

Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship established at School of Business, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Israel Asper exemplifies excellence

Israel Asper deserves credit for his vision of the future. His achievements in the business community have become legendary, and with the establishment of the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship, he has provided a way for education to be integrated with the business community. This is another example of his entrepreneurial flair.

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University (CFHU) is very excited to announce the establishment of the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jonathan Kornbluth, Dean of the School of Business at Hebrew U puts it this way:

"The Asper Center is intended to be the focal point of entrepreneurship. The activities of the Business School will include: research, undergraduate and post graduate MBA teaching, and outreach programs for the benefit of the Israeli economy in general and the econo-

my and development of Jerusalem in particular."

As an entrepreneur, Israel Asper's most notable achievement is the creation and development of CanWest Global Communications Corp. from a single television station in Winnipeg to an international communications company.

Asper is known as a dedicated philanthropist. "I believe that those who succeed should contribute back to their community through volunteerism, leadership and financial support," says Asper.

In keeping with his philanthropic beliefs, he established The Asper Foundation and the CanWest Global Foundation, both of which have undertaken major initiatives in culture, education, community development and human rights. In 1999 he received an Honorary Doctorate from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to recognize his commitment to the Jewish and general communities in Canada and Israel, his leadership

in the global communications industry and his outstanding support of Hebrew U.

In the last year, the Faculty of Business at the University of Manitoba has been named the I. H. Asper School of Business, which houses the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship. This new centre contributes to the academic program of the university with its many exciting projects for current and potential business students, such as scholarships, a Biz Camp for 15-19 year olds, a Venture Capital Fund for student entrepreneurs, a lecture series featuring visiting CEO's from Fortune 500 companies, to name a few. This successful program is the model for the new Asper Centre in Jerusalem.

"We are very excited about the courses the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship will support," says Kornbluth. "For example, the Business Entrepreneurship course will bring groups of students

together to work on business plans for new economic and service ventures. Our Internet Entrepreneurship program will combine students from the Business School and the Department of Computer Science to work on ideas for Internet start-up companies. And the newest program will be designed to enhance the viability of Bio-Tech Start-ups from the Hebrew U scientific community."

Asper is particularly interested in the outreach aspects of the program. Asper explained, "The centre will support outreach programs to start-up companies in Israel, and community programs for special segments such as youth and women. The Young Entrepreneurs course will bring schoolchildren and university students together to develop new ideas, produce products, work out business plans and actually sell their products. The Biz Camp will expose Israeli children - Jewish and Arab - to entrepreneurship and business. The goal is to build self-confidence and an appreciation for the importance of continuing education."

CFHU will be honouring Israel Asper on Monday, June 18, 2001 with a Gala Tribute Dinner in Toronto for his outstanding commitment to Hebrew U and for establishing the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship. "Israel Asper is a leader in the Jewish community in Canada, and CFHU hopes that this dinner will give many of us a chance to meet the real Izzy. I have assumed responsibility to spearhead CFHU's campaign for the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship and am very excited about this challenge. The centre will create the environment to develop the business leaders of tomorrow, and will be the basis for building a stronger and more diversified Israel," says Dinner Chair Ronald Appleby.

"The Hebrew University has always been a priority for me. This project is about securing the future by providing the best tools and resources for the education of our youth," says Asper. CFHU congratulates him for his exceptional leadership and vision. For more information about the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship or about the Asper Tribute Dinner, please call the number listed in the ad at left.

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CELEBRATE A MAN WHO IS
TRUE TO HIS ROOTS...
...AND BELIEVES
IN PLANTING SEEDS
FOR THE FUTURE.

Canadian Friends of
the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is honouring
ISRAEL ASPER

Israel Asper, a world leader in global communications, is branching out. With the opening of The Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship at the School of Business, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, great minds will grow and future business leaders of Israel will greet the challenges of the 21st century.

**HOLD THIS DATE
FOR OUR GALA TRIBUTE DINNER
Monday, June 18, 2001 in Toronto**

For more information, please call
Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
1.888.432.7398 or 416.485.8000
email: inquiry@cfhu.org

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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



Community news

Daughter of 'righteous diplomat' recalls what motivated him

Feng Shan Ho saved thousands of Jews, taught children 'stand up for what is right'

By **MARTIN ZEILIG**

During his lifetime, Feng Shan Ho neither sought nor received recognition for his deeds.

"In fact, he rarely spoke of his tenure in Vienna," according to the daughter of the Chinese diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Austria in 1938-'39 by issuing them visas to escape the Holocaust.

Manli Ho spoke about her father to about 100 people at the Berney Theatre at the Asper Jewish Community Campus on March 4.

Her trip here was sponsored by the Shanghai Connection project. The exhibition on display at the Jewish Heritage Centre until the end of March, includes panels and photographs on her father as well as on Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat who issued visas in 1940 - against the orders of his government - to Jews in Kovno, Lithuania, allowing them to escape the advancing Nazi German army.

"When I met her following her arrival in Winnipeg, my eyes welled up with tears, knowing that this was the daughter of the man who saved so many Jewish people when no one else would," said lawyer Harold Buchwald, the honorary chair of the Shanghai Connection. A resident of Arrowsic, Maine, Manli Ho, 50, was born in Cairo, Egypt, where her father was posted at the time by the Chinese nationalist government in Taiwan. She was recently in Israel with her family to attend a ceremony at Yad Vashem - the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem - to honor her father as a "Righteous Among the Nations".

Ho related two anecdotes her father told her about his time in Austria. One was of his seeing Adolf Hitler's triumphant march into Vienna after the Anschluss, the annex of Austria by Nazi Germany; and, "how appalled he had been by the fanatical welcome the Austrians extended, and the immediate terrorizing and persecution of Jews" by the Nazis.

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MANLI HO in front of photo portrait of her father at the Jewish Heritage Centre March 4: His family has only begun to discover the extent of his rescue activities in the past three years. Photo by Martin Zeilig.

Nazis.

"The second was a more personal story, and it occurred on Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, November 10, 1938. On that day, my father faced down the Gestapo to rescue his Jewish friends, the Rosenbergs, to whom he had provided visas to China," Ho, a former journalist with the *Boston Globe* newspaper, said.

"It was a vivid story to a child, and although I did not fully understand the context, the lesson I derived from this story was that one should stand up for what is right, help one's friends and not cave into the bullies, even at gunpoint."

When her father died in 1997, Ho wrote his obituary and included a single line on this story.

"Shortly thereafter, I got a telephone call from Eric Saul, the director of the project to find, identify and honor diplomatic rescuers, called 'Visas for Life: The Righteous Diplomats'," continued Ho.

"It has only been in the last three years that even we, his family, have begun to discover the extent of my father's rescue activities. It has taken three years of research and documentation to piece together this puzzle, but doing so more than six decades later means that it may never be complete, and that we may never know the full extent of my father's humanitarian efforts. We have learned that under my father's watch, the Chinese Consulate in Vienna issued thousands of visas to

Jewish refugees, averaging 500 visas each month, and at times as many as 900, in the two years following the Anschluss."

She revealed that many visa recipients from Austria did not necessarily use them to go to Shanghai, but to make their way to Palestine, Cuba, the Philippines and other parts of the world.

"What I can tell you is that my father was a man who strove to live his life according to the best in Confucian and Judeo-Christian values. He was fearless, charming and dynamic. He also had a hot temper. Among his most valuable traits was his capacity for love and compassion," said Ho, whose father was born into poverty in rural China in 1901 and was later educated in schools run by

Norwegian Lutheran missionaries.

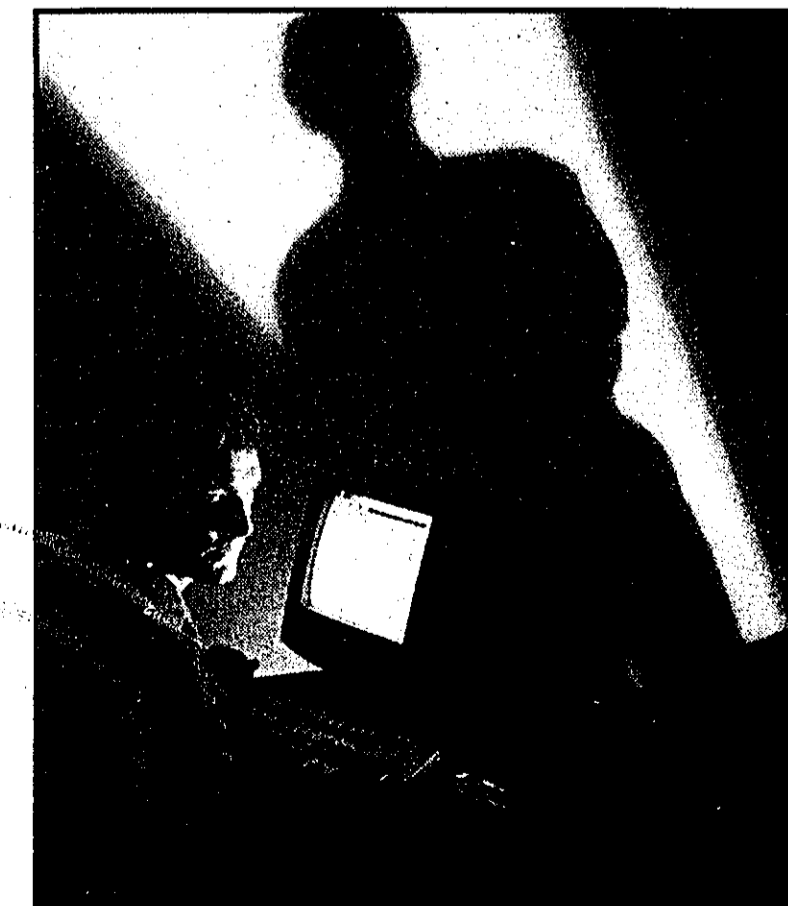
"Because of his scholastic brilliance, he was given a scholarship to the elite College of Yale-in-China. Subsequently, he obtained a PhD in political economics from the University of Munich, graduating magna cum laude."

Afterwards, Ho joined the Foreign Service of the Chinese Nationalist government with a posting to Turkey, thus beginning a 40-year diplomatic career, and one that led him to Vienna, Austria in 1937.

Ho pointed out that her father issued the thousands of visas to help the Jewish refugees "despite being reprimanded and later punished by his own government," and despite the Nazis confiscating his Consulate building.

"My father was never reunited with any of the people he had helped. He was unknown to most of them. But I have had the good fortune to meet some of the beneficiaries of those visas.

"It is very special for me to meet survivors, and to hear their stories of survival against such incredible odds. For even though my father is gone, it is as if he lives on through them. They are now my mispoche, my jia ren, my family."



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