Dr. Ho Feng Shan (1901-1997), born in Yiyang in Hunan Province, China, was one of the early diplomats who saved Jews by issuing them visas during his tenure as the Consul General of China in Vienna from 1938 to 1940. Photo selected from Jews in Shanghai edited by Professor Pan Guang, Shanghai Pictorial Publishing House, 2005 edition.

Morris Grossfeld, another survivor, was put into the Dachau concentration camp on the day of Kristallnacht. He was freed only after his wife Stella showed the Chinese visas to the Gestapo. With these visas, Morris together with his wife and son finally fled to Shanghai.

There are many more stories of the Holocaust survivors who escaped the Nazi persecution by fleeing to Shanghai with the visas issued by Dr. Ho Feng Shan.

Although decades have passed, the former Jewish refugees and their descendants have not forgotten Dr. Ho. They contributed their documents and memoirs to Yad Vashem. In 2001, the State of Israel held a grand ceremony which honored Dr. Ho Feng Shan as the Righteous Among the Nations, which is the highest honor given to non-Jews who assisted Jews during the Holocaust.

In March 1938, Germany annexed Austria (the Anschluss). As a result, about 180,000 Jews in Austria were faced with imminent Nazi persecution, and the only way to survive was to leave the country. It was very difficult for a Jew to get a visa from any of the consulates in Vienna. Dr. Ho Feng Shan rejected this anti-Semitism and decided to issue numerous visas to the Jews seeking to escape Austria after the Anschluss. With his help, thousands of Jewish refugees managed to flee Austria for safe haven in Shanghai.

Eric Goldstaub, who is now over 90, was a teenager as WWII approached. He hurried from one foreign consulate to another trying to apply for entry visas for his family, but all of them turned him down. His desperate rush around the district of consulates ended when he came to the Chinese Consulate. There Dr. Ho Feng Shan, the Consul General, issued 20 visas for Goldstaub's parents and relatives. Word spread of his success, and lines of desperate refugees formed at the Chinese Consulate seeking the life-saving visas.