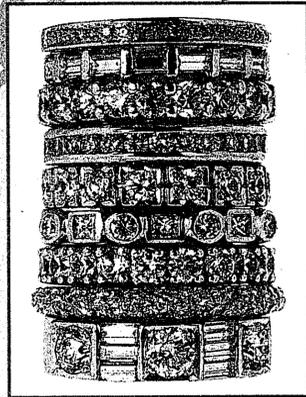


band together

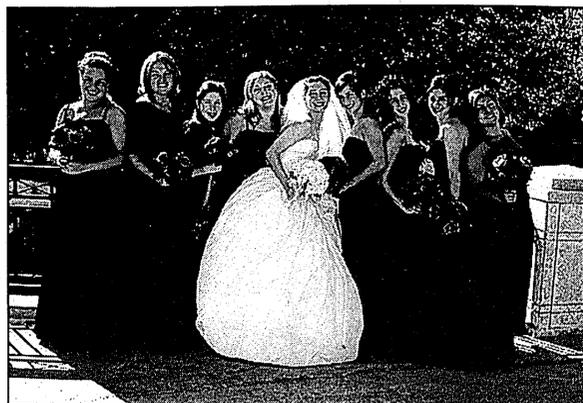


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Brenlee Schacter and Josh Weinstein married September 24, 2000. Music: The Ron Paley Big Band. Gown: Helene's Bridal Salon. Vell: Helene's Bridal Salon. Bridesmaids Dresses: Helene's Bridal Salon. Invitations: The Paper Gallery. Calligrapher: The Paper Gallery. Bridal Registry: The China Cabinet, Five Small Rooms, Shelley Tadman Gallery. Photographer: Manuel F. Sousa.

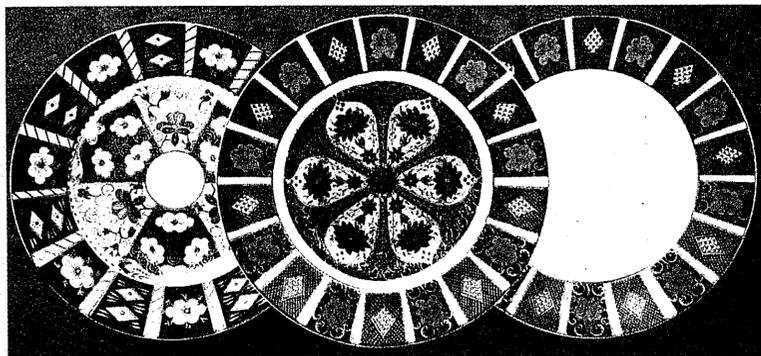


Samantha Zimberg & Adam Herstein married March 18, 2000. Flowers: Forget-Me-Not Florists. Chupah: Forget-Me-Not Florists. Gown: Helene's Bridal Salon. Vell: Helene's Bridal Salon. Bridesmaids Dresses: Helene's Bridal Salon. Tuxedos: Scerbo Formals. Hair: Vaulthair. Invitations: Sensational Cards. Calligrapher: Sensational Cards. Bridal Registry: The China Cabinet, Shelley Tadman Gallery. Photographer: Manuel F. Sousa.

Royal Crown Derby
Traditional Imari
Derby

Old Imari
Derby

Royal Crown Derby
Old Imari Border
Derby

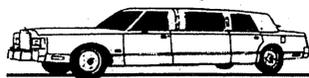


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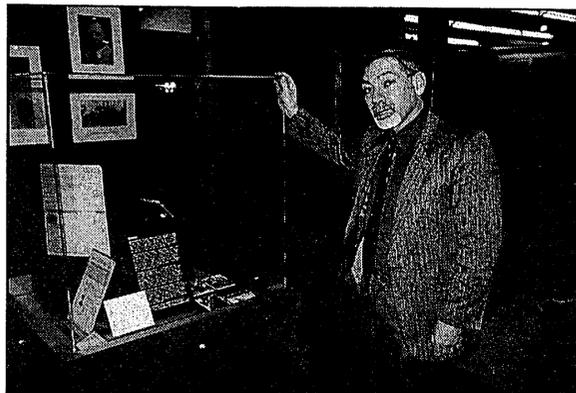
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Shabbat ends at 6:58 p.m.

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BERT SCHAFFER beside display case in the exhibition with mementos from his father Abraham's, mother Lottie's and sister Judith Schaffer Lavitt's years in Shanghai: Without the shelter his parents received there, "I wouldn't be here today."

2 Asian diplomats saved thousands of Jews during Holocaust

Winnipeg's Jewish, Chinese, Japanese communities helped organize Jewish Heritage Centre exhibition

By **MATT BELLAN**
For Bert Schaffer and some other Jewish Winnipeggers, an exhibition that opened at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada last Sunday has a strong personal connection.

"Without Shanghai welcoming all sorts of people and offering freedom to my family, I wouldn't be here today," Schaffer said last week.

He was speaking at a news conference at the centre, four days before the official opening there of Shanghai Connection - Creating a Refuge During the Holocaust.

The exhibition, which continues through March 30, describes how thousands of Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe found shelter in Shanghai, China from 1938 to 1940. They did so thanks largely to the courageous efforts of two low-level Japanese and Chinese diplomats - Feng Shan Ho from China, and Chiune Sugihara from Japan.

With rising Nazi persecution of Jews in Europe, the Nazis provided Jews with one

way out - emigration, say background notes handed out at the news conference.

Even Jews in concentration camps could leave, if they presented proof they'd won the right to emigrate. But most countries, including Canada, had closed their doors to Jewish immi-



Children of Jewish refugees in a Shanghai Kindergarten during the 1940s. Judith Schaffer Lavitt of Winnipeg, born to Lottie and Abraham Schaffer in Shanghai, stands at far right in back row. Photo supplied by Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada.



Winnipegger Judith Schaffer Lavitt (left), born in Shanghai of Jewish refugee parents, playing with a Chinese friend in a Shanghai park about 1945, both seemingly oblivious to racial tensions that were engulfing the world in war. Photo supplied by Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada.

grants from Nazi-occupied countries.

(Cont. on page 3. See "Shanghai Connection".)

Peace negotiations limp along in atmosphere of low expectations

By **NAOMI SEGAL**

JERUSALEM (JTA) - For all their differences, Israeli and Palestinian officials were agreeing on one thing - that it was unlikely they would achieve any breakthroughs before Israeli elections are held next month. On January 17, Prime Minister Ehud Barak's spokesman all but ruled out the possibility of an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord before Israel holds elections for prime minister on February 6. Palestinian officials were soon echoing this assessment.

Barak's chances of victory in the election are widely considered minimal without such an agreement. In an effort to put an end to nearly four months of violence, Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat held talks in Cairo. The January 17 session was arranged during a meeting earlier in the day between Ben-Ami and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, Israeli officials said.

In one small sign of progress, Israel on January 17 eased the closure it imposed on the Gaza Strip. The decision to relax the closure - which was imposed after a settler was found murdered earlier last week - came after Israeli and Palestinian officials held talks on security cooperation January 16. Separate high-level peace negotiations held January 16 remained deadlocked over such issues as the future of Jerusalem and millions of Palestinian refugees.

More talks were slated for last week, but with the two sides saying that a full agreement is out of reach, it is not clear what goals they are setting for themselves. Palestinian negotiators have ruled out a partial accord or an outline of principles for further talks. Peace efforts suffered a setback January 15 when Israel canceled a negotiating session following the slaying of a Jewish settler in the Gaza Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak called the January 14 murder an "abominable crime" that dealt a "difficult blow to the peace process."

President Moshe Katsav said the incident proved the Palestinians are not serious in their efforts to attain peace with Israel. Political sources in Jerusalem were quoted as saying the latest contacts were aimed primarily at preventing an escalation of violence and ensuring that dialogue continues after President Clinton's term ends. Israel and the Palestinian Authority launched high-level talks beginning January 11 to try to narrow the gaps in their positions toward proposals Clinton recently made for a peace accord.

The talks included a meeting January 13 between Israeli cabinet member Shimon Peres, an architect of the 1993 Oslo accords, and Arafat. Generating the most heat are proposals under which Israel would cede most control of Jerusalem's Temple Mount in exchange for Palestinian flexibility on their demand that millions of Palestinian refugees be allowed to return to Israel.

As a result of some progress in the talks between security officials from the two sides, Israel two weeks ago eased some restrictions on Palestinian areas. Included was the reopening of border crossings, permitting Palestinians to travel from the West Bank to Jordan and from Gaza to Egypt. The confidence-building measures were part of a U.S. plan submitted two weeks ago by CIA Director George Tenet.

(Cont. on page 17. See "Peace negotiations continue".)

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