



Newtown Hadassah  
at Ann's Choice  
Presents

THE NEXT HADASSAH MEETING IS  
THURSDAY, May 16, 2024  
IN THE VILLAGE MUSIC ROOM AT 1 P. M.  
AS WE ARE JOINED BY  
*Jean Hoffmann Lewanda*

### Program Synopsis

In 1938 Shanghai was a city of contrasts. Among the remnants of the Japanese bombings lived poor Chinese and forlorn refugees. The glorious buildings of Old Shanghai included consulates, banks, and homes of the rich and middle-class foreigners and a few privileged Chinese. Sephardic Jews and Russian Jews had also made Shanghai their home. This was the scene that welcomed 18-year-old Paul Hoffmann, who escaped the Nazi terror of the Anschluss in Vienna, Austria. He was on his own, facing the unknown, determined to build a life and reunite his family.



Jean Hoffmann Lewanda was born in New York City in 1954, one year after her parents, Paul and Shulamis Hoffmann, arrived in the United States, having escaped communist China in February of 1952. In 2021 Jean published her father's post-mortem memoir *Witness to History - From Vienna to Shanghai: A Memoir of Escape, Survival and Resilience*. The overwhelming interest and response to *Witness to History* was the inspiration for her second work, *Shalama: My 96 Seasons in China*, an historical fiction, which mirrors her mother's life story and highlights the lives of the Jewish Russian community that lived in China for almost six decades.