



TIFTUF תיפתוף

**TIFTUF – Association for the Promotion of
Jewish Life in Bingen Today**

Annual Report 2009

(5769/5770 according to the Hebrew calendar)

**"TIFTUF" is Hebrew for "trickle"- drop by drop, bit by bit,
the Jewish community will grow, just as plants are made
to blossom in the desert by means of trickle irrigation.**

Developments and Events 2008/2009

In the beginning was an idea. It all began with Klaus und Dorothea Dürsch paying a visit to Victor Sanovec and his wife Barbara Fuchs in Oberwesel. Victor, a renowned artist from the Czech Republic, is the chairman of the Rabbi Hillel Society in Oberwesel. Today the town's former synagogue houses ten apartments. The Rabbi Hillel Society had established a synagogue in one of the apartments, in which arched windows can still be seen. Several years earlier, D. Dürsch had seen the apartment in the former synagogue in Bingen on no. 10 Rochusstraße, in which vaults and capitals are still visible. The tenant at the time, Mrs. Schätzel, was glad to show it to her. "It's like living in a church", commented a neighbor. In May 2008, the old lady passed away, and the idea arose that in Bingen, too, Jews should once more be able to use the old synagogue space.

On August 8, 2012, we established contact with the "Arbeitskreis jüdisches Bingen" ("Jewish Bingen" Study Group) in order to attempt to win over its board to the idea – but to no avail.

After several mails, with no personal contact, Beate Götz wrote on September 6, 2009: "The board [of the "Jewish Bingen" Study Group] asked me to tell you that we do not see any possibility of supporting your ideas – our goals are entirely different." She also claimed that there are no Jews currently in Bingen. She wished us rewarding tasks elsewhere and asked us to refrain from further contact.

Even before this time, there had been contacts with Bingen Jews, especially with the Jewish quota refugees who had come mostly from Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine or Moldavia and were temporarily housed in a former hotel on Rochusstraße. The idea was discussed more and more broadly. Suddenly, several people with Jewish roots contacted us. In these conversations, we discovered that two years earlier, a group of Jews in Bingen, together with the chairwoman of the Mainz Jewish Community, Mrs. Stella Schindler-Siegreich (and confirmed by her on September 3, 2009) had tried once before to obtain a room for Jewish community events from the municipality. Unfortunately they were assigned no more than one room in the cultural center, shared with other groups, which was occupied when the Jewish group wished to use it.

In the end the request came to nothing. With the apartment at no. 10 Rochusstraße - with which the Jews identified and which had strong symbolic power - now vacant, there was a new opportunity to be proactive. The idea materialized to use the historical rooms as a multifunctional space for gathering, memorial, exhibition, celebration and prayer. For the City of Bingen, the renewed presence of Jews would result in a major boost to its prestige. The building, which after the war had been subject to forced sale, had changed owners several times. Finally it was acquired by the municipality, which bought it from the Mainz Jewish Community. In 1970, the remnants, apart from the right wing of the synagogue building, were torn down and a fire station and three apartments were built.

September 18, 2008: First letter to Senior Mayor Mrs Collin-Langen:

Dear Mayor Collin-Langen,

in the former synagogue in Bingen, no. 10 Rochusstraße, first floor, an apartment has become vacant. Only in these rooms have vaults and remnants of the former synagogue been preserved. The only tenant of this apartment has passed away.

For several years now, Jewish citizens have been living in Bingen again. As in other German towns, most of them immigrated from the former Soviet Union. Some are very well educated, while the occupational prospects of others are not as good, and many live in precarious economic circumstances. As you know, the political and civic engagement of low-income people is usually quite low. They rarely speak up for their interests in public. Nevertheless, among the 60 to 80 Jewish citizens of the city, (page 3) a longing for Jewish community is palpable. These people are looking for a contact point and an opportunity to build Jewish life. In this sense, our function is that of advocate.

Our initiative promotes the establishment of a Jewish community center in the vacant apartment at no. 10, Rochusstraße.

This concept builds on the significant Jewish life which once had its center in the historical rooms of the synagogue. Simultaneously, the aim is to build a contemporary Jewish community. The rooms are to be used multifunctionally:

- as a place for gatherings, meetings and celebrations
- as a room of prayers
- as memorials
- a space for exhibitions on Jewish themes for religious education for children and teenagers

Bingen's Jews would be able to use the rooms autonomously. The Mainz Jewish Community as a statutory body is in charge of Bingen Jews, and this initiative has been discussed with the chairwoman, Mrs. Schindler-Siegreich. After the upcoming Jewish New Year, Mrs. Schindler-Siegreich will be in touch with you.

- October 15, 2008:** The letter was answered in the negative by the senior mayor, who pointed out that the rooms had already been promised to the fire brigade and that she would be happy to assist in our search for an alternate space.
- October 30, 2008:** Letter from County Commissioner Claus Schick; attached were nine photographs made by the historic monuments protection authority, showing the rooms of the former synagogue as badly in need of renovation.
- November 2, 2008:** First assembly of Bingen Jews at the "Binger Bühne" (the original function of which has not yet been researched – it may have been one of the synagogue's cellars or a wine cellar). The subject under discussion is how to see to it that Jews will be able to utilize the vacated rooms at no. 10, Rochusstraße.

The 48 people on the list of participants indicate how much of an interest there was. A fireman (who wished to remain anonymous) added for consideration that for the firemen, it was not easy to be housed in a building with such a tragic history, since on Pogrom Night („Kristallnacht“) in 1938, the fire brigade did not protect the Jews and the synagogue but rather doused the adjacent houses with water, so that they would not catch fire. The citizens' initiative expressly emphasized that its goals were not against the interests of the firemen, and that on the contrary, it very much appreciates their rescue operations. Former mayor Brigitte Giesbert, a member of the

“Jewish Bingen” Study Group, suggested that the new citizens join the Study Group but emphatically rejected the renewed use of the former synagogue, since the rooms had already been promised to the fire brigade.

November 19, 2008: Since the city, which is governed by the Christian Democratic Union, rejected the initiative, we turned to the Social Democratic Party for help. In a short letter from November 25, 2011, SPD chairman Dr. Müller-Heidelberger informed us that he had heard from the mayor that other locations were being looked into and that the fire brigade needed the rooms in question. Only „Bündnis 90 – Die Grünen“ [the Green Party] immediately agreed to help. A member of the Green Party, Mr. Martin Rector, later became a founding member of TIFTUF. Also, Prof. Dr. Eva Schuster of the Catholic College in Mainz rallied behind the initiative and became a founding member.

December 14, 2008: Dr. Menakhim Shterental, vice chairman of the Mainz Jewish Community, advised the citizens’ initiative to establish an association. The founding event of TIFTUF took place in the community hall of the Lutheran St. John’s Church in Bingen. The founders determined their own structure and established their statutes. The goal they set for themselves was to fill the remnants of the synagogue with Jewish life once more. The association took the name “TIFTUF - Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today”. TIFTUF is Hebrew for “trickle”, as in the Hebrew phrase for “trickle irrigation” (*“hashkaya b’tiftuf”*). Like in the Israeli desert, where drop by drop, plants are made to grow and blossom, the goal of Tiftuf is to make a new Jewish community grow in Bingen.

In spite of the fact that we had collected 175 signatures, the City again rejected our request. Haste was of the essence now, before the City could create irreversible facts on the ground. The first board was elected: Tamara Schmedro became chairwoman, Dorothea Dürsch secretary, and Oleg Doroshenko treasurer. Mirjam Link, Martin Rector, Prof. Dr. Eva Schuster, Dr. Menakhim Shterental and Moysey Vaisman became additional members of the board.



Martin Rector and Dorothea Dürsch



Many interested people attended the founding of TIFTUF and Members of the Jewish Community in Mainz.

The founding of TIFTUF and the first assembly in the hall of the Lutheran St. John's Church.

Press Release

Jewish Society of Friends fights for use of former synagogue

There is a Jewish community in Bingen again! On December 14, 2008, "TIFTUF – Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today" was founded. At the founding event, the space problem of the Jewish community was discussed: in the remaining part of the former synagogue, no. 10 Rochusstraße in Bingen, an apartment on the first floor has become vacant. In this apartment, remnants of the old vaults, capitals and columns of the old synagogue have been preserved. It goes without saying that these remnants are of great meaning and symbolic value for the Jewish community. Building on our once significant Jewish community, this apartment could be used again for meetings, prayer services, parties, exhibitions, classes for children and teenagers and for workshops on Jewish subjects by a growing Jewish community today. The Senior Mayor of the City of Bingen, Mrs. Collin-Langen, however, informed us in a letter that these rooms are earmarked for the Volunteer Fire Brigade. According to the Senior Mayor, the City could look for alternative quarters for the Jewish Community. The aid association does not understand this and therefore kindly asks the City to reconsider making the apartment available again for Jewish life. The citizens' initiative for the use of the former synagogue by Jews from Bingen and its surroundings is being expressly supported by the Mainz Jewish Community, as Dr. Shterental, its vice chairman, emphasized. It would be a great boost to the city's image if a Jewish community could exist again in the extant historical remnants of the synagogue.

You are invited to a press conference with "TIFTUF – Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today" on December 12, 2008 at 9:30 am at no. 10 Rochusstraße. We would be pleased about your participation and your interest and thank you for your reporting.

December 30, 2008: Press conference at no. 10, Rochusstraße with a team from the „Rheinland-Pfalz Nachrichten“, the Südwestfunk [South West German Radio] and various newspapers. Members of TIFTUF explained how important the symbolic value of the former synagogue building is to them. The Jews living in Bingen today can build on the formerly large Bingen Jewish community.

2009

WOCHENBLATT  BINGEN

Haus hat Symbolcharakter

Jüdischer Förderverein macht sich für Nutzung der ehemaligen Synagoge stark

BINGEN (hem / red) – „TIFTUF“ – so heißt der am 14. Dezember 2008 gegründete „Förderverein für jüdisches Leben in Bingen heute“. „TIFTUF“ kommt aus dem hebräischen und bedeutet „Tröpfchen für Tröpfchen kann etwas Großes wachsen“, was in etwa gleichzusetzen ist mit „steter Tropfen höhlt den Stein“.

Ziel des Vereins ist es, Sprachrohr für die jüdische Gemeinschaft in Bingen zu sein und jüdisches Leben, Religion, Brauchtum und Kultur zu fördern. Etwa 100 jüdische Mitbürger sind in Bingen bekannt. Eine offizielle Statistik gibt es aber nicht, erklärte die 2. Vorsitzende des Fördervereins, Dorothea Dürsch, beim Pressetermin in den Räumen Rochusstraße 10, im ehemaligen Synagogenflügel des Gebäudes.

„Wir kämpfen für die Nutzung der ehemaligen Synagoge in Bingen“, betont die 1. Vorsitzende des Vereins, Tamara Schmedro. In den vor kurzem frei gewordenen Räumlichkeiten in der Rochusstraße 10 will der neu gegründete Verein einen Ort der Begegnung für die Mitglieder der jüdischen Gemeinde Bingen schaffen. Eine diesbezügliche von Dorothea Dürsch privat bereits im September an die Stadt gerichtete Anfrage wurde von Seiten der Stadt aber zunächst ablehnend beschieden. Es sei in diesen Räumen eine Nutzung



In den frei gewordenen Räumen der ehemaligen Synagoge in der Rochusstraße 10 sind noch Reste des alten Gewölbes der Synagoge erhalten. Die Mitglieder des neuen Vereines TIFTUF haben deshalb die Nutzung der Räume für Vereinszwecke beantragt. Im Bild v.l.n.r.: Dorothea Dürsch, Prof. Dr. Eva-Maria Schuster, Tamara Schmedro, Oleg Doroschenko und Moyssey Vaysman. Foto: Heim

für die Feuerwehr vorgesehen, hieß es im Antwortschreiben der Oberbürgermeisterin. Die OB bot aber an, nach anderen geeigneten Räumlichkeiten für die jüdische Gemeinde zu suchen.

„Im Stadtrat wurde die Nutzung der Räume für die Feuerwehr bereits beschlossen und 90 000 Euro sind dafür in den städtischen Haushalt gestellt“, ließ Stadtratsmitglied Martin Rector wissen. Dies sei zu einem Zeitpunkt geschehen, zu dem noch keinerlei anderweitige Ansprüche an die Räumlichkeiten bekannt waren.

„Wir brauchen keine Er-

satzmöglichkeiten, wie beanspruchen die ehemalige Synagoge, denn hier hat das jüdische Leben in Bingen seine Heimat, hier sind noch historische Reste zu erkennen“, betont die 1. Vorsitzende Tamara Schmedro beim Ortstermin mit Nachdruck. In zwei Räumen sind noch Gewölbe, Kapitell und Säulen erhalten. „Das Gebäude hat Symbolcharakter.“ Die jüdische Gemeinde musste die Synagoge nach dem Brand in der Pogromnacht durch Zwangsverkauf aufgeben. Später wurden Ausgleichszahlungen an die Mainzer jüdische Gemeinde entrichtet, 1970 wurde die

Ruine mit der erhaltenen architektonisch wichtigen Ostfassade abgerissen.

Eine Nachfrage bei der Stadt Bingen ergab, dass am 3. Januar 2009 die offizielle Anfrage des Vorstandes von „TIFTUF“ eingegangen sei, in der zur Nutzungsfrage um einen Gesprächstermin gebeten wird. „Wir freuen uns, dass es zum Gespräch mit dem Vorstand von TIFTUF kommt“, sagt Pressesprecher Jürgen Port. Er ist zuversichtlich, dass es einen Weg gibt, der sowohl die Wünsche der jüdischen Gemeinde in Bingen als auch die Belange der Feuerwehr berücksichtigt.

Wish for rooms of Symbolic Value

Jewish Community wants to use wing of former synagogue on Rochusstraße

“Allgemeine Zeitung” - Bingen, January 5, 2009

BINGEN. The “Society for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today”, founded in December, is fighting to be granted the use of the former synagogue. The Jewish community, which numbers 100 members, wants to use a rental apartment on the first floor of no. 10, Rochusstraße as a meeting place.

by Christine Tscherner

The Jewish community in Bingen is flourishing. It has grown from 90 to 110 persons, mainly thanks to the influx of people of Jewish faith from the areas of the former Soviet Union, according to data provided by the Association. The “TIFTUF” aid association, which was founded in December, serves as its mouthpiece and official representation.

“The name is Hebrew and refers to “trickle irrigation”, explains Tamara Schmedro. The sixty year-old concert pianist from Southern Ukraine heads the new Association. “Drop by drop something big can grow” –this motto indicates how the Association wishes to support the Jewish community.

Already in September Dorothea Dürsch, now the chairwoman of the Association, turned to the municipality. Her request: in an apartment that had been vacant since May on the first floor of the former synagogue, room was to be made available to Bingen Jews for services, gatherings, parties, exhibitions and classes for children on Jewish subjects.

But the Town had long had other plans. “90,000 EUR were budgeted in order to transform the rental apartment into the direction center of the fire brigade”, says Martin Rector, a councilman and TIFTUF activist. The senior mayor indicated the finalized plans for alteration by saying “The fire brigade’s lack of space has been precarious for years”. Therefore the administration rejected the request of the Association while offering to help search for alternative space.

“The offer stands”, replied town spokesman Jürgen Port when asked by the AZ. The Association must, however, specify its space requirements. He did not rule out the possibility of working out an arrangement with the fire brigade on Rochusstraße. So far members of the Jewish community have been meeting in alternating places, as guests of the Lutheran congregation or at the Caritas House.

„We would consider it a historical opportunity to get our own rooms in what used to be part of the synagogue,“ points out Dorothea Dürsch. According to her, the columns, capitals, vaulted ceilings and arched windows have symbolic character as remnants of the synagogue for Bingen Jews.

The Association emphatically champions its urgent wish for space. “We kindly ask the City to reconsider its decision”, said Dürsch in a press conference that was convened.

The Jewish community of Bingen was once among the most significant in Rhineland Palatinate. In the year 1900 the community reached its peak with 713 members (eight percent of the inhabitants). The old synagogue on Rheinstraße (today the youth club) was replaced in 1905 by a large new building on Rochusstraße. The remnants of the building, which had been destroyed through arson on Pogrom Night (“Kristallnacht”) as well as the plot of land, passed to the ownership of the Bingen Vintners’ Association. A compensation of 10,000 DM is said to have been paid to the Mainz Jewish community. In 1960, the District Vintners’ Association bought the plot and resold it to the municipality in 1962.

The property was transformed into an apartment building.

Around the millennium, Isaac Botler (who had moved from Brazil to Bingen) had the idea to establish a museum of the history of Jewish Bingen in the former synagogue and presented plans. Isaac Botler had been a member of the “Jewish Bingen Study Group” since its establishment in 1998. He felt that the board’s attitude towards his idea was hostile and that he was not taken seriously.

January 3, 2009: Second letter to the senior mayor, Mrs Collin-Langen.

Dear Mayor Collin-Langen,

Bingen has a Jewish community again. As its mouthpiece and official advocacy group, on December 14, 2008, the “Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today” was established. At the founding event, the space problem of the Jewish community was discussed. In the remaining wing of the former synagogue, no. 10 Rochusstraße, an apartment is vacant on the first floor. In this apartment, vaults, capitals and columns of the old synagogue have been preserved. It goes without saying that these remnants are very meaningful and of symbolic value to the Jewish community. The apartment could be used as a multifunctional space for meetings, parties, services, exhibitions, classes for children and workshops on Jewish issues. In the fall you informed us in a letter that the rooms have already been promised to the fire brigade. The aid association does not find this reasonable and therefore kindly asks the municipality to reconsider this decision and to make this apartment available for Jewish life. The initiative for the utilization of the former synagogue by Jews from Bingen and its surroundings is being expressly supported by the Mainz Jewish community, as Dr. Menakhim Shterental, its vice chairman, emphasized at the meeting. Dr. Shterental is ready to receive phone calls at home. It would greatly boost the image of the town if in the old synagogue itself, with the extant historical remnants, there could be Jewish communal life again. Mrs Collin-Langen, the board of the Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today, consisting of Mrs. Tamara Schmedro (chairwoman), Dorothea Dürsch (vice chairwoman and secretary) and Mr. Oleg Doroshenko (treasurer), as well as one of the committee members, Mr. Martin Rector, is asking you for a meeting.

We suggest Friday, January 9 for this purpose. If this date does not suit you, we ask you for other suggestions.

With kind regards,

Dorothea Dürsch

January 9, 2009: At the invitation of Senior Mayor Birgit Collin-Langen, a first conversation between members of TIFTUF - Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today, the “Jewish Bingen” Study Group (despite the latter’s negative attitude towards TIFTUF) and representatives of the Bingen municipality takes place at City Hall at Burg Klopp (Klopp Castle). The goal is to think of ways to realize the wish for an assembly room in the historical building. In this conversation, TIFTUF immediately agreed to share the apartment with the fire brigade and to use the remaining rooms together with the “Jewish Bingen” Study Group.

January 11, 2009: Major gathering of TIFTUF members in the dancing-hall of the Caritas House for the purpose of sharing information and deliberating on the next steps. Those members who, together with Mrs. Schindler-Siegreich from the Mainz Jewish community, had endeavored already two years earlier to obtain meeting rooms for Jews in Bingen and were offered only the cultural center by the municipality, especially welcomed the initiative.



- February 9, 2009: Tu Bishvat (The New Year of the Trees) was the first Jewish holiday in 70 years to be communally celebrated in Bingen. On the grounds of the old cemetery a red maple tree was planted. Afterwards, TIFTUF members, together with Mayor Feser, held a Tu Bishvat seder in the large hall of the Binger Bühne with its impressive column, at which various texts were read. Karmi Kadish from Canada, a member of the Mainz Jewish community, Nira Scherer from the Jewish community in Wiesbaden and Batsheva Haijbi-Schmidt from TIFTUF recited blessings over wine and fruits, accompanied by Tamara Schmedro from Ukraine on the piano.
- February 19, 2009: Official chronological printout of the Mainz District Court confirming the registration of TIFTUF - Association for the Promotion of Jewish Life in Bingen Today under tally VR 40440, with a certified copy.

February 25, 2009: Second meeting with representatives of the Town of Bingen, the "Jewish Bingen" Study Group and TIFTUF. The City now took up the idea. The plan evolved to subdivide the rooms. The two thirds of the space in the front will be given to the fire brigade. The smaller section in the back is to be used by the two associations, the "Jewish Bingen" Study Group and TIFTUF. Certain walls will have to be torn down, new ones will have to be built. The City of Bingen agrees to cover the costs of the renovation.

March 10, 2009: Purim party at the dancing-hall of the Caritas House with costumes, music and dancing.

Little
Ida with
her
parents





Dr. Sasha Matusevych at the accordion, Bella Mitrofanova,



Nelli and Vadym Reprin

The story of Queen Esther, who courageously saved her people from destruction, was read. As is customary, every time the name of the evil Haman appeared in the text, the crowd made lots of noise.

- April 3, 2009: General assembly in the "Temple of Friendship" of the Freemasons in Bingen. Election of auditors: Ludmilla Kanaplova and Dr. Sasha Matusevych. Revision of statutes.
- April 29, 2009: Excursion to Oberwesel to the synagogue established in an apartment in the historical building. There we met the artist Victor Sanovec.
- May 13, 2009: Mirjam Link, a native of the Netherlands, together with the "Rabbi Hillel Society" in Oberwesel and TIFTUF, organizes a trip to the LIMMUD Festival of learning in Berlin. "Limmud" is Hebrew for "learning". 450 participants engaged with a variety of Jewish subjects in many workshops.
- May 27, 2009: A visit to the apartment at no. 10 Rochusstraße with representatives of the city.
- September 18, 2009: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) at the Caritas House. Traditionally, apples with honey are served for a sweet year. Blessings are recited over wine and challah (Kiddush).



October 3, 2009

Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles). A sukkah (tabernacle) was built on the grounds of Klopp Castle. Traditionally, Jews all over the world build these temporary structures in commemoration of the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt, before reaching the Promised Land. The blessings were recited by Shmuel Ahdut.



Shmuel Ahdut from Yafo (Israel) and Anatoli Simonov talking about the Lulav.



All lend a hand to build the sukkah.



Shmuel Ahdut recites the blessing.



Cozy get-together in the decorated sukkah.



Sukkah in the shape of a star of David, seen from the castle keep of Klopp Castle.

October 10, 2009: Gathering on occasion of Simchat Torah (Rejoicing of the Torah) with Cantor Dani Kieselbach-Danieli and his wife Chavah in the Sukkah. There even was a traditional Lulav (see below) with its branches and the Etrog (a special citrus fruit), which during the festival prayers is waved in four directions



Moysey Vaisman waving the Lulav



Reception of Cantor Dani Kieselbach-Danieli and his wife Chavah in the Sukkah.

October 28, 2009: Visiting the exhibition of gallery owner Aniko Havas (Hungary) in Bingerbrück: She exhibited valuable Japanese woodcarvings.

October 28, 2009: Funeral of Pascha Dyskina in the Jewish Cemetery in Bingen.
Baruch dayan ha'emet!

December 18, 2009: For the first time in 70 years, Hanukkah (the Festival of Lights) was celebrated again in Bingen, the candle blessings were recited and the courageous Maccabees were recalled, who fought in order to reconquer the temple in Jerusalem, which had been desecrated by the Seleucid Greeks, and eventually re-dedicated it with kosher oil.

The „Neue Binger Zeitung“ wrote:

NBZ 23.12.2009 - KW 52

Aktuell

Das Lichterfest Chanukka



BINGEN. Etwa 200 Jahre vor unserer Zeitrechnung beherrschten die Griechen das Land Israel. Sie entweihten den Tempel in Jerusalem, indem sie ihn zu einer Kultstätte für Zeus machten. Dagegen wehrten sich fromme Juden.

Unter der Führung von Juda dem Makkabäer wurde der Tempel 164 v. d. Zeitrechnung von einer kleinen Gruppe Juden wieder zurück erobert und neu eingeweiht. Chanukka bedeutet „Einweihung“. Nach einer talmudischen Legende fanden die Makkabäer im Tempel ein einziges Fläschchen koscheres Öl, das nur für einen Tag reichte. Doch, oh Wunder, brannte der Tempelleuchter mit diesem Öl acht

Tage lang, bis neues Öl aus Galiläa eintraf.

100 Jahre später besetzten die Römer das Land und erneuten den Tempel. Die Juden konnten nun nicht öffentlich sagen, dass die kleine Gruppe der Makkabäer schon einmal den Tempel zurückerobert hatte und somit gegen eine Übermacht gewonnen hatte. So erklärten sie offiziell, dass zum Chanukkafest an das Ölwunder erinnert wird und erwähnten gegenüber den Römern nichts von dem gelungenen Aufstand. Acht Tage lang werden seitdem an einem speziellen Leuchter, der Chanukkia, Lichter angezündet.

Am ersten Tag eins, am zweiten zwei usw., bis am achten

Tag alle Lichter brennen. Zum Anzünden dient die neunte Kerze, der Diener. Um das Chanukka-Fest entwickelten sich verschiedene Bräuche. So werden gern Sufganiot (Kreppel) und Latkes (Kartoffelpuffer) gegessen, da beide in Öl gebacken werden und damit an das Ölwunder erinnern. In den letzten Jahren hat sich Chanukka immer mehr zu einem Lichterfest gewandelt. Die Kinder erhalten Geschenke.

Die Mitglieder von Tiftuf konnten Chanukka zum ersten mal seit 70 Jahren in Bingen feiern und mit dem Segen über die Kerzen an den Sieg der Makkabäer und die Tempel-einweihung erinnern.

red/Foto: I. Grabowski

„It was a most eventful, enthralling, successful and exhilarating year!“