Dear Readers:

Happy 2013 and welcome to the 11th issue of Asian Jewish Life.

In between issues, our staff has been very busy speaking on Jewish life in Asia and Asian Jewry. If you happen to be in Illinois, you can catch AJL Books Editor Susan Blumberg-Kason at a NCJW event on January 31 where she will talk about Jews in China and their contributions during World War II. She will also discuss Jewish novels and memoirs set in China during this world-changing era. Visit Susan at http://www.susanbkason.com for more information.

You can also catch a podcast on Hong Kong’s RTHK Radio 3 on Laura Margolis, adapted from our cover story (Issue 8), entitled Laura Margolis in the Spotlight- Portrait of a heroine in Shanghai. I will also be headed to Moscow in February to participate in the 20th Annual International Conference on Jewish Studies organized by Sefer, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization.

Please follow us for a daily dose of news on our Twitter and Facebook pages (@AsianJewishLife).

As for this issue, we are excited to bring you the cover story about the somewhat obscure story of a group of Jewish Holocaust refugees that were housed in Hong Kong’s Peninsula Hotel, entitled Five Star Refuge- A Week at The Pen.

We also have included the little known history of Jews in the Philippines by Bonnie Harris, Manila Memories - History of Jews in the Philippines.

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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