



Dear Readers:

*Shana tova umetukah* (wishing you a good and sweet new year).

Firstly, I apologize for the long hiatus. Like many other small charities, we are facing a substantial funding crisis as we recently lost our largest funding source. I truly believe however that when one door closes another opens. I have never openly appealed to readers, but please do consider us when you are making your charitable giving decisions for the year. One easy way to contribute is through our page on Razoo at [www.razoo.com/story/Asian-Jewish-Life](http://www.razoo.com/story/Asian-Jewish-Life). Asian Jewish Life is a registered charity in Hong Kong and has 501c3 status in the United States through our fiscal sponsor, Center for Jewish Culture & Creativity.

Business aside, now onto what we love. In this issue, we again take you around the region for some very different types of stories and articles.

Our cover story is a Singapore story. This is long overdue so we made it a great one. Lisa Ginsburg has contributed her family's extraordinary story in *Worlds Apart in Singapore: A Jewish Family Story*. And while the story is incredible, the photos are also not to be missed.

Also not to be missed is the interview of our Books Editor, Susan Blumberg-Kason, on her recently released memoir *Good Chinese Wife: A Love Affair With China Gone Wrong*. Mazal tov to Susan and a very special thank you to Jocelyn Eikenburg for this interview.

Susan has somehow also, in the midst of her very extensive book tour, managed to contribute her book reviews. In this issue she takes a look at multi-cultural middle grade fiction. While Susan explores fiction, Lauren Goldman Marshal looks at the experience of being raised in a multi-cultural environment through a very different lens. She tells her family's story in *A Family Flower Garden- Raising my Jewish Chinese daughter*.

Another personal story is one of one man's quest. We speak with Fishel Benkhal, a Jew from Pakistan, in *Saving Jewish Graves- Salvaging a Pakistani-Jewish Identity*.

Also writing a story that covers that same part of the region, Navras Jaat Aafreedi gives some insight into relations between Jews and Muslims in *Jewish-Muslim Relations In South Asia - Where antipathy lives without Jews*.

And since we have tried to cover much of the region rarely talked about in this issue, we have included a story from the Philippines, the long awaited Part II of Cantor Joseph Cysner's story. Bonnie M. Harris concludes her piece with *The Cantor Joseph Cysner Story- Jewish Refugee Rescue in the Philippines (Part 2 of 2)*.

And last, but most certainly not least, we have Tiberiu Weisz in *No Bread No Torah - No Degree No Honors (Traditional Education in Chinese and Jewish Culture)*. This piece is part one of a two part series looking at Chinese education and Jewish education.

I wish you a *Chag Sukkot Sameach* and hope you enjoy this issue.

**Erica Lyons**  
Editor-in-Chief



*Asian Jewish Life* is a free quarterly publication designed to share regional Jewish thoughts, ideas and culture and promote unity. It also celebrates our individuality and our diverse backgrounds and customs.

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