

August - September  
2009

# ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

No.67

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

## THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

October 1 marked 60 years since the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

60 years is a short period for the ancient people and the country which counts millenia of its history. But what occurred in China in the last 60 years, is the creation of a new independent modern state, which rose from the ashes of the long years of existence under the yoke of foreign colonization by the countries of the West and the East.

There is not one sphere of life, in which China would not have had enormous and unprecedented achievements. It was not a slow development, not a slow process of progress, this is a jump from the backward country into the status of a world power. No matter what we would talk about, be it the length of life, education, culture,

sports, the standards of living of the population, industry, export, import, international situation, an exceptionally long step into the present was made in all spheres of the life of the people and the country. We, who knew China in its past - one hundred, eighty, seventy years ago, we see with our own eyes the flourishing of this Great Power of the 21st century. Many difficult obstacles face this enormous country which its people must overcome. But the future of China is provided for. China is a country which already lives in the new epoch of blossoming and incessant progress.

The friends of China in Israel and Jewish people in the entire world send the people of China best wishes of further progress, peace and new achievements in all spheres of life.

We, Israeli friends of the people of China, send them our best wishes for every success on the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

### 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. Bershinsky | 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    | D. Friedmann    | B. Darel      | T. Piastunovitch  |
|                  | attorney-at-law | S. Muller     |                   |

#### Control Committee:

M. Lihomanov, Z. Vatner, G. Brovinsky

**"Experience China" Cultural Events Series in Israel**  
*on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of founding of the People's  
Republic of China*

**Time: October, 2009**

**Venue: Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa**

**Organizer: The State Council Information Office of China  
The Chinese Embassy in Israel**

**Minister from the State Council Information Office of China, H.E. Mr. Wang Chen will visit Israel in October 2009, be present at the opening of various events and give a speech in a special symposium at Tel Aviv University.**

**Main Events:**

**'My Dream' by China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe**

*Venue: Tel-Aviv Opera House / Mishkan Le'omanuyot Habama*

*Dates: 17 Oct. (Saturday) and 18 Oct. (Sunday) , 2009*

**'Chinese Vision' by Beijing Modern Dance Company**

*Venue: Suzanne Dellal (within the framework of Tel-Aviv Dance)*

*Dates: 22 Oct. and 23 Oct. and on 24 Oct., 2009 in Haifa*

**Photo Exhibition 'A Close Look at China'**

*Venue: Old Jaffa Museum of Antiquities*

*Dates: 16 Oct. to 30 Oct. , 2009*

*(Opening Ceremony 19, Oct/Simultaneously, there will be talks and lectures about China in the  
Museum.)*

**Chinese Film Week**

*Venue: Cinematheques in Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa*

*Dates: 18-25, Oct.*

**Speech/Minister from the State Council Information Office of China, H.E. Mr. Wang Chen will be a keynote speaker of a special symposium. His speech will connect to China's Development in 60 years and Vision for Future.**

*Venue: Tel-Aviv University*

*Date: 19 Oct. (Monday)*

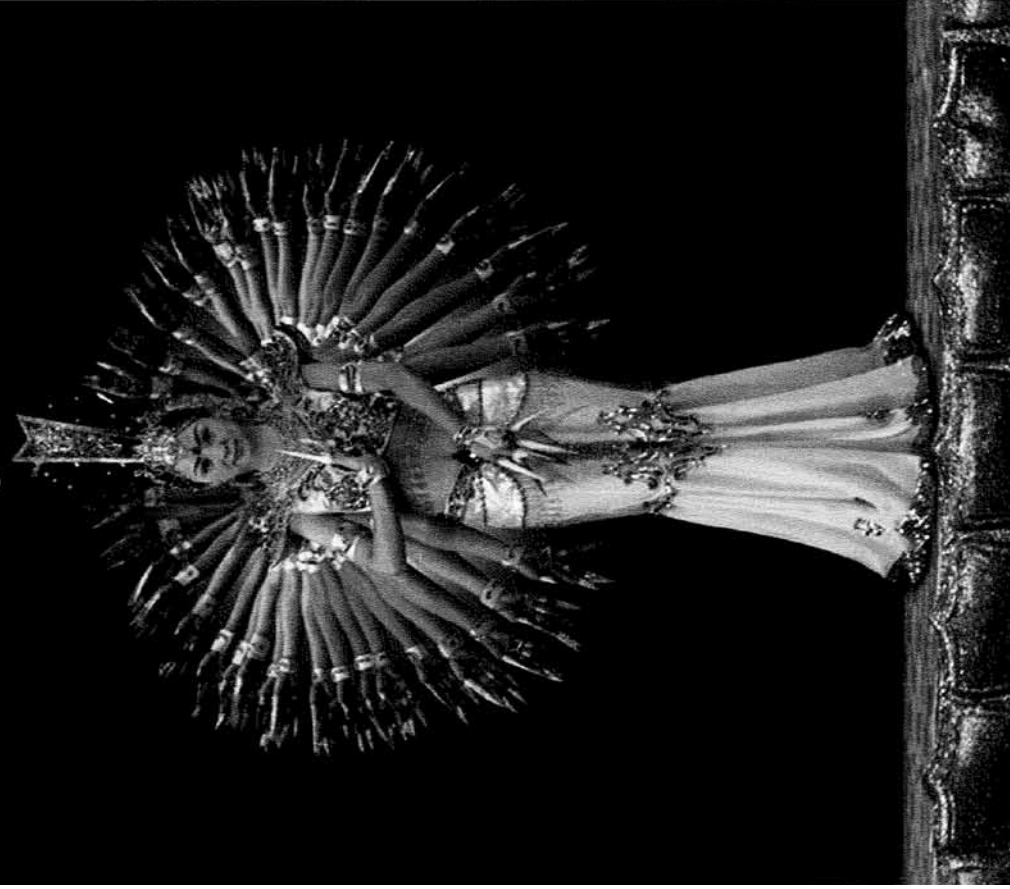
The State Council Information Office of China - The State Administration of Radio, Film & TV of China - Embassy of China in Israel and Moshe Joser proudly present:

**LOVE IS OUR COMMON LANGUAGE**

THE CHINA DISABLED PEOPLE'S ART TROUPE

אמני במה סינודים ומדמהים סין במופע

**My Dream**



המשרד הממלכתי למידע- סין, \*מנהל הרדיו הטלוויזיה והקולנוע סין, שגרירות סין בישראל ומשרד יוסיף גאים להציג:

**לראשונה בישראל - לשתי הפועות בלבד!!!**

**החלום שלי.....My Dream**

The China Disabled People's Art Troupe

**55 אמני במה סין במופע מרשים של מוסיקה מחול ונגינה**

המופע שואף את העולם בהתלהבות. בפסטיבלים החשובים ובכנסים עולמיים. מופע שמדמה את מנהגי העולם ואופי באיטליה, פולין, קנדה, אוסטרליה, תורכיה, אינדונזיה, ארה"ב, ספרד ועוד...

אמנות במה מושלמת \*ריקוד, מוסיקה, אקרובטיקה ובלט \* שפע תלבושות \* דימויות מופריות של אמנים בעלי לקויות ראייה, שמעיה ולקויות נפשויות \*

**מופע חובה - אסור להחמיץ !!!**

הביקורות מהללות:

"האמנים הסוניים בונים גשר של הבנה בין בני האדם"

(ביל קלנטון, נשוא אהרה ב' לשעבר)

"גדולת הרוח האנושית, מקור השראה בסין וכעת בעולם כולו"

(אל גור, סגן נשוא אהרה ב' לשעבר)

"הצופים נדהמו, מופע בלתי יאמן"

(ניו יורק טיימס)

"כל כך בלתי נתפס ו!!! (NMC)

"כל אחד חייב לראות את מופע החלום מסין" (ניסיון, סדרד)

**מופע מדהים של שלום ותקווה** (מגל מורטינס, שר החוץ של ספרד)

**ELTA** **אלטלה** **המחול והמוסיקה**

The Israel Foreign Ministry

הנחה מיוחדת: למנוי התיאטרון הקאמרי - האופרה הישראלית, הכלל הישראלי - סזון דגל

הכנס מתחיל ליצט בטרון [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HpwWkGcCms](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HpwWkGcCms)

**מוצי"ש - ראשון**

**המשכן לאמנויות הבמה בשעה**

כרטיסים יח"א: [www.iktickets.com](http://www.iktickets.com) | חיווי חיוני באחריות יקטמל (+8965) 03-6045000 | טל: 03-6927777 | הקטן לאמנויות הבמה: 03-6927777

יח"תל"מ: 02-6222333 | בימות: 02-6237000 | זיכרון: 04-8284777 | קופות חמה: 04-8662244

כרטיסי הבמה לקבוצות מאוגנות ומנוות כל הזנות המחול: "קטמל" 03-6464333 | למנוי האופרה: 03-6927777

החברות: [www.igad.org](http://www.igad.org) | תחב: 052-5100000 | תל"מ: 03-6927777 | תל"מ: 03-6927777

המופע יתקיים במועדון התיאטרון הקאמרי, תל אביב, ישראל

# *Establishment of a Jewish Historical and Cultural Center in Tianjin*

**T. Kaufman**

Igud Yotzei Sin in Israel (the Association of Former Residents from China), AgudatYedidut Israel Sin.( The Israel-China Friendship Society), the Israeli Embassy in Beijing and the Ambassador of Israel, H.E. Amos Nadai, the ex-Chinese Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Wang Changyi, Ms. Soong Anna who has published the book named the "Jews of Tianjin" and many other good people formerly from China and otherwise would like to propose to the Municipality of Tianjin, a plan for our joint cooperation in the establishment of a Jewish Cultural Center in the building of the former Tianjin Jewish Synagogue located at 50, Nanjing street in the Heping District and a research center for Jewish studies at some well-known Tianjin University like the Nankai university or otherwise.

Tianjin like Shanghai and Harbin was one of the three main centers for Jewish life in China from the mid 19th Century to the mid 20th Century (about 1950), a period of over one hundred years during which time Jewish merchants, scholars, teachers, doctors, engineers, musicians and people in all walks of life lived and flourished in close community with their Chinese neighbors.

Both in Shanghai and in Harbin the local authorities have done a lot of work in reestablishing the history of Jewish presence in their cities and restoring some of the artifacts of Jewish life there, as the Ohel Rachel synagogue in Shanghai and the two Harbin synagogues in Harbin. Prof. Pan Guang in Shanghai and his colleagues and Prof. Qu Wei in Harbin and his colleagues have worked hard and diligently in recording the Jewish past in their cities and formed centers for Jewish Study, with a student exchange program, visit exchanges, etc.

We, the proponents of this proposal, are presenting to the Tianjin Municipality a conception for the Establishment of a Jewish Research Center in Tianjin, which is to be based on the following lines:

The acquisition of the full title of the Synagogue on 50 Nanjing Road in the name of the profit free organization, which eventually will run the program. It is worthwhile to mention that the Synagogue is the only building related to the past Jewish presence in Tianjin which is still standing. The Tianjin Jewish School on Jifang Road, the Tianjin Jewish Club on Qufu Road, the Hospital, the free kitchen and all other establishments have been brought down for city expansion and welfare.

To completely refurbish this building to its past status and design, according to photos and plans available, by architects, and use the building as a permanent visual and audio show room where lectures and studies could be held both on the past history and to strengthen the continuously expanding political and commercial ties between Israel and Tianjin, China. While Beijing remains the main attraction for tourism to China in the North and very little tourism is diverted to Tianjin, it is to be believed that an interesting historical building in the center of Tianjin, with its interesting story of Jewish-Chinese relations would be an attraction for tourism not only from Israel and of Jewish nature but could become a noteworthy place for other foreign visitors.

To set up a research center for Jewish studies in some university, similar to the ones already established in Shanghai, Kaifeng, Nanjing and Harbin. The experience gained there could be applied to our plan. The Tianjin-Beijing area will in due course be connected by a high-speed train and this area will hold a population exceeding some 25,000,000 people, providing local students an opportunity to learn about the Jewish People and the State of Israel, and continue their studies in Israel in various fields as many are already doing. This center will increase the awareness of each other's culture and develop cultural and business relationships between the two countries.

In parallel with carrying all the above and working out a plan of action, it is suggested that a conference of former Jews from Tianjin and other Chinese Cities as well as Chinese and foreign educators and academicians would be held hopefully towards the opening of the restored synagogue and exhibit sometime in or early mid 2010.

---

## ***Harbin to produce giant wind power generators***

On June 29 China's first self-developed – complete with independent intellectual property rights -1.5 megawatt directly driven magneto wind power generator was successfully launched by Harbin Wind Power Equipment Co. Ltd.

# Visitors from China

by Michael Rinsky

Lately there is an increasing desire in China to strengthen its ties with Israel in various fields. A number of centers for the study of history of Jews in China in different cities have been set up to advance research.

This year, in March, a delegation from the Jewish Research Center for Harbin Jewry at the Social Sciences Academy in Hilochian region, visited Israel. Four researchers from the Center, headed by Mrs. Chang Tanyan, meticulously scanned the Jewish newspapers and magazines from the first half of the twentieth century kept in Igud Yotzei Sin. In addition, they interviewed approximately thirty former China residents. Naturally, the interviewed persons were all of advanced age, because more than 50 years have passed since they immigrated to Israel.

The delegation toured many cities in Israel and also visited Amikam, the settlement (moshav) which was founded by the former residents of China. They were hosted by many families, active in Igud Yotzei Sin. The Chairman of the Association, Theodore Kaufman and other Members of the Board gladly shared their memories with the delegation members.

For Mrs. Chang Tanyan it is her second visit and everyone affectionately calls her Galia, which is her Russian name. She is fluent in Russian and knows Hebrew. At the Jewish Research Center of the History of the Harbin Jewry she is the head of Chair dealing with subjects relevant to former residents of China. The Center includes twelve researchers and two Chairs, when the second one deals with the history of Harbin Jewry. The two Chairs work in close cooperation.

Mrs. Chang is a young, pleasant woman who willingly speaks about herself. She graduated from the Russian Language Faculty in 1991 and has taught Russian in school for eight years. Later she wrote a thesis on "Cultural activity in the Far East before the revolution". Mrs. Chang is married to a PhD who is a lecturer on automation at the Harbin Technion founded in the past by the Russians at the time of the construction of the Eastern Chinese Railway. Her 15 year old son excels in his school in Harbin. His schooling is very intensive and he reaches home at seven in the evening. It's one of the reasons for the high scores achieved by Chinese students in Olympic contests.

Another member of delegation with whom I held a conversation is Gan Chontze who introduces himself as Sacha. He is accustomed to his Russian name. After

graduating from school in Harbin he had been sent to Patrice Lumumba University of Moscow. He graduated from the Journalism Department of the Philology Faculty of the International School for Higher Education in 1977 and continued for another two years for his M.A. in Philosophy at St. Petersburg. His thesis dealt with the history of religions in China. The high level of the two researchers throws light on the high professional standards of the Center. An example of the precise work carried out by the Chinese team is the feeling of achievement by the researcher when he informed me that the Skidelsky family consisted of five brothers and not four! It seems that the Chinese are versed in the history of the Jews of China as much as the Jews themselves, except for the wide ranging knowledge of the Chairman of Igud, Teddy Kaufman.

The delegation left with a full load, including items of local customs and religious rituals from the past and the present. They are intended to be displayed at the exhibition in the Jewish Museum in Harbin opened in the new and restored synagogue in the city. We can only express our feelings of joy at the good relationship between the two countries and wish for a fruitful continuation in the future.

## **Farewell reception held in Hong Kong for Foreign Ministry representatives**

A farewell reception was held in Hong Kong for the Foreign Ministry representatives. The Jewish Community of Hong Kong bid farewell to Consul General Dan Ben-Eliezer and his wife Hedva and also to Assistant Consul General Eli Gil and his wife Sarit.

Consul General Ben-Eliezer was appointed to the Hong Kong/ Macau post in November 2005. Assistant Consul General Gil's family had become a central part of the Carmel School community and will be missed by them as well.

A well attended farewell reception was held on 11 June coordinated by the Trustees of Ohel Leah Synagogue at the Jewish Community Centre attended by numerous diplomats from other countries, business community and community members.

Mr Dorfman, on behalf of the Trustees gave a speech thanking his efforts and contribution to maintaining Israel's strong diplomatic presence.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer will return to Israel after concluding a five year journey, three years posted in Hong Kong and two as the Ambassador to Nepal.

# Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of China, visiting Metulla

On April 13, Mr. Zhao Jun, the Ambassador of China, accompanied by 23 officials of the Chinese Embassy, took part in the traditional Passover excursion in the North of Israel and was an honorary guest of the Northern town of Metulla



*In the center: the Ambassador of China, to his right is Rachel, the wife of the Mayor of Metulla, and next is Herzl Boker, the Mayor of Metulla*



*The Ambassador of China admires the view from the highest point of the town (650 meters above sea level)*



*The Mayor of Metulla, Mr. Herzl Boker, greets the Ambassador*



*T. Kaufman opens the meeting*



*The Ambassador offers thanks for the warm reception*



*The Mayor of Metulla, Herzl Boker, serving as guide of the guests.*

## **Shanghai's Ohel Rachel Synagogue Hosts First Wedding in 60 Years**

**By Erica Lyons**

For the first time in sixty years, Shanghai's historic Ohel Rachel Synagogue played host to a Jewish wedding ceremony, the marriage of community members Denis Gi'han and Audrey Ohana.

The bride, Audrey Ohana, has lived with her family in Shanghai for ten years. Her father, Maurice Ohana, serves as president of the local Jewish community. The wedding celebrations commenced on 11 March with a henna painting ceremony, a Moroccan custom, when henna is made and the bride and her guests are painted. A traditional mikvah party was held on 12 March.

The chupah was erected and the wedding itself was held on 13 March at Ohel Rachel, the historic synagogue once again played host to a Jewish wedding. Permission to use the synagogue for this event was granted by the Chinese government. Over 250 guests from around the world were present to join in the festivities and be a part of history. Rabbi Shalom Greenberg, who serves as the Chabad emissary in Shanghai, officiated at the ceremony.

The significance of the event is very much tied to the history of the synagogue itself. While it is still a symbolic focal point of the Shanghai community, it fell under Chinese government control in 1952. Built originally in 1920 by Sir Jacob Elias Sassoon, a Baghdadi Jew, Ohel Rachel once housed over 700 worshippers and boasted a collection of thirty Sifrei Torah.

Ohel Rachel was once one of seven synagogues in the

Shanghai community. Today it is only one of two still standing and neither one is used for the purpose it was originally built for. The other, Ohel Moishe, located in the Hongkew district, houses a museum dedicated to memorialising the Jewish experience in Shanghai. Following the flight of most of Shanghai's Jews post-World War II, Ohel Rachel was emptied and converted into government office and storage space. The structure itself fell into disrepair, but its role in the history of the Shanghai Jews was not forgotten.

In 1993, the city of Shanghai declared Ohel Rachel to be a historic landmark, allowing it some level of protection. In 1998, the city made minor repairs, though not structural, to Ohel Rachel in order to prepare it for a visit from then-US first lady Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

The government allows the local Jewish community, numbering about three hundred, use of the premises on a limited number of special occasions. The community and its worldwide supporters continue to hope that one day this important piece of our heritage will be returned to the Jewish community. They continue to hope that Ohel Rachel will again be the centre of Jewish life in Shanghai and this will be only the first of modern Jewish weddings to be celebrated here.

As Rabbi Greenberg said in his address at the chupah, "Any chupah is a happy occasion but when a synagogue has waited for over 60 years and the day arrives, the joy is huge." This life cycle event is representative of the revival of Jewish life throughout China and a sign of things to come.

## **Haifa Celebrates with 'Sister City' Shanghai**

"Shanghai Week" was held to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the "Sister Cities" relationship between Shanghai and Haifa. The events included a series of cultural, economic and trade activities, jointly organised by CCPIT Shanghai Sub-Council, the Israel Export Institute, the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association of Israel and the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce.

Over 45 people attended the opening event including the Mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav, the Ambassador of China, Zhao Jun, as well as a delegation from Shanghai headed by Vice Chairman of the Municipal Economic Council, Shanghai Vice Mayors, Council Members and other leaders of the community. Jackie Eldan, the designated Consul General to Shanghai, represented the Foreign Ministry.

An exhibition was collated that included photographs of modern Shanghai with Hebrew captions and Chinese decorative art. The Israeli and Chinese officials praised

the strong relationship between the two cities and a large collection of books on Shanghai was donated by a University in Shanghai to Haifa University.

Other "Shanghai Week" festivities included Shanghai Movie week in Haifa, exhibitions of Shanghai photographs and the History of Haifa and performances by Haifa musicians and Shanghai artists.

The cultural visit coincided with the China (Shanghai) Economic & Trade Cooperation Exhibition in Tel Aviv Shanghai's first ever trade show in Israel. Israel business leaders were given the opportunity to receive information about Shanghai's economic trade and investment related policies.

There was also the opportunity for significant bilateral exchanges between the Shanghai and Israel governments. Agricultural, IT & Telecom, environment protection & water-tech, high-tech, engineering and contracting, and tourism sectors all participated in the event.

(From Jewish Times Asia, July-August 2008)

# *Nili Drori in Harbin (April 2009)*

*Nili Drori, the daughter of our late landsman Yakov Lanir (Lankin), visited Harbin and was hosted by the Harbin Jewish Research Center affiliated with the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Studies*



*Nili near the building of  
the former Jewish High School*



*Nili near the building of  
the former "Main Synagogue"*



*Nili and Prof. Fu  
Mingjing (Svetlana),  
Head of the Center*



*Nili at the exhibition  
"The Jews of Harbin"  
in the building of the  
former "New Synagogue"*