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Foreword - H. E. Mr S R Nathan, President,  
Republic of Singapore

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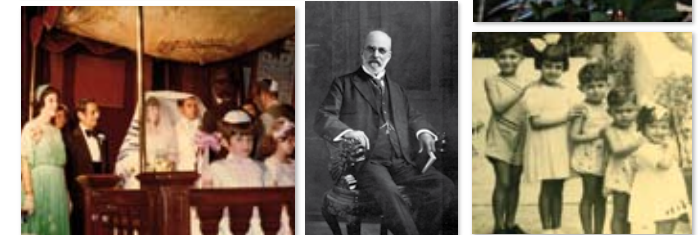
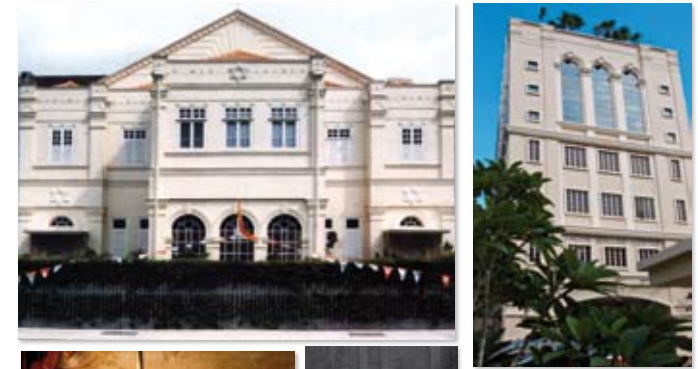
versity” for a time, and why was it that, when the survivors emerged ragged and starved from the camps, a former Jewish prisoner led the country to independence from British rule? What forces brought Singapore’s Jewish community to near-extinction in the 1980s, and how were they led to rebirth and renewal in the new century that promises the community success and well-being in the years to come?



To give a full picture of the community, the author weaves together information from interviews, oral histories, memoirs, personal letters, family documents, photographs, correspondence and government records from Singapore, Israeli, Dutch and British archives, and traces the histories of the community’s larger-than-life leaders and their families. Told through an introduction and 18 chapters, the author reveals how Jewish community members in Singapore suffered, survived and prospered to the present times.

The book, with 450 illustrations and maps, and peppered with numerous box stories, highlights the contributions that Jewish leaders have made to Singaporean finance, business, medicine and law, while living in a Republic that provides respect, religious freedom, equal opportunity and full integration into society.

An extensive bibliography is included.



### Scope of Publication

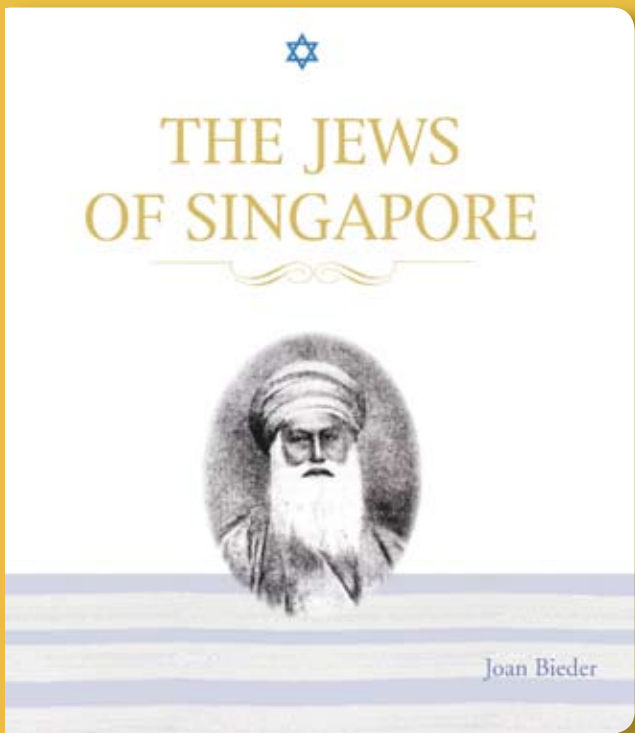
Many would be surprised to learn that Singapore has been home to a thriving Jewish community for almost 170 years - and even more surprised to hear that the community traces its roots to Baghdad, Iraq.

What brought this group of Jewish pioneers from Baghdad to an island in the Southeast Asia? How did a group of Judeo-Arabic speaking immigrants in long exotic robes get along with their Malayan, Chinese, Indian and Indonesian neighbours? How did they survive World War II as prisoners in Japanese internment camps, even forming a camp “uni-



Author Joan Bieder is a Senior Lecturer at the University of California Graduate School of Journalism at Berkeley, where she has taught television production for 17 years. She began her journalism career as an ABC network television news producer working with well-known anchorman Peter Jennings, after which she was an assistant professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York. While working several summers at the Television Corporation of Singapore, Bieder became fascinated by Singapore’s vital Jewish community. Having grown up in an Ashkenazi Orthodox synagogue in Connecticut, she began attending Sephardic Orthodox services and getting to know the congregation in Singapore. After returning to California, she stumbled upon an unpublished photograph of Albert Einstein sitting with Singapore’s Jewish community leaders in 1922. Her interest piqued, she began to explore that community’s history and heritage in earnest, accumulating material for this book. Bieder’s articles have appeared in the *Straits Times*, *Shalom Magazine*, *Fables Magazine*, and [www.onthepage.com](http://www.onthepage.com). She has produced a film on Asian women journalists and a video on the Jewish community of Singapore and presented papers on the community’s history at academic conferences in four countries.

She lives in Kensington, California, USA.



# History & Diaspora, Deliverance & Growth of a Jewish Community

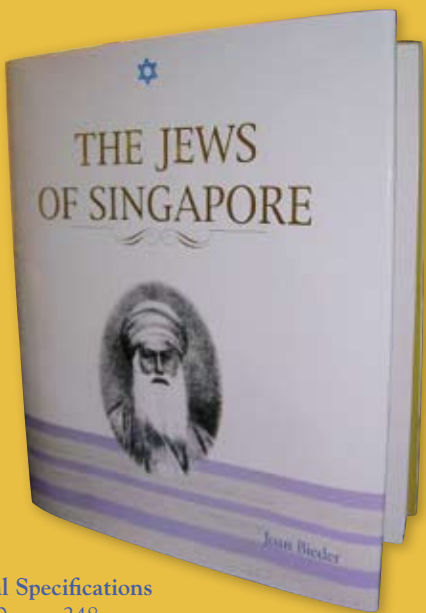
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