

China Article V: We will never be quite the same again.

Oh, where is Dr. Freud when one needs him?

by Phyllis Chesler



Who would ever have thought that anything could knock the pandemic of Jew hatred off the front pages?

Well, the Chinese government has managed to do so. All day, every day, perhaps with the exception of some particularly malevolent media in Iran or Gaza, most English-language TV broadcasts all, all, focus only on the Wuhan Virus—the escalating rates of infection and death; the absence of adequate equipment; the consequences to our economies; tips on keeping safe—on and on, as if nothing else matters. And, for the moment, nothing else does, the world has come to a hard standstill.

We will never be quite the same again. Now, countless

millions, all those who do not get sick or who do not die, are experiencing what it is like to be a shut-in, to be unable to go out, or to go out very often, or alone, or with ease. Perhaps when this siege is over, able-bodied people will remember it and reach out with a new kindness to those who have been permanently left behind.

We will never be quite the same again—and yet: Families who are now shut in together have probably never before been in such close contact for so long and with so few reprieves, no dashing into the surf, no walking along the beach, no amusement park rides. Nothing. Nada. Young children may someday remember this as a War in which their parents (if they are not doctors or nurses) were able to stay home; as a memory they may treasure in the distant future.

We have time-traveled, at least partly, back to previous centuries, when one worked at home or nearby and did not go far beyond one's own village. Were it not for electricity, plumbing, the internet, live-streaming, and television (how lucky we are!), we might time-travel back even further, when only a mere handful dared risk long and always dangerous ocean voyages.

People are saying that divorces will escalate due to such cramped confinement—perhaps, but the birthrate may also escalate.

We shall see.

We will never be quite the same again, but now everyone might better appreciate the fact that child-diarist Anne Frank and seven others (!) all hid together for two years in a 450-square-foot space in what was known as the “secret annex.” Anne was murdered by the Nazis when she was fifteen years old. Only her father, Otto, survived—and he subsequently went about universalizing and de-Judaizing her diary.

In the mid-1970s, the late Meyer Levin walked with me up and

down the beach in Netanya, imploring me to understand exactly why Otto, together with Lillian Hellman and “the left-wing Broadway and Hollywood Jews” participated in this obscene bid for commercial success. I believed him, but for years Levin was considered a crackpot. Only in the mid-1990s did [Israel National News](#).