



COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY

**UCLA CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES TO HOST BOB LARRSON**



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With the Introduction by Samuel Aroni (UCLA), the discussion "Preserving Jewish Memories and Heritage in the Urban Environment of Three Cities Hit by the Holocaust and Forced Migrations" will be co-hosted by the "1939" Club Lecture in Holocaust Studies.

Before the Holocaust, Jews were the largest or second largest ethnic group in Lviv (Lemberg), Chernivtsi (Czernowitz, Cernivci), and Chisinau (Kishinev), having a significant role in all fields of daily city life.

These traditionally multi-ethnic cities, today belonging to Ukraine or Moldova, were included in the Soviet Union from Poland or Romania after World War II. The present city environment still strongly reflects the Jews and other vanished population groups. What about the future? This is a challenge for urban planning and preservation policy.

Other co-sponsors of the event include UCLA Department of History UCLA Department of Urban Planning, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, UCLA Center for European and Eurasian Studies. Pre-registration is required at (310) 267-5327 to RSVP.

**THE SHANGHAI MIRACLE AND ITS COSMOPOLITAN CONTEXT**

Jewish Refugees in Shanghai (1933-1941) exhibition will run at Hillel of UCLA from Oct. 27 through Dec.14. It is free and open to the public Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From 1933 to 1941, Shanghai became a modern-day "Noah's Ark" accepting Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust in Europe. Most were from Germany and Austria, but the refugees also included students of the famed Mir Yeshiva.

In the "Designated Area for Stateless Refugees" in Tilanqiao area of Shanghai, 18,000 Jewish refugees lived harmoniously with local citizens, overcoming numerous difficulties together. Though the living conditions were not comfortable, most of the Jewish refugees survived and many went on to have remarkable lives. Holocaust historian David Kranzler called it the "Miracle of Shanghai."

Jewish Refugees in Shanghai (1933-1941), an exhibition at Hillel of UCLA, will bring together for the first time photos, personal stories, and artifacts from Shanghai's Jewish Refugee Museum, located in the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue in the Tilanqiao Historic Area. Former "Shanghaiers" now living in Southern California also loaned their own memorabilia for display at the opening celebration at 4:30 p.m., Oct. 27. A satellite exhibit at UCLA's Young Research Library features related items from the library's collection.

"Cosmopolitan Shanghai," an international conference on Shanghai culture beginning at 11 a.m., Oct. 27, will help to put this extraordinary exhibition in context. Speakers will explore models for promoting cross-cultural understanding and exchanges, using the Shanghai experience prior to 1949 as a critical foundation. Panelists will focus on the music, literature, visual arts and urban culture of the 1920s, 30s and 40s and the interchange between Chinese and Western elements.

The conference will include two panels: "Cosmopolitan Sounds and Jewish Music in Pre-1949 Shanghai," at 11 a.m. with presentations on "Shanghai as the Cradle of Chinese Modern Musical Culture;" "Reconstructing the Vanished Musical Life of the Shanghai Jewish Diaspora Community;" and "A Jewish Composer's Devotion to Chinese Music in 1930s Shanghai: Introducing Aaron Avshalomov and his Compositions." After lunch, a second panel, titled "Shanghai -- Modern Metropolis in Transnational Perspectives" will begin at 2 p.m. with presentations on "The City beyond the Pale: Migrants and the Urban Cosmopolitan Fantasy in Film," "News and Capital in Shanghai: Cosmopolitan and National Imaginaries," and more. Presenters and moderators include Tang Yating (Shanghai Conservatory of Music), Li Qi (UCLA), Helen Rees (UCLA), Yomi Braester (U. of Washington), Bryna Goodman (U. of Oregon), Wen-hsin Yeh (UC Berkeley), David N. Meyers (UCLA), and R. Bin Wong (UCLA). An opening celebration will follow at 4:30 p.m. with remarks from dignitaries and several "Shanghaiers" currently living in Los Angeles.

The international educational and professional development organization, Facing History and Ourselves, will use the exhibition as a tool for teaching Los Angeles middle and high school students about history, compassion and creativity. A workshop for educators on Sunday Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. will explore the personal narratives of rescuers and survivor testimonies, classroom strategies for engaging students and a visit to the exhibit itself.

This unique collaboration is presented by the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, Hillel at UCLA, and the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum. Cosponsors include Hillel's Dortort Center for Creativity and the Arts, UCLA Confucius Institute, UCLA Center for Chinese Studies and the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office of Hongkou District. Additional sponsors are the UCLA Department of History, UCLA Department of Germanic Languages, the UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology, and the UCLA Library, as well as the German Consulate in Los Angeles, the Goldrich Family Foundation, Stephen O. Lesser, the "1939" Club, Facing History and Ourselves, and the Natalie Limonick Fund.

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**JEWISH EDUCATOR AWARDS SURPRISE TOP TALENT AT FOUR SCHOOLS**

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\* Deborah Raskin, principal at Or HaChaim Academy, an Orthodox elementary school for girls and boys with a middle school for boys in North Hollywood.

\* Mickey Rabinov, Hebrew and Judaic studies teacher and administrator, at Beth Hillel, a K-6 Reform Jewish day school in Valley Village.

\* Osnat Bernstein, middle school Hebrew teacher at Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School, a K-8 Jewish community school in Northridge.

\* Benny Ferdman, founding artistic director and performing arts teacher for grades 9-12 at New Community Jewish High School in West Hills.

During all-school assemblies at each campus, Milken Family Foundation Executive Vice President Richard Sandler, who also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation involved students in the presentation, together with BJE Executive Director Dr. Gil Graff.

The Jewish Educator Awards initiative was established in 1990 by the Milken Family Foundation, in cooperation with BJE: Builders of Jewish Education, to provide public recognition and unrestricted \$15,000 cash awards to teachers, administrators and other education professionals in the Greater Los Angeles area who have made significant contributions to excellence in day schools affiliated with BJE.

According to Sandler, "The Jewish Educator Awards call upon others in the profession to emulate the high standards of those we honor today -- educators whose intelligence, scholarship, creativity and compassion help guide children to greater success, while preserving the heritage that gives meaning to that success."

Award recipients are selected by a committee of educators, professional and lay leaders from the Jewish community. To be eligible for consideration, educators must teach a minimum of 15 hours per week at the kindergarten through 12th grade level; they must have been teaching for a minimum of seven years in a BJE-affiliated school; and they must hold a class "A" or higher scale rating (for Judaic teachers) or a state teaching credential (for general studies teachers).

Criteria considered for the selection of Jewish Educator Award recipients include:

- Exceptional educational talent and promise, as demonstrated by outstanding practices in the classroom, school and community.
- Evidence of originality, dedication and capacity for leadership and self-direction.
- Commitment to influencing policies that affect children, their families and schools.
- Strong long-range potential for even greater contribution to children, the profession and society.
- Distinguished achievement in developing innovative educational curricula, programs and/or teaching methods.
- Outstanding ability to instill in students character and self-confidence.
- Outstanding ability to develop Jewish children's understanding of the connections between their religion, their classroom activities, and their activities beyond the classroom.
- Commitment to professional development and excellence and the continuing Judaic and/or secular study necessary for it.
- Personal involvement in responding to the needs of the Jewish and secular communities.
- Criteria for administrators also include outstanding ability to attract, support and motivate committed education professionals.

Recipients, together with their families and community leaders, will be officially honored later this year.

