

Friday, October 9, 6:30 P.M.
Shabbat Sukkot Evening Service

The Terrace, Special Assets Limited

Saturday, October 10, 11:00 A.M.
Tot Shabbat Service

Sunday, October 11, 6:00 P.M.
Erev Simchat Torah Service

Monday, October 12, 9:00 A.M.
Simchat Torah Morning Service

Wednesday, October 14, 8:00 P.M.
Introduction to Judaism

Friday, October 16, 7:00 P.M.
Erev Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 A.M.
Parashat HaShavua

Saturday, October 17, 4:30 P.M.
Shabbat Chevra

Wednesday, October 21, 8:00 P.M.
Introduction to Judaism

Friday, October 23, 7:00 P.M.
Erev Shabbat Evening Service

Wednesday, October 28, 8:00 P.M.
Introduction to Judaism

Friday, October 30, 6:30 P.M.
'Family Friendly' Shabbat Service



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

Jewish Community Centre, One Robinson Place,
70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong
tel. 2523-2985; fax 2523-3961
ujc@hk.super.net

Jordan D. Cohen Rabbi
Janece Erman Cohen Cantor
home tel: 2517-7967; home fax: 2803-0709
Rabbi: 2546-6158 (office.); 9457-1677 (mobile)
jdc@hk.super.net
Cantor: jec@compuserve.com
Jackie Vachha Executive Administrator
jvujc@hk.super.net
Michael Hansen Administrative Assistant

Executive Committee

Mark Michelson Chairman
tel. 2866-2313, fax 2866-1917
Jonathan Feiger Vice-chairman
Terry Paule Vice-chairman
Robert L. Meyer Treasurer
Ken Bell Secretary
Cara Case Fundraising
Kee Cronin Education
Bob Green Editor, *The Shofar*
Daniel Kirwin Administration
Frank Lavin Membership
Ann Lubart Membership
Charles Monat Liaison
David Zweig Fundraising
Honorary: Carol Betson, Benjamin Frankel, Albert Fine, Janet Golden, Peter Kaminsky

The Shofar is published quarterly by The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong. Requests for copies and notification of address changes should be addressed to The UJC office.

Articles and letters from members and friends are welcome and encouraged. Address all submissions to Editor, *The Shofar*, G.P.O. Box 6083, Hong Kong; fax 2730-5507; email <rgreenhk@hk.super.net>

S'lichot Program and Services

Saturday, September 12, 9.00 P.M.
Auditorium

An introduction to the magic of the 'Days of Awe'
with an evening of Study, Music, and Prayer

Join Rabbi Cohen and Cantor Cohen
for the traditional 'kick-off' to the High Holy Days

S'lichot is the introspective late-night service of Penitence,
a time for spiritual self-examination that ushers in the
High Holiday period



Make The UJC and JCC Your Family in Hong Kong

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong welcomes you to our High Holiday services and invites you to worship and celebrate with us throughout the entire year as a member. Your UJC membership will also entitle you and your family to membership in the Jewish Community Centre at no additional cost, including full use of all the JCC's social, educational, and recreational facilities.

Membership Fees

INDIVIDUAL

HK\$3180

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL (UNDER 30)

HK\$2544

FAMILY

HK\$5,300

NON-RESIDENT

HK\$1378

The UJC is committed to offering affordable membership to everyone and accommodating those with special circumstances. Call The UJC office for details.

Urgent — Pay Dues Now

To receive High Holiday tickets in advance and avoid congestion at the reception desk, members are urged to pay their dues without delay. This will greatly ease the job of UJC staff and volunteers who need to concentrate on handling out-of-town visitors and non-member residents wishing to attend High Holiday services.

Dues statements went out in June, followed by a reminder in July. Members who haven't received statements or have questions should call the Executive Administrator, Jackie Vachha at 2523-2985.

High Holidays for Visitors

As in previous years, The UJC welcomes visitors to its High Holiday services. At the same time, we ask for a contribution to help meet the many expenses involved. The suggested donation is \$1000.00.

High Holiday tickets may be obtained in advance by contacting Ms Jackie Vachha at The UJC office or at the reception desk outside the Drama Theatre before services. Contributions are deductible for both H.K. and U.S. tax purposes.

Alternatively, visitors may choose to become UJC members and receive, in addition to High Holiday tickets, full membership privileges in both The UJC and Jewish Community Centre.

Submit Names for Yizkor Service

As in previous years, the names of loved ones will again be read out at the Yizkor (Memorial) Service on Yom Kippur afternoon.

Members should submit the names and dates of passing of those they would like mentioned by September 17. Please contact Michael in The UJC office with this information. Beginning this year, The UJC will retain this information and read out individual Yizkor names on the appropriate Yahrzeit date throughout the year.

If there is any question about pronunciation, please give a phonetic spelling or other indication of how the name(s) should be pronounced.

High Holidays

and Shabbat Shuvah

Schedule of Services

5759/1998

conducted by

Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen
Cantor Janece Erman Cohen

Erev Rosh HaShanah

Sunday, September 20, 7:30 P.M.

Rosh HaShanah Day

Monday, September 21

Children's Service, 9:30 A.M.

Morning Service, 10:30 A.M.

Lunch follows the Service at the Arts
Café, Arts Center. Cost is \$75.00.

Rosh HaShanah, 2nd Day

Tuesday, September 22

Morning Service, 10:30 A.M.

Auditorium, Robinson Place

A light lunch will be served
following the Service

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 25, 7:00 P.M.

Auditorium, Robinson Place

Shabbat dinner follows Service

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 P.M.

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, September 30

Children's Service, 9:30 A.M.

Morning Service, 10:30 A.M.

Discussion, 1:30 P.M.

Music for the Soul, 3:00 P.M.

Afternoon Service, 3:30 P.M.

Yizkor (Memorial Service), 5:00 P.M.

Neilah (concluding) Service, 5:30 P.M.

Havdalah Service (following Neila)

Light break-the-fast refreshments
sponsored by The UJC will be
served at the Arts Café, Arts Centre
around 7:00 P.M. following the Service

Except where noted, all services are at:

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Drama Theatre

1 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, HK