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# ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

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FOUNDED BY IGUD YOTZEI SIN (ASSOCIATION OF FORMER JEWISH RESIDENTS OF CHINA)

T. KAUFMAN

The President of ICFS

## FROM THE DIARY OF THE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

### *Scholarships to Students from China*

For fifteen years now the Israel-China Friendship Society has granted scholarships to students from China, who study at the higher educational institutions in Israel. 15 Chinese students received scholarships at the annual reunion of former residents of China in Israel in December 2008. It is interesting to note that six of them study subjects connected with Jews: the history of the Holocaust, Judaism, the Bible, Zionism and so forth. We hope that in the future the Israel-China Friendship Society will continue this important undertaking which we feel strengthens our friendship with the people of China.

### *An Exhibition in Chongqing*

An exhibition of photos, dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, took place in the city of Chongqing. 60 prominent Israeli photographers, who presented 180 photographs, participated in the exhibition which described different aspects of life in our country. The exhibition was opened by Mr. Amos Nadai, the Ambassador of Israel in China. The exhibition was organized by the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel together with the Chongqing department of the Chinese People's Association For Friendship With Foreign Countries.

### *A Delegation of Writers from China*

A delegation of the Writers' Union of China, headed by its Vice President, visited Israel at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. During their visit in Tel Aviv the delegation were guests of the Israel-China Friendship Society. The guests visited the Kiryat Shaul cemetery and laid wreaths on the grave of Dr. Rosenfeld. Then they were shown the Synagogue built in memory of the Jewish communities in China and visited Beit-Ponve. This was the first visit of prominent Chinese writers and poets to Israel.

### *The Arrival of a Delegation from Harbin*

In March we expect a group of colleagues from the Harbin Center for the Study of the History of the Jews of Harbin affiliated with the Academy of Social Sciences of the Heilongjiang province. The purpose of this visit is to work in the archives of Igud Yotzei Sin and to interview representatives of the descendants of Jews from Harbin who live in Israel. The delegation will consist of four colleagues from the Academy and one prominent woman journalist from a central Harbin newspaper. The delegation will stay in Israel during March and will work in Amikam and Beit-Ponve.

### *New Year According to the Chinese Lunar Calendar*

In February the people of China celebrated the New Year according to the Chinese lunar calendar. The friends of China in Israel send the people of China their congratulations and best wishes for prosperity and progress.

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

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## *A Delegation from Harbin at the Meeting with the Former Residents of China*



*Sitting from right to left: Mrs. Ora Namir, Mr. Du Yuxin, The Head of the Government of Harbin, T. Kaufman, Mr. Xie Jianping - Director of the Harbin department of foreign affairs, and Mr. Zhang Tianbo - General Director of the department. T. Kaufman greets the guests.*

### ***Inside Israel in Chongqing***

The Inside Israel exhibition presents 180 art works of 60 leading contemporary Israeli artists. It contains a unique variety of photographs displaying contemporary Israel, landscapes and nature, modern day lifestyles in Israel, Judaism, ethnic groups, architecture, as well as expressive artistic photographs prevalent in the Israeli photography scene.

From December 2008 and throughout the year 2009, the Inside Israel exhibition will travel throughout China. The exhibition opened on 12 December — 28 December 2008 at the China Three Gorges Museum in the city of Chongqing.

The project is produced with the help of the China Israel Friendship Society and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in collaboration with the China Three Gorges Museum, the Israel Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Israeli Embassy in China.



*Mr. Liu Ruiaiang of the "Moderne" Hotel in Harbin, and his wife visited Beit Ponve and were hosted by the leadership of the Israel-China Friendship Society*

### ***Regards from Shanghai***

We received a greeting card from the Shanghai Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries. The greeting card is from Mr. Wang Xiaoshu, the Vice President of the Association. In the accompanying photo are the members of the Association, who sent their greeting to us.

*In the first row from left to right: Ms. Huang Guan, Ms. Li Jiayan, Ms. Huang Yangbing;  
In the second row from left to right: Mr. Song Chunlin, Mr. Xiao Chong, and Mr. Wu Fei, Director of the Association*



## Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of China, Visited Kibbutz Afikim



Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of China, with the schoolchildren of the kibbutz; the first on the right is the Ambassador's wife



The Ambassador's wife with the children of the kibbutz



The Ambassador and his wife in the dining-hall of the Kibbutz. From left to right: the wife of the Ambassador, Teddy and Rasha Kaufman, Counsellor Zhang Xiao'an, Lucy and Miriam Friedmann, the Ambassador and S. Flener



The Ambassador and his wife with the schoolchildren of the kibbutz



From left to right: D. and M. Friedmann, the wife of the Ambassador, L. Friedmann, R. Veinerman, the Ambassador, T. and R. Kaufman, S. Peled and D. Flener



Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of China, with the Board of Directors of the "Afikim" agricultural firm

## ***59th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA***

On September 27 Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Israel, held a reception at his Residence in Kfar-Shmaryahu on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

At the reception were present more than five hundred representatives of the broad circles of the Israeli public, among them ministers and members of the Knesset, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Israel, representatives of the academic world, journalists and so

forth. The speeches were made by Ambassador Zhao Jun of the C.P.R. and by Israeli minister Zeev Boym.

The Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin were represented by R. and T. Kaufman, P. and Y. Klein, I. and R. Veinerman, M. and D. Friedmann, A. Fradkin, A. Goldreich, M. and T. Kamionka, G. Katz, A. and B. Darel, N. and A. Podolsky, V. Priver-Zussman, J. and T. Piastunovich, R. Rashinsky, J. Sandel, D. and G. Brovinsky, I. and M. Likhomanov, H. and S. Muller.

## ***REPRESENTATIVES OF A TOURIST COMPANY FROM HARBIN TO ISRAEL***

From October 5 to 7 a group of representatives of the Harbin tourism bureau visited Israel. Vice-director Ma Chunye, Wang Donghang, the Party Secretary and Vice General Manager of the China Southern Airlines, Heilongjiang branch, Liu Ruiqiang, Vice-director of the "China Friendship Tourism" and the General Manager of the "Moderne" hotel in Harbin, Su Guanjiào, Secretary of the Airlines, Mrs Han Xuewei, Yang Lijie, Head of the "Shang Zhiye" tourist firm, and translator Zhang Hong

(He Cheng) visited Beit-Ponve and met with T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and R. Veinerman. The first day was dedicated to the familiarization with Tel Aviv, the second - to Jerusalem, and on the third day they went on a trip to the Dead Sea. The Chinese representatives met with representatives of the tourist companies of Israel in Beit-Ponve. The purpose of the visit was the expansion of Israeli tourism to China and Chinese tourism to Israel.

## ***China approves Israel as tourist destination***

A China-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on tourism came into effect on 15 September 2008 that formalises China's approval of Israel as a tourist destination.

Prior to this agreement, Chinese citizens were only able to visit Israel on business visas.

The first Israel-bound Chinese tour groups will depart from Beijing on 25 September and 28 September. Altogether, 80 Chinese tourists are scheduled to visit Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Eilat on a 10-day organised group tour. Israel is preparing Chinese language brochures and is also

recruiting translators with Chinese language capabilities. "Our target is to bring some 15,000 Chinese tourists by the end of 2008," indicated Foreign Press Adviser to the Tourism Ministry, Lydia Weitzman. The tourism minister also announced the opening of a branch of the Israel Tourism Ministry in Beijing. Additionally, Chinese tourists will now have access to Tourphone, a new 24-hour service launched by the Ministry of Tourism, which offers information and emergency assistance.

# KUNMING, CHINA HOSTS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SEMINAR-CONFERENCE

**By Richelle Budd Caplan, Director International Relations, Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem**

China, though a country with no history of anti-Semitism, is truly embracing Holocaust education and studies. In Kunming, in the south-western province of Yunnan, China, a special seminar on Holocaust education was recently conducted at Yunnan University. This was actually the fourth such seminar for Chinese students, but a first for southwestern China. Previous seminars have been organised in Shanghai, Nanjing and Kaifeng. The latest drew attendance from approximately 80 Chinese graduate students and professors from all over the country. The seminar was sponsored by The Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the Fondation pour de la Shoah, London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC) and Yunnan University, but it was Jerold Gotel, director of the overseas division of the London Jewish Cultural Centre's Holocaust and Anti-Racism Education Department, who initiated this seminar as a result of his connections with the Vice Chancellor of Yunnan University, Professor Xiao Xian, and Professor Xiu Xin of Nanjing University. International presenters from Yad Vashem in Israel; London Jewish Cultural Center in the United Kingdom; Haus Der Wannsee Konference in Germany; the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. worked closely with the participants. In addition, Joanna Millan, a Holocaust survivor from the United Kingdom, was present to share her personal story. The seminar covered a number of topics including: Jewish traditions and rituals, history of anti-Semitism throughout the ages, the rise of Nazism in Germany and the Holocaust. Many of the students asked very thoughtful and interesting questions during the seminar. For example, one student from Nanjing asked how such an emotionally difficult subject such as the Holocaust does not cause its victims to hate and seek revenge. She remarked that after learning about the Nanjing massacre, she still finds it hard to talk about what happened there – let alone have the ability to teach about it. Another student asked Millan, a Holocaust survivor, whether she maintains contact with other survivors as well as how she relates her personal story to her children and grandchildren. A number of conference participants could

not understand why the Holocaust happened and therefore continuously asked what the Jewish people had done to cause this to occur. For example, one PhD candidate posed the following question, "Isn't it true that Hitler got a sexually transmitted disease from a Jewish prostitute and therefore this is the reason why he decided to kill the Jews of Europe?" Another instance was a response to one of the presenter's question, "If all the people in the Warsaw Ghetto are Jewish, then why are they wearing arm bands?" One of the students replied, "They wore them so that they would not forget that they were Jewish!" Many participants demonstrated real promise and the international presenters who traveled from afar were fascinated by the challenge to teach this complex and difficult subject matter to students who did not have much knowledge about the Holocaust before attending the seminar. Moreover, a few of them have studied the Hebrew language or intend to study in Israel or in the USA at some stage. An online Holocaust encyclopedia in Chinese is available on the Yad Vashem website ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)). This specialised seminar followed the international conference, Teaching the Shoah: Fighting Racism and Prejudice, which was held at Yad Vashem in July 2008. This three-day conference brought together over 700 educators from across the globe, including participants from China, Japan and Korea. It was the largest of its kind and it focused on challenges of implementing Holocaust education in ethnically diverse countries. Additional specialised programmes for international students, scholars and teachers are currently being considered in China as well as in other countries following the success and popularity of these recent seminars.

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## **AN EXHIBITION OF CHINESE COINS**

An exhibition of Chinese coins took place in the Tel-Aviv museum of Eretz Israel on December 28, 2008. It was dedicated to the history of Chinese money. The exhibition was opened by Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of China in Israel. Among the numerous audience were representatives of Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society: R. and T. Kaufman, A. Fradkin, A. and B. Darel, M. Friedman, G. Katz, M. and Z. Kamionka, H. and S. Muller.

# GAO HONGBO

## Biographical Summary of the Author

Gao Hongbo, poet and writer of essays and children literature. He was born in December 1951, in Inner Mongolia. He lived for ten years in barracks in Yunnan, and worked for ten years as a reporter and editor for **Literature and Art**. He was engaged in executive work, editing voluminous literary periodicals. He has published 13 collections of children verses like **Goose, Goose, Goose**, 2 collections of commentaries like **Intimate Talk with the Muses**, and 26 volumes of essays and random notes like **Persian Cat, The Intoxicated, Remarks on Life**, etc. He has won awards like the first and the third session of National Prizes for excellent children literature, Prize of the National Five-One Project. He was a graduate from the seventh courses of Lu Xun Literary Academy, and from the writers course of Peking University. He joined the China Writers Association in 1984. Concurrently he is member of the Party Group of China Writers Association, Secretary of the Secretariat of CWA, and chief editor of **Poetry**.

### **A METAPHOR OF THE HOMELAND**

The homeland is a long, long ribbon.  
 One end is tied in front of Granny's chest.  
 The other is tied behind my back.  
 The band hangs down  
 And is transformed into a winding rivulet.  
 The willow twigs are necklace of the feeling for the homeland.  
 Viewing the world on Granny's back,  
 I found the world vast and interesting.  
 I would jump down to run around,  
 Yet the long ribbon wouldn't allow!  
 The long ribbon of the homeland,  
 The long ribbon of Granny,  
 You're afraid that once you let go  
 You would lose me forever, aren't you?

### **NO TITLE**

A tourist ticket to Seven Stars Crag  
 Is a green leaf  
 I picked from the big tree, Guilin  
 A maple leaf from the Reed Crag  
 Is a wisp of flowing melody I intercepted  
 From the green symphony  
 The leaf adorns my eyes  
 The flowing melody is lingering in my mind

### **A GLIMPSE OF THE PLATEAU**

This day a week ago,  
 I was trudging on the edge of the Tengri Desert  
 Slipping down from the hundred feet of sand slope,

I had my heart blown up like the swollen sail.  
 After a week, today,  
 I am strolling on Qinghai Plateau,  
 Breathing in deeply  
 The sunlight and bird chirping on the Plateau.  
 The vastness of the space, the everlasting eternity of time  
 Are displayed on the two steel rails.  
 Perhaps this is but one wink,  
 But to me it suggests eternity.

### **A VISIT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE CHINESE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION**

From December 19 to 25, 2008, a delegation of the Chinese Writers' Association stayed in Israel at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel.

The delegation was headed by poet Gao Hongbo, the Vice President of the Association, who is the director of a literary fund and a deputy minister. The delegation consisted of the Vice President of the Chinese Writers' Association, Lee To, the Chairman of the Poets' Association, the editor of the journal "Poetry", Mr. To Zhunge and the member of the division of the Asian- African literature of the Union of Chinese writers, translator Mr. Hu Wei. On December 25 the delegation visited Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society. At 2.30 p.m. the delegation accompanied by Nadav Asher of the Department of the Countries of the Far East of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, arrived at the Kiriath-Shaul cemetery of Tel Aviv where they met T. Kaufman and Y. Ladijensky. The guests laid wreaths on the grave of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld. T. Kaufman said Kaddish and the prayer "El Malei Rahamim" and talked about Dr. Rosenfeld, the Commander of the Medical Corps of the 4th and 8th Revolutionary Armies of China. From the cemetery the delegation proceeded to the Synagogue in memory of the Jewish communities of China, where the guests met Y. Klein and the wardens of the synagogue Shlomo Shpilman and Eliezer Shibek. T. Kaufman and Yosi Klein described the history of the building of the synagogue, and also the history of the sojourn of Jews in modern China. From the synagogue the guests proceeded to Beit-Ponve for a cup of tea. T. Kaufman and Y. Klein talked to the guests about the work of Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society. Then the hosts and the guests had dinner in the Chinese restaurant. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Gong Jinpei, the Cultural Attache of the Embassy of China in Israel.

***The Delegation of the Writers’s Union of China Was Hosted by the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel***



*The Head of the delegation, Mr. Gao Hongbo, Vice President of the Writers Union of China in Beit-Ponve*



*At the Beit-Ponve club. From left to right: Yosi Klein, Mr. Gao Hongbo, T. Kaufman, the members of the delegation and Mr. Nadav Asher of the Israeli Ministry of foreign affairs*



*Mr. Gao Hongbo at the graveside of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld*



*Mr. Gao Hongbo and the members of the delegation lay wreaths on the grave of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld*



*T. Kaufman talks about the Synagogue in memory of the Jewish communities of China*



*Y. Klein talks about the history of Jews in China*

# *Review of The Jews in Asia: Comparative Perspectives*

This book comes out of an international symposium by the same name held in Shanghai, but it is actually the result of more than two decades of labor of love, a tour de force, on the part of Professor Pan Guang, the chief editor of this volume, who helped establish the Center for Jewish Studies in Shanghai (CJSS) in 1988. With CJSS as the official host of the symposium, Pan carried the level of scholarly activities and international exchanges on the subject to new heights. It may thus be said that this collected volume is as much the product of a unique combination of Pan's scholarship, organizing skills and collegial relationships with scholars around the world. The volume is the first in the CJSS Jewish and Israeli Studies Series, an interdisciplinary publication which promises more to come.

This book of essays is important in three major ways. First, as mentioned, it is the result of a China-led initiative in bringing together, for the first time and on such a large scale, an impressive array of international and Chinese scholars on the Jews of Asia. China is providing the kind of academic leadership that is needed to get this work done. Without it there would be no such collective work. This is a sign that China is coming to its own.

Secondly, this book, which is long overdue, profoundly complements the scholarship on Jewry in the West and in other parts of the world. Collective scholarship on the Jews of Asia is relatively rare to start with. This is the beginning of a dedicated effort to balance the scholarship, which has hitherto favored Western Jewry. By going forward, this work stands to contribute substantially to the general body of literature in the field of Jewish studies. For instance, it shows

that while the Jews of Asia share similar characteristics as Diaspora Jews elsewhere, they also display unique characteristics not found elsewhere.

Thirdly, at a time when the world is experiencing perhaps the greatest increase in anti-semitism since World War Two, this work stands to counter that phenomenon by offering a positive and sympathetic perspective of the Jewish experience. Some contributors to the volume offer, for example, some original insights on similarities between Jewish and Chinese cultural traditions and historical experiences. It should be noted that the project is inspired by a noble ambition. The idea, as Pan relates in the Introduction, is that since half of the noted China experts in the U.S. are Jewish scholars, it is only fair for China to return a service by bringing to the world a better understanding of the Jews in Asia.

The substantive richness of the volume cannot be overstated. The variegated essays are engaging, tantalizingly drawing the reader into some exotic and far-flung locales of Asia. Readers will find themselves given a fascinating kaleidoscope of the Jewish communities in Asia, which, until this volume, have remained largely a mystery to most. By contrast, the reader is now given a panoramic view of these communities, all in a single volume.

I personally hope that this invaluable book will be translated into Hebrew. I believe it will be embraced in Israel. It certainly should reach beyond the English-speaking world.

Anthony A. Loh  
Vanderbilt University

## *Malkovsky in Beijing*

**Boris Malkovsky, the Israeli composer, pianist and accordion master, performed in Beijing for the 2008 World Folk Song Music Festival at the National Center for the Performing Arts, in October. The World Folk Song Festival included performances by over 22 international performance groups as well as 14 local Chinese performance groups.**

Boris Malkovsky is perhaps best known for Time PetahTiqva,

his 2007 album, in which he blends modern and postmodern compositional techniques, Gypsy and Israeli folk and jazz improvisational music. Malkovsky's Beijing performance was heavily influenced by traditional Klezmer, Yiddish and Russian music. The audience reportedly gave the performance mixed reviews. The purpose of the festival is to invite a cultural exchange of diverse traditions and worldviews.