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BULLETIN Igud Yotzei Sin BHONNETEHB Игуд Иоцей Син

ВЫПИСКА ИЗ УСТАВА

"Задачей Ассоциации является организация выходцев с Дальнего Востока в целях взаимной помощи и сотрудничества"

Association of Former Residents of China + Ассоциация выходцев из Китая в Израиле

September 2018 ♦ 65rd Year of Issue ♦ No. 417 ♦ Сентябрь 2018 ♦ 65-й год издания ♦ No. 417

Models of the Kaifeng and Harbin old Synagogues are on display at BEIT HATFUTSOTH MUSEUM OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, TEL-AVIV

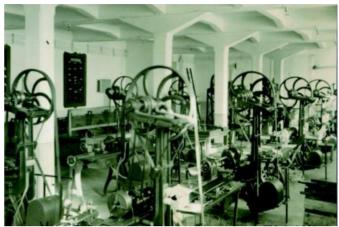


Макеты старых синагог Кайфэна и Харбина на выставке в Музее еврейского народа Бейт ха-Тфуцот, Тель-Авив

Harbin Institute of Technology – Past and Present

Харбинский Технологический Институт (бывш. ХПИ) - прошлое и настоящее













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THE LEADERSHIP OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN IN ISRAEL AND THE FAR EASTERN SOCIETIES IN THE DIASPORA

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THE IYS BULLETIN has been continuously published in English, Russian & Hebrew since 1954, and covers all aspects of the Jewish Communities of China, with historical memoirs, book reviews, archival information, and current stories of former residents of China living in Israel and around the world.

"The aim of the Association is to organize former residents from China for the purpose of mutual assistance and cooperation."

In Publishing the Bulletin the IYS aims to meet the following needs:

- 1. To promote a sense of community among former Jewish Residents of China.
- 2. To maintain a channel of communication between members of the community.
- $3. \, To \, assist \, in \, collecting, preserving \, and \, publishing \, historical \, material \, dealing \, with \, the \, life \, of \, the \, \, \, community.$
- 4. To assist IYS in meeting its goals particularly those dealing with social assistance and educational stipends for members of the community living in Israel.

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Association of Former Residents of China Igud Yotzei Sin

Dear Friends,

As the years pass, Igud Yotzei Sin faithfully continues with its charitable activities to aid its elderly, lonely and ailing members by granting them regular monthly assistance. Many of them are in a grave financial situation and without the monetary funds they receive from IYS they would not be able to make ends meet.

The Association also provides assistance for the younger generation with its annual Hanukkah Scholarships for students and a modest grant to soldiers on Independence Day.

IYS has always served as a focal point for former residents of China scattered all over the world by linking them through the publication of our Bulletin in three languages, English, Russian and Hebrew as well as through our website, which includes articles, photos and information on various aspects of Jewish history in China.

In recent years, the number of contributors has decreased, both in Israel and abroad. The foreign currency rate has also adversely impacted the local currency and therefore the amount of financial support we receive for our activities has been drastically reduced, even though the need still remains high.

We therefore apply to you with a request to donate to the above activities. We are certain that our contributors will derive great satisfaction from participating in the noble cause by helping the needy. Your assistance will brighten the days of the lonely, elderly people, and will allow us to continue with all the other valuable activities of the Association,

Please send your donation to the following address: Igud Yotzei Sin P.O. Box 13139 Tel Aviv 6113101 Israel

Thank You and a Happy New Year!

With our best wishes

Yossi Klein – Chairman & Treasurer
Ron (Ronnie) Veinerman – Deputy Chairman

YOSSI-KLEIN-80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, August 5, a number of Igud activists - friends and colleagues of Yossi Klein, Chairman of Igud Yotzei Sin - gathered together at a Chinese restaurant in Tel Aviv to celebrate his 80th birthday and to wish him the best of health and continued work at the Igud.

Ronnie Veinerman opened the event by warm greetings and recollections of the early days of their activities at the Igud, which began at the initiative of Teddy Kaufman in 1995. It was an emotional gathering that aroused memories and experiences of the past in Harbin and in Israel, and they also enjoyed the good Chinese food at the restaurant.





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IGUD YOTZEI SIN

SENDS ITS SINCERE HOLIDAY GREETINGS
TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE

AMERICAN FAR EASTERN SOCIETY IN NEW YORK

AND WISHES MUCH HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY TO ALL ITS MEMBERS AND TO ALL THE FAR EASTERNERS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The BOARD of DIRECTORS and the ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP of the NEW YORK AMERICAN FAR EASTERN SOCIETY

EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY

TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS

WISHING A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

ROSE and NORMAN PEISER SUSAN and MARK BRITANISKY

New York, USA

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DORA WAINER

WISHES A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

New York, USA

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BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ROSH HASHANA TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

ANGELICA KLEBANOFF

Palm Beach, USA

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WISHING A HAPPY HOLIDAY

TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Mrs. LUBA TUCK and FAMILY

New York, USA

WISHING A HAPPY HOLIDAY

TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Mrs. EDA SHVETZ and FAMILY

New York, USA

TANIA MATERMAN and SON AVRAHAM YAACOV

EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

New York, USA

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OLGA KAUFMAN

EXTENDS HER HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Burlingame, CA, USA

HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS MIRA and PHIL MATERMAN

Torrance, CA, USA

AARON (BILLY) BELOKAMEN

WISHES ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS A HAPPY HOLIDAY

Los Angeles, USA

TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

RENEE FRANK

Beverly Hills, USA

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TO HONOR OUR PARENTS

MAX and MOLLY SAMSON AND BEN and VERA BERG

DELORES and ROGER BERG

Los Angeles, USA

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GREETINGS TO MY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS CLARA LEEF

Laguna Woods, CA, USA

TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY BETTY LIAS

San Diego, USA

WISHING ALL OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD

A HAPPY HOLIDAY

HAG SAMEACH

from GUTIA, EUGENE BASOVITCH and FAMILY

Monroe Township, NJ, USA

JOE MRANTZ

WISHES ALL HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY A HAPPY HOLIDAY

Kula, Hawaii, USA

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

DAVID and FREDERIQUE FAMILIANT

Monte-Carlo, Monaco

GREGORY HODSON and FAMILY

WISH ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS A HAPPY HOLIDAY

Los Angeles, USA

Sanford (Sanya) and Celia WAINER, Jerry EVELYN and Josh ROTHMAN, Andrew GALL and Allison WAINER, Kenny, Brett, Ellie and Jenna ROSENBERG

Tamarac, USA

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS HARUCO and NORMAN SOSKIN

Burlingame, CA, USA

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARON SLOUSTCHER

Walnut Creek, CA, USA

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND THEIR FAMILIES MARY WOLFF and FAMILY

Valencia, USA

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

DORA (nee VIDUMSKY), GABRIEL LEE and FAMILY

New York, USA

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MARY BLOCH and FAMILY

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY
TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Hong Kong

DAVID DORFMAN and FAMILY

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY

TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Hong Kong

Mr. and Mrs. HARRY TRIGUBOFF

Sydney, Australia

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IGUD YOTZEI SIN

SENDS ITS SINCERE HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

TO THE IYS HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES

JESSE and NAOMI TRACTON

AND TO ALL THE FAR EASTERNERS IN AUSTRALIA

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

SENDS ITS SINCERE HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO

Mr. and Mrs. HARRY TRIGUBOFF

Mary and Alex SAMSON

Sydney, Australia

Mrs. VERA KARLIKOFF and FAMILY

Sydney, Australia

Iloliday Greekings

Jesse and Naomi TRACTON, Ian, Kim, Michelle, Avi and family Sydney, Australia

Inna MOUSTAFINE Ms. Mara MOUSTAFINE and Mr. Andrew JAKUBOWICZ Sydney, Australia

Mr. & Mrs. Renee TSUKASOFF and Mark Sydney, Australia

Mrs. Nora KROUK and family Sydney, Australia

Mrs. J. VINSON and family Toorak, Vic., Australia

Dr. Samuel SAKKER (M.B.E.) and family Sydney, Australia

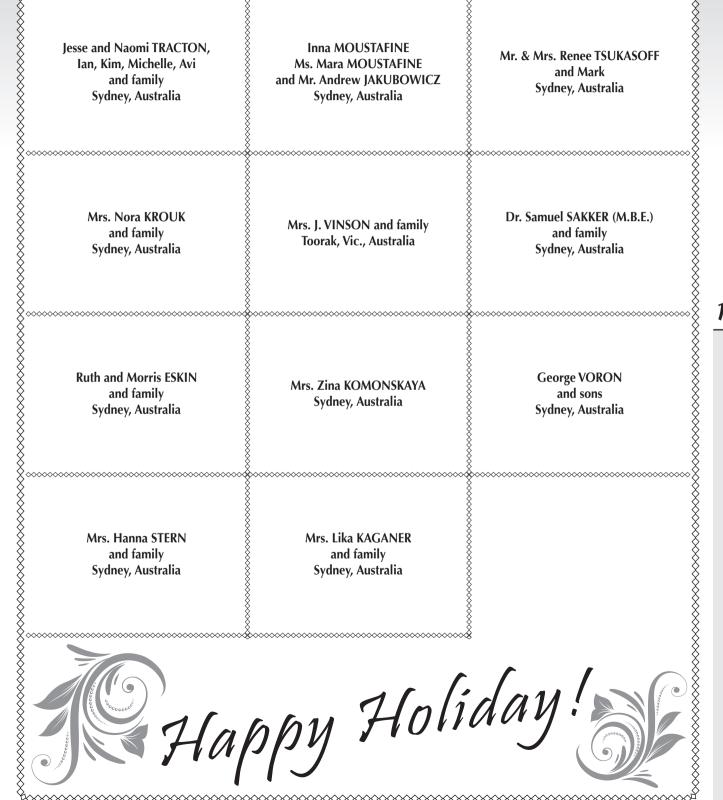
Ruth and Morris ESKIN and family Sydney, Australia

Mrs. Zina KOMONSKAYA Sydney, Australia

George VORON and sons Sydney, Australia

Mrs. Hanna STERN and family Sydney, Australia

Mrs. Lika KAGANER and family Sydney, Australia



WARM GREETINGS TO MY DEAR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

ALEX FAIMAN

London, UK

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

SENDS ITS SINCERE HOLIDAY GREETINGS

TO ALL THE FORMER RESIDENTS OF CHINA IN CANADA

AND WISHES THEM MUCH HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY

BEST WISHES

FROM

LILY LIFSHITZ

Montreal, CANADA

A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

NADIA and JACK OGNISTOFF and ELEONORE TREMBLAY

Burnaby, Canada

ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

WISHES A HAPPY HOLIDAY, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE I.C.F.S, THE MEMBERS OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER RESIDENTS OF CHINA
AND ALL OF OUR FRIENDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Tel Aviv, Israel

YOSSI KLEIN

WISHES A HAPPY HOLIDAY

TO THE STAFF OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN AND THE "BULLETIN":

INNA HANUKAYEVA, CECILIA LYUBMAN,

AND TO THE VOLUNTEERS: FLORI COHEN, JUDITH SANDEL

Tel Aviv, Israel

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YOSSI KLEIN and FAMILY

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD

Ramat Hasharon, Israel

A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND BEST WISHES TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

RAN (RONNY) VEINERMAN and FAMILY

Haifa, Israel

A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND BEST WISHES

TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE IGUD YOTZEI SIN

JACOB (YAKI) MATLIN

Shoham, Israel

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

ALEX NACHUMSON and FAMILY

Pardesiya, Israel

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NATALIA and SEVA PODOLSKY

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY
TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD

Jerusalem, Israel

JENNY and TEDDY PIASTUNOVICH

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Kefar Sava, Israel

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR RELATIVES AND ERIENDS

MIRIAM and DANIEL FRIEDMANN

Netanya, Israel

ESTHER WANDEL

SENDS GREETINGS
TO ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Kiryat Motzkin, Israel

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BEST WISHES TO MY FRIENDS
IN ISRAEL AND OVERSEAS

ABRAHAM FRADKIN

Tel Aviv, Israel

RASHA KAUFMAN

WISHES A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS
IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD

Ramat Gan, Israel

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

BELLA and AVRAHAM GOLDREICH

Tel Aviv, Israel

BORIS MATLIN

WISHES A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Petah Tikva, Israel

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ILANA and GIORA LESK, CARMELA MADPIS and FAMILIES

Raanana, Israel

HANNAH and SAM MULLER

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Kfar Shmaryahu, Israel

YONA KLIGMAN

SENDS HAPPY ROSH HASHANA GREETINGS TO ALL HIS CHILDREN,
THEIR FAMILIES, THE EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD
Jerusalem, Israel

ELI ALGOR (GROHOVSKY) and FAMILY

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY
TO THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Tel Aviv, Israel

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FLORA FREIMAN

WISHES A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Tel Aviv, Israel

PEARL and GEORGE KANPOL (KANTSEPOLSKY)

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY
TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Ehud, Israel



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Shanghai, China Jewish Community

Shanghai sits on the banks of the Yangtze River Delta in East China. The Huangpu River divides Shanghai, segregating Puxi, the city proper, from a newer financial district in Pudong.



Huangpu River with a view of Pudong

It is the largest city in China and serves as one of the country's most important cultural, commercial, financial, industrial and communications centres. It is the largest cargo port in the world and the third busiest in terms of container traffic.

There has been a significant Jewish community in Shanghai since 1850. The First Wave of Jewish migration to Shanghai was marked by the arrival of Sephardic Jews from Baghdad, Iraq, and Bombay, India. During 1920's and the 1930's thousands of Russian Jews immigrated to Shanghai as well.

During World War II, the city of Shanghai became one of the few places in the world that provided refuge to the European Jews fleeing the Nazi regime. From 1938 on, some 20,000 Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria escaped to Shanghai. The well - established Sephardic community set up an intricate social service system to aid these refugees in the Shanghai ghetto.

At the end of the war, Shanghai was home to approximately 24,000 Jews. By the founding of the Peoples Republic of China in 1949, the community dwindled, with many Jews emigrating to Israel, the United States, Australia and Hong Kong.

During those years, many of the Jewish sites in Shanghai were destroyed, except the Ohel Rachel Synagogue and the Ohel Moishe Synagogue which still stand today.

The Ohel Moishe Synagogue is located in the Hong Kou district and now hosts a museum dedicated to the history of the Jewish experience in Shanghai, following receipt of the local governments approval to be preserved and reconstructed to its original form.



Shanghai Jewish Community Centre



Kenneth Jarret, Rabbi Greenburg, G. Bohbot & Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar

Today the Chinese government regulates the use of the Ohel Rachel Synagogue building. The Jews in Shanghai are allowed to have religious ceremonies only three times a year in there. The Jews of Shanghai patiently wait for the day when they again may pray regularly in the Ohel Rachel Synagogue and re-establish the beautiful edifice as a centre of Jewish life.

During the 1990's, the opening of Shanghai to international trade and investment again attracted increasing numbers of foreigners, including Jews from throughout the world.

In August 1998, Rabbi Shalom Greenberg and his wife Dina arrived to Shanghai to serve the 150 Jews that already lived there.

Rabbi Greenberg was sent by the Chabad-Lubavitch movement to be the Rabbi of Shanghai's Jewish community and emissary of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Shanghai. He operates under the leadership of Rabbi Mordechai Avtzon from Chabad Hong Kong who heads Chabad China and the regional network, Lubavitch in the Far East (LIFE).

Rabbi Shalom Greenberg is 36 years old. He was born in Israel. His wife Dina, originally from Ohio, also plays a key role in fostering the Jewish communal life in Shanghai. Both of their extensive educations are products of United States Chabad institutions.

The Greenbergs energy commitment has infused new life into the growing Jewish Community. Along with their four children, they have truly created a sense of home for the Jewish expats. They have implemented Shabbat services and kosher meals, child and adult education classes, bar and bat mitzvah training and social activities. In the start of their stay in Shanghai, Rabbi Greenberg and his wife Dina worked from an apartment in the city center, while they established the building blocks of a centralised and organised religious life for Shanghai's Jews.

The growth of the Jewish population in Shanghai brought the need for a larger community centre to serve the needs of a flourishing Jewish institution. In 2004, Chabad Shanghai was able to purchase an impressive four storey building, with the generous financial support of Mr. George Bohbot from Hong Kong and Mr. Max Azaria from Los Angeles.

This building houses a synagogue, mikveh, kindergarten, junior education facilities, a Sunday school, Adult Education classes, a

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S i n lending library. In addition a kosher restaurant, a bakery, kosher shop supplying meat and poultry, wines and other packaged items.



Mikveh

The Jewish community in Shanghai now provides regular religious services as well as educational and social activities. They are the central institution in the lives of the Jewish people who live in Shanghai as well as for tourists and businessmen who travel to Shanghai.

During the Jewish Holidays, there is extensive activity. every Jewish festival is celebrated communally, as a family. During the last Passover festival more than 500 people participated in the Seder services.

Shanghai International Jewish School

Ohel Moshe Synagogue

There are now 30 children in the Shanghai International Jewish School. This preschool provides education for children between the ages of 2 through 6. The preschool programme includes art, music, language, math readiness, science, computers, dramatic play and the Jewish holidays. The curriculum is designed to enrich the children's appreciation of the world and the beautiful Jewish heritage in a fun and meaningful way.

The preschool is divided into four separate age groups. Each class has a qualified teacher as well as a Jewish volunteer. It is located within the Jewish center in newly renovated facilities made possible under the auspices of JE Joseph Trust for Shanghai Jewry.

Adult education and activities are also increasing in popularity. Lectures are given in different topics, from the history of the Jewish people

in China to investment.

The Jewish Center consistently offers a variety of classes and lectures on topics of Jewish interest, from beginners basics to Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism. Group courses run on a weekly and monthly basis and individual classes are also offered daily.

Shabbat in the Shanghai Jewish Center is a unique experience for the local residents and for the guests from all over the world.

After the Shabbat service, all the guests sit together for Shabbat dinner, and the mixture of languages is united by the singing of the Shabbat songs.

The Jewish Community of Shanghai currently has 1500 members, living and working in the city. The membership is diverse drawing Jews from different countries including the U.S., Israel, Europe, Argentina, Venezuela, Russia, Canada, Australia and the U.K.

Younger bachelors are the dominant group in the Shanghai community. The Rabbi indicates that there is a lack of young Jewish women in the community.

PUDONG

The growth of the Jewish population in Pudong, Shanghai, brought the need to open an additional Chabad Jewish centre in the Pudong area. Rabbi Avraham Greenberg, who is 27 years old and the younger brother of Rabbi Shalom Greenberg, was sent to Pudong 18 months ago, in December 2005.

Rabbi Avraham Greenberg, Pudong Along with his wife, Nechamie and their two children, together they serve the 200 permanent members Jewish community who live in Pudong area.

The couple provides weekday and Shabbat services, educational activities and Shabbat dinners in their apartment in Pudong.

Like their sister community they are quickly building on modest beginnings and fostering a true sense

of community and home to unite the Jewish residents in the area. The apartment serves as the synagogue and community center, with a second apartment secured as their residence.

They have quickly organised a kosher take-out service, whereby fresh kosher meals from the daily set menu are delivered to hotels or offices in Pudong. The Chabad Jewish Center of Pudong provides weekly adult education classes.

The Pudong Hebrew School, now meets on a weekly basis and combines Hebrew classes, Jewish values, Jewish history and holiday programming.

Ohel Rachel Synagogue

Chanukah Festivities inside Ohel Rachel Synagogue

The educational opportunities for Pudong residents are plentiful, as Rabbi Avremi, as he is better known, specialises in youth and teen programming and Nechamie received her Judaic Studies Instructor certification in 2000 from Beth Chana Teacher's College in Safed.

For the High Holidays services, the Pudong community will play host to 150 guests. Services and holiday dinners have been arranged in the Sofitel Hotel.

They are currently conducting Shofar workshops on the process of creating the shofar and teaching the history, laws and spiritual meaning of blowing the shofar. A Torah dedication is also planned in the upcoming months.

Pudong continues to grow as a financial centre and home to expats, with the growth it is certain that the Pudong Jewish community will continue to grow and develop as well. Rabbi Greenberg is certain that they will witness exciting times ahead.

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The Jewish Experience in China and Harbin: The Chinese Perception of the Other

Prof. Dan Ben-Canaan

Our visit to Harbin was really the highlight of our trip to Asia. I had heard so much about the place for so long, but could never really get a 'fix' on things because it was so remote, physically, and conceptually. I had heard about Harbin, read about it, seen pictures and we had quite a bit of Chinese stuff in our house. But I really needed to see it to understand it fully. Now it is all real for me. Theodore Orosz, Valley Stream New York, May 27, 2006

Preface

Among the Chinese cities, Harbin stands unique. The city's short historical time, its spaces, and its Western influence, brought about a convergence of human experience as well as special architectural styles. Northeast China at the time, known as Manchuria, was a wild region with small Manchu settlements, fishing and agricultural villages, inns, a fortress, several distilleries, opium fields planted and harvested regularly, and small administrative towns like Changchun, the capital of the Manchu Qing Dynasty.

In his book 'The Making of a Chinese City' James Carter notes that "Here, Harbin would grow from desolate beginnings into an important commercial, financial, and industrial center... The site was nearly indistinguishable from the virgin wilderness. A few Chinese houses and a small customs outpost along the riverbank and a distillery a short distance inland were the only permanent structures."

It was in 1896 that a treaty with China gave Tsarist Russia the right to construct a railway that will run through the wilderness of Manchuria, connecting Moscow with the strategic warm-water port in Vladivostok.

The works on the China Eastern Railway started in 1898 and completed in 1903. The control of the railway gave the Russians a strong colonial hold over Manchuria with Russian law, police, courts and army there.

The first Jewish family arrived in the new town of Harbin in 1899. He was a railway engineer. But Jews came to China much earlier, at least 2000 years earlier, but their encounter with the Chinese society was minimal.

The Jews in China - An Encounter between Two Ancient People

Most Chinese have never met a Jewish person, nor hold any knowledge of what Judaism or being Jewish is all about. Never the less, stereotypes of high Jewish intellect and genus, that all Jews are very good in business, that Jewish money gives the Jews world power and control of America, and Jewish cunningness - Jewish skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion, are being presented in academic, social and political spheres. These misguided notions have penetrated all levels of the Chinese society.

How this concept of Jews being money dominant power of the world came into being in China, who introduced these and the other stereotypes into the Chinese minds and why, and how it manifests itself in today's China, are key questions to one of my research projects.

Written records and studies on the arrival of Jewish settlers in China before modern times are completely lacking. The very few studies lack essential sources and are mostly a product of wishful thinking at best. It is probably true that Jewish people arrived in China earlier than Marco Polo in the 12 century. Records

such as the Persian Letters found in the deserts of Western China, show that Jews came here as individuals, for whatever reason they had adventure, commerce, medicine or other reasons.

It is interesting to note that the first mention of China, in Hebrew "Sin", in Jewish records is in the Biblical story of Noah (Book of Genesis, Chapter 9, verse 7).

Because there are no records, not even in the Chinese scriptures, of Jewish people coming to China as a large group, remain here and build a Jewish community, the story of the so-called Jews of Kaifeng is yet to be proven.

The now popular story about the Jews of Kaifeng was first introduced by a Christian priest named Mateo Ricci, whose knowledge of Judaism and Jewish traditions should be questioned, and he, himself described those people as Hui Huimeaning Muslims. Never the less it gave rise to a myth that conquered the imagination of some, and to others who try to benefit from it.

A migration of entire Jewish groups to China would happen only in the 19 century with the arrival of several Jewish families to Shanghai and from 1898 to Harbin.

To the Chinese, Jews boast one of the most amazing histories in the annals of the Diaspora. Archeological evidence points to a Jewish presence in China as early as the eighth century, the Jews having arrived, most likely, from Persia along the Silk Road.

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Arab and European travelers, including Marco Polo in the thirteenth century, spoke of meeting Jews or hearing about them during their travels in Zhong Guo, the Middle Kingdom, as China was then called. Polo records that Kublai Khan himself celebrated the festivals of Muslims, Christians and Jews alike.

China has 55 national minorities, who are declared as such on the basis of common language, traditions, customs and geographic area. The Muslims now constitute the second largest minority in China, after the Zhuang, and they are able to retain their study of Arabic and religious observance in mosques. The Jews, however, long ago lost their right to practice their religion because Judaism is not recognized in today's China for political reasons and its communal practice is officially forbidden.

The late 19th and in the early 20th centuries marked the arrival in China of tens of thousands of Jews, some with commercial interests, many as émigrés and the rest as refugees escaping European pogroms, the persecutions of 1917 Russian Revolution, and the Nazi Holocaust. They were to find sanctuary in China, especially in Harbin and Shanghai, where they built successful communities and left their cultural marks until this very day.

Today, with the current expansion of trade and globalization, Jews from different regions of the world are living temporarily in China's major cities.

China's Jewish communities have been ethnically diverse ranging from 19th and 20th century Baghdadis, Sephardic, Indians, and mostly European Ashkenazi Jews.

During the period of international opening and quasi-colonialism, the first group to settle in China were Jews who arrived here under British protection following the First Opium War. Many of these Jews were of

Indian or Iraqi origin, due to British colonialism in these regions. The second group of Jewish settlers came in the first decades of the 20th century when many Jews arrived in Harbin, Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Many more arrived as refugees from the Russian Revolution of 1917. A surge of Jews was to arrive in the 1930s and 1940s, seeking refuge from the Holocaust in Europe. Shanghai was notable for its volume of Jewish refugees, most of whom left after the war, the rest relocating prior to or immediately after the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

I have asked before how it could be that the Chinese nation and its society, although never encountered a face to face meeting with a Jewish person, could adopt stereotypical attitudes toward the Jews.

The contemporary term for Jews among Chinese today is Youtai ren (Chinese: pinyin: Yóutài Rén) in Mandarin Chinese. The origins of this term are thought to be derogatory because of the use of characters () containing the animal 'dog' and 'mad'. The term was coined by two German anti-Semitic missionaries about two hundred years ago while translating the Christian edition of the Bible into Chinese. In their translation they described the Jews as "Mad dogs". Today, this original meaning is no longer there and the Chinese population views the use of this term as similar phonetic sound of Jude or Judah.

The stereotypes about Jews were introduced by Christian missionaries, and in the past 400 years inhabited the Chinese minds.

These were followed by insertion of overt Anti-Semitism by Russians, White Russians, Japanese and others, who ruled China in the past 150 years.

The Chinese today, see these stereotypes as an honor gesture to what they coin the Jews as "great people". Never the less, we

should be aware of the existence of stereotypes and be watchful. China is an unpredictable place and it can change its masks when there is a need to do so.

Jewish life in Shanghai started with the arrival of the British. Sephardic Jews came as traders via India and Hong Kong and established some of the leading trading companies. Later Jewish refugees came from Russia and the Soviet Union. Most came as refugees during WWII.

Among the notable founders of the small Jewish community in Shanghai were Elias David Sassoon, who, in 1850, opened a branch in connection with his father's Bombay house. Since that period Jews have gradually migrated from India to Shanghai, most of them being engaged from Bombay as clerks by the firm of David Sassoon & Co. The community was composed mainly of "Asian," German, and Russian lews, and a few of Austrian, French, and Italians. Jews took a considerable part in developing trade in China, and several served on the municipal councils. During the early days of Jewish settlement in Shanghai the trade in opium and Bombay cotton yarn was mainly in Jewish hands.

The greatest difference between Shanghai and Harbin was in the makeup of their Jewish population. While in Shanghai the Jews were mainly war refugees who were looking for settlement somewhere else, the Harbin Jewish population had strong roots in the city and many considered it to be their home. That explains why the community of Harbin had both domestic and international influence. And that is why when you walk the streets of Harbin you can see and feel the Jewish historical presence.

The Jewish community of Harbin saw a wave of newcomers since its establishment in the first years of the 20th century. After the Russian

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Revolution of 1917, several thousand Russian Jews moved to the town.

Harbin was the center of the largest Jewish community in China and the Far East. The Jewish active presence in Heilongjiang's capital city lasted nearly 60 years, until the last family immigrated to Israel in 1963.

The Jews of Harbin, once flourishing and influential, should be seen as a mirror to the ability of the Jewish people as a whole to integrate, adopt, and contribute to their host community.

Through their high degree of thoughts, creative abilities, and strong link with Jewish communities elsewhere, they contributed more to the development of the macro community in which they found refuge than others did.

That is one the most important assets the Jewish people brought with them to Harbin. A micro community that functions within the macro and contributes to the human, social, educational, and artistic development of their new city and its citizens.

Starting with the settlement of the first Jewish family at the end of the 19th century, Jews arrived in Harbin and helped the foundation of the "boom town". The Harbin Jewish community was able to participate fully in all of the city's culture and civil life.

There are several periods of time that mark the growth and decline of the lewish community in Harbin:

- 1. The construction of the China Eastern Railway.
- 2. Count Vite's scheme to allow industrial Jews to relocate to Manchuria and Harbin Susskin, Skidelsky, Kavalkin, Kovalski, Kroll and others.

Once the tracks were laid, the Czar was so eager to establish Russia's economic dominance along the route that he offered Jews a chance to live without restrictions if they moved to Manchuria. Harbin became the railroad's administrative

center and was developing into a thriving frontier town.

These families contributed to the formation of communal organization, schools, synagogues and community services.

- 3. The Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5, when many Jewish soldiers decided to stay in Harbin.
- 4. Pogroms and the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. (It was thought that the place was safe because local Chinese had no tradition of anti-Semitism)
- 5. The start of WWII.

The Decline:

The Japanese occupation of Harbin in 1932 and the formation of the puppet state Manchukuo.

The purges of the Soviet Red Army in 1945-7

The establishment of the new republic in 1949 and the following Culture Revolution.

The first Jewish person, S.I. Bertsel, arrived in 1899. Shortly thereafter, the first Harbin "minyan" took place. By 1900, the town had 45 Jews, and by the end of 1903, Harbin had 500 Jews and more than 15 Jewishowned shops.

In 1903 the Harbin Jewish Religious Community was established in order to attend the religious and cultural needs of its members. The committee consisted of Israel Meerovich (Gabay), Eugen Dobisov (Treasurer), Khatskel Furvich and Mordechai Samsonovich (Committee Member). The formation of the HEDO was accompanied by setting up the first synagogue in Harbin in a rented house (the large community synagogue was opened in 1907), by a Chevra Kaddischa (Burial Society) and commencing a Jewish cemetery. The Jewish community employed a Rabbi, a Mohel (circumciser) and a Shochet (slaughterer) who was responsible for the slaughter of animals according to the religious ritual. The Mohel and the Shochet travelled to other places in the Heilongjiang province and performed circumcision and ritual slaughter for the Jewish communities there. The Chevra Kadisha buried the community's deceased in accordance with Jewish ritual. The society maintained the Jewish Cemetery and was owner of a hearse.

Rabbi Lev Levin was the first full-time Rabbi in 1903. Under his supervision all religious functions were put in place and a school in the synagogue's vard was established. In the course of few years the Jewish Community comprised all the institutions that are traditionally an inseparable part of all the great Jewish communities in the world: i.e. a Mikveh (religious bathhouse) and a matzoth (unleavened bread for Pesach) bread bakery which supplied matzoth to all the other lewish communities in the North-East of China in Hailar, Qiqihar, Manzhouli, Hangdaohezi, Shengyan, as well as more distant cities like Oingdao, Hankou, and also the communities in Japan: Kobe, Tokyo and Yokohama. Since the very first days of its existence the Jewish Community had a religious character and made sure that Jewish traditional values were preserved, communal help was promoted and Jewish costumes kept.

During the War between Russia and Japan the Community took care of Jewish soldiers fighting in Manchuria. After the Russian defeat many demobilized soldiers settled in Harbin joined by their families. At the same time an increasing number of Jewish refugees came fleeing from pogroms in Russia. The number of community members grew up to 5.000.

In 1906 the Women's Welfare Organization was founded. The organization helped establishing workshops, supplied clothes and supported education. In 1907 the Jewish Free Soup Kitchen was opened to all needy persons in Harbin. A "Committee for Social Security" (1916) was built up and

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provisional organizations such as the "Committee for Support of the Jewish Victims of the War" (1914-1920).

The Harbin lewish population reportedly topped 25,000 at its peak in the 1920s. There were two major synagogues, the Main or "Old" Synagogue and the New Synagogue. Jewish community established a library, a Talmud Torah, an elementary and a secondary school, a cemetery, a women's charitable organization, a soup kitchen, a home for the aged and a Jewish hospital, which treated both lews and non-lews.

Jews were the first to begin the soy-bean industry in Manchuria as well as the fur industry. They built factories, had the holdings of the region's timber, and operated the coal mines throughout Manchuria. They founded the Jewish Commerce Association, the Jewish Far Eastern Bank, and the Jewish People Bank.

Large and small Jewish enterprises provided working places for Jewish and non-Jewish population as well. For instance at the Kitaiskaya Street with its shops: men fashion shop of Eskin, pharmacy of Arkus, Hotel "Pekin" of Berkovich, "Shvedko" kitchen furniture and equipment shop of Genkin, famous coffee house "Mars" of Zuckerman-Drezin, Hotel "Moderne" of Joseph Kaspe, manufacture goods of Rabinovich, "Optica" of Faingold. Out of 32 Hotels registered in Harbin in 1932, 28 belonged to Jews.

Jews were furriers, bankers, bakers, shopkeepers, restaurateurs, teachers and people of letters and the arts. They owned coal mines, lumber mills, breweries and candy factories. The Jewish-owned Hotel Moderne boasted a restaurant, a cinema, a billiard room, a bar and a barber shop. Because of its ornate, Europeaninspired architecture, Harbin became known as the "Oriental St. Petersburg" and the "Paris of the Orient". Its rich cultural life led to the nickname "City of Music."

Harbin's cultural life was often compared with Paris (Paris of the East). Operas, operettas, concerts and plays were frequently performed. They were held mainly at the Hotel "Moderne" or at the "Commercial Club", both located in the lewish area of Harbin.

They established a theatre and the Jewish cultural club "YILMADAG", which presented lecture series in Russian and Yiddish, dramatic performances and musical evenings. Some special training schools as the Music and Art School "Lotus", where mime, art history, sculpture and drama were taught, set up by Jews. In 1912, the Jewish Library was built up with about 13 thousand books.

Between 1918 and 1930, about 20 Jewish newspapers and periodicals were published in Harbin. All but one – the Yiddish Der Vayter Mizrekh (The Far East) - were in Russian. Russian was the lingua franca for Jews and gentiles alike, as well as for their Chinese employees and business associates.

World War I and the Russian Revolution brought scores of anti-Bolshevik White Russians to Harbin, along with a virulent strain of anti-Semitism, and bullying of Jews by Russian hooligans became common. The Harbin Russian Fascist Party was established in 1931, the same year the Japanese Army invaded Manchuria. Japanese troops occupied Harbin in 1932, and the city became part of the puppet state of Manchukuo. Immediately the Japanese began expropriating private property and terrorizing the civilian population. They recruited spies among the locals and allowed Russian fascists to spearhead anti-Soviet and anti-Jewish campaigns. Foreigners as well as Chinese were kidnapped, tortured and often murdered by the occupying army and its collaborators.

Many of the incidents were muddied by double-dealing, with the Japanese using Russians gangsters Chinese bandits as a front. One such case was the kidnapping and murder of Simeon Kaspe, a brilliant young concert pianist and naturalized French citizen. Simeon was the son of Russian-born Joseph Kaspe, who owned the Hotel Moderne as well as a large jewelry store and a chain of theaters. When Joseph Kaspe refused to negotiate with the kidnappers, they sent him his son's ears. Simeon was tortured for 3 months and eventually killed. The kidnappers, Russian fascists, worked for the Japanese authorities that wanted the hotel - a symbol for Harbin's political, economic and social importance.

Jews began fleeing Harbin for Tientsin, Shanghai and abroad. By the end of World War II, only about 2,000 Harbin Jews were left to greet the city's new authorities. The Soviet Army had taken over from the Japanese. Between 1945 and 1947, the Soviets arbitrarily arrested the leadership of the Jewish community and "repatriated" them to Russian gulags. They arrested many others and shot them dead at the border.

Following the victory of the People's Liberation Army in 1949, about 1,000 Jews left Harbin for Israel. By 1955, only 319 Jews were left to maintain community institutions.

In 1958 the city government ordered the demolishing of all cemeteries in the city. The government allowed a relocation of the lewish and Russian Orthodox cemeteries to Huangshan - the Royal Mountain a new place outside of the city. Between 1958 and 1962, 816 tombstones out of about 3,400 graves were relocated to the new cemetery (compared with 60 out of 36,000 Russian Orthodox graves).

The Jewish community stopped its functions on December 31, 1963 when the last family left for Israel. The last Harbin Jew, Hana Agran died in 1985.

But the spirit of the Jewish community still engulfs the city of Harbin. The Jewish cultural, economic, and social contributions are felt in the

And, the city government, understanding the importance of the Jewish heritage, allocated more than 100 million RMB (close to 20 million Dollars) to reconstruct the "Jewish Block" on Tongjiang Street. The Old Synagogue, the Jewish High School and two other "Jewish" buildings were opened after two years of

reconstruction works. They serve now as the Harbin Music Center.

Former Harbiners and their descendants have now roots in the U.S., Israel, Europe, Australia, Canada and other places. Many of them have maintained a connection with each other across oceans and continents.

The Harbin Jewish spirit is alive and

you can feel it in every corner of the

Northeast Forestry University, School of Postgraduate Studies

The Sino-Israel Research and Study Center

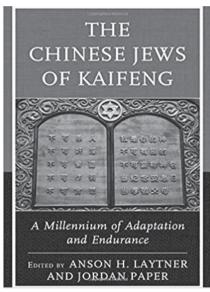
The Hong Kong Jewish Historical Society. May 29, 2016

Received with courtesy from Prof. Dan Ben-Canaan – July 2018



The Chinese Jews of Kaifeng: A Millennium of Adaptation and Endurance

by Anson H. Laytner (Editor, Contributor), Jordan Paper (Editor, Contributor), Alex Bender (Contributor), Moshe Yehuda Bernstein (Contributor), & 8 more



Review

A Millennium of Adaptation and Endurance-with these words Anson H. Laytner and Jordan Paper capture exactly why a small community of Chinese Jews in old Kaifeng attracts so much interest. These Jews lasted a thousand years, adapted their Judaism to China, and thus preserved it; they endured. In this important study, twelve scholars explore many aspects of this fascinating encounter between two of the oldest living civilizations. (Shalom Salomon Wald, Jewish People Policy Institute)

This volume breaks new ground in the burgeoning field of Sino-Judaic Studies. Here, for the first time, is an authoritative collection of essays by major scholars piecing together the puzzle of the Kaifeng Jews-arguably one of the most resilient Jewish communities in the world. Spanning over nine centuries of both Chinese and Jewish history, this volume illuminates afresh questions about acculturation, social customs. and religious rituals that enabled a small minority to thrive and to pass down across the generations a kernel of generative identity, which is both genuinely Chinese and deeply Jewish. Drawing upon a wide variety of sources (ancient and modern, oral testimonies and iournalistic accounts) this volume provides a fascinating read for the general public and researchers alike. (Vera Schwarcz, Wesleyan University)

This volume offers new insights and unparalleled perspectives regarding some of the most recent and pressing developments of the Kaifeng Jewish community, which has existed for over a millennium. In this seminal collection, the contributors unveil the Jewry of

Kaifeng, from ancient times to the current crisis. Clear, persuasive, and thought-provoking, this book is a must read for anyone seeking to understand the unique role of the Kaifeng Jews in the history of Jewish diaspora. In short, this study is an invaluable contribution to the existing literature. (Xu Xin, Nanjing University)

This collection is a magnificent and accurate examination of the epic story of the Chinese Jews of Kaifeng, as told by the topics leading scholars. This up-to-date book is a valuable addition to this most fascinating yet little-known community. Readers will be most appreciative and indebted to the two outstanding editors of this volume. (Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, author of The Fugu Plan: The Untold Story of the Japanese and the Jews during World War II)

About the Author

Anson H. Laytner is former president of the Sino-Judaic Institute and the author of Arguing with God: A Jewish Tradition.

Jordan Paper is professor emeritus of East Asian and religious studies at York University and author of The Theology of the Chinese Jews, 1000-1850.

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PEOPLE & EVENTS

High Level Delegation from Harbin



On June 3, 2018, a high level delegation of seven senior officials in the Government of Harbin visited the offices of the Igud. The delegation was headed by Mr. Wang Zhaoli, Party Secretary of the Harbin CPC Committee, the most senior figure in the Harbin government, and included five board members of the Technological Institute of Harbin headed by Mr. Ren Nanqi, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

The aim of their visit, besides being a courtesy visit, was intended to promote efforts in the field of



science, technology, agriculture and investments of Israeli companies in China and vice versa.

In the framework of the conversations held during this encounter, Yossi Klein thanked the representatives for the preservation of the Jewish heritage in Harbin. But at the same time, he also drew the attention of the secretary, Mr. Wang Zhaoli, to the situation in the Jewish cemetery where occasional instances of intrusive Chinese burials occurred within its enclosure, and also to the fact that the archives of the Jewish community were closed to us. The secretary listened attentively to the translation of the words and gave his promise several times to deal with the issues that were raised.

A summary of this matter was also transmitted by email and translated by his secretary into Chinese, and it now only remains to wait for a response.

We take this opportunity to note the activities of Prof. Dan Ben-Canaan, an Israeli who has been living and working for many years in Harbin. On May 23, Dan organized a meeting at the cemetery with a delegation distinguished (some were among the visitors mentioned above), which included the manager of cemeteries and his deputies, and he showed them the intrusions that were carried out in the cemetery area. A commitment was given by the cemetery management to guard the area of the cemetery and to keep it clean.

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CELEBRATING "ISRAEL CULTURE WEEK" IN SHANGHAI SHOWCASED TO MILLIONS



Eyal Propper, the Consul General of Israel in Shanghal, at the opening ceremony

To honour the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China Israel, the 19th China Shanghai International Arts Festival held an event titled "Israel Culture Week" from 11 to 18 November.

Organised by the Consulate General of Israel in Shanghai and the centre for China Shanghai International Arts Festival, Israel Culture Week

presented the comprehensive and classical achievements of Israeli art, providing local Chinese people with a chance to embrace Israeli traditions and culture through events.

As part of Israel Culture Week, Shanghai's Oriental Pearl Tower was lit up in blue and white, the colours of the Israeli flag. The building is one of the world's most famous structures and a landmark that is synonymous with the city.

The festival included shows by some of top Israeli performers such as Inbal Pinto's dance troupe, world renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman, pianist Yaron Kohlberg and songstress Ester Rada.

The consulate also organised other cultural events, including dinners

in which chefs from the Dan Hotels chain prepared Israeli food for Chinese gourmands. In addition a fair of Israeli products, exhibitions of Israeli photography and art, lectures and workshops on culture and innovation. There were also lifestyle booths, a literature space and an event titled "Israel Night".

More than 50,000 people attended events, which garnered widespread coverage from local media.

A video promoting the week, produced by the Israeli consulate, was screened on local public transportation and on 22 huge screens scattered across the city, and was viewed by tens of millions of people.

Jewish Times Asia - January 2018

Major tunnel of HK-Zhuhai - Macao Bridge completed

By Julie L. Kessler



The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge under construction. Major work on the 55-km-long Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the world's longest sea bridge, has passed authorities' evaluation. The huge project has been considered engineering wonder a magnificent feat of hi-tech innovation. The bridge took six years of preparation, and eight years to build. Major work on the bridge consisted of a 22.9-kmlong main bridge, a 6.7-km-long tunnel and an artificial island off the bridge, which was considered the most technically demanding part of the whole construction. The bridge will slash the travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai from three hours to just 30 minutes, further integrating cities in the Pearl River Delta. (Xinhua/Liang Xu)

BEIJING, Feb. 24 (Xinhua) A bridge linking Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao has moved a step closer to official opening, with a major tunnel project fully completed Saturday.

The 2,741-meter-long Gongbei Tunnel is 21 meters high with an excavation area of 336.8 square

meters, bigger than any other highway tunnel in the world, China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) said.

The 55-kilometer Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary, will be the world's longest sea bridge.

The two-way tunnel with six lanes in total, which has been built over five years, is the only passage connecting the main body of the bridge with Zhuhai, according to the company.

The full completion of the tunnel has "laid a foundation for the bridge to be officially open to traffic," said the CRCC, giving no specific timetable.

Comprising a main bridge structure together with crossing facilities and link roads, it is designed to meet the growing demand of passenger and freight land transport between the three cities.

The bridge will slash travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai from three hours to just 30 minutes, further integrating cities in the Pearl River Delta.

Xinhua| 2018

LETTERS

Howard & Jeanine Hack Cape Town, South Africa E-mail: hjhack@iafrica.com Sunday, July 15, 2018

My great-grandparents Emil & Martha Galliner lived in Shanghai as stateless refugees from 1941-1947. They lived in Alcock Road, and Tongshan Road. They departed Shanghai in 1947 on USS Marine Adder to San Francisco.

I have a postcard dated 24 May 1947, addressed to:

Mr. & Mrs. Emil Galliner 818/8 Tongshan Road Hongkew (Local). The postcard is From Mr M. Nisenbaum "Tick-Tack" & wife. No 1 Card. Mercier Local (18)

The letter is in German thanking Mr & Mrs Galliner for their good wishes, for the farewell "party", and hopes that the Galliners next

"party" will be with their children. The Galliners departed from Berlin on 10 June 1941, overland to Shanghai, where they spent 7 years. We would like to know about Mr & Mrs Nisenbaum and their friendship with Emil & Martha Galliner, as well as the meaning of the words "Tick-Tack".

Thank you, Jeanine 33

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PRECIOUS CHINESE SILK EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY IN TEL AVIV

Israelis recently had the opportunity to view 27 exquisite Chinese silk costumes in an exhibition at the China Cultural Center in Tel Aviv titled "In Praise of Silk: Fashion with Tradition in China".



Zhan Yongxin, Chinese ambassador to Israel, addresses the opening ceremony

The exhibition, which opened in March, demonstrated the process of and changes in the creation of Chinese silk costumes through three different lenses: history, craftsmanship and Chinese elements.

In addition to the silk costumes from the China National Silk Museum, which is located in Zhejiang Province in the east of China, Chinese calligraphy, traditional paintings, paper-cuts and Chinese seals were also on show in the exhibition.

"Silk is the keyword of the exhibition, which provided an opportunity to approach and experience silk embroidery techniques," said

Chinese Ambassador to Israel Zhan Yongxin at the opening ceremony.

The ancient Silk Road was a network of trade routes, and silk was certainly the most lucrative and sought-after item traded across the Eurasian continent, bringing wealth and enriching culture for the peoples and states along the routes, and sometimes helping make peace between different tribes or states, said the Chinese envoy.

This benefited the ancient civilisations such as the Chinese, Persians, Jews, Arabs, Indians, Greeks and Romans along this road, leaving an abundant cultural heritage of humankind, added Zhan. This exhibition was the highlight among the activities held by the China Cultural Center since its opening last November. It was also the first time that the China National Silk Museum had presented its precious collections in Israel.

A printed curvy-hemmed silk robe was an eye-catching item in the exhibition. It is a replica of an excavated object from the Mawangdui Tombs of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) located in Changsha in Hunan Province, central China.

Also on show in the exhibition was a Chinese traditional wedding costume that was inspired by ancient Chinese architecture. It has a phoenix-tail skirt, a coat with an

A-shaped lower hem, and a shawl with cloud patterns on it.

Silk, which has accompanied the Chinese people for more than 5,000 years, used to be a luxury item, reserved only for the nobility. In 2009, Chinese sericulture and craftsmanship was placed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

The exhibition illustrated the evolution of Chinese traditional silk costumes and the development of the weaving techniques, and the application of Chinese artistic elements on modern fashion as well, said Jin Xingsheng, director general of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture. Zhejiang Province, the birthplace of silk, is famous for its exquisite silk products.

Ran Veinerman, chairman of the Israel-China Friendship Society and a former resident of China, knows well how Chinese silk was loved and admired. "China can take pride in its silk," he said.

The exhibition and other activities held at the China Cultural Center (including lectures and classes in Chinese and Chinese cooking) were helpful for promoting the Chinese culture to the Israeli people, added Veinerman.

(Issue Apr 2018)





Silk fashion garments on display at the Chinese Cultural Center in Tel Aviv

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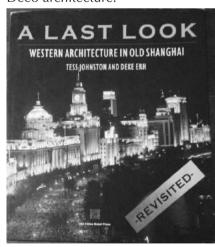
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Shanghai's Art Deco Pioneers: <u>Tess Johnston & Deke Erh</u>

Tess Johnston



Shanghai's historic architecture and Art Deco heritage owes a great deal to Shanghainese photojournalist Deke Erh and American author Tess Johnston. The pair first told the history of Shanghai through her architecture in 1993, with their classic "A Last Look: Western Architecture in Old Shanghai". Although they didn't focus on Art Deco in that particular book (that would come later, with Shanghai Art Deco in 2006), their work was the first to raise awareness of the city's built heritage, and the first to visually record and highlight its Art Deco architecture.



Tess Johnston & Deke Erh's pioneering book on Western architecture in Shanghai was first printed in 1999 with a new edition in 2004.

In the intervening two decades, they have published, together and separately, literally a reference library on old China. These include a series on Western architecture in China's treaty ports, Frenchtown Shanghai, on the former French Concession, and their classic tome on Art Deco (one of the "great loves of Deke's life," says Tess). How did it all start?

For Tess, it began when she arrived in Shanghai in 1981 with the U.S. Foreign Service. "I had never seen anything like [Shanghai]," she says.



Tess Johnston arrived in Shanghai in 1981. Here she is on her last walk before she repatriated, in 2016 - the backdrop is that 'utterly and completely Western city' she found in 1981.

The Charlottesville, Virginia native - who retains a Southern drawl, in English and Chinese - had lived all over the world with the Foreign Service, but "I had never been to a foreign country that looked so utterly and completely Western. It was perfectly preserved, a cross between Warsaw in 1938 and Calcutta, a totally Western city with an Asian population."

Deke is a Shanghai native, but it was a return to his city that opened his eyes. He first picked up a camera as a teenager during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) because "we had plenty of time then, and I needed something to do." Saddled with what was then called a 'bad family background' - his grandfather, Y.H. Erh, was recruited into the US Navy, awarded a medal for acts of heroism during World War II, and became an American citizen; his father worked for Texaco - Deke says that he just wanted to get away from the city, where all his associations were negative. So he traveled the countryside, but upon returning, he realized that Shanghai had a treasure trove of historic architecture. "Nobody was interested back then," he says, with the barest hint of irony. "Not even the professors at Tongji University (noted for preservationist its architectural faculty)."



When photojournalist Deke Erh began photographing historic Shanghai architecture, no one was interested.

That is perhaps because in 1981, the city's pre-1949 Western architecture was considered little more than an embarrassing reminder of forced foreign domination. As a result, collective amnesia had descended when it came to the history of these buildings. In addition, many of the buildings were inaccessible. It all added to the challenge, but the pair doggedly soldiered on, photographing and documenting what they could. Tess augmented her knowledge with trips to the

(Continued on page 37)

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"The Study of Jews in Northeast China"

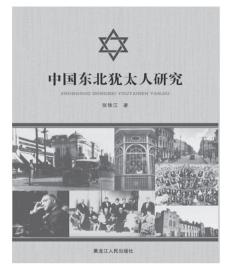
Author: Xiao Hong

A history monograph which is being compiled filled in the historical blanks.

The work of Professor Zhang Tiejiang from the Center of Jewish Studies Harbin was published by Heilongjiang People's Publishing House on November 20, 2017. This is the first systematic study book in China about the lewish historical activities in northeast China. The book consists of 10 chapters, totaling 580,000 words. Before and after the October Revolution, since the construction of the Middle East rail in China, a large number of Jewish people who affected by the Anti-Semitism policy of Russia began to immigrate to Harbin.

The book is composed of 10 chapters covering five historical periods, such as the second opium war, the Tsarist of Russia, from the October revolution to the September 18th incident (Mukden incident) in northeast China, the Japanese Manchuria, and from the victory of the Anti-Japanese War to the early days of new China. In this book, the Jews living in northeast China once played a great role in the local economic and social development between the middle of the 19th century and the 1960s.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, with the Russia's colonial expansion in northeast China and the construction of the Middle East rail, Jews from Russia poured into northeast of China, they had carried out a variety of communal, cultural and religious activities in Harbin. A large number of lewish relics and historical records have been properly preserved in northeast China, such as the largest Jewish cemetery in East Asia, the New Synagogue, the Old Synagogue, the museum of Harbin Jewish history and culture, the lewish architecture sites on



Harbin's China Avenue, etc.

Professor Zhang Tiejiang a famous expert, scholar and academic leader of Heilongjiang provincial academy of social sciences, and the deputy director of the Center of Jewish Studies Harbin. In 2000, professor Zhang Tiejiang had discovered the historical archives of the lews in Harbin, and suggested the local government should begin studying the history and culture of Harbin Jews. This proposal has been confirmed by the superior authorities, and then the Center of Jewish Studies Harbin was established. The researchers of the Center collected a large number of historical materials and visited architecture **Iewish** numerous sites. The historic activities of lews in Harbin have been thoroughly researched, a number of monograph and papers have been published so far. The international forums have been successfully held by the Center so far, including "The historical and cultural exhibition of the Jews in Harbin", and "The International Forum on the history and culture of the Jews in Harbin", and "The International forum on the trade and economic cooperation with the lews of the world".

The publication of this book marked the second phase of the research of Jewish immigrants in China. To evaluate of lews in Harbin by using of the dialectical and historical materialism is the main objective of the second phase, it's really a problem to think about the role of lews in the Chinese modern history. The Diasporas history of the Jewish community is both a history of migration and international capital activities of the world. The opening of the trade routes, the rising of colonialism, and the modernization and anti-modernization process of the world are all related to the Jewish national and economic activities. The study of the modern history of the world and China cannot be separated from these specific multinational companies. As the most prominent feature of the Jewish community, economic and capital activities should not be neglected in the study of modern history. The research on Harbin, Heilongjiang province and Jews in the northeast of China by professor Zhang Tiejiang not only helps us to deepen our understanding of the activities of international capital in China, but also many specific issues in modern history of China. Since modern times, the role of the Jewish colony and the Jewish capital, the economic, and friendship between Jewish people and Chinese people, all the objective and fair conclusion can be drawn by adopting the dialectical methods.

The author took more than two years for completing the task of writing, but it took him 17 years to work on this particular study. There are a large number of first-

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hand historical documents in the book, which be collected from Heilongjiang provincial archives, Harbin city archives, Heilongjiang provincial library, Harbin city library and Heilongjiang provincial museum, such as the Russian Jewish Diaspora archives, legal documents and journals, the achieves are both in Chinese, English, Russian and Japanese. It's the first time to display these historical achieves in public, most readers will also be aware of the existence of these historical archives for the first time. Based on the documents about the economic, social and cultural activities of Jews in northeast China, this book makes analysis and research on the capital

activities, political activities and the famous family history of the Jews.

What is more, the author applied the different research methods over the course of the study, include not only the local history, Chinese history and World history, but also the development history of the modern western capitalism.

The study of the Jews in northeast China has broad prospects and profound academic significance. The idea of global history offers a new approach to the study of the world history. It also provides a new scheme for the historiography of the world history. The academic innovation has been reflected in research of Professor Zhang and

filled the gaps in this field.

According to Professor Zhang Tiejiang, the research on the Jews in Harbin and the Jews in northeast China is an integrated whole, there are still more issues to be considered in this field. "Study of Jews in northeast China" is a worldwide problem and a worldwide research hotspot as well. It is our historical responsibility to found a "Harbin Jewish research school" with Chinese characteristics.

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is a research assistant at the Center of Jewish Studies Harbin.

Her major research covers the history and culture of Jews in Harbin.

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(Continued from page 35)

Shanghai's Art Deco Pioneers: Tess Johnston & Deke Erh

markets and bookstores, where books, directories, even building floor plans were available.

In 1992, the economic reforms began, and Deke and Tess quickly realized that this museum of architecture could not last. That first book was the beginning of a crusade "to preserve these Western monuments for future generations through our photographs, our research, and the collective memories of the buildings' former architects, builders and tenants," as Tess says.

It was also a gift: Deke explains that he wanted to re-shoot the second edition of A Last Look. "But what I found in trying to recreate the photographs was that so many of the buildings had disappeared forever, or had been changed beyond recognition." Their book serves as the most complete visual record of Shanghai's historic architecture.



One of those books was Shanghai Art Deco, which documents the city's Art Deco heritage: the architecture, architects, furniture, graphics, and objects - many of which the authors have collected over the years.

Says Deke, "development does not mean that we must destroy the old city and rebuild a new one on its former site." While both lament the "thinning of old buildings," and unthinking renovations that strip interiors of their original details, the fact that so much of Shanghai's built heritage remains is a testament to their early efforts: their books are at once a record of history and a compelling argument as to why it needs to be preserved.

To purchase the final edition of Tess Johnston's architectural walking tour guide series of old Shanghai, "The Where's Where of the Who's Who of Old Shanghai", email: info@historic-shanghai.com

Shanghai Art Deco and A Last Look are out of print, but some copies can be found online. Deke's bookshop, Old China Hand Style, 374 Shaanxi Nan Lu/Fuxing Zhong Lu has some copies of their other books.

Posted by Tina Kanagaratnam - | Jun 25, 2014

Art Deco, Art Deco Books, People Reprinted courtesy of Historic Shanghai

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Dvir Bar-Gal on 20 Years of Shanghai Jewish Tours

By Ned Kelly



Israeli native Dvir Bar-Gal has been leading tours of Shanghai's fascinating Jewish history for the past 17 years. Shanghai Jewish Tours started back in 1998 and is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. In honor of this huge milestone, we chat with Dvir about the history of Jewish immigration and culture in Shanghai, the best spots for Israeli food and his new City of Stars Quest. What is your background and how did you come to be in Shanghai? I was working in IsraeliTV throughout the 1990s. At the end of August 2001 I moved to Shanghai planning to be a freelance TV journalist. Two weeks after my arrival to Shanghai and in the very same day I moved to my first apartment, I went to dinner with my new Chinese friend. After dinner I came back to my apartment and switched on my TV. The date was September 11. Things were not the same anymore. The plans that I had never really came through. The media in Israel were not looking for stories from China for the next two years. By then I was doing other things.



How did the tours first get going?

Soon after I [arrived] I took the Jewish Heritage Tour of Shanghai, which was run at that time by Georgia Noy. When Georgia realized I was working in media she told me that antique shops in Shanghai's Hongqiao area sold old Jewish gravestones. She thought it may be an interesting story. I did not think that the story would keep me busy and was not too enthusiastic.

Then, Georgia told me that Shanghai [once] had four Jewish cemeteries with nearly 4,000 Jewish graves and they all disappeared from the ground. Through the 1990s, people came from abroad to look for the places their ancestors were buried [but] no one could show them where to look or explain why the gravestones weren't there anymore. To make a long story short, we went to the antique shop and from there we started our research that led us to the west of Shanghai - in the Qingpu district farming areas where one after the other I started to locate lost Jewish gravestones. Collecting these lost relics, storing and restoring them with the hope to make a memorial site in Shanghai is an unprecedented project that has kept me busy for 17 years.

When Georgia left Shanghai she asked me if I would like to help her with guiding the Jewish Heritage Tours, and it's something I've done ever since.



How is the project to recover headstones from the Jewish cemeteries in Shanghai going?

We still keep the hope that the Shanghai authorities will allow us to create a memorial site using the many gravestones I've located. I keep telling myself that nothing is easy in China but anything is possible.

Can you tell us about the different waves of Jewish immigration to the city and the reasons for them?

The story of the Jews in Shanghai is extraordinary because it was a really short historical [period] of 110 years, from the mid 19th Century to the mid 20th Century. But in Shanghai these 110 years contain three remarkable and separate Jewish chapters. The first were Jewish traders of Baghdadi origin. They became the financial movers and shakers of our city in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Their legacy still stands tall at many places in the Bund, the French Concession and along Nanjing Road.

The second Jewish group came from Russia in the early 20th Century. [They were] people who had run away from pogroms and growing anti-Semitism. They contributed to Shanghai by establishing the backbone of middle-class business as well professions in academics, health and high culture.

The last Jewish group spent the shortest time in Shanghai, on average they lived in Shanghai for 8-10 years, but this is the group that makes the story of Jewish Shanghai a bit more known today. It was a big group of Jewish refugees running away from the Nazis and getting as far away as they could get from Europe.

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For people who have never been on the tour, what can they expect? To laugh, to feel sad, to learn and to say every few minutes: 'How come I never heard of that before?'

Do you have a favorite building on the tour?

Our tour takes [visitors] from luxurious places to great poverty - all that Shanghai offers through the Jewish storyline.

What plans do you have to mark the 20-year anniversary?

I've announced the City of Stars Quest. Not many people know that around our city, one can find many Jewish stars. They can be spotted over outdoor walls or indoors over staircases, on old housing flooring, balconies and other places.

For the search for Shanghai's Jewish stars we will reward [participants] with a free tour.* The first three people who correctly identify the locations of the stars in the postcard (pictured below) or to anyone who will send us a picture of a historical Jewish star in Shanghai that we do not yet know about, along with its location.



Can you tell us about interesting people who have taken your tour? If Hollywood stars and Oscar winners are interesting people. If ministers, Nobel laureates and former heads of

countries are interesting, then yes I can tell you about them... But for me it's more interesting to tell you about the people taking my tour who were part of these historical Jewish communities in Shanghai.

Can you tell us about them? Almost every week, I take people who are related to the Jewish heritage of Shanghai. Listening to their stories and learning from their experience [helps me build] the commentary I provide to the guests of my tour.

Only this week, mid-April, within six days I had five different people connected to Shanghai's past. A grandson from Israel of a Baghdadi family, An Australian lady daughter of Russian Jewish parents who lived in the former French Concession and three others related with the WW2 refugees.

Take for example Mrs. Noemi Dalidakis (née Strauss) from Melbourne, who came to Shanghai this week with her son, his wife and his kids. Three generations came to trace the footsteps of grandmother, Noemi who was born in 1940 at the Hongkou area.

Her father Gottfried was arrested and imprisoned for over three long years by the Nazis in Dachau and Buchenwald. With restless dedication of his loving wife, Irene, she had managed to get them papers to leave Europe.

They made their way to the other side of the world with almost no financial means. Starting with nothing beside hard work they managed to rent an apartment at 81 Zhoushan Lu, giving life to two little girls, Noemi and Dagmar, and surviving the war only to start all-over-again in Melbourne. Just before leaving Shanghai in 1946 their parents captured young Noemi and Dagmar in Chinese customs holding sweet-China-dolls, an image that became one of the icons of that time.



Standing at the staircase of her war-time-childhood home in 81 Zhoushan Lu, Noemi shared her experience with her grandkids and the rest of our groups. An emotional and inspiring experience to all our guests that day. And this happens in our tour frequently, ever since we started it.





Do you have a favorite story among your repertoire?

Yes, how much time do you have? Maybe it's simply better to join the tour and hear those incredible stories!

> Courtesy of Ned Kelly THAT'S - April 16, 2018

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The Rabbi from Shanghai

by Rabbi Shraga Simmons



Born in a Chinese refugee ghetto, Rabbi Chaim Walkin is today a legendary Jewish educator.

It ranks among the most perilous and extraordinary escapes in Jewish history.

In 1939, the small Polish town of Mir, home to one of the world's premier yeshivas, suddenly came under the ruthless Nazi heel. As borders and alliances shifted, the yeshiva students fled to nearby Vilna (Vilnius), Lithuania - only to become ensnared again a few months later, this time behind the Iron Curtain of the brutal, anti-religious Communist regime.



Mir Yeshiva students in Shanghai, circa 1944. Rabbi Shmuel Walkin is in the center.

That's when the miracle began. Japan - which for years had no consulate in Lithuania - in 1940 inexplicably sent Sempo Sugihara, a man with a huge heart and unparalleled courage. Sugihara violated explicit Japanese policy and worked

non-stop to issue transit visas whereby thousands of Jews - including 300 Mir yeshiva students - fled across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

The month-long exodus ended in Kobe, Japan; in 1943 the students were deported to a Jewish ghetto in Shanghai, China.

Homeless. Stateless. Penniless. How would they survive? And what would become of the Torah scholarship?

The "solution" had been orchestrated 10 years earlier, when a wealthy, assimilated Jew named Silas Hardoon had a dream one night about building a full synagogue complex in Shanghai - complete with seating for 250 people, a kitchen, dining room, and mikveh (ritual bath).

Inexplicably, Hardoon built such a synagogue... which sat unused... until the Mir Yeshiva arrived to find the perfect, predestined home.

American Boy

It was amidst this "Shanghai Miracle" that Chaim Walkin was born.

Chaim was a scion of a line of great rabbis. His father, Rabbi Shmuel Walkin, a student of the legendary Polish rabbi known as the Chafetz Chaim, became a leader of the Shanghai Jewish refugees.

Torah scholarship thrived in Shanghai. "As low as the humanitarian situation was, the Torah flourished in the face of adversity," Rabbi Walkin told Aish. com from his home in Jerusalem. "They had nothing else but Torah and it produced a golden era."

Shanghai was but a temporary transit stop. In 1946, in the wake of a calamitous world war, the refugees departed for American and Israeli shores.

The Walkins settled in New York, where young Chaim combined innate American sensibilities with premier Torah scholarship. It was this pairing of ingredients that molded him into one of the world's most respected Jewish educators.

Chaim was eight years old when he received American citizenship. "My mother gave me special clothes to wear that day to the courthouse,"

he recalls. "To coax me to keep the clothes clean, she said: 'You never



Thaim Walkin, 8-year-old son of Rabbi Samuel Walkin, is helped by John J. Holfester, deputy clerk of the United States District Court, as he signs his citizenship papers

know who might be taking pictures.' The next day our neighbor called up and said: 'Buy the New York Times - Chaim's photo is on the front page'."

Jerusalem Days

After his marriage in 1967, Rabbi Walkin made aliyah and reunited with a remnant of Shanghai - the now-flourishing Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Walkin recalls how the yeshiva's dean, Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz, expressed intense care and concern for every Jew. "During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, he got up and accosted the yeshiva students: 'If you slept soundly last night, you are cruel! How can you sleep when mothers are anxiously awaiting news of their sons on the front? We must have compassion!"

When Rabbi Shmulevitz would see an Israeli soldier, "he would stand and look at him in awe," recalls Rabbi Walkin, who instills in his students the importance of "sharing the burden" - by studying Torah with greater intensity and showing appreciation for Israeli soldiers. "They're risking their lives for us," he says. "Showing gratitude and respect is the minimum we should do."

It was at the Mir Yeshiva that Rabbi Walkin first met Rabbi Noah Weinberg. In 1974, when Aish HaTorah opened in the Old City of "Rav Noach was once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon who gave everything for the Jewish people," Rabbi Walkin says. "My days at Aish were of a unique and lofty caliber. I worked with energetic, idealistic young men. I envied their thirst for truth. They taught me to reevaluate the importance and meaning of Torah."

Since 1989, Rabbi Walkin has been dean of students at the Ateres Yisrael Yeshiva, in the Bayit Ve'gan neighborhood of Jerusalem.

Tranquil Home

Rabbi Walkin is a sought-after speaker on the topic of education, and his series of essays, The World Within, is regarded as a contemporary classic.

Why do so many people today seem emotionally fragile, and what is the most important advice for parents trying to raise children with healthy self-esteem?

"Unfortunately, many people today are living for the approval of others," Rabbi Walkin says. "The Jewish approach is that a child's self-confidence comes from an awareness that he is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon. I am vehemently against imitation. There's an old saying: 'Don't wear borrowed clothes.' Everyone needs to be nurtured and empowered to be an original individual. There is nothing more imperative for a child than to be proud of himself. Accept no imitations!"



conic photo of the Chofetz Chaim (seated, facing camera). Chaim Walkin's father, Shmuel, is standing at right.

How do parents create a supportive home environment?

"My mother spent time in the home

of the Chafetz Chaim, where she witnessed an incredible degree of tranquility. They had their share of problems: personal tragedy, financial challenges, anti-Semitism. But nothing negatively affected the house. The Chafetz Chaim's home was always pleasant and positive."

How do we inspire children today to live as proud Jews?

"People are looking for inspiration in genuine, honest, higher values," Rabbi Walkin says. "That's why it's crucial for observant Jews to act with dignified, ethical behavior. It starts with business integrity and extends to all interpersonal contact. Whether going to the post office or riding the bus, every observant Jew is a Torah ambassador. It's up to us."

Rabbi Walkin recalls a recent experience travelling by train in France. "When the conductor came around to collect payment, a man came from a few rows up, held out his credit card and offered to pay for my ticket. I asked him, 'Are you Jewish?' He said: 'No, but I am impressed by your dignity'."

Rabbi Walkin adds: "If only we'd be aware of our power to positively affect others!"

Full Circle

In 2014 - some 70 years after leaving Shanghai - Rabbi Walkin led a delegation of former refugees to visit the Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum and meet with local officials to say "thank you."



The city was nothing like the way he left it.

Shanghai in the 1940s was largely a run-down, primitive hovel, a paradigm of poverty where Chinese

people were literally dying in the streets. Today it is a global financial center and one of the largest cities in the world.

Rabbi Walkin recalls a prophetic moment: "In 1946, before the Mir Yeshiva left Shanghai, there was a farewell party where the Jews thanked the local population for being such good hosts. The rabbis blessed the people that - due to their kindness - Shanghai should flourish and prosper."

Thinking back to the homeless, penniless Jewish refugees who arrived some 70 years ago, Rabbi Walkin exudes pure gratitude. "All the Torah emanating from the Mir Yeshivas today - tens of thousands of students - is thanks to these kindhearted people. They helped save Judaism."

About the Author



Rabbi Shraga Simmons is the co-founder of Aish.com. and co-author of "48 Wavs to Wisdom" (ArtScroll). He is Founder and Director of Aish.com's advanced learning site. He is co-founder of HonestReporting.com, and author of "David & Goliath", the definitive account of anti-Israel media bias. Originally from Buffalo, New York, he holds a degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin, and rabbinic ordination from the Chief Rabbi of Ierusalem. He lives with his wife and children in the Modi'in region of Israel.

The opinions expressed in the comment section are the personal views of the commenters. Comments are moderated, so please keep it civil

Courtesy of Aish.com

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Revival of a Soviet Zion: Birobidzhan celebrates its Jewish heritage

Shaun Walker in Birobidzhan

Jewish Autonomous Region in Russia's Far East is now barely 1% Jewish but officials hope to woo back people who left after Soviet collapse



The synagogue in Birobidzhan. Photograph: Shaun Walker for the Guardian

In front of Birobidzhan's railway station, loudspeakers blast out Yiddish-language ballads while hundreds of schoolchildren in ersatz folk costumes dance circles around the menorah monument that dominates the square.

Across town, labourers are building a kosher restaurant, the city's first. A two-storey building under construction next door will house a mikvah, the ritual pool in which religious Jews must bathe.

The Jewish renaissance in Birobidzhan is the latest chapter in the surreal tale of this would-be Siberian Zion, founded nearly a century ago.

Nestled on the border with China, seven time zones east of Moscow and a six-day journey away on the Trans-Siberian railway, the region was first settled en masse during the early 1930s as part of a plan to create a Soviet homeland for Jews during the rule of Joseph Stalin.

Its story since then has reflected the vicissitudes of Soviet and then modern Russian history. The population of the area, still officially called the Jewish Autonomous Region, is barely 1% Jewish, but the authorities are trying to cultivate the memory of Jewish customs and history among the residents and even hope to attract new Jewish migrants.

Eli Riss, Birobidzhan's 27-year-old rabbi, said the local Jewish community currently numbered 3,000 at most, and only 30 were regulars at the synagogue. His parents emigrated to Israel when he was young but after religious schooling he returned to his birthplace as a rabbi.

"We are a long way from Israel here and a long way even from Moscow, where there are big Jewish communities," he said. "My task is for people to understand what it means to be Jewish."

When the area was officially established as the **Jewish** Autonomous Region in 1934, 14 years before the foundation of Israel, it was the first explicitly lewish territory in modern times. By 1939, 18% of the population was Jewish and Birobidzhan had a Yiddish theatre and Yiddish newspaper. The work of the police department, courts and city administration was carried out at least partially in Yiddish.



Visitors are welcomed to the city in Russian and Yiddish. Photograph: Shaun Walker for the Guardian

Some historians have suggested the Birobidzhan project was tainted with antisemitism from the very beginning, creating a "dumping ground" for Jews thousands of miles from any areas where they had traditionally lived and in terrain that was miserably difficult for human habitation.

But in the 1930s many Jewish intellectuals promoted the project with vigour. Jews travelled to Birobidzhan from inside the Soviet Union, western Europe and even farther afield - infected with a revolutionary fervour that gave a Jewish flavour to the utopianism that characterised many of those involved in the early Bolshevik project.



A monument to Soviet leader Josef Stalin in Birobidzhan. Photograph: AP

The optimism was short-lived. During Stalin's purges, much of the local party leadership was executed and expressions of Jewishness were discouraged. After the second world war, the region saw a new influx of Jews who had escaped the Holocaust and had no homes to which to return. A new wave of antisemitic purges was followed by decades of disinterest in Jewish identity.

When the Soviet Union collapsed,

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cheap goods from across the border in China flooded the market and economic misery ensued, as in almost all the former Soviet lands. But unlike most other Soviet citizens, the Jews had a way out from the misery: to leave for Israel. Iosif Brener, a local historian, estimates that 20,000 Jews left Birobidzhan in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the majority for Israel.

Alexander Levintal, the region's governor, said Birobidzhan was still suffering from the effects of mass Jewish emigration. "When the Soviet Union collapsed and the borders opened, about 70 families of Jewish doctors left, and medicine in the region has still not fully recovered," he said.

Riss, the rabbi, said that among the few thousand Jews who remained there was little Jewish cultural identity. "Our community has lost the understanding of what it means to be Jewish."

Birobidzhan Stern, the town's Yiddish-language newspaper, is now published in Russian but has two pages in Yiddish each week. The paper's editor, Elena Sarashevskaya, fell in love with Yiddish as a child, studied it at university and now writes the Yiddish pages.



Elena Sarashevskaya, editor of Birobidzhan Shtern, with the paper's Yiddish pages. Photograph: Shaun Walker for the Guardian

Sarashevskaya, who is not Jewish, said she intended to go on publishing the Yiddish pages even though most people in the city could not read

them

"Yiddish is imbued with a real life-force; maybe it's linked to the suffering of the Jewish people," she said. "People are always pronouncing Yiddish dead but it's still very much alive, it's always finding new ways to survive."

In Birobidzhan there is certainly an attempt to keep Yiddish and other elements of Jewish heritage alive. Street signs use both Russian and Yiddish, and one school still offers Yiddish lessons, although the university Yiddish faculty closed down a few years ago.

A four-day Jewish cultural festival held this month in the city featured a concert from a cantor of Vienna's main synagogue and the opening of an exhibition on the city's history, organised by an Austrian diplomat and featuring Russian, American and Israeli artists.

Archive photographs in the exhibit show the enthusiasm with which many Jews took to the project, including shopfronts with Yiddish signage and the first years of Valdgeym, a Jewish collective farm established a few miles outside the city.



Archive photograph showing collective farmer Michael Gefen and his wife Sheina and their daughter tending their homestead in Birobidzhan. Photograph: Bettmann Archive

One of the stranger parts of Birobidzhan's story is that although it was meant as a Jewish statelet, religious Judaism was alien to Soviet atheism and thus frowned upon. The local museum contains Yiddish leaflets warning locals not to celebrate Passover, and Sarashevskaya leafed through back issues of Birobidzhan Shtern from the 1980^s, pointing out that although the newspaper was in Yiddish it contained no discussion of either Judaism or Israel.

With so few Jews now living in Birobidzhan, the massed Yiddish dances and mannequins of gurning Jews that welcome visitors to the Jewish cultural centre give the impression of a Jewish Disneyland rather than of a living, breathing community.

If the local government gets its way, more Jews would move to the region, especially some of those who left in the early 1990s. Rostislav Goldstein, the senator for the region in Russia's upper house of parliament, said Birobidzhan's proximity to China could provide advantages for Israeli businesses wanting to crack the Chinese market.

He said he wanted to create a local version of the Aliyah, the name given to the process of attracting Jews from the diaspora to Israel. "We have one big advantage over Israel, and that's that there are no Arabs shooting here," he said.

Livental, the local governor, was rather more circumspect, but said his personal chauffeur had emigrated from Birobidzhan to Israel in the early 1990s but recently returned as he could not get used to the local mentality. "If the economic situation here improves then more people will want to return," he said.

The Guardian - 2017 Article and photos courtesy of Beverly friend

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Stumbling upon China's Jewish History

Yael Farjun



I graduated from Haifa University, majoring in both Asia Studies and Political Science, specializing in China. I mention it here, as this detail is important to understand the settings of this story - We had never known anything about the Jewish History in China.

In the summer of 2009, 16 of us, all students, received scholarships to study Chinese in Shanghai. It was a 1.5 months course and the first China experience for all of us. As part of the curriculum, the university organized a trip to the "Jewish church". We were all curious as what that would be, as for Israelis – even a "temple" doesn't translate as a "synagogue", but more of a Buddhist worship place... So, we went to see what this "church" thing was all about. And lo and behold - it was a synagogue.

The former Ohel Moshe Synagogue, in Hongkou (formerly Hongkew) district is now operating as the Jewish Refugees Museum, but it was unmistakably a synagogue. An elderly Chinaman welcomed us inside and started telling us a strange story; in Chinglish (a mix of Chinese and English) spiced with some words in Hebrew. He told us about some 20,000 Jews that

had escaped Europe just before the Holocaust and found refuge in Shanghai.

We walked around the museum, reading stories of refugees; about their lives in Shanghai and their journeys from Europe and I kept thinking - how come I have never heard of this before? Not only in university, but also never read about it anywhere. My growing curiosity led me to research and read as much as I could about the refugees and to my surprise, I found out there were other, even older lewish communities in China, with an interesting history as well. There were Baghdadi Jews that came to China with job opportunities; Russian Jews that formed communities in North China and Shanghai; in addition to the refugees who came from Europe during WWII.

I returned to Shanghai in 2010, to start my business. As part of my work as a tour guide, I began cooperating with the Jewish Refugees Museum at the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue. This cooperation led me to meet with former Jewish refugees who had fled to Shanghai before WWII. In 2014, they decided to reunite and meet on a cruise ship to commemorate their parents who, 70 years ago, took them on the cruise that saved their lives.

I had the privilege to meet with an incredible group of people who agreed to share their stories with me.

This special connection led to others opening a fountain of knowledge not only among former refugees but also former China's Jewish residents. I tried to meet with as many as I could and with luck also interviewed them to

preserve their stories.

So little is spoken about the history of Jewish China, this is the situation I found in Israel. Even though there is a fairly large group of former China-Jews living in Israel, somehow the stories are not as familiar as in other places.

Through the encouragement of friends and my travelers, I decided to launch the China-Jewish Project to collect as many of these stories as possible and create one archive for easy research. But mostly to ensure this part of our history does not disappear without a trace. There are some existing archives and research that were done before, but they are difficult to find. There are also some museums that have partial collections, but no single place dedicated to them. And then, there are all those personal stories and memories that were never published, donated or even talked about, outside family rooms, which I really hope to get a hold of.

Ibelieve these stories should be told, especially now when our current Jewish communities in China are growing; when ties between China and Israel are getting stronger; and mostly because they are part of our heritage, as a people, and there are many lessons to be learnt from them as well.

Do you know anyone that lived in China? Are you interested in helping?

If you have any relevant, interesting connections to other "mad about China" people, please:

Contact me at:

https://chinajewishproject. wixsite.com/chinajewishproject

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The World's First Kung-Fu Holocaust Flick! Oy-Gevalt!

By Amir Bogen

Exodus to Shanghai is a film that claims to tell the story of Ho Feng-Shan, Chinese consul for Vienna, a rescuer of Jews in prewar Austria. While indeed based on true events, it may be the first Holocaust film that heavily features martial-arts-action scenes. The cast includes German actors, as well as Romanians, some Asians, and two young blond models. It was completed in Israel and sponsored by the Fashion TV channel. Sounds delusional? Not in the eyes of the filmmakers.

The production of Exodus to Shanghai was initiated by the founder and sole owner of Fashion TV, Michel Adam, a 67-yearold lewish businessman. Born in Warsaw as Michel Adam Lisowski. his life took him from his homeland Poland to Vienna, where his family relocated in the 1950s. From there, he went to Princeton University as a math student. He then moved to Thailand, where he started his textile business. In the mid-1990s, he moved to Paris, where he opened some nightlife spots and founded Fashion TV, which is basically an endless catwalk running 24/7 on television, with some trendy parties here and there...

The idea to make the movie was sparked in Adam's mind in June 2014 while having a Shabbat dinner in Shanghai with the local rabbi, who told his honorable guest about the "Chinese Schindler" who helped Viennese Jews escape Nazioccupied Austria in the late 1930s by secretly stamping thousands of immigration visas. "As I live in Vienna I went after the story, and I found out that the office of Dr. Ho was 100 meters away from the

Fashion TV Office." Adam told me in an interview

The film, directed by Anthony Hickox, is set in 1938 Vienna, which is ruled by local Hitler sympathizer Hermann Deutsch (played by German actor Markus Von Lingen), the movie's villain, a local goon turned Nazi commissar. Deutsch always felt underprivileged near the rich and well-educated Morgenstern family, and he coveted their art collection and beautiful daughter Fannia (played by Israeli model Yaara Benbenishty). Now, with a swastika on his arm and in his heart, he can use his executive power in order to exploit, blackmail, and torment his Jewish neighbors.

While her parents find it hard to leave it all behind, Fannia, her sister Rivka (Israeli model and singer Jahni Raz), and brother Moshe (Srulik Pniel) decide to run away. But where to? This is where Dr. Ho comes into the picture-he grants them visas to China, while his nephew Bruce makes sure they will make it through the violent attack of Hermann and his gang. Bruce, as you can imagine, is a Bruce Lee-like character (played by Vietnamese-French model Alexandre Nguven) who kicks Nazi asses.

Between one fight and another, he also takes the time to exchange kisses and some fists with Fannia, who soon becomes a well-trained lethal kung fu fighter herself. She will have her share of Jewish vengeance-think Kill Bill meets Inglourious Basterds.

Inglourious Basterds, in Exodus to Shanghai also feeds off the theme of Jewish vengeance. Whether it's Fannia with her fists or

her aristocratic parents with their machine guns, the sight of Nazi troops being massacred by Jews gives the movie a nice share of the Jewsploitation market-not really a kosher one, but enjoyable for some.

"We saw during the screening a lot of people who enjoyed seeing the Nazis beaten. At the end, the main star Yaara, a violinst, shoots a key Gestapo guy and provided proof that she can protect herself," Adam said. "We wanted to show a stronger side of the Jews and show that they fought back against the Nazis. That the Nazis were powerloving, drug-hungry evil men and that the people who believed in 45 justice fought back."

But with all due respect to his Jewish heritage and pride, Adam is a seasoned businessman who knows that the real audience and market for this movie-if any-is based in China. In today's film economy, Western producers, even the big Hollywood ones, are looking east to find some financial relief for their flopping movies. While Adam won't admit that, it is pretty clear that this is the main reasoning behind inserting wild martial-arts scenes into a Holocaust movie. "Before the production of Exodus to Shanghai, Dr. Ho was fairly unknown among those that did the right thing," Adam said. "We were able to present his story and show how kind and heroic he was to those in need. We believe that this topic should never be forgotten, and thank the Chinese people," he added...

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Israel'sMessenger



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IYS Sephardi Division

David Ezekiel Abraham (1863-1945) and Family

Maisie J. Meyer

Part II

Joseph Abraham graphically describes the harrowing ordeal Shanghai Jewry faced:

This was the situation up to December 8, 1941, when Pearl Harbour was bombed and World War II reached the banks of the Whangpoo River, with Japanese cannon blasting at the British and American gunboats tied up there. On that day, all sections of Shanghai were occupied by His Imperial Japanese Majesty's armed forces.

In Shanghai, under the Japanese occupation, if non-Chinese suffered for one reason or another from the Japanese military, it would be because of nationality or allegiance, but not because of religion. Jews of British, American or Belgian nationality were interned for the duration, while those with Iraqi passports were classified as non-belligerent enemies. Iraq had declared war against Japan, but did not actually participate, so the Iraqis Jews, numbering somewhere between four and five hundred, were not interned, but were required to wear a red armband when on the street. Jews of Russian origin were not restricted. Anyone caught in an act, or suspected of doing anything against the interests of Japan, was treated accordingly.

The only place in the Far East where Germany had any interest in a Jewish community was Shanghai, where the Jews fleeing Europe had taken

refuge. Some German Gestapo officers had arrived in Shanghai by submarine in the spring of 1942. They were Robert Meisinger, the "Executioner of Warsaw," Adolf Puttkammer and Hans Neumann, who had experimented on Jews in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. They had come to give guidance to the Jewish Affairs Bureau, set up by the Japanese military. This bureau consisted of representatives from the Japanese Consulate, the muchdreaded Gendarmerie (Kempetei), the Army and the Navy. When the formation of a new Jewish Affairs Bureau took place, rumours started to circulate that, under the guidance of the German Gestapo, severe measures would be taken against all Jews, regardless of their origin and length of residence in Shanghai.

Only then, born of dire fear, was a joint committee formed by the Jewish residents, consisting of two Sephardim, Messrs. Ellis Hayim and Michele Speelman, two Russians, their Chairman, Topas, and Joseph Bitker, and three central Europeans: the Chairman D. Kardegg, Fritz Kauffmann as well as the Secretary, Perite. Late in July 1942, an emergency session of the committee was called. Present was Japanese Vice-Consul Shibata, who had been Consular representative on the old

naval Jewish Affairs Bureau and was now in the same capacity on the new Bureau. He was well known to the members of the committee and they had found him sympathetic to the cause of the refugees and their problems. Shibata had formerly worked in the United States in the consular service and had married a Nisei [a Japanese girl born in the United States]. He was definitely pro-American and belonged to the anti-war party, if there was such a thing in Japan.

He [Shibata] related a story. The lewish Affairs Bureau had met the day before and decided, under Gestapo prodding, to take steps to liquidate the Shanghai Jewish Community. They hadn't as yet decided on the method to be used to achieve this. Some had suggested putting all the 25,000 Jews in Shanghai on some old ships lying unused and sinking them in the open sea, while others had proposed to dump the Jews on the sparselyinhabited Tsungming Island, in the mouth of the Yangtze River. In Shibata's opinion, the only way to stop them was to get access to the General in Command of the Central China district, the Admiral in charge of the Navy in Shanghai, the top Commander of the Gendarmerie in Shanghai and somebody high up in the Foreign Office in Tokyo. The

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Russian members of the committee had contact with the General in Command and also with members of the Foreign Office, knowing them from Harbin, at the time of the takeover of Manchuria. The Secretary, Perite, had contact with naval officers in Shanghai from before the outbreak of war.

Then, the question came up as how to approach the Kempetai, who were undoubtedly the nastiest and most difficult of the lot. They could not decide. Shibata pointed out that there was an old Shanghai Jewish resident by the name of Brahn, who was known to have a Japanese girlfriend related to the Imperial family. The girl, he was sure, could arrange an interview with the commanding officer of the Kempetai. Kauffmann was selected to approach Brahn, as he was the only one who knew him. In Kauffman's words the story continues Kauffmann said: "The next day I saw Brahn, told him the story and warned him expressly not to disclose the source of his information, as our friend Shibata would surely get into trouble and be court-martialled if it was found out that he passed on to us the secrets of the Bureau meetings. I told Brahn we all had agreed to state, if asked for the reasons of our action, it was the sudden flurry of anti-Semitic propaganda in the press and that we were afraid that its launch presaged serious anti-Jewish measures." Brahn got his interview with a senior member of the Kempetai and was immediately disbelieved. He was threatened with punishment and then, losing his courage, told all.

All those present at the meeting were arrested by the Kempetai, taken to Bridge House, their prison for the interrogation of suspected spies and saboteurs, and then detained in cells. Shibata was among those detained. He was dismissed from the consular service

and sent back to Japan. Kauffmann described seeing him in Bridge House, through a space in the cell's partition [Providentially, Reuben Abraham was not present at the meeting. When Shibata informed him on a Friday that Jews in Shanghai were in dreadful danger and he urgently needed to discuss the matter with him that night, Reuben declined. He was unwilling to desecrate the Sabbath, which began that evening].

Anyone suspected by the Japanese for any reason was picked up and taken to Bridge House for interrogation and among them were my Aunt, Mimi Havim, and George Leonoff and Ossi Lewin, both Jewish journalists. became cellmates of the members of the lewish committee, who had been meeting with the Japanese Consul Shibata and who were already under arrest. My Aunt was released after sixteen days, but my uncle Ellis was held for many weeks before being released. He was then sent to a Japanese hospital to be treated for Beriberi, which was a result of malnutrition. He was arrested once again some weeks later. The prisoners were in groups and spent their days and nights on the concrete floor. Ossi Lewin, in the Shanghai Echo Almanac of 1945, described the conditions:

"Many are suffering even, today from frost bite, which they contracted during their detention, since the detainees had to leave their shoes outside their cells. Inside the cell, one had to sit in the proscribed Japanese way, squatting on floor with crossed legs, day in and day out, without being permitted to lean against the wall, stretch their atrophied limbs, or talk. You were only permitted to leave this painful position when you were taken out for cross-examination to quarters above, where exhausting exercises were imposed on one, for no means were disregarded by

torturers to make prisoners talk. Everyone was apprehensive, lest his name be called by passing sentries, for that meant the dreaded cross-examination "

In Shanghai, a proclamation was issued on 18 February 1943 by the Japanese military, concerning refugees who had arrived after 31 December, 1936 [1937]. Stateless refugees in the Shanghai area, due to military necessity, had to be restricted to a designated area, namely Hongkew, by 18 May, 1943. It was itself a frightening situation, compounded because there was constant speculation as to what would be the next step after being relocated to this "designated area." What actually did happen, from this time until the war was over in August 1945, was that movement was severely restricted, with extreme shortages of food and living quarters. Applicants for permission for entry to the International Settlement, where there was still a chance to earn some money, were subjected to a lot of harassment, particularly from the Japanese officer-in-charge by the name of Ghoya, who gave himself the title "King of the Jews." The Mir Yeshivah [rabbinic seminary] students had a special imprint on their passes, stating "Special Pass for Rabbi Student," to enable them to attend classes in Beth Aharon Synagogue.

The rest of my family were interned in the Lincoln Avenue Camp; my father and I were in the Shanghai General Hospital, a long-established hospital run by French nuns. I had been there for a while, but my father had come for some tests.

Approximately 450 Baghdadi Jews, who were either stateless or Iraqi nationals, were categorised as "second-class enemy nationals" and, although not interned, faced considerable hardship. Some 340, who were British or American subjects and labelled "first-class"

enemy nationals," were among the 7,600 British, American and other civilians, including women and children, who were interned in eight "civilian assembly centres" over control of the city and the cosmopolitan metropolis began to change. Joseph Abraham describes the family's post-war experience:

The home we lived in, which was built by my grandfather in 1908, a mansion with a large front lawn and a very desirable residence, was taken over by the Japanese military. We had British nationality, derived from our grandparents and father being born in Bombay. India was a British possession at that time. The Japanese had allocated our house to the German Consulate for their use. It was occupied by Consul General Martin Fischer, who held that post long before Hitler and continued to hold it, even though he was not a member of the Nazi party. The German Consul General in Tientsin stated categorically that the internment had taken place upon the instigation of the German Government, not themselves. The day the war was over, word was gotten to us in the hospital that the German Consul suggested that we come and reside in our house, before the Chinese Nationalist Government arrived to take over this enemy property. If that had been the case, it would have taken ages for us to establish ownership, in order to reside there once again and, surely, it would no longer be in the same immaculate condition that the Consulate maintained. The Shanghai foreign community was one where most knew of each other, if they did not actually know each other.

We moved into our home and, for a few days, we resided with the Germans under the same roof. It was to our advantage to do this, as others who did not have this opportunity had to continue to live in a former internment camp, waiting to repossess their own homes. At this time, when the German Consul was still in the house, a school friend of mine, Mickey Moore, who was Chinese

and worked with the underground during the war, came to ask my help. General Wedemeyer, commander of the 14th Army Air Force, more familiarly known as the "Flying Tigers," had arrived by plane the day before from Chungking, with some members of his staff and with a jeep, for which gasoline was needed - could I help? I tried and succeeded in getting some through a friend, Luiz Marcal, who was Portuguese and therefore not interned. A fifty-gallon drum of gasoline was delivered to our home and the jeep came to pick it up. The jeep was manned by local Jewish boys from the Betar group, who had volunteered to help the arriving members of the United States Armed Forces. When the Communists came to power in 1949, all foreigners in China were classified as "foreign "despised entrepreneurs" and imperialist parasites," making our position untenable.

Reuben and Ezekiel Abraham continued their leadership the now-dwindling Baghdadi community and, after 1949 their main concern was the question of resettlement. Several unusual circumstances placed Jews in Shanghai and of Iraqi nationality in a serious predicament. From the end of the First World War until 1932, those born in Iraq and their children, who were formerly under Ottoman dominion, were classed as either British or French Protected Persons, according to circumstances. The new their Iraqi Nationality Law of 1932 gave these people the opportunity to acquire Iraqi nationality. The British withdrew protection, but continued acting on behalf of the Iraqi Government, with regards to renewing passports and other transactions. They offered some form of diplomatic protection, as demonstrated in the evacuation to Hong Kong during the Sino-Japanese hostilities in 1937.

The passports of all Iraqis in

7,600 British, American and other civilians, including women and children, who were interned in eight "civilian assembly centres" between January and July 1943. Several staunchly-Orthodox Baghdadis, including the families of Reuben Abraham, Jack Ezekiel, Meshumor Menahem and Moshe Hai Abraham, were interned in the Lunghwa Camp. Nehama Abraham, together with Reuben Abraham and his wife, Maisie, appealed to the Japanese Commandant Hayashi to allow them kosher facilities and to permit kosher meat to be brought into the camp, at their own expense. Of the 17,000 inmates, there were some fifty-two Baghdadi Jews and forty-two made use of these facilities. The other ten opted to eat the available non-kosher food. Later, when they wished to switch to eating kosher food, the camp authorities refused permission." In 1944, D. E. J. Abraham was

among the last batch of "enemy civilians" to be interned in the Lincoln Avenue Camp, improvised out of eight houses. Most of the inmates were elderly, including Rev. and Mrs. Mendel Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Joseph and Mrs. Hannah Joseph. The Abraham Family, in Lunghwa Camp, were given permission to join D. E. J. who had a room in the old people's section, and the family attended to his every need. Aziza would sleep in the room at night to care for him and he died in the camp, aged eighty-two, on the 26 May 1945. His body was taken to the Toeg's home in Seymour Road, where the funeral rites were performed. Immediate members of the family were permitted to attend the funeral.

The privileges Baghdadi Jews had enjoyed in the International Concession ended when Britain and France abrogated their extraterritorial rights to Chiang Kaishek, in January 1943. Soon after V-J Day, Kai-shek triumphantly took

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Shanghai were no longer valid after World War II, as more than five years had elapsed since they were issued. The British Consulate forwarded applications to Baghdad and almost all who applied received new passports, in many cases after undue delay. These passports were valid for five years from the date of issue, but required four annual renewals, commencing one year after issue. The British Consulate in Shanghai granted the renewals until the latter part of 1949, when the Iragi Government requested that they no longer handle passports for Iraqis in Shanghai, nor accord them diplomatic protection. There was no explanation for these measures and it was assumed that it was either a form of nationalism, designed to shake off British influence and attachments abroad, or the result of an anti-Jewish policy, because all Iragis in Shanghai were Jews. There is, however, no documentary evidence of discrimination. The reality was that sixty-five registered Iragis in Shanghai were deprived of the fundamental rights of nationality. They were without any form of diplomatic protection and had no normal means of travel. Technically, they were in an anomalous position and were not entitled to the assistance stateless persons received.

Around one quarter of the sixty-five Iragis in China who intended to migrate to Israel had no problem. Another quarter had no definite place of settlement in mind, but wished to possess a valid passport to enable them to travel. The largest section, numbering some twentyfive to thirty, wanted to reside permanently in the United States: about twelve were registered under the China White Race quota and twelve under the Iraqi quota. When the American Consulate in Shanghai closed, they had to continue their visa applications elsewhere and they made strenuous efforts to have their passports validated, either locally or abroad. Only certain

Consulates in Shanghai recognised Iraqi passports on a par with those of other nationals, adequate in themselves for travel. Other Consulates did not regard valid Iraqi passports as sufficient evidence of the bearer's homeland and required an "end-destination." They issued these Iraqis with visitor's visas. Re-entry permits to China were not available from 1949, placing Iraqi Jews in Shanghai at an even greater disadvantage. In effect, even if Jews in Shanghai held valid Iraqi passports, they were deprived of the fundamental human right of freedom of travel.

Their semi-stateless status was untenable. They fell into the category of homeless, stateless people and, although they were not technically eligible, they appealed, on humanitarian grounds, to the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) for a certificate that would enable them to go to the U.S.A. under the Displaced Persons' Bill. They undertook to make their own arrangements, not to request financial support for travel from the IRO and to limit their numbers to those who had in the past registered with the American Consul General in Shanghai for immigration into the U.S.A.

The crucial question was whether the amended Displaced Persons Act applied to Iragi Jews in China. The IRO, while agreeing that Jews in the Muslim areas might be eligible under the IRO constitution, were not prepared to make any exception for the Iraqi group in Shanghai. The IRO did not consider them as their concern, even though their Geneva headquarters had instructed the local IRO office to issue IRO Travel Documents to fifty-one Iraqi Jews in Shanghai, with validity limited to six months, to assist them to leave China. These documents were issued as an exceptional measure and did not entitle the bearers to any other assistance before or after their departure from China.

Iraqi Jews born in Iraq or China

were subject to the Iraqi and Chinese White-Race quotas respectively. Consequently, those who registered for U.S. Immigration on these quotas before April 1946 (Iraqi quota) and May 1947 (Chinese White-Race quota) were now processed under the ordinary visa regulations, regardless of the Displaced Persons Act.

Approximately sixty Iraqi Jews, unable to return to Iraq for fear of persecution, were in an utterly paradoxical predicament. In 1945, there were more than 870,000 lews living in various Arab states. Since 1947, Iraq had become an unsuitable homeland for lews because of its anti-Jewish stance. The property and belongings of lews had been confiscated and approximately 600,000 Jews sought refuge in the State of Israel. Iraqi Jews residing abroad and not returning to Iraq forfeited their citizenship. Ironically, their Iraqi nationality, which had exempted them from internment during the war, now caused them tremendous hardship. They had no legal or political protection from their government, nor any other government.

Reuben Abraham worked closely with the American Joint Distribution Committee Adolph Goldberg, Chairman of the Migration Board for the Council of the Jewish Community, to assist them. Appealing on humanitarian grounds, they requested quota numbers to be available in advance, to facilitate their resettlement in the U.S.A., as there was no American consular representation in China. They asked for the processing of those whose turn was due to begin while they were still in China, and that they be allowed to appear before the American Consul General in Hong Kong for final processing.

Reuben was determined not to leave Shanghai until the Iraqi Jews had left. In the case of a Jewish man married to a Chinese woman who

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Protected Persons? The Baghdadi Jewish Diaspora, the British State and the Persistence of Empire

SARAH ABREVAYA STEIN



Silas Aaron Hardoon

MORE THAN THE PRESENCE of some 100 Taoist monks and priests, the performance of Chinese orchestras, the exchange mourning gifts, the burning of paper figures in celebration of the spirit of the deceased, the kowtowing of visitors before pictures of the family, the draping of the funereal garden in white silk, the arrival of more than 3,000 gifts and 5,000 mourners-more, even, than the astonishing facts of Silas Aaron Hardoon's fortune, prominence, or cosmopolitan history, it was the wax effigy of the dead man with chopsticks in hand at this ostensibly Jewish funeral that riveted the international press.

When he died in the summer of 1931, Hardoon was called the richest foreigner in Shanghai, with an estate estimated at \$150 million.

Like other young, entrepreneurial Baghdadi Jewish men of his generation, Hardoon had made his way to China by way of India in the late nineteenth century.

In Calcutta he worked for the mercantile firm of David Sassoon and Company, a global operation owned by a Jewish family of Baghdadi origin that dealt in silk and cotton and monopolized the legal and highly lucrative transshipment of opium.

In Shanghai Hardoon would live sixty years, amass a real estate empire in the city's International Settlement, meet and marry Liza Hardoon (ne'e Luosi Lirui and known by her Buddhist name, Luo Jialing-a Eurasian Buddhist who may or may not have been the illegitimate daughter of a French Jewish father-adopt eleven children of diverse backgrounds, form deep ties with local Chinese politicians, merchants, and the educational elite, serve as life president of Beth-Aaron Synagogue, sit on the councils of the Shanghai Municipality, French Concession, and International Settlement, and, shortly before his death, will nearly the entirety of his fortune to his wife.

The eventful life of Silas Aaron Hardoon did not end with his death, in the wake of which there surfaced a series of claimants on the family estate: distant cousinsif they were cousins at all-carrying the Hardoon name and dwelling in Baghdad and across

the Baghdadi Jewish diaspora, including Shanghai and Calcutta. The trials that followed, conducted in His Britannic Majesty's Supreme Shanghai, pondered Court in complicated legal question: whether Hardoon's estate-and Hardoon himself, as a long-time resident of Shanghai, one-time Ottoman subject, British Protected Person, Baghdadi e'migre', and out-married Jew-was subject to Chinese, British, Jewish, Iraqi, or private international law. What was so absorbing about Hardoon's death and the controversy unleashed by it? Beyond the sensational quality of his life, the legal debates that followed his death became a test case for questions that reverberated through the Baghdadi, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern Jewish diasporas in the early twentieth century, particularly in the wake of the First World War and the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire. As the empire gave way to nation-states and mandates, how was the significant population of extraterritorial Jews in colonial and semicolonial settingse'migre' merchants and their families residing in entrepo'ts in India, Asia, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean Basin-to be legally defined by the state? What place, and what political allegiances, would they seek for themselves once their extraterritorial status came into conflict with evolving national and international legal and East Asia," ibid., 105-124; Joan G. Roland, The Jewish Communities of India: Identity in a Colonial Era (New Brunswick, N.J., 1998); Jael Sillman, "Crossing Borders,

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1956-1957" illustrates. Reuben David Abraham voung Jewish men who emigrated to these regions from Ottoman Mesopotamia in the nineteenth and the early twentieth century did so to staff the firm's commercial tributaries. Although dated, the best sources on the history of the Sassoon family remain Cecil Roth, The Sassoon Dynasty (London, 1941); and Jackson, The Sassoons. Future scrutiny of the as yet uncatalogued papers of the Sassoon family, recently donated to the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, will yield fascinating insights on this towering institution of the Indian Ocean, British Empire, and Jewish world. A Jew of Baghdadi origin, Silas Aaron Hardoon (1851–1931) purportedly

died the richest foreigner Shanghai. Sixty years earlier, he had emigrated from Bombay in the employ of David Sassoon and Company, a global mercantile firm owned by a Baghdadi Jewish family. In Shanghai, Hardoon built a fortune in real estate

enjoyed a forty-five-year marriage with Liza Hardoon (ne'e Luosi Lirui and known by her Buddhist name, Luo Jialing), a Eurasian Buddhist woman to whom he would will his \$150 million fortune.

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(Continued from page 49)

including

Maintaining Boundaries: The Life

and Times of Farha, a Woman of

the Baghdadi Jewish Diaspora,"

Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies,

no.1 (1998): 57-79; Thomas A.

Timberg, "Baghdadi Jews in Indian

Port Cities," in Timberg, ed., Jews in

India (New Delhi, 1986), 273-281.

Founded by the Baghdadi-born

David Sassoon in the 1830s,

this family firm came to have a

monopoly on the lucrative trade of

legal opium between Britain and

China and maintained outposts

selling this and other goods across

South, Southeast, and East Asia,

Bombay,

Shanghai, Canton, Hong Kong,

Yokohama, Nagasaki, Rangoon,

and Singapore. Many of the

Calcutta,

David Ezekiel Abraham (1863-1945) and Family

was very ill, he would not leave until she died. The Abraham Family left all their possessions and moved to Hong Kong to start a new life. Even in Hong Kong, they maintained a close association with the community, who turned to them for assistance. Shanghai Baghdadi Jews esteemed them for their selfless dedication to the community's welfare, as this tribute in the booklet "Council of the Jewish Community of Shanghai

resigned as a member of the Council in September 1956, but continued to give the benefit of his experience and advice up to the time of their departure from Shanghai, in November 1956. Any attempt to evaluate his service to

the Jewish community within the limitations of this report would be hopelessly inadequate. Following the noble tradition of his forebears, he left behind him a record of a lifelong devotion to the interests of the community. Whole-heartedly and unobtrusively, he identified himself with all aspects of our communal activities, so that every Jewish institution, religious, cultural, social or otherwise, bears the imprint of his work.

His long tenure of leadership as Chairman of the Council, since its inception in 1949, will always remain a cherished memory. It was under his able captaincy that the Council was steered through tough times and the care and welfare of our brethren in China enhanced. Every lew who is or has been in China will remember R. D. Abraham with gratitude and affection. Mr. Ezekiel Abraham, equally noted for his religious and charitable activities, has served as Honorary Treasurer of the Council until his subsequent departure from Shanghai. During an extended period of social work, he gave unstintingly of his time and energy in the cause of communal welfare. His cheerful readiness to assist anyone who applied to him has endeared him to all and has made his name synonymous with selfless service.

EXTRACTS FROM SHANGHAI'S BAGHDADI JEWS:A COLLECTION OF BIOGRAPHICAL REFLECTIONS

Published with the approval of Maisie J Meyer

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The Beginnings of "The Israel Messenger"

EZRA'S CENTENARY

By Sasson Jacoby

One hundred years ago, on April 22, 1904, a Jewish journal devoted to the interest of Jews in the Far East, was born in Shanghai, where its founder and editor, N. E.B. Ezra and his associates named it The Israel's Messenger. What made it unique is a fact that has been virtually forgotten in the course of the past century. It so happened that this journal was the first English-language publication to appear anywhere in the world. Zionist publications have appeared most in Russian, German and Yiddish. Jewish journals in English were not Zionist.

It is well to note that the Messenger appeared just three months before the death of Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, and eight vears after the First Zionist Congress in Basel. There is no doubt that this congress and the Zionist policy preached by Herzl had a profound effect on the young Ezra and this was to affect the life of the lewish residents of China and other lewish congregations in the Far East. Ezra was born in India of Baghdadi parents; he was an Anglophile and an ardent believer of British influence for the establishment of a sovereign lewish homeland.

When the Balfour Declaration was announced in 1916 in the midst of World War I, Ezra made unceasing and successful efforts for its recognition by both China and Japan. He was a prolific writer and following the influx of Russian refugees, among them a considerable number of Jews, he made great efforts to promote relations between the Russian Ashkenazis and the Baghdadi Jews in Shanghai, and his journal always had news about the life of the Russian Jews in Shanghai. Ezra also made contact with the leaders of the Jewish communities in Harbin and Tientsin and had a close relationship especially with Dr. A. Kaufman, the leader of the Russian Jewish community in Harbin.

Ezra edited his journal with an

assiduity worthy of his purpose and many of Shanghai's local community had nothing but praise for his work which was appreciated by many of the English-language press in the city. He was noted in his writings for his impeccable Victorian English. Sadly, his work was tragically cut short when he passed away from a sudden, massive heart attack in December 1936 at the age of 53. His funeral in the Baikal Road cemetery was attended not only by the Jewish members but many of the foreign community, while the daily newspapers were full of eulogies and descriptions of his activities.

Unfortunately, of the succeeding generations a century later, some members of the Sephardi community, then in childhood and now all over the world in their seventies and eighties, may have scant or no knowledge or remembrance of the man who founded the Jewish journal that had made such an impact on lews in the Far East. However, it is well to note that when he died, the Harbin Jewish publication, Yevreiskaya Jizn (The Jewish Life), had inter alia this to say: "As an influential figure, a prominent journalist and a man of impeccable integrity, Nissim Ezra was welcome in the drawing rooms of the first rank statesmen and policy makers at that time, and later, when the dark clouds began to appear over the European Jewry, he

used all the weight of his influence to relieve the plight of the persecuted.... His readers remember well his visit to Japan and his meetings with Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and a number of statesmen in Tokyo and in Nanking and his interviews with the ambassadors of Britain and Iran. These took place three weeks before his death."

Nissim Ezra Benjamin was born in Lahore (then in British India and now in Pakistan) and in his youth went to Bombay where he attended the Jacob Sassoon School and furthered his education through private study and acquired a wide knowledge in world affairs and Jewish scholarship. He was later employed by the E.D. Sassoon firm and subsequently sent to Hong Kong and in 1899 to Shanghai. In his twenties he left the firm to become the manager of the China Palestine Trading Company, although kept his connection with E.D. Sassoon until the great rubber boom in 1910 when he became a broker on a fulltime basis.

With his gifted abilities in public affairs he became highly popular, and with the cooperation of friends, among them S.J. Solomon and D.E.J.Abraham, he finally came to the conclusion his aims could be best achieved by an English-language journal which could provide readers with news about events in the Jewish events and promote the spiritual and traditional values of the Jewish heritage so its past glories would not be forgotten.

Many of his wealthy and socially prominently friends supported him, such as E. Jonah, I.A. Lewis, S.Moussa, and by his twin brother, J.A.B. Ezra. At the suggestion of Miriam Solomon, the journal, was named in Hebrew Mevasser Israel which in English became The Israel's Messenger. Its first issue appeared in 1904 but grew rapidly larger until December 1941 (the start of the Pacific War with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor) with an interval during World War I from February 1916 to October 1918. Ezra edited the journal for 32 years until his death in 1936 and the final issues were edited by David Elias under the ownership of Mrs. K. Ezra. He was survived by his widow, two daughters in Shanghai and another daughter in New York. He left two sisters, Mrs. I.E. Sargon and Mrs. Flora Ezra.

In the last article he wrote before his death, Ezra wrote: "My principles are my belief in God to eternity ... it is the duty of every man to live in hope."

June 11, 2004

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24 Hours in Shanghai



Exploring the city's inspiring and littleknown Jewish history during a one-day visit. by Dan Fellner

SHANGHAI - China's largest city of 23 million people features one of the most dazzling skylines in the world, a booming economy and a compelling mixture of Eastern and Western cultures.

But not many people are aware that Shanghai also offers visitors a fascinating glimpse into the history of one the most unique Jewish communities in the Far East. As a city that accepted about 20,000 Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust in Europe, Shanghai became known at the time as a "Noah's Ark" for Jews who had no other place to go.



Shanghai's dramatic skyline

With only 24 hours to explore the city at the conclusion of an Asian cruise, I opted to take a half-day "Tour of Jewish Shanghai." It was led by Dvir Bar-Gal, an Israeli-born journalist who has lived in Shanghai for the past 17 years.

With a style that was part history professor, part standup-comedian, Dvir taught our group of 15 tourists - mostly Americans - all about Shanghai's Jewish past and took us to the sites that helped bring to life a Jewish community that once thrived here.



Dvir Bar-Gal at the Ohel Moshe shul

We met at the Fairmont Peace Hotel, which was built by Sephardic Jews from Baghdad, who were part of the first wave of Jewish immigrants to Shanghai in the late 19th century. This group included two prominent families - the Sassoons and Kadoories.

"People came here with nothing and created an economic empire in the Far East," noted Dvir about the Baghdadi immigrants.

A second wave of Jews arrived in the 1920s, Ashkenazim fleeing pogroms and revolutions in Russia.

From the Fairmont, our group walked one block to The Bund, Shanghai's pedestrian riverfront with a spectacular view across the Huangpu River to the city's enormous skyscrapers. It was at The Bund where Dvir told us about the third - and most famous - wave of Jewish immigrants.



Transit pass given to the Lejb Malin, student of the Mir Yeshiva in Shanghai,

From 1933 to 1941, Shanghai

accepted about 20,000 Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust. Most came from Germany and Austria, which had stripped Jews of their citizenship and encouraged exile before turning genocidal. Outside of the Dominican Republic, Shanghai was the only place that allowed Jews to enter as it did not require a visa. In fact, by 1939 more European Jews had taken refuge in Shanghai than in any other city in the world.

Why did China offer Jews a safehaven from the Nazis when so other countries turned many their backs? Dvir says it wasn't a conscious decision by the Chinese government. In fact, Shanghai at the time was an international city not completely under Chinese control. Several foreign powers, including the United States, France and the United Kingdom, claimed portions of the 53 city and a visa was not required to enter Shanghai until August 1939.

Still, Dvir says once the Jews arrived, they were treated well by the Chinese, who have long been known for their lack of anti-Semitism. Dvir believes there are many reasons for this, including that the Chinese identify with Jewish suffering, relate to their status as an underdog and were "oppressed themselves by foreign powers."



The Mir yeshiva in Shanghai

Jewish life in Shanghai prospered during the 1930s. At one time, there were six functioning synagogues and about 10 Jewish newspapers. Jews lived harmoniously with the Chinese in a section of town called

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the Hongkou District, which was dubbed "Little Vienna" because so many Austrian Jews lived there.

The final group of Jewish refugees to arrive in Shanghai included about 300 Polish Jews from the famous Mir Yeshiva, which ultimately became the only European yeshiva to emerge from World War II intact. The Jews from Mir Yeshiva first escaped in 1939 from Poland to Lithuania, where they received transit visas from the Japanese consulate general in Kovno, Chiune Sugihara.

All told, Sugihara issued more than 3,500 visas to Jews, earning him the title "the Japanese Schindler." With the help of several overseas Jewish organizations, the Mir Yeshiva students and rabbis and other lews who had received visas from Sugihara made it safely to Kobe, Japan, before arriving in Shanghai in 1941.



Monument depicting Jewish refugees from Europe at Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum

During World War II, the Japanese occupied Shanghai, which ended the flow of foreign funds to the Jewish refugees, who were becoming increasingly impoverished. Japanese also imposed restrictions on where Jews could live, creating a "Designated Area for Stateless Refugees," better known as the Shanghai Ghetto.

Conditions in the ghetto were difficult but a vast majority of Shanghai's Jews survived the Holocaust. Most emigrated to Israel, the United States, Australia and Hong Kong after the Communists took control of the government in 1949.

Dvir drove us by van to the city's Hongkou District where we walked through narrow streets and parks lined with blooming cherry-blossom trees to explore the traces of what once had been bustling Jewish life in the area.

The highlight was a visit to the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum on Changvang Road, which contains monuments and exhibition hall in which more than 140 photos are displayed with a multi-screen projection system. Dvir served as an adviser to the Chinese government when it opened the museum in 2007.

The museum also houses the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue, built by Russian lews in the 1920s. It later became the hub of lewish life when the community was ghettoized in the 1940s. After the war, the synagogue was confiscated by the Communists and converted into a psychiatric hospital. It reopened in the 1990s and was later restored to its original architectural style in 2007. The building has been inscribed on the list of architectural heritage treasures of Shanghai.

Ohel Moshe is not used for religious services and the city has only has only one other remaining synagogue - Ohel Rachel. The largest synagogue in the Far East, Ohel Rachel was built by the Sassoon family in 1920. But it currently does not host services on a regular basis and is not open to

With no functioning stand-alone synagogues, Shanghai's current population of about 4,000 Jews have a choice of praying at one of three Chabad branches or in private

The tour also included a visit to a home where Jewish refugees once lived and the former site of the American lewish loint Distribution Committee. which provided immense financial support to Shanghai's Jewish refugees during their years of hardship.

Dvir says about 3,000 tourists take his tour every year, a majority of whom are Americans.

"Some people have some knowledge about Jewish life here, but it is vague," he says. "It comes to life when they take this tour."

After the tour was over, I had a few hours left to enjoy Shanghai before I needed to return to my cruise ship. I chose to see a Chinese acrobat performance at a downtown theater where I watched an amazing array of gymnasts, jugglers and motorcyclists who speedily whirled their vehicles inside a cage.



Back on the ship at 10 p.m., I took one last look at the city's wonderous skyline - lit up like a pinball machine - and reflected on what I had learned during my 24 hours in this crowded and frenetic city.

Perhaps an exhibit at the Jewish Refugees Museum best sums up what a Holocaust historian has called "the miracle of Shanghai."



Exhibit commemorating the visit of Yitzchak Rabin

In 1993, Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli prime minister, visited the site and inscribed the following: "To the people of Shanghai for unique humanitarian act of saving thousands of Jews during the Second World War, thanks in the name of the government of Israel."

Courtesy of Aish.com

Orthodox Jews in WWII Shanghai: New Exhibit Reveals Stories of Rescue, Refuge, & Rebirth during the Holocaust

The life of 10 year old Yehudith Cohn-Goldbart of Berlin irrevocably changed on the night of November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht. Yehudith's family was one of the lucky few to escape the inferno and make their way to Shanghai. Despite the overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in the Hongkew district, the refugees made the best of their surroundings. Yehudith's memorabilia - including these wooden toys - reflect the foreign world of her new home. They are part of the new exhibit, Precious Gift: Rescue and Shanghai, now open at Amud Aish Memorial Museum.

Amud Aish Memorial Museum has launched Precious Gift: Rescue and Shanghai, an exhibition and educational program for schools and private groups. During World War II, thousands of Jews from Europe-whose lives were in imminent peril-miraculously escaped the Nazis and found safe haven in Japanese-occupied Shanghai, China. Through original artifacts and primary materials, the exhibition engages visitors with this little-explored aspect of Holocaust history, explaining the plights of Jews who sought refuge in foreign lands and the heroic efforts of those-from diplomats to everyday people-who risked their lives to help them.

the exhibit, visitors introduced to diplomats from Japan, the Netherlands, and Lithuania who defied orders by distributing visas that became lifelines for thousands. They also learn about the journey from Europe to Shanghai, daily life, and the flourishing of Jewish religious life in Kobe, Japan and Shanghai. Throughout the tour, guides note the significance of the various artifacts-such as the sacred Hebrew texts printed in Shanghai and a meal ration card with unused days-to illustrate the personal stories of those who lived through these difficult times.

Everyday life is explored in Precious Gift: Rescue and Shanghai by



looking at the victims' experiences. In 1941, the Walkin family (husband, wife, and three young children) escaped

Europe through Kovno via the Trans-Siberian Railroad, arriving first in Kobe, Japan and then in Shanghai where they remained for the duration of the war. Their artifacts tell us about the

Sabbaths and other holidays they celebrated and the difficulties they faced (shortages of food, clothing, and medicine). In 1946 the family immigrated to the United States where they spent the next several years pursuing visas for the remaining Jewish refugees in Shanghai-Jews who had no homes or families to return to in Europe.

or families to return to in Europe. Precious Gift: Rescue and Shanghai is accompanied by an educational program for school groups which includes group workshops. One workshop explores the experiences of Judith Cohn-Goldbart, a Jewish girl whose family escaped from Munich to Shanghai. The Cohn-Goldbart artifacts narrate Judith's childhood in Shanghai as a Bais Yaakov (girls' religious school)

student.

"The story of the Jews' escape to Shanghai is one that students don't typically encounter in school, and yet it carries with it important lessons: the power of faith, the of perseverance, importance the role of resilience, and the imperative of survival," Rabbi Sholom Friedmann, Director of Amud Aish Memorial Museum. "Shanghai could not have been more foreign for these European Jews, yet the city largely welcomed them and allowed for their customs: so the Jews were able to practice their faith and establish their institutions without issue. The only yeshiva to survive intact from Europe, the Mir Yeshiva, did so by taking refuge in Shanghai. It operates today, relocated to Jerusalem, and is the largest Yeshiva in the world."

Background

In 1938, the Jews of Europe were running out of options. The Evian conference's failure to address the Jewish refugee crisis only emboldened Hitler, and Kristallnacht followed soon after. Shanghai was the only place with unrestricted immigration and no entry visa requirement. It was the last hope for German and Austrian Jews to escape, and thousands did until 1941 when Jewish emigration was forbidden. Shanghai then became a sanctuary for Orthodox Polish Jews who had fled to Lithuania only

About the School Program

The school program in Mill Basin, Brooklyn, accommodates students from grade six and up. School visits are content-rich experiences. Museum educators provide resources to teachers in advance of each visit. In addition to a tour

of the exhibition and a small-group classroom workshop, students have the opportunity to express what they learned through the tools in the new art workshop. Tours are available in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish. The online group reservation system is currently taking requests at http://www.amudaish.org/group. Since its opening, many thousands of children have visited the school exhibition program.

About Amud Aish Memorial Museum/Kleinman Holocaust Education Center

Amud Aish is dedicated to documenting the micro-histories of observant Jewish victims and the role of faith within the broader context of the annihilation of European Jewry.

It includes the Kleinman Holocaust Education Center, the Orthodox Testimony Project (in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), a document and research archive, and an artifact collections archive. Amud Aish is active globally through its International Division, with current projects in Poland, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. Amud Aish is located in Mill Basin, Brooklyn, with future annexes in Lakewood. New Jersey, and Jerusalem. Learn more at amudaish.org and follow us on Facebook: @amudaishmm.

Courtesy of Jewish Voice - Edited by: JV Staff 02/21/2018

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Shanghai aims to become Cosmopolitan

By Prema Anand

The plan aims to strike a balance between saving enough agricultural land and optimizing urban space, creating a better living environment, tightly controlling its population and allowing all ages to enjoy life and lead healthy lifestyles.

The Shanghai government has prepared a blueprint to build the city into a global city and a modern cosmopolis by 2035.

The master plan unveiled by the Shanghai government has in detail charted the course to be taken for the eastern city's development over the next 18 years. The plan has been approved by the State Council which aims to make Shanghai the core city of the Yangtze River Delta city cluster, a centre of international economy, finance, trade, shipping and technological innovation.



The plan aims to strike a balance between saving enough agricultural land and optimizing urban space, creating a better living environment, tightly controlling its population and allowing all ages to enjoy life and lead healthy lifestyles.

The plan envisions the city capping its population of permanent residents at 25 million by 2035, while the overall construction will

be limited to 3,200 sq km. Priority will also be given to environmental protection, as more efforts will be made to weed out outdated production capacity, reduce emissions, enhance protection of water and land resources, and build Shanghai into a sustainable eco-city.

Shanghai is one of the four direct-controlled municipalities of China and the most populous city proper in the world, with a

population of more than 24 million as of 2014. Shanghai has been described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China, renowned for its Lujiazui skyline, and museums and historic buildings, such as those along The Bund, as well as the City God Temple and the Yu Garden.

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In The Crook of The Rock:

Jewish Refugee in a World Gone Mad

By Vera Schwarczb

Reviewed by Tiberiu Weisz

This book evokes the deep personal and cultural transformations of a six year old Jewish girl who was uprooted from her home in a small town in Poland in 1940, and forced to travel from country to country, from culture to culture, from one part of the world to the other, without papers. She became overnight a refugee, with no place to go. At the time, very few countries issued visa to Jewish refugees, so she joined the fleeing European Jews to board the Trans-Siberian Railway in Russia even when they knew that "they could be dragged off the train at any point and sent to one of the many gulags..." (p.50).

Chaya Leah Walkin was caught in the whirlwind of World War II and her story is told in the cross cultural context of a Jewish girl with pleasant memories of Japan where she enjoyed: "the beauty, the cleanlinest, the flowers, the gardens... the school I attended, and the Japanese friends and neighbors." (p.54). In contrast "in Shanghai, you always had to watch your back... you could not trust anyone. It was an "unterwelt" – a corrupt country". (p.84)

In the Crook of the Rock reads like a trip that Schwarcz could have taken through Chaya on this personal journey. Schwarcz bridged the gulf between her generation and that of Chaya through the words of Shir Ha'Shirim, The Song of Songs. "Following Chaya Leah's childhood through the alleys around Liaoyang Road, I managed to find a story and a voice that countered the madness of the heartless world" (p. 290). Schwarcz followed Chava through her childhood (born in 1934), through events that led to her and her family being uprooted from her home in a small town of

500 Jews in Poland, through the cold and frightening train ride across Siberia, to the pleasant reception in Japan, and the cruel realities of Shanghai. Under these extraordinary circumstances, Chaya survived abiding by the Jewish customs of the Torah, by adapting to the circumstances in Japan and to the ghetto life in Shanghai.

I could not think of a more qualified author to portray Chaya Leah Walkin than Vera Schwarcz. Professor Schwarcz was born in Romania. raised in the Jewish Orthodox tradition, studied China and taught Chinese at Wesleyan university until her retirement. She has maintained a personal relationship with the heroine of the book, Chaya, and it is evident that they became emotionally close. She vividly described the personal feelings of this little girl who experienced both the Jewish Hakarat ha tov -" a conscious effort to express indebtedness in a world devoid of concern for refugees" (p.285) and at the same time a similar Chinese concept of en " reason over heart kindness and appreciation of being alive" (p.286).

While the government of Japan and China have lately taken credit for their en to the Jewish refugees in Shanghai, Chaya Leah expressed particular gratitude to Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Russia, who issued transit visas to Jewish refugees via Japan, and to Dr. Ho Feng-Shan for "his heroic rescue of the Jews in Shanghai". She was less generous in praising the many memorial services promoted by the Chinese government to glorify their role in saving the Jews in Shanghai. In the eyes of Chaya, the Chinese just try to take credit for an inconvenient truth. "We were never fed by any Chinese organizations, no Chinese philanthropist or organizer sat on any of our committees..." (p. 284). In spite of the absence of en, the Chinese government shamelessly promotes exhibitions portraying "art from Shanghai Jewish ghetto", which is nothing more than government commissioned paintings allegedly depicting imaginary life of the Jews in Shanghai ghetto.

Schwarcz felt that the voice of Chaya Leah was buried among "the numerous public commemoratives of the Jewish survival in Shanghai " (p. 279) and it was time to commemorate a quieter voice that was "hidden in the rocks wanting to sing her song".

Chaya's voice was that of the the dove In the Crook of the Rock based on the Songs of Songs (2:14).

My dove in the crook on the rock, In the hiding place of the steep.

Show me your visage,

Let me hear your voice.

Her voice "conveys the difficulties of surviving in the midst of hardship, the loneliness of being embedded in a foreign world" (p. xxix). This is Chaya Leah's story.

The book is captivating; the narrative flows smoothly, though I found that on several occasions the in-depth supporting comments made my mind wander in other directions. Yet they did not detract from the story. Schwarcz attained a delicate balance between the story of Chaya and a rebuttal of the glorification of the role of the Chinese government in the saga of the Shanghai Jews.

Tiberiu Weisz, author, has published a book and several articles on Judaism and China and two books about the Kaifeng Jews.

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JEWISH DIASPORA IN CHINA

INTRODUCTION

By Prof Xu Xin

Jewish Diaspora in China is a unique experience for World Jewry as China is the only country in the Far East, which has had Jews living in its society for over 1,000 years. There is a significant distinction between Jews in pre-modern (before 1840) China and those in Modern China (since 1840). Those who came before modern times became part of Chinese society without distinct features but those who came since modern times remained as aliens.

THE TANG DYNASTY

The Tang Dynasty (618-907) is the period when we begin to have documentary evidence to prove the presence of Jews in China. The earliest evidence is from the beginning of the eighth century: a business letter dating from 718 C.E., written in the Judeo-Persian language, and found in Dandan Uilig, an important post along the Silk Road in Northwest China. The text is thirty-seven lines in length and was written on paper, a product then manufactured only in China. From this fragment, we learn that a Persian-speaking Jew was trading commodities. He wrote to a fellow Jew who was obviously also a trader and asked his help in disposing of some sheep of inferior stock that he had the misfortune to own.

Another bit of evidence proving there were Jews in China around this time is a page of Hebrew penitential prayers from a massive trove of documents in the Cave of the Thousand Buddhas of Dunhuang. It consists of passages from the Psalms and the Prophets and also dates back to the eighth century.

The earliest historical references to Jews in China are by Arab geographers and travelers of the ninth and tenth centuries. Abu-Zaid, a well-known Arab geographer and traveler in medieval times, described the massacre in 877 (or 878) of the foreign residents of the city of Khanfu conducted by the Chinese rebel Banshu. Among those killed he specifically mentions Jews.

From 1280 on, a few Chinese sources also mention the lewish presence in China. For instance, The Statutes of the Yuan and Official History of the Yuan mentions Jews several times. Westerners who were in China in this period also repeatedly mention lews. example, Marco Polo says there were Jews in Beijing in 1286; Olschki writes of an organized Jewish community that was granted official recognition; the Franciscan John of Monte Corvino notes that there were lews in China around 1300; Andrew of Perugia mentioned Jews in China in 1326; Jean de Marignolli asserts that he had disputes with Jews in Khanbalig, China, in 1342; and the Arab Ibn-Battuta mentions a "Jews' Gate" in Hangzhou in 1346.

Clearly, quite a few Jews came to China for commercial and business purposes. They came from a variety of places and by whatever routes seemed most expedient. They traveled to China by land and by sea. Some went back and forth. Others stayed and eventually settled down there. Inevitably, some fairsize Jewish communities appeared in the cities where they had business and resided. Other Jews were brought to China as captives taken by the Mongols during their march of conquest through Central Asia and Eastern Europe in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. No doubt many Jewish communities in China were established across the country. However, not all left evidence as proof of their existence. The following are those known to us today.

Kaifeng

Surely, the most documented Jewish community in China is the Kaifeng Jews. According to their own document, an inscription they erected in their synagogue compound in 1489, they came to China in the Song dynasty (960-1279). It is almost unanimously agreed by scholars and historians that they came to Kaifeng, the capital city of the Song, between 960 and 1126 and founded a community there. (See "Jews of Kaifeng, China" in this volume.)

Hangzhou

Hangzhou is located in East China and became prominent when the Sui dynasty (581-618) made it the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, which runs north to Beijing, joining several major rivers to provide China with an extensive inland waterway system. After 1126, Hangzhou served as the capital for the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279). It has always been known as an important trade and handicrafts center. Its direct access to major sea routes made it convenient for merchants and traders.

Although the arrival of the first settlers cannot be precisely dated, it would not be unreasonable to assume the presence of a Jewish community as early as the twelfth century, when the Northern Song was defeated by the Tartars and forced to move its capital from Kaifeng to Hangzhou. Chinese documents show that a large part of Kaifeng's populace moved with the royal court. Quite likely some

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of Kaifeng's Jews were among them. Ai Tien, the Jew from Kaifeng who met Matteo Ricci in Beijing in 1605, told him that many Jews had once lived in Hangzhou, forming a large

Jewish community with a synagogue of its own.

An Arab traveler, Ibn Battuta incidentally attests the existence of the Hangzhou Jewish community, in the fourteenth century, when he visited the city in 1346. When he and his companions entered Hangzhou, they immediately became aware of a Jewish presence there because of the name of the gate, the "Jews Gate," through which they passed. However, for some reason, the Jewish community of Hangzhou ceased to exist sometime before the seventeenth century.

Ningbo

Ningbo in Zhejiang Province has been a seaport in East China for many centuries. Before modern times, it was the most important port connecting that part of China to Southeast Asia and beyond. It was one of the five treaty ports opened to foreign trade in 1842. The Jewish presence in the city began early. The Ningbo Jews established ties with Kaifeng Jewry by the fifteenth century if not before. In 1461 the Jews in Kaifeng obtained two Torah scrolls from Ningbo. The 1489 inscription tells the story: "When the synagogue was rebuilt, Shi Bin, Li Rong, and Gao Jian, and Zhang Xuan went to Ningbo and brought back a scroll of the Scriptures. Zhao Ying of Ningbo brought another scroll to Kaifeng and respectfully presented it to our temple."

From this it may be deduced that the Jews of Ningbo were observant adherents of their religion. We may further assume that there was a vibrant Jewish community in the city if Torah scrolls were available. The fact that two scrolls of the law were obtained from Ningbo may also indicate the presence of a fairly large Jewish community in the city

at that time.

Pan Guangdan, a Chinese historian, believes that the Jews in Ningbo probably arrived very early because it is a river port quite near the sea. The fact that they had many Torah scrolls indicates that the Jews and Judaism of Ningbo probably had a history no shorter than their Kaifeng counterparts, plus a considerable prestige.

The existence of the Ningbo Jewish community gave much support, at least spiritually, to the Kaifeng Jewish community. The Torah scrolls it sent certainly provided means for the Kaifeng Jews to maintain their ritual and education.

Yangzhou

Yangzhou was originally a seaport. In the seventh to ninth centuries, as the course of the Yangtze River changed, and its delta extended further into the ocean, Yangzhou became a river port. Because of its location on the Grand Canal, a major inland transportation route, Yangzhou became an important hub from which one could travel south to Fujian and Canton and north to Kaifeng. There was also a very large Muslim community in the city. According to the Fujian Chronicles, Western Region Notes, the Islamic religion was transmitted to Yangzhou thirteen centuries ago. Today, the Muslim population of the city numbers about four thousand.

Under the circumstances, it is reasonable to assume that there was also a Jewish community in Yangzhou. The 1512 inscription describes the connection between Kaifeng Jewry and the Yangzhou Jews, for it states that An, Li, and Gao of Kaifeng, and Jin Pu of Yangzhou "contributed a scroll of the Torah and constructed a second gateway of the synagogue." In fact, the 1512 inscription was written by Zhu Tang, who was a resident of Yangzhou. Ai Tien, who met Ricci in Beijing, was appointed to a post as school supervisor in Paoying District of Yangzhou for 1605-1607 according to the Yangzhou Gazetteers.

Ningxia

Ningxia is situated in Northwest China and is an important post city in that region. It too had Jewish residents and a historical connection with the Kaifeng Jewish community. Both the 1489 and 1512 inscriptions testify to their existence and their connection with Kaifeng Jewry. The 1489 inscription tells how Jin Xuan, a native of Ningxia, contributed an altar, a bronze censer, vases, and candlesticks to the Kaifeng synagogue when it was rebuilt after a flood. His younger brother, Jin Ying, contributed to the funds used to purchase land for the synagogue and pay for inscribing and erecting the 1489 stele. The 1512 inscription states that Jin Run built the kiosk in which it was housed. All three Jins were from Ningxia. The 1489 inscription also mentions that one of the ancestors of Jin Xuan and Jin Ying had been court president of state banquets, and that their greatuncle had been a high military officer. Apparently, the Jin family had a long history in that city and kept close ties with Jews in Kaifeng. Ningxia served as a way station on the Silk Road. . Merchants or traders who entered China from Central Asia via the Silk Road had to pass through it. This makes the existence of Jews in the city very likely.

Except for the Kaifeng Jewish community, all other communities leave behind very little materials for us to reconstruct their life and history today and disappear (most likely are totally assimilated into Chinese society) before the 17th century. The Kaifeng Jewish community survived until the mid-19th century, when the last rabbi of the community died without a successor. The synagogue was unattended and diminished gradually, and the community virtually ceased to exist, although individual Jewish descendants still live in Kaifeng today.

JEWISH DIASPORA IN MODERN CHINA

The history of Jewish Diaspora in modern China has a much clearer beginning, starting in the second half of the 19th century when China was forced to open her doors to Western powers. Jews came in several waves. First came Sephardic Jews, originally form Baghdad and Bombay, to look for business opportunities in newly-opened Chinese cities such as Shanghai and Hong Kong in the second half of the 19th century. By the beginning of the 20th century they had built up solid lewish communities in those cities. The second wave was the arrival of Ashkenazi lews from Russia and other East European countries. Most of them first arrived in Harbin and contiguous zones in Northeast China. Later many of them moved to southern regions of China. Although a few came in search of better economic opportunities, the majority was either fleeing from pogroms or revolutions in Russia in the early 20th century. The third wave was the arrival of European Jewish refugees. During 1937-1940 about 20,000 European Jewish refugees swarmed into Shanghai, which became a refuge for thousands of Jews fleeing from countries under Nazi control. The last wave was the arrival of some 1,000 Jews from Poland and other Eastern European countries in the early 1940s. In general, in the period of 1845-1945 more than 40,000 lews came to China for business development or for a safe haven.

The Jewish Communities in Shanghai The Sephardi Jewish Community

Sephardi Jews were the forerunners of Jewish Diaspora in Modern China. They came and settled in the International Settlement of Shanghai via India shortly after the Opium War was over. The Treat of Nanjing, signed in August 1842, opened Shanghai and four other Chinese port cities to British residence and trade, free from interference by the Chinese government. Economic opportunity was the main attraction of Shanghai for those Jews. The community is closely bound with the Sassoon family, which had built a dynasty in India in the first half of the 19th century, though their origin was from Baghdad. David Sassoon together with his eight sons built up an extensive business in Shanghai. The Shanghai Sephardi had British passports that could ensure that they could travel freely and enjoyed extraterritorial rights because of the effective and universal protection afforded by the British. They were shopkeepers, importers and exporters, retailers, property and estate agents, and stockbrokers. With economic development of the city, the size of the community grew steadily. By 1895, there were about 175 Baghdadi Jews in the foreign enclave in Shanghai.

The Sassoons were orthodox Jews and conducted their lives according to strict lewish laws and ensured the preservation of the traditions of the Baghdadi Jews in life. Until the mid-1870s, they provided their staff with living accommodation and facilities for the observance of Judaism. No work or business was conducted on Sabbath and festivals. Religious services were organized in accordance with Baghdadi customs. Due to their hard work and wisdom, the Sephardim Jewish Community of Shanghai became the most wealthy and influential Jewish community in Shanghai though their members probably never exceeding 800. Their contribution to the development of modern Shanghai can be felt even today.

Ashkenazi Jewish Community

The Ashkenazi Jewish community in Shanghai was formed in the beginning of the 20th century when Russian Jews started to arrive in the city in a relatively large numbers. Fleeing pogroms and revolutions in Russia, they traveled via Siberia first to cities in Northeast China, such as Harbin, Dalian, or Tianjin. In the early 1930s their number in Shanghai already surpassed 5,000. The Shanghai Ashkenazi Jewish Communal Association was established in June 1931 with a chairman and a ninemember executive committee. It was an essentially secular Jewish community with strong Zionist and nationalist leanings.

The Community was best organized and most active among all Jewish communities in Shanghai as far as the communal life was concerned. Charitable societies such as relief society, shelter house, provided aid to the needy and indigent. An educational aid society assisted young people in the Shanghai Jewish School with tuition. A sacred burying society maintained a cemetery and provided free burials for the indigent. Clinics and a hospital provided free dispensary to the poor. The Jewish Club, which was founded in the French concession in 1931, was the center of cultural, political, and social activities. It provided various activities such as concerts, lectures, and theatrical performances.

The Community of Central European Jews

From 1938 on, some 20,000 refugees from Central Iewish Europe, chiefly from Germany and Austria, escaped to Shanghai, the only place in the world that required no documents such as visas, health certificates, financial statements. Among them were Michael Blumenthal, who later became US Secretary of the Treasury in the Carter Administration, and Shaul Eisenberg, who founded and ran the Eisenberg Group of Companies in Israel.

Refugees got timely assistance from two existing Jewish communities

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upon their arrival. The International Committee for Granting Relief to European Refugees was established in Shanghai on August 7, 1938, to manage the flood of refugees. The Joint Distribution Committee provided a lot of help to permit a large number of the refugees to achieve economic independence.

The refugees assumed that the Shanghai experience would be a very temporary one and none expected that most refugees would stay in Shanghai for a decade or longer. Coming from the Central Europe, the refugees were ill-prepared for the radically different economic, cultural, and climatic conditions in Shanghai. However, most finally settled in the heavily Chinese and Japanese populated Hongkou area of the Shanghai International Settlement, north of Suzhou Creek.

The refugees reflected German Jewish society in general from Orthodox, Reform to secularists. Despite the wide range of religious practice within the refugee body, a single organization, the Community of Central European Jews, united them and provided a comprehensive service to the refugees, including religious education, a women's league, a cemetery and burial society, kosher slaughtering, and an arbitration board to resolve disputes.

Polish Jewish Community

In 1941, about 1,000 Jews mostly from Poland arrived in Shanghai from Japan. Zerah Wahrhafting, who was an influential leader of the Mizrahi Movement and member of the Israeli Cabinet from 1962 to 1974, came to Shanghai in 1941 and paved the way for Polish Jews to resettle in Shanghai through many talks with the Japanese authorities. Among those Jews were all the teachers and students of the Mirre Yeshiva, some 400 in number. The Mirre Yeshiva was the sole intact higher Talmudic academy

in Eastern Europe that survived the Holocaust. They escaped from Lesovelia, Poland through Vilna, and obtained transit visas to Japan from the Japanese consul in Kovno. After a short stay in Kobe Japan, they made their way to Shanghai. Their study and daily worship services were never interrupted by the War. They continued to print their own books in Yiddish and Hebrew. Together with remnants of several other yeshivot, they were devoted to the study of Judaism and continued their studies in the Beth Aharon Synagogue throughout the War. Some students were also invited to teach at lewish schools in Shanghai, which strengthened the tie of Judaism among those Jews in Shanghai.

Jewish Communal Life and Practice of Judaism

Jewish communal life in Shanghai started with the Sephardic Jews shortly after they settled in the city. In 1862, the Sassoons endowed land for use as a lewish cemetery, the first communal project established in Shanghai. To meet their religious need, the community set up its first synagogue named as Beth El in 1887. In 1900, Shearith Israel synagogue started in use and served as house of worship and of Torah study. Their religious observances and the use of Judeo-Arabic written in a cursive Hebrew script as their lingua franca reflected their radically separate ethnicity in China.

growing size of the congregation warranted a larger place for worship in the 1910s. Sir Jacob Sassoon and his brother Sir Edward endowed the Ohel Rachel Synagogue. It was named after Sir Jacob Sassoon's late wife, Rachel. It was the first purpose-built edifice for divine worship in Shanghai and was consecrated on January 23, 1921. It has a capacity to hold up to 700 people in its cavernous sanctuary. Marble pillars flanked a walk-in ark and wide balconies overlooked the sanctuary. As many as 30 Torah scrolls were held in the ark. The synagogue was considered as "second to none in the East." The site hosted the Shanghai Jewish School, library, and mikveh. With the completion of the Ohel Rachel, the Shanghai Sephardim community appointed Rabbi Hirsch as its first rabbi.

Another synagogue, Beth Aaron Synagogue, was built in 1927 on Museum Road (today's Hu Qiu Road) as a gift to the community from Silas Aaron Hardoon, a wealthy Jewish entrepreneur in Shanghai, to replace Shearith Israel synagogue. In 1940s, it became the House of worship and study for the students and their rabbis of the Mirre Yeshiva. The synagogue was demolished in 1985.

In 1932 the Sephardic community appointed Rev. Brown, Ashkenazi rabbi, as the rabbi of the congregation. The appointment of Ashkenazi rabbis implied a reduced commitment to the preservation of Sephardic traditions. Some innovations such as a choir, a few Ashkenazi melodies, a sermon, and prayer books with the English translation alongside the Hebrew, were introduced. Other than those, there was no intrinsic change in the form of the Sephardic service.

The Ashkenazi Community followed their own traditions and rituals, had their own house of worship. In 1902, a synagogue committee was formed in Shanghai by Russian Jews and inaugurated in 1907 in a rented premise and named it "Ohel Moshe" after Moshe Greenberg, a leading Russian Jewish personality.

In 1925 Rabbi Meir Ashkenazi, a Lubavicher Hassid, was invited to become the Shanghai Russian Jews' spiritual leader. He served as the Chief Rabbi of Shanghai from 1926-1949 and was the able spokesman for the Ashkenazi community, directing its many

relief, educational, and religious affairs. He found the small rented synagogue inadequate for the growing community's requirements. With his efforts, a building was remodeled into a synagogue for the congregation in 1927. The second floor was removed and pillars were erected to support its roof. A mezzanine was constructed for women to pray separately from men as required by orthodox Jews. This Ohel Moshe Synagogue served as an early religious center for the Russian Jewish community for many years. In April 1941, a modern Ashkenazi Jewish synagogue was built, which provided seats for 1,000 people. Russian Jews called it the New Synagogue. The services in this synagogue continued until 1956.

Education is an essential element of Jewish identity and is one of the brightest aspects of the lewish experience for the young. In the early period in Shanghai, Jews adopted the traditional method of father instructing son, or hiring a private tutor. The children learnt to recite prayers and read Biblical Hebrew. As their number grew, the Shearith Israel Synagogue incorporated in 1902 a Talmud Torah, where six boys were enrolled and learned Hebrew and religious studies through the medium of Judeo-Arabic in the first year. Later when European refugees came, many refugee children attended this school. In 1944, there were as many as 300 students at the school, which had its campuses in different districts of Shanghai. The Shanghai Jewish Youth Association, better known as the Kadoorie School, was founded specially for the refugees. Another, smaller school, Ismar Freysinger School was more religiously-oriented school for the refugees. Those schools and other educational groups played a very important role in providing basic education of Judaism to the younger

generation during the War. Hebrew classes and traditional orientation to lewish education stressed that lews are a distinct national group, bound together by a connection of Iudaism.

Zion, the underlying theme in Judaism, was an integral part of Shanghai Jews' conception of a Jewish identity. The Shanghai Zionist Association, the SZA, was founded in 1903 with Sir Elly Kadoorie its first president. The SZA was one of the three earliest Zionist organizations in Asia and sent representatives to the Sixth Zionist Congress. The SZA also won the support and endorsement of Chinese government to the Balfore Declaration. New streams of Zionism were introduced into Shanghai with the arrival of Russian Jews. Shanghai saw the emergence of all kinds of Zionist organizations such as the Revisionist, the Mizrachi, the Poalei Zion, the Betar and the Irgun in 1920s and 1930s. Those organizations were very active. The conflicts among different groups were limited. They succeeded in finding common ground on major issues. In April 1947, more than 8,000 Jews gathered to protest the hanging by the British authorities in Palestine of four Irgun activists. After the founding of the State of Israel, the Shanghai Betar and Irgun sent two groups of young volunteers to Palestine in fall 1948 to join the Independent War.

In September 1932, following hostilities with the Japanese, a Jewish platoon, gathering together all Jewish members of the corps, became a respected unit of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. It was commanded by Captain Noel S. Jacobs. The Platoon expanded on May 23, 1933, to become the all-Jewish Hebrew Company under Jacobs's command. The majority of its members were Russian Jews. The collar of their uniform sported a metal Shield of David with the

letters SVC superimposed. One of their undeclared aims was to acquire military experience for eventual participation in the fight for Jewish independence in Palestine.

Cultural life was extremely rich in Jewish communities in Shanghai. From 1903 to 1945, more than fifty Jewish Newspapers and magazines published in Shanghai in English, Russian, German, French, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Polish. Among them Israel's Messenger, Our Life, The Jewish Call, Shanghai Jewish Chronicle exerted a great influence on Jewish life of the city. Many books in Hebrew, Yiddish, English on Judaism were printed in Shanghai, including prayer books, Jewish calendars, the Talmud, Bibles, and books by Moses Maimonides.

Highly qualified Jewish musicians such as Aaron Avshalomov, Alfred Wittenberg, Walter Joachim, and Arrigo Foa not only enriched local life, but also entered the world of Shanghai's academia and trained a number of young Chinese musicians in classical music, who in turn became leading musicians in contemporary China.

Jews in Shanghai, especially the Sephardi and the Central European refugees, suffered a great deal during the Japanese occupation of the city. Their business was ruined as the economy collapsed. After the outbreak of the Pearl Harbor attack, some Sephardic Jews, who had British passports, were interned as enemies of Japan. Under the pressure of the Nazi Germany, the Japanese authorities proclaimed, on February 18, 1943, the establishment of "the Designated Area for Stateless Refugees" in Shanghai, ordering Jewish refugees who had arrived in Shanghai from Europe since 1937 to move into the area within a month. The area became wellknown "Hongkou Ghetto." Those who continued to work outside of Hongkou needed special passes with the hour of their return clearly

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specified. Those who failed to return in time were often punished or had their passes confiscated. Confinement, poor diet and sanitation, in addition to restrictive methods of Japanese surveillance, put thousands of Jews in a difficult, unpredictable, dangerous, and insufferable situation.

Harbin Jewish Community

The Harbin Jewish Community could be considered as a large umbrella organization that covered an area of Northeast China and today's Inner Mongolia, where thousands of Jews settled from the end of the 19th century to the mid-20th century.

Harbin as a modern Chinese city was founded in 1898 when Russian engineers chose it as the headquarters for the Chinese Eastern Railway Company. Plans for a railway across Manchuria to Vladivostok was part of a treaty between China and Russia in 1896 ensuring mutual assistance against any future Japanese aggression. To build the railway Russia also extraterritorial obtained rights, two and half miles on each side of the railway. Harbin soon became a thriving Russian town. Russian Jews began to gravitate to this part of China. Beginning with the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway from Manchuli to Hailar, Jews from Russia began to settle in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia.

Jews were almost free from persecution because Tsar Nicholas II, at the end of the 19th century, was anxious to Russify and encouraged immigration of Russians, including Russian Jews, to this region in order to strengthen Russian influence. The Tsar declared that Jews willing to settle along the Railway would be allowed freedom of religion, unrestricted business rights, and quota-free education. **Besides** Russian authorities in Northeast China did not want to show the

Chinese that any white man-even a Jew-could be treated as inferior to an Asian. Many Russian Jews fleeing pogroms in Odessa, Kishinev, and other towns, decided to move to Northeast China for permanent settlement.

Jewish population in Harbin grew fast. On February 16, 1903, the Jewish Minority Community was founded in Harbin, numbering some 500 people. After the Russian defeat in the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War, many demobilized lewish soldiers in the Tsar's army settled in Harbin and were soon joined by their families. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and subsequent Russian civil war brought a flood of refugees, both White Russians and Jewish, to Harbin. In the 1920s there were as many as 15,000 lews in Harbin and nearby towns, making the Harbin Jewish Community the largest in the Far East.

The Japanese occupation of Northeast China in 1931 and the establishment of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo in 1932 had negative impact on the Harbin Jewish Community. The Japanese economic domination and harsh treatment of Jews coupled with the general lawlessness and anti-Semitic attacks caused many Jews to leave Harbin for Tianjin, Shanghai, and Palestine. The Jewish population of Harbin fell from 13,000 in 1929 to less than 5,000 in 1939.

Jews in Harbin were a homogenous group, consisting primarily of Russian Jews with a small number of Polish Jews. The Jewish Religious Community of Harbin, as it was named at the time, was a wellorganized and supreme governing body. It stood for all Jews in the area and served all their needs. Its by-laws define such main functions as tending to the religious needs of the Jewish immigrants; managing the funds of the synagogues and the rabbis; managing the Jewish traditional method of slaughter of livestock; managing the Jewish

cemetery and organizing funeral services; registering births, deaths, marriages and divorces; dealing with the Chinese authorities, and acting according to the laws of China; supervising the Jewish school for the immigrants; organizing cultural and educational activities; handling of all kinds of charities to needy immigrants.

The Harbin Jewish Cemetery was established in 1903. It had a small synagogue of its own. The Central Synagogue was built in 1907. In 1921 the New Synagogue was built. Both synagogues were orthodox. The first rabbi hired by the Community was Rabbi Shevel Levin, who had served in Omsk and Chita in Siberia before he came to Harbin. Rabbi Aaron Kiselev served in Harbin from 1913 until his death in 1949.

Dr. Abraham Kaufman, the community leader since 1919, played a leading role in the Harbin Jewish Community. He chaired the Far Eastern Jewish Council and held three times of the Conference of Jewish Communities in the Far East from 1937 to 1939. He was arrested by the Soviet Red Army in 1945 and taken back to the Soviet Union, where he was imprisoned at a labor camp for ten years.

The Jewish Community of Harbin was a very active and comprehensive community. Besides synagogues, it ran a school, a library, a hospital, two Jewish banks, a home for the aged, and numerous charitable organizations. The Talmud Torah (Jewish religious school) established in Harbin in 1919. which provided Jewish traditional education for children and young people. The Community had many publications in Russian and in Yiddish. Among them, Yevreskaya Zhizn was published from 1920 to 1940. Cultural and social activities such as theatrical performances and musical offerings enriched the community's life.

Zionism and Zionist activities

played an important role in communal life. There existed all kinds of Zionist organizations such as Poalei Zion, Bund, Betar, Agudat Israel, and Revisionist Zionism in Harbin. Because of Zionist spirit and influence, quite a few Jews in the twenties and thirties immigrated to Israel, making aliyah.

In 1937, the Community created the Far Eastern Jewish Council, which in turn, held the Conference of lewish Communities in the Far East three times from 1937-1939 in Harbin. Each conference was attended by several hundred of Jewish representatives from Tianjin, Shanghai, and other Chinese cities; and from Kobe, Japan. A decision was reached at the 1937 Conference that all the lewish communities in China would be combined into a single overall autonomous association. It would cover all religious problems; all educational, cultural, social, and economic activities; support orphanages; care for refugees from Central Europe; and register all Jews and all the Jewish organizations in the Far East.

The Harbin Jewish Community suffered a heavy blow at the end of WWII when Russian Red Army declared war against the Japan and entered the city. Dr. Kaufman and other Jewish leaders were arrested, charged with anti-Soviet activities and forcibly taken to the Soviet Union. Although, the Community survived, many started to leave if they could.

Adjacent Jewish communities

Beside Harbin, there were a number of small Jewish communities established in various cities in the early 20th century in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia, such as Hailar, Manchuli, Dalian, Mukden, and etc. All of them were connected with the Harbin Jewish Community either economically or socially.

The Jewish settlements from Russia concentrated in Hailar and Manchuli, two major cities of Inner Mongolia at the beginning of the 20th century. Most of them were merchants of foreign trade and forestry. Places of worship were set up in Hailar in 1910 and in Manchuli in 1912. A couple of hundred Jews resided in two cities. Representatives from Hailar took part in the Far Eastern Conference of Jewish Communities held in Harbin in 1937 and 1939. Manchuli Jews run a private school. It was situated at the railroad station of Manchuli. Four school days a week, it included four grades and counted 80 students and five teachers.

The first Jews who came to Dalian were Russian soldiers. Among them was Joseph Trumpeldor who was captured by the Japanese in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. He became the first Jewish officer to be decorated by the Tsar for his bravery. He stayed in Harbin after his release and made aliyah.

Jewish settlers from Russia came to Dalian in 1900. They were few in numbers, but Jews began to trickle to the city from Harbin after the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. On December 8, 1929, the Dalian Jewish Society was inaugurated and chief motives for the organization were religious duties, charitable activity, and cultural work. The Jewish Society of Dalian had 58 members in 1929 and 180 in 1940.

Tianjin Jewish Community

Jews might have settled in Tianjin as early as 1860s when the city became an open port for foreign trade. However, there was no Jewish organization until 1904 when the Tianjin Hebrew Association was founded. The Community consisted mostly of Russian Jews. As a result, the Association was registered with Russian Consulate in Tianjin and considered as an organization of Russia. The population of the Community grew rapidly after the October Revolution in Russia in 1917 and again after Japanese occupation of Northeast China in 1931, when many Jews came from Harbin. In 1935, Jewish population of Tianjin reached some 2,500, probably the highest figure in its history.

Most Jews in Tianjin engaged in commercial activities, especially the fur trade. There were more than 100 fur firms owned by Jews in the city. Furs were obtained in Northeast China but sorted and processed in Tianjin. Fur products were chiefly shipped to American and European markets. Tianjin Jews were also involved other export business. Though most Jews in the city were secular and business oriented, they fasted on Yom Kippur, held family seders, observed the specific diet of Passover, and attended services on the High Holidays. Every household celebrated the major freedom festivals of Hanukkah and Purim. They also marked Lag B'Omer.

The Tianjin Jewish Community was an integrated society. They had a communal committee to take care of needs of its members. Jewish cemetery was created in 1904. Leo I. Gershevich, a fur merchant in Tianjin, served as the community leader for many years. Under his leadership, a Jewish school was established in October 1925 to provide a religious and secular education. There were 132 students at the school in 1934. In 1928 a lewish club was founded and soon became the center of the communal life. It housed a library with a few thousand volumes of books and reading rooms. A benevolent society and interest-free loan fund relieved the poor and helpless, and set them on the road to self-support.

For the community's first three decades, worship was conducted in a small rented apartment. The Tianjin Jewish Community started a fundraising activity for a synagogue in 1937 and finally built their own house of worship in 1939. Rabbi Levi was in charge of the synagogue. Today, the building still remains standing and the Star of David is

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played Zionist activities important role in the community organizing any young people. A few hundred lewish refugees from Europe were accepted by the Community during WWII. A grand gathering was held in front of the synagogue upon the news of the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. The Community had a very strong tie with the Harbin Jewish Community. Their representatives had participated in all three Conferences of the Jewish Communities in the Far East in Harbin.

The Tianjin Jewish Community also served Jews in nearby area such as Qingdao and Beijing. Though no Jewish organization was ever established in Beijing, a Jewish association was founded in Qingdao.

Most Jews in Oingdao were Russian origin though the first Jews were mainly German citizens who came as merchants, bank employees or diplomats at the end of the 19th century. The population increased after the October Revolution in Russia. In 1920 lews formed a congregation for religious activities. They had a synagogue of their own. For many years F.M. Torabinskii, a Russian Jew, served as the head of the congregation. In 1940 there were 221 Jews who resided in Qingdao. After WWII, American Navy warships were stationed in the city. Quite a few Jewish servicemen joined the Community and its services. In the 1950s, all Jews left.

JEWS IN POST-WAR CHINA

The surrender of Japan brought some hopes for Jews in China. For the European refugees, the first positive change was the complete resumption of communication with the outside world and the flow of much-needed money into the community. The arrival of the American armed forces provided jobs and opportunities for them.

Moreover, they were able to move around and had opportunities to go to a third country to join their family or relatives. The majority started plans to leave. It was quite natural for them to do so because they had never planned to come to China, in the first place. They ended up in China simply because they did not have any other choices. Countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia became their destinations if visa could be obtained. However, the doors of most countries were still not open to them. The founding of the State of Israel appeared to be an opportunity. In 1948, right after its establishment, Israel opened an office in Shanghai to welcome Jews to Israel and about 10,000 Jews found a new home there.

For the Sephardi and Russians, China had been home for a generation or more. Many of them considered staying on. Some started to invest and others started to rebuild their business. But their hopes were short-lived. Civil War broke out between the Nationalists and the Communists in 1946. Those well-established Jewish families in the city, such as the Sassoons and the Kadoories, had transferred their business elsewhere, the Sassoons to the Bahamas and the Kadoories to Hong Kong.

By the time the Communists took over the power of the country in 1949, most Jews had already left China. However, a few thousands remained and lived in Chinese cities for another 10 years before their final departure from China. By the mid-1950s the total number was less than 1,000. Because of the declining of Jewish population, Jewish organizations various established early on were either diminished or merged. The Council of the Jewish Community, which was first created in Shanghai in 1949 after the founding of the People's Republic of China and registered

with the Foreign Affairs Department of the Shanghai Military Committee on September 1, 1950 as a voluntary charitable organization for the welfare of China Jewry, took over the responsibility of administrative work in connection with the repatriation and resettlement of Jews residing in China to all parts of the world when the American Joint Distribution Committee closed its Shanghai office in 1951. The Council became the instrumental organization of the remaining Jews responsible for their welfare. By July 1956, the centralized management of the properties and the internal affairs of both the Ashkenazi and the Sephardic Communal Associations, which had been handling its own affairs separately for the last 50 years, had finally merged into the Council's office. The Council not only represented the Shanghai Jewish community but also represented the lewish communities in Tianjin and Harbin. It was in charge of the general budget and migration affairs of those communities and its annual reports include all the communities. It took over the complete responsibility of the welfare of remaining Jews in Tianjin after the liquidation of the Tianjin Hebrew Association in 1958.

In Shanghai, the New Synagogue on Chao Yang Road, which was built in 1941, served as the only living synagogue in Shanghai for years. However, because the expense of maintaining the large premises in the face of dwindling attendance and growing financial need among the local Jewish population could no longer be justified, it was decided to dispose of the synagogue building. The transaction was concluded in July 1956 and the buyer was the House and Land Control Bureau of the Chinese People's Government. The reason to sell it to the Bureau was the Bureau offered high price. Several Torah Scrolls and a quantity

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of religious books owned by the local community were shipped to the Ministry for Religion of Israel as a gift.

The lewish population in Harbin District was 153 by the end of June 1959, the largest Jewish community in China then. The Harbin Jewish Community was the only one that was able to keep its synagogue building by the end of 1950s. Daily services had continued to be held in the synagogue with large attendance for the Sabbath and holidays prayers by 1959. Children's parties on Purim and Hanukkah were still organized. The Jewish Community of Harbin finally stopped functioning on November 20, 1965, which marked the official end of the 100 years community.

In Tianjin, there were 130 Jews including children, remaining, in 1955. Due to the shrinking population and difficult financial status, the Association decided to sell its synagogue building in 1955. The deal was closed in May 1955. With the anticipated departure of all Jews in the Tianjin District, the liquidation of the Tianjin Hebrew Association was suggested early in 1957. On September 27, 1957 application to close down the Association was filed with the local authorities and a notice published in the Tianjin newspaper. The liquidation was completed in January 1958. This brought to an end of the Association that had existed for over half a century. Before the final close of the Association, one Sefer Torah was sent to Israel and useful archives were sent to the Council in Shanghai for safekeeping and future reference. The welfare of the remaining Jews was taken over by the Council.

Jewish culture activities, such as publishing newspapers, organizing performances, came to a halt. The Shanghai Jewish Club, which was first established in 1930s and served as one of culture centers for Shanghai Jewry, closed its doors on December 31, 1955. Over 30000 selected books from the Club's library were shipped to the Ministry for Education and Culture in Israel as a gift. However, a reading and recreation room was created in the Shelter House, making newspapers, magazines and remaining books accessible to every Jew in Shanghai.

We could see clearly that the Jewish Diaspora in Modern China, which had lasted for about 100 years, faded away gradually by the end of 1950s. By 1966 when China started its Cultural Revolution, only a few elderly Jews remained and eventually died in China. The practice of Judaism in Mainland China ceased completely.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH DIASPORA IN CHINA

However, the history of Jewish Diaspora in China does not end in the 1960s. Since 1979, thanks to China's reform and "Open Door Policy", of which the goals were to attract foreign investments to China and to establish ties with the rest of the World, especially with the Western countries, Jewish presence in China revived. With more and more Jews coming to work, invest, study, and live in China, the practice of Judaism once again become part of life in Chinese society.

In 1995, Friday night services began to be held regularly every week at the Capital Club of Beijing. Sabbath prayer books and a Sefer Torah were donated to the community, which enable the community to celebrate all major holidays. On both the High Holy Days and the Passover Seder, the community can expect to have 200 present. Other important landmarks for the community include it first bar mitzah in 1996 and its first b'rit millah in 1997. This community is headed by Roberta Lipson and Elyse Silverberg, two Jewish affiliated businesswomen, and with the Progressive movement of Judaism. In 2001, Rabbi Shimon Freundlich from Chabad-Lubavitch movement came and settled in Beijing. His mission is to build and lead the center of Chabad-Lubavitch of Beijing, an Orthodox congregation there.

Jews began to return to Shanghai in the 1980's. In the mid-1990s, they got organized and established contemporary Shanghai Jewish Community. Rabbi Shalom Greenberg from Chabad-Lubavitch in New York arrived in Shanghai to serve this community in August Rabbi Arthur Schneier, 1998. the Appeal President of Conscience Foundation from New York, donated a Sefer Torah to the community that same year. The size of the community is 250. Regular Shabbat services and kosher meals have been implemented, as well as, child and adult education classes, bar and bat mitzvah training and social brunches. On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, in September 1999, a Jewish New Year service was held at the Ohel Rachel Synagogue for first time since 1952.

Jewish Community in Hong Kong

Jewish Diaspora in Hong Kong is a unique case and needs to be addressed separately because Hong Kong had been under the British rule from 1842 to 1997, when it reverted to Chinese sovereignty. The beginning of the Hong Kong Jewish Community was more or less similar to that of the Shanghai Jewish Community. The leading members of the community, such as the Sassoon family and the Kadoorie brothers, lived and invested in both cities though with more of a presence in Shanghai. The first Jews arrived in Hong Kong in 1843 and 1844, the years immediately following the ceding of Hong Kong to the British under the Treaty of Nanjing, which brought unprecedented access to China for foreign merchants and the promise of security. A small

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community of Jewish merchants, by and large from Bombay and Calcutta with Sephardic origin, was taking shape as early as the 1860s. The number of Jews in Hong Kong reached 71 in 1881. By 1900, there were about 150 Sephardi living in Hong Kong. Ashkenazi started to arrive in the 1880s and 1890s when the pogroms broke out in Eastern Europe.

The communal life started shortly after Jews settled in Hong Kong. The Jewish cemetery in Hong Kong was first established in 1857. In 1870, the first synagogue was set up in a rental house on Hollywood Street. In 1881, a new synagogue in memory of Sir Jacob Sassoon's mother, Leah, replaced the older one. On Yom Kippur of 1896, 67 attended the service.

In the first ten years of the 20th century, three things were done to lay a solid foundation for the future of the community. First, the Ohel Leah Synagogue was constructed in 1901 as a gift for the Hong Kong Jewish Community from the Sassoon Family and consecrated in 1902. The Synagogue is still in use today and has become a city landmark. Secondly, the communal cemetery was enlarged in 1904 to meet the need of the community with assistance of Sir Matthew Nathan, the only Jewish Governor of Hong Kong. Thirdly, a Jewish recreation club was created for all Jews with the donation from the Kadoorie family in 1905 and enlarged in 1909, which symbolized a communityfocused spirit.

The community did not grow quickly as most Jewish merchants were attracted to Shanghai, which was developing dramatically and proved to be a better place for business investment from 1910 to 1936. However, the Japanese occupation of Mainland China in the late 1930s caused many Jews to leave Shanghai, Tianjin, and Harbin for Hong Kong. But this refuge was

short-lived when Japan occupied Hong Kong in 1941. The following four years was the darkest page in the history of the Hong Kong Jewish Community as community leaders were detained and put into camps and business suffered. However, the Hong Kong Jewish Community recovered after WWII and remained steady over the following 30 years. The 1980s witnessed a rapid growth and development of the Hong Kong community, with newcomers making up 64% of population by the end of the decade.

An open acceptance of Jews from many parts of the world characterized early Jewish life in Hong Kong. The community did not employ a rabbi until 1960s though it benefited from the services of visiting rabbis over the vears. Observant members of the community, including Lady Muriel Kadoorie's father, David Gubbay, often conducted services. The first officially appointed rabbi arrived in 1961. In 1985, Rabbi Mordechai Avtzon from Chabad Lubavitch was invited to serve the community for one year and after finishing his term, stayed on in Hong Kong to create a center for the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Asia.

In 1969, a Hebrew school was set up in Hong Kong to promote Jewish education. By 1973, school attendance had grown to 80 children. In 1991, the Carmel Jewish Day School was established to give a full-time education option for the community's children.

In recent years, Hong Kong's growing population has led to a natural diversification in the religious life of the community. There are now four congregations, which have their own rabbis and places of worship. They are Orthodox Ohel Leah Congregation, the Chabad Lubavitch Congregation, the Progressive United Jewish Congregation, and the Conservative Shuva Israel Congregation.

Religious links between Hong Kong and China have enjoyed a revival since the mid-1980s, following the revival of Jewish Diaspora in China. The Ohel Leah Synagogue was quick to support these activities by serving as a source for Pesach supplies and various educational materials.

Also since 1980s, the Hong Kong Jewish Community has strengthened its tie with Israel. The Community center becomes a "home" for Israeli diplomatic and business representatives in Hong Kong. The Jewish community redeveloped the site of the Jewish Recreation Club and turned it into a modern Jewish Community Center in the early 1990s, serving the entire Jewish community of Hong Kong.

When Hong Kong reverted to China on July 1, 1997, the Jewish Community, who have played an important role in its development and contributed to its enterprise, its professions and its civil life, remain committed to the territory. According to the law a good many of the Hong Kong Jews have become Chinese citizens or have long-term residence rights. There were 2,500 Jews living in Hong Kong according to the statistics of the Israeli embassy, as of February 1998. It is estimated that about 5,000 Jews live in Hong Kong in 2000.

Jewish Community in Taiwan

Jews began to appear in Taiwan after the retreat of Chiang Kai-shek and his forces to Taiwan in 1949. The first lews were those who served in the US army stationed in Taiwan in the 1950s and Jewish religious services were first organized and held in the military compound. In the 1970s, as the Taiwan economy boomed, more and more Jews came to live or work in Taiwan. A Jewish community was first established in Taipei in 1975. Yaacov Liberman, who was born in Harbin and went to Israel in 1948, was elected as the community leader. The Communal

Besides Shabbat services at the Community Center, the Community also provides for visitors and those who stay in downtown regular Shabbat services every Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon at the President Hotel in Downtown of Taipei. Prayer books, prayer shawls, kosher wine, Havdalah candles, and spice boxes are kept in the hotel permanently. A monthly bulletin is published with material on all holidays and other religious activities. The Community is a member of the Asia Pacific lewish Association.

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NOTE:

Xu Xin - Professor of the Department of Religious Studies, Director of the Glazer Institute of Jewish and Israel Studies Nanjing University

DROWNING SEA' TELLS TALE OF JEWISH REFUGEES WHO FLED TO CHINA

BY AMY SPIRO

Holocaust documentary narrated by Julianna Margulies and Tony Goldwyn.

A documentary about Jewish Holocaust refugees who made their way to China will be playing this week at a US film festival.

Above the Drowning Sea, directed

by Rene Balcer – who is known for his work on Law and Order and Law and Order: Criminal Intent – premiered last week at the JCC in Manhattan. It will play at the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival next week and then head to the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival in November.

The film, narrated by Julianna Margulies (**The Good Wife**) and Tony Goldwyn (Scandal), tells the story of "the courageous intervention of Ho Feng Shan, the Chinese Consul in Vienna who defied his own government and braved the Gestapo to issue visas to the refugees."



The 90-minute film, shot in six countries, includes interviews with refugees themselves, Chinese residents who aided the newcomers and animation which tells some of the stories from 75 years ago.

"All my grandparents came here as Jewish refugees to a country that greeted them with open arms," Margulies said in statement. "When I was asked to narrate this film about refugees then and today, I immediately picked up the phone and said I'd do it.

Who wouldn't?" Balcer co-

produced the film with his wife, Carolyn Hsu-Balcer.

Balcer got his career start in 1973, as a cameraman covering the Yom Kippur War for Canadian media outlets. He stumbled into the job by accident, as he had just landed in Israel to visit a girlfriend when the war broke out.

At a post-screening discussion at The Asia Society in New York on Thursday night, Balcer noted how the story of Above the Drowning Sea still has such relevance today.

"They always say this is a nation of immigrants, well this is a planet of immigrants, of refugees, and there are always movements of populations," he said.

"Because, at some point, whether its 50 years ago, 10 weeks ago or 1,000 years ago, somebody told our ancestors yes you can stay here, and it's OK."

Jerusalem Post - OCTOBER 2, 2017

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Social Science

LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS

December 18, 2017

Scholarship Grants from the Alexander M. and June L. Maisin Foundation

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ALEXI Ofir	Technion	Computer Science
ALEXI Ariel	Bar- Ilan University	Computer Science
AMIR Tal	Shenkar	Industrial Engineering & Management
ASHKENAZI Menachem	The Open University	Psychology
AZRAN Niv	Tel Aviv University	Law
BANUSEVITCH Danit	Bar- Ilan University	Social Work
BAR-ILAN Tamar	Tel Aviv University	Business Administration
BEN ALTABET Osnat	University of Haifa	Management Education
BEN ALTABET Erez	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Mechanical Engineering
BEN DAVID Ilanit	Oranim- Academic College of Education	Special Education
BEN EPHRAIM Yoav	Tel Aviv University	Statistics & Computer Science
BEN HARUSH Pinchas	Tel Aviv University	Law
BENAISH Rina	Afeka Tel-Aviv Academic College of Engineering	Electrical Engineering
BOMASH Tal	ASA - The Academic College of Society and the Arts	Experienced therapists
BOOTON Noa	Ono Academic College	Occupational Theraphy
BORSHTEIN Rona	Kibbutzim College of Education	Dancing & Movement
BRAGIN Shahar	The Open University	Psychology
BRISKMAN Menachem	Ono Academic College	Law
COHEN Ziv	Oranim Academic College of Education	Kindergarten Teacher
COHEN Chen	Ariel University	Industrial Engineering & Management
COHEN Stav	Afeka College	Industrial Engineering & Management
DAVIDOVICH Ayala	Ben- Gurion University of the Negev	Psychology & Philosophy
EFRAT Ohad	Shenkar	Industrial Engineering
EFRAT Keshet	The Academic College of Tel-Aviv – Yaffo	Social Behaviour
EITAM Eliav	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Management
EPSHTEIN Oscar	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Software & Information Engineering
EPSHTEIN Shimon	Technological & Engineering education center	Civil Engineering
GALRON Yaniv	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	Electrical & Physics Engineering
GALRON Noy	Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design Jerusalem	Art
GOLAN Yonatan	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Preparatory to mechanical engineering
GREENER Ziv	Tel Aviv University	Environmental Studies
GUR Nof	Yezreel Valley College	Education and criminology
HACHAMOFF Nethalie	David Yellin Academic College of Education	Primary education
HAKMON Tal	The College of Management Academic Studies	Business Management
HALPERN Menachem Mendel	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	Computer Science
HAREL Shiran	Yezreel Valley College	Sociology, anthropology and education
HAZAN Esther	Bar- Ilan University	Medicine
HURI Adi	Ariel University	Civil Engineering
ISHAY Dafna	Tel Aviv University	Social Work
LERMAN Shira	The Academic College of Tel-Aviv – Yaffo	Organizational Management
LOWE Dana	University of Haifa	Humanities
LOWE Tom	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Medical Sciences
MEIR Hagar	Ben- Gurion University of the Negev	Physics/Mathematics
MORDEKOVICH Netanel	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Dentistry
NAGAR Dolev	Hadassah Academic College	Service organization management
NAHUMSON Shlomi	Bar- Ilan University	Social Science
NAVE Zachi	University of Haifa	Political Sciences
OFFIR Tomer	Shenkar	Fashion Design

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

UMANSKY Yam

University of Haifa **VANDEL Lavi Human Services & Sociology** Technion Computer Science **VANDEL Lior** Kibbutzim College of Education **VILDORF** Tomer Media and Cinema The Hebrew University of Jerusalem WEIC Revital Agriculture **IDC** Herzellya **Psychology WEINER Ariel Technion** Civil Engineering WEINSTEIN Michal WINKELSTEIN Elad **Ariel University** Criminology YAACOBI Shelly Bar- Ilan University Middle East YAACOBY Hagar Ben- Gurion University of the Negev **Business Management** YAGEV Avital Tel-Hai Academic College Education **YOSEF Ofir** David Yellin Academic College of Education Special Education Scholarship Grants from the ETHEL DUNN FOUNDATION Tel Aviv University **AMIEL Shahar Economics FAINBERG** Gilad Tel Aviv University Medicine Ben-Gurion University of the Negev **FALK Ariel Physics OZER** Koral Bar- Ilan University Social Science The College of Management Academic Studies PODOLSKY Dana **Business Administration** The College of Management Academic Studies **Business Administration and Accounting PODOLSKY Tal** Netanya Academic College SARUSI Gal Technion - Israel Institute of Technology SIMMER Ilan Civil Engineering Bar- Ilan University **SOKOLOVER Itay** Education Efrata College of Education STAVISKY Lee-Or Early Age Education Ashkelon Academic College STEPHENSON David Computer Science Tel Aviv University **FRANSIS Sharon** Management & Communication Ben-Gurion University of the Negev PARDO Hadar Humanities Afeka Tel-Aviv Academic College of Engineering PARDO Maayan **Industrial Engineering** Scholarships in memory of TEDDY KAUFMAN CHILIBON Shani Political Science Bar- Ilan University PERETZ Michelle Netanya Academic College Law **TSUR Noy** Tel Aviv University Management & Accounting Scholarship in memory of ELLA and SHLOMO LESK donated by Ilana and Giora Lesk **Feldenkrais KEDAR Tom** Wingait Institute Scholarship in memory of MUSSIA and DANY BERKOVICH donated by Ilana and Giora Lesk International relations and Iberian ZINMAN Noa The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and South American studies Scholarship in memory of ELLA and LEV PIASTUNOVICH **KOTKIN Lital Technion** Civil Engineering Scholarships in memory of FRIDA and MOSHE TRIGUBOFF KAIKOV Maya Lea Beit Berl College Education **KAIKOV Rotem** Ruppin Academic Center **Behavioural Sciences**

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KALFUS Shira Herzog Academic College Special education and mathematics KLEIN Raz Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Information System Engineering

KOMBELIS Lian University of Haifa Land of Israel Studies

Scholarship in memory of NATHAN BACHNOFF donated by his son Niv Bachnoff

KANTOR Hadas University of Haifa Social Work

Scholarships in memory of ASYA and MISHA KOGAN

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev **REISS Lael Health Sciences** 5 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev SCHWARTZ Amir Computer Science i Tel Aviv University **SHMERLING Tamir** Mechanical Engineering The Academic College of Tel-Aviv – Yaffo SHPILBERG Anat Behavioural Science n

ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY Scholarship Fund

YUANYU LIU (Sara)

ZHIGUI DENG

CHEN ZHAOPIN Tel Aviv University Electrical Engineering (M.Sc.)
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YONGXIN ZHOU Tel Aviv University Archaeology & History of the Land of the Bible (M.A.)

University of Haifa Global Green MBA

ZHENXIAO ZHAO Tel Aviv University Archaeology & History of the Land of the Bible (M.A.)

Tel Aviv University Physics (Optics) at the Electrical Engineering





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Records of Shanghai: One Man's Quest to Validate Memories of a Family's Refugee Past

By Kevin Ostoyich

Eric Kisch is a historian. Although he does not hold a Ph.D. and made a comfortable living as a market researcher, he is a historian nonetheless. The signs are all there: the storytelling, the pictures, the artwork, and the shelves of countless books, vinyls, CDs, and DVDs His house is a veritable feast for curious eyes. No matter where one looks, there is something to engage. In their home in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Eric and his wife, Sue, have created a space in which the past literally dances with the present. Eric's exquisite hifi system envelopes the living room with sounds of a Leonard Bernstein recording of Shostakovich's 5th Symphony and the drum strokes of a Joe Morello drum solo of fluctuating time-signature. Just like Morello, Eric Kisch plays with time. In the Kisch living room, those drum beats struck in the 1960s are to be experienced in the here and now. But history is not for the ears alone. The pictures on the walls of the Kisch home may date from the late nineteenth or the early twentieth centuries, but Eric talks about the people in the photographs with a familiarity and warmth that makes a visitor feel an instant bond. While pointing out the pictures of his longdeceased parents, Eric speaks in the present tense.

Like any good historian, Eric Kisch wants to record history, validate its authenticity, and bring it in conversation with us in the present. Also, like most historians, Eric is a collector. His vinyl and CD collection would rival any old record shop in Brooklyn. And for the last thirteen or so years, Eric has been putting these audio gems to good use on his weekly program

"Musical Passions" on Cleveland's classical music station, 104.9 WCLV. Every week Eric brings sounds of the past to listeners in the present.

Like most historians, Eric often feels himself to be a charlatan. He sheepishly admits that although he hosts a weekly radio station on classical music, he has never played an instrument, and his children would gladly pay him not to sing a tune. Like most surviving former Shanghai Jewish refugees, Eric was very young at the time and does not personally remember much of the experience. He was troubled, for example, when he went back to Shanghai in 2000 and visited the Ohel Moishe synagogue. There he had felt nothing, no real connection to the past. Perhaps the space was too actuated by the present for it to be an effective conduit to the past. Eric is more comfortable with records and documents, for primary sources do not bear the accruing patina of time. As with his hifi system, so it is with his Shanghai past: He has spent his "whole life trying to eliminate distortion." What then is the clear, documented past of Eric Kisch?

Erics parents were Walter Kisch and Grete Kisch (née Prossnitz). Walter was born on May 29, 1896, in Vienna.[1] He worked for twentyfive years for Neusiedler Papier Fabrik, the largest paper company in Austria. Walter's father, Alfred, served as the export director for the company, and Walter worked in the finance department. Grete was born on November 21, 1909, and grew up in an orthodox family. [2] She was sent to a girl's finishing school in Frankfurt and, according to Eric, was a "real Austrian Jewish princess."Family photo albums document a comfortable life in Vienna with frequent vacations to beach paradises in Italy, Switzerland, and Abbazia (Opatiya, Croatia). Grete was a striking beauty with piercing eyes and pensive countenance.

Eric does not know how his parents met and notes that there was quite a gap in age between them (thirteen years). They also possessed very different personalities. Walter had been a "very dashing man around town," with a "very wide circle of friends" and was often "cutting up." This contrasted starkly with Grete's "very sheltered existence" and reserved character. Be that as it may, the two fell madly in love and married in 1932. Eric shows sepia-toned photos from the "very fancy wedding." In 1937, Eric came along, to be followed the next year by the Anschluss.

After the Anschluss the German anti-Jewish laws were imposed in Austria quickly and severely. Jews had their properties and belongings confiscated and were subjected to public humiliation. Eric explains, for example, that when his Aunt Emmy and her cousin Edith graduated from the medical school at the University of Vienna, their "'graduation present' was to be [ordered] on their knees [to scrub] the pavement with toothbrushes while [...] being spat on." While Aunt Emmy was able to escape to America, Eric's family was not and stayed in Vienna. In the spring of the Anschluss, on May 29, 1938, Walter and his brother Dr. Ernst Kisch exited a tram near the apartment building where the Kisch family lived, and someone said "Na ja, die zwei seien Juden." ("Hey, those two are Jews.") They were then apprehended by the Gestapo,

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put on a truck, and incarcerated. The brothers then spent the next nine months in Dachau and performing Buchenwald slave labor. They were released from Buchenwald in February 1939. Eric shows a photograph of his father taken immediately after his release: His head is shorn, his eves distant. It had long been a mystery to Eric how his family managed to get the money to pay for this passage. The only way to be released was to show proof of passage out of the country. The problem was that Jewish assets were being confiscated, and this was the case for the Kisch family as well. It was not until much later (in the 2000s), after Eric's stepmother died, that he found a carbon copy of a letter that solved the mystery. On September 9, 1958, after having received his first reparations payment the from Austrian government, Walter sent this letter with accompanying check to a company in Amsterdam. Walter was making good on the money that had been advanced to his father, Alfred, to pay for the passage to Shanghai for Walter and Ernst. The proof of this passage had been the condition for their release from Buchenwald. In March 1939, Walter and Ernst embarked on their journey to China. Walter settled in Shanghai, and Ernst joined an American mission hospital in Shaanxi Province in Northwest China. Eric remembers his uncle, Dr. Ernst Kisch, as having been "a mysterious person, who would show up a couple of times a year wearing a tropical pith helmet and bringing a jar of fresh eggs or some sort of farm produce which we were completely starved of in Shanghai."[3]

In Shanghai Walter Kisch established a leather-goods retail store known as The Handbag in the French Concession. The store was designed by Walter's cousin, Oscar Steiner. It was very upscale with lots of glass and mirrors and high-end merchandise on display.

In August 1939, Walter petitioned the Shanghai Municipal Council for permission to allow Grete and Eric to come to Shanghai despite a prohibition on the entry of more refugees. His request was denied. [4] Eventually, though, the influx of refugees resumed and Grete, Eric, and Grete's mother, Anna Prossnitz (née Deutsch) made the long journey to Shanghai. On the way to Shanghai, they got a train from Vienna to Genoa. While staying in a hotel in Genoa as they waited for their voyage on the Conte Biancamano, Grete received a telegram from her uncle instructing her to visit a bookkeeper in the city, who would help her. Grete went to the man's address, knocked on the door, and said, "I am Grete Kisch, niece of Pepi Deutsch." The man let her in, directed her into another room, locked the door, got down on his knees, and told her that he loved her uncle and would help her; however, he implored her not to say anything to anyone about their meeting, for if it were to be found out he had helped Jews, he could be killed, and his family imprisoned. He then opened his wallet and gave her all he had. With this money, Grete, Eric, and Anna were able to subsist until their ship departed.

Grete's brother Ernst Prossnitz had made it from Austria to Australia. He was able to get permission for his mother to come as a dependent widow (given that her husband had recently died). So when Grete, Eric, and Anna arrived in Shanghai, Anna then traveled on to Melbourne, Australia via Japan. In Shanghai the Kisches lived in a comfortable apartment in the French Concession on the Rue Maresca. Grete helped Walter in the store, and the family was able to secure the services of an amah (a Chinese domestic) to look after the young Eric. Walter, Grete, and Eric were joined in Shanghai by Walter's aunt, Tante Lina, [5] and her two daughters. The daughters had married two brothers, one of whom was Oscar Steiner, the man who designed Walter's store. Another of Walter's cousins had also made it to Shanghai with his wife. The family lived in comfort; however, Eric's parents started to experience marital strife. This was kept from the boy.

Life took a decided turn for the worse in 1943 when the occupying Japanese forces declared that all stateless refugees who had arrived after January 1, 1937 (meaning, in practical terms, the Jewish refugees from Germany, Austria, and Eastern Europe) had to move into the Hongkew section of Shanghai, which Eric describes as having been "the worst, bombedout slum of the city." After the proclamation, the stateless lewsincluding Eric's family-were forced to give up their dwellings and businesses for pennies. Making landlords matters worse, Hongkew set rents at exorbitantly high rates knowing full well that the Jews were now compelled to live there. The Handbag was no more, and the Kisches had to move from their comfortable apartment in the French Concession to a cramped, one-room apartment in the Designated Area. Here the family was joined by Tante Lina. Walter was unemployed, and the family depended on meals provided by a soup kitchen sponsored by the Joint Distribution Committee and started to sell their belongings. The Hongkew experience took a great psychological toll on Grete. Later, in Australia after the war and her divorce from Walter, Eric asked his mother why she always kept so much food in the house for just the two of them. Her answer: "After Shanghai I promised myself I would never go hungry again."

Eric attended an English-speaking school known as the Shanghai Jewish Youth School. This school had been founded by the Kadoories, one of the wealthy Sephardic Jewish families. Eric enjoyed his schooling

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in Shanghai. He did not participate in many activities outside of school, however, and took no interest in sports. He had a few friends but was somewhat reserved as a child. (This will no doubt come as a shock to Eric's students and "Musical Passions" listeners today!) Like most other Shanghai refugees, he and his family had little to no interaction with the Chinese inhabitants of Shanghai and the Japanese occupation soldiers.

As the war progressed, his family increasingly had to go down into their cellar during air-raids. He explains that they would put a rucksack with their provisions on the dirt floor of the cellar. Eric would then lie on top of the rucksack, Grete would lie on top of Eric, and Walter would lie on top of both Grete and Eric. Eric remembers after these raids, he would go out and collect shrapnel. He remembers well the time the Americans accidentally bombed the Designated Area on July 17, 1945. One of Eric's friends had been playing on a balcony in an apartment building, when his mother came and took him down to the cellar. Their apartment was right next to where the bombs hit. When they went back up to their apartment after the raid was over, they saw the balcony littered with shrapnel; had the mother not fetched her son, he would have been "ripped to shreds." Walter was part of the firstaid brigade and helped out after the bombing. Eric explains that his father had served during the First World War, so "he was probably not too much of a stranger to this sort of carnage." Within a month of that awful raid, the Americans dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Japanese surrendered. Eric remembers much jubilation in the streets and a quick disappearance of Japanese soldiers from Shanghai. In the year that his family stayed in Shanghai after the war, two memories stick out in Eric's mind: The first is his having unknowingly served as a "pimp" for American sailors by leading them to nightclubs for coins. He remembers while celebrating his twenty-first birthday in Australia, his mother asking him, "Eric, did you ever notice that always the doors were opened by women?" It then dawned on him that his services on behalf of the gleeful Americans had been somewhat less than pure. The second memory is his finding discarded crates of oranges in the docks near the American ships. Most of the oranges were rotten, but Eric sifted through them, "rustled up a rickshaw, loaded it up with as many crates as would fit with me on board and went home back to Hongkew. And [...] that was the first time we had ever seen fresh fruit. [...] And to me, to this day, Sunkist is a holy brand!"

The Kisch family had never viewed Shanghai as a permanent home; they wanted out as soon as possible. A return to Austria was out of the question. Eric explains, "Shortly after the war ended, the full extent of the devastation of the Holocaust began to be revealed. And the death camps and the millions killed, and families that just literally disappeared off the face of the earth." Given that Grete's brother Ernst and other family members were already in Australia, the Kisch family decided to go to Australia. Ernst sponsored the family, and since the Australian government was opening up the country to immigrants, the migration process was fairly easy. The family left Shanghai in July 1946 on the U.S. troop transporter the General Gordon to Hong Kong, where they waited until late November 1946. They then flew from Hong Kong to Singapore (with a stop in Bangkok) on a DC3 and then from Singapore to Sydney, Australia, on a Sunderland Flying Boat. They eventually arrived in Melbourne on November 26, 1946.

The Shanghai experience was not something that Eric and his family

spoke much about in Australia. In the 1960s Eric moved to the United States in order to attend graduate school at Columbia University. As Eric pursued his studies and then his career as a market researcher, Shanghai did not factor largely in his mind. In fact, the Shanghai past did not really start to grab hold of Eric until the deaths of his parents: Walter in 1983 and Grete in 1993. After their deaths. Eric received documents and photographs pertaining to their lives. These documents lay dormant in the Kisch basement until Eric was asked by his cousin, Alice, in 2001 if he would speak about his experiences to a Children of the Shoah group in Melbourne. It was at this time that Eric's wife, Sue, went down to the basement, brought up the bins with the documents and said, "Now's the time to go through them." As Eric started to go through the documents, he read an account that Grete wrote about her time in Shanghai. Alongside this brief memoir were photographs and the telegram Grete had received from her uncle about going to see the man in Genoa, who proceeded to give her all the money from his wallet. This telegram inspired Eric to start his quest to find documents to "validate his memories" of Shanghai. Given that he had been so young while his family lived in Shanghai, most of his "memories" are collections of stories that had been told to him while he was growing up in Australia after the Shanghai experience. It has become very important for him to "validate" these memories with historical documents and spread awareness of this history to others. He now characterizes this quest as an "obsession."

In addition to hosting his radio program, Eric teaches courses at the Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University. In the classroom and on the radio he explores the works of composers who were banned by the Nazis,

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as well as the contributions of immigrants to American classical music. Eric explains that his experience as a former Shanghai refugee and American immigrant has inspired him to focus on these should inform present. Spec Shanghai Jew in current immigrants a clear parallel.

themes. As Eric has been inspecting documents and lecturing on the history of the Shanghai Jews, he has been confronted with the meaning of that history. History, after all, is not about memorizing dates and events, but rather finding meaning within them. Eric thinks the history of the Shanghai Jews has a meaning, the knowledge of which will enrich anyone who learns about it. He believes "it is a very worthwhile story to tell people, even though it's from the perspective of just our family. [...] It is an amazing story [...] of survival for a huge number of people, and it's one that has influenced me personally, and if I can make [others] feel some degree of empathy to what went on there and get [others] on a journey of study and learning, then it is worthwhile." To Eric the meaning of the Shanghai history starts simply with the acknowledgement that it happened. He points out that not many people know that approximately 20,000 Jews found haven in Shanghai when the rest of the world closed its doors to them. Eric believes it is important to remind people that he and others actually survived. The destruction of the Holocaust is important to remember but so too is the survival from it. Although Eric is not a particularly observant Jew, he still holds Passover, the festival of freedom, very dear. He explains, "I won't eat bread [during Passover], not for liturgical or theological reasons, but somehow as a symbol that we survived this horrendous time, and [to] never forget that we were fortune enough to do that." The memory of Eric's Shanghai past finds symbolic expression every year in the matzo he consumes.

For Eric, the lessons of the past

should inform one's actions in the present. Specifically, the history of Shanghai Jews should be broached current discussions about immigrants and refugees. Eric sees clear parallels between his family's refugee history and the antiimmigrant and anti-refugee rhetoric of today. For this reason he feels he has "a duty to speak out": "The details I have gained by studying [this history] I feel have enriched my life and my understanding of this past. [...] It has made me very mindful of what's going on [today]. [For] once a refugee you see them everywhere. And my heart bleeds for all of them."

As Eric's heart bleeds, those of others, it seems, have turned cold. He notes with growing frustration and unhappiness "the kind of atmosphere that is being bred [by] our leaders" and finds "the kind of acquiescence to intolerance and racial hatred that is evident in Congress [...] terrifying." When contemplating this acquiescence to intolerance and racial hatred toward immigrants and Syrian refugees, Eric is reminded of the famous quotation of Pastor Martin Niemöller:

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me-and there was no one left to speak for me."[6] Speaking from a history in which Jews have been targeted and abandoned, Eric says, "The question that some of my Jewish friends askand we ask this in the presence of our non-Jewish friends-is 'Who's next?'" As he thinks about the indifference and hatred shown toward present-day refugees, he turns to other historical quotations for guidance, stating "I am appalled by the insensitivity to the refugee

refusal, and it resonates very deeply personally to me, you know, 'There but for the grace of God go I, and there by the grace of God did I go.' And one of our family mottos is from King Lear: 'Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel...[That thou mayst shake the superflux to them, And show the heavens more just.1" In the courses Eric teaches in the Siegal Lifelong Learning Program, he tries to incorporate historical examples of people who have lived in accordance with this motto. People like the American Varian Fry, who worked to help over 2,000 people escape the Nazis. Eric notes that, unfortunately, people tend to forget such cases of courage and empathy much too easily: "It is that loss of memory that we seem to be going through right now, historical memory. Does history repeat itself? Yes, because people forget."

Today people are forgetting, and history is repeating itself. Today hatred is again on display. **Immigrants** are again vilified and refugees dehumanized. The president's distorted response to Charlottesville has served as an endorsement of racism and hatred at a time when political rhetoric has increasingly become divorced from historical documentation. Just as the music the millennial generation hears has been digitally compressed beyond recognition, the history it encounters is channeled through talking heads of cable news networks. If this generation is to learn where such vilification and dehumanization can lead, it must start to learn from a record's needle. The message of Eric Kisch's familythose who survived in Shanghai, those who were shot in Rotterdam, and those who perished in the extermination camps-needs to be conveyed with the precision of a Bernstein down beat and a Morello drumbeat. Although historians such as Eric Kisch and myself may feel at times to be charlatans, knowing full well that the past can never be

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merged perfectly with the present, the Holocaust we record is not "fake news." The records of the past reveal without distortion that unchecked hatred and dehumanization lead to death and destruction. Now, more than ever before, the history of those Jews who found refuge in Shanghai and those who did not needs to be transmitted to the present in high fidelity.

Professor Kevin Ostoyich's research on the history of the Shanghai Jews is being sponsored by a research grant of the Sino-Judaic Institute and the Wheat Ridge Ministries - O.P. Kretzmann Memorial Fund Grant of Valparaiso University.

[1] Walter had a total of four siblings: 1) Annie, who was the eldest child and had married a Czech. She and her husband ran a suitcase factory in Czechoslovakia and had two children. The whole family was killed by the Germans, and Eric says that his father, Walter, once alluded to the fact that Annie had been subjected to Dr. Josef Mengele's medical experiments. Eric explains that when he learned this, "even as a callow teenager, I knew, you do not ask a follow-up question to that." 2) Ernst, a medical doctor who traveled with Walter to China. 3) Robert, who lived in Prague with an Irish wife (Louie). 4) Edgar, who married a woman named Edith and had a son named Peter. After putting Peter on a Kindertransport to England, the parents went to

Rotterdam. Edith wrote to Peter that Edgar had found a good job in Rotterdam, and they were going to stay in Rotterdam and then try to go to England within six months. Three months later the Germans invaded Rotterdam and Edgar and Edith were shot. Given that he had been brought into England in the Kindertransport, Peter survived and moved to New York City and has a daughter. Peter and his daughter are the only surviving relatives Eric has on his father's side.

[2] Grete was one of four children. She had two brothers and a sister. Her sister, Emmy, emigrated to New York after graduating from medical school in Vienna. In New York her medical credentials were not recognized so she had to start from scratch. She worked as a nurse, and eventually became an anesthesiologist. Grete's brother Paul became an ardent Zionist and left for Palestine in either 1936 or 1937 and later emigrated to Australia in 1948. Grete's brother Ernst, an engineering graduate in Vienna, had learned English and befriended an elderly Australian, who needed an assistant, who could act as a translator and guide for him. Ernst agreed, and the man sponsored Ernst's entry into Australia via Italy.

[3] After his years as a mission doctor in China, Ernst went briefly to the United States. Feeling disrespected in New York, where

his medical credentials were not readily transferable, Ernst signed up to work for an American mission hospital in Kaesong, South Korea, in June 1950. Three weeks after he arrived, the North Koreans invaded and he was captured. After having saved many lives of his fellow prisoners, he died of malnutrition in captivity.

[4] The correspondence regarding Walter's unsuccessful attempt in August 1939 is to be found on the fourth microfilm reel of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, RG-62.001M, "Selected Records of the Shanghai Municipal Archives, 1930-1947."

[5] Tante Lina Winkler was the sister of Walter's mother, Emma.

[6]https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007392

The views expressed are those of the author(s) alone. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies.



Kevin Ostoyich Valparaiso University

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BOOK REVIEWS

Jewish Footprints in Harbin: Concise Historical Notes

犹太人在哈尔滨的印迹:哈尔滨犹太历史文化旅游指南

By Dan Ben-Canaan



During the first half of the twentieth century, Harbin was a politically, culturally economically and contested region, of which any foreign entity wanted a piece. In the late nineteenth century, the region and the new city became the center of competing Russian and Japanese interests as well as those of the major powers of the time, thereby also attracting global attention.

This hub of railway junctions in the wilderness of Northeast China drew into it people of different geographies, interests and dreams.

The coexistence of people with different nationalities, ethnicities and cultures in Harbin was rarely if ever harmoniously balanced or stationary. On the contrary, interactions were both dynamic and complex. Semiexperiences colonial affected the people's living conditions, status and power relations. And foreign nationals of all kinds were architecting the city's unique place in the Chinese contemporary history. Harbin was a hub for transcultural negotiations between all population groups, and these whose members came from across many borders found themselves sharing an alien environment, a Chines soil, that offered new opportunities, new hopes and new lives.

The city that was established in 1898 on the southern bank of the Songhua

River, drew into it everyone who had a reason to seek a new home. Among the new comers, were Jews from geographical locations, different mainly from Eastern Europe and the Russian Empire. They brought their former spaces with them, created a new local existence, maintained global connections and influenced global events.

The Jewish community of Harbin that functioned for nearly 6 decades left its footprints in the city. These are a witness to the lewish contribution and influence to the social, economic and cultural characteristics of present Harbin. Mostly, however, are important marks to the Jewish heritage and legacy in the city.

This book presents a concise history of the Jewish community in Harbin. It brings to life many important Jewish sites across the city, as well as various people and their legacies here.

"Jewish Footprints in Harbin: Concise Historical Notes" is the first part of a Harbin Jewish historical trilogy by Dan Ben-Canaan. The second book, "Echoes of Harbin", is schedule to be published at the end of 2019. It will be followed by the third part of the trilogy "The Royal Mountain Cemetery: A Jewish Resting Place".

Book Chapters:

Preface

Introduction

A Brief History of the Jews of Harbin: How a Manchurian Fishing Village Became a Railroad Town and a home for lews

Jewish Spaces within Harbin The Jewish Cemetery in Harbin Stories behind the Tombstones The Last lew in Harbin

Jewish Heritage Tourist Routes Harbin Today

About the author

Dan Ben-Canaan

Dan Ben-Canaan is a Professor of Research and Writing Methodologies at Northeast Forestry University, School of Postgraduate Studies in Harbin where he heads a research academic writing program for postgraduate students, PhD candidates and members of various faculties.

He is a Professor Emeritus of Heilongjiang University, School of Western Studies where he lectured for 14 years.

Professor Dan Ben-Canaan is the founder and Executive Director of the Sino-Israel Research and Study Center (SIRSC) attached to the Harbin Jewish Culture Association, which he and his wife Liang Yisha founded in 2014.

He holds a Hon. Research Fellow position at the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences, and is among the very few people who received an honorary citizenship of Harbin. He is a Visiting Professor for Advanced Studies, Research and Information with the Postgraduate Studies at Heilongjiang Sheng Wei Dang Xiao - Heilongjiang Provincial CCP Party School.

His research focuses on the history of Northeast China, Harbin as an international city, the Japanese Occupation of China, and the History of the Jews in Harbin and China. He has written many articles on political and social issues in the Far East, published three information and news oriented magazines, co-written articles for international journals

and has authored eight books. He serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Heilongjiang Television English News program, and is a contributing Op-Ed Columnist at the Chinese Global Times newspaper.

Professor Dan Ben-Canaan was appointed as the official advisor for the reconstruction project of the Old Synagogue, the Jewish High School and 2 other building that form the

Jewish block on Tongjiang Street. He serves as an advisor to Heilongjiang, Harbin and Daqing governmental bodies.

His book "The Kaspe File: A Case Study of Communities in Conflict Under the Japanese Occupation 1932-1945" was published in 2009. His latest book "Entangled Histories - The Transcultural Past of Northeast China" was published by Springer in

2014. He currently is working on a trilogy on the history of the Jewish community in Harbin.

Professor Ben-Canaan was born in Israel and has been living in Harbin China for the past 20 years.

Courtesy of Prof. Dan Ben Canaan - May 2018

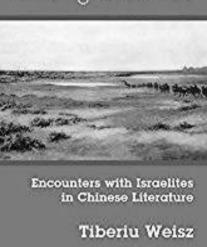
China Education Press, Beijing

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A History of the Kaifeng Israelites

Encounters with Israelites in Chinese Literature By Tiberiu Weisz - Published 2017

A History of the Kaifeng Israelites



The book traces the Israelites presence in China to the earliest times. It weaves the story of the Kaifeng Israelites from original archives, memorials to the emperors, and local articles with Western sources. For the first

time readers are exposed to the activities of the "seventy clans", as the Chinese Jews considered themselves "all offspring of Jacob were seventy persons" (Ex 1:5) in dynastic China. This small Israelite community believed they were the sole remnants of "all Israel" (klal Israel). They lived in the outskirts of China in administrative enclaves that encouraged sinocization. Chinese sages such as Laozi quoted them, Confucius referred to them while Mencius described them, possibly had a discourse with one of them, and later literature treated them as natives. After the 2nd century CE they settled in China proper and Chinese literature mentioned them in the Han, Sui, Wei, Tang and Song dynasties where they lived in almost anonymity.

A History of the Kaifeng Israelites is an in-depth study of a small group of Israelites who migrated after exile from East to farther East, all the way to China. Ever since this community was discovered in 1605 in Kaifeng, it generated controversy due to lack of communication, formidable language barriers, misunderstandings and prejudiced observations.

The book combines Chinese and lewish sources, in conjunction with the stone inscriptions to present the story of the Kaifeng Israelites in a dual lewish and Chinese framework. To that end, the author has translated texts from ancient Chinese literature that attest to the presence and activities of lews in ancient China. It also correlates the Chinese version of the origin of the Kaifeng community with Hebrew and Western sources, the role of the inscription in the life of the Kaifeng Israelites and analyzes the various visual accounts of Chinese travelers to Kaifeng in early 20th century.

This is their story.

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STANK WESTER

S i By Kevin Ostoyich





The First Wave of Jewish Migration to Shanghai (1843-1920)

In the same treaty that ceded Hong Kong Island to the British as reparations for the Opium War (1839-1842), SHANGHAI and four other Treaty Ports along China's eastern coast opened to foreign traders. History records the first Jew to pass through Shanghai was a British soldier in 1841; however, the first Jewish settlers did not begin to arrive in Shanghai until 1848.

The First Wave of Jewish migration to Shanghai is marked by the arrival of Sephardic Jews from Baghdad and Bombay. The most successful of these-the Sassoons and Hardoons - built many of the city's greatest business empires, and many of the city's landmark buildings including Sassoon House, the Metropole Hotel, Grosvenor House, the Embankment Building, Hamilton House and Cathay Mansions.

In the 1870s, the Baghdadi community rented space for religious worship, and in 1887 organized the Beth El Synagogue, predecessor to the Ohel Rachel Synagogue.

Ohel Rachel Synagogue Established 1920)

The Ohel Rachel Synagogue marked the culminating achievement of Shanghai's First Wave of Jewish immigrants. It was built to accommodate the community of Baghdadi Jews (which at its peak numbered 700), opened in March 1920, and was consecrated by Rabbi W. Hirsch for worship on January 23, 1921.

An imposing building, the Ohel Rachel Synagogue held up to 700 people in its cavernous sanctuary. Marble pillars flanked a walk-in ark (which once held 30 Torah scrolls) and wide balconies overlooked the sanctuary. The site hosted the Shanghai Jewish School (the 1932 building still stands on the left of the courtyard), a playground, library and mikveh. It was located on Seymour Road (now 500 North Shaanxi Road) and styled after the Spanish and Portuguese Bevis Marks (1701) and Lauderdale Road Synagogues (1896) in London.

Sir Jacob Elias Sassoon - a Baghdadi Jew - endowed the Synagogue in loving memory of his wife Lady Rachel. When Sir Jacob died a few months prior to the Synagogue's completion, the Jewish community decided to dedicate it to both Sir Jacob and his wife. Sir Jacob had also endowed Hong Kong's Ohel Leah Synagogue, dedicated to his mother, consecrated in 1900.

Today and for the future, the Ohel Rachel Synagogue remains the most significant symbol of the crucial Jewish role in Shanghai's history. Ohel Rachel was the first of seven synagogues built in Shanghai, and only one of two still standing Today. The other, the Ohel Moishe Synagogue located in Hong Kou district, hosts a museum dedicated to the history of the Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

The Second Wave of Jewish Migration to Shanghai (1920-1937)

The Second Wave was marked by the migration of thousands of Russian Jews first to Northeast China, and later to Shanghai. This period also saw a substantial increase in the wealth of the Baghdadi Jewish community, who organized charitable works for their Russian brethren.

Shanghai boomed in the 1920s, as did the Baghdadi and Ashkenazi communities, which had grown to a population of approximately 1,700. Through their activities in real estate and the stock exchange, these Jews played an active and important role in the development of Shanghai. The community maintained three synagogues, two Baghdadi and one Ashkenazi, a school, two cemeteries, a hospital, club, bakeries, meat shops, and much more.

Fleeing pogroms and revolutions in Russia, Russian Jews traveled via Siberia to cities in North-east China such as Harbin, Tianjin and Dalian. But it was not until the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in 1931 that Russian Jews moved to Shanghai in great numbers. Numbering 4,500 at their peak in the 1930s, Russian Jews were relatively poor compared to their Baghdadi counterparts. Some took jobs as small merchants, opened coffee shops, or were musicians who left a lasting mark on local Shanghainese society.

In 1928, the Russian Jews invited Rabbi Meir Ashkenazi, a member of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement to lead their community. Much loved and respected for his untiring efforts and devotion on behalf of all Shanghai Jewry, Rabbi Ashkenazi

(Continued on page 51)

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Finding the heart of Shanghai, a haven for Jews in World War II

By Julie L. Kessler



As I walked through Shanghai's Hongkou district on a cold February day, I saw the names written in English, seven times, on a museum's bronze perimeter wall. First name. Middle initial. Then Kessler - my last name.

I was stunned. They were among the Jews, 13,700 of them, who had spent some or all of World War II here and were present during the 1944 census conducted by the occupying Japanese.

Their stories reminded me of my family's story. I knew that old Shanghai was home to a significant Jewish community, but I didn't know it had left such a mark on the city.

During my three days here, I saw a decorative wrought-iron Star of David on a front door in the former Jewish ghetto, a synagogue repurposed as a museum, a park plaque in Hebrew and a onetime movie theater and roof garden that had been the heart of Shanghai's thriving Jewish community.

These remnants, so unexpected, so misplaced, altered my perception of Shanghai and, indeed, China. I had found its heart.

Getting to Shanghai

Books about Jews arriving and living in Shanghai in the late 1930s are displayed at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum.

Between 1938, shortly after the infamous Kristallnacht pogrom of Nazi Germany, and the end of 1941, more than 20,000 Ashkenazi Jews, mostly Austrian, German, Lithuanian and Polish - all stateless refugees

- arrived in Shanghai, where they spent the war years.

Shanghai, known then as the "port of last resort," didn't require entry papers. But getting there during those years was impossible without the coveted and nearly impossible to obtain laissez-passer, or transit visa. These were issued mainly by two Asian diplomats, Chiune Sempo Sugihara, the Japanese consul general in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania, and Ho



Feng-Shan, the Nationalist Chinese consul general in Vienna.

Sugihara and Ho worked covertly, contrary to their superiors' orders and governments' positions. Both were instrumental in saving thousands of Jewish lives; Sugihara issued about 4,000 transit visas and Ho more than 4,000.

Ho never told anyone what he'd done; his heroics came to light only after his 1997 death in San Francisco, when his daughter, Manli Ho, found the wartime evidence among his belongings. Ho Feng-Shan has since been called the "Chinese Schindler," after Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who had saved the lives of more than 1,000 Jews.

Shanghai's Little Vienna

Residents play a board game in Shanghai's former Jewish ghetto. (Peter Parks / AFP / Getty Images)
Remnants of the former Jewish community still exist in the Hongkou district, where refugees first settled and opened delicatessens and bakeries just as they had done on the Lower East Side of New York.

The Broadway Cinema, on Huoshan

Road, is now a small hotel. Although its beautiful Art Deco facade is fading, with just a bit of imagination, one can envision it as the center of Shanghai's Jewish social gatherings. Atop the cinema was the Mascot Roof Garden where concerts were held and people danced. Across the street was Café Roy, another busy gathering spot.

During those years in Shanghai, there were six synagogues and four cemeteries. Today only two of the original temple buildings remain, neither of which is used as a synagogue. One became a government building, and the other, the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue on Changyang Road, became the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum. The synagogue was built in 1907 by Russian Jews who had escaped czarist pogroms. (It was moved to its current location in 1927.) The museum complex, lovingly restored, is an excellent repository of wartime



items, including English-captioned photos, newspapers and artifacts. There's also a screening room where I viewed a well-done short film on refugees.

A massive metal sculpture depicting several refugees sits on the museum grounds, as well as that polished perimeter wall engraved with the names of Jews present during the 1944 census, including those seven Kesslers.

Both the sculpture and the wall are powerful reminders of the coupling of Jewish and Chinese history.

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The Shanghai Ghetto

From left: One of the old lanes in the former Jewish ghetto; the entry of the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue; the Proclamation issued by the Imperial Japanese navy and army effectively establishing the lewish ghetto in Shanghai's Hongkou section. (Julie Kessler)

In February 1943, at Nazi Germany's instigation, the commanders in chief of the Japanese army and navy issued a proclamation restricting the residences and businesses of the stateless refugees, in effect establishing the Shanghai Ghetto.

The roughly one square mile of old, narrow lanes and dark, cramped alleyways is bordered by Gongping Road on the west, Tongbei Road on the east, Huimin Road on the south and Zhouiiazui Road on the north.

Although there were no walls enclosing the ghetto, and Jews there were treated benignly relative to their European counterparts, there were deprivations, limited movements and checkpoints.

I walked through the ghetto on a chilly Sunday morning with Shanghai resident Dvir Bar-Gal, an Israeli journalist-documentarian who has been guiding tours of the area for more than 14 years.

In the center of peaceful, manicured Huoshan Park - formerly Wayside



Park - stands a large bronze plaque, inscribed in Mandarin, English and Hebrew, that commemorates the "Designated Area for Stateless Refugees."

Also on Huoshan Road, a four-story building, constructed in 1910, served

as the branch office of the New York-based American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The IDC provided meals, medical assistance, educational supplies and other necessities to needy refugees.

Bar-Gal led me through some of the old lanes where refugees once lived. Inside one tiny, windowless home, where three Chinese families reside today, many dozens lived during wartime.

At one such ghetto residence on Zhoushan Road, a decorative metal Star of David hung on the diminutive home's exterior door, a stark reminder of residents past.

When the Japanese were defeated and the war ended, the Jews of Shanghai went on to new lives in Australia, Canada, the U.S. and South America.

The beating heart of humanity had saved thousands of lews. Not everyone was as lucky, including members of my family, but it's without a doubt a lesson in compassion worth heeding.

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Shanghai Jewish History | Continued from page 82

led the community until his departure to New York in 1949.

The Third Wave (1938-1952)

During World War II, the city of Shanghai provided refuge to a Third Wave of Jews escaping from persecution in Europe. During this era, there was a great contrast between the stateless refugees who fled from war-torn Europe and the established Jewish entrepreneurs who were prospering in Shanghai. Now, the Sephardic and Russian communities business worked together to organize food, shelter and clothing for the European refugees.

From 1938 on, some 20,000 Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria escaped to Shanghai, the only place in the world that did not require a visa to enter. Among them was Michael Blumenthal, who later became

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in the Carter Administration, and the late Shaul Eisenberg, who founded and ran the Eisenberg Group of Compalnies in Israel.

Between 1939 and 1940, approximately 2,000 Polish Jews escaped to Shanghai, avoiding certain death. Among these, all the teachers and students of the Mir Yeshiva, some 400 in number, miraculously survived and continued their studies in the Beth Aharon Synagogue, the only place of worship with space enough to hold the entire Yeshiva. They escaped Poland through Vilna, obtained transit visas to Japan from Sugihara Chiune, the Japanese consul in Kovno, and finally made their way to Shanghai.

The Japanese invaded China in 1937, and later occupied the area around Shanghai. From December 1941 to 1945, the Japanese interned the population of Shanghai Jews who were citizens of Allied countries. "Stateless refugees" from Germany, Austria, or Poland were relocated to a ghetto in Hong Kou ("Hong Kew"), while those from neutral countries like Iraq and Russia were left alone. Despite these difficult conditions, the Jewish community adapted to retain its culture, tradition and social lifestyle.

By the end of the war, Shanghai was home to approximately 24,000 Jews. After the end of the war in 1945 and with the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the community dwindled, with many Jews emigrating to Israel, the United States, Australia and Hong Kong.

> **Courtesy of Shanghai Jewish Center - 2018**

A Survivor's Luck: Reflections on Berlin and Shanghai

Kevin Ostoyich

Harry Katz is lucky. As a man who has had a life-long love of numbers, he knows the odds were stacked against him from the beginning: He was born a Jew in Hitler's Berlin on March 4, 1933. And yet he survived. As he sits in a penthouse suite of Caesar's Palace in the gambler's paradise that is Las Vegas, he thinks of those who were not as lucky as he...

A House of Cards

Harry's father, Julius Katz, was born in Posen on October 7, 1877. Harry's mother, Frieda Katz (née Selmanson), was born in Berdychiv in the Russian Empire on August 2, 1898. Harry does not know how his parents met, but he thinks they did so in Lübeck, Germany. Frieda was a housekeeper, and Julius had a number of jobs including that of a salesman for a chocolate factory. The couple had four children. In addition to Harry there was Hans (ten years older than Harry), Horst (seven years older than Harry), and Ilse (five years older than Harry). As the youngest child, Harry was tasked by his siblings to ask their father for chocolate so they could put it in the cream of wheat they often had for breakfast.

The family lived in a third-floor apartment in Berlin. The first floor of the building served as an SS headquarters and a police station was located across the street. This did not worry the family too much though, because Julius was a veteran of the First World War and had friends in both the SS and the police. In fact, he played cards with them every Friday night. With such an ace in the hole, Julius was certain nothing would happen to him and his family.

On Kristallnacht (November 9-10, 1938) the family's house of cards came crashing down though. Harry remembers on the morning of

November 10, the "rest of the kids had gone off to school, and my father had gone out to get a shave and a haircut, and I was home with my mother. We heard the sound of boots coming up the stairs. There was a knock. He was a Gestapo. And he said, 'Is your husband home?' And my mother said, 'No.' And he said, 'Well, make sure you go out and find him, don't let him come home, because if he does, we'll have to pick him up. You have one hour to take whatever belongings you can with you. We will lock the place up. And once you find another place to live, then we'll let you come back in and get the rest of your belongings.' So, actually, that was probably a slight accommodation because of the friendships that my father had." Harry was five years old at the time, and to him Kristallnacht meant he did not have a party for his sixth birthday (March 4, 1939): Harry explains that not having a birthday party "to me was the most meaningful thing that I missed. Actually, being so young was a blessing." Given his young age, he had not yet formed deep emotional attachments to his family. Harry says, "the fact that this happened to me when I was that young really helped because, I mean, sixteen of the aunts and uncles didn't make it." After Kristallnacht Iulius started looking for a way to get the family out of Germany. He applied for an exit visa and was able to secure one on December 7, 1938.

This gave the family one year to leave the country. But where to go? Finding a destination was not easy because most countries closed their borders to the Jews. As historian David S. Wyman has chronicled in detail, the United States erected obstacles to prevent the immigration of Jews. Eventually, Julius found out that Jews could escape to Shanghai. Harry does not know why, but the family split up: Hans was to go to Palestine; Horst was to go on a Kindertransport to England; and the rest of the family was to go to Shanghai. In April 1939, Julius, Frieda, Ilse, and Harry took an overnight train to Genoa, Italy. From there Frieda took one boat and Julius, Ilse, and Harry boarded the Conte Biancamano, to Shanghai. Harry does not know why these were the particular arrangements, but guesses this was simply the best Julius could manage for the family. Harry remembers the trip to Shanghai lasting four weeks, his getting seasick on the journey, and his father assigning Ilse to look after him. Meanwhile, Hans started out on his journey to Palestine by first going to Cologne. In Cologne, he was apprehended by the Gestapo and sent back to Berlin. Subsequently, the family received some correspondence from Hans "in the early 40s, and then it stopped." Years later, the family learned that Hans had died in Auschwitz. The second son, Horst, decided rather than taking the Kindertransport

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to England, where the family had cousins, he "wanted to be with the rest of the family. And at the tender age of thirteen he somehow managed to get his documentations changed and followed the same route by train to Genoa, Italy, and followed us to Shanghai."

A Will to Survive

Shortly after arriving in Shanghai, both Horst and Ilse contracted polio. Horst's case was particularly acute, and he had to stay in hospital for two years in Shanghai. As a result of the disease, Horst had a severe curvature of the spine. Harry explains, "To give you an idea of how advanced the medical technology was, they literally hung him out the window in a harness to try to straighten him out." Ilse's case was milder. She had to wear a metal corset to strengthen her body. Always the lucky one, Harry did not contract the disease.

By the time the family left Germany at the relatively late date of April 1939, the Nazis had imposed severe restrictions regarding what lews could take with them out of the country. As a result, the family was quite destitute. Harry remembers arriving in Shanghai: "It seemed like there were people all over, and I know there was a truck waiting to pick us up to take us to the first place we lived, which was in Alcock Camp." Harry notes that many Jews who had fled to Shanghai earlier had been able to take more of their valuables with them and thus were able to live in the more fashionable neighborhoods of Shanghai (such as the French Concession). Harry's family did not have much of anything, and had to live in the poorest section of the city, Hongkew, the whole time. The living arrangements in the Alcock Camp were far from ideal: "We were in a large room with thirty other families, and we used bedsheets and tablecloth to kind of divide the spaces and get whatever privacy we could." After Alcock Camp they moved into a one-room apartment in Wayside Camp, where they stayed the longest during their years in Shanghai. "We had two bunk beds, so my mother and my father were on the bottom and my sister and I were on top, and then there was a little alcove, like a balcony, that my brother, who-after he got out of the hospital from polio-[...] had[.] But that one room served as a bedroom, living room, dining room, whatever."

Julius was sixty-one years old when the family arrived in Shanghai and found it difficult to adjust and find work. The only job that Harry remembers his father having in Shanghai was as a supplier of local news to a newspaper; however, he did not do so as a full-fledged reporter. Briefly, Julius and Frieda tried to run a coffee stand with a partner, but could not continue because the demands of looking after two polio-stricken children were too great. Frieda was able to secure some income intermittently by working as a housekeeper and nanny in various homes. Overall, though, the family lived "hand to mouth." They were able to acquire basic staples through food stamps. They also went to the relief kitchen, where they received such fare as red beans, rice, and corn-on-thecob. For Harry, corn-on-the-cob and sweet potatoes were always his favorites, and remain so to this day. The camps not only provided food but social sustenance as well. Wayside Camp had a canteen, half of which was "a coffee shop or café, and the other half was used as a synagogue and also for performances. So that's how we interacted [...] with one another." Theater revues were held in the canteen. Usually the adults would have a revue on Saturday evening, and the young people would have theirs the next morning. On one occasion Harry served as the emcee for the young people's revue:

"I went to attend the revue Saturday night and listened to some of the jokes. And when people laughed, I tried to remember that joke. I didn't know why they were laughing. But then, the next morning, I would tell those jokes to the young revue, and the adults in the audience would laugh, and the young kids didn't know what I was talking about, but from that time on [...] and today, I still like to tell jokes because I enjoy to hear people laugh."

children who lived Hongkew attended the Shanghai Jewish Youth Association school. The land and building for this school had been donated by the wealthy Sephardic Jew Sir Ellis Kadoorie. The curriculum was rigorous, and in order to graduate from the high school one had to pass the Cambridge University entrance exam. Harry excelled in mathematics. He and Ilse shared a room, and at night they would give each other chain problems of multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction of whole numbers: "One would give the problem and the other one would answer, and then they would give the problem, and the other one would answer. And you kept doing this until you didn't get an answer any more, and then you knew that person was asleep, and then you went to sleep. [...] It meant that early in our childhood we really became very familiar with numbers, and I've been a numbers person ever since. And I can still add numbers faster than most people can do it on a calculator."

He jokingly adds, "if they had never invented the calculator, I might be famous now!" When Harry was eleven or twelve he started to train to become a rabbi at the Mir Yeshiva. While doing this he did not attend regular school, and his family had to keep a kosher house.

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This lasted for about a year and a half. Harry did not enjoy the Mir Yeshiva experience and believes it actually distanced him from the faith to a considerable extent.

On a more positive note, Harry remembers he and other children riding scooters, which were forerunners to skateboards. These could be rented for an hour or so. Children also participated in many sports, including soccer and track and field. Harry loved all sports, and as a left-footer, he was always in demand on the soccer field as a leftfielder. Harry joined the Boy Scouts and later, after the end of the war, he briefly participated in the Betar. His friends and playmates were predominantly other Jewish refugee children who went to the same school or lived in the same camp. They generally did not interact with Chinese children. They also did not have much interaction with the Japanese. For him the biggest engagement with the Japanese was that the occupying forces mandated that Japanese become part of their curriculum. He says, "teachers had to teach it, and students reluctantly had to take the course." He and the other Jewish refugee children tended to have more interaction with the children of the White Russians who lived in the area. He does not remember any stateless Russian Jews having attended his school.

Although the attack on Pearl Harbor of December 1941 and the Proclamation of the Designated Area in 1943 had considerable consequences for westerners living in Shanghai, they did not have as much of an effect on Harry's family, given his family already was poor and living in the part of Hongkew where the Japanese set up the Designated Area. The Proclamation meant that other Jewish refugeesmany of whom had been in much material circumstancesbetter now had to move into the area.

Distinctions still remained, though, for many of those who moved in after the Proclamation were able to afford apartments within the Designated Area. Harry remembers these new neighbors providing help to the poorer children such as himself. When the "richer" children started to attend the Shanghai Jewish Youth Association, Harry developed a system whereby the "richer" kids brought extra sandwiches for the poorer children. According to Harry, the response to his idea was "remarkable." Harry and Ilse tended to stretch whatever lunch money they had by purchasing hot sweet potatoes from Chinese street vendors. The sweet potatoes served two purposes: They kept their hands warm during the walk to school, and then filled their bellies when eaten upon arrival.

Harry and Ilse liked to go to see American films at the cinema. They were always trying to scrounge up enough money to go, but only managed to do so once every two or three months. They mostly saw musicals and romantic comedies. The movies of Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and Errol Flynn were Harry's favorites. Ilse also like to leaf through the pages of Look Magazine and Life Magazine and fill scrapbooks with pictures of the latest movie stars.

Children such as Harry and Ilse did not really look too much to the future because the future was so uncertain. Growing up, Harry remembers wanting to become either a psychiatrist, chemist, or a lawyer. The latter probably was grounded in his love of Perry Mason books. His main outlets for books were the C-rations and K-rations from the United States. In addition to food, coffee, and cigarettes, these packages often included books. Whereas his mother, being a smoker, took the cigarettes, Harry often got the books.

Children tended to adjust well to Shanghai life. The adults were

less successful. Julius particularly struggled in Shanghai. In addition to his difficulties finding work, he eventually was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Harry never developed a very close relationship with his father and unfortunately does not have many positive memories of him. Nevertheless, one thing Julius accomplished left an indelible mark on Harry:

"I was due to become Bar Mitzvahed in March of 1946. [...] At the time, my father was near death, and he said he wanted to live long enough to see his son become Bar Mitzvahed. And so he was at the service that Saturday morning and that evening he went into a coma, and the next day he died. And it impressed me that the only thing I could attribute to this was just the human will that he lived long enough to accomplish what he wanted to see, and that was it. And guite frankly it was one of the few positive memories that I have of my father, because he was fifty-five when I was born, so we didn't have the normal father-son-playing-ball relationship [...]. The only other positive thing that I remember is he would take me to the Bierstube in Germany, and I'm sure what I had was Coke while everybody else was having beer, but the Coke looked just liked the beer that the adults were drinking so it made me feel like an adult. And at that time already I was good with numbers and he would show me off a little bit. So that and the Bar Mitzvah thing were two of the few positive memories I have of my father. He was a rather stern individual."

On August 15, 1945, word spread quickly that the war was over. There was dancing in the streets and everybody was happy. This triggered an immediate exodus from Shanghai. Most people wanted to go to the United States. Other popular destinations included Australia, Canada, and Israel. Soon American sailors arrived in Shanghai, and one

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day Harry and a friend went out to an American ship on a Chinese sampan boat:

"The sailors welcomed us on board, and God they fed us, what I remember mostly was ice cream. I [...] ate [so] much ice cream [that] I almost got sick to my stomach. They entertained us, treated us really nice, actually kept us overnight. [We] slept in one of the bunks. Of course, our parents had no idea where we were. [He laughs.] So the next day [...] on one of the United States boats, they took us back to shore. And then we went home, and I think our parents had a tough time deciding whether they should give us a spanking or just welcome us back because we were okay. So that was our interaction."

At the time, the United States was thought of as "the land of milk and honey."

Given that Julius had been born in Posen, the family fell under the Polish quota for U.S. immigration. This quota was extremely small. When Julius died in 1946, the family then were categorized under Frieda's place of birth, Berdychiv. The American immigration system was even more restrictive with respect to the Soviet Union than Poland, so the family's prospects of going the United States did not look good. In either 1946 or 1947 the family was finally able to move from a camp into a small apartment, where they resided until they eventually left Shanghai. At this time the family had some income because Frieda continued to work in houses, Ilse worked as a hairdresser. and Horst worked in a pharmacy. By 1948 most refugees had left Shanghai, and there were no longer enough children or teachers for school. Thus, Harry took a full-time job at a fur salon.

Champions

When Horst turned twenty-one years old in 1947, he automatically

became a stateless German and, thus, no longer tied to the quota associated with Frieda's place of birth. Given the United States' immigration policy was favorable to Germans, Horst was able to leave for America immediately and settled in Chicago. Meanwhile, Frieda, Ilse, and Harry were stuck. They were not able to leave Shanghai until President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order authorizing boats to pick up refugees who wanted to come to the United States regardless of quota before the communists took over China. Harry thinks that at this late date in 1949 there were only a few hundred refugees left in Shanghai.] Frieda, Ilse, and Harry did not have any money but were able to get out on an emergency basis on the S.S. President Wilson, which was one of the last ships to leave. Frieda and Ilse slept in a gymnasium, and Harry slept in a hallway. Nevertheless, they were allowed to eat first class:

"After living on fish heads and rice and C-rations and K-rations for as many years as we did, to start eating fresh fruits and vegetables cooked in butter, my goodness! [The] two weeks on that boat [were] just wonderful. My mother gained twenty pounds in those two weeks. Fortunately, I was young enough, sixteen, and active enough that despite enjoying all this good food, I was able to work it off. But that two weeks' trip from Shanghai to come to the United States...that was wonderful!"

During the trip there was a competition consisting of five or six different sports (badminton, deck tennis, shuffleboard, etc.). When the points were tallied, Harry was declared the winner and awarded a trophy. He explained that when he got to the United States, he lost it. Eventually, however, "somehow it showed up again, and once it did, I put it on one of the shelves to display it. I mean really, it's a

simple little thing, but it brings back wonderful memories."

Harry had saved up five U.S. dollars for the trip. They first stopped in Yokohama, Japan, where he bought a Swiss army knife for \$2. They then docked in Honolulu. Harry remembers thinking that Hawaii was so beautiful that he decided if he was ever rich enough to retire, this is where he wanted to be. They landed in San Francisco and stayed there for a couple of days. It was in the spring, and cherries were just starting to be in season. Harry loved cherries and remembers buying a pound of cherries for thirteen cents. He then walked up and down Market Street in San Francisco eating his cherries. He went to his first movie in the United States: The Champion starring Kirk Douglas. Harry and his family were champions in their own right: "We got out of Germany very late and just made it. And so then we got to Shanghai, and ten years later we got out of Shanghai just barely, just made it. And to now come to a place like the United States where you felt safe and secure. That meant a lot. All of a sudden this fear about having to leave again, was no longer there. So that felt good."

The family moved to Chicago and stayed in the Jackson Hotel. Their room had a small television, and Harry watched his first baseball game of the Cubs. It was love at first sight, and Harry became a charter member of the Chicago Cub Die Hard Fan Club in 1949. Although he could not afford to go to many games, he loved listening to the Cubs on the radio. He says proudly "I will die a Cub fan!"

Becoming a Cubs fan was easy; not so easy was the adjustment to the American school system. The first challenge was to figure out how Harry's credits from Shanghai would transfer to his new school. Eventually, it was decided that he be placed in the junior class because

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he was sixteen years old. The next challenge was to master English. This meant taking special courses in the summer. He was given the assignment of reciting "A Message to Garcia." Not having a clue who "Garcia" was, he gave it a try. The teacher immediately stopped him saying, "Mr. Katz, we are here to learn how to pronounce the English language correctly, not to have a cute accent." At the time he burned with anger and embarrassment. Thinking back now though he believes this "abbreviated" message to Garcia was one of the best things to have happened to him, because from that point on, he resolved to speak English fluently and without accent.

The accent did have its advantages though in non-scholastic pursuits: The girls liked it. Harry enjoyed the popularity of being the exotic guy from Shanghai at Hyde Park High. Eventually, when the novelty effect wore off, Harry compensated by drawing on the craft he had developed back in the Sunday morning revues: He told jokes. Accents may open doors, but laughter wins hearts.

Harry graduated from high school in 1951 and proceeded to take a job with an advertising company. After a few months, Harry and a close friend decided to enlist in the army and signed up to become paratroopers. Harry took this leap in hopes of staying with his friend despite never having been in a plane before, let alone jumping out of one! Despite their well-laid plans, Harry and his friend were separated. The next thing Harry knew, he was travelling back to Asia, this time to fight in Korea.

"In order to become a citizen of the United States, you had one of two requirements: you either needed five years of permanent residency or you needed two years of active duty. Well, I came here in '49 so in '54 I would have had my five years

of permanent residency. I joined the Army in '52 so in '54, I had my two years of active duty. So I happened to be in Japan at the time, so I actually became a citizen of the United States in Camp Hakata, Japan, [...] which was somewhat unusual. I am proud of my service." Harry says that he "went into the Army as a eighteen-year-old punk kid and came out a twenty-one-year-old man." After returning from Korea, he attended the Illinois University of Chicago for a year under the GI Bill, but ultimately this proved too costly. His chemistry professor gave him a letter of introduction to Sherwin Williams, where he took a position as a paint chemist in 1956. He worked to develop paint for aluminum sheet used in aluminum siding. While working at Sherwin Williams, he met his wife, Audrey. In 1959 he accepted an offer from another company, and he and Audrey moved from Chicago to South Bend, Indiana, where they stayed until 1970.

While in South Bend, Harry and a friend, Ralph Hagemeier, started Big Brothers of Saint Joseph County in 1968. Harry's favorite memory from his time with Big Brothers was playing in a softball league with his thirteen-year-old "little brother" named Anthony. In one game Harry had a particularly woeful pitching performance, walking something like nine batters in a row. Afterward, he was feeling quite down in the dumps when Anthony came up to him and tried to cheer him, saying "you know, they never hit ya!" Harry remembers how effective this comment was in cheering him up, for it made him laugh. This episode with Anthony encapsulates well Harry's experience with Big Brothers and his volunteer work in general: "I've always found whenever I volunteered that I always got so much more out of it than [...] what I gave."

From South Bend, Harry and Audrey

moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where Harry worked for a friend running a plastics business. The arrangement eventually started to strain their friendship, and Harry thought it best to move on. First he took a job with an aluminum siding business, but after this experience too started to sour, he and a partner bought a distribution company in Maryland. He helped run the business for seventeen years, each of which being profitable. Due to this success, in 1999, Harry and Audrey were able to retire to Pebble Beach, California, of which he quips, "When I die it's a shame if I don't go to heaven, because I feel like I'm so well prepared for it just by living there."

Facing the Odds

Harry still is close with his sister, Ilse, who also lives in California. He is also fortunate to have had his mother in his life for many years after Shanghai. He says that his mother was always remarkably adaptive throughout her life. After Julius died in 1946, Frieda "had a boyfriend that none of the kids liked." This relationship was brief and never serious. After the family went to the United States, she became a milliner. She took care of Horst, whose health was still very compromised. His lungs had not formed properly due to the curvature of the spine that resulted from the polio contracted in Shanghai. One day she came home from work and found Horst dead. She always blamed herself for having left him. Harry says other than Horst's tragic death, Frieda always managed to enjoy life. She particularly liked to try her luck at casinos, and Harry often took her to Las Vegas. She loved playing blackjack and tended to blame the dealers when she lost. One time when she was starting to lose a bit too much, Harry cried out "Hey, ma, that's my inheritance!" Once again, laughter won the day.

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Frieda passed away after a full and active life of ninety-four years.

For decades Harry's Shanghai past remained in the background. Aside from the girls of Hyde Park High, not many people showed interest. Then, "out of the blue," he received an invitation from the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation to attend a dinner in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Shanghai Ghetto. He decided to go. He says that although it was nice to see people from the Shanghai past, it was somewhat unsettling because everyone had changed so much over the decades. People, naturally, no longer looked as they had in Shanghai, and even those who had been his close friends had drifted away so much due to their divergent life experiences. It was at this time that Harry started to tell his friends locally about his story. He was then featured in an article in the Carmel Pine Cone and interviewed by a local radio station. Harry's Shanghai experience informs his views on religion and immigration today. With respect to religion, he states: "I am Jewish. I'm proud to be Jewish and all that, but I haven't followed the faith. As I've grown older and started thinking for myself, I decided that religion as we know it isn't all that good, because probably more blood has been shed in the name of religion than any other cause known to mankind. To me it is much more important [that] the emphasis should be on [being] good, whether you are a good Jew, a good Christian, or a good Muslim, that's

what's important, not necessarily the

religion itself. But also, I think what's

important is to have tolerance, that

everybody can respect whatever

they want to believe and what's

right for somebody else, that's up

to them. So that is kind of how I

have been leading my life from a

religious standpoint: just being as

good a person as I can be."

He feels that loving one another is more important than sharing a traditional faith of any kind. He does not believe this love should be withheld from immigrants:

"As far as I'm concerned, it's good versus evil or good versus bad. I think any time you show intolerance toward any group, it's bad. We, obviously, had to spend three years longer in Shanghai than necessary because there was a quota system and immigration system that this country had a right, or any country has a right, to make part of their law. And so, to some extent, I feel like 'when in Rome do as the Romans do,' but that doesn't mean that you don't have some people in high office who use that for bad reasons. And that shouldn't be. If you want to say 'we will allow one hundred immigrants to come in, and we would like the make-up of those hundred to be ten from here and five from there' [...] as a sovereign nation, that's your right, as long as it isn't designed to be intolerant. So, when I read the paper or watch the news, unfortunately, I have a very difficult time seeing where any of what we're talking about relative to immigrants is good in nature, it does smack of intolerance, so I don't like it."

Harry has never returned to Shanghai but says he would love to do so. He did go back to Berlin at the invitation of the city. He enjoyed the trip, saying the city did a nice job showing his group all the memorials. The most moving experience for Harry in Berlin had to do with his eldest brother, Hans: "After the war when we inquired and we got the letter-I think from the Red Cross-that said that Hans, my oldest brother, was picked up on January 12, 1942, and taken to a concentration camp, where he died. One of the memorials we went to was a railway station and it had a huge metal sheet, and they had etched into that the different dates where Jews were picked up and put on trains to take to the concentration camp, and I actually saw the date that my brother was picked up. [...] It impressed me because that this was the last place that I knew him to be alive. [Harry chokes up as he continues.] And even though I didn't have the emotional attachment, like I said before, every time I think of that, I feel emotion. I can't explain it"

Given Harry had been so young, and the Berlin of his youth had been destroyed to such a great extent during the war, there was nothing for him to remember. When Harry thinks back to the fate of Hans and his aunts and uncles at the hands of the Nazis, Julius' battle with cancer, and Horst's and Ilse's struggle with polio, he often wonders why it was he who was destined to be the lucky one. Being lucky often comes with feelings of guilt:

"I've always referred to myself for [...] a number of reasons as being really a lucky survivor because there wasn't the emotional problem, nor did I have any of the physical problems, nor did I have to worry about how to feed a family like my parents obviously had to do once we got to Shanghai, so I feel like I kind of skated through this thing rather easily. [...] Probably because of that I had a guilt complex. I couldn't enjoy life once we got to the United States for a while. And my wife deserves a lot of credit because she insisted that we enjoy things. And once I faced it and understood it, then I was able to deal with it."

Harry has recently been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. He knows that once again the odds are stacked against him. As he confronts this disease he thinks of his family members-his father who willed himself to stay alive in his own battle with cancer to see his son Bar Mitzvahed, and his brother and sister who confronted polio with resolve. Moreover, Harry still

has the power of humor on his side. A few years ago, he told a joke to an interviewer that can provide strength to all those facing the odds of time:

"Somewhere I don't know who told me this that there are only two things in life that can happen to you, you are either healthy or you are sick, if you're healthy you've nothing to worry about, if you are sick only two things can happen, you either get better or you get worse. If you get better, you have nothing to worry about. If you get worse, only two things can happen: you're going to live or you're going to die. If you live, you've nothing to worry about. If you die, only two things can happen: you can go to Heaven or you can go to Hell. If you go to Heaven, you have nothing to worry about. If you go to Hell, you'll be so busy shaking hands with all your friends; you won't have time to worry. So why worry?"

Professor Kevin Ostovich's

research on the history of the

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Courtesy of Sino Judaic Institute Jan. 22, 2018

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Shanghai Disney Resort

SHANGHAI - February 16, 2018 -Shanghai Disney Resort today celebrated the first day of the Year of the Dog with a Chinese traditional ceremony bringing fortune and prosperity to guests. Joined by God of Fortune Pluto, as well as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Philippe Gas, general manager of Shanghai Disney Resort-dressed in specially made Chinese traditional suit-dotted the eyes of two lions, awakening them for the New Year and spreading good luck and cheer

to resort guests and cast members.

"We are delighted celebrate promising start to the Chinese New with Year our wish guests and everyone a healthy prosperous and Year of the Dog," Gas said. "The Year of the Rooster saw many milestones at Shanghai Disney Resort and looking at the year ahead, are thrilled we about all of the Disney magic that's

in store for our guests. The Year of the Dog will be a bright year for us all, with new attractions and other great surprises for our guests. Our 7th themed land, Disney • Pixar Toy Story Land, will open this spring, and another award-winning hit Broadway musical, a Mandarin production of Beauty and the Beast, will come to life at the Walt Disney Grand Theatre this summer."

There is no more important time in China for families and friends to celebrate together than during

Chinese New Year, and Shanghai Disney Resort is the perfect place to celebrate this special festival together. The resort is celebrating holiday with the traditional Chinese New Year festivities, magical holiday-themed Disney entertainment, special menus at our restaurants, and bountiful holiday shopping amidst vibrant Chinese New Year decorations, immersing guests into a one-of-akind Lunar New Year experience lasting through March 4, 2018.



OBITUARIES.

Eight months ago the WAINER family said goodbye to

Joe WAINER

A beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

He and his wife Dora had a warm and loving relationship for seventy five years

We hope and pray that he is resting in peace

We are bereft

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In loving memory of

Joe WAINER

our beloved brother-in-law and uncle

May his soul rest in peace

We send deep love and sympathy to DORA, LOUISE, AUDREY and their families

RASHA, BELLA & AVRAM, ELLA, SANDRA, TANIA, and their families

I am deeply saddened by the passing of

Joe WAINER

beloved husband of my dear friend DORA, and extend my heartfelt condolences to her children and families

Isabel SHARON

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

mourns the passing of a lifelong friend and devoted member

Joe WAINER

and extends heartfelt sympathy to his wife DORA and family

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved father and grandfather

Minya ZEM

Passed away on November 21, 2017 at the age of 95 A noble soul, his ways are ways of pleasantness and integrity

The grieving and loving FAMILY

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

is very saddened by the passing of

Minya ZEM

and extends deepest condolences to his family

גרי ברובינסקי

יליד חרבין

4.12.2017-14.12.1933

יהי זכרו ברוך

רעיתו דניאלה בניו אריאל גלעד וירון והנכדים

Gary BROVINSKY

Our beloved husband, father and grandfather, native of Harbin, passed away

14.12.1933 - 4.12.2017

May his memory be blessed

DANIELA
ARIEL, GILAD and YARON
and his grandchildren

IGUD YOTZEI SIN is deeply saddened by the passing of a lifelong friend and member

Gary BROVINSKY

and extends deepest sympathy to his wife DANIELA, sons ARIEL, GILAD and YARON, and grandchildren

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z e i S i It is with deep sorrow and sadness we announce the passing of our dear aunt

Ronia (Rachel) ONIKUL

Passed away on the 9th of October, 2017 in Sydney, Australia

May she rest in peace

Ella and Rob LINDEMAN
Bob and Michelle ONIKUL
Naum and Rita ONIKUL
and their families

We deeply mourn the passing of our dear

Ronia ONIKUL

and share the loss with NAUM, BOB, ELLA and their families

Inna MOUSTAFINE
Mara MOUSTAFINE and Andrew JAKUBOWICZ

I am deeply saddened by the passing of a dear friend of our family

Ronia ONIKUL

My heartfelt sympathy to NAUM, BOB, ELLA and their families

Cecilia LYUBMAN

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

is very saddened by the passing of

Ronia ONIKUL

and extends sincere condolences to her niece ELLA, nephews NAUM and BOB and their families

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend

Zelda FRIEDMAN

and extend our heartfelt condolences to her sister LIKA, daughters IRIT, SARIT and their families

Inna MOUSTAFINE Mara MOUSTAFINE and Andrew JAKUBOWICZ

We are very saddened by the passing of our dear friend

Zelda FRIEDMAN

and express deepest sympathy to IRIT, SARIT and their families

Cecilia and Leonid LYUBMAN and family

IGUD YOTZELSIN

is deeply saddened by the passing of

Zelda FRIEDMAN

and extends sincere condolences to her daughters IRIT, SARIT and their families

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e i S i n IGUD YOTZEI SIN is very saddened by the passing of

Haim (Tima) LITVIN

Passed away in Nahariya, Israel, at the age of 97

We extend heartfelt condolences to his sons SHIMON and YOSEF and their families

We are deeply saddened by the passing of dear friend

Tima LITVIN

and extend our deepest sympathy to his sons and their families

Inna MOUSTAFINE
Mara MOUSTAFINE and Andrew JAKUBOWICZ

Cecilia and Leonid LYUBMAN are very saddened by the passing of

Tima LITVIN

and extend heartfelt condolences to SHIMON, YOSEF and their families

We are deeply saddened by the passing of dear

Dina USHEROWICH

and extend our deepest sympathy to her son ILUSHA and daughter SIMA and her family

Inna MOUSTAFINE
Mara MOUSTAFINE and Andrew JAKUBOWICZ

IGUD YOTZEI SIN is saddened by the passing of

Dina USHEROWICH (nee Litvin)

in Melbourne, Australia,

and extends heartfelt sympathy to IIYA, SIMA and their families

Our dear friend

Zina LANDWEHR

passed away on March 21, 2018, in Raanana, Israel, at the age of 86

She is deeply mourned by her friends

Itta HOROL

Lily KOROSHI

Etie GINANSKY

Mary SHWARTZ

Rasha KAUFMAN

Mira PISETSKY

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

is deeply saddened by the passing of

Zina LANDWEHR

May she rest in peace

IGUD YOTZEI SIN

is very saddened by the passing of

Betty HAZAN

in Nahariya, Israel

and extends sincere condolences to her entire family

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IN_MEMORY_OF_SOPHIE_SAKKER

As I sit by my mother's side with my sister, Shelly, I think of my mother's life. An interesting one, well lived and I find some solace in this. She is the Matriarch of our family, now 101 years old, and unwell.

She was young once, lived, loved, played the piano, sang and danced. She had a good eye for fashion and took care with her appearance. She married, had children, and delighted in her grandchildren. She celebrated their successes and shared their disappointments.

Sophie Klarer was born on the 6th of March 1916 in Harbin, China to Rebecca and Velvel Klarer.

Velvel was born and raised in Odessa on the Black Sea. He trained as a pharmacist and left Odessa at the turn of the 19/20th century after pogroms in that city. He followed his brother to Harbin, China which was an important railhead in the eastern segment of the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostok. He started a pharmacy and developed a very successful perfumery business. He prospered.

He married Rebecca Grodsky from the Caucasus, who was visiting Harbin with her father, a fur and timber merchant on a buying trip.

Sophie grew up in a very privileged household, with nannies, governesses and servants. Her sister, Flora, was born 5 years later and they have had a very close relationship since.

Sophie met Mark Sakker at kindergarten aged 5 years and they were inseparable for the next 72 years. They were probably founding members of Betar in Harbin and finished school together. Graduated from Dental College together and moved to Tianjin (Tientsin) where they were married on the 20th of October 1936 against her father's wishes but with her mother's connivance.

Tianjin, like Shanghai was an International Treaty Port, with European countries having their own Concessions or parts of the city that they governed according to their own laws and customs. Sophie and Mark settled in the British Concession where Mark established his dental practice and they came to speak English.

I was born on the 28th of September 1937 in Harbin, where Sophie went to be with her family for my birth. China was in turmoil as Japan was expanding her conquest southward. The rail line was cut so that Sophie could not return to Tianjin for some months.

WW2 started in 1941 and all Allied citizens were interned. Jews and Russians were left alone as the Japanese had great respect for the Jews despite their alliance with Nazi Germany and were not at war with Russia. My sister, Shelly (Rachelle) was born on the 3rd of March 1943.

Life was difficult during the war, with communities isolated, food and domestic items restricted, but somehow Sophie and Mark managed to take care of us and our servants.

I grew up speaking four languages. Chinese with the servants; on the street a smattering of Japanese during the war ,which I quickly forgot; Russian at home and English at school. The Tientsin Jewish School was based on the Cambridge curriculum and matriculated with the external Cambridge Senior exam.

The end of war brought chaos of the Nationalist Government rule followed by the Communist takeover in 1949. European expats were leaving in droves. Sophie's mother died during the war and her father moved in with her family in Tianjin. Arrangements were begun to immigrate to Israel or Australia, either would present a dramatic change for Sophie. They chose Australia for my and my sister's benefit even though their dental degrees would not be recognized and they would not be able to

practice as dental surgeons.

In the meantime Sophie's father and Mark were accused of being American spies and jailed. A very serious charge as the Korean War was in progress with China heavily involved. This was a common ploy of the Chinese authorities, to squeeze all assets from the Europeans before allowing them to leave the country.

Sophie with much courage and danger to herself, pestered, pleaded, cajoled and negotiated with the authorities to have her father released because of his age and much later, Mark, when they were convinced that no assets remained.

The family was allowed to leave and arrived in Australia on the 5th of September 1952 on SS Taiyuan with US\$50.00, clothes and some furniture. The old pilot boat 'Captain Cook' guided the ship to anchor at Watson's Bay as it was Friday evening.

I remember standing at the ship's rails looking across the headlands of the Eastern Suburbs, covered with red terra cotta roofs picked out by the setting sun, wondering what was in store for us.

We disembarked at Circular Quay the following morning where our friends met and took us to the boarding house, in Waruda Ave, Kirribilly, whose landlady was Mrs Rosen, a dour Scot. This was our abode for the next eight months.

The change of lifestyle, particularly for Sophie was drastic. Although she had never actually practiced dentistry, she had no domestic skills, not even to boil an egg! Mrs. Rosen took a shine to Sophie and taught her how to cook, clean, wash, iron and all other things needed to keep house.

Mark found a job in the J.N. Kirby Camperdown factory, and worked there for 7 years on the assembly line making motors for the Crosley Shelvadore refrigerators. This was a great blow to his ego and despite qualifying later, remained

To ease the financial burden, Sophie found a job, behind Mark's back, at Neutral Bay in a jewelry box making factory where she stayed for nearly ten years. Apart from this she also took in a boarder, cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing for all as well as attending night school to requalify. Not bad for someone with her privileged background!

The years went by. Their financial situation stabilized and Sophie stopped work.

James and Robert came along. David came later. Sophie and Mark doted on the boys. John came along while we were in England, by which time the wheel of Fortune turned and their mean undesirable property became highly sought after and this secured their future. They were able to visit us in England. Sophie then had time to devote to the activities of WIZO for many years.

Sophie and Mark had a very active social life with friends from China, hosting up to 40 people for whom Sophie did all the catering. She came Yael, Samuel and cousin Benjamin arrived in the 1980s to bring new joy to their retirement. Their life was further enlivened when Sophie's sister, Flora and Bob bought a property nearby and began to spend more time in Australia.

Mark's health declined and the last few years were very difficult as Sophie nursed him at home. He died on the 16th of August 1992 and is buried in the Rookwood Cemetery.

Sophie's life changed. She took charge in the management of her affairs, became my after hour phone answering service, helped with the children and seriously took up Bridge. She had continued to pay careful attention to her appearance, with a good eye for fashion and enjoyed choosing clothes, well into her nineties, to always look elegant.

Sophie lived in her own home, looked after herself and managed her affairs and later her sister Flora's until she was 100 years old. She developed a chest infection, heart failure and was hospitalized. On recovery she was no longer able to look after herself and moved to

Killara Gardens in Greengate Road, Killara where she has spent the last twelve months

As I sit here, by her bedside, watching my mother in her sleep, at peace, breathing quietly and every now and again muttering something in conversation with someone in her mind. I see ...

A frail little bird about to fly Up into that Kingdom in the sky. And so we celebrate her life Of struggle, toil and of strife. Of love, endeavor and success That brought us all much happiness.

Alas, the time has come to part
And bid farewell to a brave heart.
The bird has flown.
We're now alone.

She leaves to all her descendants the qualities of an enormous capacity for unconditional love, unswerving loyalty and support for her family. A good intellect, great strength of character and tenacity. A strong sense of justice and uncompromising integrity.

These qualities are in our genes.

Treasure them!

Written with much love,

By her son,

Sam.

In Memoriam - Zelda Friedman 87

Zelda Freidman, died at the age of 87 in September of last year. She was a model for joy and helped others her entire life. Zelda immigrated to Israel from China in the early 1950s, and by then she had already acquired many friends at the Women's League for Israel hostel in Haifa and at the Hebrew school in Kibbutz Solelim. Soon after, she got a position as a highway engineer in the Tel Aviv Municipality and continued working there up till the birth of her first grandchild in the late 1980s. After her marriage to David Friedman their house became a center for many gatherings of the Chinese and Russian immigrants who befriended the couple. Zelda always enriched the gatherings by singing with her pleasant voice classic Russian and Hebrew songs. Zelda was the epitome of kindness a true saint who always put the poor and needy over her own wellbeing. With the assistance of David, her husband, she was always ready to help any family member, friend or complete strangers who knocked at her door 4, whether it was an immigrant girl from the former USSR who worked at the Tel Aviv Municipality and stayed at her house for a number of months

because had nowhere else to stay, or distant family members who immigrated to Israel and needed help with the complicated settiling-down process - they all received her help.

Along with her unending generosity and kindness, Zelda built with David, from absolutely nothing, a model house and family and lived to see her four grandchildren grow to be young adults and the birth of her first great-grandson.

May she rest in peace.

Her daughters Irit and Sari, and their families Her sister Leah and family. 101

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An Art Deco journey through Shanghai's belle époque

By Juliana Loh



Shanghai is home to one of the richest collections of Art Deco architecture in the world. Unlike Miami and New York, some buildings of the Art Deco era in Shanghai combine elements of both Art Deco and "Chinese Deco", fusing elements of Chinese architecture.

From the 1920s through 1940s, the Shanghainese embraced the mixed elements of East and West in every aspect from fashion to architecture. While foreign architects dominated the scene, returning Chinese architecture graduates developed a wonderful "Chinese deco" that incorporated Art Deco's geometric lines in the form of tall buildings with Chinese roofs and motifs.

The same vein of inspiration during the era was echoed in fashion - from the ladies curly coiffured hair to the high slits in the traditional Chinese qipao dress for mobility to dance the Swing and Charleston.

The Bund

The "Bund" means embankment and was derived from the Hindi word "band" and has served as backdrop for movies from Bond movie Skyfall to Spielberg's Empire of the Sun. Its postcard perfect skyline stretch of colonial architecture peppered with stunning Art Deco buildings on the west bank (Puxi) was often compared to the Wall Street in the 1920s. The iconic Art Deco buildings on this stretch of the river changed hands through the

decades and housed trading offices, banks, insurance companies and consulates.



Talk a stroll along The Bund to admire the stretch of colonial architecture buildings with Art Deco motifs. Highlights include the Waldolf Astoria Hotel (highly recommend stopping for a drink at the Long Bar), Bank of China Building (Chinese Deco) and the Bank of Communication-the last of the Art Deco buildings were finished before the Communists took over in 1949. The eight storey high concrete building is designed in modern Art-Deco style in the 1930's, combined with Chinese Deco elements of traditional Chinese symmetry



North Bund

On the North end of The Bund is the iconic Art Deco Fairmont Peace Hotel originally built as the Sassoon House then renamed The Cathay Hotel - legacy of Sir Victor Sassoon. The influential businessman from a Baghdadi Jewish family shifted the family's business empire from Mumbai to Shanghai and subsequently went on to build many Art Deco buildings in the 1920s and 1930s.

During the Golden Age of the 1930s, the hotel hosted celebrities from the likes of Charlie Chaplin to Noel Coward and countless diplomats.

The tall and stern Bank of China Headquarters building stands next to the Fairmont Peace Hotel was built in 1937 by Chinese architect Lu Qianshou. The building is an excellent example of Chinese Deco - a marriage of traditional Chinese architecture and Art Deco in the era. The Chinese roof has extensive sweeping eaves simplified and streamlined.

Lines down the front of the building are reminiscent of traditional Art Deco speed lines. The original design had no Chinese elements, but we were told it was likely a mandate from Chiang Kai-shek's government to incorporate these elements for a more nationalistic approach.

South Bund



On the Southern end of The Bund lies the Swatch Art Peace Hotel in Victorian Renaissance style with ornate Art Deco ceilings, not to be confused with its sister property

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with the distinct green copper roof. The other historical colonial buildings here are now home to the city's hottest restaurants and clubs, Three on The Bund celebrity chefs outfits Jean Georges, Paul Pairet and Joel Robuchon opening this Spring on Bund 18.

Need a pit stop for Afternoon Tea? Have it in style and relive the hey days of the 1920s at The Peninsula Hotel tucked round the corner from The Bund, The hotel is a new build in "Echo Deco" style - with the geometric lines and motifs of the Art Deco era.

French Concession

The Okura Garden Hotel was the former French Club built in 1926. While the tennis courts and indoor swimming pool have since been removed, the hotel's interiors still drip with details of beautiful Art Deco motifs. The ballroom boasts a stunning Art Deco stain glass multi tonnes light feature shipped directly from Paris in at the height of the Art Deco era. Other motifs pepper the hotel building from the rounded balconies to its Jazz Age bas-reliefs and staircase railings.



Sir Victor Sassoon's real estate empire spanned several more Art Deco buildings throughout Shanghai from the unmistakably Art Deco Grosvenor House (apartments) to the Cathay Mansions (now Jin Jiang Hotel) built in 1928 with lush gardens in the Former French Concession.

Down the street, the Art Deco architectural legacy of Sassoon stands the Cathay Cinema fully renovated on the inside in 2003 and looks nothing like it was before. Fortunately, the restored façade remains true to its beautiful Art Deco form.

A short skip away is the former Canindrome built in 1928 in full Art Deco glory when gambling was a very popular activity then. Unfortunately the building was demolished in 2005 is now a park Shanghai Culture Square.



Prolific Hungarian architect Laszlo Hudec left a legacy of over sixty 20th century buildings, many of which were Art Deco. The Shanghai Arts and Crafts Museum in the French concession was designed in 1905 in French Renaissance style with Art Deco details in its interiors.

Make it Happen

Shanghai is often referred to as the New York or Paris of the East, and remains a melting pot of cosmopolitan culture. The Art Deco style resonated well with the Chinese for the bold geometry, symmetry and lines translated well to fengshui, its visual balance worked with the hierography of Chinese characters.

For an in depth look at the stories

behind these wonderful buildings, Shanghai Art Deco runs bespoke tours around the city and most recently hosted the World Congress on Art Deco® 2015 The Bund and French Concession areas are just tip of the iceberg. Shanghai Art Deco has led tours for Eastern Europeans tracing roots of their ancestry in Shanghai in the Golden Era of Art Deco. Other tours they have run include tracing the history of iconic Art Deco buildings of the Jewish community. The Jews made vast contributions to education, medicine commerce and Shanghai and Sir Victor Sassoon was probably one of the best known patrons that contributed to building beautiful Art Deco monuments in the city.



If you're looking for broader architectural walks, try Shanghai Walking Tour that takes you through different neighborhoods. History buffs can start with Historic Shanghai for background reads or a copy of "More Shanghai Walks" by Tess Johnston.

Beautiful British colonial house that has turned into a private club with a restaurant is where you start your tour with Shanghai Art Deco.

Our apologies to Juliana Loh Lonely Planet Writer Due to an error by the Printers in the title of this article in our previous issue we decided to reprint the whole article.

Pictures credited to Juliana Loh Lonely Planet Writer March 18, 2016

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ISRAEL'S TECHNION OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS CAMPUS IN CHINA

By Julie L. Kessler

An important milestone has now officially been achieved with the inauguration on 18 December of the first Israeli university to set up in Shantou, China: The Guangdong Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (GTIIT).

The project, which brings together Israeli spirit coupled with Chinese strength, is the result of an historic partnership between the Li Kashing Foundation, the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Shantou Municipal Government and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

ISRAEL'S TECHNION OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS CAMPUS IN CHINA

The ceremony was held on the GTIIT campus, in the presence of Mr Li Ka-shing, who conceived the idea; Technion President Prof. Peretz Lavie; Shantou Mayor Zheng Jiange; Mayor of Haifa Yona Yahav; Nadav Cohen, Israeli Consul General to Guangzhou; Ahuva Spieler, Israeli Consul General to Hong Kong.

Also in attendance at the inauguration was Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, Chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Israel Council for Higher Education; Nobel Laureate and Technion Prof. Aaron Ciechanover; Lawrence Jackier, Chairman Technion Board of Governors. In addition many representatives of the Chinese government and guests from around the world.

In his speech, Technion President Lavie pointed out the great similarity between lewish tradition and Chinese culture: the Jewish and Chinese cultures both have long histories of written tradition, they emphasise ethics at the centre of their traditions, and they hold learning as a core value. President Lavie thanked philanthropist Mr Li Ka-shing, whose profound vision, legendary generosity and deep devotion were instrumental in the realisation of the project, and blessed the inauguration of GTIIT that took place during the Chanukah holiday.

GTIIT aims to train an elite brand of scientists and engineers who will influence China and the world, primarily on issues concerning the environment. It will also promote between Shantou co-operation University and Technion. Such partnerships are already underway in the field of medical sciences. The new university is headed by GTIIT Chancellor Li Jiange, who said: "China offers Technion a broad platform to realise its academic excellence. We in turn must learn from Technion and Israel as to what innovative thinking is."

On behalf of Technion, GTIIT is led by Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and Technion distinguished Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, who said: "The opening of the Technion campus in China is a testament to the excellent relations between China and Israel and, no less important, to the great appreciation of the Chinese giant for Israel's scientific and engineering achievements and to the education leading to them. It is important to remember that we also have something to learn from the Chinese - planning and carrying out largescale projects, adhering to timetables and boundless industriousness. There is no doubt that all parties involved in the project will reap considerable benefits from it."

In 2013, the Li Ka-shing Foundation donated US\$130 million to the Technion university, with some of the money to be used to fund the Guangdong campus. The Guangdong provincial and Shantou municipal governments also contributed US\$147 million for construction and initial operations, and provided land for the campus.

The inauguration of the campus takes place just two years after the groundbreaking ceremony for GTIIT, which was held in December 2015 before an audience of 5,000. At that ceremony, the ninth President

of Israel, Shimon Peres, said: "The establishment of a Technion campus in China is one more proof that Israeli innovation is breaking down geographic borders. China is one of Israel's major partners in technology and high-tech, and both countries have much to share with, and learn from, one another."

Following the inauguration ceremony, participants proceeded to the opening of a new exhibition that was created especially for the event. Dubbed "Technion Wisdom - The Art of Science", the exhibition presents 37 outstanding research and innovation achievements by Technion researchers and alumni.

GTIIT, situated near the Shantou University campus, is a top-level, innovative and research-oriented university. The new campus covers 100,000 square metres and includes 13 buildings, 29 classrooms, 14 teaching laboratories and 55 research laboratories. Six buildings serve as dormitories for students and faculty. Initially the campus will have approximately 3,000 students in its first decade (20172026), including postgraduates. The initial undergraduate programmes GTIIT are in Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology and Food Engineering, and Materials Engineering. Graduate programmes include Chemical Engineering, Materials Engineering, Food Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. PhD study fields will include engineering and the sciences, according to the fields of specialization of the GTIIT faculty members.

On 16 December, Prof. Golany, Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development, and Dr. Sissi Wachtel Galor, co-chairs of the Technion Society of Hong Kong, hosted a dinner in Hong Kong to welcome some of the visitors who had stopped by the city on their way to Shantou.

АССОЦИАЦИЯ ВЫХОДЦЕВ ИЗ КИТАЯ В ИЗРАИЛЕ

основана в 1951 году

БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ИГУД ИОЦЕЙ СИН

<u>Сентябрь 2018 ♦ 65-й год издания ♦ No. 417</u>



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Старейший в Израиле журнал на русском языке 1-й номер «Бюллетеня ИИС» вышел в свет 6 мая 1954 г.

Правление Игуд Иоцей Син в Израиле Почетные представители ИИС в диаспоре

ИГУД ИОЦЕЙ СИН

Председатели ИИС со дня основания:

Лев Пястунович (1951–1952) Борис Коц (1953–1971) Тедди Кауфман (1972–2012)

Правление ИИС (с 2012):

Иоси Клейн – председатель ИИС и казначей

Ран Вейнерман – зам.председателя Яков Матлин – вице-председатель Эли Кама

Алекс Нахумсон Ави Подольский

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Почетный юрисконсульт:

адвокат Дэниел Фридман

Почетные представители ИИС:

Эстер Вандель – в Хайфе и на севере Ави Подольский – в Иерусалиме и на юге

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

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И.Клейн, Ц. Любман, И.Бакшеева

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ДОКТОР А.И.КАУФМАН В СРЕДНЕЙ АЗИИ: В <u>АРМИИ КОЛЧАКА И СОВЕТСКОЙ ССЫЛКЕ</u>

Григорий БЕЛЫЙ

Абрам Иосифович Кауфман, известный сионистский деятель, один из лидеров проживавших на Дальнем Востоке евреев, основатель и многолетний руководитель еврейской общины в Харбине, сыграл уникальную роль в истории дальневосточного еврейства, которое он, по словам его современников, разбудил от «летаргического сна» и «ввёл в духовный контакт с внешним миром».

А.И.Кауфман родился 28 ноября 1885 года в маленьком городке Мглине Черниговской губернии в зажиточной патриархальной хасидской семье, которая считалась одной из самых видных и влиятельных в городе. Представителей этой семьи избирали старостами в синагоге (староста - габбай на яз.идиш), а также назначали на различные почетные должности в городской думе. Мать Кауфмана, Софья Борисовна, происходила из знаменитого рода Шнеерсонов, была внучкой раввина Шнеура Залмана, основателя религиознофилософского учения и движения ХАБАД. От своих предков, по словам самого Абрама Иосифовича, он унаследовал любовь к жизни и своему народу, оптимизм и хасидский темперамент.

Когда Абраму было пять лет, семья переехала в Пермь. Ребенком он изучал еврейский язык и Талмуд в хедере, а затем окончил пермскую гимназию. Его отец, Иосиф Залманович, владелец оптового мануфактурного склада, был человеком набожным, хорошо знал Талмуд, соблюдал законы и предписания иудейской веры, но, чуждаясь фанатизма, читал современную литературу и без колебаний примкнул к сио-

нистскому движению, выступал с докладами на темы еврейской истории и сионизма. Так под влиянием отца сформировалось религиозно-сионистское мировоззрение Абрама Иосифовича, которого он придерживался всю свою жизнь.

По окончании гимназии, списавшись с европейскими еврейскими студенческими организациями и получив ответное письмо за подписью д-ра Хаима Вейцмана, бывшего в то время одним из лидеров национально настроенной студенческой молодежи, Кауфман поехал учиться в Швейцарию, в Берн. С 1904 по 1908 год он изучал медицину в Бернском университете. В студенческой среде Кауфман пользовался большим авторитетом, был избран заместителем председателя Академического ферейна, а в 1905 году участвовал в работе VII Сионистского конгресса в Базеле.

В 1908-1909 гг. Кауфман продолжил занятия медициной в Базельском университете. По окончании университета, получив диплом врача и будучи уже женатым, он вернулся с женой, доктором Бертой Шварц-Кауфман, к своей семье в город Пермь и стал работать земским врачом, продолжая при этом заниматься сионистской деятельностью. По поручению Иехиэля Членова, он ездил по городам Поволжья и Урала, пропагандируя сионистские идеи. Впоследствии Абрам Иосифович в качестве делегата участвовал в работе трех сионистских конгрес-COB.

В 1912 году д-р Кауфман с женой уехали из Перми в Харбин, где продолжили свою врачебную



практику и общественную деятельность. Абрам Иосифович заведовал инфекционным отделением, работал ординатором в женском терапевтическом отделении больницы, вел большую частную практику по женским и детским болезням. Помимо врачебной практики, он занимался общественной деятельностью: возглавлял еврейскую общину Харбина, сионистскую организацию, еврейскую гимназию, а также комитет помощи евреям-беженцам, число которых в Харбине со времени начала Первой мировой войны становилось все больше.

В 1919 году д-р Кауфман проделал большую работу по организации первого сионистского районного съезда, в котором участвовали представители всех сионистских организаций Маньчжурии, Китая, Приморской области, Приамурского края и др. На съезде он был председателем и докладчиком по ряду вопросов.

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В разгар такой насыщенной жизни и активной общественной деятельности Кауфмана вдруг

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вызывают в комендатуру: он мобилизован как врач в Русскую армию Верховного Главнокомандующего адмирала Колчака. Управа Городского Совета принимала все меры, чтобы освободить его от мобилизации, поскольку он заведовал инфекционным отделением. Абрам Иосифович очень не хотел участвовать в этой братоубийственной войне, да и жена его в то время ожидала ребенка. Он сказался больным и три недели провел дома, но ничего не помогло, гражданская война продолжалась, и он вынужден был выехать по назначению в Хабаровск в распоряжение окружного военно-санитарного инспектора.

Получив направление в Кустанай, Кауфман вплоть до весны 1920 года служил старшим врачом в Казахстане, в основном в Семиречье. Год был очень тяжелый: холод, голод, тяжкий труд по лечению больных. В то время тифом - сыпным и возвратным болели около 97% солдат и офицеров. Как правило, нормального жилья не было. Порой приходилось спать на полу, а то и вовсе в палатке, на земле. Путь проходил то по голой голодной степи, то по безводной пустыне, а если попадались озера, то вода в них оказывалась соленой. Хорошо, если в телегу запрягали лошадей, но бывало, что на их месте оказывались быки и даже верблюды. На вызовы Абрам Иосифович чаще выезжал верхом на коне. С медикаментами дела обстояли плохо, их удавалось доставать с большим

Падение морального духа офицеров приводило к тому, что они выпрашивали у д-ра Кауфмана медицинский спирт и даже требовали дать им наркотические средства. Кауфман вспоминал: «Все мои уверения, что у меня нет кокаина, что у меня нет никаких сильнодействующих препаратов - ни морфия, ни опия, - не дей-

ствуют. Нет, не верят: дай понюхать, только щепотку дай! Я уж обманывал их - давал хинин с содой, уверял, что это кокаин, что я ему даю, но чтоб он никому не говорил. Он нюхал, втягивал себе в нос хинин с содой... и чувствовал себя облегченно, хорошо, успокаивался... А число наркоманов среди офицеров все увеличивалось от «хорошей» жизни...».

Тяжело было мириться с частыми проявлениями антисемитизма, хотя и не по отношению к нему, д-ру Кауфману, -- он пользовался уважением и любовью однополчан: «хороший, хотя и еврей». Изгнание евреев из районов военных действий и прифронтовой полосы коснулось и Кустаная, откуда их всех поголовно выселили в течение 24 часов, разорив и ограбив. Детей, стариков, больных загнали в товарные вагоны и увезли.

Но изредка все же Кауфману встречались евреи. Однажды, оказавшись вместе с пьяными офицерами «за круглым столом в татарской хижине», он узнал, что рядом в сарае сидит взаперти «еврей-шпион», и поинтересовался, в чем дело. Вместе со всеми Кауфман отправился в сарай и, увидев несчастного, обратился к офицерам: «Зачем мы напрасно пытаем человека? Мы его не знаем, ни в чем преступном его не поймали. В чем его вина? За что его задержали, заперли, арестовали? Сами не знаем. Разве можно так играть человеческой жизнью? Вы даже не спросили, кто он. Это по-человечески?» И офицеры вняли его спокойному голосу.

«Шпион» рассказал, что жил он «в маленьком местечке своим домом, своим достатком, занимался торговлей». Началась война с Германией. Пришлось бежать, спасаться. Теперь он разорен, скитается вот уже четыре года, растерял всю свою семью. Валялся в беженских бараках многих

городов. Докатился сюда, до Акмолинска. Помогли добрые люди - занялся торговлей. Вот уже почти два года живет здесь. Одно горе, что с семьей не может списаться. А теперь вот и здесь война... Потрясенный рассказом, Иосифович обратился к офицерам: «Что вы хотите от этого несчастного человека, столько пережившего, столько перестрадавшего, потерявшего жену, детей! Отпустите его, пусть идет с Богом!» -- и задержанного отпустили.

В одном из поселков больных разместили на полу в церкви. Делая вечерний обход при свете огарка свечи, д-р Кауфман наклонился к больному и вдруг услышал позади себя громкий голос: «Ваше благородие, для вас телеграмма». Санитары поднесли огарки и фитилек, и он прочитал сообщение жены, Берты Исаевны, о рождении сына. «Я не могу прийти в себя, а слезы, слезы бегут ручьями...», -- так описывает он тот момент в своих воспоминаниях.

Однажды полк стоял в каком-то поселке три дня, и все это время д-р Кауфман лечил жену священника, заболевшую сыпным тифом -- они с мужем были беженцами. Среди книг, лежавших на полу, доктор увидел томик Байрона и попросил дать ему почитать. Священник не только охотно выполнил его просьбу, но даже подарил книгу на память, и вот Абрам Иосифович зачитывается прекрасными поэмами. «Я счастлив, читая Байрона, - пишет он в своих воспоминаниях. - Давно не было у меня книги». Далее он приводит строки из «Еврейских мелодий»:

Где ноги, покрытые кровью, Израиль омоет?

Когда его снова Сионская песнь успокоит?

Когда его сердце, изнывшее в скорби и муках,

Опять возликует при этих божественных звуках?

В Семиречье Абрам Иосифович узнал о партизанах, называвших себя «горными орлами» и вошедших в историю гражданской войны под этим именем. Поговаривали, что в Тарбагатайских горах их насчитывается несколько тысяч. Не от хорошей жизни они там поселились, бросив свои семьи и хозяйства, спасаясь от грабежей и гибели. Карательные отряды совершали свою работу при благосклонном участии алаш-ордынцев. В одной хате, где «дохтур» Кауфман был на постое, восьмилетняя девочка Ганночка рассказала ему, как их грабили, как бабушку убили, а «тятя», т.е. отец, бежал в горы, и с тех пор она его не видела: он -«горный орел». Изредка, как правило ночью, «орлы» спускались с гор из своих ущелий и тайком брали у «своих» хлеб, муку, картофель. Кауфман так вспоминает о том времени: «Господи, убереги их, - слышен голос старухиматери, -- от хищных зверей и от людей!»

В связи с большой эпидемией тифа за те два месяца, что полк стоял в поселке, Кауфману пришлось побывать почти в каждой хате, и тут он узнал некоторые детали о «горных орлах»: им пришлось сорганизоваться, создать сторожевые посты, разведку; они дважды совершили удачное нападение на транспортеры с обмундированием и мукой. К ним в горы стали перебегать солдаты армии Колчака, а спустя некоторое время ушли начальник пулеметной команды полка и с ним пять офицеров.

...Оба младших врача полка больны. Д-ру Кауфману приходится работать по двадцать часов в сутки, но еще нужно вести статистику. Вся бумага идет на курево. Один офицер раскуривает свято хранившееся у него «Воскресение» Толстого, другой - любимую книгу Короленко. Поэтому Абрам

Иосифович для экономии бумаги и времени вычисляет количество больных методом исключения: из 600 солдат и офицеров полка не болели только 25 человек, т.е. 96% перенесли сыпной или возвратный тиф, причем половина из них переболела и тем, и другим.

В очередном поселке «госпиталь» д-ра Кауфмана разместили в девяти хатах. Девушек из села взяли санитарками за плату ситцем на платье. Они сидят на кухне, ухаживают за больными, дают им пить, кормят, когда есть чем. Больные лежат на полу на шинелях, лишь кое-где на матрацах. Спирта нет. Иногда удается готовить лекарства на самогоне, конфискованном у крестьян.

Полку приходится отступать все ближе к китайской границе, где тревожно, шумно и голодно. «Сидим на каше и кипятке», -вспоминает Абрам Иосифович. Но вот радостная весть: китайцы согласились разместить отряд на своей территории, однако с условием, что он будет разоружен. Приказано рыть землянки - жить негде. И здесь, в этих «условиях», д-р Кауфман переносит возвратный тиф. Неосальварсана нигде нет, и лечение ограничивается жаропонижающими средствами. Он ест три раза в день компот из урюка, который китайцы продают на местном рынке. После возвратного тифа Абрам Иосифович перенес осложнение, в результате которого были скрючены пальцы, болели суставы, но он продолжал работать.

Наконец эпидемия закончилась, и работы стало мало. В Китае у Кауфмана семья, новорожденный сын, и ему особенно тоскливо. По вечерам солдаты собираются и поют «Есть на Волге утес», «Стеньку Разина», другое. Абрам Иосифович пишет стихи о своем изгнанничестве, о своей бездомности, капитан М. сочиняет мелодию, и вот отряд получает

собственную песню...

Так прошел апрель, наступил май. Началось бегство в Россию, которое уже становилось дозволенным. Набралась группа желающих пробраться в Харбин, куда можно было попасть только на лошадях и верблюдах, поскольку железной дороги не было.

Путь этот в итоге оказался долгим и опасным. Неоднократно д-р Кауфман пребывал в смертельной тревоге - в 1920 году в Маньчжурии хозяйничал ярый антисемит барон Р.Унгерн. Все же Абраму Иосифовичу удалось вернуться в Харбин к семье и приступить к выполнению своих многочисленных обязанностей. В том же 1920-ом под его руководством в Харбине было завершено строительство школы «Талмуд-Тора» и общежития для беженцев и неимущих.

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Харбинская еврейская община значительно пострадала в ходе Второй мировой войны, но особенно после вступления СССР в войну против Японии в августе 1945 года.

Когда Красная Армия вошла Харбин, почти все сионистские организации были закрыты. Лидера общины д-ра А.И.Кауфмана в числе многих представителей харбинской общественности пригласили на торжественную встречу с представителями новой власти, но там его и еще двоих членов еврейской общины вместе с другими приглашенными - делегатами украинской колонии, армянской, тюркско-татарской общины, общества ЛИТОВСКИХ граждан и многих других - арестовали. Последовали обвинения в шпионаже в пользу Японии, США и Великобритании, а затем - депортация в СССР.

В качестве обвинения Кауфмана в сионистской и шпионской деятельности были использованы

показания некоторых жителей Харбина. В книге «Лагерный врач» он пишет: «Я не чувствовал к этим людям, в том числе к моим ближайшим сотрудникам, никакой вражды. Они себя «спасали», по крайней мере, думали, что спасают, заявляя: «Мы тут ни при чем, все было в руках доктора Кауфмана. Он вел политическую работу». Они, эти люди, члены руководства общины, испугались, были одержимы страхом перед пытками, страшной карой. А, быть может, их принудили подписать протоколы. Прослушал, прочитал показания сотрудников, товарищей по работе. Было обидно на момент, но, - подумал я, - да простит им Бог».

Так, выйдя из дому, чтобы отправиться на встречу с высшим военным командованием вступивших в Харбин советских войск, д-р Кауфман расстался с семьей на долгих 16 лет. Лишь в 1961 году он встретился с родными, но это произошло уже в Израиле.

Первые три года его жизни в «самой свободной стране» прошли в тюрьмах: в Свердловске, а потом в Москве (в основном, в одиночной камере). Он подвергался многочисленным допросам. «Меня допрашивали каждый день с 10-11 часов утра до 6 часов вечера, пишет Кауфман. - Темы допросов - сионизм, еврейская община, еврейская организация и их "контрреволюционная деятельность"». Вот описание допроса: «...Следователь дает мне прочесть протокол допроса и подписать в 5-6 местах. Говорю: «Не вижу без очков, не могу ни слова прочесть». Следователь вытаскивает из ящика письменного стола очки и дает их мне. «Да это же мои очки!» - обрадовался я. Прочитал протокол. Говорю следователю: «Ответы мои неправильно записаны. Я этого не говорил». И продолжаю сидеть в своих очках. Следователь подходит ко мне, забирает очки, прячет их в ящик стола. Сорок два дня мне не давали очков. Утонченная пытка...».

Однако эта пытка была не единственной. Его пытали бессонницей: вызывали на допрос через 1,5--2 часа после отбоя, и следователь, как только Кауфман начинал дремать сидя на табурете, приказывал: «Не спать!». Пытали его и «сеансами» избиения заключенных за перегородкой кабинета следователя, через которую были хорошо слышны звуки ремня и крики избиваемых.

Материалов МГБ по делу Кауфмана было множество - три толстых папки. Из воспоминаний д-ра Кауфмана:

«Как-то на очередной встрече следователь перелистывает новую папку, что-то в ней находит и говорит: «Ага, лекцию антикоммунистическую читал». - «Нет, не читал, неправда», - заявляю я. - «А вот твоя лекция - "Меж двух миров". Два мира - это капиталистический и социалистический. Еще не признается!» Следователь подносит мне к лицу папку с вырезкой из какой-то русской газеты, где крупными буквами напечатано: «Меж двух миров. Лекция доктора А.И.Кауфмана о пьесе "Дибук" С.Ан-ского». И дальше подробный отчет о лекции - на целую страницу. Я, увидев это, рассмеялся и говорю: «Это лекция литературная. Тут нет ни коммунизма, ни социализма. И вообще никакой политики». Следователь перебивает меня и, рассвиренев, кричит: «Хватит болтать, втирать мне очки!» Я спокойно говорю ему: «Прочтите отчет о лекции, и вы увидите, о чем там речь». Но следователь не унимается: «Не болтай, сволочь, тоже мне нашелся учитель...» И записал в протокол: «Лекция о двух мирах - восхваление капиталистического мира». Я подписать протокол отказался...».

Категорически отвергая обвине-

ния в шпионаже, Абрам Иосифович не отказался от своей принадлежности к сионистам. Его приговорили к высшей мере наказания, действовавшей тогда, к двадцати пяти годам исправительно-трудового лагеря. «Цифра 25, -- пишет он, -- не произвела никакого впечатления на меня. Редкое спокойствие, холодное равнодушие. Полное безразличие».

Его очень беспокоило отсутствие сведений о семье. Лишь однажды, еще в Харбине спустя день-два после ареста через окошко камеры он увидел жену, а назавтра - сына Тедди, стоявшего невдалеке от здания тюрьмы и пытавшегося что-либо узнать об отце.

образовании Государства Израиль Кауфману сообщил следователь, допрашивавший его на Лубянке: «Я хочу вас обрадовать и в то же время огорчить. Провозглашено Еврейское государство в Палестине». Я не мог больше слушать. Голова закружилась у меня. Сердце сильно забилось, стало громко стучать. Я заплакал, я рыдал. От радости, от счастья. Следователь смотрел на меня в упор. Он едва ли понимал меня и продолжал: «Евреи теперь воюют с арабами. Арабы напали на Еврейское государство». Одно перед моими глазами, одна мысль: «Еврейское государство». Я плачу тихими слезами, слезами счастья».

И все же до момента, когда Абрам Иосифович ступит на израильскую землю, оставалось еще тринадцать лет...

В конце 1948 года Кауфман получил весточку о жене и сыновьях в виде записки, переданной ему бывшим сокамерником, которую пронес в носке один из недавно прибывших в лагерь: тот сообщал, что видел их незадолго до своего ареста.

Практически с самого начала заключения Кауфмана использо-

вали в качестве врача. Он начал принимать больных, которые содержались в ужасных условиях. Как врач высочайшей квалификации и как просто сострадательный человек, д-р Кауфман с большим душевным напряжением переносил ситуацию, когда оказывался беспомощным из-за отсутствия лекарств и медикаментов, в условиях голодания и преступной антисанитарии. Но он делал все, что мог в этой обстановке, чтобы помочь людям выжить.

Много раз его отправляли по этапу из одного лагеря в другой. Заключенных перевозили в переполненных грязных вагонах. Вся дорога была усеяна сторожевыми вышками. Повсюду были лагеря, в которых, похоже, как пишет А.И.Кауфман, находилось полстраны. В одном из мордовских лагерей, одиннадцатом по счету, в котором ему пришлось работать, освободился врач, заведовавший нервным и кожно-венерическим отделениями, и доктору Кауфману пришлось вести оба отде-Затем шестимесячный ления. отпуск по болезни получил фтизиатр, и туберкулезных больных тоже передали ему.

В январе 1949 года Кауфмана назначили в этап: «Будете врачом в Кенгире». Он пробыл там в разных лагерях целых семь лет (1949 - 1955). Этот «спецлаг» со строгим тюремным режимом на 6.000 человек находился в 500 км к северу от Караганды и был только для осужденных по 58-й статье: контрреволюция, измена Родине, содействие мировой буржуазии, знакомство с иностранцами, антисоветский анекдот и т.п. преступления. Здесь труд доктора Кауфмана был поистине каторжным: он был начальником терапевтического отделения, врачом детдома и детской больницы, находившихся в женских зонах лагерей. Работал по 16-17 часов в день. Периодически его возили

к членам семей начальников - это была его «частная практика»; их же в особых случаях клали к нему в больницу и, конечно, с требованием отдельной палаты...

Он консультировал и ассистировал в хирургических отделениях. В 1956 году лагеря стали пополняться молодежью - в столицах велась кампания борьбы с хулиганством. Характер этого пополнения в связи с арестом не изменился, и на больничных койках лагерных больниц возросло число пострадавших от избиения и поножовщины.

Общаясь со многими евреями в лагерях, А.И.Кауфман заметил странную на первый взгляд особенность. В невыносимых условиях у людей обострялась приобщенность к еврейству и сионизму. Даже среди тех евреев, которые раньше были настроены антисионистски, пробуждался интерес к Государству Израиль, гордость за победы евреев в борьбе с арабским окружением. В тяжелейших лагерных условиях А.И.Кауфман находил возможность устраивать тайные встечи с такими людьми, беседовал с ними о сионизме, Израиле, еврейской литературе и еврейских праздниках.

Д-р Кауфман при первой же возможности старался помочь евреям-заключенным, поддерживал их морально. Некоторых он устраивал на работу в своем отделении, где было все-таки полегче, других дольше необходимого держал на больничной койке, на стационарном лечении или устанавливал им такую рабочую категорию, что их переводили на относительно легкую работу.

Только в 1954 году, будучи в лагере близ Караганды, он узнал от одного заключенного-харбинца, что его семья в 1949-ом уехала в Израиль. В том же 1954 году, через девять лет после ареста, он при посредничестве Международного Красного Креста, куда неод-

нократно обращались его родные из Израиля, получил возможность переписываться с ними.

* * *

В сентябре 1956 года Кауфману объявили о его освобождении из заключения со снятием судимости, но без права выезда заграницу, проживания в Москве, Ленинграде, столицах союзных республик, городах-героях и портовых городах.

Позади «вахта» и колючая проволока. Кауфман получает разрешение поехать в Московскую область. В Москве его встречает родная сестра, с которой он не виделся десятилетиями, и он у нее тайно, поскольку соседка - «стукачка», живет несколько дней.

После того как милиция отказала ему в прописке в Подмосковье, руководство ГУЛАГа направило его в Караганду, и он уехал туда на новую «волю», т.е. в ссылку. Железнодорожный билет достать было почти невозможно. Получил последнее место, да и то в вагоне «для женщины и ребенка». За час до отправления он забрался в вагон, сидел грустный, печальный. На четвертый день Кауфман прибыл на место назначения. В вагоне познакомился с пожилой женщиной, жительницей Караганды. Она оказалась еврейкой, жила с дочерью-учительницей. Единственный известный ему в Караганде адрес - это был адрес врача инвалидного дома. Куда заехать? И доктор Кауфман принял предложение дорожной знакомой заехать к ней, в квартиру «с удобствами» во дворе, темными и грязными. Дочь уступила гостю свою кровать, а сами они с матерью легли спать в одной кровати. Никакие его протесты не помогли (он хотел лечь на пол). Так приняла Абрама Иосифовича эта еврейская семья.

На следующее утро Кауфман поехал к своему другу доктору М. После освобождения из совет-

ского лагеря, где он пробыл в общей сложности 27 лет, доктор М. был отправлен на работу в инвалидный дом. Это был дом для тех отбывших срок заключения, у которых вовсе не было родных и близких или родные проживали в Москве, Ленинграде, столицах республик и других городах, где «преступникам» жить было нельзя. Быстро распространилась весть о приезде д-ра Кауфмана, и директор инвалидного дома предложил ему заменить местного врача на время, пока тот находился в отпуске. В тот же день Абрам Иосифович поселился в отдельной комнате.

Почти все жители были инвалиды по болезням, нажитым в лагерях и неизлечимым в лагерных условиях. Безнадежность и беспросветность этого дома тяготила Кауфмана, и он рад был бежать из этого мира уходящих из жизни, дряхлеющих, угасающих. Позже, в течение нескольких лет, приезжая к своему приятелю доктору М., Абрам Иосифович каждый раз узнавал о том, что еще несколько человек ушли в вечность... После одиннадцати лет заключения Кауфман долго не мог освободиться от психологической травмы, от страха перед «карающим мечом советского правосужид».

Постепенно вокруг него собрался круг людей - интеллигентных, сионистски настроенных, некоторые из них даже владели ивритом. Особенно его радовало, что в этот круг входили также молодые люди. Были и те, кто отсидел немалый срок за еврейский национализм. Абрам Иосифович пишет в своих воспоминаниях: «Я видел, как они слушали, чувствовали, переживали. И я понял, откуда у них это горение, этот интерес к еврейству, к его судьбе, откуда это желание, стремление служить родному народу, откуда еврейские национальные чаяния, как они

нащупали этот путь. Им светят издалека огни национальной свободы, зажженные в Государстве Израиль».

Чуть ли не половина европейского населения области были либо ссыльные, отбывавшие наказание, либо высланные сюда во время войны, главным образом, немцы с Поволжья и черкесы.

После возвращения из отпуска постоянного врача инвалидного дома Кауфман начал искать работу. Представился начальнице Горздрава (городской отдел здравоохранения - прим.ред.). Всё, что удостоверяло его как врача, -- это две бумаги из лагерей, где он провел последние 11 лет жизни. Начальница быстро пробежала глазами его лагерные справки и, сказав, что у них не один врач работает с такими «документами», предложила д-ру Кауфману пять мест на выбор.

Подумав и кое с кем посоветовавшись, он остановился на поликлинике № 10, заполнил анкету (40 вопросов) и через два дня начал работать. «Город строится, растет, - пишет он. - Но довольно убогий, грязнущий. Мощеные улицы по пальцам можно перечесть. Ходишь - тонешь в грязи, без высоких сапог завязнешь в ней. Немалый процент населения живет в приспособленных под жилье конюшнях, сараях, нередко с земляным полом. Мрак, грязь, холод, сырость. Трущобы, которые стали называть «хрущобами». работа оказалась Его новая низеньком, покривившемся бараке, стоявшем в грязной яме. Пол деревянный, весь в щелях, мрачные кабинеты, с проваливающимися досками, с бегающими мышами, с зачастую не действующим водопроводом. Воду таскают санитарки издалека. Уличная уборная находится на расстоянии. Зато горздравы, облздравы председателями, сотруднипомещаются ками-чиновниками

в благоустроенных двухэтажных домах со всеми удобствами. И это в городе, - пишет в своей книге д-р Кауфман, - где сотни шахт, медицинский, педагогический, политехнический институты! А по статистике СССР «на первом месте» по количеству врачей на тысячу жителей, по количеству больничных коек на десять тысяч жителей...

Ноябрь 1956 года. Шла Синайская кампания. На каждом предприятии местный профсоюзный комитет уговаривал трудящихся помочь Египту - «жертве англофранцузско-израильской агрессии»... Зашли и в кабинет д-ра Кауфмана «за сочувствием», на что он заявил: «На меня не рассчитывайте, я не дам ни копейки». Медсестра тоже отказалась, и вообще в поликлинике «сочувствующих» не нашлось.

В городе большая преступность. Вечерами, ночью в одиночку или вдвоем не ходят - разденут на улице, а то и ножом пырнут. Если идешь куда-либо в гости, то уж с ночевкой.

Абрам Иосифович с радостью стал снимать комнату с прихожей в доме, принадлежавшем еврейской семье. Его продолжал преследовать страх, он боялся всякого стука в дверь или ночного звонка в квартиру, звука подъехавшего автомобиля - не приехали ли за ним из МГБ.

В поликлинике большая часть времени уходила на обследование новых рабочих, молодых людей, бежавших от нищенской жизни в колхозах и требовавших, чтобы врач написал «годен», т.е. здоров. Работая в шахте, они надеялись подкопить денег. Но чаще всего их заработок уходил на водку. Д-р Кауфман описывает большое количество злоупотреблений. Рабочие платили по сто, двести рублей за бюллетень, освобождавщий от работы на 5-6 дней. Был даже судебный процесс - шестнад-

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цать врачей были осуждены за то, что брали взятки за бюллетени.

Среди евреев Караганды были пострадавшие за сионистскую деятельность. При встречах, которых они боялись, просили рассказать, что ему пишут из Израиля. Абрам Иосифович называет их «маранами чувств». Особенно это поднимало дух евреев после закрытия карагандинской синагоги в 1958 году. Д-р Кауфман встречал нескольких молодых бухарских евреев, которые приезжали в Караганду из Туркестана или Узбекистана на 5-6 месяцев на заработки. Юноши чистили обувь, а по окончании сезона возвращались домой, в свою Бухару. Несмотря на все гонения, они умели читать по-еврейски, знали молитвы, правда, «с грехом пополам».

Абрам Иосифович ищет встречи с евреями, он надеется поговорить на волнующую его тему о положении евреев в Советском Союзе. И вот подходящий случай - его как врача ревматологического кабинета поликлиники вызывают на совещание в облздравотдел. В ожидании начала совещания Кауфман беседует с профессором Карагандинского медицинского института, ранее работавшим в таком же вузе в Ленинграде, пока его не уволили как члена семьи «убийц в белых халатах», т.е. в связи с «Делом врачей». В конце разговора профессор говорит: «Надо молчать и забыть, что мы евреи». Но не всегда и не всеми движет страх. Абрам Иосифович с большим чувством описывает чудесное и нескрываемое волнение, охватывавшее зал на всех пяти концертах еврейской песни, на которых ему довелось присутствовать, находясь в ссылке. Поистине это были демонстрации протеста против дискриминации! Еврейская жизнь существует, она продолжается. Так, Кауфман встречает старика-еврея,

чавшего трех мальчиков еврейским буквам, еврейскому слову. Старик тайно носит переплетчику еврейские молитвенники - в артели такие вещи не принимают, и еврей-переплетчик делает эту работу бесплатно.

К 1956 году чуть ли не 40-50% политических были освобождены из заключения. Их радостно встречало население, но эта радость напугала «кагебистов», и они стали то одного, то другого вызывать, «проверять», иными словами, напоминать о возможном повторении пройденного...

После получения от семьи в Израиле вызова д-р Кауфман обратился к начальнику ОВИРа, но тот заявил, что вызывать из Израиля могут только советских граждан, а ему нужен или паспорт страны, куда он собрался выехать, или маршрутное свидетельство (Laissez passer). У Абрама Иосифовича после освобождения из лагеря была только соответствующая справка. В ОВИРе ему предложили взять советское гражданство, но он побоялся этим закрепостить себя и взял так называемый «вид на жительство», который нужно было продлевать каждые три месяца.

Сын Абрама Иосифовича Тедди многое сделал для того, чтобы отец после освобождения из заключения смог приехать к семье в Израиль. По его просьбе «бесподанному российскому эмигранту» А.И.Кауфману было решено дать израильское гражданство. Израильское посольство в Москве через евреев, живших в Караганде, где в это время на поселении находился Кауфман, переслало ему израильский паспорт. Это, в конечном счете, и открыло ему дорогу в Израиль, хотя препятствий все равно было немало.

Д-р Кауфман повторно пишет председателю Президиума Верховного Совета Ворошилову, Генеральному секретарю ЦК

КПСС Хрущеву, министру иностранных дел Громыко, а в ответ получает только подтверждение, что его письма получены. Каждую субботу он ходит в ОВИР, но слышит один и тот же ответ «Для вас ничего нет», а иногда «Вам отказано». Ему пришлось обратиться в израильское посольство - дипломатическое представительство страны, постоянно подвергавшейся нападкам в прессе, что в те времена было опасно. В каждом учреждении, куда бы он ни обращался, от него требовали заполнения анкет. Его постоянно мучили сомнения, указывать ли родственников, проживающих в Советском Союзе, и тем самым подвергать их дополнительной опасности или пытаться скрыть информацию о них, хотя органам НКВД и без того все известно.

Всюду требовали предъявлять копии документов. После неудавшейся попытки сделать фотокопии вида на жительство в государственной фотографии, где ему объяснили, что милиция не разрешила, Кауфман все же сделал эти копии в какой-то захудалой фотографии на окраине города и отправил прошение с документами заказным письмом авиапочтой. К своему великому удивлению и радости через двенадцать дней он получил сообщение, что его письмо получено.

Во время одного из посещений ОВИРа начальник, возмущенный настойчивостью Кауфмана, заявил ему, что он никогда не получит разрешение на выезд ни из Москвы, ни из Алма-Аты. Это навело Абрама Иосифовича на мысль написать в столицу Казахстана. Председатель Совета министров КазССР, премьер-министр, министры - казахи, но их заместители - русские, которые вершат все дела.

После писем в Алма-Ату что-то меняется. Кауфману предлагают заполнить новую анкету, вызы-

вают в управление милиции и

сообщают, что паспорт, получен-

Абрам Иосифович прощается с друзьями и отправляется в Москву. Он в восторге от полученного разрешения и в крайней тревоге, опасаясь, что его отнимут. Но вот позади московская суета, оформление бумаг и билета. Он выезжает в Вену, где его тепло встречают. Ему удается увидеть памятник Герцлю, на могиле которого он побывал в

годы учебы в Швейцарии. Подходит время посадки в самолет израильской авиакомпании вместе с другими пассажирами - туристами и репатриантами.

26 марта 1961 года д-р Кауфман прилетел в Израиль. Вот как он описывает свое состояние: «Что творилось со мною, как все радовались, когда по радио сообщили, что мы летим в небе Израиля. Я не могу удержать волнения. Сердце вырывается из груди, Слезы текут из глаз. Светло, светло. Огни Тель-Авива».

Абраму Иосифовичу 76 лет. Казалось бы, он заслужил пенсионный покой. Но нет, он рвется работать для израильтян и добивается разрешения принимать больных в

поликлинике. Он работал в амбулатории Рамат-Гана до последних дней жизни. Писал мемуары и историю еврейских общин Дальнего Востока.

Доктор А.И.Кауфман скончался в Тель-Авиве в 1971 году.

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ВИЗИТ ДЕЛЕГАЦИИ ВЫСОКОГО УРОВНЯ ИЗ ХАРБИНА

3 июня 2018 года офис Игуд Иоцей Син в Тель-Авиве посетила делегация высокого уровня из Харбина, в составе которой были семь должностных лиц хар-

бинского правительства во главе с секретарем харбинского комитета КПК Ван Чжаоли, старшим по должности в правительстве Харбина, а также пять членов правления Харбинского технологического института во главе с вице-президентом Китайской инженерной академии Жэнь Наньци.

Делегация из Харбина, нанеся визит вежливости нашей ассоциации, уде-

лила особое внимание основной цели визита, которая заключалась в содействии продвижению проектов компаний обеих стран в области науки, техники, сельского хозяйства и инвестиций.

В рамках переговоров Иоси Клейн поблагодарил представителей правительства Харбина за

сохранение еврейского наследия в городе. В то же время он обратил внимание господина Ван Чжаоли на положение харбинского еврейского кладбища, на территории



которого изредка появляются китайские захоронения, а также затронул вопрос об архиве еврейской общины, доступ к которому попрежнему закрыт. Секретарь Ван Чжаоли, внимательно выслушав перевод, обещал заняться решением поднятых вопросов.

Резюме переговоров, а также

перевод текста на китайский язык, сделанный его личным секретарем, были отправлены господину Ван Чжаоли по электронной

почте, и теперь остается лишь ждать ответа.

В связи с этим следует также упомянуть активную деятельность израильского профессора Дана Бен-Канаана, который уже много лет живет и работает в Харбине.

23 мая 2018 года профессор Бен-Канаан организовал на харбинском еврейском кладбище встречу членов выезжавшей в Израиль делегации (некоторые из

них были в числе тех, кто прибыл с визитом в наш офис) с директором кладбища и его заместителями, которые показали им ущерб, причиненный территории кладбища. Администрации было поручено содержать площадь кладбища в чистоте и порядке.

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Как всегда к 17:00 стала собираться публика: наши земляки и гости, студенты израильских академических учебных заведений и китайские студенты, обучающиеся в Израиле. Участникам встречи было предложено легкое угощение. Вокруг царило оживление, среди собравшихся было много молодежи.

Сегодняшние израильские студенты-стипендиаты - это внуки и правнуки тех, кто много лет назад, понимая важность связи поколений, положили начало присуждению студенческих стипендий молодому поколению членов ИИС. Если студента сопровождает не только кто-то из родителей, возможно, сам бывший стипендиат, но и бабушка или дедушка, тогда перед нами три поколения одной семьи. Китайские студенты, обучающиеся в Израиле, получают стипендии из Фонда Общества дружбы Израиль-Китай.

На встречу прибыли представители китайского посольства во главе с послом КНР в Израиле Чжань Юнсинем, который занял почетное место в президиуме. Вечер открыл зам. председателя ИИС Ран Вейнерман. С приветственым словом выступил председатель ИИС Иоси Клейн, затем к собравшимся обратился посол г-н Чжань Юнсинь.

Руководитель проекта поколений» ("Ха-кешер рав дори") Офра Исраэли представила программу документирования наследия еврейской общины Китая в виде фотографий и рассказов представителей старшего поколения школьникам, показав короткий документальный видеофильм. состоялась церемония зажигания 7-й ханукальной свечи, в которой участвовали мальчики Эйтан и Ори, дети студента-стипендиата Итая Соколовера, получавшего в этот вечер стипендию. После небольшой музыкальной части началась церемония вручения стипендий. Один за другим из зала на сцену поднимались студенты-стипендиаты, которым вручали стипендии китайский посол Чжань Юнсинь, Иоси Клейн, Илана и Гиора Леск.

Всего было выдано 108 стипендий,

которые получили 90 израильских и 18 китайских студентов, обучающихся в университетах и академических колледжах Израиля.

Из фонда Александра и Джун Мейзиных стипендии получили 60 студентов, из фонда Этель Дан -14; из фонда ИИС: памяти Тедди Кауфмана - 3, памяти Аси и Миши Коган - 4, памяти Эллы и Льва Пястунович - 1, памяти Фриды и Моше Тригубовых - 5. Илана и Гиора Леск пожертвовали на две стипендии - памяти Эллы и Шломо Леск и памяти Муси и Дани Беркович. На стипендию памяти Натана Бахнова пожертвовал его сын Нив Бахнофф. Стипендии из Фонда Общества дружбы Израиль-Китай получили 18 китайских студентов Тель-Авивского и Хайфского университетов.

По окончании церемонии студенты-стипендиаты сфотографировались с членами президиума. Со словами благодарности к организаторам встречи обратились две девушки: от имени израильских студентов - Хагар Меир, от имени китайских студентов - Сянь Бу. В заключительном слове Иоси Клейн пожелал всем студентамстипендиатам здоровья, успешной учебы и удачи.



Эйтан и Ори Соколовер зажигают ханукальные свечи



Мэри Шварц, Раша Кауфман и Эти Гинански среди участников встречи

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22 мая (3 июня) 1896 года состоподписание секретного ялось Российско-китайского договора о союзе России и Китая против Японии. С российской стороны подписи под договором поставили С.Ю.Витте и А.Б.Лобанов-Ростовский, с китайской стороны – Ли Хунчжан. Договор предоставил России право на постройку железнолорожной магистрали через территорию Маньчжурии.

27 августа (8 сентября) 1896 года китайский посланник в Российской империи Сюй Цзэнчэн подписал с правлением Русско-Китайского банка соглашение сроком действия 80 лет о предоставлении банку права на постройку железной дороги через Маньчжурию.

В декабре 1896 года в Петербурге состоялись выборы правления Общества КВЖД. По результатам выборов вице-председателем правления стал С.И.Кербедз, членами правления – П.М.Романов, А.Ю.Ротштейн, Д.Д.Покотилов, Э.К.Циклер фон Шафгаузен, Э.Э.Ухтомский. В январе 1897 года император Китая издал указ о назначении бывшего посланника Китая в Петербурге и Берлине Сюй Цзэнчэна первым председателем Общества КВЖД.

Подбором специалистов для прокладки КВЖД руководил лично С.Ю.Витте, ПО рекомендации которого главным инженером КВЖД был назначен строитель Рязанско-Уральской железной дороги А.И.Югович. Пунктом расположения Строительного управления ПО возвелению КВЖД, который назвали железнодорожным посёлком Сунгари, Харбин. Мост через реку Сунгари. Протяженность 1005 м. Декабрь 1901 г.



был выбран участок на берегу реки Сунгари (Сунхуацзян) в месте её предполагаемого пересечения железнодорожной магистралью, где впоследствии встал город Харбин. 24 апреля 1987 года на берега Сунгари прибыл авангардный отряд Строительного управления КВЖД во главе с инженером А.И.Шидловским под охраной пешей Кубанской полусотни есаула Павиевского. В целях охраны строительства КВЖД была создана специальная Охранная стража, позднее преобразованная в Заамурский округ отдельного корпуса пограничной стражи.

16 (27) августа 1897 года стало днем начала строительства КВЖД.

Строительство велось одновременно из пункта расположения Строительного управления по трём направлениям и из трёх конечных пунктов КВЖД – станции Гродеково в Приморье, из Забайкалья и Порт-Артура – в июне 1898 года Россия получила концессию на строительство южной ветки КВЖД (впоследствии известной как Южно-Маньчжурской железной дороги, ЮМЖД), которая должна была

обеспечить выход к КВЖД Дальнего (Даляня) и Порт-Артура (Люйшуня), расположенных на Ляодунском полуострове, арендованном Российской империей в марте 1898 года согласно Русскокитайской конвенции.

В связи с протяженностью магистрали первоначально было принято решение о разукрупнении строительства на отдельные участки с назначением на них собственных руководителей. Линия между станциями Маньчжурия в Забайкалье и Пограничная в Приморье была разделена на тринадцать строительных участков, линию от Харбина до Порт-Артура разделили на восемь участков.

В 1899 году в империи Цин вспыхнуло восстание ихэтуаней (Боксёрское восстание), продолжавшееся до 1901 года включительно, что вызвало перерывы в строительстве ряда участков КВЖД. Тем не менее, 5 (18) июля 1901 года было открыто временное движение поездов и перевозки грузов по всей протяженности КВЖД.

В октябре 1898 года первый паровоз прибыл по КВЖД на станцию Харбин.

«HCM», №197, 2017

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ВЫСТАВКА «ИЗ ХАРБИНА» Спасибо Григорию Яковлевичу Гобернику

История Харбина уникальна. Это был последний крупный город старой России, на три с лишним десятилетия переживший падение монархии и крушение российской государственности. Несколько десятилетий русский Харбин вел обычную жизнь большого русского города - размеренную, деловую и культурную. Рождались дети, менялись поколения, в которых сохранялась и передавалась память о России. Хотя важнейшие документы составлялись на двух языках - русском и китайском, в Харбине развивалось образование, книгоиздательство, бурлила театральная и спортивная жизнь - все лучшее, что удалось забрать из смутных лет большой Российской империи.

12 мая 2017 года в Новосибирском государственном краеведческом музее (НГКМ) была открыта выставка «Из Харбина». Русский Китай XX века».

Город Харбин возник на рубеже XIX и XX столетий в связи со сторительством Китайско-Восточной железной дороги и уже в 1920-х годах приобрёл чисто русский облик на китайской земле. Город жил, развивался, становился образовательным, культурным и деловым центром со своими школами, средними специальными и высшими учебными заведениями, музыкальными школами, театрами, храмами и пр. Рождались и вырастали поколения людей, которые никогда не видели России, но всегда думали о ней.

нец Харбина, Григорий Яковлевич Гоберник передал в НГКМ архив. охватывающий более 50 лет харбинской жизни своей семьи.

Экспонаты включают около 200 подлинных музейных предметов. Интерес представляют свидетельства о бракосочетании Якова Григорьевича Гоберника с Рахилью Абрамовной Ярхо, о рождении детей - Григория и Эсфири, справки из пункта регистрации советских граждан в поселке Забайкальск Читинской области от 20 июля 1961 года, когда в СССР приехала из Харбина семья Гоберников. И ещё очень много документов, и даже школьный альбомчик Фиры с пожеланиями в стихах. Такие альбомчики были в то время у всех девочек.

Представлены наградные кубки Якова Григорьевича Гоберника, прекрасных старинных китайских ваз, очень красивая мебель, сделанная в Харбине в начале XX века, фарфор и другие предметы быта семьи Гоберников. Открытие выставки было многолюдным - два больших зала были переполнены. На открытии выступил сам Григорий Яковлевич Гоберник, который проникновенно рассказал историю своей семьи, поделился своими мыслями и переживаниями. Коротко выступил директор музея, куратор выставки. Среди присутствующих была также Марина Тоболина (ур. Тайтурова), которая в начальных классах сидела с Гриней Гоберником на одной парте и которая

Яковлевичу, к его сестре Фире и всей их семье, как к своим близким людям.

Что касается самого виновника торжества, то Григорий Яковлевич Гоберник - Народный артист России. Заслуженный пеятель искусств Российской Федерации. Он - автор балета «Репете», детской оперы «Кот в сапогах», нескольких музыкальных комедий, вокальной и инструментальной музыки, сочинений для хора и оркестра, а также музыки более чем к 500 спектаклям театров России, стран Балтии, Польши, Израиля, Германии, Японии, CIIIA.

С 1985 года он возглавлял музыкальную часть Новосибирского ТЮЗа (сейчас театр «Глобус»). В 1990 году стал его художественным руководителем. С 1998 года - заместитель художественного руководителя Государственного академического Малого театра России, живёт в Москве.

Г.Я.Гоберник сделал бесценный дар в Новосибирский краеведческий музей. Этим он сохранил историю своей семьи, а также память о жизни в Харбине. Мы все храним эту память в своих сердцах, и эта выставка дала нам возможность вспомнить о том прекрасном городе и о нашем уже таком далёком и давнем прошлом. Спасибо Григорию Яковлевичу Гобернику за эти воспоминания.

> Ариадна БОГДАН г. Новосибирск, Россия

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нз шанхая - с любовью ...

Танкред Голенпольский, издатель,

писатель, переводчик

Михаил ДАВИДЗОН



Всю жизнь его преследовало чужое любопытство. Начиналось оно с первых же минут знакомства, стоило ему только представиться, назвать свое необычное имя. Деликатность собеседника уступала его удивлению, и следовал неизменный вопрос: «Танкред? Простите, а откуда такое странное сочетание звуков?» Приходилось объяснять. Однако миф сделал свое дело. Даже в биографических источниках написано, что его имя - это якобы дань родительской фантазии, которые впервые познакомились на опере Россини «Танкред».

В реальности все было иначе. Романтическое знакомство родителей произошло в 1930 году, в дружеской компании, и случилось это в Харбине, где отец Танкреда Голенпольского представитель СССР две ответственные должности: в управлении КВЖД, железной дороги, соединяющей Сибирь и Маньчжурию, и одновременно являлся экспертом зарубежного отделения «Экспортмеха» министерства внешней торговли СССР. По словам самого Танкреда Григорьевича Голенпольского, его назвали в честь деда по материнской линии, имя которого было Танфил, а в Танкреда он переименовался по собственной инициативе из-за своих многочисленных зарубежных контактов. При этом он добавил, отвергая возможные инсинуации в свой адрес: «Я родился евреем и всегда был евреем. В 13 лет у меня была бармицва. Для меня стать евреем никогда не было проблемой. Я всегда им был, никуда не прятался от этого. Не менял национальность, фамилию, имя и отчество...»

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Имя Танкреда Голенпольского стало широко известно в так называемую эпоху перемен, когда на гребне реформ второй половины 80-х годов прошлого века в СССР стали рушиться идеологические догмы и цензурные запреты. К тому времени в литературных кругах его знали в основном как переводчика современной американской литературы. Переводы в его жизни - период этапный. Он занялся ими, поскольку окончил еврейский колледж в Шанхае, где одновременно с ивритом преподавали и английский язык. Его окружение и в детстве, и в подростковом возрасте тоже, было англоязычным. По заказам издательств переводил на русский язык серьезных авторов - Артура Миллера, Артура Хейли, Джеймса Болдуина, Ирвина Шоу, Эдварда Олби, Роберта Пенна Уоррена и других.

А все могло сложиться совсем иначе. Он родился в Харбине в 1931 году, и с детства взгляды его на Страну Советов складыва-

лись на отдаленном расстоянии, под влиянием мифов о свободной и счастливой жизни советских людей. Расставаться с этими иллюзиями не хотелось. Даже когда его родители не поверили обещаниям советских властей, призывавших зарубежных соотечественников после окончания Второй мировой войны без страха вернуться на родину, и отказались покинуть Шанхай, где после бегства из Харбина в 1936 году жили все военные годы. Однако 15-летний Танкред Голенпольский настоял на своем и уехал.

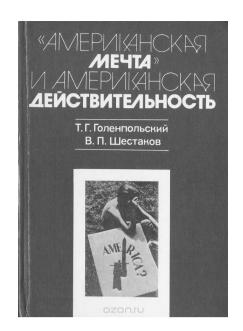
Через много лет он напишет книгу воспоминаний о жизни в Шанхае «Близнец», ее напечатают в США на английском языке, в ней есть такие строки: «Немногие знают, что с 1939 года Китай был единственной страной мира, которая принимала европейских евреев, спасающихся от нацистов. Еще меньше известно о том, что более 28 тысячам немецких, австрийских и польских евреев Советским Союзом было предоставлено право транзита в Китай, где они нашли убежище в Шанхае. И это в то время, когда США возвратили обратно в гитлеровскую Германию полный корабль с евреямибеженцами...»

А в 1946 году юный Танкред Голенпольский сразу после возвращения из Китая попал в детский дом в Забайкальском крае, и можно лишь предполагать, как могла сложиться его судьба, если бы не отличное знание им языков, полученных сначала в еврейском колледже, а потом в католическом пансионе Шанхая. Связь с

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родителями на долгие годы была прервана, но полученное в Шанхае образование принесло свои плоды. Кто-то опекал Танкреда Голенпольского в належде использовать его таланты и в будущем поставить их на службу, это очевидно, но он и сам извлек из опеки максимальную для себя пользу. В начале 50-х годов прошлого века его родители все-таки вернулись в СССР, после чего отца, Григория Голенпольского, немедленно арестовали, отправили в лагерь и амнистировали только после смерти Иосифа Сталина.

Диплом выпускника факультета романо-германской филологии Ленинградского педагогического института дал возможность Танкреду Голенпольскому заниматься преподавательской работой вузах регионов страны - в Донбассе, Восточной Сибири, Кабардино-Балкарии. Какое-то время на базе Дальневосточного отделения Академии наук СССР он заведовал лабораторией по изучению Западного берега США. Жизнь его круто изменилась после приглашения на работу во Всемирную службу Московского радио, где почти десять лет Танкред



Голенпольский вел собственную программу «Культура и искусство», ориентированную на русскоязычную эмиграцию в США.

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И все же подлинная известность пришла к Танкреду Голенпольскому после того, как в конце 80-х годов прошлого века в московской газете «Советская культура» появилась его статья по так называемому «еврейскому вопросу». Публикация затронула болезненную проблему общественной

жизни, вызвала многочисленные отклики, на нее обратили внимание и в Кремле. Танкреду Голенпольскому предложили войти в состав пресс-группы, которая сопровождала первого и последнего президента СССР Михаила Горбачева в ходе его визита в США. Рассказывают, что в полете, во время возвращения из США, между Михаилом Горбачевым и Танкредом Голенпольским состоялся личный разговор. Правда это или выдумка, но именно после этой поездки в Вашингтон советский президент благосклонно воспринял идею об издании в СССР «Вестника советской еврейской культуры», который впоследствии стал называться «Международная еврейская газета». Оба издания возглавлял Танкред Голенпольский, последнее - до своего ухода из жизни в марте 2015 года.

На снимке: обложка книги Танкреда Голенпольского «Американская мечта» и действительность» (с В.П.Шестаковым), вышедшей в московском издательстве «Искусство» в 1981 году.

«Окна» («Вести»)

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Песя Гольдштейн и её внук Томер Вильдорф



Иоси Клейн и его внук Раз Клейн

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Д-р Ариэль БАР (Бровински)

Мало кто из детей в Израиле может сказать: «Мой отец родился в Китае». Это утверждение до сих пор приводит в изумление и завораживает. Насколько я могу судить, магия далекого места, где родился Гари Бровинский, все еще продолжается.

Тари родился в Харбине. Он был единственным сыном своих родителей Бины и Исаака Бровинских, которые приехали в Харбин в конце 1920-х годов из Одессы. В те годы переезд из СССР в Китай был запрещен, и молодая пара перешла нелегально границу. Исаак открыл мастерскую по серебрению изделий, что обеспечило семье хорошее материальное положение. Новорожденному дали имя Гари в честь американского актера Гари Купера, который очень нравился его маме. На комоде у нее стояли три фотографии: человека с бородой - Герцля, человека в очках - Жаботинского и Гари Купера. С момента рождения сына его мама мечтала о том, чтобы Гари стал скрипачом, как Яша Хейфец.

С четырех лет Гари стал учиться играть на скрипке. Он занимался у известного педагога Владимира Трахтенберга. Вскоре расцвет его таланта стал очевидным, выступления были очень успешными, в газетах его хвалили и называли вундеркиндом. Позднее один из харбинских иммигрантов рассказывал мне: «Я не был знаком с вашим отцом, но знал его. Все его знали. Помню, меня взяли на концерт. На сцене стоял ваш отец, тогда восьмилетний мальчик, а рядом с ним - девочка, пианистка. Во время концерта внезапно погас свет, но два вундеркинда продолжили играть, ни разу не сбив-

У этой впечатляющей карьеры была цена. Мой отец не посещал начальную школу, учился дома у частных преподавателей и занимался музыкой по многу часов в день, в то время как играть со своими друзьями в футбол ему запрещалось, чтобы не повредить руки. Каждое лето семья отправлялась на дачу за рекой, чтобы провести летние каникулы. Всякий раз, когда отец говорил о Харбине, он с блестящими глазами рассказывал о реке, о рыбалке и купании со своим отцом, о железнодорожном мосте через реку, о кафе, в котором они с родителями лакомились пельменями. Если уж речь зашла о еде, то можно рассказать и о другой безумной идее его мамы. Яша Хейфец должен был быть здоровым и упитанным, а не таким худым, как маленький Гарик. Возражения не допускались, и послушный мальчик вынужден был поглощать масло и яйца в немыслимых количествах, но, конечно, безрезультатно. В одну из холодных зим мой отец заразился туберкулезом. Болезнь протекала с очень высокой температурой. Посреди ночи в тридцатиградусный мороз во двор въехал извозчик. Больного поместили в повозку и отвезли в Немецкую больницу в ста метрах от дома. Маленький мальчик, который был прилежным учеником, понимал латынь, и когда врачи заговорили между собой, он, услышав слово «туберкулез», все понял. Его мать утверждала, что врачи ничего не понимают, и настаивала на своем: если сын будет много есть, туберкулез зарубцуется, и он выздоровеет. Сегодня как врач, я могу сказать: это удивительно, что мой отец пережил не только болезнь, но и её лечение ...

Единственные воспоминания о Второй мировой войне, услышанные мною от отца, это солдаты, которых он видел на улицах города, а также разговоры о «бомбе», связанные с Японией. О Холокосте он ничего не знал.

В 1950-е годы, когда Гари, будучи 16-летним подростком, окончил среднюю школу и Высшую музыкальную школу, семья покинула Харбин и отправилась в Израиль. Их первой остановкой был город Тяньцзинь. Здесь мой отец неожиданно увидел в продаже на каком-то стенде американскую газету «Пайлот». Хорошо зная английский, он с нетерпением погрузился в чтение и был поражен, обнаружив в газете клеветническую статью об американском президенте Гарри Трумэне. Когда поспешил рассказать этом своему отцу, тот ответил: «Видишь ли, Америка - демократическая страна, можно говорить все, даже о президенте, а Советская Россия - страшная страна, там сплошная ложь». Мой отец, который изучал советскую доктрину в Харбине с 1945 года, в тот момент понял, что его отец прав, и это определило его дальнейший переход к жизни в свободном мире. Жизнь моего отца и его родителей в Израиле началась с лагеря для иммигрантов «Атлит», по сорок человек в бараке. Это был резкий переход от комфортного европейского уклада жизни в Харбине к условиям жизни в лагере, переполненном представителями многочисленных этнических групп и

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культур. Оттуда семья на некоторое время переехала в мошав Амикам, основанный Бейтаром. Ничто не могло смутить мою бабушку - ни иммиграционный лагерь, ни мошав, но главное в этой истории - Яша Хейфец. Каждую неделю она ездила с моим отцом, со скрипкой, на уроки музыки в Тель-Авив к директору Академии музыки г-ну Партосу. Вскоре семья переехала в Гиватаим. Мой дедушка открыл мастерскую и стал копить деньги, чтобы купить собственную квартиру. Израильская Армия, которая решительно боролась с нашими врагами, не произвела впечатления на бабушку Бину. Когда мой отец был призван в армию, открылся новый «фронт»: многие офицеры «пали в сражении» с бабушкой, пока она не добилась для сына направления на прослушивание в армейский оркестр. Однако одной скрипки оказалось недостаточно для тех, кто его прослушивал, и тогда в течение нескольких недель мой талантливый отец быстро научился играть на кларнете и саксофоне. Вместе с оркестром он выступал по всей стране, знал ее вдоль и поперек.

Проложив себе дорогу в роли пер-

вого скрипача оркестра, мой отец по окончании военной службы был принят в Израильский филармонический оркестр. Он был замечательным скрипачом, играл с ведущими музыкантами мира, но прошло два года, и он содрогнулся от осознания того, что никогда не станет Яшей Хейфецем, несмотря на то, что в глазах людей понимающих он считался первоклассным музыкантом. Совершив шаг, полный драматизма, он покинул мир музыки и решил изучать электронику в Лондоне. К тому времени он уже встречался с моей матерью Даниелой, и в Лондоне они поженились. Прожив пять лет в Европе, три в Англии и два в Париже, мои родители приехали в Израиль. После работы в нескольких местах в качестве инженера мой отец начал свою успешную карьеру в Министерстве обороны вплоть до назначения начальником отдела авиации и электроники в Управлении по закупкам.

Мы - три его сына: Ярон Бровински занимается театром и телевидением, Гилад - специалист в области маркетинга и высоких технологий, а я, Ариэль, – врач – офтальмолог и пластический хирург.

Спустя почти пятьдесят лет мой отец вновь побывал в Харбине. «Я объехал весь мир, - сказал он, - и только здесь, в Харбине, ко мне вернулось чувство дома». От прежнего там осталось очень мало: Китайская улица с ее каменными зданиями, построенными русскими, синагога, превращенная в музей, отель «Модерн», несколько русских ресторанов, однако большинства домов уже нет. Харбин теперь - это большой современный город. Даже река, о которой с тоской вспоминал мой отец, изменилась до неузнаваемости, даже железнодорожный мост, который он помнил с детства.

На протяжении всей своей жизни отец почитал харбинскую еврейскую общину и поддерживал тесную связь с Игуд Иоцей Син. Он скончался 4 декабря 2017 года. А моя бабушка, кстати, до последнего дня так и не отказалась от своей мечты, лишь кое-что изменила. В гостиной на стене висели три фотографии: человека с бородой, человека в очках, и только Гари был другой. Теперь это был вундеркинд из Харбина со скрипкой в руках - мой отец.

Пер. с иврита Ц.Любман

НА ЦЕРЕМОНИИ ВРУЧЕНИЯ СТИПЕНДИЙ ТРИ-ПОКОЛЕНИЯ ОДНОЙ СЕМЬИ





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В Китае бытует поговорка: «На небесах есть рай, а на земле - Сучжоу и Ханчжоу». Но может ли быть рай рядом с великолепным Шанхаем? Оказывается, может! В Сучжоу мы сразу же окунулись в атмосферу необыкновенной гармонии, спокойствия и красоты. На нас снизошла, не побоюсь этого слова, благодать. Здесь можно было отдохнуть от оглушительных шанхайских впечатлений и немного расслабиться.

Построить город, которому не было бы равных по красоте, правитель древнего царства У повелел еще в 514 году до н.э. Так и возник Сучжоу. Как и Шанхай, он расположен в дельте реки Янцзы, поэтому в прошлом здесь часто случались наводнения. В те далекие времена для регулирования водных потоков в городе в течение трех столетий была построена великолепная система каналов, через которые перекинулись тысяча мостов. Деревянные, разумеется, не сохранились, а вот многие каменные стоят до сих пор. Земным раем Сучжоу назвали за прекрасный климат и благоприятные природные условия. Прелесть этого города состоит еще и в том, что он находится на берегу красивого озера Тайху, по которому скользят джонки с разноцветными парусами, ловко огибающие чуть ли не девяносто островков. К одному из них тянется самый длинный в Китае озерный мост. А по берегам озера раскинулись чайные и рисовые плантации и апельсиновые и лимонные рощи. Действительно райское местечко! Древний облик города во многом сохранил свою патриархальность. Тут предпочитали жить придворные чиновники, богатые купцы и ученые. Они строили здесь дома и дворцы, вокруг которых разбивались роскошные сады и архитектурно-парковые ансамбли, в наши дни считающиеся классикой. В Средние века таких достопримечательностей было более двухсот, но сейчас сохранилось около пятидесяти. В 1997 году многие сады Сучжоу были включены в Список всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО. Сады и каналы создают манящую прелесть этого города. Недаром знаменитый венецианский путешественник Марко Поло, побывавший в Сучжоу в 1276 году, назвал его восточной Венешией.

В Китае есть, пожалуй, два величайших сооружения - Великая китайская стена и Великий канал, протянувшийся от Пекина до Ханчжоу на 1800 километров. Это самое древнее в мире гидротехническое сооружение, которое строилось две тысячи лет, имеет уникальную систему шлюзов. Канал соединяет бассейны пяти рек, в том числе самых больших в Китае - Хуанхэ и Янцзы. Проходит этот канал, путешествие по которому оставляет незабываемое впечатление, и через Сучжоу.

САДЫ

Китайские сады - подлинные шедевры паркового искусства. Их создавали, сообразуясь с законами учения фен-шуй, прекрасные специалисты в области архитектуры, живописи, литературы и философии. Это чисто китайское наставление, наука о правильной организации жизненного пространства, суть которой - существовать в гармонии с окружающим миром, чтобы в жизнь

человека беспрепятственно проникала энергия изобилия и успеха. Местные сады отражали преуспеяние и богатство своих хозяев. В них особенно комфортно чувствовали себя императорские чиновники, вышедшие в отставку. Здесь они проводили время в созерцании природы, философствовали, устраивали поэтические вечера и концерты.

Обязательные составляющие китайского сада - вода, растения и камни, тщательно подобранные в соответствии с особым замыслом. Вода здесь может быть в виде озера, ручья, пруда, водопада или их различных сочетаний. Растения выражают различные образы и символы. Скажем, плакучие ивы, высаживаемые по берегам водоемов, олицетворяют женственность, сосны - мужество и долголетие, лотос - чистоту.

А камни - их называют «тайхуши», что значит «добытые из озера Тайху», - подвергаются длительной, терпеливой обработке. От скалы откалывают куски, проделывают в них несколько отверстий и помещают на дно озера, где камни приобретают причудливые формы. По прошествии нескольких лет или даже десятилетий ими украшают сады.

Львиный лес. Сад уединения. Сад рыбака. Сад мастера сетей... Но самый известный и один из лучших в Китае - это Сад скромного чиновника, разбитый в 1509 году чиновником Аном Сяньшэнем. Удалившись от дел, он семнадцать лет посвятил созданию сада. А после смерти чиновника его сын ничтоже сумняшеся проиграл сад за одну ночь.

Китайские сады обычно бывают

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украшены павильонами, беседками, чайными домиками. Кстати, восхитительное садовое искусство пришло в Японию и Корею именно из Китая.

ДРЕВНОСТИ

Сучжоу - древнейший населенный пункт в бассейне реки Янцзы. Согласно летописям, город окружала оборонительная стена, в которой было прорублено шестнадцать ворот. От тех крепостных сооружений до нашего времени дошли только часть стены и ворота Пань-Мэнь. Говорят, что это самые древние из сохранившихся ворот. Они были сооружены в VI веке до н.э. и имели свой секрет. Во время войны, когда враг собирался штурмовать Сучжоу, эти ворота распахивались, а небольшие потайные, которые вели в город, закрывались. Неприятель был уверен, что врывается в город, а на самом деле оказывался запертым со всех сторон и становился легкой добычей лучников, засевших на крепостных стенах.

Славится Сучжоу и своими пагодами, носящими романтические названия. Одна из них, которая возвышается в центре, называется пагодой Пылающих лучей. Любопытна Падающая пагода храма Облачных скал, отклонившаяся от вертикали более чем на два метра. А еще есть так называемые парные пагоды. Давным-давно они стояли по обе стороны от входа в монастырь Баньжуо, который был впоследствии разрушен. В наше время после восстановительных работ пагоды вновь открыты для посетителей, а от монастыря по-прежнему остается только фундамент.

ашохоо канжан

Так называли шелк. Производство этой удивительной ткани было налажено именно в Китае в эпоху неолита, то есть за несколько тысячелетий до новой

эры. И до сего времени Китай остается крупнейшим производителем шелка в мире, а в самом Китае крупнейшим производителем является Сучжоу. Мы побывали на фабрике по производству шелка, ознакомились с последовательными фазами его изготовления. Было очень интересно. Надо сказать, что сам процесс этот довольно простой и за тысячелетия почти не изменился. При фабрике есть магазин по продаже вышивок - настоящих шедевров искусства.

RAP AIIHAOTO

Есть в Китае еще одна поговорка: «Для того чтобы быть счастливым, нужно родиться в Сучжоу, а жить в Ханчжоу». И следуя этой мудрости, мы из Сучжоу переместились в Ханчжоу. Первое упоминание об этом городе появилось в связи со строительством Великого канала, самой южной оконечностью которого Ханчжоу и является. Благодаря этой водной артерии товары и продукты сельского хозяйства плодородного юга Китая в былые времена доставлялись на довольно скудный север, что обеспечило городу быстрое развитие.

Особого процветания Ханчжоу достиг тогда, когда стал столицей империи южной династии Сун. Здесь расцвели ремесла по изготовлению изысканнейших сортов шелка и знаменитого сунского фарфора - тогда посуду впервые стали изготавливать из белого каолина, а не из глины. Появились замечательные изделия из лака, дерева и слоновой кости. Считается, что именно в то время были изобретены порох и компас. Культурное влияние Сунской династии прослеживается до сих пор в особенностях кулинарии и диалекте. Надо сказать, что в Средние века Ханчжоу был одним из крупнейших городов мира, а сегодня это самый известный в мире китайский город. Его еще называют столицей чая.

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Ханчжоу издавна был известен как самый романтический китайский город. Его окрестности славятся очаровательными пейзажами, воспетыми еще древними поэтами, и дошедшими до нас памятниками прошлого. Недаром Марко Полописал: «Ханчжоу - самый красивый и восхитительный город в мире».

Особенно привлекательно озеро Сиху (Западное). Говорят, оно самое красивое из тридцати шести китайских озер, носящих такое же название. Легенда гласит, что озеро образовалось из прекрасной жемчужины, упавшей с неба, которую уронили Нефритовый дракон и Золотой феникс. В течение многих веков озеро подвергалось реконструкции, его углубляли и укрепляли дамбами. В древности в его обустройстве самое активное участие принимали два поэта-губернатора: сначала Бо Цзюйи, а потом Су Дунпо, которые обратили внимание на сказочную красоту этих мест и воспели ее в своих стихах. Древние называли это озеро Упиньшуй, то есть «Вода с горы Упинь». Название «Сиху» впервые появилось в поэмах Бо Цзюйи, а затем оно было употреблено в официальном документе Су Дунпо.

По краям Сиху окаймляют заросли лотоса, а вдоль его берега тянется аллея с ивами и персиковыми посадками. Причем на каждую иву приходится по три персиковых дерева. Очень романтическое место! Вокруг озера расположены древнейшие парки и знаменитые плантации самых дорогих сортов чая. Сиху окружают экзотические растения, цветущие в разное время года, - магнолии, камеи, орхидеи, сакура, османтус, который является символом Ханчжоу. Цветки этого душистого маслинового дерева используют для ароматизации чая и в медицинских целях.

Сихо и его окрестности - изумительное место, которое посещают миллионы туристов. Многие занимаются здесь медитацией, а кто-то просто любуется завораживающей панорамой, которая издавна вдохновляла знаменитых художников. Считается, что этот ландшафт воплощает в себе идею соединения Неба и Человека. Тут даже устраиваются международные мероприятия под названием «Выставка у озера Сиху». В 2011 году решением ЮНЕСКО озеро было внесено в Список всемирного наследия.

ПАГОДА ШЕСТИ ГАРМОНИЙ

Такими строениями, как пагоды, в Китае, разумеется, никого не удивишь, но в Ханчжоу есть одна, периода династии Сун, о которой, пожалуй, стоит упомянуть отдельно. Это пагода Шести гармоний - Люхэта, названная так в соответствии с буддийскими представлениями о вещах и понятиях, которые окружают людей: небо и земля, север и юг, запад и восток... Пагоды строились в виде башен религиозно-философский символ, чтобы своим существованием влиять на окружающую местность и защищать ее от злых духов.

Пагода Шести гармоний была построена на берегу реки Цяньтан, у подножия холма Юэлунь с целью усмирить драконов, повелевавших водными стихиями, и таким образом защитить Ханчжоу от разрушительных наводнений, которые вызывала приливная волна. Кроме того, эта пагода служила маяком.

Пагода Шести гармоний - это восьмиугольное сооружение высотой 60 метров. Она имеет тринадцать карнизов, каждый из которых на стыке углов, по традиции китайской архитектуры, загнут вверх. На углах висят сто четыре колокольчика, призванных охранять

территорию от злых сил. Представляете, какой перезвон можно услышать в ветреную погоду!

В наше время пагоду реконструировали и оборудовали лифтом. Поднявшись на последний этаж, можно полюбоваться прекрасной панорамой озера Сиху и самого Ханчжоу. Несмотря на свою двухтысячелетнюю историю, это современный город с населением семь миллионов человек.

Но как постичь эти шесть гармоний? Очень просто! Нужно подойти и шесть раз ударить в старинный колокол, находящийся рядом с пагодой.

ЖАМ ПРИБЕЖНИЦА ДУШН

Давным-давно, в 328 году, когда еще не было Ханчжоу, возле озера Сиху побывал индийский монах Хуэйли. Уже в то время озерные пейзажи на фоне гор вызывали у людей восхищение. Очарованный монах подумал, что именно в этом месте находится тайная обитель святого духа, и решил построить здесь монастырь под названием «Храм прибежища души» - Линьиньсы. Это один из десяти виднейших буддийских монастырей Китая, богатейший в стране. За долгие годы своего существомонастырь Линьиньсы неоднократно разрушался, восстанавливался и активно расширялся. Достаточно сказать, что только в первом тысячелетии здесь проживало более трех тысяч монахов. Сегодня это гигантский комплекс, состоящий из многих зданий, который язык не поворачивается назвать монастырем, скорее уж это действительно храм. В 2000 году на пожертвования верующих здесь были построены новые корпуса.

Относительно устройства монастыря заметим, что в его состав входят три главных строения: павильон Небесных владык, павильон Махавиры - Великого героя,

то есть Будды, и павильон Исцеляющего Будды. Рядом расположены другие, не менее важные павильоны. Центральным в комплексе является павильон Махавиры, величественное здание высотой более 30 метров, построенное в традиционном китайском стиле - с тремя ярусами нависающих карнизов.

Наиболее сильное впечатление в павильоне производит установленная в центре зала золотая статуя Будды силяшего Шакьямуни высотой 25 метров. Точнее, сама статуя деревянная, но позолоченная. Для ее изготовления потребовалось двадцать четыре ствола камфорного дерева. Восседающий на Лотосовом троне Будда излучает спокойствие и благолепие - высшую стадию просветления и совершенства. Статую основателя буддизма окружают различные фигуры его последователей. В других павильонах также множество статуй святых и лоханей - буддистов, достигших просветления.

Монастырь Линьиньсы расположен на склоне горы, поэтому на территории обители много лестниц, террас и площадок. Встречается здесь множество высеченных в скале барельефов Будды и бодхисаттв - просветленных. Повсюду растут цветы и деревья.

ТОРЖЕСТВО НОВОГО ВЕКА

Китайские древности повсюду соседствуют с чудесами XXI века. Не успели мы отъехать от Ханчжоу, как в окнах автобуса в синеве залива перед нами предстало фантастическое видение - Ханчжоу-бей, самый длинный автомобильный мост в мире, пересекающий морское пространство. Его длина 36 километров, построен он в виде буквы S. Такая форма придана мосту для максимальной устойчивости при сильных приливных волнах (вспомним

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пагоду Шести гармоний). Однако есть и другая причина. Многокилометровые мосты действуют на водителей усыпляющим образом, а при извилистой

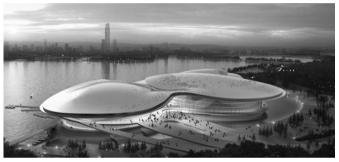
трассе аварийность снижается,

так как внимание обостряется и препятствует засыпанию за рулем. Для этой же цели по всей длине трассы установлены разноцветные мигающие фонари. Более того, на середине моста рас-

положена площадка для отдыха с рестораном, гостиницей и смотровой площадкой.

«Мир путешествий»

ИЗРАИЛЬСКИЙ ФИЛАРМОНИЧЕСКИЙ ОРКЕСТР В КИТАЕ



Большой театр Цзянсу



Оперный театр в Харбине

В начале августа прошлого года, спустя несколько дней после закрытия концертного сезона 2016-2017, Израильский филармонический оркестр и его музыкальный директор маэстро Зубин Мета отправились в Китай, в летнее концертное турне, первое из двух предстоявших в то лето зарубежных выступлений.

Израильский филармонический оркестр был удостоен чести открывать Большой театр Цзянсу в новом районе развития Нанкина, столицы провинции Цзянсу.

Большой театр Цзянсу - это крупнейший проект создания центра искусств в Китае за последние десять лет. Он включает шесть залов: оперный театр на 2300 мест, концертный зал на 1500 мест, драматический театр на 1000 мест, конференц-зал на 3000 мест, который может быть использован для различных представлений, и два маленьких конференц-зала.

В первом концерте Израильского

филармонического оркестра были исполнены увертюра Вебера «Оберон», Восьмая («Неоконченная») симфония Шуберта и Пятая симфония Чайковского; в программе второго концерта - увертюра Бетховена «Леонора» №3, Первый концерт Мендельсона для скрипки с оркестром, в котором солировала 12-летняя китайская скрипачка Серена Ванг, и Фантастическая симфония Берлиоза; в третьем концерте были исполнены увертюра к опере Моцарта «Свадьба Фигаро», Первый концерт Бруха для скрипки с оркестром (солист Чарли Сием) и Третья симфония до минор, или Симфония с органом, Сен-Санса. Маэстро Зубин Мета, оркестр и солисты были тепло встречены восторженной аудиторией.

Выступление Израильского филармонического оркестра, завершавшее турне по Китаю, состоялось в Харбине, который является столицей и крупнейшим

городом провинции Хэйлунцзян в северо-восточном регионе Китая. В программе первого из двух концертов были исполнены увертюра Моцарта к опере «Свадьба Фигаро», Концертная симфония для скрипки, виолончели, гобоя и фагота Гайдна (солисты концертмейстер ИФО Давид Радзинский, первая виолончель Эмануэль Силвестри, первый гобой Дуду Кармель и первый фагот Дэниэл Масаки) и Пятая симфония Чайковского. Во втором концерте вместе с Израильским филармоническим принимал участие Харбинский оркестр. Вначале Израильский оркестр исполнил Симфонию № 40 Моцарта, затем Харбинский оркестр сыграл увертюру-фантазию Чайковского «Ромео и Джульетта» и в заключение оба оркестра вместе исполнили Фантастическую симфонию Берлиоза.

"IPO News"

BAAET "B OCAJE" OT AH ANIINH

«Поэт танца», знаменитая хореограф и балерина Ян Липин представила в Израиле спектакль «В осаде», премьера которого прошла в Лондоне в ноябре 2016го в театре «Сэдлерс-Уэллс». «В осаде» - балет об амбициях и лояльности, вожделении и эротизме, предательстве и страхе.

Ян Липин: «Я опустилась в глубины прошлого и глубоко погрузилась в настоящее, чтобы найти связь между людьми, между человеком и душой, между душой и миром. Понятие осады проистекает из природы человека, ее тень может омрачить нашу жизнь, но в наших силах не допустить этого». На гастролях в Австрии труппа Ян Липин удостоилась 15-минутных оваций. Так же было в Голландии и Великобритании, так же было и в Израиле. «В осаде» на сегодняшний день считается одним из самых ярких и эмоциональных современных балетов Европы, хотя сама Ян Липин - уникальная танцовщица и хореограф, чье имя в первую очередь ассоциируется с Китаем. В своей работе «В осаде» она обращается не только к давней китайской истории и истокам кунфун, но и ко многим видам искусства, и прежде всего к визуальной красоте, современному танцу, идеям даосизма, хип-хопу, художественным инсталляциям, искусству вырезок из бумаги, к театру теней, к музыке современной и этнической, и к традиционным китайским музыкальным инструментам. И ясно одно - такой магической истории о любви и войне на сцене тель-авивского Центра сценических искусств публика еще не видела.

В балете участвуют 18 танцоров, два музыканта, актер Пекинской оперы и мастер-художник по вырезкам из бумаги. Вместе они творят захватывающий театр

танца - 100 минут энергии, акробатики, тай-чи и модерн-балета. «В осаде» - эффектная балетная историческая драма, держащая зрителей в напряжении на протяжении всего действия. Эффект усиливается благодаря необычным костюмам и декорациям. 20 тысяч пар ножниц, свисающих с потолка, красные перья, необычные аксессуары - все подчеркивает кровавость и жестокость битвы между войсками Чу и Хань, одного из важнейших сражений в китайской истории.

Ян Липин подчеркивает: «Рассказывая зрителям историю 2000-летней давности, мы хотели показать и темные, и светлые стороны человеческой природы. Люди, как и раньше, причиняют боль другим лишь для того, чтобы защитить свои интересы. В мире продолжаются войны, которые кажутся бесконечными - так же, как и 2000 лет назад. Люди убивают людей, остаются без крова, становятся беженцами. Кажется, что война никогда и не прекращалась. Этим балетом мы хотим выразить нашу обеспокоенность и показать, что нам не все равно». Кстати, сам сюжет - битва между войсками Чу и Хань - для китайского искусства не новый. Об истории этой знаменитой битвы рассказывалось в музыке, литературе и кино. Сражению был посвящен известный в Китае фильм «Прощай, моя наложница». Теперь увидеть эту историю можно и в ритме современного балета, в жанре modern-dance.

Ян Липин всегда говорит, что она продолжает танцевать не только на сцене, но и «в повседневной жизни и даже в душе», что танец это неотъемлемая часть ее жизни, как и ее знаменитый танец «Душа павлина», который стал неотъемлемой частью не только китай-

ской, но и мировой культуры. «Душа павлина» - это то, что никто не может повторить. Как ни пытаются искусные танцовщицы изобразить нечто подобное, танец остается им неподвластен...

Ян Липин иногда называют колдуньей, а она и не отрицает, с одной лишь поправкой, что колдовство в её роду исключительно танцевальное. На родине Ян таких людей называют «бимо» - колдунья, обладающая даром танца. Бабушка танцовщицы тоже была «бимо» и всю свою жизнь выражала в танце, с помощью него общалась с небом и землей, с помощью него говорила с богами. Ян родилась в 1958 году, выросла в южной провинции Юньнань и принадлежит к национальной группе «бай». Павлин - символ или, правильнее сказать, тотем этого народа. Пожалуй, никто в мире не знает об этих прекрасных птицах больше, чем байцы.

Ян Липин - миниатюрная китаянка с тонкими чертами лица и почти прозрачным телом - самоучка. Хореографического образования она не получала, но танцевать начала с раннего детства. В 12 лет талант стал настолько очевиден, что её пригласили в профессиональный ансамбль. Нереально гибкая и пластичная, Ян может сделать танец из чего угодно. Вдохновение она черпает из наблюдений за природой и искусно перевоплощается в то, что видит. Всемирная известность пришла к ней, когда родился потрясающий, ни с чем несравнимый танец «Душа павлина». Поклонники считают Ян Липин самым красивым, идеальным существом из когда-либо живших на Земле. Ян и вправду само олицетворение гармонии, любви и красоты.

Безусловно, творчество Ян Липин внесло весомый вклад в совре-

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менное танцевальное искусство мира и Китая, а сама она является одним из символов современного танца нашего времени, объединив в своем творчестве народные элементы и современную хореографию...

В 1990-е годы Ян Липин также попробовала себя в кино. В 1998 году ее фильм «Солнечная птица»,

где она выступила как режиссер, автор сценария и актриса, был удостоен особой премии международного кинофестиваля в Монреале.

В 2003 году танцовщица оставила работу в Центральном ансамбле народной песни и пляски. Она уехала из Пекина в провинцию Юньнань, чтобы найти вдохно-

вение и пополнить свою коллекцию народного танца для будущих спектаклей. История Ян Липин показала, что она не только прекрасная танцовщица, но и талантливейший хореограф, и спектакль «В осаде» - одно из тому доказательств.

Маша ХИНИЧ

BAXKHLIE COBLITHA B HHC H OAHK

26 ноября 2017 года в Тель-Авиве (ха-Барзель,30) открылся Китайский культурный центр - официальное культурное учреждение, основанное китайским правительством для всестороннего представления в Израиле китайской культуры и укрепления китайскоизраильских культурных связей. На церемонию открытия были приглашены более ста гостей, в том числе представители Игуд Иоцей Син и Общества дружбы Израиль-Китай. Перед собравшимися выступили заместитель министра культуры КНР Чжан Сюй, начальник отдела по культурным и научным вопросам МИД Израиля Рафаэль Гамзоу, Временный поверенный в делах посольства Китая в Тель-Авиве Цай Вэймин, заместитель мэра Тель-Авива Асаф Замир. Спикер Кнессета Израиля Юлий Эдельштейн направил в адрес нового центра поздравительное видеообращение.

В концертной программе по случаю открытия центра приняли участие израильский струнный квартет и китайский виолончелист Лю Ян, солистка Израильской оперы Ира Бертман (сопрано), солист Шанхайского оперного театра Юй Хаолэй (тенор) и пианистка Белла Штейнбок, а также ведущая арфистка Шанхайского филармонического оркестра Чэнь Юйин, победи-

тель Международного конкурса арфистов в Израиле в 2015 году. Китайский культурный центр призван способствовать сближению и взаимопониманию двух народов, а также расширению культурного обмена между обеими странами. К открытию центра была приурочена фотовыставка, посвященная наиболее значимым событиям в жизни Китая в 2017 году. В экспозиции были собраны работы, разнообразные по сюжету - это охрана окружающей среды, культурное наследие, здоровье и образ жизни, передовые технологии, инновации и международные связи. Вместе с тем все фотографии отражали стремление китайских фотомастеров поделиться со зрителями выставки культурным богатством, красотой, гостеприимством и процветанием своей страны.

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27 марта 2018 года состоялось собрание членов ИИС, на котором с лекцией о прошлом и настоящем еврейских общин в Шанхае выступила Яэль Фарджун, член ОДИК. Лекция вызвала большой интерес, и аудитория тепло приветствовала лектора. Яэль впервые приехала в Шанхай в 2010 году. Заинтересовавшись историей города, она стала самостоятельно изучать историю шанхайских евреев, прошлое и настоящее еврейских

общин города. Сегодня Яэль Фарджун живет в Шанхае, занимается туризмом, у нее есть своя туристическая фирма и соответствующий сайт.

* * *

22 апреля 2018 года Общество дружбы Израиль-Китай (ОДИК) организовало ставшую традиционной ежегодную поездку по стране представителей китайского посольства во главе с послом КНР в Израиле при участии членов ИИС и ОДИК. В этом году по просьбе китайского посла Чжань Юнсиня состоялась экскурсия в город Назарет. В муниципалитете гостей приветствовал мэр города Али Салам. В своем выступлении мэр отметил заинтересованность городской администрации в инвестициях китайских компаний в экономику Назарета и обратился к послу с просьбой оказать содействие в привлечении инвесторов. Экскурсия по городу, начавшаяся сразу после встречи с мэром, включала посещение рынка, экскурсию в Храм Благовещения и обед в местном ресторане. На обратном пути в Тель-Авив участники поездки посетили базилику Преображения на горе Фавор (ивр. Тавор) в восточной части Изреельской долины.

Д

СВЕДЕНИЯ О СУДЬБЕ ВАЛЕНТИНЫ

PABBE

В результате поисков сведений о судьбе моей родственницы Вали Равве (см. «НСМ» №192, с.8) мне удалось установить следующее.

Согласно документам и воспоминаниям, Валентина родилась в 1923 году, жила в Харбине с 1925 года, воспитывалась родителями матери. Окончила І-ю Харбинскую музыкальную школу по классу фортепиано, выпуск 1937 г., и экстерном Английскую гимназию (English Harbin Secondary School). Затем училась у В.Л.Гершгориной, которая была заведующей музыкальной школы и имела свою студию. Давала сольные концерты с конца 1930-х годов.

С начала 1940-х Валя – солистка Харбинского симфонического общества и частный преподаватель музыки. В 1944 г. вышла замуж за фтизиатра Товия Пешковского, врача Еврейской больницы.

После 1945 года получила приглашение работать в СССР. В 1948 году была арестована СМЕР-Шем. Вскоре был арестован Пешковский. Оба были отправлены в лагеря СССР по статье 58. На момент ареста у Вали был годовалый ребёнок, судьба его неизвестна.

Отбывала заключение в Степлаге (Казахстан). После освобождения в 1956 году Валентина жила в Караганде, работала концертмейстером, преподавателем фортепиано. Вскоре после освобождения (возможно, ещё в лагере) вышла замуж за саксофониста Желябина, с которым играла в ресторанах джаз. Известна в Караганде только под фамилией Желябина. Была найдена фотография 6-го выпуска Карагандинской музы-

кальной школы в 1960 г., где

среди педагогов школы значилась и фотография с подписью «Желябина В.А. Педагог». Умерла в Караганде в 2000 году.



Хотелось бы выяснить или подтвердить следующее:

Что случилось с настоящими родителями Валентины? Был ли у Валентины муж, был ли ребёнок и что с ним произошло?

Что стало причиной ареста? Было ли приглашение в СССР? Харбинское симфоническое общество создавалось и поддерживалось япоцами как орган пропагандистской работы. Возможно, это сыграло свою роль в дальнейшей судьбе Валентины.

В переписке сотрудников БРЭМ за 1942 г. по поводу Валиной поездки в Аньдун упоминается виолончелист Погодин, который порекомендовал взять Валю вместо менее сильной пианистки Блохиной. Упоминаются японцы, которые были «верными покровителями евреев в Симфоническом обществе».

Где произошел арест – в Харбине или в Дальнем?

Есть воспоминание дочери атамана Семёнова о том, как её переправляли в СССР из Порт-Артура на военном самолёте вместе с пианисткой Валей Равве (на сайте Сахаровского центра, статья «Узница Тайшетских лагерей»).

После 1945 г. Погодин играл со своим оркестром в Дальнем в ресторане «Ямато», где танцевала Семёнова.

Хотелось бы отыскать людей, которые могут вспомнить Равве, Гершгорину, Пешковского, Погодина или ещё кого-то из І-й Харбинской музыкальной школы или Английской гимназии. Любые воспоминания о Харбинском симфоническом обществе будут приняты с благодарностью.

* * *

Я хотел бы связаться с Виталией (Татой) БУРСУК.

Виталия (Тата) Бурсук родилась в 1930-х годах, окончила I-ю Харбинскую музыкальную школу по классу рояля. Буду благодарен за информацию о её судьбе.

Просьба связаться со мной по адресу:

Равве Роман

Ул. Первомайская, 51, кв.11 Александрия, Кировоградская обл. Украина 28000

e-mail: roman.ravve@gmail.com

* * *

Looking for contact with Vitalya (Tata) BURSUK.

Born in early 1930s, graduated the 1st Harbin Music School on the piano class. I would really appreciate any information on Tata's whereabouts.

Please contact me by address:

28000, Ukraine,

Kirovograd region, Oleksandriya, Ul. Pershotravneva 51, kv.11,

Mr. Roman Ravve

e-mail: roman.ravve@gmail.com

Роман РАВВЕ «НСМ», № 198, декабрь 2017

Н

ЭШОМ И НАМИЧАВШ RHЭЖ ОШИЛ ЭЖ ОТ И ОНДО-РИВОЗЧЭЗ

Юдит САНДЕЛ

Бывают детские воспоминания, которые мы храним в сердце всю жизнь, а бывают такие, что со временем исчезают из памяти.

Мы с Женей познакомились в детском саду, но это длилось недолго. Когда настало время идти в школу, наши пути разошлись. Я училась в еврейской школе «Талмуд-Тора», а его отдали в городскую - Розовую школу. Вероятно, я бы совершенно забыла о нем, если бы не услышала однажды, как мои родители шепотом говорили о том, что Женя Шварцман - «усыновленный ребенок».

К тому же, произошла еще одна невероятная история: в один прекрасный день приехали родные отец и мать Жени и, соблазнив его ложными обещаниями, уговорили вернуться к ним. Приемной матери мальчика Фруме ничего не оставалось как уложить все самые хорошие вещи Жени и его игрушки в чемодан и отпустить его. Однако в действительности все оказалось не так, как обещали родители. Тогда восьмилетний мальчик решил вернуться в свою приемную семью и по железной дороге самостоятельно добрался до Харбина. Не знаю, понимала ли я в свои восемь лет, что означает слово «усыновленный», но героическое поведение мальчика произвело на меня огромное впечатление.

Спустя много лет я решила поделиться с читателями «Бюллетеня ИИС» этой запомнившейся мне с детства историей. Но тут мне позвонили из редакции и попросили не упоминать подлинное имя Жени, чтобы «не навредить ему и не нарушать права человека», поскольку он живет в Израиле под

другим именем - Моше Беркович. Сама просьба показалась мне бессмысленной: ведь я за прошедшие десятилетия ни разу не видела Женю и никогда не думала, что журнал может каким-то образом попасть к нему в руки. Все же я немного сократила текст рассказа и предложила редакции взять имя «Гриша» вместо «Женя». Тогда я думала, что история на этом закончилась.

Журнал «Бюллетень» вышел в свет. Я отдыхала в Эйлате, когда неожиданно зазвонил мобильный телефон. «Говорит Моше!», -услышала я и в ответ закричала: «Женя!» -«Почему вы сменили мое имя на Гришу? Гриша - это имя моего приемного отца!»

Так чудесным образом возобновились наши отношения. За этим последовали бесконечные беседы по телефону, которые продолжались многие годы. Долгое время я не знала, как Женя Шварцман превратился в Моше Берковича, но постепенно картина стала проясняться.

Гриша Шварцман, приемный отец Жени, был арестован в Харбине в 1945 году и отправлен в СССР, в ГУЛАГ, откуда он так и не вернулся. Его жена Фрума Беркович, приемная мать Жени, иммигрировала с сыном в Израиль. Чтобы замести следы и покончить с прошлым, они поменяли Жене имя, и он стал Моше. Трудно представить себе, какой это был вид усыновления, если социальные службы и психологи не были привлечены к участию в деле и «усыновление» походило на передачу ребенка из одних рук в другие. Как это повлияло на ребенка? Мы с Женей никогда об этом не говорили. Дело в том, что он строго хранил свою тайну, и никто в кибуце, где он жил, ничего не знал о его родных отце и матери.

В бесчисленных разговорах со мной Женя раскрыл свой секрет. По возвращении в свою русскую семью он узнал, что у него есть сестра, на два-три года старше его. Семья жила в бедности. Родители не проявляли заботы о нем, и он чувствовал себя заброшенным. Когда Женя решил вернуться в Харбин, он убедил сестру присоединиться к нему, потому что жизнь в Харбине была намного лучше. По дороге они уговорили китайцев купить им билеты на поезд в Харбин, но когда они добрались до места назначения, сестра куда-то исчезла, и он её больше не видел и ничего о ней не слышал. Теперь же ему захотелось найти свою сестру. Тогда я написала рассказ под названием «Мальчик по имени Саша», который, как и предыдущий, был опубликован в «Бюллетене». Втайне я надеялась, что никого не заинтересует рассказ о судьбе сестры этого мальчика. Никто не связывал эту историю с Женей и никто не знал, что у него есть сестра. По-видимому, она вернулась в свою семью, а потом они все оказались в России.

Однажды Женя отправился в Иркутск, чтобы встретиться с семьей своей приемной матери Фрумы Беркович. Шестидневную поездку на поезде из Москвы в сибирский город Иркутск он рассматривал как приключение, путешествие, встречу с людьми. У него сложились теплые отношения с семьей Беркович, и он даже поинтересовался, известно ли им, что он приемный сын, или

они считают его родным сыном Фрумы.

За долгие годы мы встречались с Женей дважды: в первый раз в моем доме, во второй раз в доме одной харбинской подруги. Таким образом я смогла его увидеть, а не только слышать его голос. У него были проблемы с сердцем, но он всегда был в хорошем настроении, рассказывал о военной службе и своих путешествиях по всему миру, о Канаде, о друзьях, которых он приобрел.

Было это лет десять тому назад: у меня в машине раздался телефонный звонок и я услышала голос Жени: «Я нашел свою сестру».

Какая радость! На российском веб-сайте, предназначенном для поиска родственников, Женя нашел имя сестры. Через некоторое время он отправился навестить ее. Он помнил ее девочкой, которая шагала с ним по шпалам,

а теперь перед ним стояла старуха, и между ней и той девочкой не было ничего общего. Испытывал ли Женя разочарование, я не знаю, но он, безусловно, чувствовал себя обязанным. Он попытался помочь ей в финансовом отношении и снова отправился навестить ее, но на этот раз встретился с ней в доме престарелых в Ростове-на-Дону. Иногда они разговаривали по телефону. Она тоже была жертвой террора, выжила в ГУЛАГе, и её не покидали тяжелые воспоминания.

Год назад я снова встретилась с Женей в кибуце Ифат, где он жил. Он отмечал свой день рождения. «Я купил тебе красную икру, сказал он, - помнишь? Такую же, как та, которая была у нас в Харбине». Я помню.

Друзья со всех концов страны приехали, чтобы отпраздновать его день рождения. Думал ли он

тогда, что это прощание? Не знаю. Состояние здоровья его оставляло желать лучшего.

Постфактум я поняла, что рассказ о мальчике по имени Саша, вошедший в мою книгу воспоминаний, помог Жене рассказать свою историю членам кибуца. Йоси Якобсон, друг детства из Харбина и член кибуца, долгие годы хранил его тайну.

Поистине реальность превосходит всякое воображение.

Согласно его просьбе он был похоронен в кибуце Ифат рядом с мамой Фрумой Беркович.

Я пишу эти строки, оттого что мне больно. Такова история о мальчике - родился Женя, а ушел из жизни Моше.

Да будет благословенна его память!

Июль, 2017 г. (Пер.с иврита Ц.Любман)

HOCH KAEHHY - So

В субботу, 5 августа, в китайском ресторане в Тель-Авиве был устроен ужин по случаю 80-летия председателя ИИС Иоси Клейна. За праздничным столом собрались члены ИИС – друзья Иоси, чтобы отпраздновать его юбилей и пожелать здоровья и продолжения актив-

ной деятельности на благо нашей Ассоциации.

С поздравлением и теплыми пожеланиями к юбиляру обратился Рони Вейнерман. Он поделился воспоминаниями об их с Иоси первых днях совместной работы в ИИС, когда Тедди Кафуман в 1995 году привлек их,

представителей более молодого поколения выходцев из Китая, к общественной деятельности в нашей организации.

За столом царила трогательная атмосфера воспоминаний о прошлом в Харбине и о пролетевших годах в Израиле. Вкусные блюда китайской кухни украсили вечер.







Mourobbin annuk 13139

ИЗРАИЛЬ

Мы, три двоюродных брата - Эйлон Маков, Мор Браха и Барак Кедар, потомки Мани и Бори Тригубовых из Игуд Иоцей Син, благодарим вас за подарок, который мы получили ко Дню незавивимости Израиля. Мы очень рады, что принадлежим к пятому поколению основателей мошава Амикам. С наилучшими пожеланиями,

Эйлон МАКОВ, Мор БРАХА и Барак КЕДАР

ИЗРАИЛЬ.

Два моих внука - Омри и Гай Тауба, которые служат в армии, получили подарки к Дню независимости, и я от их имени хочу поблагодарить вас за заботу и внимание. Большое спасибо.

Малка ЛАОР

ИЗРАИЛЬ

Мы хотим поблагодарить вас за подарок, который наша дочь Нив Янир, военнослужащая Армии обороны Израиля, получила к Дню независимости в знак того, что она принадлежит к обществу выходцев из Китая. С наилучшими пожеланиями,

Ури ЯНИР (Сандел)

ИЗРАИЛЬ, Матан

Уважаемые господа! Поздравляем всех вас с праздником Рош ха-Шана и желаем счастья, здоровья, долгих лет жизни, «нахес» от детей, внуков и правнуков, от всех дорогих вам людей. Очень благодарны вам за вашу помощь, она поддерживает нас, улучшает настроение, внушает оптимизм.

Будьте же все счастливы и здоровы!

Борис и Раиса ГРУСМАН

ИЗРАИЛЬ.

Мне необходимо найти кого-нибудь из членов семьи мисс Дебби Блумфилд из Шанхая. Она была учительницей в Шанхайской еврейской школе в период с1930 по 1945 гг., считалась хорошим преподавателем и посвятила себя школе. После войны мисс Блумфилд переехала в США. У нее был брат, доктор Роберт Блумфилд, который проживал в городе Торранс в Калифорнии. Любая деталь, касающаяся этих двух людей, очень важна для меня.

Бенджамин AБРАХАМС mr.bin2605@gmail.com mobile: 0547-576766

ЮЖНАЯ АФРИКА, Кейптаун

Мои прадедушка и прабабушка Эмиль и Марта Галлинер, беженцы без гражданства, прожили в Шанхае с 1941 по 1947 гг. на ул.Туншань-роуд., уг.Алкок-роуд. В 1947 году они отправились из Шанхая в Сан-Франциско на американском военнотранспортном судне "Marine Adder".

Сохранилась адресованная им открытка от мистера М.Нисенбаума от 24 мая 1947 г., в которой он благодарит мистера и миссис Галлинер за их добрые пожелания, за прощальный «вечер» и надеется, что следующий «вечер» Галлинеры проведут со своими детьми. Текст на немецком языке. Указанный адрес: То Mr. & Mrs. Emil Galliner, 818/8 Tongshan Road, Hongkew (Local). From Mr. M.Nisenbaum "Tick-Tack" wife. No 1 Card. Mercier Local (18).

Галлинеры выехали 10 июня 1941 года из Берлина в Шанхай, где они провели 7 лет. Мы хотели бы узнать о мистере и миссис Нисенбаум, об их дружбе с Эмилем и Мартой Галлинер, а также значение слов «Tick-Tack».

Дженин ХАК hihack@iafrica.com

NYTEWECTBHE H3 WAHXASI B XAHФY

Ран (Рони) ВЕЙНЕРМАН

Я родился в декабре 1940 года в Шанхае, в семье Альберта и Эстер Вейнерман.

В раннем детстве я ходил в детский сад при Шанхайской еврейской школе, а когда подрос, пошел в ту же школу в первый класс. До сих пор помню некоторых учителей: мисс Абрахам, учительницу математики мисс Коэн, преподавателя иврита мистера Редита, учительницу рисования миссис Мемельсдорф и директора школы мистера Холландера, а также учителя иврита, в ермолке, который учил с нами слова «гальгаль» (колесо), «шалом» (приветствие), «кумкум» (чайник), а также слова из молитв.

Помню кабинет директора школы. В коридоре под настенными часами, которые находились как раз напротив двери, ведущей в кабинет, часто стоял кто-то из наказанных учеников. Было довольно страшно проходить мимо открытой двери, когда директор, сидя у себя за столом, разглядывал учеников, шедших по коридору.

Вспоминается интересная история, связанная с учительницей рисования. Однажды летом наша семья как обычно проводила время в горах Хуаншань. Мы отправились из Шанхая в Ханчжоу поездом, оттуда на такси доехали до подножия гор, а затем преодолели подъем в гору с помощью носильщиков, которые усаживали каждого пассажира в специальное бамбуковое кресло и вдвоем переносили его наверх, в жилой район, где мы должны были остановиться. Я, в то время семилетний мальчик, конечно, предпочел идти вверх пешком по дороге, проходившей через бамбуковый лес. В районе, где мы поселились, пейзаж был другой: всю площадь покрывали уже не бамбуковые деревья, а высокие сосны.

Однажды утром я отправился на прогулку в лес вблизи дома. Мне навстречу шла группа китайских офицеров. Увидев меня, они остановились и один из них заговорил со мной. Он спросил, чем занимается мой отец, и задал еще несколько вопросов, не помню, каких. Вернувшись с прогулки, я с удивлением услышал, как учительница рисования, которая тоже была среди отдыхающих, громко говорит что-то, обращаясь ко мне. Я сначала не понял, чем она так взволнована, пока не услышал: «Ты только что разговаривал с Чан Кайши!» Я знал, кто такой Чан Кайши, но на меня тогда это событие не произвело должного впечатления - вероятно, я был еще слишком мал. Так закончилась моя встреча с президентом Китайской Республики. Впоследствии я осознал всю важность события, случившегося в моей жизни, и при каждом удобном случае с гордостью рассказывал об этой встрече. И снова Шанхай, повседневная жизнь. Утро начиналось с того, что за мной приезжал рикша, чтобы отвезти меня в школу. Мы проезжали по торговой улице Симо-роуд (Simo Rd.) с ее многочисленными лавками, которые торговали овощами, фруктами, готовили кукурузу, и запахи, не всегда приятные, сопровождали нас всю дорогу до школы. Я хорошо помню входные ворота и лестницу, ведущую к главному входу в здание. Наш класс вспоминается мне как просторная

комната, может быть, потому, что я был тогда еще маленьким. В классе стояли столы и стулья, рассчитанные на младших школьников

Мы жили в доме «Гарден Апартмент» ("Garden Apartment") по Бабблинг Уэлл стрит (Bubbling Well str.), угол Сеймур-роуд (Seymour Rd.), недалеко от Шанхайской еврейской школы и синагоги Охел Рахель. Дом был построен в колониальном стиле, с двумя круглыми колоннами по обеим сторонам входа. Массивные входные двери в квартиры были сделаны из дерева и украшены стильными квадратами, которые придавали им благородный вид.

Дверь из кухни выходила на черную лестницу. Там находилась комната, в которой жила моя няня, или «ама», со своей дочерью Бетти. В коридоре на стене висел телефон, и в связи с этим я вспоминаю интересный момент. Как-то раз утром, когда родителей уже не было дома, а бабушка находилась в спальне, неожиданно раздался телефонный звонок. К телефону подошел дедушка, а я почему-то тоже оказался рядом и тут услышал, как дед спросил: «Что, Рита родила?» Действительно, Рита, моя любимая тётя, родила девочку, которую назвали Норой. Впоследствии девочка выросла и вышла замуж за Дэвида Броде. У них родились дети - сын и дочь, и сегодня они живут в Иерусалиме.

Но вернемся на пятьдесят восемь лет назад. Было яркое утро или полдень. Помню, как мы - я, папа и мама, бабушка и дедушка - стоим на пристани в шанхайском порту в ожидании посадки на американ-

ский военный корабль под названием «Генерал Гордон», который должен отвезти нас в Палестину. Так мне было сказано, и это все, что я понял.

В тот солнечный день вместе со всей семьей я очутился на корабле. Нас разместили на нижней палубе в спальном отсеке, в котором койки располагались в два или три яруса. Вскоре мы с тетей Любой были уже на палубе, и я с любопытством разглядывал множество окружавших меня предметов: спасательные шлюпки, цепи, железные колеса для хранения цепей, перила и многое другое. Вдруг я услышал сообщение по громкоговорителю: «Мистер Альберт Вейнерман, пожалуйста, пройдите в капитанскую рубку». Я спросил у тети, что случилось, и услышал в ответ: «Ничего особенного, просто так». Мы продолжали гулять по палубе, пока наш корабль не тронулся в путь, взяв курс на Японию, но об этом я узнал уже позже.

Когда мы вернулись в наше помещение, я увидел маму, бабушку и дедушку, но папы с ними почему-то не было. На вопрос, где папа, мне сказали, что он занят. Однако на самом деле все было иначе: моему отцу велели немедленно покинуть корабль, и он не смог отправиться вместе с нами в Палестину.

В США в те годы появилась «звезда» по имени Маккарти. Во время холодной войны Маккарти стал символом страха распространения коммунизма в Соединенных Штатах. Он покровительствовал осведомителям, среди которых были бывшие белогвардейцы из России. Один из них пожаловался на моего отца, которого заподозрил в связях с коммунистами.

В то время, когда евреи стремились получить удостоверения личности, чтобы не считаться беженцами, только Советский Союз был готов дать им совет-

ский паспорт. Соединенные Штаты даже пальцем не пошевелили, чтобы помочь евреям. Этот информатор, по-видимому, был неважным осведомителем, если посчитать коммунистами таких людей, как мой отец или его друг Александр Копилович. В то время в США маккартизм воспринимался очень болезненно, и так продолжалось до тех пор, пока не сменилось правительство, а президентом страны стал Эйзенхауэр. Забегая вперед, скажу, что отец и еще несколько евреев, которым отказали во въезде в США иммиграционному согласно закону, принятому в рамках маккартизма, были отправлены из Шанхая самолетом в Израиль с остановкой в Аммане - столице мусульманской страны, которая не придавала никакого значения личным данным пассажиров; при этом ни один из пассажиров не имел израильского паспорта.

Мысленно я возвращаюсь обратно на корабль. Мама долго лежала в постели, измученная «морской болезнью», дедушка и бабушка сидели на палубе, наслаждаясь солнечной погодой, я же тем временем вертелся на кухне, желая «помочь» команде, а потом приносил им всем апельсины, которые мне давали за «помощь». Мне нравилось стоять у стойки, где пассажирам раздавали еду на подносах, я носил штаны, которые теперь называют джинсами, и наслаждался жизнью.

Наш корабль сделал остановку в японском порту Иокогама, затем в Нагасаки. Все это время мы оставались на борту судна, которое продолжало путь в Гонолулу. Помню, у причала в порту Гонолулу я увидел, как мальчишки плавали возле корабля, ожидая, когда пассажиры будут кидать в воду монеты, а потом ныряли, чтобы отыскать их. Мне очень понравилось это зрелище. И еще мы смотрели, как на пристани выступали

музыканты и танцоры. Они исполняли песни и танцы хула-хула. Перед отплытием из Гонолулу нам дали букеты цветов, которые мы бросали на воду, когда корабль выходил из порта.

Наконец наш корабль прибыл в США, в Сан-Франциско, и здесь мы столкнулись с американской демократией в лучшем ее проявлении.

Когда судно пришвартовалось в порту Сан-Франциско и прибывшие пассажиры собирались сойти на берег по трапу, мы увидели зрелище, которое я никогда не забуду. Внизу, на пристани, от трапа до платформы, где пассажиров ожидал поезд, выстроились в линию полицейские, вооруженные автоматами. Они стояли вплотную, плечом друг к другу, так что никто и ничто не могло проскочить между ними.

Мы спустились по трапу на пристань и пошли вдоль по «проспекту» полицейских. Позади полицейских стояла толпа встречающих, которые искали глазами среди прибывших своих родственников, но при «диктаторе» Маккарти такого не могло быть. Я, маленький «коммунист», очевидно, представлял серьезную опасность для гнилого маккартистского режима, и полицейские не могли позволить мне подойти к тёте Шейле, которая тоже была среди встречающих.

Более обстановка приятная ожидала нас в поезде. Хорошие вагоны, аккуратные спальные места, чистое постельное белье повсюду царил образцовый порядок. Проводники-афроамериканцы тепло относились к нам и хорошо обслуживали. В ресторане было красиво, еда была вкусная. Но самое главное для меня заключалось в том, что мы получали игрушки в изобилии.

Поездка на поезде из Сан-Франциско до Нью-Йорка заняла несколько дней, а когда мы при-

были на нью-йоркский причал, повторилась та же картина: нас вновь встретила шеренга полицейских, вооруженных автоматами. Паром доставил нас на остров Эллис, расположенный в устье реки Гудзон в бухте Нью-Йорка. Мы оказались в центре приема иммигрантов. Я помню огромное помещение с множеством коек. Мальчик, с которым я тогда дружил, называл их двухъярусными, а мне казалось, что койки располагались в один ярус, но в строгом порядке, и это выглядело в моем представлении как какая-то военная установка.

Я находился с мамой и бабушкой в отделении для женщин, а дедушка -- в мужском отделении. Остров Эллис был пунктом приема прибывавших в США иммигрантов и транзитных беженцев. Нас предупредили, что территория окружена забором, который находится под током высокого напряжения, и каждый, кто коснется забора, погибнет на месте.

В помещении находился огромный зал, который использовался для встреч людей, содержавшихся в пункте приема, с их родственниками. Однажды мама привела меня туда, чтобы встретиться с тётей которая Шейлой. специально приехала из Вашингтона с целью повидать нас. В зале было много людей, все громко разговаривали. Внезапно из толпы появилась тётя Шейла. Мы все были взволнованы встречей и тоже не скрывали своей радости. Я до сих пор помню подарки, которые она мне принесла. Ещё помню выступление американского певца, комика, актера театра и кино Ала Джолсона, очень известного в то время. В 1950 году, через год после этого выступления актер скончался.

Как-то раз утром со мной произошел случай, который я прекрасно помню до сих пор. Детям разрешалось выходить поиграть на большой террасе. Мы играли в какую-то игру, и тут я вдруг увидел нечто совершенно необыкновенное. Это была статуя Свободы во всем ее великолепии - с факелом в руке, с короной на голове, с улыбкой, выражающей свободу! Дар французского правительства американскому народу в 1886 году.

Прошли годы, но в моем сознании статуя Свободы так и осталась неразрывно связанной с островом Эллис - «островом слёз», как его называли, с тюрьмой, где мы провели в заключении около двух недель. Сегодня «остров слёз» служит туристическим объектом. На панелях из нержавеющей стали увековечены имена иммигрантов, кто в свое время побывал здесь. Процедура внесения имени в список стоит денег. Поэтому я сомневаюсь, что список имён тех, кто прошел через «остров слёз», является полным.

Когда нас отпустили, мы вновь оказались в нью-йоркском порту, чтобы на американском военном корабле «Генерал Стюарт» продолжить наше путешествие. Не помню, что это было за судно, большое или маленькое, зато не забыл, как нас поселили в помещение с трехъярусными койками, как опять рассказывали историю корабля, и всё это мне очень нравилось.

Спустя несколько дней мы прибыли в итальянский город Трани и пересели на поезд, который доставил нас в город Бари. Однако этот поезд вовсе не был похож на тот, которым мы ехали из Сан-Франциско в Нью-Йорк.

В Бари нас перевели в бывший военный лагерь, который теперь был преобразован в лагерь для иммигрантов. Из того периода я помню несколько вещей. Нас разместили в помещении, которое было разделено на комнаты картонными перегородками. Некоторые перегородки были разорваны, и через отверстия можно было

заглядывать к соседям. Излишне говорить, что голоса звучали в этом пространстве так, как будто все находились в одной большой комнате. В действительности так оно и было. Ещё я хорошо помню уроки иврита с учительницей, приехавшей из Израиля, которая угощала нас шоколадом «Элит».

И наконец, последнее - это поездка в город с дедушкой. Дед, в костюме, в шляпе, взял с собой трость, не столько для того, чтобы опираться на неё, сколько для внешнего вида. Поэтому мы пошли по главной улице, где было полно людей, конных экипажей и такси. Дед решил зайти в большой магазин, а я остался на улице разглядывать прохожих и множество проезжавших мимо автомобилей. Вдоль бульвара росли деревья, вокруг царила уличная суета.

Я долго ждал дедушку и решил, наконец, заглянуть в магазин и узнать, что он там делает. Войдя в дверь, я огляделся, пытаясь найти деда, но безуспешно: его в магазине не было. Я быстро выбежал на улицу и стал в толпе искать глазами дедушку, но его там тоже не было. Не зная, куда повернуть, направо или налево, я решил повернуть налево и почему-то побежал. Через несколько минут я увидел своего деда, медленно шедшего по улице, как будто ничего не случилось. Я схватил его за рукав и спросил, почему он ушел, не позвав меня, на что он ответил, что позвал меня и был уверен, что я иду за ним.

Хорошо то, что хорошо кончается! В то время в Италии было много беспризорных детей, и я мог бы пополнить их число - такая мысль пронеслась у меня в голове. Но я не остался в Италии изучать итальянский язык. Видимо, это была судьба, если не больше...

Из Италии мы плыли на корабле гораздо меньшего размера. Я помню только свежую краску, которой были выкрашены перила

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на палубе, и надпись "Fresco Bianco", хотя не понимал ее значения.

Спустя несколько дней наш корабль подошел к берегам Эрец Исраэль. Это был четверг, 31 марта 1949 года.

Когда судно приблизилось к берегу, большинство пассажиров высыпали на палубу, и я, конечно, был среди них. Стоя на палубе, я прислонился к перилам и смотрел на приближающуюся пристань. Мое внимание привлекли три стоявшие на пристани мужские фигуры. Вероятно, я так сосредоточился на них, что никого не замечал вокруг.

Был ранний вечерний час, и сумерки уже опускались на город Хайфу. Я помню гору Кармель на

заднем плане, гавань с портовыми кранами и большими зданиями на берегу, свет в некоторых окнах домов и три фигуры, стоящие на пристани.

Корабль медленно приближался к причалу, и теперь из темноты я мог лучше разглядеть этих мужчин. И тут произошло самое важное: я увидел, что один из них - мой отец! Двух других я не знал тогда, но позже мы с ними близко познакомились, так как они оба были хорошими друзьями моего отца: один, по имени Александр Копилович, отец Эли Камы, который был со мной на корабле, а другой - Мося Бурлаков, отец Глэдис и Дэвида. Это была великая радость встретить отца по прибытии в Израиль.

После того как мы, сойдя на берег, прошли все необходимые процедуры, отец повёз нас на такси черного цвета в район Бат-Галим. Он уже арендовал для нас две комнаты, в которых мы и поселились с первого момента прибытия в страну. По дороге мы остановились около ресторана «Тнува» в Бат-Галиме, и в этом ресторане был наш первый ужин в Эрец Исраэль. Я помню, что нам подали рыбу - «даг Моше рабейну», или камбалу.

Наше путешествие из Шанхая в Хайфу, продолжавшееся примерно три месяца, закончилось. Мы приехали в Израиль.

Пер.с иврита Ц.Любман

HAMATH BEALABL PHAMAH



В сентябре прошлого года в возрасте 87 лет скончалась Зельда Фридман, очень добрая, отзывчивая, жизнерадостная, никогда не унывавшая и всегда помогавшая другим.

Зельда приехала в Израиль из Китая в начале 1950-х годов и поселилась в общежитии для иммигрантов при хайфском отделении американской благотворительной организации «Лига женщин для Израиля» (The Women's League for Israel). У нее появилось много друзей в общежитии и в еврейской школе в кибуце Солелим, где она

учила язык - иврит. Вскоре Зельда нашла работу в Тель-Авивском муниципалитете по своей специальности дорожного инженера, которую получила еще в Харбинском политехническом институте (ХПИ). Она работала в муниципалитете до конца 1980-х годов и ушла на пенсию, чтобы помогать растить своего первого внука.

Когда Зельда вышла замуж за Давида Фридмана, их гостеприимный дом стал местом встреч друзей как из Китая, так и из России, которых они постоянно радушно принимали. Зельда всегда превращала такие встречи в вечера песни, на которых собравшиеся пели на русском и иврите.

Зельда была воплощением доброты - она всегда ставила благополучие других, слабых и нуждающихся, выше своих собственных интересов. Вместе с мужем Давидом она была готова помочь любому - члену семьи, другу или совершенно незнакомому человеку, в буквальном

смысле слова постучавшему в дверь их дома.

Зельда и Давид из абсолютно ничего создали образцовый дом и замечательную семью, жили и радовались, глядя на своих четверых внуков, как те растут и становятся молодыми людьми. В конце жизни судьба подарила Зельде возможность узнать о рождении первого правнука. Она оставила дочерей Ирит и Сарит с семьями и сестру Лику Каганер с семьей. Да будет благословенна ее память!

СЕМЬЯ

Тима ЛИТВИН

В Нагарии скончался в возрасте 97 лет Хаим (Тима) Литвин. Он родился в Хайларе, потерял отца 9 августа 1945 г. Долгие годы Тима поддерживал тесную связь с нашей ассоциацией, имел друзей, бывал на встречах земляков и жертвовал в память о родных и близких. После него остались два сына с семьями.

Светлая ему память!

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ШЕРЕМОНИЯ ВРУЧЕНИЯ СТИПЕНДИЙ

Тель-Авив, 18 декабря 2017 года









Посол КНР в Израиле Чжань Юнсинь, Илана и Гиора Леск и Иоси Клейн вручают стипендии студентам



Учительница китайского языка Лина Ван и ее супруг Мин Цин Дэвид



Студенты из Китая среди публики в зале

и, лик, пик, по,

משוני, עברו לגור בהם. בתים קטנים של חדר וחצי לזוגות המבוגרים, עם שירותים בחצר הבית, בודקה מבטון. המשפחות קיבלו בית צנוע בן שני חדרים וחצי. בבית של סבי וסבתי היו חפצים שהצליחו לקחת עמם מסין - ארגז עץ גדול ומכונת תפירה שעודם בבית אמי, כלי פורצלן (שהביאו הדורות הקודמים מרוסיה לחרבין) וחלקם שרדו עד היום, כלי פסח וכלי כסף.

למושב הגיעו מדריכי חקלאות שעזרו להם ללמוד את מלאכת החקלאות, משפחתי שהגיעה מן העיר חרבין לא הכירה את עבודת החקלאות כלל. כל משפחה קיבלה מספר פרות חולבות וכמה תרנגולות לצרכי משק בית. כל שתי משפחות קיבלו פרד משותף וכלים חקלאיים מינימליים. פאדיון היו מגיעים בלילות לבצע גניבות במשקים והיו מציבים שומרים על מנת להגן על המושב שהיה יישוב ספר.

החיים היו קשים, הרבה עזבו את עמיקם. המקום היה רחוק במראהו ממה שנראה היום. הגבעות היו קירחות (עוד מתקופת התורכים שהשתמשו בעצים), העמק כולו היה אדמת טרשים שהיה צריך לעבד אותה כדי לעשות עליה חקלאות.

באותה תקופה הפעילו את הגנרטור רק בלילה. רק בזמן הזה היה חשמל במושב עמיקם, כדי לקרר את החלב של המחלבה. סבתי מניה טריגובוב הייתה הראשונה שהביאה הביתה מקרר שפעל על נפט או על גז והוא פעל כל היום כיוון שלא היה תלוי בגנרטור.

ב-1958 נולדה אמי אורית במושב עמיקם. בתחילת שנות ה-60 בשל הקשיים בחקלאות, סבי וסבתי החליטו לצאת לעבוד מחוץ למושב כדי להשלים הכנסה, בשעה 6 בבוקר עבר האוטובוס לפרדס חנה ומשם המשיכו לתל אביב. סבתי מניה טריגובוב החל מאמצע שנות ה-60 הייתה מנהלת החשבונות באיגוד יוצאי סין וסבי בוריה עבד

בחברת "כור תעשיות". על כן לעתים נשארו ללון בתל אביב ואמי בילתה חלק מהזמן בבית אחותה דינה. בסופי השבוע עבדו במשק. אמי אורית בילתה בחופשים בתל אביב והייתה מצטרפת לאמה לעבודתה באיגוד יוצאי סין. את חגיגת בת המצווה, ערכו לה ההורים בחצר בית הכנסת הגדול של איגוד יוצאי סין ברמת החייל. בית הכנסת הקיים עד היום. בית הכנסת הזה נבנה בצלמו ובדמותו של בית הכנסת הגדול בחרבין. לימים בשנת 2012, נסעה אמי לטיול שורשים בחרבין שם נפגשה עם אחי נבו, שהיה בטיול במזרח, בילו יחדיו 8 ימים נפלאים וביקרו בבית הכנסת הגדול. בית הכנסת המשמש כיום כמוזיאון ליהדות חרבין. כמו כן גם הצליחו למצוא את בית מניה ובוריה טריגובוב, שם התקבלו בסבר פנים יפות. אחי ואמי לנו בבית המלון "מודרן" שבו התחתנו סבי וסבתי בשנת 1938. במלון נערכו רבות משמחות הקהילה היהודית של חרבין. כמו כן הם לא וויתרו על ביקור בבית העלמין היהודי שהיה מחוץ לעיר.

במושב היו למשפחתי חיי חברה מאד פעילים, הם היו חברים עם יוצאי סין אחרים – סניה בן בלה אורלוב, דני ומוסיה ברקוביץ', מומה ואליה לסק, אוליה וסיומה קליין (הוריו של יוסי קליין), נחמה ומוסייה הלפרין, אליהו לנקין (מפקד אלטלנה) ומשפחתו ועוד רבים. היו בקשר עם קרובי משפחה מחוץ למושב – ז'ניה ופטייה שטנברג, סימה איפלנד ובנה מוריק, ז'ניה וגרישה גומפ, מארה רוזנושצ'יקוב אח של סבתי מניה.

ליאן קמבליס, מורת דרך, סטודנטית שנה א' ללימודי א"י, גיאוגרפיה ולימודי הסביבה.



הגר יעקבי ששון יעקבי - סיפור עלייה לארץ

סיפור עלייתו וקליטתו של סבי, ששון יעקבי. סבי נולד במאי 1918 בשנגחאי להוריו כתוב ויחזקאל יעקב, ששימש כרבם של יהודי בגדאד בעיר ובבית הכנסת "אוהל רחל", שם הפליא בקולו כחזן. סבי, ששון, גדל במשפחה של שש אחים ואחיות, הוא למד בבית הספר הבריטי בעיר ואחר כך, למד לימודי עיתונאות באוניברסיטה האמריקנית.

הוא עבד ככתב וכעורך בעיתון מקומי בשפה האנגלית, והיה חבר בסניף "חרות" ביחד עם שניים מאחיו. הסניף הוקם על ידי מרדכי אולמרט, אביו של ראש הממשלה לשעבר, אהוד אולמרט. על רקע פעילות זו, אפשר להבין את החלטתם של שלושת האחים לבית יעקב לעלות לארץ בשנת 1949, עם עליית הקומוניסטים לשלטון בסין. הוא הגיע לארץ במסגרת מח"ל (מתנדבי חוץ לארץ) והשתקע במושב רמות מאיר ליד רחובות. לאחר מכן עבר למושב בני דרור בשרון, ועסק בחקלאות.

בין לבין, שירת בצה"ל כסייר. לאחר שחרורו, התחתן עם סבתי, חנה לבית לוי, אותה פגש בהכשרה במושב רמות מאיר. כזוג צעיר הזקוק

לפרנסה הוא קיבל הצעה מחברו, ג'ורג' ליאונוף, לנצל את ניסיונו כעיתונאי ולהצטרף אליו לעבודה ביומון היחיד שיצא לאור בישראל, הג'רוסלם פוסט (Jerusalem Post) שמרכזו היה בירושלים. ששון ורעייתו, חנה, קבעו את מושבם בעיר הבירה. סבי היה עורך וכתב בעיתון במשך שלושים ושלוש שנה. הוא ניצל את ידיעותיו במקצוע העיתונות ושליטתו המופלאה בשפה העברית, כדי לעשות חיל בעבודתו. סבי עבד ככתב בסוכנות הידיעות הצרפתית וערך את בעבודתו. סבי עבד ככתב בסוכנות הידיעות הצרפתית וערך את יוצאי סין. הוא כתב על קורותיהם של יהודי סין, ובפרט, יהדות עיראק, שהתרכזה בשנגחאי, מקום הולדתו.

בירושלים נולד אבי, יחזקאל, בנו היחיד של סבי וסבתי. יחזקאל גם בחר במקצוע העיתונות, אך הפעם בטלוויזיה הישראלית. הוא נפטר ביוני 2006 ועל כך הוא נפטר בגיל 88 ונקבר בהר המנוחות בירושלים. הוא השאיר אחריו אישה, בן ושלוש נכדות, ענבר, הגר וגל שגם זכו במלגות של איגוד יוצאי סין.

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נטע-לי חכמוב סיפור עלייתה וקליטתה של סבתי - אהובה סלנט

סבתי מצד אמי - אהובה לבית קביאט נולדה בפרנקפורט שעל גדות המיין בגרמניה. זכורות לה שנותיה הראשונות בגרמניה כשנים טובות באזור יפה במיוחד. אימה הייתה עקרת בית ואביה שימש כמורה וכחזן, אדם מכובד ומוסיקלי במיוחד.

בשנת 1938, ב-9 לנובמבר התרחש "ליל הבדולח". אירוע זה אשר נחרט בזיכרונה הוביל לעזיבת המשפחה את גרמניה. האירוע זכור כטראומטי ומבהיל במיוחד. הוריה חשבו על עזיבה לבריטניה אך הדבר לא עלה בידם. הייתה קיימת אפשרות כי היא ואחיה הקטן ממנה יישלחו באנייה לבריטניה. הכרטיסים כבר נקנו אך אביה התחרט משום שפחד שאם המשפחה תיפרד איו לדעת אם יעלה בידם להתאחד שוב. אימה של סבתי שהייתה רבת פעלים ובמיוחד אשת מעשה שמעה על האפשרות לעזוב לסין. חיש מהר הלכה וקנתה כרטיסים עבור המשפחה באנייה שהפליגה לשנגחאי. לא היו מספיק מקומות באנייה והיא השיגה רק שני כרטיסים ומשום כך סבתי ואחיה ישנו ביחד עם הוריהם באותה המיטה. במשך ההפלגה הארוכה חל חג הפסח. אביה של סבתי היה אדוק במצוות ומשום כר דאג מראש לקחת עמו מצות ויין לאנייה. הוא הקפיד מאוד על כך שהמשפחה תאכל אך ורק מזון כשר לפסח. כאשר המשפחה הגיעה לשנגחאי היא נקלטה במקום המכונה "הגטו היהודי". סבתי זוכרת כי היהודים התארגנו במהרה והצליחו לקיים חיי קהילה שכללו אף תרבות יהודית ענפה. החברות והחברים שסבתי הכירה בשנגחאי נהפכו לחברי נפש עד היום. הם חיו בסין למעלה מעשר שנים ועד היום סבתא מציינת את יחסי השכנות הטובים והקרובים שהיו בין היהודים לסינים.

לאחר שהוקמה מדינת ישראל הגיעו שליחים של הסוכנות היהודית לשנגחאי ושכנעו את המשפחה לעלות לישראל. במהלך השנים בסין אביה של סבתי נפטר כתוצאה ממחלה והדבר זכור לה כנקודת מפנה בחייה. המשפחה עלתה לארץ בהפלגה דרך איטליה שלקחה זמן רב. אחד הדברים שזכורים לסבתי לטובה היה העניין שעל האנייה לישראל היו רבים מחבריה וחברותיה מהקהילה היהודית בשנגחאי. הם תמכו אחד בשני לאורך כל הדרך.

הקליטה בארץ הייתה לא פשוטה. במיוחד מבחינה תרבותית. בתחילה הם גרו במעברה באזור השרון וניסו להסתגל למציאות החדשה. במהרה המשפחה עברה לירושלים בעקבות חברתה של סבתי. אותה חברה הייתה בתו של ראש "ישיבת מיר". עוד בשנגחאי הייתה שלוחה גדולה מאוד של "ישיבת מיר" אשר לאחר המלחמה עזבו לירושלים. סבתא פגשה את החברה בעת ביקור בירושלים. ובעקבותיה משפחתה של סבתי עברו להתגורר בירושלים.

היחסים האמיצים עם קהילת היהודים משנגחאי נמשכו ועודדו את רוחה בעת הקליטה בארץ.

לימים, סבתא פגשה את סבי, שהוא ירושלמי מדורי דורות, מגיע ממשפחה שורשית ומיוחסת - משפחת סלנט, משפחת רבנים ואמנים מפוארת. סבי וסבתי הקימו משפחה בישראל. סבתא עד היום יודעת שאלמלא הקליטה בשנגחאי, כל זה לא יכול היה להתקיים. אני תמיד מספרת לה על הפעילות הענפה והמשמעותית של איגוד יוצאי סין וזה מרגש אותה מאוד.

סיפור חייה של אהובה סלנט התקבל גם מהסטודנט אריאל פאלק.



ליאן קמבליס לבית טריגובוב נכדתם של מרים מניה וברוך בוריה טריגובוב, יוצאי חרבין, סין. הוריה של אמי אורית טריגובוב.

אני עצמי נולדתי ב-1992, סבתי מניה הלכה לעולמה ב-1985 וסבי בוריה ב-1991, לצערי לא זכיתי להכירם. הם עלו לארץ במאי 1950 במסגרת תנועת חרות בית"ר, בה לימים הייתי חניכה בעצמי.

משפחתי יצאה מנמל טנזין שבסין באנייה להונג קונג ב-5 בינואר 1950 – ליזה ונחום טריגובוב – הורי סבי, מינה וזאב רוזנושצ'יקוב – הורי סבתי, סבי וסבתי, דודתי – דינה ודודי – מוריק. מהונג קונג הם עלו על טיסה ארוכה שנמשכה 36 שעות ובמהלכה עצירות רבות – בנגקוק, מומביי, כלכותה ועוד. בראשית הגעתם לארץ ב-7 במרץ 1950 הגיעו לשער העלייה ל-4 ימים. לאחר מכן למחנה קליטת העלייה בעתלית(לשעבר מחנה המעפילים הבריטי). באפריל 1950, העמיסו חפציהם על המשאיות ונעו לאזור שבו יקום לימים מושב

עמיקם, מעט צפונית לבנימינה.

באזור הסמוך למושב של היום, ניכשו את הקוצים והקימו את האוהלים שבהם חיו כמעט שנה, בתנאי שדה. בחורף התמודדו עם הסערות, שהעיפו את האוהלים וגרמו לנזילות. בקיץ סבלו מנחשים ועקרבים. בזמן שישבו המשפחות באוהלים הגברים התעסקו עם תעשיית בלוקים, כדי לבנות את הבתים. כשהתחילו הקשיים הנשים והילדים עזבו לשוני. הם היו בלי חשמל, המים הגיעו מהמעיין של הוואדי, היה מנוע למשאבה שתזרים את המים למעלה. בהתחלה לא היו מקלחות, אז התרחצו בוואדי(נחל תנינים). ביישוב ההולך ונבנה החלו להקים גן ילדים, מרפאה ומכולת.

במרץ 1951 כשהיו בתי הסוכנות היהודית מוכנים חזרו הנשים והילדים

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לאחר שחזר מהעבודה סבא שלי נתקל באביה של סבתי - אברהם רפופורט. אברהם מיד זיהה אותו למרות שהפעם האחרונה שראה אותו היתה כשסבי היה ילד קטן בחרבין. סבי הוזמן לארוחת ערב אצל משפחת רפופורט ושם פגש את סבתי בפעם הראשונה מאז שהיו ילדים בחרבין.

הם נישאו ב-16 בינואר 1951. ב-13 באוגוסט 1960 נולדה אימי אסנת, ביתם היחידה.

סגירת מעגל קטנה

ב-2004 טסנו סבי, אימי ואני לכנס הגדול

שהיה עבור הקהילה היהודית בחרבין. זו הייתה הפעם הראשונה שסבי חזר לסין ובפרט לעיר הולדתו חרבין מאז שעלה לארץ. היה



הקברות היהודי. בעזרת איגוד יוצאי סין הצלחתי לאתר את הקברים של הוריו של סבי ולפקוד אותם

זה מסע עוצמתי מאוד ומרגש בו ביקר סבי

בספטמבר האחרון לאחר 13 שנה יצאתי

למסע אישי וטסתי לטיול בסין שבסופו

הופתעתי לגלות שבתערוכה המוצגת בבית

הכנסת החדש על הקהילה היהודית נמצאת

תמונה מאותו ביקור ב2004 שעשינו בבית

לאחר שנים רבות בקברים של הוריו.

ביקרתי בחרבין בעיר של סבא שלי ז"ל.

שוב, ופעם נוספת לסגור מעגל בין ארץ הולדתו של סבי לארץ מולדתו ומולדתי.



דפנה ישי (נינה) סיפורם של יעקב וברטה הירשהורן, הרקע להגירה לסין

משפחתה של סבתי עברה להתגורר באוסטריה מיד לאחר מלחמת העולם הראשונה, לאחר שסבא רבא שירת במלחמה כחייל בצבא הקיסר האוסטרו הונגרי ולחם בחזית האיטלקית. המשפחה התגוררה בוינה וסבא רבא עסק במסחר והצליח לצבור נכסים. מצבה הכלכלי של המשפחה היה טוב והם שמרו על אורח חיים יהודי מסורתי למרות שלא התגוררו באזור יהודי בוינה. המשפחה עברה בשלום את כל המאורעות שהתחוללו בוינה טרום מלחמת העולם השנייה, כולל מלחמת האזרחים. עם ביצועו של ה"אנשלוס" (סיפוח אוסטריה לרייך השלישי של גרמניה) חל באופו מידי שינוי במצבה של המשפחה. סבא רבא ואביו נאסרו זמן קצר לאחר כניסת הנאצים לוינה ונשלחו למחנות ריכוז (דכאו ובוכנוולד). סבתי ואחיה עזבו את אוסטריה, כל אחד בנפרד: סבתי עלתה לישראל במסגרת עליית הנוער של הגברת הנרייטה סאלד ואילו אחיה הבכור נשלח לארצות הברית. לאחר הפרידה הכפויה בין סבתי לאחיה, השניים לא התראו עוד מעולם למרות ששמרו על קשר. לאחר מספר חודשים במחנה ריכוז, הצליחה סבתא רבתא באמצעות היכרויות וקשרים ותמורת תשלום שוחד. להביא לשחרורו של סבא רבא מהמחנה. סבא רבא וסבתא רבתא החלו במאמצים נואשים להשיג אשרה למדינה כלשהי שתיאות לקבלם, מאחר וברור היה להם מה צפוי להיות גורלם אם יישארו באוסטריה. לבסוף, בשנת 1938, להשיג אשרה לסין הלאומנית של צ'אנג קאי-שק.

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המשפחה בסין

מסעם של הוריה של סבתא לסין החל בהגעתם לברית המועצות בסוף שנת 1938 - תחילת שנת 1939. מרוסיה נסעו ברכבת טרנס סיבירית, ממערב המדינה עד הגבול עם סין במזרח. הנסיעה המקוטעת ארכה מספר גדול של שבועות ובמהלכה התמודדו עם דוחק גדול, מחסור במזון ותנאים סניטריים ירודים. לבסוף הגיעו לסין

ועברו להתגורר ברובע היהודי של העיר שנגחאי יחד עם פליטים יהודים נוספים שהגיעו מגרמניה ואוסטריה. למרות שבשלב מאוחר יותר סין נכבשה על ידי היפנים, הקיסרות היפנית לא פגעה ביהודים ואפשרה להם לנהל חיי קהילה בשנגחאי. סבא רבא ניהל בעיר מסעדה יהודית כשרה על מנת להתפרנס. על תקופת חייהם של הורי סבתי בסין איננו יודעים רבות, מאחר והמכתבים ששלחו ארצה לא נשתמרו וסבתי המתקרבת לגיל 90 כבר איננה זוכרת רבות מהתקופה. כל שניתן לדעת היום הוא שקרוב לוודאי שהבחירה להגר לסיו הצילה את חייהם.

הקליטה בארץ

עם קום מדינת ישראל ולקראת עליית השלטון הקומוניסטי בסין, בראשית שנת 1949, עלו הוריה של סבתא לארץ, אליה הגיעו בתום שיט בן שישה שבועות באוניה משנגחאי, מסביב לאפריקה, לאוקיינוס האטלנטי, הים התיכון ולבסוף לישראל. בארץ פגשו את סבתי לאחר נתק בן עשר שנים (שבמהלכו נשמר קשר מכתבים רופף בלבד) והמשפחה עברה להתגורר בירושלים. כיוון שבתקופת שהותם בסין לא צברו הוריה של סבתא נכסים או ממון, הגיעו לארץ חסרי כל. סבא רבא ניסה להקים בירושלים עסק דומה לעסק שניהל בוינה טרום המלחמה - למסחר בשקי יוטה להעברת סוגי קמחים, קטניות, סוכר ועוד - אך ללא הצלחה מרובה. זאת בשל תקופת הצנע בישראל של שנות החמישים והפיקוח הממשלתי שהקשה על הקמה של עסק משגשג. סבתא רבא, למרות שזכתה להגיע לארץ, לא נהנתה ממנה היות ומספר חודשים לאחר שהגיעו נפטרה ממחלה קשה. כיוון שהמדינה עדיין הייתה בחיתוליה לאחר מלחמת הקוממיות והגישה לבית הקברות בהר הזיתים נחסמה עקב המלחמה, נקברה בבית קברות שהוקם בגבעת רם של היום (שיח' באדר). קיומו של בית הקברות הקטן בירושלים, לא רחוק ממשכן הכנסת, הוא סוד שאינו מוכר לרבים. סבא רבא האריך חיים אחריה ונפטר בגיל 72.

۵ V O אמה של לידיה ז"ל נפטרה בסיו בהיותה לידיה נערה. כנערה היא אומצה ע"י אמה של סופה, למרות ששם היו ילדים משתי משפחות. לסופה הייתה אחות חורגת מנישואיי אמה. שרה שאמנו מספרת על העזרה שהגישה לה כשנולד אוהד, (אמנו כבר היתה יתומה) ואחינו היה בן שלוש, הייתה שרה באה אלינו באוטובוס כדי לשמור על אוהד כשאמנו הייתה הולכת להביא אותי מהגן. רגשי החברות והעזרה ההדדית עברו בין הדורות, זו הייתה עזרה צנועה של חברה לבתה של חברתה. הדור ההוא עלה לארץ עם הורים מעטים והחברות מילא את מקום המשפחה.

דודתי חנה נוהגת לספר שכשהחלה העלייה הגדולה לישראל, הייתה התלבטות האם להצטרף. והשיקול שהכריע את הצטרופתו של כמה נשים רווקות היה החשש שלא יישארו חתנים, יהודים כמובן, בחארבין. אך רובם עלו מטעמים ציונים ואהבה לארץ.

בסין היו שלוש החברות, לידיה סופה ושרה, שהיו חברות בארגון בית"ר המקומי הידוע והמפורסם (מפקד האצ"ל לפני בגיו היה איש בית"ר סין). לידיה נישאה למשה פלדנקרייז איש אצ"ל, ביתרי שהיה מפקד ארצי על יחידות האצ"ל בחזית אוסטריה בעת מלחמת העולם השניה. הוריה של לידיה היגרו לסיו כחלק מנדידת יהודים מרוסיה לערבות אסיה, משפחות שלמות של יהודים מצאו עצמן על הרכבת מזרחה לאחר מהפכת אוקטובר ב-1914 ו"יוזמות" דמוגרפיות של סטאלין.

לפי תיאוריהם ההורים ירדו מהרכבת ב"תחנה האחרונה" והמשיכו ביוזמתם את המסע לחארבין. באותה עת כבר היו יהודים בסין בעיקר מסוף המאה הקודמת שהיגרו בגלל הפרעות ביהודים.

בסיו נהנו המהגרים היהודים מפתיחות כלפיהם מצד הסינים. הם נהנו מחופש דת מלא הקימו בתי כנסת. שלפחות אחד מהם קיים עד היום. למרות שמרביתם לא היו דתיים במקור שמרו על חיי הקהילה והחגים היהודים. הקהילה שמרה על אופייה היהודי. היהודים דברו ביניהם בעיקר רוסית והכירו מעט את השפה הסינית שאותה כלל לא זכרו בארץ. למרות ההשפעה המועטה של הסינים על הקהילה היהודית ניכר כי ההגירה היהודית קידמה את חארבין שהפכה מעיר דייגים לעיר מודרנית במונחים של סין באותה תקופה.

על תקופות הכיבושים למיניהם לא שמענו וגם אמנו לא מכירה ולמעשה רק קראנו עליהם באינטרנט.

חברים תמיד מופתעים כשאנחנו מספרים להם שסבתנו נולדה בסיו. קהילות יוצאי סיו בארץ אינו מוכרות לציבור. כר גם אמנו מפתיעה את מכריה כשהיא מציינת את מוצא אימה, אם כי אמנו גאה מאד ביוצאי סין עליהם נמנים אנשי מפתח רבים בארץ ובעולם לרבות כמובן ראש הממשלה לשעבר ועוד רבים.

הורינו רצו לבקר פעם בסין ובחארבין אולם הדבר לא הסתייע בידם עד כה.



לאל ריים סיפור העלייה והקליטה בארץ

סבי היימן ליאונפריד ז"ל נולד ב-26.9.1928 בחרבין, חי שם וגדל בעיר ביחד עם הוריו. סבי למד במכון הפוליטכני כמהנדס הנדסה אזרחית - מסילות ברזל.

ב-1949 כאשר הגיע לשנחאי קונסול ישראל, אימו הצליחה ליצור קשר עם הקונסול ולקבל אשרות כניסה למדינת ישראל.

סבי לקח אנייה מחרבין דרך טיאנזין, שם פגש את נציגי הסוכנות היהודית. הוא הפליג באנייה דנית קטנה להונג - קונג. משדה התעופה בהונג - קונג הוא לקח טיסה ללוד עם עצירות בכלכותה, בומביי ושאג'א שבחצי האי ערר.

ב-1 במאי 1950 הגיע לנמל התעופה בלוד. בארץ הוא הועבר לחיפה למחנה לעולים חדשים ולאחר מס' שבועות, ב-24 במאי 1950. החל את עבודתו ברכבת ישראל ולימים הפך להיות סמנכ"ל רכבת ישראל. סבתי הנריאטה היימן (לבית רפופורט) ז"ל נולדה ב-22.5.1929 בחרבין. ב-1939 עברה עם הוריה לשנחאי בעקבות סגירתו של בית





של ליאונפריד והנריאטה היימן (לבית רפופורט) ז"ל

ספר התיכון בו למדה, על ידי היפנים. בשל העובדה שהייתה בעלת דרכון סובייטי לא יכלה ללמוד בשום בית ספר אחר בעיר. בסביבות שנת 1946 בזמן שעבדה בעבודה פקידותית בסוכנות והייתה מעורה בקהילה היהודית, החליטה שהיא רוצה לעלות לארץ

ב-1948 ביחד עם הוריה עלתה סבתי על אנייה בשם "ווסטר ויקטורי" ובמשך חמישים ימים הם הפליגו לארץ ישראל. בגלל שהמצרים סגרו את תעלת סואץ הם הפליגו מסביב לאפריקה, דרך מיצרי גיברלטר, עד גנואה שבאיטליה, שם הם עברו לאנייה ישראלית בשם "נגבה", איתה הגיעו לבסוף לחיפה.

מנמל חיפה הם הועברו לבית עולים באזור חדרה מערב (גבעת אולגה של היום). התנאים במעברה היו די קשים. לאחר זמן מה בעזרתם של קרובי משפחה שפגשו בארץ הם מצאו דירה בחיפה והשתקעו שם. בקיץ של 1950 ברחוב העצמאות בחיפה,

סיפורי סטודנטים

לפני ארבע שנים לקראת חלוקת המלגות בדצמבר 2013 ביקשנו מהסטודנטים - מבקשי המלגות לשלוח עם הבקשה למלגה את סיפור משפחתם וקליטתם בארץ לאחר העלייה מסין בשנות 50. סיפורים נבחרים פורסמו בגיליונות בולטין 411, 412 בשנת 2014, לקראת חלוקת מלגות בדצמבר 2017 חזרנו וביקשנו שוב מהסטודנטים לספר את סיפור משפחתם בסין וקליטתם בישראל.

סיפורים נבחרים אנו מפרסמים להלן:



ים אומנסקי גרי אומנסקי סיפור העלייה מסין לארץ ישראל

סבי גרי אומנסקי ז"ל נולד ב - 24/8/1930 בעיר חרבין שבחבל מנצ'וריה סין.

סבי היה בן יחיד להוריו ברוך וסוניה שהגיעו לסין מרוסיה. בשנת 1950 עלה גרי בגפו לארץ ישראל, מתוך מחשבה להתארגן בארץ למצוא עבודה ומקום מגורים ואז יוכל לקלוט את הוריו.

עם הגעתו ארצה הוא הועבר למחנה "שער עליה" בחיפה, אשר שימש כמחנה מעבר לעולים החדשים.

לאחר מספר ימים הוא עזב את "שער עליה" והחל לעבוד כפועל בניין.
הוא היה מגיע בבוקר לאתר הבניה לבוש בחליפה, מחליף לבגדי
עבודה ובסיום יום העבודה המפרך לובש חזרה את החליפה וחוזר
לדירתו השכורה - זה היה בהחלט מראה יוצא דופן בנוף הישראלי
החלוצי של אותם הימים.

לאחר מספר חודשים הובא לידיעתו כי מוקם יישוב חקלאי חדש ע"י קבוצת עולים חדשים מסין ליד בנימינה. גרי ראה בכך הזדמנות להשתלב במדינה, להגשים ציונות ובמקביל גם ליצור בסיס לקליטת הוריו שמחכים בסין על מנת להצטרף אליו והחליט להצטרף לגרעין

המקים של היישוב עמיקם. בשלב הראשון עסק יחד עם יתר החברים בהקמת התשתיות ליישוב, הכשרת האדמה וכולם גרו באוהלים ראתר שוני.

בהמשך הקימה הסוכנות בתים והחברים עברו להתגורר ביישוב עמיקם. הוריו של סבי הגיעו למושב חצי שנה לאחר עלייתו ארצה.

בשנת 1951 מדינת ישראל היתה צריכה לדאוג לחינוכם של הילדים הצעירים בעמיקם ושלחה ליישוב גננת צעירה בת רמת גן שזה עתה סיימה את לימודיה בסמינר, שרה אומנסקי.

אנשי היישוב המודאגים שרצו לוודא שהגננת תישאר (בתי היישוב קטנים, שירותים נפרדים בחצר, דרכים לא סלולות, אין כמעט דוברי עברית, אין תשתית לגן ילדים) ביקשו מהגבר הצעיר והחתיך גרי, שעד אז גר בגפו, להיות זה שיקבל את הגננת ויעזור לה להיקלט ביישוב.

החתונה התקיימה לאחר חצי שנה.

סבי הקים בית לתפארת ברמת גן, הוא וסבתי שרה הביאו לעולם שלושה ילדים, שמונה נכדים וארבעה נינים.



אוהד וקשת אפרת סיפור סבתנו לידיה לנה

אנחנו אוהד וקשת אפרת שניים מנכדיה של לידיה לנה ז"ל שנולדה בחארבין, עלתה לארץ בשנת 1950. כאן בארץ סבתנו נישאה לסבנו משה פלדנקרייז ז"ל ולהם נולדו שלושה ילדים, הצעירה ביניהם הינה רבקה (היום רבקה אפרת) ואנחנו שניים מילדיה. אחינו גל בנה הבכור של רבקה סיים השלים את לימודיו ונהנה ממלגות האיגוד. אמנו השלימה לפני מספר שנים לימוד דוקטורט בכימיה ובמהלך לימודיה נהנתה מהמלגה מהאיגוד העניק לה.

לאחר עלייתה ארצה שמרה לידיה על קשר עם חבריה מחארבין והבת הבכורה שלה, חנה, נישאה לאלכס ליטבינוב, בן לזוג עולים מסין בוריס וסופה ליטבינוב ז"ל. נעים להיזכר שסופה הביאה איתה מנהגי בישול רוסיים מושפעים מהמטבח הסיני, רוסיה, ארץ מוצא של

הוריהם בטרם היגרו לסין. זכור לנו כילדים, שבארוחות משפחתיות סופה הגישה אוכל סיני לצד הפילומני רוסי שהיא אהבה להכין. חברה נוספת שעלתה איתם, היא טניה שליפר (שם לאחר נישואיה). אמי תמיד מציינת את אותן חברות הילדות של אמנו שלאחר פטירת אמה שמרו על הקשר, ודאגו למשפחה ללא אם.

קשרי חברות נקשרו בין אמנו ובנותיה של טניה שליפר (חברות דור שני) וכך גם בינינו לבין נכדיה של טניה (חברות דור שלישי).

ביום ראשון ה-5 באוגוסט נפגשו במסעדה סינית בתל-אביב מספר פעילים באגוד - חבריו של יושב ראש האגוד יוסי קליין, לחגוג ביחד אתו את הגיעו לגבורות ולאחל לו הרבה בריאות והמשך פעילות באגוד!!

רוני ויינרמן פתח את האירוע בדברי ברכה חמים וזיכרונות על ימי



הפעילות המשותפים הראשונים שלהם באגוד שהחלו ביוזמתו של תדי קאופמן בשנת 1995.

היה מפגש מרגש, הועלו זיכרונות וחוויות מהעבר בחרבין ובישראל וגם נהנו מהאוכל הסיני הטוב של המסעדה.



כרונולוגיה של הקמת מסילת הרכבת

1929 דצמבר 22

פרוטוקול חברובסק מספק ערבויות להמשך הממשל והזכויות הסובייטיים המשותפים.

.1931 בספטמבר 18

פלישה יפנית למנצ'וריה והכיבוש מתחיל (חרבין נכבשה ב9 בפברואר Manchukuo ממשלת מנדז'וגו מוקמת

1932 מרץ 3

ממשלת מנדז'וגו מחליפה את סין בהנהלת CER, הפעולה היא למעשה דה פקטו מוכרת על ידי ברית המועצות (לא מוכר על ידי סין).

23 מרץ 2891

ברית המועצות מוכרת את זכויותיה ב CER ליפן עבור 140 מיליון יואן (סין מסרבת להכיר בפעולה חד צדדית זו).

1935 ספטמבר 1

CER מועברת רשמית לManchukuo ונקראת בשם רכבת צפון מצ'וריה.

רכבת. CER מתמזגת עם הרכבת הלאומית של מנצ'וריה המנוהלת על ידי הנהלת הרכבת המנצ'ורית הדרומית.

1945 אוגוסט 18

חרבין נכבשת על ידי ברית המועצות

1945 אוגוסט 20

ברית המועצות משתלטת על CER

1952 ספטמבר 1945 - 31 דצמבר 22

הנהלת המשותפת הסיני-סובייטי של CER, אשר מוזגה עם רכבת מנצ'וריה הדרומית לשעבר ושמה שונה לחברת הרכבת הסינית צ'אנג-צ'ון. Changchun

המשך מעמ' 18

1 במאי 1950

הרכבת סינית Changchun לשעבר רשמית הוא שהוקם תחת משותף ברית המועצות - הרפובליקה העממית סין.

1952 אוקטובר 31

העברת רשמית לפי הפרוטוקול. ברית המועצות מעבירה את כל הזכויות בניהול משותף של הרכבת, לסין.

1953 בינואר 1

שם הרכבת שונה ל Harbin Railway.



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כרונולוגיה של הקמת מסילת הרכבת הסינית המזרחית

ההתיישבות היהודית בחרבין החלה בעקבות התחלת בניית המסילה הסינית המזרחית

8 בספטמבר 1896

רוסיה וסין חתמו על הסכם לבניית הרכבת הסינית המזרחית במסגרת חברת הרכבת מזרח סינית הפרויקט אמור להיות ממומן על ידי הבנק הרוסי הסיני המשותף כולל את הזכות להקים גם אזור מינהלי משני צידי המסילות ולנהל בתי משפט, משטרה, מכס ותעשיות הקשורות לרכבת.

1896 בדצמבר 16

חוק חברת הרכבת המזרחית הסינית (CER China Eastern):

Vostochnaya zheleznaya doroga [KVZhD] - Kitaysko רוסית אושר על ידי רוסיה

יולי 1897

בניית הרכבת הסינית-המזרחית החלה במנצ'וריה. ממנצ'ולי לחיילאר לחרבין לסוויפנה



1898 במאי 16

הוקם מטה הפרויקט בחרבין.

1898 ביולי

CER אישרה לבנות את השלוחה הדרומית לפורט ארתור - דאלניי ולהפעיל תחת דגל CER – שירות ספינות.

יוני 1900 - 21 יולי 1900

מורדי "הבוקסרים" הטילו מצור על חרבין והשתלטו על רוב אזור CER

3 בנובמבר 1901

התנועה הרשמית מתחילה.

1 ביולי 1903

הרכבת הסינית המזרחית נחנכה רשמית תחת פקוח רוסי (CER), תנועת נוסעים רגילה החלה מסנט - פטרבורג לולדיווסטוק.

1905 יולי 1 - 1903 אוגוסט 1905

CER אזור כפוף למלך של במזרח הרחוק (ראו פורט ארתור).

1905 בספטמבר 5

השלוחה הדרומית (צ'אנגצ'ון לדאוליאן) נמסרה ליפן על ידי רוסיה כרכבת דרום מנצ'וריה.

1920 יולי 1 - 1906 אוגוסט

שלוחת סניף אוסרני מוענק בחכירה ל CER שלוחת סניף

נובמבר -1917 6 בנובמבר 1920

הוקם אזור ניהול CER תחת כוחות רוסיים לבנים.

נובמבר 1917 - 1918

הבולשביקים הרוסים בחרבין מנסים להשתלט על CER.

1922 מרץ 1919 - 31 אוקטובר 1922

CER מנוהלת על ידי הוועדה הטכנית של CER מנוהלת על ידי הוועדה הטכנית של CER מורכבת מבריטניה, סין, צרפת, איטליה, יפן, ארה"ב ורוסיה "הלבנה".

1920 מרץ 31

מועצת המנהלים של CER מאשררת רה-ארגון שמגדיר את הרכבת כקונצרן מסחרי בלבד ללא סמכות פוליטית.

שומרי הרכבת, המשטרה המקומית ומערכת בתי המשפט מועברים משליטת CER לשלטונות סיניים.

1920 ספטמבר 25

סין מבטלת את הזכויות האקס טריטוריאליות הרוסיות וסמכות הפקידים הקונסולריים הרוסיים בסין.

הקונסוליה הרוסית בחרבין ובתי המשפט הכלליים והרוסיים נסגרים...

.1920 נובמבר 6

סין מפטרת את המנהל דמיטרי הורבאת ולוקחת לעצמה שליטה מלאה על הרכבת הסינית המזרחית

1920 דצמבר 28

נוצר מחוז פרובינציית מזרח מיוחד על ידי סין לניהול אזור CER, ביטול דה יורה של אזור CER (ראה תחת פרובינציות סין).

1924 מאי 31

החוזה הסיני -סובייטי מחזיר לקדמותו וניהול משותף של CER סין מכירה בברית המועצות והסובייטים מותרים רשמית על כל הזכויות חוץ - טריטוריאליות.

1924 ספטמבר 24

הסכם מוקדן בדבר זכויות הדדיות והרשאות, תוספת להסכם עקרונות מה 31 במאי 1924 נחתם (אושר על ידי ממשלת פקין ב 12 במרץ 1925).

1929 - 22 דצמבר 1929

המצביא המנצ'ורי צ'אן-קסילינג והרשויות הסיניות הלאומניות השתלטו על CER.

1929 - 22 דצמבר 1929

ברית המועצות מנתקת יחסים דיפלומטיים עם סין.

1929 בובמבר 1929 - 22 דצמבר 1929

הסובייטים כובשים את ערי הגבול של מנצ'וריה כולל חילאינור, חילאר פוקדין ומאנדזולי כתמיכה בדרישות סובייטיות על- CER.

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באגוד יוצאי סין ובאגודת ידידות ישראל-סין.

מפגש החברים על יהדות שנחאי

ב27 במרץ 2018 תקיים מפגש חברים במשרדי אגוד יוצאי סין. המשתתפים במפגש נהנו מהרצתה מענינת של יעל פרג'ון על הקהילות היהודיות בשנחאי בעבר ובהווה.

יעל פרג'ון חיה ונושמת סין מ-2010 כשעברה לגור בשנחאי וגילתה, די במקרה, שלעיר יש היסטוריה יהודית ייחודית. הסקרנות הובילה אותה למחקר אישי על יהודי שנחאי. יעל עוסקת עוסקת בתיירות רשנחאי והיא רעלים של חברת תיירות ואתר תיירות.

חנוכת מרכז ההסברה של שגרירות סין

ב26 בנובמבר 2017 התקיים טקס חנוכת מרכז התרבות של סין בישראל. המרכז שוכן ברחוב הברזל 30 (במקרה מול משרדי אגוד יוצאי סין) משתרע על 1000 מ"ר.



הכניסנה למרכז

המרכז יציע לקהל הרחב קורסים, סדנאות וחוגים במגוון תחומים. ומטרת פעילות המרכז להציג את התרבות הסינית לקהל בישראל "ברחבי העולם קיימים קצת פחות מ-30 מרכזים. למרות שיש מדינות גדולות יותר מבחינת מספר תושבים, ישראל נתפסת בסין כמדינה שזוכה למעמד מיוחד וההחלטה להקים כאן מרכז תרבות מעידה על הרצון להשקיע בטיפוח הקשרים התרבותיים בישראל".



הרבעיה הקאמרית

לרגל פתיחת המרכז, הגיע לישראל סגן שר התרבות הסיני, ז'אנג שיו אשר מונה לתפקיד ביולי האחרון; שגריר סין בישראל, (ZHANG XU)

ז'אן יונג-שין; רפאל גמזו, סמנכ"ל משרד החוץ; ראש העיר תל-אביב רון חולדאי ואחרים. בין אלו שהנעימו את זמנם של המוזמנים באירוע: רון חולדאי ואחרים. בין אלו שהנעימו את זמנם של המוזמנים באירוע: אכנרית הסינית, ב' משר Yang Liu אשר התזמורת הפילהרמונית; הטנור הצעיר משנגחאי Yu Haolei אשר ביצע קטע אופרה לצד זמרת הסופרן אירה ברטמן ונגנית הפסנתר בלה סטיינבוק; והנבל הראשי של הפילהרמונית של שנגחאי. Chen Yuying

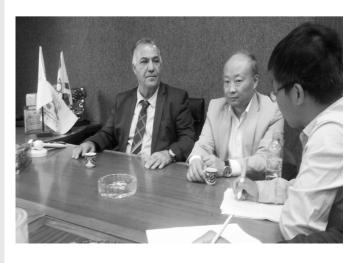
הטיול השנתי עם צוות שגרירות סין

גם השנה, אגודת הידידות ישראל-סין ארגנה את הטיול השנתי בהשתתפות שגרירי סין וצוות השגרירות וחברי אגודת הידידות ואגוד יוצאי סין.



לפי בקשת השגריר, הטיול השנה היה לעיר נצרת. השגריר מר צאן יונסין וראשי האגוד ואגודת הידידות התקבלו על ידי ראש העיר מר עלי סלאם בבניין העיריה. ראש העיר הציג את העיר ואת הפעילויות בה וביקש את עזרת השגריר לאיתור השקעות חברות סיניות בעיר. הסיור בעיר שהחל מיד אחרי המפגש עם ראש העיר כלל ביקור בשוק, סיור בכנסיית הבשורה וארוחת צהריים במסעדה מקומית.

בדרך חזרה לתל-אביב עצר הטיול בהר תבור לביקור בכנסיית ההשתנות הציורית שעל פסגתו.



מפגשי דורות בכנס השנתי 18.12.2017

















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מקבלי מלגות

18 בדצמבר 2017



אלקסי אופיר



איתם אליאב



אופיר תומר



אומנסקי ים



אזרן ניב



אפשטיין שמעון



אפרת קשת



אפרת אוהד



אמיר טל



אלקסי אריאל



בנאיש רינה



בורשטיין רונה



בומש טל



בוטון נועה



אשכנזי מנחם



בן דוד אילנית



בן אפרים יואב



בן אלטבט ארז



בן אלטבט אסנת



בנוסביץ דנית



גולן יונתן



גור נוף



בר- אילן תמר



בראגין שחר



בן הרוש פנחס



הראל שירן



דוידוביץ איילה



גרינר זיו



גלרון נוי



גלרון יניב

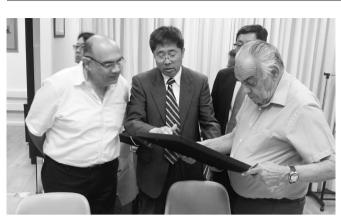
ביקור משלחת רמת דרג מחרבין

ב-3 ליוני 2018 ביקרה במשרדי האגוד משלחת רמת דרג -של שבעה בכירים בממשלת חרבין בראשות מר וואנג זאולי מזכיר המפלגה בחרבין אד. Wr. WANG Zhaoli Party Secretary of Harbin CPC Committee שהוא האישיות הבכירה ביותר בממשלת חרבין וחמישה חברי שהנהלה של המכון הטכנולוגי של חרבין בראשות מר ראן נאנג'י סגן נשיא האקדמיה הסינית להנדסה REN Nanqi Vice-President נשיא האקדמיה הסינית להנדסה of Chinese Academy of Engineering



מזכיר המפלגה שני מימין בפגישה

מטרת ביקורם פרט להיותו ביקור נימוסין, קידום מאמצים בנושאי מדע, טכנולוגיה, חקלאות והשקעות של חברות ישראליות בסין ולהיפך. במסגרת השיחות במפגש יוסי קליין הודה לנציגים על שימור מורשת יהודית בחרבין אך יחד עם זה גם הביא לתשומת לב המזכיר מר וואנג



מזכיר המפלגה הגיש שי לאגוד

זאולי את מצב בית הקברות היהודי שמדי פעם מתגלות פלישות של קבורה סינית בשטחו וסגירת ארכיון הקהילה בפנינו. המזכיר הקשים קשב רב לתרגום הדברים והבטיח מספר פעמים לטפל בנושאים שהועלו.

סיכום הדברים גם הועבר למזכיר במייל ותורגם על ידי מזכירו לסינית ועכשיו לא נותר אלא להמתין לתגובה.

בהזדמנות זו יש לציין גם את פעילותו של פרופ' דן בן-כנען הישראלי שחי ופועל הרבה שנים בחרבין. דן אירגן ב23 במאי מפגש בבית הקברות עם משלחת נכבדה (שחלקם היו גם בביקור הנ"ל במשרדנו) וכללה את מנהל בית הקברות וסגניו והראה להם את הפגיעות שבוצעו בשטח בית הקברות. ניתנה התחייבות הנהלת בית הקברות לשטח בית הקברות וניקיונו.

היסטוריה של קהילת יהודי טיאנזין שבסין

המשך מעמוד 11

גם באזור הזיכיון האנגלי לשעבר (כיום כביש QUFU), הוקם ב-1937 מועדון "קונסט" יהודי. מאוחר יותר, לאחר שחדל לשמש למטרה המקורית שלו, הפך המועדון לגלריה לאמנות של טיאנזין ונהרס כולו בשנת 1999.

אגודת הצדקה הוקמה בשנת 1931 כדי לספק הלוואות ללא ריבית לנזקקים, היו גם תכניות רווחה אחרות כדי לספק מזון לנזקקים. באותה שנה הוקמה הסתדרות הנשים הציונית העולמית ("ויצ"ו"). תנועת הצעירים בית"ר נוסדה ב-1932. הסוכנות היהודית קיימת בטיאנזין מ 1936- אך הפעילות החלה כבר בשנים 1933–1932.

THA שימשה כוועדה מרכזית המתאמת את ההתארגנויות השונות הרבות במסגרת ארגון גג כללי אחד החל משנת 1934. המנהלים היו נשיאי המועדונים והתכניות השונים. המטרות סווגו על ידי הוועדות הבאות: דתיות, תרבותיות, בוררות, ארכיונים ומיסים. ב- 1935 הוחלט על יצירת מס חובה על חברי הקהילה, על פי מעמדו הכלכלי של החבר. לידות ופטירה של אנשי הקהילה נרשמו גם הן על ידי THA.

ב- 1935 פתחה טיאנזין, כמו ערים אחרות בסין, את שעריה בפני זרם של פליטים יהודים שנמלטו מרדיפות הנאצים. האוכלוסייה היהודית גדלה לכ- 3,500 ב- 1935 ו- 5,000 בשיאה.

שלא כמו קהילות יהודיות אחרות בסין, הקהילה התמקדה בארגונים המקוריים שהוקמו על ידי יהודי רוסיה. ארגונים אלה התרחבו כדי לכלול ולקלוט את הפליטים שהגיעו מאירופה לקהילה.

ב- 8 בדצמבר 1941 החל הכיבוש היפני שנמשך עד 15 באוגוסט 1945, יום כניעת יפן בסיום מלחמת העולם השנייה.

לאחר 1945, שימשה טיאנזין בסיס לכוחות האמריקאים עד עזיבתם ביוני 1947. כוחות הקומוניסטים עלו לשלטון ב- 15 בינואר 1949. סוף שנות ה- 40 היו גם סופה של הקהילה היהודית, מאחר ולא יכלו לראות ברוסיה או גרמניה "בית" עזבו אנשי הקהילה בעיקר למקומות כמו ישראל, אוסטרליה וארצות הברית.

גורלו הסופי של בית הכנסת הנטוש, שנפגע קשות, אינו ידוע. בית העלמין היהודי נהרס אף הוא, אך רבים מהבתים היהודיים הקודמים עדיין נמצאים בכל רחבי העיר.

למרות שנות המלחמה, והקשיים ליהודים, הייתה זו קהילה קטנה במונחים של מספרים, אבל חזקה במחויבותה לבניית חיים עצמאיים תוך זעזועים ועקירה.

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היסטוריה של קהילת יהודי טיאנזין שבסין.

טיאנזין, השוכנת בלב אזור עירוני הממוקם לאורך נהר הואחי. מדורגת כשטח האורבני השלישי בגודלו בסין המודרנית, לאחר שנחאי ובייג'ינג. גם היום ניתן למצוא עקבות של הקהילה היהודית המשגשגת שפעם כינתה את טיאנזין – "בית", קהילה זאת הייתה קטנה יותר מקהילות כמו חרבין ושנחאי, אך ההישגים שלה היו מדהימים.

בכתבה שפורסמה בעיתון "טיימס היהודי באסיה", באפריל 2007, דווח על המחלוקת הנוכחית בקשר לגורל בית הכנסת לשעבר של טיאנזין. בית הכנסת נבנה בשנת 1939 על ידי קהילת יהודי טיאנזין ולאחר שהקהילה היהודית התפזרה, עבר המקום לשליטתה של הכנסייה הקתולית בעיר.

אגוד יוצאי סין הגיש בזמנו בקשה רשמית לבנות מחדש את האתר ההיסטורי המתפורר הזה. שיקום בלבד אינו נראה מעשי בשל הנזק הנרחב שנגרם למבנה במשך השנים.

הארכיון המרכזי לתולדות העם היהודי (CAHJP) מכיל נתונים של מאות קהילות יהודיות, ובהם קבצים מקוריים, מסמכים ותצלומים מארכיוני קהילת טיאנזין (1920-1957) שהופקדו על ידי אגוד יוצאי סין לידי הארכיון המרכזי הממוקם בקמפוס גבעת רם של האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים.

בנוסף, כמה מחברי הקהילה לשעבר של טיאנזין פרסמו את זיכרונותיהם האישיים. אחד הרומנים שפורסם הוא "חלומות סין: לגדול יהודי בטיאנזין", נכתב על ידי איזבל צימרמן מינארד (Maynard) שנפטרה לאחרונה. היא נולדה בשנת 1929 בטיאנזין והייתה בתם של פליטים יהודים רוסים שברחו לסין מהמהפכה הרוסית. הסיפור שלה, מתאר את המעמד והחיים של התושבים היהודים לשעבר בסין. יחד עם שאר יהודי רוסיה, שחיו במידה מסוימת בין שני עולמות, נושאים דרכונים עם חותמת "חסרי מדינה".

כמו אירופאים אחרים, חברי הקהילה לא למדו סינית וחיו חיים מוגנים באחד מאזורי הזיכיון שנוצרו על ידי הקהילות האירופיות בעיר מנותקים לחלוטין מהסינים העניים הסובבים אותם. בסוף שנות הארבעים של המאה שעברה, "התרוקנה" הקהילה ועזבה את סין.

שלא כמו הקהילה היהודית בחרבין, ראתה טיאנזין את תושביה היהודים הראשונים בתחילת המאה התשע עשרה. כבר ב- 1860, במהלך מלחמת האופיום השנייה, קיימים דיווחים על אנשי עסקים יהודים במקום, אך סביר להניח שסוחרים אלה השתמשו בעיר רק כבסיס למסחר כמו עמיתיהם האירופאים שאינם-יהודים.

בשנת 1900 הגיע הגל הראשון של המתיישבים היהודים לעיר, וב-1904 מוצגות עשר משפחות יהודיות רוסיות כתושבים שהקימו רשמית את הקהילה.

האיגוד העברי של טיאנזין (THA) נרשם רשמית בקונסוליה הצארית הרוסית במקום. הם רכשו חלקת אדמה לבית קברות, וכעבור זמן

קצר החלו לשמור על חוקי הדת. במהרה הוקמו מוסדות של גמילות חסדים ועזרה לנזקקים.

הקהילה התפשטה במהירות ככל שחיי היהודים ברוסיה הורעו. ב-1917, הביאה המהפכה ברוסיה להרחבת האוכלוסייה ל-500-600 משפחות יהודיות שמצאו את דרכן לטיאנזין דרך מנצ'וריה. תושבים יהודים אלה היו מעורבים במגוון עיסוקים ועסקאות. היו שם הרבה רופאים מכובדים, כמו גם אנשי עסקים, אומנים, תכשיטנים, סוחרים, מהנדסים, עורכי דין ומורים.

משפחות עשירות יותר העדיפו להגיע למקומות כמו ארצות הברית ואירופה דרך שנחאי. אך רבים הסתגלו במהירות לסביבתם החדשה ותרמו רבות לנוכחות המובנית של הקהילה.

בשנת 1920 בנה ה- THA בית כנסת יפהפה, העסיק רב ושוחט והצליח לספק שירותי דת מלאים. במסגרת THA הוקמו מספר ועדות לתכנון פעילויות חברתיות ותרבותיות, לבוררות ולוועדה לענייני ארץ ישראל.

בית החולים, הממוקם ברחוב מס' 66, נוסד לטיפול בחולים יהודים. אך העניק גם סיוע רפואי לאנשים מכל העמים שלא יכלו לקבל שירותים רפואיים מקהילות אחרות. בשנת 1920 הוקם גם ארגון לגמילת חסדים, על מנת לסייע לפליטים יהודים חדשים הנזקקים לעזרה ולעזור להם בתקופה הראשונה שלהם בסין. בנוסף הוקם גם בית לקשישים.

משרד ההסברה של ארץ ישראל הוקם בשנת 1921, ושמו שונה מאוחר יותר ל "ההסתדרות הציונית של טיאנזין". ארגון זה היה כוח מרכזי ביצירת חלק ניכר מהפעילויות החברתיות והתרבותיות של הקהילה.

בית הספר היהודי של טיאנזין (TJA) הוקם בשנת 1925, באזור הזיכיון הבריטי הישן. היה זה מוסד מרשים שנוסד כדי לספק חינוך חינם בעברית ובאנגלית לסטודנטים. המימון לתקציב בית הספר ניתן באמצעות תרומות וכן באמצעות הכנסות שהתקבלו באירוע שנתי של הקהילה לקראת השנה החדשה.

תוכנית הלימודים התבססה על מערכת לימוד מבית הספר היסודי הבריטי ורמת האנגלית הייתה גבוהה ואפשרה לגשת לבחינות קיימברידג' בחו"ל. בין השאר כללה תכנית הלימודים המורחבת את הנושאים הבאים: עברית, מקרא, תולדות ישראל, סינית, רוסית, ספרות אנגלית, היסטוריה כללית, תולדות אנגליה, גיאוגרפיה, קריאת התנ"ך באנגלית, חשבון, אלגברה, גיאומטריה, עבודות יד, התעמלות, אמנות

ב- 1935 היו בבית הספר 95 תלמידים: 79 מהם יהודים ו- 16 תלמידים לא-יהודים בני לאומים שונים. בשנת 1936 הגיע מספר התלמידים ל 110 ול- 15 מורים.

אגודה לפעילות דרמטית בשם "קונסט", או "אמנות" בגרמנית הוקמה ב-1928, אגודה זו התפתחה למועדון חברתי שכלל מסעדה, אולמות לישיבות, תיאטרון ואוסף ספרים מרשים.

דרכו במשרד הביטחון שם עשה חיל, עד אשר קודם לתפקיד ראש חטיבת אוויר ואלקטרוניקה במנהל הרכש.

אנו, בניו שלושה, ירון ברובינסקי איש התיאטרון והטלויזיה, גלעד איש שיווק והייטק, ואנוכי רופא ומנתח עיניים פלסטי.

אחרי כמעט חמישים שנה שב אבי וביקר בחרבין. "בכל העולם הייתי", כך סיפר, "ורק כאן בחרבין הרחתי שוב את ריח הבית". מעט נשאר כשהיה, רחוב קיטייסקיה אוליצה על בתי האבן הרוסיים, בית הכנסת שהפך למוזיאון, מלון מודרן, קצת מסעדות רוסיות, אך הרוב כבר לא קיים, חרבין היא עתה עיר גדולה ומודרנית. גם הנהר עליו חלם אבי

בערגה נשתנה לבלי הכר, גשר הקשתות שזכר נהרס ובמקומו נבנה אחר מודרני.

במשך כל חייו הוקיר אבי את הקהילה היהודית בחרבין ועמד בקשר רציף עם איגוד יוצאי סיו.

ב-4 בדצמבר 2017 הלך אבי לעולמו.

סבתי אגב, לא ויתרה על החלום עד יומה האחרון, פשוט שינתה קצת, על הקיר בחדר האורחים התנוססו תמונותיהם של האיש עם הזקן, האיש עם המשקפיים, רק גרי היה אחר, הפעם זהו ילד הפלא מחרבין כשהוא אוחז בכינור. אבא שלי.

אנחנו, שלושה בני דודים- איילון מקוב, מור ברכה וברק קדר,

צאצאיהם של מניה ובוריה טריגובוב למשפחת יוצאי סין מודים לכם על השי שקיבלנו לכבוד יום העצמאות ושמחים להיות שייכים לדור

לכבוד ת.ד. תל-אביב 13139 תל-אביב

רציתי להודות לכם תודה גדולה על שנתתם לי מלגה.

תודה רבה, בברכה, אביטל יגב.

חזקה.

ברצוננו להודות לכם על השי המכובד שבתנו ניב יניר קיבלה לציון הקשר לשורשיה בקהילות סין.

שמי אסתר חזן, סטודנטית לרפואה בשנה ג' בפקולטה לרפואה

בצפת המסונפת לאוניברסיטת בר אילן. לימודי רפואה הם עבורי

בבחינת חלום שהתגשם לאחר הרבה שנים שבהם אני מנסה

להתקבל. אני מרגישה סיפוק אדיר בלימודים ועם משמעות

אני מגיעה במקור מבית חרדי והרצון ללמוד באוניברסיטה

ולהגשים את עצמי עוררו התנגדות בחברה ובמשפחה. כתלמידת

תיכון השאיפה למצוינות והגעה לאקדמיה לא הייתה קלה עבורי,

בנוסף למצב הכלכלי בבית שהיה קשה במיוחד. עבדתי מאוד

אני רוצה להודות לכם מאוד על קבלת המלגה השנה, אין מילים

בפי לתאר עד כמה הדבר הקל עליי את העומס הכלכלי. קבלת

המלגה מאפשרת לי ללמוד בראש מעט יותר שקט, דבר שיעזור

קשה כדי להצליח ולהגיע למקום בו אני נמצאת היום.

לי להתרכז בלימודים ולהגיע למצוינות.

בברכה, אורי יניר (סנדל)

תודה רבה רבה

אסתר חזו

בשם 2 נכדיי - עומרי וגיא טאוב - אני רוצה להודות לכם על השי הכסף - ששלחתם להם.

תודה, מלכה לאור

בברכה,

איילון מקוב, מור ברכה וברק קדר.

איגוד יוצאי סין היקרים!

חמישי במושב עמיקם.

מחמם את הלב היה לחגוג עם מתנתכם הנדיבה את החגים לאורך שירותי הצבאי, הדבר אינו מובן מאליו!

רציתי להודות לכם מעומק לבי על הדאגה, המחשבה והליווי ההדוק בתקופה משמעותית זו של חיי, תקופת השירות בצבא.

מי ייתן ותמשיכו בעשייתכם הברוכה והתומכת.

קבלו את איחולי לבריאות טובה ואריכות ימים.

בכבוד רב עדי וילדורף נכדתה של פסיה גולדשטיין.

ברצוני להודות לכם על השי שקיבלתי לחג.

אני מאחל לכל יוצאי סין בארץ ובתפוצות שנה טוב, בריאות, שגשוג

אני גאה להיות חלק ממשפחת יוצאי סין.

אושרי ביטוו (נכד של אסתר ונדל)

איגוד יוצאי סין שלום!

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אבי - גרי ברובינסק - סיפור חייו

דר' אריאל בר (ברובינסקי)

מימי קטנותי מתגלגלות על לשוני מילים משונות שלא הרבה ילדים בארץ יכולים לומר: "אבא שלי נולד בסין". המשפט הזה, שעד היום מדהים רבים, נותר מרתק גם מבחינתי, קסמיו של המקום הרחוק בו נולד אבי גרי ברובינסקי מהלכים עלי גם כיום.

גרי ברובינסקי נולד ב-14 בדצמבר 1933 כבן יחיד לבינה ויצחק אשר הגיעו לחרבין בסוף שנות ה-20 מאודיסה. באותם ימים המעבר

> מברית המועצות לסין היה אסור, והזוג הצעיר חצה את הגבול לאחר מתן שוחד שהיה מלווה גם במעצר, סיפור שלצערי פרטיו אינם ידועים לי. סבי יצחק הקים בית מלאכה לציפוי כלי-כסף ומצבם הכלכלי היה טוב. השם גרי, אגב, הגיע מאהבתה של אמו לקולנוע ומהערצתה לשחקן גרי קופר. שלוש תמונות עמדו מעל השידה בחדר האורחים, האיש עם הזקן, האיש עם המשקפיים וגרי קופר (הראשונים הלוא הם הרצל וז'בוטינסקי). מיום שנולד היה חלומה של סבתי שבנה יהיה לא פחות ולא

יותר יאשה חפץ, חלום בעבורו הייתה נכונה לצאת לדרך ארוכה וקשה. מגיל ארבע החל אבי ללמוד מוסיקה אצל המורה הנודע לכינור ולדימיר טרכטנברג. עד מהרה התברר כי מדובר בעילוי. הופעותיו קצרו הצלחה רבה, העיתונים שיבחו ושמו נודע ברבים כילד פלא. לימים סיפר לי אחד מיוצאי חרבין, "את אביך לא הכרתי, אבל ידעתי עליו, כולם ידעו. אני זוכר שלקחו אותי לשמוע קונצרט, על הבמה עמד אביך בן ה-8 לצד ילדה פסנתרנית, באמצע ההופעה הייתה הפסקת חשמל ושני ה"וונדרקינד" המשיכו לנגן מבלי שעשו טעות אחת". לקריירה המרשימה הזו היה מחיר, אבי לא נשלח לבית ספר-יסודי, למד בבית עם מורים פרטיים והתאמן שעות רבות ביום, תוך שנאסר עליו לשחק בכדורגל עם חבריו שמא ידיו תפגענה.

מדי קיץ נסעה המשפחה לדאצ'ה, בית קיץ שמעבר לנהר, לבלות את חופשת הקיץ. בכל פעם שדיבר על חרבין נהג אבי לספר בעיניים נוצצות על הנהר, על הדיג והשחייה בנהר עם אביו, על גשר הקשתות, על בית-הקפה אליו אהב ללכת עם הוריו בו אכל פלימייני. ואם במזון עסקינן, זהו המקום לספר על שיגעון נוסף שהיה לאמו, יאשה חפץ צריך להיות בריא ועב בשר, לא צנום כמו גַריק הקטן, סתירה שלא נתיישבה לעולם, אבי הצייתן נאלץ לבלוע כמויות בלתי הגיוניות של חמאה ואינספור ביצים, ללא הועיל כמובן. באחד החורפים הקרים חלה אבי בשחפת, חומו עלה מאוד, באישון ליל ובטמפרטורה של מינוס 30 מעלות הגיע לחצר הבית איזוושצ'יק (עגלוו), אבי הונח בכרכרה שהובילה אותו למרחק של כ-100 מטרים עד לבית החולים הגרמני. הילד הקטן שהיה תלמיד חרוץ הבין לטינית, וכשדיברו הרופאים מעל מיטתו ואמרו את המילה 'טוברקולוזה', הבין הכול. אמו טענה בתוקף שהרופאים לא מבינים כלום ועמדה על שלה, אם רק יקפיד לאכול הרבה יתכסה נגע השחפת בשומן ובנה יחלים. היום

כרופא אני יכול לומר, פלא שאבי שרד לא רק את המחלה, אלא גם את הטיפול רה...

הזיכרונות היחידים ששמעתי מאבי על מלחמת העולם השניה היו החיילים הנאצים שראה ברחובות, וכן הדיבורים על "הפצצה" ביפן. על השואה לא ידע ולא שמע דבר.

בשנת 1950, כשהנער גרי בן 16, בוגר בית-ספר תיכון והאקדמיה

למוסיקה, עזבה המשפחה את חרבין ויצאה אל המסע לארץ ישראל. תחנתם הראשונה הייתה העיר טיינזין בה הבחין לפתע אבי בעיתון האמריקני "טיים" שנמכר באחד הדוכנים. למזלו שלט בשפה האנגלית היטב, בשקיקה רבה עיין בעיתון תוך שהוא נדהם לגלות מאמר השמצה אודות הנשיא האמריקני הארי טרומן. כשהזדרז וסיפר זאת לאביו הגיב הלה באומרו, "אתה רואה, אמריקה היא מדינה דמוקרטית, מותר לומר שם הכול, אפילו על הנשיא, רוסיה הסובייטית היא מדינה נוראית. הכול



גרי בתערוכת יהדות חרבין בביהכ"נ החדש בעיר על רקע תמונתו כילד פלא.

שם שקר". אבי שמאז 1945 למד את הדוקטרינה הסובייטית הבין באותו רגע שהצדק עם אביו, רגע מכונן מבחינתו במעבר אל החיים בעולם החופשי.

את דרכם בארץ החלו אבי והוריו במחנה עולים "עתלית", ארבעים איש בצריף, מעבר חד מחיי הנוחות בחרבין האירופאית לחיים בצפיפות עם ערב רב של עדות ותרבויות. משם עברו לזמן-מה למושב עמיקם המזוהה עם אנשי בית"ר. דבר מאלה לא בלבל עד כה את סבתי, מחנה עולים או מושב, העיקר בסיפור הוא יאשה חפץ. מדי שבוע נסעה עם אבי לשיעורי כינור בתל אביב אצל מנהל אקדמיה למוסיקה, אדון פרטוש. כעבור זמן לא רב עברו לגבעתיים, סבי הקים בית מלאכה וחסך כסף עד שעלה בידם לקנות דירה משלהם.

צה"ל שלנו שהתמודד בנחישות עם אויבנו לא הרשים את סבתא בינה, כשגוייס אבי לנח"ל נפתחה חזית חדשה, קצינים רבים נפלו חלל עד אשר עלה בידה לשלוח את אבי למבחני כניסה לתזמורת צה"ל. כינור לא הספיק להם, ולכן תוך שבועות ספורים הזדרז אבי המוכשר ולמד לנגן על קלרניט וסקסופון. יחד עם התזמורת הופיע בכל רחבי הארץ ולמד להכירה לאורכה ולרוחבה. מתפקיד הכנר הראשון של התזמורת נסללה דרכו, ובתום שירותו הצבאי התקבל לתזמורת הפילהרמונית הישראלית. אף כי היה כנר מצטיין וזכה לנגן עם מוסיקאים מובילים מרחבי העולם, בחלוף שנתיים חלחלה לאבי ההכרה שיאשה חפץ הוא לעולם לא יהיה, זאת למרות שבעיני יודעי דבר נחשב למוסיקאי מן המעלה הראשונה. בצעד דרמטי נטש את עולם המוסיקה והחליט ללמוד הנדסת אלקטרוניקה בלונדון. אז כבר היה בזוגיות עם אמי דניאלה, ובלונדון נישאו.

אחרי שחיו חמש שנים באירופה, שלוש באנגליה ושתיים בפריז, שבו הוריי לארץ. לאחר שעבד במספר מקומות כמהנדס החל אבי את

הארכיון של קהילת חרבין

ארכיון הקהילה נוהל בקפדנות באחריותו של ארכיונאי מומחה עד לאירועי 1945. לאחר מכן ועד היום לא היה בנמצא ארכיונאי. אירועי לאירועי 1945. לאחר מכן ועד היום לא היה בנמצא ארכיונאי. אירועי 45 אילצו את ההנהלה הזמנית של הקהילה היהודית להשלטונות ממסמכי הארכיון. ב-51 כאשר השגרירות הסובייטית והשלטונות סיניים לחצו על הנהלת הקהילה לקבלת מסמכים ומאוחר יותר כאשר השלטונות הסיניים לקחו מסמכים מהארכיון לשם בדיקה, החליטה הנהלת הקהילה להשמיד חלק נוסף ממסמכי הארכיון.

אני התקבלתי לעבודה בהנהלת הקהילה ב-1 ביוני 1955. מקץ חודש וחצי או חודשיים מתחילת עבודתי עליתי יחד עם מר 0.נ. קנר לקומה השלישית בה שכן הארכיון. לעיני נתגלתה התמונה הבאה, לאורך הקירות עמדו ארונות ובאמצע החדר שולחן כתיבה והכל עמוס בחומרי הארכיון. הכל זרוק ומעורב ללא כל סדר או שיטה. מאוחר יותר, לאחר עזיבתו של גרוסמן נודע לי שבנוסף היו ארונות בקומה השנייה, במשרדי ההנהלה ולאורך המסדרונות ובהם היו מסמכים נוספים וספרים של הארכיון.

כדי להסביר את המצב ששרר בארכיון יש צורך לדעת:

 השמדת חלק מהמסמכים בשנת 51 וגם מאוחר יותר על ידי עובדי הקהילה, נעשו בדחיפות ובמהירות וללא כל שיטה והדבר פגע בשלמות ובסדר של הארכיון.

2. במשך 10 שנים בין השנים 45 ל-55 היה צורך לעתים קרובות להשתמש בארכיון ומאחר ולא היה ארכיונאי, לא יכלו המזכיר ועובדים אחרים להקדיש זמנם לארכיון ועל כן הוא היה במצב של הזנחה קשה. אישית, הרגשתי שלארכיון לא היה בעל בית או אחראי אשר יכול היה לדאוג לו.

3. במשך 10 שנים הבאות נצבר חומר ארכיוני חדש במשרדי הקהילה, שכלל מסמכים שהתייחסו למוסדות "בית הכנסת החדש", ו"תלמוד תורה", שכבר נסגרו, וארכיון לא גדול יחסית של "בית החולים היהודי" ועוד. זה היה מצב הארכיון בשנת 1955.

ברצוני לקחת צעד אחורה ולספר על עבודתי במשרדי הקהילה היהודים מיוני עד אמצע נובמבר 1955 וכן מאמצע נובמבר 1955 עד היהודים מיוני עד אמצע נובמבר 1955 וכן מאמצע נובמבר 1955 עד 1 למרץ 1957. עם נסיעתו של ג.מ. גרוסמן היה עלי למלא את תפקיד מזכיר הקהילה ומתורגמן של השפה הסינית. המתורגמן הקודם שהיה ב-1955 וכך מצאתי את עצמי מהיום הראשון לעבודתי כעובד זמני במשרדי הקהילה ומאוחר יותר כמנהל חשבונות. עלי לציין, שמר י.מ. במשרדי הקהילה ומאוחר יותר כמנהל חשבונות. עלי לציין, שמר י.מ. מיליחיקר שהיה מנהל חשבונות של קהילת יהודי חרבין ושל "חברה קדישא", לא ביקר במשרדים מאמצע חודש אפריל 1955 מאחר והיה בא בימים וחולה לעתים מזומנות. היעדרות זו גרמה לפיגור בניהול החשבונות של משרדי הקהילה ושל "חברה קדישא". הגזבר של "חברה קדישא". הגזבר של "חברה קדישא" א.ס. בלינדר הביע לעתים קרובות את אי שביעות רצונו מהמצב ובחודש מאי 1955 התפטר מתפקידו.

לצונו מוזמבב וביווד ש מאי נכפל דוונפטר מוזפקרו.. כאשר התחלתי את עבודתי במשרדי הקהילה ראיתי שג.מ. גרוסמן ניהל על דף נפרד קופה זמנית של הקהילה ושל "חברה קדישא" וספרי החשבונות לא נוהלו בגלל מחלתו של מיליחיקר. היה ידוע שגרוסמן עומד לנסוע, אך כמקובל איש לא ידע מתי תתרחש העזיבה, זה יכול להיות כעבור שנה או מאוחר יותר. על כן הוחלט שאתחיל לעשות את הנהלת החשבונות של הקהילה היהודית וגם של ה"חברה קדישא" ומאוחר יותר כשמיליחקר יבריא אחזיר לו את ניהול החשבונות ובינתיים יכניס אותי גרוסמן לרזי העבודה. בפועל, איש לא העביר לי את ספרי הנהלת החשבונות של הקהילה ושל ה"חברה

קדישא" והייתי צריך לעבד את החומר בעצמי ולנהל את הספרים לפי השיטה הקיימת. התחלתי את עבודתי ב-1 ליוני 1955 ומאחר ומיליחיקר לא נוכח בעבודה ניהלתי את ספר הנהלת החשבונות מ-1.1.55. זכור לי כיום, שאת ההוצאות על אפיית מצות בפסח 1955 רשמתי בספרי הנהלת החשבונות רק בראש השנה.

בסוף אוקטובר 1955 החלו השלטונות הסיניים לגרש אל מעבר לגבול אנשים ללא אזרחות, קשישים ומשפחות עריריות. ג.מ. גרוסמן הגיש בקשה למשרדי הקהילה היהודית לשחררו מעבודה החל מ-1 לנובמבר 1955 והמשיך להגיע למשרד מדי יומיים שלושה לשעה שעתיים. בינתיים עשה הכנות לנסיעה, הוא שיער שיסיים את העניינים הקשורים לביתו עד 20-15 לנובמבר, ואחר כך יעביר לי את כל הנהלת החשבונות ועבודות מזכירות. למרבה ההפתעה הוא קיבל הוראה לעזוב ב-11 לנובמבר, כל תחנוניו להאריך את שהייתו בסין לא הועילו. יש לציין, שהסינים מאז ומתמיד קבעו את תאריך העזיבה בהפתעה גמורה והפתיעו את המבקשים כשאינם מוכנים. אנשים, הגישו בקשה לעזיבה והמתינו חודשים ולעתים שנים, בלי לדעת אפילו ברמז תאריך סופי לעזיבה ועל כן לא יכלו להתכונן ולארוז את חפציהם באופן סופי. משהודיעו הסינים על קבלת רישיון עזיבה נתנו למבקש יומיים עד שלושה ימים לעזוב. צריך היה לארוז את החפצים יום לפני העזיבה, כלומר יממה לאחר קבלת הרישיון. מי שלא הספיק לצאת תוך יומיים, איבד את זכותו לעזיבה והיה צריך להגיש בקשה חוזרת. כמובן, שגרוסמן החליט לעזוב ויהי מה ואכן עזב ב-11 לנובמבר 1955. וכך לא נותר לי עם מי לדבר על העברת החומר של הנהלת החשבונות והמזכירות, אפילו מפתחות לכספת של המשרד, לארון ולשולחן העבודה קיבלתי רק אחרי השעה 9 בערב יום אחד בלבד לפני עזיבתו של גרוסמן.

ברצוני לשוב לעניין הארכיון. לאחר עזיבתו של גרוסמן מצבו של הארכיון נשאר כשהיה. לי לא היה זמן לעסוק בנושא, לדוגמא, חלק מהבית שהיה ברחוב ארטילרסקיה פינת פקרניה היה שייך ל"חברה קדישא" ואילו 3/4 מהבית היה שייך לקונסוליה הכללית של ברית המועצות ב-56 החליטה הקונסוליה למכור את חלקה בבניין. היה צורך להציג מסמכים על חלקנו בבית. למעלה משבוע ימים חיפשתי בארכיון מסמכים שיאשרו את בעלותנו על חלק מהנכס ורק בעקבות מציאת המסמכים קיבלנו את חלקנו מהמכירה. מדי פעם היה צורך להסתמך על הארכיון.

במהלך ישיבת הנהלה ב-50-60, העליתי שאילתה כיצד לנהוג בארכיון מאחר והוא כה גדול. הדעה הכללית של ההנהלה הייתה שיש צורך להשמיד את רובו ולהשאיר רק את הדברים העיקריים. על סמך החלטה זו השמדתי מסמכים הנוגעים לוועדות נשפים, וועדות חג הפסח, גמילות חסד, מסמכים הנוגעים לספריה, תלמוד תורה ועוד'. יש לציין, שהארכיון של הקהילה הוא בעל ערך רב, וכולל ספרי הנהלת חשבונות, כל ספרי לידה, ארכיון של הרב קיסילב וחומר היסטורי רב. קיימות התכתבויות לאורך שנים. אך עלי לומר, שלדוגמא – פרוטוקולים של "חברה קדישא" בשנים 31 או 32 לוקים בחסר, קיימים רק פרוטוקולים של "חברה קדישא" ולא רישומי פטירה של הקהילה.

1

על השטח בו היו בתי הקברות היהודים, הפרבוסלבים, המוסלמים ועוד, החלה ביולי 58 הקמתו של פארק ענק תחת השם "תרבות". החרבינאים קראו לפארק "תרבות על עצמות".

בקיץ של שנת 59 כאשר הקברים בכל בתי הקברות הישנים כוסו באדמה, הגדרות הוסרו ושטחי כל בתי הקברות פונו, פנתה המחלקה הסינית ליחסי חוץ בבקשה דחופה לקהילה להעביר להם את התכנית של בית הקברות היהודי הישן כולל שבילים, שדרות ושורות של קברים, כמו כן לערוך רשימת שמות הקבורים בבית הקברות הישן על פי שורות ומספר הקבר, עם סימן מקביל לשם משפחתו של הנפטר במקרה של העברת שרידי גופתו. במשך שלושה חודשים טרחו במשרד הקהילה לאסוף את כל העדויות. כל זה נאסף ונכרך כספר - כולל תכנית בית העלמין הישן עם ציון שדרות ומספרי שורות. עותק של הספר ושל התכנית שוודאי מעוררים עניין נמצאים בקהילה היהודית בחרבין (חדו).

כאן המקום לציין את ההבדל בין השקפתם של היהודים והשקפת הרוסים בכל הנוגע להעברת השרידים, על פי אנשי הכמורה הפרבוסלבית בחרבין ובמיוחד בקרב הכמרים הרוסים רווחה הדעה שאין להעביר את השרידים והעברה היא בגדר חטא. ונאמר "מנוחת הקדושים" - רצוי לא להפריע למנוחתם ולא להעבירם למקום אחר.

על השאלה מדוע הכמורה הפרבוסלבית אישרה בזמנו העברת שרידים מבית הקברות "גוספיטלני גורודוק" וכן מבתי קברות של חולי כולירע או של חסרי בית, נאמר שההעברה נעשתה להאדרתם של הנפטרים מאחר והשרידים הועברו כבר לבית קברות קיים. עכשיו, כאשר בית העלמין הוא מקום מנוחה העומד להיהרס בהחלטה, אין צורך להעביר את השרידים. אצל היהודים ההשקפה הייתה שונה לחלוטין - האישור להעברה ניתן על ידי הרבנים וההעברה בוצעה. יש לציין, שעוד לפני קבלת האישור קיבלה הקהילה היהודית בחרבין מכתבים רבים מיהודים המתגוררים בתפוצות ובהם בקשה להעברת שרידי יקיריהם. באופן אישי, כאשר צפיתי בסוף מאי 58 בהעברת השרידים בבית הקברות הסיני, חשבתי גם אני, שאין צורך בהעברת השרידים. מאוחר יותר, בקיץ 58 שיניתי דעתי והעברתי במו ידי את שרידי גופותיהם של בני משפחתי. ב-59-60 ראיתי כיצד בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי חופרים בריכה ענקית ותוך כדי כך אוספים אקראית עצמות על מנת לקברם מחדש. חלק מהעצמות הקטנות התעופפו באוויר, מספר קברים התמוטטו בחלקם לאחר שהבולדוזר חפר באדמה על מנת להרחיב את הכביש על חשבון השטח שהיה בית הקברות הפרבוסלבי, והגעתי למסקנה שההחלטה להעברת השרידים היהודיים הייתה נכונה. אני חושב גם שנכון לעשות זאת במו ידיך או כפי שנהגה הקהילה בחרבין, שכן אין לדעת מי ומתי ישליך לכל עבר את עצמות יקירי.

אני שותף לדעתו של מר ב.א.אבקין אשר אמר שאם יעבירו את שרידי יקיריו הוא חייב להיות נוכח למרות הקושי בלראות מה נותר מאלו שאהבת. אכן, קשה מאד הצפייה! ורצוי לא להיכנס לפרטים. ברצוני רק לציין מקרה של אישה שנפטרה בשנות ה-26-28 לחייה וגופתה הוצאה מהקבר. היא נראתה כמו מומיה שאפילו התכריכים שנכרכו סביב גופתה שבדרך כלל מתפוררים לאחר 7-6 שנים, היו שלמים ועטפו אותה בשלמות.

בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי היו 45-47 אלף קברים, מתוכם 12 אלף נחשבו לאנונימיים - בלי שם ובלי צלב. מתוך בית קברות זה הועברו כ-600 קברים, מחציתם סינים וקוריאנים פרבוסלבים. כמו כן, הועברו שרידיו של ד"ר קאזם-בק, וכן קברי סטודנטים שנספו באביב של שנת 46 ועוד מספר מועט של קברים אחרים.

הרוסים העבירו מספר קטן של שרידים שנפטרו בשנים האחרונות ומעט מאד מאלו שנפטרו בעבר הרחוק.

בבית הקברות היהודי היו 3100 או 3300 קברים, בהם 400 אנונימיים. מבית הקברות הישן הועברו 853 או 854 נפטרים לבית הקברות החדש, בין 115 ל-125 שרידים של חברי קהילה הועברו על ידי הקהילה היהודית ומעל ל-700 שרידים הועברו על פי הנחיות של קרובי משפחה וידידים.

נדמה לי, שהסופר האנגלי וודהאוז, מספר באחד מספריו על אדם, אשר תמיד החל הכל מהסוף, עבר לאמצע וסיים עם ההתחלה. עם תחילת העברת שרידי הגופות קרה כך גם לי. במקום להתחיל עם איסוף עדויות על בית הקברות הישן – אני מסיים בכך.

בית הקברות הישן בחרבין אשר בו התקיימה הקבורה הראשונה בשנת 1908 (את שם הנפטר איני יודע) והאחרונה במרץ 1958 (שם הנפטר - ח. נוסוביסצקי). משתרע על שטח של - 32-36.000 מ"ר, באזור "נוביי גורוד" – בסינית טאי פין ציאו. הקבורה התבצעה בשטח הנקרא- בית הקברות הישן (שטח קטן יחסית), ואילו שטח גדול שהתווסף עם הזמן כמעט ולא נוצל. אינני מתמצא לחלוטין בהיסטוריה של בית הקברות הישן והפרטים בהמשר נמסרו על ידי י.ס. מטליו.

על שער הכניסה הייתה כתובת (את זה אני זוכר בבירור) פסוק ק"ח מספר תהילים "זה השער לה' צדיקים יבואו בו". זו כתובת שנותרה עד הסוף וב-59 כוסתה בסיד על ידי הסינים. בבית העלמין הישן היה בית בן שתי קומות, בנוי על שטח של 500 מ"ר ולו מגדל ומרתף. חלק מהבית שימש כבית כנסת, היה לו חדר טהרה גדול, חדר המתנה למבקרים ובקומה השנייה דירה למנהל בית העלמין, שהייתה נטושה מאז שנות 46-46 מפאת סכנה לחיות באזור מרוחק באותן שנים. במרתף היו דירות לעובדים סיניים. בחצר היו עוד מבנים ששמשו לעבודות שונות.

תכנית בית הקברות הייתה מסובכת ומאד לא נוחה. היא הסתמכה על סימני "אלף בית", "שורה" ו"מקום". כמדומה לי, שבשנת 51 (תאריך מדויק זוכר מר ס.נ.קנר) הכניס י.מ. מיליחיקר לפי הוראתו של קנר שיטה חדשה לחלוקת בית העלמין לשורות ומקומות ול"שורות צדדיות" ו"מקומות". מיליחיקר רשם מחדש את כל הקברים וניהל ספר על פי שיטה של שורות ומקומות וספר נוסף של הקבורים על פי אלף בית עם ציון שורה ומקום. עבודתו של מיליחיקר חשובה ביותר ונתנה אפשרות במהירות וקלות להתמצא בתוך בית העלמין. בסופו של דבר, נמצאו בזמן העברה בשנת 58 מספר שגיאות בספרו של מיליחיקר אך איני יכול לתאר לעצמי כיצד יכלה להתקיים העבודה בלי ספרו. מחסור בתכנית וחוסר שיטתיות בקבורה בזמן הישן גרמו לכך ששורות הקברים לא היו מקבילים זה לזה ושורה נכנסה לשורה. כתוצאה מכך נאלץ מיליחיקר ליצור שורות בשמות כמו A-4, B-4, B-4, B-4, B-4, B-4אנונימיים. את חלקם אפשר היה לאתר לפי הרישום הישן אך זה היה מעל לכוחו של מיליחיקר. ב-58 החליטה הקהילה היהודית בחרבין מי הם הקברים האנונימיים לצרכי ההעברה.

הנהלת פארק "תרבות" החליטה בשנת 58 על הורדת המצבות שנותרו ויישור הקברים, אך על פי בקשתנו ניאותו להשאיר זאת לאביב 59 והחלו במלאכה אחרי שסיימנו את העברת השרידים. בקיץ 59 כל המצבות בבית הקברות היהודי הוסרו והועברו לפינת בית העלמין, האדמה מעל הקברים יושרה, הקירות שהפרידו בין בית הקברות היהודי לבית הקברות הטטרי, נהרסו, הרבה עצים נכרתו, אריחים שהיו בשדרה הראשית הוסרו גם הם וכל השטח שהתפנה תוכנן לשדרות חדשות. כך חוסל באופן סופי בית הקברות היהודי הישן. ורק בית בודד והשדרה הראשית שהובילה מהשער למטה, עוררו זיכרונות עצובים על חיסול "הבית הניצחי" של יהודי חרבין. למרגלות בית הקברות היהודי שם לא נערכו לוויות נבנה חדר שירותים ההילחי

כבר לא היה צורך בנכסי נדל"ן בבית הקברות ובגדר שעמדה סביבו כתוצאה מחיסולו ובנובמבר 58 לאחר משא ומתן בין הקהילה למחלקה ליחסי חוץ הסכים הקונה של פארק "תרבות" לשלם בתחילת ינואר 59 סך 7.000 יואן עבור הנותר, אך עם רישום העברת הנכסים לארגון "סין או גון סה" לא אשרה המחלקה לרכוש את הסכום ובסופו של דבר בוצעה המכירה תמורת 5.400 או 5.500 יואן. הסכם המכירה-קניה אושר על ידי בית המשפט העממי ב-25 לינואר 59 – מספר ימים לפני תום ההעברה והכסף הועבר לקופת הקהילה היהודית בחרבין.

והמטרה הושגה במלואה. ושוב, לא אכנס לפרטים, כמו עלות ההעברה עצמה והצד הטכני שלה מאחר ועל כך יש תיאור מפורט במכתבי לקהילה היהודית בחרבין ולאיגוד יוצאי סין באותם תאריכים.

בערך ב-15 ליוני 1958 התקיימה במועדון הסובייטי אסיפה של האזרחים הזרים בחרבין, יו"ר הקהילה – ו.י. פנוב, אזרח 0.0.0. הודיע על פתיחת בית הקברות הפרבוסלבי החדש מקום בו נטמנה כבר ב-2 ליוני 1958 גופתו של וורוקין. בבית הקברות היהודי החדש נטמן בסוף יוני או יולי 1958 קונורטו, אשר הגיע לחרבין זמן קצר לפני מותו. פנוב הודיע לנוכחים על ההחלטה של הרשויות על חיסול בתי הקברות בגבולות העיר והוסיף שהתאריך האחרון נקבע ל-30.6.58. בנוסף הודיע פנוב כי יום או יומיים לפני האסיפה החל מבצע יישור הקברים בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי. ואכן הדבר בוצע מעל כמה מאות קברים אנונימיים בבית קברות זה.

מעניין לציין, שבאסיפה שהתקיימה בקונסוליה של 0.0.0. לאחר ה-20 למאי 1958 (על כך כתבתי קודם) מנהל המחלקה ליחסי-חוץ יאן צזו-צ'ין ענה לאחת השאלות שהופנו אליו מהקהל: "אם בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי משאירים קברים ומצבות של חיילים וקצינים מהצבא האדום, שנקברו בחרבין בשנים 46-46, אולי אפשר להשאיר קבר אחים ומצבה לקרבנות מלחמת רוסיה-יפן", תשובתו הייתה חד משמעית - "אסור לעשות זאת, החיילים והקצינים שהיו קרבנות מלחמת רוסיה-יפן הם אימפריאליסטים וכובשים". באסיפה הכללית הודיע פנוב ששרידי הקרבנות של מלחמת רוסיה-יפן יועברו לבית הקברות החדש לקבר אחים ובמקום החדש תוצב אבן זיכרון.

מספר ימים לפני ה-30.6.58 – תאריך שסומן מהתחלה כתאריך אחרון להעברה – בעיתון "חרבין ז"י באו" הופיעה הודעה על דחיית ההעברה ל-30.10.58. הקהילה היהודית (חדו) ניצלה את מזג האוויר החמים והנוח לאותו זמן, ללא שלג, והמשיכה בעבודה עד ה-4 או ה-5 לדצמבר 1958. אחרוני השרידים הועברו בפברואר או מרץ 59. תחילת ההעברה של בית הקברות היהודי החלה ,אם איני טועה , ב-4 לאוגוסט 58. פרטים מדויקים נמצאים במכתבים לאגוד יוצאי סין ולקהילה.

באמצע מאי 58, כאשר התברר שהשלטונות לא ישנו את החלטתם לחיסול בית הקברות היהודי, נשלח מטעם הקהילה היהודית מכתב לרב הראשי של ישראל רבי יצחק -אייזיק הלוי הרצוג ז"ל וראש ישיבת "קול יעקב" רבי ל.י. לוין ז"ל, לקבלת אישור להעברה מטעמים דתיים. תשובות שני הרבנים הגיעו ב-20 ליוני 58 והרשות ניתנה תוך הקפדה וביצוע מלא על כל תנאי הדת. ר' הרצוג אף פנה במברק לשלטונות בסין בבקשה להאריך את תאריך ההעברה. עלי לציין, שהמחלקה ליחסי חוץ של העיר חרבין דרשה במפגיע מהקהילה היהודית רשימה של "לקוחות" (כלומר -רשימת הקבורים) ואיימו להתחיל ביישור הקברים בבית הקברות היהודי כפי שהדבר נעשה בפרבוסלבי. כפי שציינתי, ההעברה החלה ב-4.8.58. בקשת איגוד יוצאי סין בקיץ 58 למשרד ליחסי חוץ להעברת שרידיו של הרב א.מ. קיסילב לישראל, נענתה לאחר מספר ימים. התשובה לבקשה התייחסה ליחסים בין שתי המדינות. ממשלת ישראל היא זו שצריכה לפנות לממשלת סין בבקשה זו מאחר וממשלת סין עצמה אינה יכולה לדון בעניין עם הקהילה היהודית או עם אגוד יוצאי סין. נציג המחלקה ליחסי חוץ הוסיף, שהוא משער שלאור הנסיבות העברת שרידיו של הרב מחוץ לגבולות סין יאושרו.

במאי 58 החלה הקהילה היהודית בעבודת הכנה לקראת העתקת בית הקברות והערכה כספית של כל סעיף לגופו, כאן החלה התכתבות עם אגוד יוצאי סין ועם ארגונים יהודיים בתפוצות ועם אישים פרטיים. נשלחו מעל ל-100 מכתבים מודפסים במכונת כתיבה. בהתכתבות עם אגוד יוצאי סין הועלו רק העדויות והקשיים שלא היוו סכנה לחברי הקהילה ונמסרו פרטים רבים על ארגון בית הקברות, בניית בית וגדר, שתילת עצים, וכן העובדה המצערת של העברת שרידי הגופות למקומם החדש והעמדת המצבות מעל הקבר. אינני רוצה לציין זאת כעת, אך יש לומר שהיו לא

מעט ארועים חריגים בזמן העבודה, כאשר הקהילה היהודית הייתה חייבת לפנות למחלקה ליחסי-חוץ או למשרד הדתות על מנת להשפיע על העובדים בפועל, לדוגמא - לחפור את הקבר בעומק לא פחות מ-1.80 מ', העברת קברים פגומים, מחסור בכלי תחבורה וכח אדם, חילול קודש ומחסור בחומרים להצבת המצבות ועוד. פעילות רבה זו הייתה מעבר לכוחם של "זקני" הקהילה היהודית בחרבין.

עם זאת נותרו מעט אנשים בקהילה שיכלו לעמוד במטלה. קנר ואגרנובסקי נוכחו מדי יום בבית הקברות הישן או החדש או במשרדים ממשלתיים. שניהם, וגם ש.ס. שטיינגרט השגיחו על הוצאת השרידים במלואם. אחראים נוספים על עבודות הקשורות להעברה היו: ד.י. ברנדט, מ.א. טרויצין, ס.ד. חיימוביץ' ול.נ. רפופורט. בימים בהם טמנו מחדש בקברים את שרידי הגופות נקראו גברים יהודים בוגרים לעמוד לתפילה למניין לפי חוקי ההלכה. שרידי גופתו של הרב א.מ. קיסילב הועברו על ידי ז.ל. אגרנובסקי ושל הרב ש.ז. חסקל על ידי ד.י.ברנדט. אגרנובסקי עצמו העביר במו ידיו את שרידי גופותיהם של קרובי משפחתו ומכריו, אביו, סבו וסבתו, דבר שאסור על פי ההלכה, גם שטיינגרט העביר במו ידיו את שרידי

א.ס. אוסינוביסקי היה היחיד שעסק בצד הכספי של ההעברה וגם עזר לאגרנובסקי בעבודה משרדית הקשורה בהעברה. באוגוסט 58 כאשר אוסינובסקי כרע תחת עול העבודה ולא נותר לו מספיק זמן לעסוק בצד הכספי של העניין, הוזמנו על ידי הקהילה צעיר וצעירה ממשפחת סטולר אשר פרט לחשבונאות לא ידעו דבר ואשר הקלו על עבודתו של אוסינובסקי. הקלה נוספת בעבודה המשרדית הגיעה בספטמבר 58 עם קבלתה לעבודה קבועה של מ.י. מיילמן, חברת הקהילה, אשר ידעה גם להדפיס במכונת כתיבה. קנר, אוסינובסקי, שטיינגרט ואגרנובסקי לא דרשו ולא קיבלו כל מענק כספי. יהודים אחרים שהועסקו במלאכה קיבלו תשלום בעד עבודתם.

בספטמבר-אוקטובר 58 הוצבו רק מספר מצומצם של מצבות בבית הקברות החדש. כעבור שנה, ממאי עד אוקטובר החלה שוב העבודה המפרכת בהצבתם. בשנת 1960 לאחר גשמים קשים קרס אחד מהגשרים העשויים עץ על הדרך המובילה לבית הקברות. מעל ל-10 ימים לא הייתה דרך להגיע לבית הקברות. אם איני טועה, גם בבית הקברות הרוסי היו קשיים ורק 2 מקרים של קבורה אירעו שם, אם כי לא בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי החדש אלא בבית הקברות הסיני באזור קוסינטון, לאחר 10 ימים הונח גשר זמני מסירות ורק לאחר חודש הוקם גשר חדש מעץ. קריסת הדרך וחוסר בחומרים לבנייה עיכבו את הצבת המצבות באותה שנה.

ב-61 כמעט והסתיימו כל העבודות, בהם גם הקמת מצבות ומבני-אבן מעל קברי הרבנים א.מ. קיסילב וש. חסקל. שתי המצבות והמבנים סביבם שנבנו על ידי הקהילה היהודית על קברי הרבנים עלו מעל ל-3000 יואן. דומני, שקהילת יהודי שנחאי העבירה אלף יואן להצבת המצבה של הרב א.מ. קיסילב, מאחר והוא היה הרב הראשי של כל יהודי המזרח הרחוק. סכומי כסף להקמת המבנים סביב המצבות בבית הקברות הישן בחרבין הועברו עוד בשנות ה-50 מקהילות יהודיות שבשנחאי וטיאנזין.

אני מניח שכל העבודות הקטנות שנותרו לביצוע ואשר הקהילה לא הספיקה לסיים בשנת 61 הסתיימו ב-62.

בספטמבר ואוקטובר 58 קיבלה הנהלת הקהילה את ההחלטה להעביר שרידיהם של שאר אנשי דת, מורים לעברית, עסקנים קהילתיים, קורבנות שנאה, תורמים למען הקהילה אשר אין להם קרובים וידידים היכולים לדאוג להעברת שרידי גופותיהם. הרשימה כללה 54 או 55 שמות משפחה. העברת שרידיהם נעשתה על חשבון הקהילה ומאוחר יותר על קבריהם החדשים הוצבו מצבות או אבני זיכרון עם ציון שמם. הטמנת שרידים אלה מומנה בכספים שהתקבלו ממכירת גדרות ברזל שהגנו על כ-70-60 קברים בבית הקברות הישן.

העירוני. הזרים שהתגוררו באותה עת בסין לא שמו לב להודעה מתוך הנחה שההודעה מתייחסת לבתי קברות סיניים בעיר, או במקרה קיצוני, לבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי הישן שנמצא במרכז העיר, לא הרחק מהחנות "צ'ורין". בין 13.4.58 ל-8.5.58 לא היו מקרי מוות בקהילה היהודית. לרוסים לעומת זאת היו מקרי מוות, והשלטונות כרגיל לא שמו לב להודעה מה-13.4.58 ואישרו קבורה בבית הקברות אוספנסקי ה"חדש".

ב-8 למאי 58 פורסמה הודעה בעיתון שהכתה בתדהמה את כל הזרים. בתי הקברות הזרים שכללו את בית הקברות היהודי ושנמצאו תחת השגחה של מחלקת הבריאות הוכרזו כמועדים לחיסול. סיבת החיסול: 1.להילחם במזיקים כמו עכברים, חולדות, יתושים, זבובים, פרעושים ועוד. 2. הרחבת העיר לצרכי בנייה.

לבני המשפחה, לקרובים ולידידים של הקבורים בבית הקברות הוצע להעביר את השרידים עד 30 ליוני 58 על חשבונם האישי. כל הקברים שלא יועברו עד תאריך זה ייקברו בעומק האדמה על ידי השלטונות. היהודים, הפרבוסלבים, הטטרים והארמנים התאחדו מייד והחליטו להוכיח לשלטונות, כי מנקודות מבט שונות יש בכר משום חוסר צדק ובכך להשיג

לביטולה של ההחלטה.

באסיפה שהתקיימה בקונסוליה של o.o.o.c לאחר ה-20 במאי 85, ושאליה הוזמנו נציגי הדתות הזרות וכן נציגי הכמורה הפרבוסלבים, הודיע מנהל המחלקה ליחסי חוץ, שהוועד העממי של העיר חרבין עבר הודיע מנהל המחלקה ליחסי חוץ, שהוועד העממי של העיר אך לא שינה את על כל הבקשות לדחיית חיסול בתי הקברות בעיר אך לא שינה את תאריך העברת השרידים והתאריך נותר 30.5.58. כמו כן הבהיר, שקברים אשר לא יועברו, יוסרו מהן המצבות, השרידים לא ייקברו בעומק האדמה והקרקע מעליהם תיושר. בנוסף אמר, שהשלטונות יכינו תכנית של כל בתי הקברות באתר עם פרוט מעודכן של שורות, שדרות קברים, רשימת שמות הנקברים ואשר תעמוד בעתיד לרשות הקרובים אם ירצו להעביר



כניסה לבית הקברות החדש

את שרידי הנפטר למקום אחר. את "רצינותה" של תכנית השלטון אפשר היה לשפוט כבר כעבור חודש כאשר החלו ליישר את הקברים האנונימיים בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי מבלי להציג או להתייחס אל איזו שהיא תכנית לסידור הקברים.

בסוף יולי 58 לקראת העברת בית הקברות היהודי בקשו נציגי הקהילה היהודית מהשלטונות לקבל תכנית מדויקת של בית הקברות היהודי, בתשובה נאמר שההעברה נדחתה מה-30.6.58 ל-30.10.58 ועל כן הצורך בהצגת תכנית מבוטל. למרות זאת, ב-59 שוב התעורר הצורך בתכנית בית הקברות היהודי, ועל כך אדבר בהמשך.

ב-15 או 16 למאי הוזמנו נציגי הקהילה היהודית והפרבוסלבית למחלקה לענייני דת על מנת לבחון מקומות לבית הקברות העתידי.

ב-26-25 למאי 58 התקיימה ישיבה מורחבת, בנוכחות נציגים של דתות שונות ובנוכחותו של מנהל המחלקה ליחסי חוץ אשר הודיע שבתחילת חודש יוני יתחיל יישור הקרקע מעל הקברים בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי. כמו כן הוסיף, שעדיין המשיכו לקבור מתים בבית הקברות הפרבוסלבי

למרות האיסור מה-30.5.58 ויש לארגן בדחיפות בית קברות חדש. למחרת, יצאו נציגי הקהילה היהודית ונציגי כל הדתות האחרות ביחד לאזור המיועד לבית הקברות החדש.

כאן יש לציין, שהשטח לבית הקברות החדש כבר נקבע ב-מאי 58 באזור הואן שן צזוי צזה, ונמצא במרחק 17 ק"מ מבית הקברות היהודי הישן לכוון מזרח או צפון מזרח ליתר דיוק. הדרך חוצה את אזור תאי פין ציאו, ממשיכה לסאן קה שו לא רחוק מתחנת רכבת שבנו היפנים. מיד לאחר פניה שמאלה לכווו צפוו מוביל הכביש לבית חרושת למלט. הכביש המרכזי ממשיך לכוון צפון-מזרח כשחלקו מיושב. בהמשך, הדרך משני צדדיה ריקה לחלוטין בעקבות שיטפון עונתי והדרך עולה ומתנשאת מעל למישור. את הדרך חוצים שלושה גשרים מעל נחלי מים. שני גשרים עשויים עץ ואחד מברזל ובטון - הבניה משנת 1930. אחרי הגשרים מתחילים ישובים, בתי חרושת קטנים למכונות חקלאיות ולבסוף בית חרושת לייצור לבנים. על גבעה משמאל לדרך החל להיבנות קרמטוריום עירוני. הבניה החלה ב-58 אך במרץ 62 כשעזבתי עדיין לא הושלמה בנייתו. יש לומר, שאזור בית החרושת ללבנים והקרמטוריום - אזור מיושב ושמו הואן שן צזוי צזה. הדרך ממשיכה לכוון צפון מזרח ולאחר כ 2-3 ק"מ מבית החרושת מובילות דרכים לכיוון דרום. כל הדרכים המסתעפות דרומה מובילות לאזור בתי הקברות הנושאות את השם "טיאן חן" אך האתר כולו נקרא הואן שאן צזיו צזה. תכנית זו של אתר בתי הקברות או עיר הקברים שנקבעה בשנים 51-52 משתרעת על שטח של כמה קילומטרים מרובעים. את השטח המדויק איני יודע אך אני מעריך שזה לא יותר מ-2 קמ"ר. בית הקברות הסיני ממוקם על שטח ענק ובו קברים כפולים, משפחתיים, ילדים ועוד. בהמשך משתרע בית הקברות הסיני המוסלמי שהועבר לכאן בשנים 55-55 ולבסוף בית הקברות לאוכלוסייה האירופאית ששטחו נקבע כבר ב-58. (הדרך מסאן קה שו היא דרך סינית טיפוסית, סלעית, מעורבבת בפחם וחול גס. השביל המוביל מהדרך הראשית לכוון בית הקברות סלול באותה צורה. יש לציין שחלק מהדרך לאורך 500–400 מטר לכוון בית הקברות האירופאי, לא היה סלול בתאריך 15-16 למאי בעת ביקור הנציגים של הקהילה היהודית והפרבוסלבית בתאריך 16-16 למאי, אך בסוף מאי העבודה הסתיימה).

אחרי הירידה מהכביש הראשי ובהמשך פנייה ימינה, מתפתלת הדרך לבית הקברות ומטפסת על גבעה תלולה, ושוב פנייה שמאלה לכוון צפון מזרח, ירידה חדה ועליה על גבעה נוספת. השטח על הגבעה השנייה מיועד לבית הקברות לזרים. ב-26-55 למאי נסללה הדרך לבית הקברות של הזרים והיהודים לקחו לעצמם שלושה מגרשים, כל אחד באורך 120 מטר אורך ו-55 מטר רוחב. מאוחר יותר הוחלט לנצל שני מגרשים בלבד. בית הקברות שלנו משתרע בחלקו על ראש הגבעה וחלקו על מדרונה. המגרש עליו ממוקם בית הקברות של הזרים הוא הראשון על הדרך. כאן ארשה לעצמי לא להיכנס לפרטים הקשורים לקשיים שהתעוררו בהתויית בית הקברות, כמו סלילת שדרות, שורות ומקומות של קברים, הגדר, נטיעת עצים, בניית בית תפילה בגודל 42 מ"ר וכן הלאה. כל זה נמצא במכתבים הנמצאים באיגוד יוצאי סין. זכור לי שבמרץ 1960פורסם באיגוד יוצאי סין מכתב מפורט המתאר את בית הקברות. אך ייתכן שאני טועה בתאריר.

ב-18 או 19 למאי 58 פורסם בעיתון "חרבין ז'י באו" על התארגנות ממשלתית להעברת בית הקברות. בכתבה נאמר שיש בידיהם צוות מומחים להעברת קברים, רכבים ומכשור מיוחד, קביעת מחיר, הורדת המצבות, חפירת קברים ואיסוף השרידים והעברתם עם המצבות מבית הקברות הישן לקבורה מחדש.

עם זאת הם סרבו להציב את המצבות מחדש ורק ציינו את המחיר. נציגי הקהילה היהודית ניהלו משא ומתן עם משרדי ההעברה, מתוך הבנה שהמחיר גבוה מדי וסרבו לשתף עמם פעולה. בשיתוף המחלקה ליחסי חוץ ובהשתתפות גופים אחראים הוצע מחיר מיוחד עם הנחה משמעותית

קוראים יקרים,

זיאמה אגרנובסקי ז"ל היה מאחרוני היהודים בחרבין ושימש חבר פעיל בהנהלת הקהילה היהודית בעיר. הוא החל את פעילותו הציבורית ב-1 ביוני 1955 כמנהל חשבונות ויותר מאוחר באותה שנה נבחר לשמש כמזכיר הקהילה , תפקיד שמילא עד אפריל 1961 כאשר עלה לישראל. בתפקיד זה הוא לקח חלק בהחלטות אחרונות וחשובות בתהליך סגירת פעילות ועד הקהילה בחרבין, כולל העברת בית הקברות היהודי, חיסול הרכוש של הקהילה ועוד.

למזלנו, בשנת 1962 זיאמה רשם בצורה מאד מפורטת את זיכרונותיו מהתקופה על גבי 102 דפים מודפסים במכונת כתיבה ברוסית שפורסמו בשנים 2002-2004 ב"בולטיו" ברוסית.

במאמצינו להביא את סיפור הקהילה לדור הצעיר אנו נתרגם בשלבים את החומר לעברית (כרגיל, בעזרתה של יהודית סנדל). החלק הראשון שמתפרסם להלן מספר את סיפור העברת בית הקברות היהודי וגורל הארכיון של הקהילה שלצערי לא נגיש לנו עד היום.

המערכת

מזיכרונותיו של זיאמה אגרנובסקי

מרוסית יהודית סנדל

חיסולו של בית הקברות בחרבין והעברת השרידים למקומם החדש

בשנות 75-59 החל בסין מבצע של "הקפיצה הגדולה קדימה". השלטון המרכזי בסין חיפש דרכים לצאת ממצב כלכלי קשה, ועל כן דרש מהאוכלוסייה להגדיל את התוצרת החקלאית והתעשייתית במהירות רבה ביותר ולהעלות את המאזן הכלכלי של חיי היום יום. אחד המשפטים המובילים של ה"קפיצה הגדולה קדימה" היה: "ב-15 שנה הבאות להשיג את אנגליה בייצור הברזל, מתכת ופחם". בתחילת שנת 58 החלו השלטונות להמריץ פיתוח תעשיות ובתי חרושת קטנים בכל שטחי המדינה. בכל פרובינציה ובכל עיר עשו השלטונות המקומיים את המירב כדי לא לפגר אחר מקומות אחרים בכל הנוגע ל"קפיצה הגדולה קדימה". כל בר דעת יכול היה לחזות שמחסור ביבוא של חומרי גלם ייתן את אותותיו והכלכלה המדינית תמצא עצמה בהתמוטטות מוחלטת. ואכן כך קרה, אלפי בתי חרושת קטנים ובתי תעשיה שצמחו כמו פטריות אחרי הגשם, ללא בסיס של חומר גולמי וללא מקצוענות החלו להיסגר זו אחר זו כשהם גורמים הפסדים גדולים לממשלה. בפרובינציית הילוצ"אן בלבד שבירתה חרבין,

הפסדים גדולים לממשלה. בפרובינציית הילוצייאן בלבד שבירתה חרבין, נפתחו במחצית הראשונה של שנת 58 כ-600 בתי חרושת שרובם נסגרו לאחר כשנה.

הוועד העממי של העיר חרבין שהיה צמוד להחלטת המדינה על חיסול כל בתי הקברות הנמצאים במתחם הערים: טיאנצזין, שנחאי, בערי הפרובינציה שאנדון וכו'. החליט לחסל את כל בתי הקברות בגבולות העיר. הסיבה כביכול - להעניק לעיר מראה עכשווי ולהגן על בריאות הציבור. יש לשער שהשלטונות המקומיים רצו להקים על שטחי בתי הקברות המפונים פארקים ומבני ציבור.

ב-52 או ב-53 הגיעו למשרדי הקהילה היהודית בחרבין נציגים צבאיים וניהלו שיחה על העברת בית העלמין למקום חדש מחוץ לעיר, ואף נקבו בשפה הסינית בשם המקום המיועד להעברה. באותו הזמן, לא ניתנה הרשאה מצד הרשויות המקומיות לבצע צעד זה. מאוחר יותר ב-58, אושרה העברת בתי הקברות על ידי הוועד המקומי, מהכספת הוצא פתק עליו נרשם מקום בית הקברות באתר הואן-שאן-צזוי-צזה, ולשם הועבר בית הקברות בשנת 58.



כניסה לבית הקברות הישן

בשנת 53 או 54 העבירו השלטונות הסיניים את בית הקברות הרוסי-צבאי "גוספיטלני גורודוק" שם נחו קרבנות ממלחמת רוסיה-יפן ואחרים. השרידים הועברו על פי הסכמת הרשויות הפברוסלביות לבית קברות רוסי פרבוסלבי - אוספנסקי בטכס חגיגי ובנוכחות אנשי כמורה והמקום היה לבית הקברות ה"חדש". כל ההוצאות שולמו על ידי ארגונים סיניים אשר החלו להשתמש בשטח בית הקברות שהתפנה.

בקיץ של 54- או 55 הכינו השלטונות הסיניים תכנית לפיה כל האזור עתיד להשתנות וצפויה בו בניה אדירה. מתוך נקודת מבט צבאית היה צורך לחסל את כל בתי הקברות שנמצאו לא הרחק מבית הקברות היהודי. באזור היו: בית קברות לחולי כולירע, לסינים חסרי בית ובית קברות סיני-קתולי. הרוסים בנוכחות נציגי הדת הפרבוסלבית העבירו את שרידי יקיריהם לבית הקברות "החדש". כל הקברים של סינים קתולים הועברו על חשבון ארגון סיני צבאי לבית הקברות באתר הואן-שאן-צזוי-צזה כולל העברת המצבות. קברים אנונימיים אשר איש לא פקד, נשארו בבית הקברות הסיני והקרקע יושרה מעליהם.

ב-13 אפריל 1958 בעיתון "חרבין ז'י באו" הופיעה הודעה שפורסמה על ידי המחלקה לבריאות על איסור קבורה בבתי קברות הנמצאים במתחם

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חברים יקרים!

אגוד יוצאי סין שלנו, כבר בן 67. השנים חולפות, הדורות מתחלפים, הזמנים משתנים, אבל החיים נמשכים, ועבודתנו הפעילה נמשכת ועדיין נחוצה לחברים שלנו. כמה עשרות מבני הקהילה הנזקקים - קשישים, בודדים וחולים - מקבלים סיוע כספי על בסיס חודשי. נכדים ונינים של יוצאי סין - סטודנטים מאוניברסיטאות ומכללות אקדמיות בישראל מקבלים מלגות בחג החנוכה, וחיילי צה"ל מקבלים שי צנוע ליום העצמאות ולראש השנה.

האגוד שלנו ממשיך להיות החוליה המקשרת בין יוצאי סין המפוזרים בכל רחבי העולם, תפקיד זה מתבצע בעזרת כתב-עת "בולטין", המתפרסם בשלוש www.jewsofchina.org שפות - רוסית, אנגלית ועברית ואתר אינטרנט באנגלית ועברית ובו מידע רב ומגוון על קהילות יהודיות שהיו בסין ועל פעילות אגוד יוצאי סין.

פניות רבות שאנו מקבלים מהאקדמיה מעידות על העניין הרב שההיסטוריה הקצרה יחסית, אך המרתקת של יהדות סין מעוררת בין כותלי האוניברסיטאות, בעולם הקולנוע ועוד! רבים- רבים רוצים לכתוב מחקר/ספר/תסריט!! ואנחנו – אגוד יוצאי סין הכתובת הראשונה לפניות על מנת לקבלת סיפורי רקע אישיים ו/או ועובדות היסטוריות.

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על מנת להמשיך בפעילות חשובה זאת אנו קוראים לך לתרום את חלקך למטרה המשותפת. על ידי מעשה אצילי שלך תוכל להגיש סיוע לנזקקים ולתמוך בפעילות של העמותה שלנו. ניתן לשלוח תרומות ל:

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יוסי קליין יושב ראש

בכנס השנתי האחרון 18.12.2017.



שגריר סין מר צ'אן יונגסין מברך



שיאן בו מחרבין מברכת בשם הסטודנטים הסיניים



קהל באולם



הגר מאיר מברכת בשם הסטודנטים הישראלים



סטודנטים עם שגריר סין וראשי האגוד



הדלקת נרות חנוכה

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ספטמבר 2018 ♦ גליון מס׳ 417 ♦ שנה 65 ♦ תשרי – תשע"ט

דגמי בתי הכנסת של קייפנג וחרבין בתצוגה בבית התפוצות, מוזיאון העם היהודי בתל-אביב

