

Employment was hard to find

Food was scarce

Crowded living rooms, often 10 to a room

Living conditions were difficult

LIFE IN SHANGHAI FOR JEWS



BUT THERE WAS ALSO JOY!

Life was hard, but not without community, education, and entertainment.

We went to school!

We performed in musicals and plays!

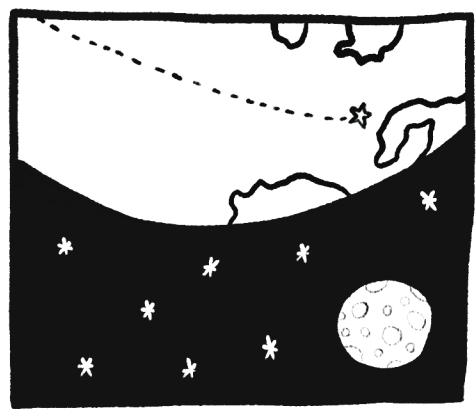
We were social, and had many friends!

In the ghetto, there were Jewish newspapers, cafes, and a synagogue!

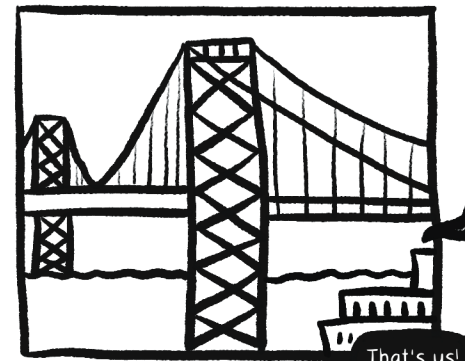
Oh we had so much fun! It was a whole lifetime ago!



Erich Bayer and Estera Major, the twin's parents, escaped to Shanghai on January 27, 1939.



Shanghai was a safe haven safe for Jews. The city represented a last resort—a place where Jews could escape immediate danger and join a preexisting and established Jewish community.

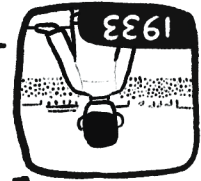


That's us!

Excitement erupted as we sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge.

THE RISE OF NAZI ANTISEMITISM

Hitler is democratically appointed Chancellor of Germany



Hitler and the Nazi Party used anti-Jewish stereotypes, propaganda, and law to isolate Jews from German society.



Kristallnacht, or "Night of Broken Glass," was a violent turning point during the Holocaust. Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues were ransacked and burned.



BEYOND SURVIVAL THE RESILIENT LIVES OF MONIKA + GITTA IN THE SHANGHAI GHETTO



ILLUSTRATED BY: KATIE QUAN

AFTERMATH

We did so much more than just survive the Holocaust. We thrived!



REAL SOUL

REALSOUL is a curriculum-based arts organization. We develop creative offerings that shed light on the intersectional stories of Asian America and other marginalized communities, focused on grades 2-8. Learn more about our work at www.realsoulus.com.



That's us as kids!

We were so CUTE!

We were born on December 9, 1939 in Shanghai, China. Our parents were Jewish refugees from Germany who escaped Nazi persecution.



MEET THE TWINS MONIKA + GITTA!