



OUR MISSION

我们的任务

Kaifeng Jews are the descendants of Han Chinese and Sephardic Jews who migrated to China thousands of years ago. They reside along the banks of Yellow River, in the cradle of a great civilisation, but unknown to most people.

开封犹太人是几千年前移居中国的瑟法底犹太人和汉人的后裔。他们居住在黄河沿岸，一个伟大文明的摇篮，但是大多数人却并不知道他们的存在。

They boast a profound line of descent, from ancestors who fled Roman persecution during Han Dynasty to merchant forefathers who journeyed across Silk Road during Tang Dynasty, the Jews found a new home for themselves in China.

他们拥有优越的血统，从汉代逃离罗马迫害的先祖，到唐代穿越丝绸之路的商人前辈，犹太人在中国找到了自己的新家。

Throughout a long history of upheavals, these people of immense perseverance and resourcefulness congregated as much as possible to support each other in their new home. While eventually adopting Chinese customs as a necessity for survival, they fought hard to maintain their Jewish way of life. After centuries of intermarriage and millenniums of assimilation, these children of Abraham and Sarah, sculpted by teachings of Confucius and Lao Tzu, emerged with an identity and culture that is uniquely their own, unseen anywhere in the world. This occurrence is exceptionally rare, and utterly significant.

在漫长动荡的历史中，这些拥有巨大毅力和智慧的人们尽可能地聚集在一起，相互支持和帮助。在新的故乡，他们接受并融入了新的习俗，但是他们一直努力维持着犹太人的生活方式。经过几百年的通婚和几千年的同化，这些亚伯拉罕和撒拉的孩子，在孔子和老子思想教育的深深熏陶下，酝酿出了一种独特的身份和文化，这是在世界任何地方都从未见过的。这种状况不仅异常罕见，而且极为值得我们重视和研究。



Our Logo represents our mission – simple and impactful

我们的商标代表着我们的使命 - 简单而有力

Kaifeng Jews Matter is a student-led initiative. We believe cultural heritage is the legacy passed down from our ancestors, and the present we give to our children. It is a recording of all that we have been through and all that we are. It is one of the most valuable possessions of our shared humanity. We work to protect and preserve Kaifeng Jew's cultural heritage, and to share it with people all over the world.

Kaifeng Jews Matter 是一个学生主导机构。我们深信文化遗产是我们祖先遗留下来最宝贵的财富，也将是我们转送给后代们最好的礼物。它记录了我们人类文明共同经历的一切

以及共同拥有的一切。我们将努力去保护开封犹太人的文化遗产，并与世界各地的人们分享。

We also aim to combat the evil of intolerance by sharing the unique history of Kaifeng Jews. They are the perfect embodiment of the peaceful coexistence of two greatest ancient civilisations, over thousands of years. We work to spread the beauty, and the complete attainability, of harmonious coexistence.

开封犹太人文化是几千年来两个最伟大的古代文明和平共处的完美体现。我们希望通过分享他们的独特历史来对抗当今社会上的偏见和歧视。我们将努力传播和谐共存的美丽，我们也觉得和平共处是完全可以达到的目标。

Thus, in spite of their small number, Kaifeng Jews remain a large part of our mind.

因此，尽管开封犹太人的数量很少，但他们仍然是我们生活的重要组成部分。

KAIFENG JEWS

开封犹太人



Kaifeng Jews from the late Qing dynasty

清末开封犹太人

In the dusty city of Kaifeng, in the vast plains of Central China, lives a most remarkable community that is unknown to many, that of the Chinese Jews. For thousands of years they

remained an outpost of Judaism on the banks of Yellow River, solidly occupying an ineradicable page in the history of the world's two greatest ancient civilisations - Chinese and Hebrew.

在常年被雾霾笼罩的开封市里，在中国中部广阔的平原上，生活着一个鲜为人知的小群体 - 中国犹太人。几千年来，他们居住在黄可岸边，为中国和犹太两大世界古文明占据着无法磨灭的光荣历史。

Kaifeng Jews are descendants of Han Chinese and Sephardic Jews who migrated to China millenniums ago. After thousands of years, due to numerous instances of social, political, and natural upheavals, their population has declined significantly in number, to a mere 1000 today. Since Kaifeng Jews no longer follow many of the Judaic laws and are physically indistinguishable from their Chinese neighbours, doubts have risen among many regarding the authenticity of their Jewish heritage. One of the main challenges is that they follow paternal lineage as per Chinese custom, rather than maternal lineage as required by Orthodox Judaism.

开封犹太人是几千年前移居中国的瑟法底犹太人和汉人的后裔。数千年来，由于各种自然和人为的灾难，其人口数量已经明显下降，至今仅为 1000 人。由于开封犹太人不再遵守犹太人的许多生活习俗，而且他们的长相与其他中国人毫无区别，很多人对他们的真实性产生了怀疑。其中一个最主要的挑战就是他们追随中国传统的父系血统，而不是正统犹太教所要求的母系血统。

DNA testing done in 1980s has confirmed Kaifeng Jews' claim to be descendants of Jewish forefathers. Subsequent to the DNA results, Kaifeng Jews have been recognised by many institutions around the world, including Shavei Israel.

20 世纪 80 年代进行的 DNA 检测证实了开封犹太人的确是犹太后裔。在 DNA 结果出来之后，开封犹太人得到了世界各地许多机构的认可，包括 Shavei Israel。

Over the past decade, Shavei Israel has helped around 20 Kaifeng Jews move back to their ancestral homeland, Israel, as a part of their call to 'making Aliyah.'

在过去十年中，Shavei Israel 帮助了大约 20 名开封犹太人回到以色列，作为他们“Aliyah”呼吁的一部分。



Five young Kaifeng Jews made Aliyah, the return of diaspora Jews to Israel, in 2016

2016 年，五名年轻的开封犹太人回到了以色列

Shavei Israel was founded by Michael Freund who in the 1990s served a term as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's director of communications. The organisation is dedicated to locating lost tribes of Israel and bringing them back to their homeland by helping them with any potential issues, be it caused by anti-Semites or by the Israeli government itself.

Shavei Israel 是由 Michael Freund 创立的，他在 20 世纪 90 年代曾经担任总理 Benjamin Netanyahu 的通讯主管。该组织致力于寻找以色列遗失的部落，并帮助他们解决任何面临的问题并将他们带回以色列。

Since Kaifeng Jews no longer adhere to Jewish tradition of maternal lineage, circumcision, and kosher diet, they are required to undergo full conversion in order to become Jews and receive Israeli citizenship.

由于开封犹太人不再遵守犹太母系血统，割礼和犹太饮食的传统，他们必须经过充分学习，转变，和皈依才能成为真正的犹太人并获得以色列公民身份。

The Jewish community outside of China now consider Kaifeng Jews to be of Jewish ancestry, but not Jewish.

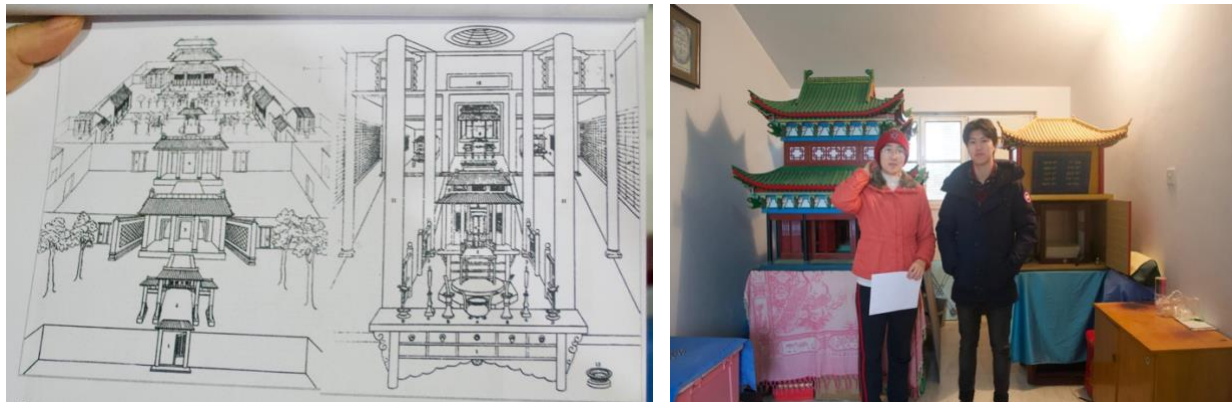
中国以外的犹太社区现在认为开封犹太人是犹太人的后裔，而并不是犹太人。

IDENTITY

身分

The descendants of Jews in Kaifeng solidly consider themselves Jewish, despite their minimum understanding of Judaism as a religion. They no longer practice most of Jewish traditions or observe Jewish holidays. They have not had any rabbis for over two centuries, and no synagogue or congregation of Jewish communities for generations. Their ancestors had intermarried and followed patrilineal descent. Their features are no longer distinguishable from that of their Chinese neighbours. However, they know from their family traditions and family names that they come from an unbroken line of patrilineal Jews, for over a thousand years. They see themselves as Jews, regardless of what others thought of them.

尽管他们对犹太教作为一种宗教的了解并不是很多，但开封犹太人却坚定地认为自己就是犹太人。尽管他们不再庆祝大多数犹太传统节日；尽管两个多世纪以来，他们一直没有任何拉比，甚至几代人下来都没有享有犹太教堂或犹太社区的教徒支持；尽管他们的祖先与汉人通婚并跟随父系血统；尽管他们的长相特征不再与他们的中国邻居有任何区别；然而，他们从自己的家族传统和背景，从自己的姓氏中知道，他们来自一个从不间断的父系犹太血统，已有一千多年了。他们认为自己就是犹太人，无论其他人如何看待他们。



Exterior and interior of the Kaifeng Synagogue, copy of the original sketch by Father Domenge in 1722. Our founder, Nicholas Zhang, with a descendant of the Zhao family, behind them stand the miniature replica of the destroyed Kaifeng Synagogue and Torah Ark.

开封犹太教堂的外观和内部，复制神父 Domenge 1722 年原始素描。我们机构的创始人 Nicholas Zhang 与赵氏家族的后裔合影 - 在他们身后，矗立着被毁的开封犹太教堂和托拉方舟的模型。

They acknowledge an underlying affinity between Chinese and Jewish thoughts - while the Chinese lacked a firm concept of supreme deity, the two shared striking similarities in terms of values. The stone inscription tablets that were kept in the courtyard of the synagogue consistently referred to the commonalities on morals and principles between Confucianism and Judaism. As both the Chinese and the Jews placed great emphasis on families, the Kaifeng Jews held tight to whatever cultural heritages that were passed down to them, as a way of honouring their elders. They also stayed loyal to their ancestors by never converting to Christianity, Islam or even

Buddhism. They tried to stay close to their synagogue and the street on which their ancestors had once lived. According to the Kaifeng Jews, they are proudly Chinese, and they are authentically Jewish.

开封犹太人坚信中国和犹太传统思想之间存在着巨大的吻合和相似点 - 虽然中国人缺乏坚定的上帝神性概念，但两者在价值观上有着惊人的相似之处。在开封犹太教堂院子里保存的石碑上时常提到儒家思想和犹太教之间道德和原则的共性。由于中国人和犹太人都非常重视家庭，开封犹太人对祖先传承到他们手中的任何文化遗产都非常重视，并加以推广和保留。为了更好地效忠他们的先辈，他们不皈依基督教，伊斯兰教甚至佛教。他们尽可能地靠近他们的犹太教堂和他们祖先曾经居住过的街道。开封犹太人认为，他们既是地道地道的中国人，也是真正的意义上犹太人。



Ming dynasty Sabbath prayer book with men and women's names in Hebrew and Chinese. Collection from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

明朝的安息日祈祷书，展现着希伯来文和中文的男女名字。来自俄亥俄州辛辛那提的希伯来联合学院的收藏。

On a practical level, they are realistic about the limitations to Judaic observances in Kaifeng. Working on the Shabbat is a necessity and there is no infrastructure to support a fully Jewish lifestyle. But within these constraints they have done remarkably well in maintaining and cultivating their Jewish identity.

在日常生活中，他们知道要完全遵守犹太人的习俗和纪念活动是不符合实际的。在安息日工作是必须的，他们也不再拥有基础设施来支持一个完全犹太人的生活和饮食方式。虽然面对着现实生活中种种限制，他们在维护和继续培养犹太精神这方面还是做得很好的。

Michael Freund of Shavei Israel observed, "Even though their knowledge of Judaism was very low, they still retained great pride that their ancestors were Jews; it was something they nourished and passed down to later generations."

Shavei Israel 的 Michael Freund 说：“尽管他们对犹太教的了解很少，但对于他们的祖先是犹太人，他们感到非常的自豪和骄傲。这是他们生命不可割夺的一部分，他们将此代代相传。”

PERSEVERANCE

毅力

Considering their very small number, considering the extended periods of isolation from the outside world, and considering the countless upheavals over two thousand years of Chinese history, it is absolutely remarkable that this tiny outpost of Judaism, in the middle of China, had not disappeared completely.

考虑到他们的人数确实非常少，考虑到他们长时期地与外隔绝，考虑到他们经历了两千多年中国动乱的历史，他们现在依旧存活着，依旧有着自己的小社区和群体，这根本就是一个奇迹。



In Hebrew and Chinese, "For My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer For All People"

用希伯来语和中文写的，“我的房子将被称为所有人的祈祷之家”

Perhaps it was their destiny. Tucked away in a most unlikely diasporic sanctuary, Kaifeng Jews exemplified the most inspiring of Jewish collective character - perseverance.

也许这是他们的命运。隐藏在一个最不可思议，远离遥远家乡的海外庇护所，开封的这些犹太人们体现了一个犹太群体最显著也最代表他们名族特征的性格 - 坚持不懈。

For thousands of years, in a location far away from their homeland, the Kaifeng Jews followed a lifestyle that was quite similar to that of their counterparts elsewhere in the world. They had their own synagogue which allowed them to observe Sabbath, keep ritual bathes, and maintain cemeteries. They taught their children Hebrew language and scripture, gave their new-borns Hebrew names in addition to Chinese names, some even circumcised their boys. They kept a slaughter house and observed kosher diet. The moral parameters by which they conducted their lives were very much within the guidelines of the Torah.

几千年以来，在这个远离家乡的第二故乡，开封犹太人保持着祖先遗留下来的传统和习俗，过着与世界上其它犹太人非常相似的生活。他们拥有自己的犹太教堂，他们遵守安息日，保持犹太节日仪式，并拥有自己群体特有的墓地。他们教育孩子们希伯来语和犹太经文，给孩子们取希伯来名字和中文名字，甚至还给男孩们进行割礼。他们创建并保留了自己的屠宰场来维持犹太教饮食规定。他们处处依靠圣经旧约来制定自己的生活和道德观。

After their last rabbi passed away in 1810 and their synagogue washed away by the Yellow River flood of 1854, they lost both a spiritual leader and a physical space of worship. Since they had no Chinese translation of the scripture and no one in the community could read Hebrew anymore, they resorted to oral tradition to pass down religious beliefs and practices. Their unwavering loyalty to their Jewish origin meant they never gave up and held on tight to any Judaic heritage that passed their way. They stayed faithful to their religion, always prayed facing west, in the direction of Jerusalem. Over time however, stories fragmented and many customs were lost.

1810年，他们最后一位拉比去世了。他们的犹太教堂也被1854年黄河泛滥给冲走了。他们失去了精神领袖，也失去了神圣的宗教崇拜空间。由于他们没有翻译成中文的经文，社区中除了拉比也没有任何人能看得懂希伯来文，他们此后只能利用口述来记载和传承宗教信仰和习俗。他们依旧坚信不移地忠诚于他们的犹太血统，并尽可能地继续世世相传。他们的祈祷永远是面对西方，朝着耶路撒冷的方向与他们的主沟通交流。然而，随着时间的推移，许多故事碎片化了，许多习俗也丢失了。



Zhao family came back to their ancestral home after flood of 1854 receded.

1854 年洪水退去后，赵氏家族回到祖屋。

In terms of clothing, Kaifeng Jews continued to wear blue kippahs to distinguish themselves from the Muslims in China who wore white headgears. Although Han Chinese were often confused, mistook them to be a sub-sect of Islam and called them “the Muslims with Blue Caps (蓝帽回)”, the Kaifeng Jews continued this tradition and preserved their unique identity.

在服装方面，开封犹太人继续戴着蓝色的 kippah，以区别于戴着白色头饰的中国穆斯林名族。虽然汉族人经常感到困惑，误以他们为是伊斯兰教的一个分支，并称他们为“蓝帽回”，开封犹太人坚决地保留了这个传统，同时也保留了他们独特的身份。

Rabbi Anson Laytner, former president of the Sino-Judaic Institute and retired Judaic studies professor at Seattle University, said, “like other people, I was fascinated by their story of survival and impressed by their commitment to their Jewish identity even when they only had memories to keep that identity alive.”

中国犹太研究院前院长，西雅图大学犹太教退休教授拉比 Anson Laytner 说：“和其他人一样，我对他们的生存故事着迷，并对他们对犹太身份的执着印象深刻，即使他们唯一拥有的就是一些微薄的先祖们遗留下来的记忆。”



10 feet beneath this gate lies the main entrance to the Kaifeng Synagogue.

这座大门下方 10 英尺处是开封犹太教堂的主要入口。