

The Carmel Pine Cone

<http://www.pineconearchive.com/downloads130809.html>

August 9-15, 2013

CONCOURS WEEK
This week on the Monterey Peninsula
Read all about them in our Monterey Peninsula
Special Concours Week Edition

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 99 No. 32
The Peninsula's News, Arts & Entertainment Weekly
August 9-15, 2013

School district bans shirts displaying state flag

Danger from gangs cited

MONTEREY KINDERGARTENERS attending the first day of school this week got a stern warning: No shirts with the California state flag. And the state's flag is not only public property, it's also a symbol of the state, says the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. "California flag, keep state or lose it" — a title some parents might not like.

"That's going too far, don't you think?" said Mrs. Garcia, whose son attends third grade at Monte Vista Elementary School in Monterey, and who also works at the school.

"It's not just the flag, it's the message," she said. "It's saying that if you're not a citizen, you're not welcome here. It's saying that if you're not a citizen, you're not welcome here. It's saying that if you're not a citizen, you're not welcome here."

Not surprisingly, some parents of children in the district are already angry about the ban. "It's a shame that the school district is banning the state flag," said Mrs. Garcia. "It's a shame that the school district is banning the state flag."

See **MISSION** page 15A

Building official fired after weeks of paid leave

Also retiring from U.S. Army reserve

administrative leave more than two months ago, pending an investigation about which city officials refused to provide any details.

This week, city administrator Jason Stilwell wouldn't say why he fired Hanson, and Hanson did not want to comment about anything having to do with the city or his termination, which was done in the presence of CPD Chief Mike Calhoun. But he did talk about his years with the military — which included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, cleanup in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, airport security after 9/11 and the 2008 election.

See **HANSON** page 17A

China was unlikely haven for Holocaust refugees

By CHRIS COONIN

A REMARKABLE journey comes full circle next week when Pebble Beach resident Harry Katz travels to Chicago to meet eight survivors of Shanghai's Ghetto — 74 years after his Jewish family fled the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.

Now 80, Katz was born in Berlin in 1933, the same year Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came to power. Although he remembers few details of his early childhood, he recalls the day when he was 5 years old and soldiers from the Gestapo took his family to their home to pack a few suitcases and leave their home. "I heard their footsteps coming up the staircase," Katz said.

He told The Pine Cone his family lived above a Gestapo station, and his father, Milan, a veteran of the German army in World War I, believed his family would be safe — despite the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Germany on the eve of World War II.

"He was friends with some of the Gestapo and played cards with them," Katz recalled. "He thought we were OK."

After being kicked out of their apartment, over the next five months the Katz family desperately sought a way to leave Germany. Like many Jews in Germany in 1939, the family had few options, because very few countries would accept them. While Katz had trouble comprehending the

See **REFUGEE** page 14A

Harry Katz, age 12 in 1939, posing with family members in Shanghai when they fled Nazi Germany. Behind Harry are his uncle Eric, sister Lee, aunt Malka and mother, Frieda.

PHOTO: JEFFREY GIBBS

Have the complete Carmel Pine Cone delivered every Thursday evening to your iPad, laptop, PC or phone. Free subscriptions available at www.carmelpinecone.com

REFUGEE

From page 14

require an entrance visa," explained Katz, who said he was shocked much of the way. Katz and his three family members eventually made it to Shanghai, where from 1933 to 1941, more than 18,000 Jews from Europe and the Middle East settled. Hundreds of Katz's brothers arrived at their destination. Hanson, having a change of heart, decided to join his family in China and somehow successfully made the trip there on his own, although he continued protesting the war.

Sally, Hans was apprehended by Nazi authorities before making it out of Germany and died in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Living in the ghetto
In Shanghai, the Katz family lived in the poorest part of the city and faced difficult, crowded conditions when food was scarce. At one point, the family shared a room with 20 other families. Living spaces were separated only by bed sheets and table clothes. "That was our idea of privacy," Katz said.

Despite the challenges they faced, Katz and his sister somehow continued their education — and filled their hearts.

"Katz's father died in 1946. The following year, Hans joined entry into the United States."

Two years later — and just days before Shanghai fell to the communists in 1949 — Harry, his mother and his sister finally boarded a ship bound for San Francisco.

"It was the last best out of Shanghai before the communists took over," he explained.

In contrast to the harrowing voyage that brought the family to Shanghai, a decade later, the family sailed to the United States. The family sailed like a fairy tale. The family sailed like a fairy tale. The family sailed like a fairy tale.

"My mother gained 20 pounds on the boat," Katz recalled. "We thought we were going to the land of milk and honey."

Compared to Berlin before the war and Shanghai before the war, Katz said, life in the United States was a breeze. "I was a paratrooper in the Korean War, married and achieved considerable success in the business world before retiring in 1999 — exactly 50 years after landing in the United States."

Katz first came to Monterey County in 1952 when he made a brief stop at Fort Ord on his way to Korea.

Later, Carmel became a favored vacation destination for him and his wife, Aubrey. Shortly after retiring, the couple visited Pebble Beach and never really left.

"They soon bought a house near Spanish Bay, where they still live. I tell everybody it would be a shame if I don't get to beach, because I'm so well prepared for it," he said, comparing his retirement home to an earthly paradise.

While Katz has displayed a lifetime of determination and resiliency to get where he is now, he attributed at least some of his fortune to simple chance.

"I consider myself a very lucky survivor," he added.

WYLAND GARDNER CENTER

Hailed a "Marine Michelangelo" — USA Today

MEET WYLAND IN PERSON

Fri. Aug. 23
Sat. Aug. 24
Both nights 6-10 pm

Ocean Ave. at Mission Carmel
(831) 426-6222
www.wylandgarden.com

L+G LLP Attorneys at Law

We're experts in your field

ATTORNEYS
Jeffrey R. Gibbs
Doreen C. Baugher
Patrick M. Cane

E-Scots Law
Ronald A. Parnowski
Amy Partridge Rod
Joan S. Betner
Paul A. Rowell
Shelley W. Sullivan
James W. Schwan

PARALEGALS
Danielle Quebec
Anna White
Belinda Guldberg

LAND USE SPECIALIST
Troy Rietveld

L+G LLP, Attorneys at Law has been serving Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties since 1985. With offices in Hollister, Salinas and our level of expertise and our deep roots in the area make us uniquely positioned to represent our clients' needs.

Jeffrey R. Gibbs
Managing Partner, Salinas

Ronald A. Parnowski
Branch Manager, Monterey

Bradley W. Sullivan
Branch Manager, Hollister

Serving California's Central Coast
MONTEREY 401 Kings Street, Suite 1 | Monterey, CA 93940 | TEL: 831.717.4895
SALINAS 319 Chapel Street, Salinas, CA 93901 | TEL: 831.724.2444 | FAX: 831.724.2511
HOLLISTER 530 San Benito Street, Suite 202 | Hollister, CA 95027 | TEL: 831.935.8444
TEL: 888.758.7244 | www.lgattorneys.com

Monterey Bay Eye Center

Improving your life through vision correction

21 Upper Raggsdale Drive, Suite 200
Monterey, CA 93940

She has her mother's wisdom, her father's smile and her daughter's eyesight.

Comprehensive Medical and Surgical Eye Care

ROGER C. HUSTED, MD
LELAND H. ROSENBLUM, MD
PHILIP J. PENROSE, MD
JENNIFER K. SARLAD, OD

831.372.1500
WWW.MONTEREYBAYEYECENTER.COM

Learn About Your Cataract Surgery Options

Sister Facilities: | Eye MD on Cass: 831.373.0183 | Monterey County Eye Associates: 831.424.1150

PEBBLE BEACH • CARMEL • MONTEREY • PACIFIC GROVE • SEASIDE • CARMEL VALLEY • PEBBLE BEACH • CARMEL • MONTEREY • PACIFIC GROVE • SEASIDE • CARMEL VALLEY • PEBBLE BEACH • CARMEL

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 99 No. 32

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

August 9-15, 2013

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION SINCE 1915

China was unlikely haven for Holocaust refugees

By CHRIS COUNTS

A REMARKABLE journey comes full circle next week when Pebble Beach resident Harry Katz travels to Chicago to meet eight survivors of Shanghai's Ghetto — 74 years after his Jewish family fled the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.

Now 80, Katz was born in Berlin in 1933, the same year Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came to power. Although he remembers few details of his early childhood, he recalls the day when he was 5 years old and soldiers from the Gestapo told his family they had one hour to pack a few suitcases and leave their home. "I heard their footsteps coming up the staircase," Katz said.

He told *The Pine Cone* his family lived above a Gestapo station, and his father, Julius, a veteran of the German army in World War I, believed his family would be safe — despite the rising tide of anti-semitism prevalent in Germany on the eve of World War II.

"He was friends with some of the Gestapo and played cards with them," Katz recalled. "He thought we were OK."

After being kicked out of their apartment, over the next five months the Katz family desperately sought a way to leave Germany. Like many Jews in Germany in 1939, the family had few options, because very few countries would accept them. While Katz had trouble comprehending the

See **REFUGEE** page 14A

Harry Katz, age 12 or 13, posing with family members in Shanghai after they fled Nazi Germany. Behind Harry are his uncle Eric, sister Ilse, aunt Mischka and mother, Frieda.



PHOTO/COURTESY HARRY KATZ



PHOTO/COURTESY HARRY KATZ

Harry Katz, age 12 or 13, posing with family members in Shanghai after they fled Nazi Germany. Behind Harry are his uncle Eric, sister Ilse, aunt Mischka and mother, Frieda.



Harry Katz

A REMARKABLE journey comes full circle next week when Pebble Beach resident Harry Katz travels to Chicago to meet eight survivors of Shanghai's Ghetto — 74 years after his Jewish family fled the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.

Now 80, Katz was born in Berlin in 1933, the same year Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came to power. Although he remembers few details of his early childhood, he recalls the day when he was 5 years old and soldiers from the Gestapo told his family they had one hour to pack a few suitcases and leave their home. "I heard their footsteps coming up the staircase," Katz said.

He told The Pine Cone his family lived above a Gestapo station, and his father, Julius, a veteran of the German army in World War I, believed his family would be safe — despite the rising tide of anti-semitism prevalent in Germany on the eve of World War II. "He was friends with some of the Gestapo and played cards with them," Katz recalled. "He thought we were OK."

After being kicked out of their apartment, over the next five months the Katz family desperately sought a way to leave Germany. Like many Jews in Germany in 1939, the family had few options, because very few countries would accept them. While Katz had trouble comprehending the magnitude of the events swirling around him, he was aware nobody bothered celebrating his sixth birthday.

Katz's oldest brother, 16-year-old Hans, set out for Palestine in April 1939. His 13-year-old brother, Horst, embarked for England to stay with relatives. Harry, meanwhile, traveled by boat with his father; his mother, Frieda and his sister, Ilse, to an unlikely haven, China.

"Shanghai was the only place we could go that didn't require an entrance visa," explained Katz, who said he was seasick much of the way.

After a lengthy voyage, Katz and his three family members eventually made it to Shanghai, where from 1933 to 1941, more than 18,000 Jews from Europe and the Middle East settled.

Neither of Katz's brothers arrived at their destinations.

Horst, having a change of heart, decided to join his family in China and somehow successfully made the trip there on his own, although he contracted polio along the way.

Sadly, Hans was apprehended by Nazi authorities before making it out of Germany and died in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Living in the ghetto

In Shanghai, the Katz family lived in the poorest part of the city and faced difficult, crowded conditions where food was scarce. At one point, the family shared a room with 30 other families. Living spaces were separated only by bed sheets and table clothes. "That was our idea of privacy," Katz said.

Despite the challenges they faced, Katz and his sister somehow continued their education — and filled their bellies.

"We would walk about a mile-and-a-half each morning to get to school," he explained. "And we would get a little bit of money for lunch. Chinese vendors would put coal in the bottom of 55-gallon drums and cook sweet potatoes. We would buy two sweet potatoes and put them in our pockets to keep our hands warm while we walked. When we got to school we'd eat the sweet potatoes."

While the Jews lived in squalor, so did the Chinese who surrounded them. Yet they were surprisingly tolerant of the refugees.

“The Chinese were very accepting of us,” Katz remembered. “If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t be here.”

When the Katz family arrived in Shanghai, the city was occupied by the Japanese army. Four years later, the refugees faced even greater difficulties when they were forced to move to a one-square-mile area in the city.

While it had no walls or barbed wire, the area was patrolled by Japanese soldiers, and a strict curfew was enforced.

“As long as you obeyed their rules, you were OK,” Katz said. “But if you didn’t, they treated you harshly.”

The Japanese could hardly be described as genial hosts, but they protected the Jews from a far worse fate. Despite the pressure they faced from Nazi Germany, they refused to hand over the refugees to their military ally, which sought to bring the “Final Solution” to China.

Land of milk and honey

While living conditions improved after the war ended, the family waited four more years before they were permitted to immigrate to the United States. Along the way, Harry had his first taste of American food. One day, he and friend visited a United States Naval ship that was docked nearby.

“The sailors invited us on board,” he recalled. “I got a bad stomach ache from all the ice cream I ate.”

Katz’ father died in 1946. The following year, Horst gained entry into the United States.

Two years later — and just days before Shanghai fell to the communists in 1949 — Harry, his mother and his sister finally boarded a ship bound for San Francisco.

“We got on the last boat out of Shanghai before the communists took over,” he explained.

In contrast to the harrowing voyage that brought the family to Shanghai a decade earlier, the trip across the Pacific Ocean on the USS President Wilson was like a fairy tale. The family feasted like it never had before.

“My mother gained 20 pounds on the boat,” Katz recalled. “We thought we were going to the land of milk and honey.”

Compared to Berlin before the war and Shanghai in the 1940s, Katz’s new home truly was the place of abundance he imagined it to be. Over the next half century, he graduated from high school, served as a paratrooper in the Korean War, married and achieved considerable success in the business world before retiring in 1999 — exactly 50 years after landing in the United States.

Katz first came to Monterey County in 1952 when he made a brief stop at Fort Ord on his way to Korea.

Later, Carmel became a favored vacation destination for him and his wife, Audrey. Shortly after retiring, the couple visited Pebble Beach and never really left.

They soon bought a house near Spanish Bay, where they still live. "I tell everybody it would be a shame if I don't get to heaven, because I'm so well prepared for it," he said, comparing his retirement home to an earthly paradise.

While Katz has displayed a lifetime of determination and resiliency to get where he is now, he attributed at least some of his fortune to simple chance.

"I consider myself a very lucky survivor," he added.

By CHRIS COUNTS