

Zoe and Marlyn
Kress share a
mother-daughter
moment. Opposite,
Zoe lights the
Shabbat candles.



HOW THREE YOUNG WOMEN, ADOPTED FROM CHINA, ARE APPROACHING THEIR

ZOE KRESS IS A TYPICAL JEWISH GIRL, RAISED ON A DIET OF MATZO BALL SOUP AND KNAIDLECH, along with that other standard “Jewish” fare, wonton soup and pot stickers. She’s excited about heading to Israel this year with her eighth-grade day school class, and she had the time of her life at her bat mitzvah last spring, where she read from the family Torah. The party following the ceremony was especially meaningful for Zoe, because the theme—China—holds particular significance for her. • Zoe is one of the many Chinese children who were adopted by Jewish families in the late ’90s and are now embracing their Jewish faith as they prepare for and celebrate their bat mitzvahs. However Chinese and Jewish traditions are being woven together—whether it’s a »

■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHRYN GAMBLE AND COLBY KATZ



THEIR JEWISH COMING-OF-AGE

Born (Chinese) and Raised (Jewish)



■ BY LAMBETH HOCHWALD