

The Shofar

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December AGM to elect first Board JCC to open in October

Abridged from a statement by Robert Dorfman,
Chairman, JCC Working Group

The JCC Working Group is finalizing plans for the new Jewish Community Centre (JCC), which will have its soft opening in August and its official opening on October 23.

Unlike the Jewish Club, you will be a member of the JCC without any additional fees, subscriptions or monthly charge — so long as you are a dues paying member of a Synagogue or Jewish congregation recognized by the Trustees. The four congregations in Hong Kong have been invited to apply to the Trustees for recognition and a register of all eligible members should be available by mid-summer. Jewish persons who do not belong to a congregation can apply to become 'authorized users' of the JCC on payment of an entrance fee and monthly dues; while the number of such persons will be restricted, priority will be given to existing members of the Jewish Club.

We want to make it clear that the new JCC will continue not only all the activities found in the current Jewish Club but will augment these with a wide range of social and educational programs designed to appeal to all sections of the community — including especially, our often neglected young adults, singles, and teenagers. These programs will be under the active management of the Programme Director, who will be hired soon.

He/she will work with volunteers from the membership to help him/her plan activities to meet the diverse needs of all the members.

The facilities in the JCC will make it one of the finest centres in the Jewish world. Its spacious new premises will include an indoor pool, youth room, state-of-the-art library, enhanced function rooms and eating outlets, and a full range of audio and video presentation equipment — all of which will be used in mounting a dynamic programme of activities.

Although no denominational religious programs will be put on by the JCC itself, Synagogues and Jewish Congregations in Hong Kong will be able to hire space in the JCC, at a nominal charge, to put on their own religious education courses and events.

Like the current Jewish Club, the affairs of the JCC will be managed by an elected Board. To maintain continuity during the transition period, the current JCC Working Group will remain in place until after the official opening. There will be a General Meeting of the JCC early in December to elect a new Board to run the JCC.

A Vision of Hong Kong's Jewish Community Centre

by Benjamin L. Frankel

The Shofar is grateful to Mr. Frankel for permission to print the following statement, originally submitted by him to the Trustees for their consideration.

Jewry on the Threshold of the Twenty-first Century

This is perhaps the most exciting time in Jewish history since the Middle Ages. We are witnessing an explosion of intellectual activity in the Jewish world: scholarship on history and culture of all periods; translation and interpretation of many of the great treatises of Jewish learning; exposition and debate of Jewish secular and religious philosophy; an unparalleled self-consciousness of the Jewish present — the Holocaust, Israel, the Diaspora, and contemporary religious currents; an efflorescence of Jewish culture in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English literature and in the arts.

Jewry in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Jewish community has been a spectator from the sidelines to these momentous developments. With the launch of the Jewish Community Centre, this community has the opportunity not only to take its place in the mainstream of world Jewry but also to realize the potential of its extraordinary human and other capital in order to make its own mark in these historic developments.

Hong Kong's Jewish community comprises among the most dynamic populations imaginable. It is a community of adventurous and successful overachievers — typically well-educated, established in their careers or embarking on second careers, worldly, and intellectually curious. Our membership comes from diverse and interesting backgrounds — descendants of 19th century *taipans*, sefardim, ashkenazim, citizens of Britain and the British Commonwealth, North Americans, Israelis, South Africans, Europeans, and Asians. It includes representatives of all points on the religious spectrum. It is populated by business people, professionals, journalists, politicians, academics, and musicians. This is a community with a boundless need for cultural and intellectual stimulation, and a limitless capacity to absorb and reflect the fruits of such an effort.

Hong Kong Jewry at the Crossroad of the Emerging World

Hong Kong Jewry has yet to assert its role as the pre-eminent Jewish presence in Asia, and has yet to conceive its role as the centre for Jewish learning and culture in the region. There are other notable Jewish communities in the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Singapore and India; there are Jewish enclaves of interests throughout the region. Of course, there is a sizable and sophisticated Jewish community in Australia and New Zealand. History, geography and commercial reality, however, bestow upon Hong Kong the opportunity and responsibility to serve as the centre for development of Jewish life in Asia.

The Jewish world at large is unaware that there is a sizable Jewish community in Hong Kong. The JCC has the potential to put Hong Kong on the Jewish world map. We justifiably may expect that no prominent Jew would travel to Asia without scheduling a stop to benefit from and contribute to communal life at the JCC. (This can include everyone from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to Amos Oz to Barbra Streisand). Through the efforts of the JCC, the Jews of Hong Kong will not only be the transmitters of Jewish history and culture amongst themselves, but will be writing a page of Jewish history as this region takes its place of prominence on the world state in the coming decades.

(continued on page 5)

From the Rabbi's Study . . .

I can't believe that it is close to a year since I arrived in Hong Kong. So quickly the time has passed! On the other hand, I can't believe I have only been here for a year. So full and rich has the experience of serving The UJC been!

How, for instance, can I fully describe the specialness of what I feel each week as so many of us gather for The UJC Shabbat experience? Whether Friday night or Saturday morning, it is always, week after week, a special 'family' gathering with an electric atmosphere. Friends greet friends with intense vigor. Newcomers and visitors become *mish-pocheh* on the spot. As for me, personally, Shabbat becomes a kind of Shabbat I have never before known.

Or how can I describe my deep inner satisfaction when the visiting, world-class speakers we have recently had consistently tell me to keep on doing the kind of programming we already are doing because indeed we are doing something good and right?

Or, even further, when the candidates for The JCC Program Director's position come to our Shabbat service and tell us of the programs they want to do, and most of them are what we have already done and you supported by your enthusiastic presence?

Regarding this, here is what is in my heart of hearts right now. I heard you and a broader cross-section of the Hong Kong Jewish community voice needs and concerns for Jewish life here. And I heard the candidates and guest speakers talk about world Jewish focuses: needs, programs — religious, educational, cultural, and social. How good it feels to me to know that we — The UJC — have already been doing what others are hoping to do. How exciting it is to know that our adult education program and social activities, for instance, are what JCC candidates hope to initiate community wide!

As young as we are, we are making *great* progress. While the JCC will have vast resources in terms of finances and personnel, we can feel proud of ourselves for having such a rich program now. True, we have areas yet to be developed, especially with our children. But, also true, a congregation our size anywhere in the West would have a staff of teachers and the resources to meet the programmatic/educational needs of youngsters and their families. Still, in the not too distant future, our hope is still to meet those needs as fully as possible!

However, right now I feel deeply blessed and feel blessed for all of the many UJC volunteers who have given of their time and personal resources to have accomplished what we have done in so short a time. I feel blessed for the vast quantity of yet to be tapped talent we have within The UJC that will help us in the future. And mostly what I have learned is that the uniqueness of The UJC is *you*. You are the 'U' in UJC. Away from sources of Jewish activity, educational institutions, Jewish delis and the like, you have helped bring a richness to our congregation far greater than I dreamed.

Many of you will disperse over the summer months. I encourage you to keep Jewishly in touch wherever you go. And then come back to your UJC family with ideas, materials, contacts, and resources to enrich our already-rich UJC.

I of course will continue to develop programs for us. And with the diversity you bring, we will together continue to build this special congregation!

With best wishes for a restful and healthy summer,

L'Shalom

Howard A. Kosovske

Join us for another Major Speakers night JDC Chief Henryka Manes to Speak on China Project

International director of one of the biggest and oldest Jewish charitable organizations in the U.S. will be in town June 16 to tell UJC members about a recently-launched project in Shanghai.

Ms Henryka Manes will speak June 16 following the Shabbat buffet supper in the American Club about a pilot program underway by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to aid the elderly, disabled, very young, and their parents in the HongKou district of China's biggest city.

Another objective of the grass-roots project is to help the Chinese develop educational activities for children with mental disabilities. JDC was requested by local partners to train teachers of the disabled in new special education methodologies and materials so that they might enrich existing programs and provide a model that could be replicated in other schools.

Rabbi and Barbara Kosovske, Al and Sharon Fine and Bob Green met with the mayor of HongKou District Huang Yuejin during the Congregation's recent Heritage Tour to learn more about the effort. By coincidence, this is also the district where the majority of Jewish refugees in Shanghai resided during World War II. The JDC project is expected to impact within the first year-and-a-half on around 850,000 people, the entire HongKou District population.

The JDC sent medical teams to Rwanda last August to aid refugees near Goma. The operation serves about 2,000 people per week, two medical stations in the outer reaches of the refugee camp, and a feeding program for orphaned babies. Additionally, JDC is implementing a sanitation/shelter project in Bukavu, Zaire where over 300,000 Rwandan refugees are living in squalid, disease-ridden camps. Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan is spearheading this effort, accompanied by a team of 14 Israeli and four American volunteers.

The JDC's Eye Treatment Project in Zimbabwe provides comprehensive eye treatment and care services for a population of approximately one million people in the Mashonaland Central Province of Zimbabwe.

'Projects in development' include agricultural and health care projects in India, the creation of small business centers in Argentina and Chile, instruction in modern agricultural techniques in Vietnam, and medical projects in the West Bank and Gaza.





To: The UJC Executive Committee

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the Committee's support of the first UJC young professionals event at the American Club. When Elane Fine and Mark Michelson contacted me on behalf of the board, I was glad to hear that the board members were interested in supporting a young professionals group. While the UJC offers a broad and diverse number of activities, there is definitely a need to have organized events tailored for younger people. Your sponsorship of this first event was a very positive step in that direction.

The first happy hour event was very successful. There were about 30 participants, and the majority stayed for the entire evening. The event was open to UJC and non-UJC members, and about half of those attending were non-members. For some, it was their first contact with The UJC. Others said they knew of The UJC, but had not participated in other events. Several said that they had an interest in joining. Many of those present said they were glad to see such a group being formed and that they were very interested in participating in future events.

Dan Kirwin and I helped to organize the first event, but our intent is that the focus, direction, and structure of the group should not be pre-supposed. We would like to form a steering committee of several interested persons and let that group be the starting point. There were about ten people who expressed an interest in being involved, and the first steering committee has been scheduled to take place soon.

Again, thank you for the UJC's sponsorship and support of this group.

Sincerely,
Edward Hoffman

To: Charles Berzon

Dear Charles,

As this letter is being typed at Sarah's desk, it occurs to me that I never personally thanked you for your very generous donation of this computer to The UJC. We are so very dependent upon the generosity of our members for the things that allow us to function as an effective congregation. We never seem to have the resources to acquire the things that it takes to generate the infrastructure that every business takes for granted. Therefore, when we receive items such as the computer you donated, we stop and take note.

We express our gratitude in Hebrew by saying, *todah rabbah*, which means, our deeply-felt thanks. That is what I say to you, coupled with my prayer that God continue to bless and prosper the works of your hands.

Howard A. Kosovske
Rabbi



New To Our Library

The UJC is happy to announce the donation of two excellent books to our library by longtime, non-resident members Clare F. and Stanley W. Morgenstern, members of The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Cleveland Ohio (founded in 1850!).

Reform Jewish Outreach: The Idea Book prepared by the Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. This well-researched publication offers advice on congregational programming strategy; integrating Jews-by-choice into the Jewish community; intermarried couples and their children; Jewish parents and grandparents of intermarried couples; the entire community; youth; and 'attitudes in transition.'

Working with Interfaith Couples: A Jewish Perspective prepared by the same organization as above is a guide for facilitators working in this area.

Cards & Letters (continued)

To: Bob Green and The UJC

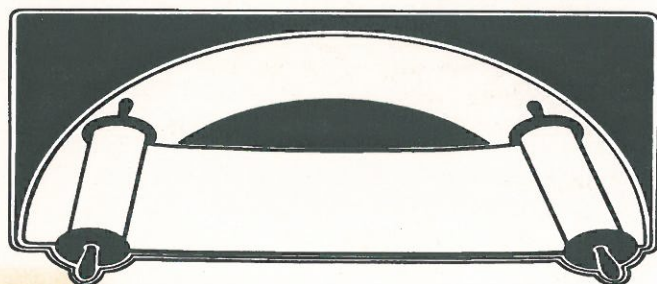
I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your sending me the detailed fax about my brother's funeral service. It is certainly a comfort to know that a fitting and dignified ceremony took place in the presence of fellow Jews, as well as many of his friends. I really do thank you for all you did, and would ask you to convey also to Rabbi Kosovske my thanks and appreciation for conducting the service.

Although [my brother] was not religious, we ourselves are quite orthodox and come from an orthodox family, and it means much to us that there should be some Jewish content in his last rites.

I do not think that I am likely to visit Hong Kong, but I imagine that it is quite possible that, Jerusalem being the 'centre' of the Jewish world, you and Rabbi Kosovske will be here sometime. If so, I hope that each of you will contact me, so that I can meet you and thank you in person.

Yours sincerely,
Marco Caine
Jerusalem

[Professor Marco Caine's brother, Harold Caine, a longtime resident, recently passed away here. The UJC assisted in arranging a funeral service at Professor Caine's request].



Boost in educational programming seen UJC to vote on proposed dues increase June 20

The bad news is that the annual membership fee must rise to cover expenses and new programs; the good news is that the new fees will include membership in a world-class Jewish community center.

That was the message sent out to UJC members together with the announcement of an Extraordinary General Meeting called for Tuesday, June 20 at the Jewish Club. The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M.; refreshments will be served from 6:30 P.M.

Under the proposal, individual membership will go up from \$1800 to \$2400 and family membership from \$3000 to \$4000. Members of the Executive Committee, in recommending the increase, said the new fees were still considerably lower than synagogue or temple membership in the U.S. and still represent 'the best bargain in town.'

A major thrust for the coming fiscal year will be in the area of children's education. Since it was established less than seven years ago, The UJC has steadily increased the range of its programming and activities to satisfy the diverse needs of its membership. In light of the large number of family members with young children, The UJC now recognizes the urgent need to expand educational programming for children.

The UJC will pay a 'per head' fee on behalf of each of its members for automatic membership in the Jewish Community Centre. Although this amount has not yet been decided by the JCC Working Group, 'the important thing to remember,' according to UJC chairman Bob Green, 'is that the proposed increase in dues cannot be directly correlated to the capitation fee. It is because The UJC exists as a recognized congregation with its full complement of religious services, programs, and activities — the expense of which all members must help bear — that this opportunity arises to also be a member of the JCC.' Mr. Green points out that although a limited number of JCC memberships will be available for persons who are not members of recognized Jewish congregations in Hong Kong, these memberships will cost more than it does to belong to The UJC.

The new Center will have a kosher restaurant, swimming pool, sauna and gym, Judaic library, and other well-equipped sports, social, educational, and recreational facilities — all administered by a staff of professionals. Rabbi and Mrs. Kosovske will be moving into an apartment at Robinson Place in July and most UJC functions will take place in the new complex starting from this fall.

Art Sought for Opening Celebration

The gala opening of the Jewish Community Centre at Robinson Place will be followed by a celebration of Jewish arts during the month of November. The event's organizers would like to create a members' art exhibit. Any Jewish artist who lives and or/works in Hong Kong is eligible. If you are interested in having your work displayed, call or fax Katia Citrin at 2899-0127 (phone/fax) or 2813-8290 (phone).

■ Karen Rushfield

The search for a Programme Director from the chairman . . .

'Changing the system' is the most difficult challenge many of us face in the course of our lives and jobs. It's no surprise, therefore, that we're inclined to admire someone who has tried or succeeded in doing just that 'against the odds.' I was reminded of this recently when I read about the unorthodox tactics adopted by Judge Wayne Gould to improve the efficiency of Hong Kong's court system. Unfortunately, Judge Gould was rewarded for his efforts by being removed from his post. Commenting on his demotion, Judge Gould said 'I paid for my principles.'

I don't think Judge Gould is Jewish, but he was doing nothing less than what all of us are commanded to do as Jews, as Rabbi Kosovske reminded us at the study session preceding our most recent Saturday morning Shabbat service. And that is '*tikkun olam*' — 'repair the world.' We'd like to think that instead of paying, we are rewarded for our principles or efforts to fix things up, but that's a subject for another time.

Our Jewish Community leaders face such a challenge in bringing together the diverse 'brands of Judaism' under one roof at the new Community Center and providing programs and activities that will appeal to the wide spectrum of interests. The Trustees have set the course and several key individuals have devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to implementing these objectives. Anne Godfrey has made the most noteworthy contributions in helping draft a constitution and bye-laws, finding a program director, shaping the transfer of functions from Melbourne Plaza to Robinson Place, and overseeing a myriad of other tasks. Trustee Robert Dorfman, chairman of the seven-member Jewish Community Center Working Group, has logged in a very impressive number of hours, Katria Citrin has had her hands full in planning the gala opening, Phyllis Gerstel has been generous with her time and skills, and Ivan Greenstein, Stuart Cotsen, Clive Grossman, and Michael Sandpearl have helped guide the process with valuable advice.

As commendable as all this hard work is, the ultimate success of the JCC may well rest on certain intangibles — vision, and the courage to implement bold, new ideas. There will always be resistance to attempts to 'change the system' or perform that most important *mitzva* of all, *tikkun olam*. The statement by UJC member Ben Frankel (see page 1) articulates these aspirations in a powerful and inspiring manner, immensely broadening the scope with which many of us had previously viewed this opportunity for living Jewishly far from the mainstream.

The search for a program director of The JCC takes on critical importance when we realize that these objectives can only be articulated through the person chosen for that post. Obviously, it's not easy to find someone with the requisite experience, learning, and wisdom who, at the same time, is still not reluctant to roll up his or her sleeves and get involved in 'hands-on' programming.

And yet, as urgent as the need is felt to find the 'right' person, given that the Centre will open this fall, it would be foolish to rush the process just for the sake of having someone in place. We have met two candidates with impressive credentials and there may even be several more before the search is concluded who deserve our consideration.

By staying the course the Trustees have set and implementing it through thoughtful consideration of the needs felt by all segments of the Community, the members of the JCC Working Group will be making that most important contribution of all to the success of the JCC — their choice for program director.

A Vision of HK's

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(continued from page 1)

A Program for the Hong Kong Community

It is elementary that the resources of the new Jewish Community Centre should be placed in the service of education — from the youngest children in the community to the most learned. This means providing resources and programming for the Ezekiel Abraham School; supporting, as the Trustees see fit, the efforts of the Carmel School; instituting youth and young adult education programs (which would include not only local programs but additionally, programs to meet Jewish youth elsewhere in Asia or travel to Israel); and offering adult education covering the entire gamut of Jewish history, culture, and religion.

Adult education comprehends programming that is both 'secular' and 'religious', scholarly and recreational. It includes thematic lecture series, weekend seminars, individual lectures, film and reading programs in such diverse areas as Zionism and Israel; Jewish history of all periods and cultures; Jewish rabbinic and secular literature and philosophy; and Jewish artistic expression (music, drama, visual arts, and crafts).

In order to truly serve as a 'centre' for the life of Jews resident in Hong Kong, programs at the new Jewish Community Centre should mirror and stimulate the diverse interests of the Jewish community and, equally important, should harness the diversity and talent that is available here in such abundance. To promote the greatest use of the Centre and the greatest amount of intercourse and good will among members of the Jewish community, it should take account of and cater to the preoccupations of Hong Kong residents. This means programming geared towards business and professional people: e.g., a Jewish Business Forum (consider the prodigious contributions that notable entrepreneurs, traders, bankers, retailers, etc. could make to such a forum and the kind of continuing interest there would be in programming for a Jewish 'Chamber of Commerce'); a Jewish Lawyers Roundtable, which would serve not only as a forum for exchanging information about the practice of law and jurisprudence in this region (no doubt of growing

interest in the run-up to 1997) but also serve as a vehicle for exploring, and educating the community about, Jewish principles of law and ethics. There are prominent Jewish members of the press and the media resident in Hong Kong for whom programming could be offered or who themselves could offer stimulating programs to the community at large.

The Jewish Community Centre should provide a support network for the non-working spouses of expats, with programming covering everything from getting settled in Hong Kong ('Jewish Welcome Wagon'), to Cantonese for Hebrew speakers, to 'Mommy & Me' classes. Again drawing on resources available here, there are unique programs that could and should be offered. For example, it is common for expats to develop an interest in collecting Asian art and artifacts. One imagines that there would be no dearth of expert art dealers in and around Hong Kong who would jump at the opportunity of offering their expertise to educate and network with the JCC membership.

The Jewish Community Centre should serve as clearing house for the different Jewish organizations in Hong Kong including the Jewish Women's Association, the synagogues and congregations of Hong Kong, Carmel School, the United Israel Appeal, and other philanthropic organizations. In particular, the JCC should define for itself a visible role in social welfare and charitable works in the local and international community.

A Realizable Goal

The foregoing vision sets ambitious but realizable goals. With the proper leadership and energetic participation of the Trustees and community members, such a program, supported by a world-class facility, will be a magnet for all Jewish residents of Hong Kong and a force for harmony in the Jewish community here and elsewhere.

The Programme Director will be the linchpin of this undertaking. The Trustees, by their efforts to date, have set the stage. Realizing their objectives for the JCC, in this community, at this time, requires a Programme Director of uncommon talents. Such an individual must be

highly-educated, experienced, imaginative, resourceful, diplomatic, and self-assured — in short, a seasoned veteran.

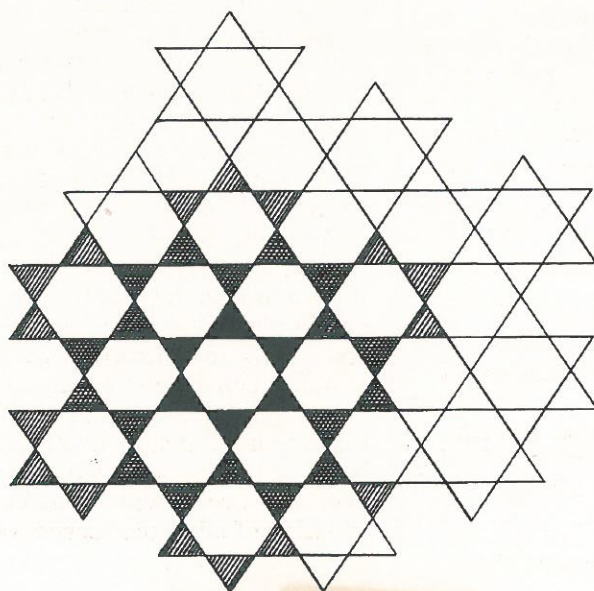
The burden of recruiting a Programme Director capable of meeting the challenges and realizing the opportunities is magnified by the fact the the JCC is entirely new. The course set by the incoming Programme Director will have a profound influence on the JCC's longer-term success or failure. Under these circumstances, we should spare no effort, and invest the time and resources necessary to recruit the most outstanding candidate available.

UJC member

Ben Frankel

takes a look

at the future



Members Dedicate *Haggadot*

Thanks to a subsidy by member Martin Berman and contributions from UJC members, the Congregation celebrated the festival of Pesach with 300 new *haggadot* — *The Gates of Freedom* — at our community seder. Those contributing were:

BERNARD ALTER
DR. TED AXLER
JOYCE BARNATHAN & STEVE STRASSER
ARTHUR BELFER & FAMILY
MARTIN BERMAN & FAMILY
CAROL BETSON & HENRY R. GOLDSTEIN
BLINDERMAN FAMILY
CARA CASE
SEAN & JENNIFER DEBOW
MAGGIE EISEMAN
JASON R. FELTON & FAMILY
ELANE & JOE FINE
MAUREEN & JONATHAN FOX
TAMIMA FRIEDMAN & DAN ROSENBLUM
PHYLLIS GERSTELL
MARLENE & BARRY GOLD
BOB & GRACE GREEN
BOB & REBECCA HAASE
NANCY & JEFF HALPERN
TERRI HIRSCHFIELD
PETER & APRIL KAMINSKY
LISA KASTEN
CHAIM KATZAP
DENNIS & MARY LEVENTHAL
SAUL LOCKHART
JOYCE, DAVIE, ARIEL & JED LINDORFF
SUSAN LOWENSTEIN
BASIL & DEBBIE MARCUS
ROBERT L. MEYER
BERNARD & RUTH MILLER
STEPHANIE MITCHELL
WILLIAM MOCATTA
CHARLES S. MONAT
DIANNE & LEN PATSINER
ROSS POLLACK
CLARE M. RAY
REBECCA ROBBINS
MEL & DIANA SATOK
SUSAN SCHOENFELD
TAMAR SHAY
RON & LOIS SHULMAN
LINDA SIMON
PERRY & SONJIE SOLOMON
MICHELLE & STEVEN SPERBER
PAUL THEIL
GARY & PEGGY WEISS
STEPHANE & SOPHIE WILMET
WENDY ZAMAN
ROSANNE ZIMMERMAN

Welcome New Members

Steve Schechter (USA)

computer consultant with Sybase; *si/ps: computers

Patricia Erens (USA)

professor at University of Hong Kong; formerly member of Temple Emanuel in Chicago; si/ps: film

Cynthia Rosenfeld (USA)

banker, EXOR Asia

* s.i./p.s. = special interests, professional skills

Judaica Library on the Move

As a kind of 'sign of the times,' the Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong (JHS) has packed up all the books and materials in the Judaica Library for moving to the new Jewish Community Centre (JCC) on Robinson Road by 'mid-July.' Yes! It's really happening!

JHS Chairman, Dennis Leventhal, and JHS Projects Director, Tamar Shay, have already checked out the new JCC Judaica Library space and its planned layout. Both agree that it will be a very welcoming, comfortable, well-lit, and 'user-friendly' facility.

As a small hint about the new library, Tamar remarked that there will be wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling book shelves, a classic spiral staircase, and cherry wood tables.

■ submitted by The Jewish Historical Society

China Issues New Regulations Regarding Religious Affairs

With the increasing level, and variety, of Jewish involvement in the PRC, it is necessary to be aware of the regulatory framework of religious affairs in China.

On December 31, 1994, the PRC State Council promulgated a regulation entitled 'Administration of Religious Activities of Foreign Nationals in the PRC.'

In effect, the law allows foreigners to 'hold religious activities' in prescribed places approved by the Chinese Government. Specifically, however, it prohibits foreign nationals from establishing 'religious organizations, offices, activity venues or institutes within the PRC, convert Chinese citizens, appoint clergy or carry out other preaching activities.'

There are also prohibitions on 'carrying religious printed, audio or video articles with contents harmful to the public interest of Chinese society into the PRC.'

The statute notes that foreigners will be 'penalized by the public security authority' for violations of these laws and may even be prosecuted for criminal liability 'where such offence constitutes a crime'.

Another new regulation deals with 'donations to venues for religious activities from religious organizations and individuals outside the PRC.'

The Religious Affairs Department of the PRC State Council is named as 'the final interpreting authority' for these laws.

■ Based on information submitted by Dennis Leventhal, from his reading of the newly-published *Encyclopedia of Chinese Law, Volume II: June 1993 to December 1994* (Hong Kong: Asian Law & Practice Ltd., 1995).

Mazel Tov!

Martha & Joe Josephson, on the birth of their daughter **Zoe**
Brad Frishberg & Amy Siegal on their engagement

Thanks!

Charles Berzon for donating a computer, monitor, and printer
Al & Sharon Fine and Clare Ray for co-sponsoring a Saturday Shabbat service at the HK Yacht Club
Three anonymous donors who sponsored a Saturday Shabbat service
Sonia Park, Susie Schwartz, Cara Case, Barbara Kosovske, Karen Rushfeld & Ann Friedman for helping with mailings
Ben Frankel for the endless hours he has spent assisting in the search for a program director for the new Jewish Community Centre
Maureen Fox, Diana Satok, Jody Kuzmik, Maggie Eisemann, Lisa Kasten, Sharon Fine, Janet Golden and Barbara Kosovske for all their help with the seder.
Susan Millodot for providing candles and candlesticks at the LRC
Robert Meyer for his donation in honor of Jane & Neal Horowitz's marriage
Sean & Jenifer Debow for their donation in honor of Brad Frishberg and Any Siegal's engagement
Diana Satok, Sharon Fine, Ed Hoffman, Karen Rushfeld, Dan 'Bruce' Kirwin, Barbara Kosovske and all the others who have helped collect for the Shabbat buffet
Diana Satok & Sharon Fine for their help with the Shabbat buffet vouchers
Charles Monat and Robert Meyer for the use of their conference rooms
Rabbi and Barbara Kosovske for the use of their apartment for meetings
Len and Karen Rushfeld for use of their apartment for theatre nights
Ben Frankel for leading the June 8 Shabbat service
Alistaire Hayman for giving instruction on security matters
Carol Betson, Jennifer Debow, Rabbi and Barbara Kosovske, Cara Case and all the others on the Torah fundraising campaign for their hard work and dedication
Claire and Stan Morgenstern, for their donation of two books
Rabbi Leonid Feldman of Temple Emanuel, Palm Beach for his very interesting, entertaining talk at our Shabbat dinner
Leonard Roth for his generous donation to the David Green [Bob Green's brother] Memorial Prize at University of Cincinnati for a UC student to study the Holocaust this summer in Washington, D.C.
Edward Hoffman and Dan Kirwin for organizing the first Young Professionals event

Farewell

Richard and Naomi Mandel (moving to Tokyo). Best of luck on the forthcoming birth of their child.
Gerald Fleischer and Carolyn Boyum, returning to the U.S.

Condolences

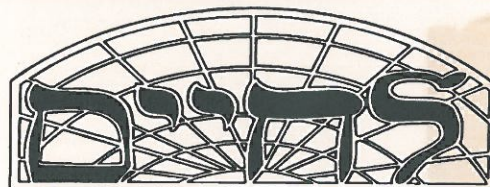
Basil & Debbie Marcus & family on the death of Basil's father
Ruth Miller on the death of her mother Annette Whyll

Prayerbook Bookplate Fund

Benjamin & Malvina Feinswog in honor of The UJC
Mel, Paulette & Haris for sponsoring three prayerbooks in memory of Morris, Fannie, and Richard

UJC Funds

There are many wonderful ways to honor, thank, and/or memorialize friends and loved ones in our tradition. One special way is to make a donation to one of the UJC Funds. There are the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund which is used by the Rabbi to subvent program expenses and help those who may need financial support to participate in a program; the Services Fund to help defray the expenses of renting function rooms for Shabbat and Holiday services; the Prayerbook Bookplate Fund which enables you to dedicate a prayerbook to a special person or event; the Rabbi's Fund and The UJC General Fund. Each of these funds have specific purposes which in the main help our Congregation with its expenses. Please consider a donation to a UJC Fund as a beautiful tribute to someone or something special.



The United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

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Heritage Tour Visits Old Jewish Sites in Shanghai

Thanks to organizers Al and Sharon Fine and Professor Pan Guang, the UJC Heritage Tour to Shanghai in early May was a great success.

The group of 22 members and friends visited a number of sites connected with the Jewish presence in Shanghai up to and during World War II — including a synagogue, the former home of the Kadoorie family (now the Children's Palace), The Jewish Club (now the Shanghai Conservatory of Music) and a home built by the Sassoon family. The group also visited a park in HongKou district where a monument inscribed in Hebrew, Chinese and English paying tribute to the humanity of the Chinese was recently dedicated. Professor Pan also gave the group a talk on the history of the Shanghai Jewish community.

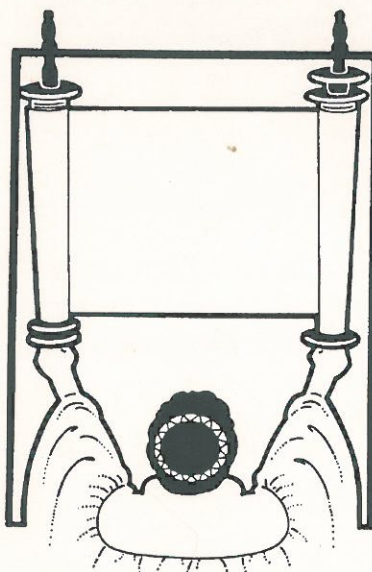
Some 25,000 Jews from Poland and Russia survived World War II in Japanese-controlled Shanghai where they were admitted without visas as stateless refugees. A 1938 policy statement specifically ordered Jews to be treated as any other foreign national. Although a ghetto was established in 1943, it was nothing like its horrific European counterparts. Food was adequate, seven yeshivas were allowed to function, there was a publication called *Unzer Leben* (Our Life) and the youth group Betar had a thriving chapter. Although German agents protested Japan's fair treatment of Jews, Japanese officials ignored their complaints.

Donations needed now Torah Fund Grows

Torah Fund organizers are still hoping that members who have not sent in donations will do so without delay in order to purchase a restored Torah in time for High Holiday services this fall. The present Torah being used by the Congregation, on loan from a congregation in Cincinnati, is very small and difficult to read.

The target for the fund is US\$30,000 which will be used to cover, in addition to the cost of the Torah, the expense of accoutrements and eventually, an ark.

To date, the fund has passed the half-way mark thanks to the generosity of members. This includes one, significant bellwether contribution. Donors will be invited to participate in the dedication ceremony.



Coming Events

Friday Night Services

Regular, Friday night Shabbat services conducted by Rabbi Howard Kosovske will continue throughout the summer at 6:45 P.M., preceded from 6:15 by a Shabbat fellowship gathering. Services are held at The American Club, Kam Shan Room, Exchange Square II, 49th floor, Central District, Hong Kong.

Services are followed by an Italian buffet supper. The cost for members is \$135.00 (children \$85.00) and \$150.00 for non-members (children \$100.00).

Join us for large-sized portions of delicious food, friendly people, and stimulating discussion. Make the UJC part of your family.

Saturday morning services

Saturday morning services preceded by study sessions will continue once-monthly at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club in Causeway Bay. A brunch buffet follows. The next service is scheduled for June 24, starting at 10:00 A.M. Members and visitors are encouraged to take their turn in sponsoring or co-sponsoring the brunch, the cost of which is normally around \$1,500. Please contact Rabbi Kosovske or Sarah to become a Shabbat buffet sponsor and perform a *mitzva* that will be appreciated by all.

Children's, adult programming

The summer schedule for children's and adult programming will be issued as a separate flyer in late June.

Cheese Blintzes

RECIPE FROM *The Spice and Spirit of Kosher Jewish Cooking*

Blintzes are a popular dish made of thin, square-shaped dough rolled with many possible fillings. Cheese blintzes are a special favorite on occasions like Shavuot when it is customary to eat a dairy dish. They are served hot, with sour cream or applesauce.

Batter:	4 eggs	1 tsp. salt	oil for frying
	1 cup flour	1 cup milk or water	
Filling:	1 1/2 lbs. dry cottage cheese	2 egg yolks	
	sugar and cinnamon to taste		

Batter: Beat eggs and salt, add flour alternately with milk. Heat oil in frying pan. Pour only enough batter to make a very thin pancake, tipping pan in all directions so that batter covers pan. Fry on one side until it blisters. Shake out onto waxed paper.

Filling: Combine filling ingredients and place one tablespoon of mixture on browned side of each pancake. Fold in sides to form a square. Brown in frying pan or broiler. Serve hot with sour cream or applesauce.

■ Borrowed from *Shofar*, the monthly publication of the Jewish Social Club in Manila.