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# ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

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T. KAUFMAN

The President of ICFS

## FROM THE DIARY OF THE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

### *Mr. Zhao Jun, the New Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Arrives in Israel*

This June Mr. Zhao Jun, the new Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Israel, presented his credentials to Mrs. Dalia Itzik, the Acting President of Israel.

The new Ambassador of China possesses a rich diplomatic career and for the last 31 years he held many important posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. For five



years Mr. Zhao Jun has been the Minister of China to England, and from 2001 till 2006 he was Director-General of the European department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

Mr. Zhao Jun is a highly educated and cultured person, has a perfect command of English and is a

very pleasant personality.

The Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel warmly welcome the new Ambassador and wish him every success in his important mission for strengthening friendly relations between China and Israel.

We greet the Ambassador with our traditional greeting to welcome those who arrive in Israel: "Baruch ha-ba"!

### *The Israeli Ambassador Returns Home*

In August Mr. Yehoyada Haim ended his five-year tenure in Beijing and returned home.

Five years of joint efforts in the field of strengthening our relations with China connect us with the Israeli Ambassador Yehoyada Haim. Our efforts for the restoration of the Jewish past in Harbin were especially fruitful - the Israeli ambassador manifested enormous activity on this subject over a

number of years . He participated in the work of all the three forums on the history of the Jews of Harbin, and also took part in forming a permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of former Harbin Jews, which is on display in the building of Harbin's "New Synagogue" .



Ambassador Yehoyada Haim also took an active part in the preservation of the synagogue in the city of Tianjin.

Mr. Yehoyada Haim's warm attitude regarding the Jewish past and his constant concern about its preservation are worthy to be noted, and for this we extend our deep gratitude to Ambassador Yehoyada Haim. We wish Mr. Haim and his wife Shoshana every further success in their life. Our feelings of warm friendship will always accompany them.



Mr. Amos Naday, the new Ambassador of Israel to China, visited Beit-Ponve and met with T. Kaufman and Y. Klein

### ***A MEETING WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF CHINA***

On July 3 the new Ambassador of China to Israel Mr. Zhao Jun met with T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and R. Veinerman, the leaders of Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society. The meeting took place at his Residence in Herzlia Pituach.

### ***A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO ISRAEL***

On July 9 a reception in honor of Mr. Zhao Jun, the new Ambassador of China to Israel, took place at his Residence in Herzlia Pituach. Members of the corps diplomatique in Israel, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and of wide circles of the Israeli public were present. Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society were represented by T. Kaufman and Y. Klein.

### ***BANQUET IN HONOR OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO ISRAEL***

On July 10 a banquet in honor of the new Ambassador of China to Israel, Mr. Zhao Jun, took place in Tel Aviv. The banquet was held by Mr. Shimon Peres, the President of Israel, who is also the honorable chairman of the Council for the Economic Cooperation of Israel with China. Present were twenty guests: officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, former ambassadors of Israel to China and representatives of important Israeli firms who have business with China. Igud Yotzei Sin and the Israel-China Friendship Society were represented by T. Kaufman.

### ***“BEIT-PONVE” HOSTED MR. AMOS NADAY, THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO CHINA***

Amos Naday, now occupying the post of Deputy General Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, was appointed the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Israel to the Peoples' Republic of China. The new Israeli Ambassador leaves for Beijing in August. In connection with his forthcoming departure from Israel Mr. Amos Naday visited "Beit-Ponve" where he met with Teddy Kaufman and Yossi Klein. T. Kaufman presented the Ambassador with his book "The Jews of Harbin Live on in my Heart" which was recently published in Chinese.

### ***CURRICULUM VITAE OF MR. ZHAO JUN, THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO ISRAEL***

Zhao Jun, male, born in November 1954, Hebei Province, Bachelor Degree.

- 1976 – 1981 Staff Member of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Malta
  - 1981 – 1986 Staff Member, Attache and Third Secretary of the Department of West European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
  - 1986 – 1992 Third Secretary and Second Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Malta
  - 1992 – 1996 First Secretary, Deputy Director and Director of the Department of West European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
  - 1996 – 2001 Counsellor, Minister Counsellor, Minister of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
  - 2001 – 2004 Director General of the Department of West European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
  - 2004 – 2006 Director General of the Department of European Affairs
  - 2006 - Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
- He is married and has one son.

## To Shanghai with Love

Ruth Shany, a renowned Israeli painter, greeted every Shanghai friend with "Nong hao va?" ("How are you?" in Shanghai dialect) after returning to the city that was a haven for her family nearly 70 years ago.

At the renovated building in Hongkou District where Shany used to live, the 84-year-old painter found an 87-year-old Shanghai lady who has been living there for many years.

Ruth Shany searches for traces of her home in the Hongkou District of Shanghai where her family took refuge from Nazi persecution nearly 70 years ago.

She held the granny's hands for a long time, tears brimming in her eyes.

"I am so grateful to the city, the only place which opened its arms to the Jewish refugees during World War II," said Shany.

While holding her solo exhibition in Beijing's XYZ Gallery, Shany spared three days from her China tour to travel around Shanghai.

She said that the city held a number of wonderful memories for her and used the word "unbelievable" to describe the refuge her family found here.

Shany was born to a Jewish mother in Berlin, Germany. When the Nazis headed by Adolph Hitler came to power in 1933, Shany's family left Germany and moved to Prague, in former Czechoslovakia.

A year later, Hitler announced that the Jews were welcome to return to Germany where they could live in peace. Shany's father, a soldier who served in the German Army, took his family back. But after five years, the family could no longer take life under the Nazis.

In February 1939, the Shany family boarded an Italian ship and landed in Shanghai after three weeks. Starting their life in a new country was not easy. All their properties were gone and they lived in Heim (temporary lounge) with other refugees.

In 1941, after they found a small room to live in, Shany's mother became sick with a tropical disease and died.

"Although our lives were full of hardships, we were treated in a friendly way in the neighborhood," Shany recalled.

She supported herself as a waitress in a Japanese restaurant in the now Nanjing Donglu Street.

The owner of the restaurant was a kind soul and Shany even started learning Chinese silk painting under Japanese art professor Taishi Nishio.

While learning Chinese, she visited galleries, went to concerts and cinemas and began appreciating the beauty of Shanghai.

"May the Earth Bear Living Creatures", one of the eight paintings of Ruth Shany's "My Creation" series.

Nanjing Lu, Babbling-Well Street (now Nanjing Xilu near

the Jing'an Temple which was called the Babbling-Well Temple) would always stay in her memories, she said.

When the State of Israel was established, Shany, then 26, moved to Israel and settled down.

Shany said her family is inexplicably tied to Shanghai.

Her son Daniel Wachsmann, who would grow up to become a film-maker, was born in the Wardwall Hospital which was on today's Changyang Lu.

"I wish I can show him the place where he was born the next time I come to Shanghai," she said.

Incidentally, her son's film "The Chosen" was screened at the first Shanghai International Film Festival in 1993.

During her three-day stay in Shanghai, Shany traveled mainly in Hongkou District where most of the 20,000 Jewish people stayed during World War II.

When Shany tried to find the restaurant where she once worked, she learned it had closed down in 1943, a year before she got married.

Shany has a studio in the city of Safed, which is situated in the beautiful Galilee area. She continues to paint using her special style-rich colors on silk, which she learnt in China.

Her Beijing exhibition includes 56 paintings, including her favorite series "My Creation" and other pieces on flowers, plants and scenery.

Several years ago, she and her husband spent two weeks on the shores of the Dead Sea. One night, she woke up and could not fall asleep again. She sat down at the window and looked out into the night.

There were millions of stars illuminating the dark blue, almost black, sky. Shany was struck by the fantastic sight amid the total silence of the night.

"I do not know how long I sat there until I noticed the appearance over the Moab mountains of a reddish stripe that gradually became larger and brighter. Breathless, I watched the wonderful display of colors and the thought came to me that creation must have begun this way," she said.

She took out her Bible and re-read the chapter on the creation of the world in seven days. "Moved by an inner urge, I painted My Creation, reflecting the wonder I had experienced."

She did not sleep for days until she had completed the eight paintings.

Her exhibition entitled "Back to China with Love" will continue at XYZ Gallery in Dashanzi of northeastern Beijing until Saturday.

"I regard it as a return to where my artistic journey began and I am honored to show my work to the Chinese people," she said.

(China Daily)

# THE THIRD FORUM ON THE HISTORY OF T

## 哈尔滨与世界犹太人经济



*Mr. Feng Zuoku, the Vice President of the Chinese Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries, met with Y. Klein and R. Veinerman*

# THE JEWS OF HARBIN June 2007, Harbin

## 经贸合作国际论坛代表合影

2007. 06. 16



人经贸合作国际论坛  
Economic Cooperation With World Jewry

Hosted by:  
Heilongjiang Provincial People's Government

Organized by:  
Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences  
Embassy of Israel in China

Sponsored by:  
Israel - China Friendship Society



*Teddy Kaufman's book "The Jews of Harbin Live on in My Heart" was published in Harbin in Chinese.*

# Ceremony Inaugurating the Elders Activity Center in Hongkou -

*(Speech by Mr. Uri Gordon, Consul General of the State of Israel in Shanghai on Israel's 59th Independence Day)*

## **Embracing the Elderly of Hongkou**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and thank you for coming.

Long after we will all be gone, the story of the Jews finding refuge in Shanghai will remain a corner stone in the mutual history of Israel and China. We will never forget that Shanghai was one of the very few places where Jews could flee to during the Nazi persecution.

Many of the 20,000 Jews, who came before and during WWII, can still recall their sense of helplessness - of having "nowhere to go". Unlike previous waves of migration (which numbered ~7000), this wave was big, penniless and arrived at a time when housing, food and work were hard to come by also for the local population.

The Chinese residents of Hongkou were charitable, taking them in and sharing the little that they had with the Jewish refugees in such difficult times. This was indeed exceptional and left these refugees, that are now scattered all over the world, with a special corner in their hearts that remains forever Shanghaiese.

To quote a friend and former refugee, who visited Shanghai last week: "For the Jewish refugees from Europe fleeing the persecution of the Nazis, the encounter with their Chinese neighbors, who were themselves suffering under occupation, was a warm and surprising welcome. Perhaps the shared experience of suffering was a bond that transcended the language and cultural gap."

This year the Consulate General of Israel decided to mark Israel's 59th Independence Day by giving something back to the elderly people of Hongkou District, who took in the Jews during those difficult times.

I am honored today to have here representatives from some of the 26 Israeli companies who contributed generously to the renovation of the Elders' Activity Center (behind me) and equipping it with new furniture, computers, a library, facilities for entertainment, and medical equipment. This morning, we will also be donating a collection of translated Israeli books to the library here.

Huoshan Park is also a symbolic location as it was the place where Jews and Chinese spent their afternoons, during times when there was little or no work - sharing this space and passing the time. I am happy to see that it continues to be a lively area today, where residents enjoy leisure activities, and I hope that in its new incarnation,

the building and facilities will add more joy to their lives.

The renovation of this Activity Center is one of a number of projects we hope to contribute to; we consider the people-to-people activities as an ongoing process, contributing to the excellent relationship between Israel and China.

In this spirit, some of the remaining funds from this project will be donated to Hongkou District Social Welfare House and additional projects are in the planning.

On behalf of the Jewish Refugees and the State of Israel, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the elderly citizens of this district and Shanghai. We wish you good health and a long life.

Lastly, I would like to thank District Mayor Yu who selected this project, inspired all ranks of his municipality and led them in a dedicated and professional collaboration, investing time, resources and energies.

And of course - We wish to thank the Shanghai Charity Foundation and Ms. Xia for their support throughout. I would also like to thank the people of the Hongkou FAO who made the project happen, under the leadership of Mr. Chen. Our thanks also go to the Tilanqiao Community Office for their sound cooperation.

Mostly, I would like to thank all of you for coming here today, to celebrate our mutual history and the friendship between Israel, the Jewish People and China.

Thank you.



Mr. Uri Gordon receives from the Vice President of the Charitable Association of Shanghai a Diploma in acknowledgment of the donation.

On the right is the Director General of the Foreign Office of Shanghai.



Mr. Uri Gordon  
at the Memorial Plaque.



Presentation of the cheque in the amount of 666,666 yuan – the donation from Israeli business people and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel.



The Assembly Hall

## *Jews will never forget Harbin, says envoy*

**Li Fangchao**

HARBIN: Yehoyada Haim has been in China for five years as Ambassador of Israel, but regrets not having visited more cities in the country.

However, this is his sixth visit to Harbin, capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

He has a deep attachment for this northern city, which once provided shelter for thousands of Jews fleeing from atrocities.

"Harbin is a place I feel at home," he said.

This strong bond originates from a time in history Jews will never forget.

From the late 19th to mid 20th century, more 20,000 Jews fled to Harbin to escape the anti-Jewry tide in Russia and elsewhere in Europe.

They were treated well in Harbin, and contributed to its development from a small town into a metropolitan city, said Qu Wei, president of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences.

"The Chinese and Jews built a deep friendship here, and it has received worldwide recognition," Qu said.

Though Haim has no close ties with Harbin, he said its history with the Jews always fascinates him.

"What Harbin has done does not have a parallel in the world. I don't think there is another city which has a Jewish cemetery, a Jewish synagogue, and honors the legacy of the Jewish community as Harbin does," he said.

The Huangshan Jewish cemetery in the city is the biggest

in the Far East. More than 600 Jews are buried there.

The incumbent Prime Minister Ehud Olmert paid a visit to his father's grave in the cemetery in 2004.

Though all the Jews who once lived in Harbin returned to Israel when the country was established, they are still willing to be known as "Harbin Jews".

As a Jew and an ambassador, Haim said he is doing his best to encourage Israel companies to return and invest in Heilongjiang.

"I take every opportunity to tell Israelis that there is a city, Harbin, in China, that once helped the Jews," he said.

With his help, an Israeli company built greenhouses in the province last year. Another company is planning to invest in a dairy farm.

Haim said he recently introduced an Israeli businessman to government officials of Heilongjiang. The businessman wants to invest 2 billion yuan (\$258 million) in the province.

That is only the first stage of potential investments amounting to 10 billion yuan, he said.

"I have fulfilled my job," said Haim, who will end his tenure in the country this summer and return to Israel.

He said he might take up a teaching job and probably write a book about China.

"Of course, I will come to China again as long as I am invited," Haim said.

(China Daily)

# Cordial Greetings to the Forum in Harbin in June 2007

Officials of the Heilongjiang Province and the Harbin municipality, President of the Academy of Social Sciences of the Heilongjiang Province, and Chairman of the Center for Research on the Jews of Harbin, Forum participants, and my dear friends from Harbin:

Unfortunately, for reasons beyond my control, for the first time I have been unable to participate in the Forum dedicated to improving relations between Harbin, the city that I love, and Israel and the Diaspora.

I asked the deputy president of the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel, my friend Yossi Klein, to take my place, and represent me personally at this important meeting in Harbin. I am convinced that his eminent talent will enable him to perform this task excellently and competently.

This is the third time – the first being in 2004, and the second being in 2006 – that a meeting has taken place at the initiative of the Academy of Social Sciences of Heilongjiang Province and the Harbin municipality with the aim of tightening the connections of the city of Harbin with Israel, and with Jews from Harbin in Israel and in the Diaspora.

Harbin is linked to Jewish people, not only as a city that embraced thousands of Jewish refugees from all over Russia, but also as a city that from its earliest days saw constructive activity of Jews in all areas of life. They were among the pioneers from the moment the city was founded. They built infrastructure for industry, lay the foundations for commerce, and took an active part in the development of culture in the city.

Harbin today is a metropolis – one of the most important cities in industry, commerce, and culture. It is the capital of northeastern China. Two cities in modern China played key roles in the development of the country: Shanghai in the south, and Harbin in the north.

Jewish entrepreneurs from Israel, the United States and other countries have returned to Shanghai, and

2,000 Jews now live there. This entrepreneurship is now also making its way to Harbin, which has done much to preserve the rich Jewish past in the city. President Qu Wei and his colleagues deserve credit and respect for this. For me, this Forum has a special meaning, because it is connected to the publication of my book about the history of the Jews of Harbin, which has been published in Israel in Hebrew and English. The Academy of Social Sciences is now going to publish a Chinese translation of my book.

For the publication of my book in Hebrew and English, I must thank my friend Yossi Klein. I deeply thank my friend from Harbin, Mr. Qu Wei, for the publication of the book in Chinese. For me, the publication of my book in Harbin in Chinese is a cause for celebration – a great holiday. As a native of this unique city, it is dear to me, and shall always remain with me, even though it has been many years since I lived there.

Many thanks to you, my dear friends, and may the Forum be successful. Although I am physically far away from you, I am with you in my thoughts and my soul, former residents of the city. It is possible to live other than in Harbin, but a Harbinite will always remain a Harbinite, wherever he is.

Your friend,

Teddy Kaufman

President of the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Resident of China in Israel

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