The Shofar May/June 1993



UJC Members Offered Chance to Join Robinson Place Private Sale

Brochures are going out to Hong Kong's Jewish Community including UJC members for a late-May private sale of a portion of the apartments under construction at the site of Ohel

Leah Synagogue.

Although the Synagogue remains largely as it is, twin 47-story residential towers are going up at the 70 Robinson Road site, named Robinson Place, of which Tower One will house a 50,000 square-foot Jewish Club in the basement and podium. The project is scheduled for completion by late 1994.

Although there will be 651 apartments in total ranging from 1,063 to 1,391 square feet (gross), only flats on some of the floors will be offered initially in what is to be the first of a fourstage launch planned by the developer, Swire Properties, to take advantage of what is hoped to be a rising market.

In addition to members of the Jewish Community, employees of Swire Properties, consultants, others closely related to the project, and the Swire group of Companies will be allowed to participate in the private sale. The actual mechanism for allocating flats, considering that applications may exceed the number of flats offered, is under discussion.

Jewish Community members will be able to view a scale model of the complex at the sales office of Jones Lang Wooten in Pacific Place from mid-May and discuss terms and conditions of sale. Prices will not be available until around May 20 although it is believed they will range from \$3,500 and \$5,000 per square feet, depending on location.

In response to concern expressed by Community leaders, the developers have agreed to reconsider the number and location of flats that will be available for private sale and the time for concluding purchase arrange-

In addition to a new Club, the Jewish Community will be given 34 of the apartments for its own use and a share of the revenue deriving from the sale of the apartments in the entire complex. Sports facilities include swimming pools, tennis and squash courts, and a gymnasium, some of which will be shared by tenants.

It is expected that The UJC will be given use of a 1,400 square foot auditorium in Tower Two for a sanctuary. The Congregation has also requested that space be allocated for offices and a rabbinical residence.

Γιωε Νοω το τηε Ραββι Φυνδ

If you're the kind of perceptive person The UJC attracts, you've probably already figured out what these words mean. After all, it only takes a little knowledge of Greek and old English.

You're probably also perceptive enough — some call it vision to understand why this campaign deserves, even commands your support. More than honor or recognition, it's because you looked far into the future and saw the very many looking back at the very few who paid, at no small expense to their time or fortune, for this defining step in the history of our community, and for the cement to lay more steps.

Perception is what its all about. The UJC is blessed to have men and women who have given and will give generously. We cannot equate good congregations with those who ask the least, or who do not ask you to give. There are demands placed upon us as Jews by both our past and future, and both are the demands that have enabled us to survive as a people.

That's why we say above, Give Now to the Rabbi Fund.

Phones Ringing for Rabbi Fund

Phones will be ringing for the next few weeks as Committee members call members and friends asking for contributions to the Rabbi Fund.

The goal is to raise HK\$1 million, or the lion's share, by June 30, to meet the expense of bringing Rabbi Sam Joseph to Hong Kong this fall and funding an expanded program of activities.

Thanks to an inspiring, bellwether contribution from one member and a number of other significant donations received in the last few weeks, the fund stands at nearly \$300,000. All donations are tax deductible for Hong Kong tax purposes.

The Rabbi Fund campaign was launched during the High Holidays last fall and stepped up this spring when it was learned that Rabbi Joseph would accept an offer to serve as The

UJC's first resident rabbi.

The Rabbi, a professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, has conducted High Holidays services for the Congregation for the last four years. He will be on sabbatical from HUC when he comes this fall and is expected to stay for ten months.

Anticipating that every member will contribute, the Committee decided not to raise dues for the 1993-1994 year to keep UJC membership as affordable as possible and stimulate growth. The Executive Committee wants to make sure that nobody is excluded from participating in the Jewish religious life of this community because of financial considerations.

A feature of the campaign is to give special recognition to the top 36 donors (without mentioning actual amounts) in accordance with the Jewish legend of the lamedvov tzadakkim (36 'righteous ones'). These are said to be people who perform righteous deeds anonymously and upon whose virtue the foundations of the world are supposed to rest.

In addition to members, it is hoped that non-members and friends who attend UJC services and other events will contribute to the fund. As one Committee member put it, 'Everyone must pull his or her oar. No one else is

going to do it for us.'

Shabbat Service

Friday, May 14 6:30 P.M.

conducted by Gina Levy reading from the Torah

followed by buffet dinner

Members: \$125.00 adults, children under 12, \$75.00 Non-members: \$140.00 adults, children under 12, \$90.00

> To book for dinner, call Amy DaSaro at 802-0012 or fax 802-1066 Pay at door

Ladies Recreation Club 10 Old Peak Rd., 2/f Mid-Levels, HK

The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

Office: GPO Box 5259, Hong Kong Tel. 802-0012; Fax 802-1066 Exec. Administrator: Mrs. Amy DaSaro Chairman: GPO Box 6083, Hong Kong Tel. 735-3037, Fax 730-5507

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Membership Dr. Mark Michelson
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Mollie Blaum-Sherbin

The Shofar is published bi-monthly by The UJC. Requests for copies and notification of address changes should be addressed to The

UJC office.

Shabbat Service

Friday, May 28 7:00 P.M.

conducted by Robert Meyer

followed by
Oneg Shabbat

27B Kennedy Heights 10 Kennedy Rd., Mid-Levels, HK

home of Eugene & Anne-Marie Marans

Shabbat Songs

Learn Liturgical Music

with Phyllis Gerstell and

A

A

Anne-Marie Marans

Thursday, May 13 7:00 P.M.

28A Po Garden 9 Brewin Path Mid-Levels, HK

home of Phyllis and Glenn Gerstell

Adult Education

'Racism and Hate Crimes'

talk plus discussion presented by

Elane Fine

Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 P.M.

'Post-Emancipation to Modern'

Abba Eban 'Heritage' video followed by discussion presented by

Prof. Michel Millodot Thursday, May 27, 7:30 P.M.

'Four Movements of Judaism'

talk plus discussion presented by

Prof. Michel Millodot

Thursday, June 3, 7:30 P.M. (repeated by popular request)

The Jewish Club Melbourne Plaza, 4/f Queens Road C., HK

Mazel Tou!

- **76** Michel and Susan Millodot who became grandparents March 21 upon the birth of Jacob Michael in Cardiff, Wales, and to the parents Anne Marie (Susan's daughter) and Dr. Marchi Maheson.
- 7. —David and Lucina Patsiner on the birth of a daughter, Laura Rose, April 3, in Hong Kong and to the grandparents Leonard and Dianne Patsiner.
- **76** —Jonathan Karp and Miriam Jordan on their engagement and plans to marry May 30 in Savannah, Georgia.

Thank you!

7. — Michel Millodot, Dennis Leventhal, Mark Regev, Phyllis Gerstell and Anne-Marie Marans for the adult education classes they taught or presented for The UJC and The Jewish Club.

P.A.C.E. or Parents and Children for Education

by Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph

For many of us the Jewish education of our children is a primary concern. It is not uncommon in most parts of the world for Jewish adults to affiliate with a congregation when they believe it is time to 'bring the kids to Sunday School.' From the time of my first visit with The UJC, I heard from parents that they were looking for a Jewish education for their children.

I want to help bring a resolution to that search. Next

year [this fall] in Hong Kong we will!

Many of you know that I am a professor of Jewish education. My academic career is dedicated to training rabbis and members of the Jewish community how to 'do' the educative process in such a way that it succeeds. Sunday School, at least the one that some of us attended, only succeeded in alienating us from Jewish learning and life. We do not want to recreate that model in Hong Kong when we can begin with a better idea.

Judaism has always seen the family as the key to its survival. Our names, our traditions, even our recipes have been passed down from generation to generation. Teaching the lessons of Jewish life was entrusted to parents. Yet in recent times, little by little, parents have delegated their responsibilities to institutions and professionals.

Faced with a growing and pervasive Jewish ignorance, a generation of rabbis understood their role to be that of conservator, even curator, of Jewish ritual and tradition. They reassured parents by telling them that all they had to do was drop their children off at the door of the synagogue and they would emerge as educated Jews with a strong Jewish identity. To accomplish this goal the Jewish professional had to transfer the traditionally homebased rituals, Friday night dinner, Passover Seders, building sukkahs, etc. to the synagogue.

No wonder Jewish education has failed. There is no way that Jewish life and learning can be transmitted on a

Sunday morning during a two-hour session.

While there is no one answer as to what would be the most successful program of Jewish education, we do know that the more parents are directly involved with their children in the process, the more likely the learnings will effect the home and the future Jewish identity of the children.

Hence ... P.A.C.E. . or PARENTS AND CHIL-

DREN for EDUCATION at The UJC.

Beginning next year [this fall] we will have PACE programs every three weeks or so. These programs will bring together all members of The UJC with children who want to learn Jewish life and living with the children. The sessions will probably be three hours long. Dates, times, day of the week (I am not adverse to Sunday), and venue are to be decided after I arrive.

Topics will relate to the Jewish holidays, to Jewish val-

ues, to Jewish rituals, traditions and history.

Let me give you an example:

Stargazing for Shabbat

Goal: To teach about celebrating the shabbat with special emphasis on *havdalah*, the ceremony that concludes the shabbat.

Families would gather several hours before sundown, Saturday afternoon. At that time there would be four or more 'stations' set up, each based on a shabbat topic such as: home rituals, shabbat storytelling, shabbat arts and crafts, shabbat cooking, shabbat laws. Using hands-on,

camp-style methods, families would have the opportunity to visit each of these stations and complete the 'tasks' in that station.

After everyone visits the stations, members of the local astronomy club would come and set up telescopes. They would explain to small groups of parents and children what they look for in the typical night sky of the locale. Then the rabbi would speak to the entire group teaching them about the concluding shabbat ceremony — havdalah. Jewish law says that the shabbat is over and one may perform havdalah when you see three stars in the sky (lets hope for a clear night!).

Each person would then have the chance to look in the telescopes and look for the three stars that would signal the end

of the shabbat.

Once all found the three stars the group would do hav-dalah.

Dinner could follow.

Every family would leave with a booklet that leads them through the shabbat rituals step by step. The booklet would also include stories, crafts, etc. that had been part of the earlier stations program.

This is but one PACE idea. This coming school year in

Hong Kong will be fun!

Footnote: Jewish education is a cradle to grave endeavor. Realizing this, there will be many different sorts of educational opportunities for all members of The UJC next year. This will include, of course, our Second Annual Shabbat Shuvah (the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanna and Yom Kippur) Retreat.

Children's Education

UJC Puts Religious School Plans on Hold

In response to survey results and thoughts expressed by Rabbi Sam Joseph (above), the Executive Committee decided at its April meeting to defer action on establishing weekly UJC religious classes for children.

Many congregants, responding to the survey published in the previous edition of The Shofar, expressed support for a school. But Committee members did not feel the numbers and level of commitment were great enough to justify the effort at this time, especially considering problems that would

arise relating to venue, staffing, and funding.

The Committee also felt that members whose children were enrolled in the Ezekiel Abraham School in the Jewish Club were generally happy with the content of the program and curriculum, particularly in the lower grades. Also, given the relatively small size of the community, the Committee felt all members of the community could benefit from the economy of scale achieved with one school instead of several.

The general view was that the similarities are much greater than the differences in religious education offered by orthodox and non-orthodox congregations. In a letter to the Committee, Rabbi Joseph encouraged parents to continue to enroll their children in the Ezekial Abraham School if they were satisfied with the program. At the same time, Rabbi Joseph said he would offer special classes and training for those studying for bar/bat mitzvah, in addition to the program outlined above.

Still Haunted by the Holocaust

Gustav Niebuhr, Washington Post

The vivid memory of the Holocaust impels Michael to leave his Manhattan jewelery business every other week to speak to school children, religious groups, college students — to anyone who asks — about his experiences under Hitler.

A Lithuanian-born Jew who survived ten concentration camps, Menkin, 67, speaks of his arrest and the harrowing separation from his family, the days he spent wedged into cattle cars with other prisoners, the endless slave labor. He believes he is alive to convey 'a certain message' — a plea for peace, compassion and tolerance.

The Holocaust, he declares, 'is the most important thing in Jewish history'.

For Menkin, the event outweighs even the biblical story of the Exodus, annually commemorated by the celebration of Passover. . . "The Exodus from Egypt was from slavery to freedom", he says; "the Holocaust was from freedom to death camps".

Witht the opening April 26 of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the edge of the Mall in downtown Washington, D C, the event's legacy is about to move into a new phase.

Survivors like Menkin who can speak of it first-hand are aging. The task of bearing remembrance to the dead is being passed to an institution.

Thirteen years in the making, the museum was created as America's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. There, in a stark building designed by James Freed, a three-floor permanent exhibition featuring numerous artefacts such as personal photographs, prisoner's uniforms and Nazi documents tells the story of the Jews and others targeted for annihilation by the Nazis.

'I would be astonished if (the museum) does not become a place of pilgrimage for American Jews,' says Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, professor of education and religous thought at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

Few would dispute that the Holocaust's fires forged an enduring bond for Jews. Adolf Hitler's crematoria consumed a third of all Jews alive in 1939, including 80 percent cent of the world's rabbis and Torah scholars. [boldface ours]

From the memory of the dead the living drew a common promise: never again. The lesson learned, to be repeated from one generation to the next, was remember and be vigilant. Because if demonic anti-semitism could seize hold in Europe's

civilized heart — seat of music and art and learning — then it could rise ferocious anywhere, against anyone Jewish, regardless of nationality or social status.

But beyond the bond, the Holocaust also left the Jewish community with spiritual and historical questions that defy easy answers.

Chief among them: Where was God? And what did the mass murder say about the unique covenant, the guarantee of being a chosen people, that was reached between the Jews and the Almighty at Mount Sinai during the Exodus?

And terrible as it was, could the Holocaust really be the most important event in 3,000 years of Jewish history?

'I would profoundly disagree with that,' says Rabbi Harold Schulweis, chairman of the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers, which searches out gentiles who helped Jews escape the Nazis. 'It worries many of us. . . The impression it gives to Jews and non-Jews (is) that Jewish history is one of catastrophe, destruction, persecution.'

Thus, elevating the Holocaust above all else risks casting Jewish history as a victims' story, eclipsing its 'joyful crea-

tive tradition', he says. What really ought to be considered 'is what was the suffering for. That will bring you into the celebration of life and moral conscience and the duty to repair the world.'

Another Holocaust survivor, theologian Emil Fackenheim, found a new law in the death camps' ashes that would bind all Jews. He called it the '614th commandment' (adding one to the Torah's 613): The 'authentic Jew of today is forbidden to hand Hitler yet another, posthumous victory'.

What this means, he said, is that Jews must survive as a distinct people, must remember the Holocaust's martyrs and must never deny God. Also, they must not despair of the world, 'lest Judaism perish' and the world be rendered a meaningless place where 'everything is permitted'.

But this idea too has come in for criticism. Why should Judaism's future have to depend on Hitler's memory? asks Rabbi Jack Bemporad.

'I think the real issue is not where was God at Auschwitz, but where were we?' Bemporad says.

'Had our society been organized in any kind of reasonable . . . manner, I don't think there would have been an Auschwitz. The just society continues to elude us.'

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(Submitted by Robert Meyer)

Some thoughts about Charlotte

Charlotte Godkin could be an exasperating woman at times. And yet it was impossible to ever get angry with her. Maybe that's the way it is with persistent people who are committed to a cause that is so undeniably just and good.

She wasn't a modern woman. She didn't understand much about computers, for example. I remember sitting with her one afternoon in the conference room of Chuck Monat's office, along with Amy DaSaro, Eric Beare and a computer consultant that I had invited to help put the United Israel Appeal's namelist into shape. Although her son Jack had computerized it a few years previously, over time, as the community had grown and changed, the list had become an almost hopelessly complicated compilation of typed and handwritten names, duplications, notes, address changes, and new insertions in the margins — in short, a real mess.

Charlotte listened patiently as one might to small children as we explained all the marvelous things we were going to do with a computer to make life easier for her as the UIA administrator merge, purge, sort, select, etc. We might as well have been speaking Greek, and her responses could have been in Russian. I don't think that list ever got updated, at least not in the way we intended. And yet the collection effort went on, just as it had for years. Charlotte had somehow survived us.

Sometimes she would call me to help her produce UIA fund solicitations. There was no mistaking who the calls were from, almost before she even opened her mouth. Charlotte was the only person I knew who could turn the name 'Bob' into two syllables with different intonations and a foreign accent besides. 'Robert' was at least four syllables. And then there was the tone of voice - the tone that made it almost impossible to say no. Not a pleading tone, but more - the tone of a Jewish grandmother, whether she's asking you to finish your chicken soup or get married, that makes guilt an imperative. Where would we be without it? Where will we be without Charlotte?

I could never get upset with Charlotte when she was alive. But her death made me angry — mostly with myself. It made me angry because I had not given generously and without hesitation when

I was angry because I knew I would eventually have to sit down and struggle with my thoughts and write something about this woman, because I knew she was no ordinary woman.

And I was angry because no one, to my knowledge, had ever taken the time to sit down and record the history of Charlotte Godkin, all the remarkable things she had experienced in her 81 years, things, as she told her good friend Reva DaCosta, that no one would ever believe. For a people who place so much importance on learning from their past, this was an omission that can only be forgiven if it now inspires us to seriously undertake the effort of recording the histories of some of the older members of our Community.

Perhaps its only my imagination that we sense something different in the air at graveside funeral ceremonies for good people like Charlotte. Perhaps we only imagine there's something stirring in the trees, or that the sudden gusts of wind are somehow no coincidence. Was I the only one wondering about these things as we stood in the old Jewish cemetery that grey afternoon? Perhaps it was only the moving words of Eric Beare and Ari Benzion as her casket was lowered into the ground.

This community, and even more so, Israel, has lost a good woman. Up to her dying moment, Charlotte was committed to a cause that would provide new lives in Israel — something which she, as a refugee from Russia to China to Hong Kong — understood well.

Although the song was not dedicated to her, in a sense the evening was — the evening of the Israeli Independence Day Ball. As Katia Citrin said in announcing Charlotte would have the sad news, wanted the celebration to go on. And it was therefore to Charlotte that Dudu Fisher was singing, at least in my mind, the tune from Fiddler on the Roof -L'Chayim. We lost one life, but how many more did Charlotte Godkin create?

Bob Green



Condolences

The UJC joins the entire Jewish Community in mourning the death of Charlotte Godkin who passed away April 14, 1993, and extends its heartfelt condolences to her son Jack, family, and friends.

UJC members spread out across the continent (and sub-continent) in search of a seder

A Tale of Three Cities and Four Questions

Guangzhou

by Miriam Jordan

At the head of the table sits a young rabbinical-school dropout who teaches trade to Chinese wanna-be millionaires. Beside him is a middle-aged Brooklyn-born accountant who admits his profession is so boring he wears a iade earring to set himself apart.

The gathering in Canton suggests that Passover is very much a movable

feast.

About 40 people came together at the Guangdong International Hotel last week [last month] to celebrate the festival that marks the Israelites' exodus

from Egypt.

'How many of you are Jewish?' Joel Miller, an American working in Canton, asks the guests seated at five tables in the center of a huge ballroom. A dozen hands go up. Twice as many people raise their hands when he asks, How many of you are cultural explorers?'

In all Guangdong province there are 10 Jews,' says Larry Lipsher, a 50vear-old accountant [and UJC memberl who lives in Shenzhen. 'Eight of them are here tonight. (The other four Jews present are from Hong Kong).

That in itself is a miracle.'

'Moses parted the Red Sea. A group of determined semi-observant Jews discovered a way to part the Red Sea of Chinese bureaucracy to make an authentic, honest-to-goodness Passover,' Mr. Lipsher says.

The way they pulled it off was anything but kosher — even if the ingredients were. To circumvent Chinese customs officers, 30 boxes of matzo, 40 jars of gefilte fish, eight jars of horseradish and 10 boxes of matzoball mix were carried in from Hong Kong under diplomatic cover. 'Everything was brought in very sur-reptitiously. One poor consul didn't realize it would be such a pain to schlep it,' Mr. Lipsher says.

Compared to cooking it, smuggling it may have been the easy part.

'I spent the afternoon in the kitchen. Can you imagine teaching a bunch of Chinese how to make matzo balls', Mr. Lipsher says. He made the first batch — from the mix — then let the cooks go at it themselves. 'They were like children discovering something new,' he says.



Hong Kong

In as elegant a setting as perhaps any Passover Seder in the world, some 175 members and friends of The UJC sat at tables of 12 under glittering crystal chandeliers in the Aberdeen Marina Club's ballroom as the Seder leader, Robert Meyer, explained the importance of remembering we were once slaves in the land of Egypt. Although we've come a long way in time and station in life, we must try to imagine that we are those slaves and relive that experience, he explained, to remind us of the importance of continuing the battle for freedom in every generation.

There were a few more learning experiences to be gained in the course of the evening. By some miscalculation the Club prepared and served enough charoset to satisfy a good part of Hong Kong's population, the microphone occasionally went on the blink, and the white wine never got served. But overall, the Seder was counted a great success, thanks mainly to the efforts of the organizers (Kathy Goeld, Amy DaSaro, Jacqueline Blinderman, and Janet Golden) and the talented and knowledgeable leader who made it truly a family seder by involving all the children. He was unquestionably the man for the job, if measured by the ability to keep the attention of a large, diverse group of everyone from toddlers to senior citizens for over two

Reflecting the discerning qualities of his parents, young Andrew Isaacs, was the lucky winner of the prize donated by Mrs. Amy DaSaro for the finder of the afikomen. Children of

(see Hond Kong Seder, page 7)

New Delhi

by Robert Sherbin

A crowd of more than 200 gathered in New Delhi last month to celebrate India's first community seder, avoiding the schlep to the next-closest public Passover dinner in Katmandu.

The celebration at the heavilymarbled Holiday Inn coincided with Israel's recent move to establish diplomatic relations with the subcontinent, bringing trade officials and a counsellor corps to join the Jewish foreign correspondents, business people and others already resident in the capital city. Filling up the ballroom were another 100 or so Israeli backpackers, many recently out of the army, who had dropped drab fatigues for bright, blowsy Indian handloom

The evening was among a number of open-house Passover observances conducted in far flung corners of Asia. They ranged from a Guangzhou seder attended by 40 people to the near-legendary annual gathering in the Nepalese capital which has long attracted over a thousand young wandering Jews.

To oversee the Delhi event, an earnest, red-bearded Hassidic rabbinical student from Brooklyn was dispatched by Chabad House, toting cases of kosher wine and unleavened naan. They found company at the table with other traditional fare that replanning. similar ligatawny soup had been jettisoned for chicken soup with matzo balls, diligently rolled by the wives of the Israeli embassy staff. Gefilte fish topped with carefully cut chili-red carrot circles and chicken, imported from the U.S. and over-boiled in the best glatt-kosher fashion, held sway over vindaloos and tikkas.

Haggadah reading portions were carefully allotted to the Israeli ambassador and other luminaries, including General Jacky Jacobs of the Indian Army, who had secured a small corner in Jewish history as the faith's only true hero of the Bangladesh War.

The re-telling of the exodus from Egypt proceeded in typically disjointed fashion until hitting a serious detour just beyond the Red Sea. The backpackers' secular enthusiasm

(see **Delhi Seder**, page 7)

Guangzhou Seder

(continued from page 6)

The little cream-colored balls, which are made from unleavened bread and resemble Chinese fish balls, are more than a bit *al dente*. 'Any firmer and they would break my teeth,' mutters a Jewish businessman. But remembering he's in China, he softens his tone: 'Well, matzo balls are matzo balls.'

The traditional chopped-apple-and-nut concoction is a hit. And if you don't like the pre-prepared gefilte fish, then mask it with tangy horseradish, which Mr. Miller likens to

Japanese wasabi.

Amiram Bendl, a visiting lecturer in international trade, leads the English reading of the Haggada (the Passover story). Before getting his M.B.A. at the University of California, Los Angeles, he dabbled in Judaic studies at a rabbincal institute. In blue jeans, sweatshirt and slippers, the Israeli-born Los Angeles entrepreneur looks more like a student than a lecturer at the Guangzhou Institute of Foreign Trade.

He picks participants from each table to read from the Haggada. They stumble on some Hebrew words, but they

read with enthusiasm.

Norman Duplessis, a native of New Orleans who bears a striking resemblance to James Earl Jones, delivers a passage with resonating drama. For him and other cultural explorers who paid about HK\$200 to attend, it is their first encounter with Judaism.

'It wasn't what I expected. I thought it'd be a bunch of people praying. This is better than going and sitting in a church,' says Mr. Duplessis, an aircraft maintenance worker

at a Sino-American join venture in Canton.

The meal is called a Seder, which means 'order' in Hebrew. It progresses in a set routine according to the Haggada, and it can take an hour before the main courses are served. The buildup doesn't agree with all participants, including some who may have been accustomed to long, ritualistic Chinese banquets.

'I learned something about Jewish culture,' says Katherine Lipsher, Larry's wife and a Canton native. 'But the concensus among the Chinese is that if they make it shorter, it could be better.' Some of the experienced hands felt likewise. Mrs Lipsher says after the dinner: "It was the Jews who were whispering 'speed it up' in my ear."

To give the holiday a Chinese twist, Mr. Bendl recites briefly from the Kaifeng Haggada used 800 years ago by

China's Jewish community at the time.

Jews, probably from Persia, arrived in China nearly 2,000 years ago as traders along the Silk Road. By the 12th century, the city of Kaifeng in Henan province — a terminal point on the road — had a thriving Jewish community. But intermarriage led to assimilation, and the community faded away around the beginning of this century. During World War II, thousands of Jews fleeing Nazi Germany ended up in China, mainly in Shanghai, but the majority moved to North America.

Canton's Jewish community, all eight of them, show their assimilationist tendencies during the Seder. Wine glasses are raised to cries of 'ganbei' instead of 'Amen' or

'l'chaim,' the traditional Hebrew toast to life.

At one point. Mr. Bendl lets out a Chinese 'aiyaaal' at one of the readers. Jonathan Marks, a commercial officer at the U.S. consulate in Canton, perks up: "Didn't you mean 'Oi vei?"

Reprinted from Asian Wall Street Journal, April 13-18, 1993

MISSING: About 20 Hagaddahs from the UJC seder. Please return or send \$30 for each copy to The UJC, GPO Box 5259, HK

Carmel Waitlisting Some Students for Fall Classes

Carmel, the Jewish day school for pre-schoolers (from two years old), primary one and primary two in Tai-koo Shing, has announced that it can offer waitlist status only for some of its classes for the 1993-94 school year. Parents are urged to make their interest known as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Veronica Frankenberg at 813-8627.

The school offers bus services and instruction in English, Hebrew, and Mandarin. While students of Jewish parents are given priority for enrolment, Car-

mel is open to everybody.



Delhi Seder

(continued from page 6)

swelled abruptly, threatening to rout the rabbi's chants.

As bemused waiters in white cotton and scarlet turbans pressed forward to re-fill haroset jars, the flustered rabbi mounted a chair, his voice cracking. The youths, braced by comraderie and the comfort of the banquet hall's deep-pile carpeting after months on the road, began to sing. Duelling ideologies became the theme, as proscribed readings competed against Hebrew folk songs and then horas.

In the end, the rabbi stepped down, the Israelis cheered and the food won out. And as the evening's song and conversation wound to a close, we proclaimed silently to our-

selves, 'Next year in Jalalabad!'

Hong Kong Seder

(continued from page 6)

other members gave star performances (occasionally with the help and encouragement of Mr. Meyer) reading the Four Questions, singing, and handling the parts of the wise child, the rebellious child, the simple child, and the child who does not know how to ask.

Anne-Marie Marans with Victor Falk at the piano led the singing of traditional Passover songs. Janet Golden did some extensive research to dig up the words of 'An Only Kid' as sung when she was a kid, not to be outdone by Mr. Falk who provided the words to a favorite round as sung at his 'home' synagogue, the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London. A major accomplishment of the evening was concluding the seder at a not unreasonably late hour to enable parents to get younger children home to bed.

UJC CALENDAR

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 P.M.
Traditional, Reform/Liberal Liturgical Music home of Phyllis & Glenn Gerstell
28A Po Garden, 9 Brewin Path, Mid-Levels

Friday, May 14, Shabbat Service Ladies Recreation Club, 6:30 P.M. 10 Old Peak Rd., led by Gina Levy, followed by buffet supper

Sunday, May 16, BBQ Buffet
Join your friends at The UJC table in The Jewish
Club, no reservations needed

Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 P.M. Elane Fine on 'Racism & Hate Crimes' The Jewish Club, Melbourne Plaza

Thursday, May 27,7:30 P.M.

Michel Millodot on 'Post-emancipation to Modern',
video + diwcussion
The Jewish Club, Melbourne Plaza

Fri., May 28, Shabbat Service, 7:00 P.M. followed by an Oneg Shabbat, home of Eugene and Anne Marie Marans, 27B Kennedy Heights, 10 Kennedy Rd., Mid-Levels

Sunday, May 30, BBQ Buffet
Join your friends at The UJC table in The Jewish
Club, no reservations needed

Thursday, June 3, 7:30 P.M.
Michel Millodot on 'Four Movements of Judaism',
video + discussion
The Jewish Club, Melbourne Plaza

Friday, June 18, Shabbat Service venue to be announced

Friday, July 2, Shabbat Service venue to be announced

Friday, July 23, Shabbat Service venue to be announced

Welcome New Members

David and Caroline Garber
Alexander Karsner and Maria Lindqvist
Sheldon Kasowitz
Andrew Raffell and Hariet Samuels
Sharon Ser
Jerome and Ruth Schneider

Get Well Soon

Dr. Irene Allison, recovering at home after hospital treatment for a slipped disc.

Cancellations, Refunds

Because The UJC is required to commit well in advance to the various Clubs where dinners are held (sometimes requiring advance purchases of food, particularly for special holiday or festival occasions), the Congregation suffers a financial loss from last-minute cancellations. Therefore the Committee has reluctantly but necessarily had to adopt the policy of not issuing refunds for cancellations received less than two days before an event.

Jewish Women's Association

Worth Joining — Yes!

With larger numbers of UJC members joining and becoming active within the last year or two, the Jewish Womens Association has increasingly become an organization that is truly representative of the larger Jewish community.

The JWA was founded in the late 1940's to help relocate Jews (primarily from Shanghai) displaced by the Communist takeover in China. Today, JWA activities focus on social and fund-raising events.

Social activities include monthly lunches with a speaker or demonstration, evening talks (husbands invited), cultural outings, day trips, etc. The group also turns out a monthly newletter called The JWA News.

Last year the JWA raised over HK\$500,000 for charities here and in Israel. The major fund-raising events are the Autumn Fayre in early October, the Annual Bazaar (Sunday, December 8 this year), the Fashion Show (see below), and the Israeli Independence Day Ball in late April or early May.

The General Committee is always looking for people with an interest in serving, either as elected Committee members or on one of the various fundraising event subcommittees. The JWA also welcomes those interested in helping on ongoing projects such as the newsletter, cookbook (planned for publication in 1994), and Judaica Shop or helping with mailings, telephoning, etc.

