



Jewish refugees outside the gates of the Japanese Consular Office, Kovno, Lithuania, July 1940.

## The Story of Jewish Refugees who Escaped to Shanghai

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, in collaboration with Winnipeg's Chinese and Japanese communities, has created a unique exhibit, *Shanghai Connection*, the story of some of the 18,000 Jewish refugees of the Holocaust who escaped to Shanghai from 1939-40 at the onset of the Second World War.

The exhibit has important local significance because members of at least three Winnipeg families who fled to Shanghai, now live in Winnipeg.

Shanghai became a refuge, mainly due to efforts of diplomats in Europe who issued visas allowing thousands of European Jews to escape Nazi-occupied Europe. Two of those diplomats – one Chinese, one Japanese – issued many of those visas and their story is profiled in this exhibition.

The exhibition brings together material from *Visas for Life* in San Francisco, The *Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre*, and the *Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada* and provides:

- An account of Jewish life in Shanghai
- Profiles of the two life-saving diplomats
- Personal experiences of the Winnipeg families in Shanghai.

This 10-week, free exhibit is supported by lectures, film presentations, panel discussions and family activities designed to enrich understanding and discussion.

**Don't miss this unique opportunity!**

## Shanghai Connection Program

<b>Jan. 21</b>	Noon	Exhibit Opens
<b>Feb. 8</b>	7:30 p.m.	Lecture by Professor Pan Guang <i>Berney Theatre</i>
<b>Feb. 22</b>	7:30 p.m.	Documentary Film: <i>The Visas that Saved Lives Story of Chiune Sugihara</i> (Japanese with English Subtitles) <i>Freeman Holocaust Educational Centre</i>
<b>Mar. 4</b>	7:30 p.m.	Lecture by Manli Ho (daughter of Consul General Feng Shan Ho) <i>Berney Theatre</i>
<b>Mar. 18</b>	7:30 p.m.	Japanese Community Event (everyone welcome) <i>Multi-purpose Room</i>
<b>Mar. 22</b>	7:30 p.m.	Documentary Film: <i>The Visas that Saved Lives</i> (see Feb. 22 details above)
<b>Mar. 25</b>	Noon	Opening Doors – Cross-cultural panel discussion about the shared immigration experience <i>Berney Theatre</i> (with a separate children's program)
<b>Jan. 28 to Mar. 25 Sundays</b>	Noon	Sunday Stories (children 5 and up) One-hour cross-cultural story and craft program involving the Chinese, Japanese and Jewish Communities (Pre-registration required – call 477-7460)

**All venues listed are at the Asper Jewish Community Campus  
123 Doncaster Street**

Creating a Refuge during the Holocaust

# SHANGHAI connection

January 21 to March 30, 2001

Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada at the Asper Jewish Community Campus  
123 Doncaster Street

*Parking available on site*  
Admission: Free (Donations accepted)

### Museum Hours

Sunday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Monday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	Closed

### Honourary Chairs

Yoshimaru Abe  
Harold Buchwald, C.M., Q.C.  
Joseph N.H. Du, C.M., M.D.

### Project Co-Chairs

The Honourable Pearl McGonigal, C.M.  
William Norrie, C.M., Q.C., Honourary Consul General of Japan

### Committee

Marjorie Blankstein, C.M.      Phillip Chang  
Phillip Lee, C.M.                  Arthur Miki, C.M.  
Roz Usiskin

*A Joint Project of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada/Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens Association, and Winnipeg Chinese Cultural & Community Centre*

### For more information:

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# SHANGHAI connection



**Exhibition** January 21 to March 30, 2001

**Marion and Ed Vickar  
Jewish Museum of Western Canada**



*This exhibition demonstrates the power of an individual to rise above cultural differences, fear and circumstance, to act in support of human rights against powerful adversaries.*

## TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

### A Race for Survival

At the onset of the Second World War anti-Semitism was rife in Europe and Jews were openly persecuted. In this dark and threatening atmosphere one promise of hope was available – escape through emigration. Unfortunately most countries severely limited immigration and closed their doors to desperate Jews seeking escape.

### Shanghai – A Safe Haven

Shanghai, China however, did not require visas or other documents for entry. So, as long as Jews could get out of Europe, the Chinese city provided a safe, if somewhat unlikely destination. But a barrier to freedom still remained – the Nazi regime wouldn't allow Jews to leave without visas as proof of emigration, and they were almost impossible to obtain.

### Some Diplomats were in a Unique, but Risky Position to Help

A small number of diplomats posted to Nazi-occupied countries saw the Nazi's disturbing treatment of Jews with concern and foreboding. They recognized they were in a unique position to help. Acting selflessly, courageously and often without official permission, they decided to take matters into their own hands and issued the visas that allowed Jews to escape to safe havens.



*Shanghai teachers with their Jewish students, including one who now lives in Winnipeg*



*"I thought it only natural to feel compassion and want to help."  
-Consul General Dr. Feng Shan Ho*

### In the Spirit of Raoul Wallenberg

The *Shanghai Connection* is a story in the humanitarian tradition of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat whose celebrated wartime efforts saved thousands of Jews.

It's the story of two other lesser-known diplomats, Chinese Consul General Dr. Feng Shan Ho working in Vienna, Austria and Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara working in Kovno, Lithuania these men transcended fear, cultural differences and the restrictions of their diplomatic missions to thwart the Nazi machine, when few others could or would.

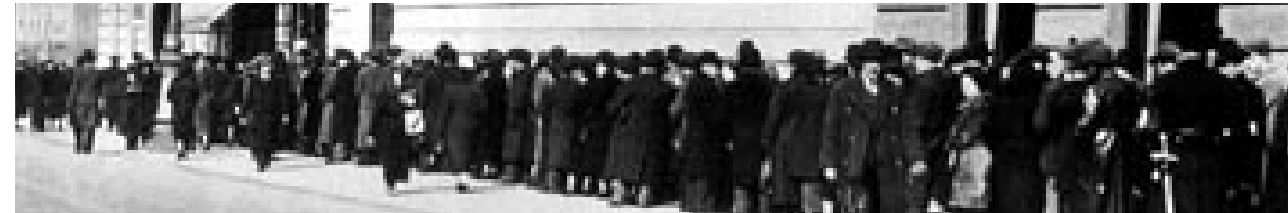
*"I may have to disobey my government, but if I don't I would be disobeying God."  
- Consul Chiune Sugihara*



They were responsible for issuing many of the visas that contributed to the effort that eventually allowed more than 18,000 Jews to flee Europe for Shanghai – a city that took in more Jewish refugees than all of the commonwealth countries combined.

### Shanghai Refugees are Alive in Winnipeg

Members of three Winnipeg families were among those who fled to China during the war. Day-to-day, throughout the second world war they lived the Shanghai experience, and their personal stories help bring the exhibition to life.



*Desperate Jews besiege the consulate to plead for visas and safety for their families*

### Each of Us Can Make a Difference

Over sixty years have passed, but this story is still relevant today. In Manitoba and Canada, tolerance and understanding of others and the recognition of fundamental human rights, irrespective of national or cultural background, is what our country and our community must value and strengthen. This story is a powerful example of how each of us can make a difference with results that can reverberate far into the future.

The humanitarian spirit of the diplomats is celebrated today, not only in the exhibition, but also through the cooperation and cross-cultural collaboration of the three communities that have worked together to bring this exhibition to Winnipeg and Manitoba.



*A single stamp was often the difference between freedom or death*

**The funders for the *Shanghai Connection* project:** Canada Millennium Partnership Program, Canadian Heritage, Canadian Race Relations Foundation, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Culture Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Labour (Citizenship and Multiculturalism Division), CRB Foundation, The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, The Thomas Sill Foundation and The Winnipeg Foundation.



*Visas like these allowed many Jews to reach safety in Shanghai*