

302 Royce Hall
Box 951485
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1485
310-825-5387
310-825-9049 fax
Email: cjs@humnet.ucla.edu
www.cjs.ucla.edu

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Mary Enid Pinkerson, UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, 310.206.4836, mpinkers@humnet.ucla.edu

Holly Barnhill Hernandez, UCLA Confucius Institute, 310.267.4121, hbhernandez@international.ucla.edu

Exhibition and International Conference: The Shanghai Miracle and its Cosmopolitan Context

From 1933 to 1941, Shanghai became a modern-day “Noah’s Ark” accepting some 23,000 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 “Shanghailanders” 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.

More

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 "Shanghailanders" 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.

Sponsors of this unique collaboration include the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, UCLA Confucius Institute, and Hillel at UCLA. Cosponsors include the Dortort Center for Creativity and the Arts at UCLA Hillel, UCLA Center for Chinese Studies, UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology, the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, and the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office of Hongkou District. Supporters include the UCLA Department of History, the UCLA Department of Germanic Languages, the UCLA Library, Facing History and Ourselves, the German Consulate General in Los Angeles, the Goldrich Family Foundation, Stephen O. Lesser, the "1939" Club, and the Natalie Limonick Endowment in Jewish Civilization.

Jewish Refugees in Shanghai (1933-1941), will run at Hillel of UCLA (574 Hilgard Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024) from October 27 through December 14, 2013. It is free and open to the public Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parts of the exhibit will also travel to Chicago's Thompson Center and to the Rockefeller Center. To RSVP for the symposium and the opening celebration on October 27, contact cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu or (310) 267-5327. For information on Hillel at UCLA, contact perla@uclahillel.org, or (310) 208-3081 ext. 108. For more information on the workshop for educators contact leslie_caroline@facing.org or call (213) 202-2811.

Note to Media: Photos, interview opportunities, and further details are available upon request.

#####