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ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

No.73

T. KAUFMAN  
The President of ICFS

## ***ON THE PATH OF FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA***

### ***Scholarship Awards to Chinese Students***

A lovely new tradition has been developing at the annual Hanukkah gathering of Igud Yotzei Sin whereby the association awards scholarships to the children, grand children and great grand children of China's ex-pats and the Israel China Friendship Association grants scholarships to Chinese students studying at higher education institutes in Israel.

During this annual ceremony, in December 2010, 19 Chinese students were awarded scholarships from the Israel - China Friendship Association's fund, from the Chinese Embassy to Israel and from the Danny and Musya Berkovitch's memorial fund.

12 Chinese students attend the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, 5 are at the Tel Aviv University, 1 at Bar Ilan University and another student attends the Ben Gurion University in Be'er Sheva.

In the past, most of the students receiving scholarships were studying agriculture at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This time, it turned out, most of the students [10 out of 19] were taking humanities studies associated with Judaism: Bible Studies [2], Jewish History [4], Hebrew [2], Judaism [1] and Russian - Jewish literature [1]

A number of the students arrived in Israel following recommendations made to them by our friends, researching the history of the Jewish people and of Judaism in China, namely, Professor Fan Guan from Shanghai and Professor Sui Sen from Nanking.

The Chinese interest in Judaism seems to be a growing interest from one year to the next and we are most pleased that we are able to make our small contribution to this field of research.

### ***China's ex-pats visiting their land of birth***

Following a travelling onslaught of China's ex-pats to the land of their birth, the centre for the research of Jewish history in Harbin is busy drawing up a special visitors' plan for the Jews of Harbin which will be published in our current 'Bulletin' magazine.

### ***A new attaché at the Chinese Embassy in Israel***

In December 2010, Mr. Shai Yun, a newly appointed attaché has arrived at the embassy of The Peoples' Republic of China's in Israel. Mr. Yun is the deputy to the chief of the diplomatic corps and will be fulfilling the ambassador's duties and commitments during the latter's absence.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Yun within a week of his arrival in Israel, at our Hanukkah gathering where he gave an address during the scholarships' award ceremony to the China ex-pats, their descendants and the Chinese students present at the event.

Mr. Yun is an experienced diplomat, having been previously posted to the United States. He is a most pleasant man, open and intelligent. We are pleased to welcome him in Israel and extend our best wishes for his success in his diplomatic role.

## ***AMBASSADOR ZHAO JUN RETURNED TO CHINA***

After a four-year tenure as Ambassador of China to the State of Israel, Mr. Zhao Jun returned home. During his years in Israel Ambassador Zhao Jun established strong friendships with wide circles of the Israeli public. He was an honorary guest of a great variety of circles of Israeli society: commercial, scientific, cultural and his residence was a hospitable meeting place for members of the public of Israel. Ambassador Zhao Jun also had close ties with our

Association of Former Residents of China in Israel and the Israel-China Friendship Society. Seeing Mr. Zhao Jun off, we wish him continued success in his diplomatic career in which he holds an honorary place among all diplomats of China. Ambassador Zhao Jun leaves many friends in Israel and we believe that in the future he will be an Israeli ambassador of good will in great China.

# ***Ambassador Zhao Jun's Remarks at the Reception for the Israel-China Friendship Society and Association of Former Residents of China in Israel***

***(30 May 2011)***

Dear friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Embassy of China in Israel, I would like to extend my warm welcome to all friends from the Israel-China Friendship Society and Association of Former Residents of China in Israel. I am honored to entertain you at my residence tonight. As a Jewish saying goes, whoever finds a faithful friend, finds a treasure. You are the faithful friends of China. You are the treasure we cherish!

Dear friends,

As far as I know, Association of Former Residents of China will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its founding in late 2011. And next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Israel-China Friendship Society. At this juncture, you can look back with pride at the road you traversed. You are the pioneers in promoting the friendship between our two great nations. You have made unremitting efforts to advance that cause from the very beginning.

During my four years in Israel, I witnessed your great work. You have content-rich print and electronic publications. The "Israel-China Voice of Friendship" is a window to know stories of friendship. The "Bulletin" of the Association is sent to 250 locations in Israel and various countries to introduce the cooperation between China and Israel. And it was always a good experience for me to attend the ceremonies at which scholarships were granted to Chinese and Israeli students studying at institutions of higher education in Israel, because I saw the future of China-Israel friendly relationship from those award-winning students. Furthermore, you welcomed

many delegations from China, accompanied Israeli and tourism delegations to China and participated in other important events promoting closer relations between the two peoples, which I really appreciate. I also would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for inviting us to all your cultural events and organizing interesting Passover trips. The trips provided good opportunities to broaden our horizon and enrich our knowledge of Jewish culture.

Dear friends,

Next year will usher in the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Israel. Thanks to the joint efforts of the leaders and peoples of the two nations, our bilateral relations have enjoyed a good momentum of development. Our practical cooperation in various fields has become increasingly fruitful. The coach of history rolls on. China-Israel friendly and cooperative relationship is blessed with a new opportunity of growth. The Israel-China Friendship Society and Association of Former Residents of China in Israel will continue to be the bonds of friendship and the bridge of communication. We are willing to join hands with you to deeply strengthen mutual understanding and trust and further promote the sustained and healthy development of friendly relations between the two peoples.

Dear friends,

Friendship is a song. It's sung by generations.

Friendship is a cup of tea. It takes time to taste.

Friendship is a glass of wine. Its fragrance last long.

Please allow me to propose a toast to our friendship forever.

Thank you.

## ***JEWISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE TOUR TO HARBIN, CHINA***

***SEPTEMBER 9 - 12, 2011***

***ORGANIZED BY THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HONG KONG  
AND THE HARBIN JEWISH STUDIES CENTER***

In the 1920's Harbin was home to some 20,000 Jews, making it the largest Jewish community in the Far East at the time. The Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong is organizing a tour of Harbin taking in the Jewish sights and environment as well as other historical sites in the area.

## VISITING THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

On May 30 the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Israel His Excellency Mr. Zhao Jun held an annual reception at the Ambassador's residence in honor of members of the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of former residents of China in Israel - Igud Yotzei Sin, at which about 130 members of both organizations with their children and grandchildren were present. Among the guests were members of the Board of Directors of ICFS and IYS with their spouses: R. and T. Kaufman, P. and Y. Klein, R. Veinerman, M. and D. Friedmann, P. and B. Bershinsky, A. Goldreich, G. Katz, A. Podolsky, B. and I. Priver-Zusman, J. and I. Sandel, J. and T. Piastunovich, M. Likhomanov, E. Ginansky, J. and Z. Bein. On the Chinese side present were high rank officials of the Embassy of China: the military attache and his wife, counselors, attaches, secretaries. The guests were welcomed by Ambassador Zhao Jun and his deputy, councillor Shi Yong. The reception took place out-of-doors with coffee and tea, barbecue, refreshments and

drinks. In his speech before those present, Ambassador Zhao Jun noted the huge contribution of the ICFS and Igud Yotzei Sin to the cause of friendship between Israel and China: he mentioned annual presentation of scholarships to students from China, the newsletter "Israel-China Voice of Friendship" in English, annual reunions and trips of the Embassy staff to sites of interest around Israel as ICFS and Igud Yotzei Sin guests. Ambassador Zhao Jun pointed out that in six months' time we shall celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. In reply, T. Kaufman thanked the Ambassador for the warm reception and talked about the close relations between former residents of China in Israel and the country of their past. The reception which lasted from 17 to 20 p.m. was held in an exceptionally warm and friendly atmosphere. It was a get-together of friends and countrymen.

B.Z.

## FAREWELL RECEPTION BY THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

In connection with his departure from Israel after a four-year tenure Ambassador Zhao Jun of China held a reception at his residence in Kfar Shmaryahu. The reception was attended by about two hundred guests. Mr. After a four-year tenure as Ambassador of China to the State of Israel, Mr. Zhao Jun returned home. During his years in Israel Ambassador Zhao Jun established strong friendships with wide circles of the Israeli public. He was an honorary guest of a great variety of circles of Israeli society: commercial, scientific, cultural and his residence was a hospitable meeting place for members of the public of Israel. Ambassador Zhao Jun also had close ties with our Association of Former Residents of China in Israel and the Israel-China Friendship Society. Seeing Mr. Zhao Jun off, we wish him continued success

in his diplomatic career in which he holds an honorary place among all diplomats of China. Ambassador Zhao Jun leaves many friends in Israel and we believe that in the future he will be an Israeli ambassador of good will in great China. Ambassador of China to Israel and dwelt upon his special friends in Israel. The speech lasted for about an hour and was accompanied by a show of video films depicting important moments during his stay in Israel. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel was represented by Vice General Director Ms. Ruth Kahanoff. The Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin were represented by P. and Y. Klein, J. and R. Veinerman, A. Fradkin, G. Katz, I. and B. Darel, H. and S. Muller, V. Priver-Zusman, E. and R. Rashinsky and M. Likhomanov.



# AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

May 30, 2011



*Countrymen coming to the reception*



*Ambassador Zhao Jun preparing barbecue*



*Entertainment was a success*



*With China's Ambassador at his residence in Kfar Shmaryahu*

# **AMBASSADOR OF CHINA AND CHINESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS GUESTS OF ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY**

*Passover trip - April 2011*



*On board the boat in the Haifa Bay*



*At the Hecht Museum in Haifa*



*Meeting with the President of the University of Haifa*

# *“The History of Jewish Families in Harbin”*

**By T. Kaufman**

The book “The History of Jewish Families in Harbin” written by Han Tianyan, Cheng Hongzi and Xiao Hong from the Harbin Jewish History Research Centre, part of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences in China, was published by the Academy in November 2010. The book contains some 320 thousand Chinese characters and numerous photographs and is of great interest and historical importance.

Reflecting the Jewish life in Harbin, the book offers a substantial look at life in the Jewish Chinese Diaspora, a slice of history of increasing interest for scholars around the world and especially in China and in Harbin in particular. The Harbin Jewish History Research Centre within the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences was founded for precisely that purpose. The authors of this book are amongst the foremost researchers in this field. They are all masters in English and Russian thus giving them an advantage in collating the historical data relating to the Jews of Harbin. They maintain a close relationship with the Israel-China Friendship Society as well as with Igud Yotzei Sin in Israel and with the numerous Harbin ex-pats and their descendants.

They visited Israel in 2007 and in 2009 and were given ample assistance by the Israel-China Friendship Society and by Igud Yotzei Sin as well as by ex-pats from Harbin. They enjoyed free access to unique historical data, took dozen of photographs of Harbin ex-pats and their descendants, collected private family photographs, listened to oral stories and focused on the newly collected material.

The book’s 19 chapters include stories of 18 Harbin families reflecting the history and life of the Jewish community in that city. The book describes the way of life of the Jews in Harbin and compels the reader to become familiar with their lives during the first half of the last century. The authors analyze the political, economical and cultural life of the Jewish community in Harbin and suitably depict the situation the community found itself in and the ways in which they studied and worked. The authors also follow their lives once they have left the city. There is no doubt that the book affords the Chinese

reader an opportunity to become acquainted with the Jews and helps strengthen the friendly relations between the Chinese and the Jewish people.

Below are the chapter headings from the book “The History of Jewish Families in Harbin” Introduction by T. Kaufman:

- Chapter 1** - The political leader of the Jewish community in Harbin - A. I. Kaufman
- Chapter 2** - The spiritual leader of the Jewish community in Harbin - Rabbi A. M. Kiselev
- Chapter 3** - The Skidelsky family - founders of an economic empire in the Far East
- Chapter 4** - The Emissary, leading the way to a tradition of friendship between China and Israel - T. Kaufman
- Chapter 5** - The Pride of Beitar in Harbin - Semyon Klein
- Chapter 6** - A family of brilliant diplomats - The Olmerts
- Chapter 7** - Zionism in Harbin - A visionary and a planner - D. Glazman
- Chapter 8** - Representing the Jewish Russian immigrants - the Volobrinisky family
- Chapter 9** - Ploughing the pastures of Jewish culture - Isaac Nadel
- Chapter 10** - Chronicler of historical moments - Sarah Ross
- Chapter 11** - Refugees from Germany - the Robinson family
- Chapter 12** - A very talented structural engineer - graduate of the Harbin Technological Institute - A. Podolsky
- Chapter 13** - A loyal son of Beitar - Ya’acov Liberman
- Chapter 14** - A gifted musician - Shapiro
- Chapter 15** - From a musical child prodigy to an electronics expert - Gary Brovinsky
- Chapter 16** - From western Russia to Israel - the footprints left by Yehudit Sandel and her progeny
- Chapter 17** - From fur traders to builders of Amikam - the Triguboff family
- Chapter 18** - “The little girl from Harbin” - Yehudit Karlik-Bein
- Chapter 19** - The entrepreneur from Israel - Bernard Darrell

# *The Israel-China Friendship Society*

## ***Professor Pan Guang at the Israel-China Friendship Society***

The founder and director of the Institute of the History of Shanghai's Jews, part of the social studies faculty at Shanghai's university, Professor Pan Guang visited Israel in March along with his assistant, Professor Chezuo Guan. Professor Guan gave a lecture at the Tel Aviv University. On March 17th the professor was guest of the **Israel-China Friendship Society** and Igud Yotzei Sin. Participating at the meeting were T. Kaufman, Y. Klein, R. Veinerman, A. Fradkin and B. Darrell as well as Mr. Amir Letti, Director of the North East Asia desk representing the Israeli foreign office, and Uri Gutman, former Israeli Consul to Shanghai. Mr. Gutman is currently the Director of the Middle East desk.

T. Kaufman welcomed Professor Pan Guang, noting that in 1992 he was the first Chinese academic to have received an invitation from Igud Yotzei Sin to visit Israel and to give a series of lectures. Professor Pan spoke of his work and the ties between China and Israel.

Also present at the meeting was Mrs. Iris Elhanani who is currently working on a photographic exhibition of works by the renowned Shanghai photographer Sen Xiti, dedicated to Shanghai's past. The exhibition is being organised in collaboration with the Israel-China Friendship Society and will be shown at various cities throughout China.

## ***A Passover excursion for members of the Chinese Embassy***

On April the 21st, the traditional Passover excursion with members of the Chinese embassy took place. Participating in the excursion were Mr. Zhao Jun, the Chinese ambassador to Israel, his deputy and diplomatic advisor Mr. Shai Yun and 24 other members of the embassy.

Participating members from Igud Yotzei Sin and the **Israel-China Friendship Society** were: R. & T. Kaufman, P. and Y. Klein, A. and R. Veinerman, A. Fradkin, J. an I. Sandel, A. Podolski, A and B Darrell, A. and R. Rashinski, E. Vandel, V. and Y. Priver-Zusman, E. Ginanski, M Kamyonka, J. and T. Piastunovich - all in all some 25 people.

Members of the Chinese embassy as well as members of

Igud Yotzei Sin travelled from Tel Aviv and met at the port of Haifa, the starting point of our journey. The weather was nice and the cruise around the bay lasted about an hour.

At 11:00 we all arrived at Haifa University and visited the Hecht museum within the university complex. Mr. Zhao Jun, the Chinese ambassador to Israel, his adviser Mr. Shai Yun and other members along with T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and R. Veinerman were guests of the president of Haifa University, Mr. Aharon Ben Ze'ev. The ambassador presented Professor Ben Ze'ev with an artistic Chinese vase. The visit at the university lasted about two hours.

From there we all set off to the Nof Hotel on top of Mount Carmel where we had lunch. T. Kaufman warmly welcomed the guests and especially the ambassador, highlighting the enjoyable, decade long tradition of these joint journeys around Israel with members of the Chinese embassy and of Igud Yotzei Sin and their families. T. Kaufman took the opportunity to thank the Chinese chef for the meal and R. Veinerman for organizing the excursion.

Mr. Zhao Jun, the Chinese ambassador to Israel, thanked Igud Yotzei Sin and the **Israel-China Friendship Society** wholeheartedly for the excellent organisation of this excursion.

From Haifa we continued to the Druze town of Daliyat al-Karmel where we were received by members of the town's council headed by the general secretary Mr. Riad Hasson. A homely hospitality awaited all at the residence of Mr. Najib Halabi and his wife who laid a bountiful table laden with traditional Druze delicacies and fruit. T. Kaufman thanked Mr. Riad Hasson as well as to Mr. Najib Halabi and his wife for their generous hospitality.

This traditional excursion began at 9 A.M., ended by 6 P.M. The guests and members of Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society travelled back to Tel Aviv in two coaches.

All were of the opinion that the day was a roaring success. The participants as well as the guests, hosts and members of the management ceaselessly praised the excursion's organizers.

See you all at our next traditional Passover excursion in 2012!

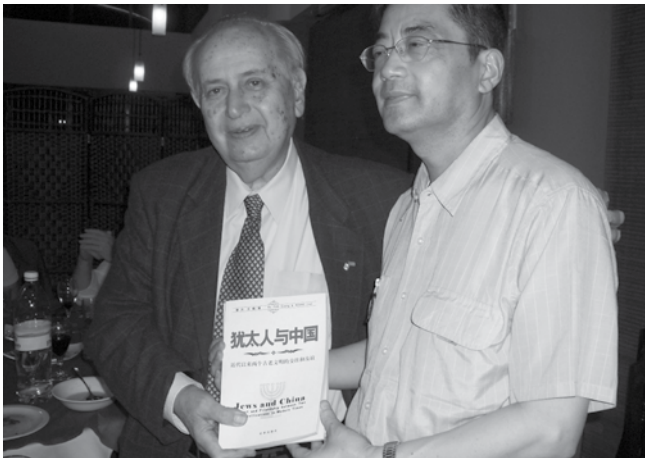
**PROFESSOR PAN GUANG - GUEST OF THE ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY**



*Left to right: Uri Gordon, Ruthie, secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Israel, R. Veinerman, T. Kaufman, Professor Pan Guang, I. Klein, B. Darel, Amir Lati, Deputy Director of the Department of East Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Zhou Guojian - assistant of prof. Pan Guang, A. Fradkin*



*Left to right: Uri Gordon, Iris Elhanani, Ruthie, R. Veinerman, Amir Lati, T. Kaufman*



*Prof. Pan Guang presents his book on the Jews of Shanghai*



*Professor Pan Guang speaks*



*Prof. Pan Guang's Assistant Professor Zhou Guojian*

**ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (FOUNDATION OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN)**

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- |                  |                 |                   |                  |
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