

July-August 2008

## ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

No.64

PUBLISHED BY THE ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN TEL-AVIV  
FOUNDED BY IGUD YOTZEI SIN (ASSOCIATION OF FORMER JEWISH RESIDENTS OF CHINA)

T. KAUFMAN

The President of ICFS

**CHINA AND THE JEWS**

This year in August the Olympic Games will be held in Beijing, the capital of China. Correcting a historical error these Games will, first time ever, take place in this great country.

The Israeli delegation and numerous Jewish sportsmen from many countries, together with thousands of Jewish tourists from Israel and from all over the world, will attend the Games.

All those arriving in China during the month of August should be aware of the brief but momentous history of the Jewish life in contemporary China, that short but truly exceptional story of our people beyond the Great Wall of China.

By the end of the Opium War in 1842, the first Jews from Iraq (called Baghdadis) settled in Shanghai. They founded a Sephardic Jewish community which flourished in this great city from 1842 until 1963, and contributed significantly to the development and building of Shanghai.

Coinciding with that, in the course of 65 years from 1898, the beginning of the construction of the East China Railway, and until the year 1963 the dynamic Jewish community of Harbin should also be mentioned. In a number of other cities of the north-eastern provinces located in the territory of former Manchuria additional Jewish communities existed, as well.

The influx of the Jewish refugees from Europe in the second half of 1930's from Germany, Austria, Poland, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and other countries, created new communities which existed from 1935 to 1949. Approximately twenty thousand refugees found a safe haven in Shanghai, and another three hundred in Harbin and Tianjin.

During the 120 years of Jewish life in modern China, waves of Jewish refugees from Russia and Europe found sanctuary in Chinese cities. The accepted fact is that twenty thousand refugees escaped to China at the outbreak of the Second World War. It's true, but it's not the whole story. From the beginning of the 20th century many refugees arrived from Russia. They fled from the south of Russia in 1904 as a result of pogroms, and then in 1914 as a result of deportations from the frontline at the beginning of the First World War. From the year 1917 there was a flood of refugees as a consequence of the Revolution, Civil War and pogroms carried out by both the Red troops and the White troops. So actually, close to 50 thousand Jews from Russia found refuge in China.

It should be emphasized that the people of China and the governments of various regimes have never obstructed the civil or the religious rights of the Jews in any way. Today, after the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between China and Israel, the Chinese government is investing in the preservation of the Jewish past in China. The synagogues in Shanghai and Harbin have been restored, and so has the Jewish cemetery in Harbin. Furthermore, exhibitions dedicated to the history of the Jewish communities in Shanghai and Harbin are constantly held. Numerous albums in Chinese and English, describing the life of Jews in China, are being published and centers devoted to the study of the Jewish history in China have been founded in cities like Nanjing, Shanghai, Harbin, Kaifeng, and Jinan in the Shandong province. All these are a testimony to the positive attitude of China to Jews in the past and the present.

(Continued on page 2)

We, Israeli friends of the people of China send them our best wishes for success in the forthcoming Olympic games in Beijing.

The Israeli friends of the people of China want to express our profound sympathy to those who suffered from the devastating earthquake that occurred in the Sichuan province.

May no more suffering and grief befall on the people of China.

### ***DELEGATION FROM BEIJING TO ISRAEL***

From January 14 to 17 a delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries stayed in Israel, having arrived at the invitation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation was headed by Ms. Li Xiaolin, Vice President of the Association, and consisted of five persons. They were Mr. Yao Minggui, Director-General of the Department of America and Oceania, Mr. Liu Xuezhi, Director-General of the Department of Asia and Africa, and Ms. Huang Xiaowei (Vivian), Director of the Division

of the East Asian and North African Countries.

On January 17 the delegation met with T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and R. Veinerman, members of the Board of Directors of Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society. The members of the delegation were presented with copies of the book by T. Kaufman "The Jews of Harbin Live on in my Heart" in the Chinese Language. The delegation was accompanied by Mrs. Tamar Yaron, the Honorary Secretary of the Council for the Promotion of Ties with China.



**From left to right: Ms. Huang Xiaowei (Vivian), Ms. Li Xiaolin and T. Kaufman**



**From left to right: Mr. Yao Minggui, Y. Klein, T. Kaufman, Mr. Liu Xuezhi and R. Veinerman**

#### **(Continued from page 1)**

The Jewish sportsmen and tourists, many of whom will be visiting China for the first time, are traveling to a country which has never known anti-Semitism, a country which welcomed Jews in the most difficult and trying times for our people. This should be remembered not only by us, born in China and its former residents, but this fact should be inscribed in letters of gold in the chronicles of the Jewish people.

We should forever remember and never forget the evil inflicted on our people in Europe during the terrible period of the Nazi regime. However, we should also forever remember and never forget that during those dark times there were countries and people who offered a sanctuary to our brothers. Such a country and such a people was China and the Chinese people.

# VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM HARBIN TO ISRAEL

From May 18 to 21 the delegation of the government of Harbin headed by Mr. Du Yuxin, the Head of the municipal government and the CPC secretary in Harbin visited Israel.

The delegation consisted of Mr. Du Yuxin, Secretary of the Harbin CPC Committee, Mr. Zhang Tianbo, Director-general of the Harbin Foreign Affairs Office, Mr. Du Chuandong, Director-general of the Harbin Economic Cooperation and Promotion Bureau, Mr. Hu Yongchang, Director-general of the Harbin Development Zone, Mr. Gao Dawei, Director-general of the Harbin Daoli Administration District, Mr. Xie Jianping, Director of the Harbin Foreign Affairs Office, and Mr. Meng Fanyu, Interpreter of the Harbin Foreign Affairs Office

The delegation, besides the persons enumerated above, included 40 representatives of different Harbin firms, who arrived in Israel for the participation in the work of a conference on economic matters arranged by the newspaper "Maariv" and the Harbin-Israel company. The conference took place on May 21 in the Tel-Aviv hotel "Dana panorama". Housing Minister Ze'ev Boim and the Ambassador of China to Israel

Mr Zhao Jun greeted the participants of the conference. The members of the delegation met with Prime minister Ehud Olmert and Mr. R. Ben-Shahar, the Mayor of Givatayim, Harbin's twin-city. On May 20 the Chinese delegation was hosted by the Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin. Present at the meeting were T. Kaufman, R. Veinerman, G. Katz, B. Darel, A. Fradkin, J. Sandel, T. Piastunovich, G. Bravinsky, V. Priver-Zusman, M. Lihomanov, Z. Fainberg, and also the former ambassador of Israel to China Ora Namir and a board member of the district council Alona (Amikam) Eiran Rosen (Raznoschikov). T. Kaufman greeted Secretary Du Yuxin (the speech is given below). Mr. Du Yuxin talked about the great role of our organizations in strengthening friendship between Israel and China, especially in the development of relations with Harbin. Before the meeting began all those present stood up for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the recent earthquake in the Sichuan Province of China.

## **T. KAUFMAN'S GREETING TO DELEGATION FROM HARBIN**

Your Excellency, Party Secretary Mr. Du Yuxin!

Mrs. Ora Namir, former Ambassador of Israel to China!

Distinguished members of the Delegation from Harbin!

Members of the Board of Directors of the Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin, the Association of former Jewish Residents from China in Israel!

It is a great honor for us to meet with you, our dear friends from the City of Harbin, the city so close to our hearts.

All of us Israelis who are present here are connected with ties of friendship with Harbin and China – six of us were born in Harbin, four whose roots are in Harbin and, of course, Mrs. Ora Namir, a great friend of China, who, while acting as an Ambassador of Israel, has done more than anybody else for the strengthening of ties between our two countries.

Igud Yotzei Sin, the Association of former Jewish Residents from China in Israel, and the Israel-China Friendship Society were pioneers in the cause for strengthening friendship between our countries, Igud Yotzei Sin worked very long before the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the

People's Republic of China for the promotion of knowledge about China and its people.

Little had been known about the city of Harbin in Israel, so faraway but so dear to us, and during many years it was we who were the first to place this city on the map of the familiarization of Israel with China.

We are happy and proud to witness here today the broadening of economic ties between Israel and Harbin. The Government of Harbin has done very much in order to preserve the Jewish past of Harbin. The restoration of the synagogues, the Jewish High School, the Jewish Hospital, the Old People's Home, the Jewish Cemetery which is the only one preserved in China, the Center for the Study of the History of Harbin Jews, publishing albums and books on the history of the Jewish sojourn in Harbin, all this is a proof of friendship and good will of the Government of Harbin headed by you, respected Mr. Du Yuxin.

We are glad to be meeting with you today, we wish you every success in your great undertaking and in trade ties between Israel and our dear city of Harbin.

We don't live in Harbin any more, but Harbin always continues to live within us.

# The Tel Aviv Chinese Embassy

## Staff visit Moshav Amikam

It is a number of years now that the Igud Yotsei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society organize a traditional Pesach excursion for the Tel Aviv Chinese Embassy staff members. This year they have visited for the second time Moshav Amikam, founded by the members of the Harbin Betar ken 58 years ago.

19 officers of the TA Chinese Embassy and 19 members of the IYS and I-CFA leaders and wives participated in the event. At the last moment the Ambassador notified the organizers of his inability to participate due to his having contracted a severe cold. The Chinese group was therefore headed by the Deputy Ambassador, Counselor Ms. Zhan Xiao'an, Also present were the political counselor Dr. Jing Lu, military attaché Lu Xianyou, counselors and first secretaries. IYS was represented by R. and T. Kaufman, Y. Klein, R. Veinerman, A. Fradkin, M. Lichomanov and son, Zakhi Fainberg and wife, Esther Vandel, M. and D. Friedmann, D. Katvan and husband, E. and R. Rashinsky and I. and B. Darel.

The host Moshav was represented by the chairman of the Regional Council El'ad Rosen (Raznoschikov), secretary Edna and Dina Keidar (Trigubov).

At 9:30 the participants assembled at the Binyamina railway station where they were met by the Amikam leadership and were transported to the premises of the Regional Council, decorated by the Israeli and Chinese national flags. At the convention hall the guests were greeted by the chairman Arie Sharon who presented Ms. Zhang Xiao'an with the flag and medal of the Council. Ms. Zhang Xiao'an reciprocated by presenting the Amikam Council chairman with a painting and albums "The Jews of China".

From the Council building the guests walked to the Synagogue which houses the Torah scrolls brought from the Harbin Main (Old) Synagogue. At the synagogue the guests were greeted by the Amikam Rabbi Mordechai Weizman, who recited a prayer for the welfare and health of the Chinese president Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and the Chinese people as a whole.

The next stop was the public library of the Moshav, where the children of the local kindergarten greeted the guest, waving the Chinese and the Israeli flags.

Counselor Zhang Xiao'an presented them with souvenirs. At the spacious reading room of the library assembled guests, who were addressed (in English) by the chairman of the regional Council, Arie Sharon, who spoke of the Israeli-Chinese friendly relations and the efforts of the Harbin Municipality to preserve the remnants of the Jewish presence in Harbin. Council member Eiran Rosen showed a series of slides depicting Harbin and Amikam, accompanying the slide show by a detailed commentary. Also spoke counselor Zhang and Teddy Kaufman.

At the end of the meeting at the library, the guests boarded the Alona District Council bus which took them to the ancient Roman aqueduct, and Giv'at Nili and Aviel, where they partook of local fruit produce. The two-hour long excursion ended at the "Zikhron Cellar" restaurant for an ample and tasty lunch. Teddy Kaufman thanked the hosts A. Sharon and E. Rosen for the well organized event.

At 4 P.M. the guests returned to Amikam, and from there back to Tel-Aviv. Counselor Zhang Xiao'an and R. and T. Kaufman made a special trip to Haifa to visit R. Veinerman's new home.

Until our next trip on Pesach 2009!

M. BEN-AVRAHAM



**Arie Sharon, the Head of the Council of Alona, presents  
Counselor Zhang Xiao'an with the flag of Alona**

# ***THE OFFICIALS OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY VISITED AMIKAM PASSOVER 2008***



The officials of the Chinese Embassy with the children of Amikam

## ***THE DELEGATION FROM HARBIN AT THE GET-TOGETHER WITH FORMER RESIDENTS OF CHINA***



Standing from left to right are: Mrs. Ora Namir, Mr. Du Yuxin, the Head of the Harbin government, T. Kaufman, Mr. Xie Jianping, the Director of the Harbin department of foreign affairs, and Mr. Zhang Tianbo, the General Director of the department



T. Kaufman greets the guests



A minute of silence in memory of the victims of the earthquake in Sichuan

### ***My China*** ***By Amram Olmert***

The book "My China" is about to be published by Amram Olmert. In his book Amram Olmert describes the 90 year connection between the Olmert family and China, and his own personal 20 year direct ties with China.

The book presents a personal and non intermediary expression of events experienced by Amram Olmert during his many years of activity in China.

During his stay in China Amram Olmert established the first Israeli model agricultural farm in China. In addition, the two other farms he set up served as a base for the export of the Israeli agricultural technology to China.

In his book Amram Olmert depicts his years of service as a senior diplomat in China. He portrays the Harbin Jewry, and underlines

the role played by Igud Yotzei Sin in preserving the heritage of the Harbin Jewry and China.

The book deals with a wide range of subjects such as; customs, unique sites to visit, various encounters with Chinese from all walks of life in the society and the government. He also describes the beneficial activities of different Jews in China and evaluates various approaches to business ties between China and Israel, with their chances of success.

The Chinese Ambassador to Israel ( 2000-2004 ), His Excellency Mr. Chin Long Yong, wrote an introduction to the book.

The book will be published before the coming Olympic Games in August.

## The Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary the State of Israel in Shanghai

### Ribbon-cutting Ceremony to Launch the Database & Open the Exhibition



The Memorial Plaque



为铭记犹太人侨居上海的历史，并纪念二战前和二战中上海居民对犹太难民的接纳，在以色列企业的资助、以色列驻上海总领事馆和虹口区人民政府的共同努力下，特建此数据库。

**This database aims to preserve the Jewish history in Shanghai and commemorate the absorption of Jewish refugees by the residents of Shanghai before and during WWII. It was created with the joint efforts of the Consulate General of Israel in Shanghai and Hongkou District People's Government, as well as donations from Israeli companies.**

מאגר המידע הוקם בשיתוף פעולה בין הקונסוליה הישראלית בשנגחאי וממשלת מחוז הונגקו ובעזרת תרומתן הנדיבה של חברות ישראליות. מטרת המאגר לשמר ולהנציח את ההיסטוריה היהודית של שנגחאי ואת קליטתם של פליטים יהודים על ידי תושבי המקום בתקופת מלחמת העולם השנייה.

**Donors:** Direct Insurance Financial Investments Ltd., Ray Shipping Limited, D. Plotkin Projects Ltd., Galtronics Electronics (Wuxi) Co. Ltd., ECI China, S.A.E. Afikim, Megawear Trading International Company, Iscar Ltd., NDS China, Shibolet & Co., Tagad Chemicals Ltd., Orbotech Electronics (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd., In Memory of Genya & Ziska Hlavin, Nilit Nylon Technologies (Suzhou) Co. Ltd., Sheng Enterprises Ltd./BDO Ziv Haft, ZIM China Ltd., Electronics Line 3000 Ltd., Infinity Fund, Clal Industries and Investments, Nurtec Corporation Ltd., Top Fortune Asia Limited, Gladot Biochemical Industries Ltd., PTL-Group, Scan-Direct Ltd., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Solbar



# Letters

## Harbin

Dear Mr. Kaufman,  
Here a letter to thank you for your effort to promote the relationship between Harbin and Israel as below:

(English Version)

May 27, 2008

Dear Mr. Teddy Kaufman:

Harbin Foreign Affairs Office extends its heartfelt gratitude to you for your outstanding dedication to the exchanges in the area of economy and culture between Israel and Harbin. The City of Harbin does feel pride to have an honest and sincere friend like you. Sincerely wish you good health and friendship forever between us.

Please find the Chinese version of the letter below.  
Office

### 哈尔滨市人民政府外事侨务办公室

#### 感谢信

尊敬的考夫曼先生:

哈尔滨市人民政府外事侨务办公室衷心地感谢您在促进哈尔滨市和以色列在经济、文化等领域交往过程中做出的杰出贡献。哈尔滨市以有您这样一位真心的老朋友而感到骄傲。衷心地祝愿您身体健康,愿我们之间的友谊长存!

请转达哈尔滨市人民政府外事侨务办公室对以色列原居中国犹太人老朋友的问候!

哈尔滨市人民政府外事侨务办公室

二〇〇八年五月二十七日



## Shanghai

Dear Rasha and Teddy,  
Thank you for introducing Mrs. Vivi Frenkl and Mr. Frenkl to us. We were their guides in visiting the Ohel Moshe Synagogue (where Vivi's parents held their wedding ceremony), lane 818 Tongshan Road (where Vivi's parents used to live, and other places.)

We have asked Vivi's favour to give our book *The Jewish Cultural Elite of Shanghai* to you on their return. Ms. Rebecca Toueg wrote us that she planned to introduce our book in serial in the *Igud Yotzei Sin Bulletin* English edition. It is our honour. We hope we can read them from issue 396 on.

The writer Rena Krasno wrote us she will introduce our book in the *Sino-Judaic Newsletter Points East*.

Best wishes,

Zheng Feng and Xu Buzeng

## Harbin

Dear Mr. Teddy Kaufman,

Happy New Year! Since my first trip to Israel in 1990 I have been taking cultural exchanges as one of my targets to work for. In the past decades I assisted many Chinese artists to go and give performances abroad. For instance, acrobatic troupes 3 times to US and Italy, Harbin Peking Opera Company to US. From 1997 I made efforts to introduce the Chinese Ice Sculptures to other countries and I succeeded. Up to now, I led the Chinese ice sculptors to make ice sculptures for indoor ice art shows in the US, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Hong Kong and Holland. Taking Holland for example, we have made 8 shows so far.

I have a strong interest in making ice sculptures in Israel. This kind of cultural activities can attract a lot of visitors, bringing about substantial returns for the organizers. A cold house of 800 square meters and some 300 cubic meters of ice blocks are of the basic requisits. I would be very happy if you can help me and introduce me to some companies which are interested in this project. I am sure that this cultural activity can strengthen the close ties between the people of Harbin and Israel. And let more people of both countries know each other. Enclosed please find some ice sculpture photos we made in Eindhoven in December 2007. I look forward to your help and hope to realize my plan in the coming years. I am ready to answer any technical questions about the make of ice sculpture show.

Kind regards,  
Yan Liansheng

**Council Member Heilongjiang  
People's Association For Friendship  
With Foreign Countries**

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

**"BEIT PONVE", 13 Gruzenberg Str., Tel-Aviv  
P.O.BOX 29786, Tel. 972-3-5171997 Fax: 972-3-5161631**

**E-mail: igud-sin@013.net**

#### Members of the Committee:

President	T. Kaufman	B. Bershadsky	A. Podolsky
Deputy President		A. Fradkin	V. Priver-Zussman
and Treasurer	Y. Klein	A. Goldreich	R. Rashinsky
Vice President	R. Veinerman	M. Kamionka	Y. Sandel
Secretary	Y. Ladyjensky	G. Katz	E. Vandel
Legal Adviser		B. Darel	T. Piastunovitch
attorney-at-law	D. Friedmann	S. Muller	

**Control Committee:**

**M. Lihomanov Z. Vatner**