



TIFTUF תיפתוף סיפטון

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

Annual Report 2012

(5772/73 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 in the year 2012

Second year in our "TIFTUF House of Study"



Tamara Schmedro

TIFTUF'S indefatigable chairwoman

How quickly time is passing! Is it really so late already?

Jan. 1, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat* with a discussion of the weekly Torah portion *Vayera*. It deals with the ten plagues that befell Egypt and depicts Moses as a hero who courageously confronts Pharaoh. We talked about who could be a "hero" for us today.

Jan. 15, 2012: Visitors from Wellington, New Zealand:



Prof. Noam Greenberg with his wife Rachel and their baby, Amos.

Jan. 27, 2012: Memorial Day for the Victims of Nazism. We invited the public for an open house.

Neue Binger Zeitung Local News

Neue Binger Zeitung

LOKALEN NACHRICHT



Mitglieder der jüdischen Gemeinde beim „Erev-Shabbat“ (Vorabend des Shabbat). Dr. Oleksandr Matusevych (mit Becher) spricht den Segen über den Wein.

Tiftuf – Förderverein für jüdisches Leben in Bingen

Gegen das Vergessen

BINGEN. Am vergangenen Freitag jährte sich zum 67. Mal der Tag, an dem das Todeslager von Auschwitz befreit wurde. Aus diesem Anlass lud „Tiftuf – der Förderverein für jüdisches Leben in Bingen heute“ zum Tag der offenen Tür ein. („Tiftuf“ wird lautmalend übersetzt mit „Tröpfchen für Tröpfchen“ und symbolisiert die Bewässerung der israelischen Wüste „Tröpfchen für Tröpfchen“). Die Besucher konnten die restaurierten Räume der ehemaligen Synagoge in der Rochusstraße

10 mit den noch vorhandenen Kapitellen und Bögen sehen, Synagogen aus aller Welt wurden zudem in einer Bilderreihe gezeigt. Die Mitglieder des Vereins standen gerne für Gespräche bereit und die Gäste waren herzlich eingeladen am „Erev-Shabbat“ („Vorabend des Shabbat“) teilzunehmen. Als erstes wurden die Kerzen gesegnet, anschließend der Wein und dann das Brot. Mehr zum Thema im Innenteil dieser Ausgabe. **gg/Foto: G. Gsell**

Countering oblivion

BINGEN. Last Friday was the 67th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp. On this occasion “TIFTUF Association for the Promotion of Jewish life in Bingen Today” invited the public to an open house. (“Tiftuf” is translated onomatopoeically as “drop by drop” and symbolizes the irrigation of the Israeli desert “drop by drop”). Visitors were able to see the renovated rooms of the former synagogue at 10 Rochus Street with its extant vaults and capitals. Moreover, synagogues all over the world were shown in a series of pictures.

Members of the associations were glad to engage in communication, and guests were cordially invited to participate in the “Kabbalat Shabbat” on the Sabbath Eve. First a blessing was recited over the candles, then over wine and bread. More about the event in the inner pages of this issue.

gg/photo: G. Gsell

Foto:

Members of the Jewish Community at Kabbalat Shabbat (on the Sabbath Eve). Dr. Oleksandr Matusevych (holding cup) recites the blessing over the wine.

Binger Synagoge

Bald mit Bildauf der Außenwand?

Als Zeichen der Erinnerung wurde auch wieder ein Foto der Synagoge von 1910 an die Außenwand des Gebäudes projiziert. Auch der SPD-Fraktionsvorsitzende Dr. Till Müller-Heidelberg und seine Gattin waren unter den Besuchern der Synagoge, die im Herbst 2010 ihrer Bestimmung übergeben worden ist. Ihm wurde der Wunsch vorgetragen, ob man nicht das Bild der historischen Synagoge auf die Außenwand des Gebäudes malen könnte.

Weitere Infos unter: tiftuf@gmx.de: Homepage: www.tiftuf.de. **gg/Foto:Archiv**



Will there soon be a painting on the external wall?

As a sign of remembrance, once again a 1910 photograph of the synagogue was projected onto the external wall of the building. Among the visitors to the synagogue, which was dedicated in the fall of 2010, were SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] chairman Dr. Till Müller-Heidelberg and his wife. The request was presented to him to have the picture of the historical synagogue painted on the external wall. More info at: tiftuf@gmx.de Home page: www.tiftuf.de.

Feb. 08, 2012: *Tu Bishvat*, the New Year of the Trees. We donated money for ten trees which will be planted in our name by the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth L'Yisrael) on Mount Carmel, which was badly damaged in a forest fire in 2010. A seder was held with various blessings over fruit and wine. In addition, pictures from Israel were shown as well as photographs of the devastating forest fire on Mount Carmel.



Anatoli Simenov and Dr. Dann



Olga Fuhrmann with Alisa

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Feb. 16, 2012: Cordial congratulations on Tatjana Mouchkina's 75th birthday!

Feb. 17, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat* with the weekly Torah portion, MISHPATIM. Vadym Reprin elucidated why the passage "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" is interpreted in an antisemitic way time and again.



Interesting conversations at the Tu Bshvat seder

Feb. 19, 2012: Concert in the packed Jewish Community Center in Mainz. The musicians from Bingen mainly played pieces by the Russian composer Isaac Dunaevsky.

Feb. 24, 2012: Presentation of our association at the dm drugstore in Bingen-Büdesheim.



Feb. 29, 2012: Shopping fundraiser at the dm drugstore: TIFTUF was given the proceeds from goods sold during ½ business hour.



March 03, 2012: Cordial congratulations on Dr. David Berlimble's 75th birthday!

March 09, 2012: *Purim*. Feast of the redemption of the Jewish people through Queen Esther



with lots of noise during the reading of "Megillat Esther" (the Book of Esther) ...



food, dance and music

March 11, 2012: Purim Party at the New Synagogue in Mainz, once again joined by a large group from Bingen.

March 16, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat* and a discussion of the weekly Torah portion, *Vayakhel/Pekudei*. We talked about the question why harmony and unity are preconditions for the spiritual growth of a community.

March 21, 2012: great celebration at the community center in Mainz at which several members were honored.

April 01, 2012:



Concert at Worms Synagogue

April 06, 2012: Passover Seder with the Jewish community in Mainz. A small group from TIFTUF celebrated the exodus from Egypt at the first Seder.



Felix Krasnik, Rabbi Andrew Steiman and TIFTUF members at the synagogue

April 07, 2012: Passover Seder at the Budge Foundation in Frankfurt on Main at the invitation of Rabbi Andy Steiman. We travelled in a large group and moved into our rooms at the very pleasant booksellers' apprentices' hostel. At the beginning of services in the Great Synagogue, Andy Steiman welcomed everyone. The festive tables in the large dining room were decorated with orchids, and there were *Haggadas* in Russian and German translations. Andy explained the many blessings and customs, such as the four questions of the four very different sons. Felix Krasnik translated everything into Russian. The food, such as gefilte fish, was outstanding. We greatly enjoyed sympathetic atmosphere until late into the night as we learned how the entire Jewish people migrated from slavery to freedom. The next morning Andy took the time to have a matzo breakfast with us and later on, to take a lengthy spring walk through the splendor of the magnificent blossoms on Lohrberg accompanied by many explanations and interpretations. We went all the way to the *Judenborn* ("Jews' Spring"), one of the many springs in this park. We will certainly remember Passover – the Festival of Freedom – at the Frankfurt Budge Foundation for a long time.





lov with matzos, at the Passover morning stroll



Rabbi Andy Steiman



May 09, 2012: Concert at the Mainz Community Center on the anniversary of the end of World War II.



The veterans, among them TIFTUF members from Bingen (above, left): Vadym Repnin and Oleksandr Ljubarskij at the community hall of Mainz Synagogue.

May 25, 2012: Shavuot celebration in our rooms. The number of members who came was so large that the hall and the corridor were full of people. After lighting candles and making Kiddush, the traditional cheese cake found many takers. Afterwards the ARD [name of a consortium of public broadcasters in Germany] movie about the Nes Ammim project in Israel was shown.



Kiddush on Shavuot



We were joined by guests from Israel



Front: Prof. Eva Schuster with her granddaughter Elora



Vadym Reprin's grandson Nikita with his drawing of a menorah

Hosted by us: **“Creation”, Cycle of oil paintings by artist Brigitte Zander, Mainz.**



1. The First Day: The Spirit of God Above the Waters 2. The Second Day: Heaven and Earth 3. The Third Day: The Earth and The Ocean



4. The Fourth Day: Sun and Moon, 5. The Fifth Day: Fish in the Sea, 6. The Sixth Day: Animals and Humans



7. The Seventh Day: God rests – The Sabbath.

June 08, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat* with a reading of the weekly Torah portion BEHA'ALOTECHA in which the question is discussed, whether Moses was a teacher or whether the people, **p. 12** as with other political leaders, pushed him into the role of parent. G. Striletsky played pieces by Liszt as well as Russian songs on the piano.

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June 13, 2014: Informative event about the services of a Russian-language nursing service.

June 20, 2012: Meeting at the Jewish Community Center in Koblenz. It goes without saying that our people gave a concert.

June 23, 2012: Visit of the exhibition "Dürer, Rembrandt, Goya" in Ingelheim. Alla Kheit, who for 40 years led visitors through the "Hermitage" in St. Petersburg, lectured about the famous artists. Afterwards there was a cozy get-together in a garden in Ingelheim.



Alla Kheit lectures about Albrecht Dürer, his art and his times.



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July 01, 2014: Concert at the International Festival of Encounters at the cultural center in Bingen.



Galina Berger, Tamara Schmedro
and Dr. Oleksandr Matusevych

Sept. 17, 2012: Rosh Hashanah – celebrating the beginning of the new Jewish year with apples, honey and cake.

Sept. 22, 2012: Cordial congratulations on Borys Israelowich Ganzburg's 75. birthday.

Sept. 25, 2012: UKRAINE day at the cultural center: TIFTUF brings typical Ukrainian food and music to the celebration.



Oct. 12, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat* BERESHIT at which we discussed, among other things, the question who does greater things for the world, God or man?

Oct. 26, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat* LECH LECHA: Abraham turns into a leader, even though the Torah makes no mention of his qualities. We discuss, among other things, what qualities a leader should have today.



Nov. 09, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat CHAYEY SARAH* at which we shared thoughts from Prof. Yeshayahu Leibovitz's book on the weekly Torah portions. Afterwards several TIFTUF members, as every year, participated in the event commemorating Pogrom Night (the Night of Broken Glass) on November 9, 1938 organized by the "Jewish Bingen" Study Group.



Nov. 19, 2012: Election of a new TIFTUF board and two new cash auditors.



The beaming new chairwoman:
Natalia Piskunova
 We elected nine new board members.

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Nov. 23, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat VAYETZE*: Jacob's loneliness makes us share our own experiences with loneliness. As its counterpart, we think about the question what causes mutual human attraction, as with Jacob and Rachel?



Elena
Metelitsyna with
Dr. Sascha
Matusevych

Nov. 26, 2012: 30 students from the Catholic College in Mainz learn about Judaism and enjoy artist B. Zander's cycle of paintings, "Creation".

Dec. 03, 2012: A second group of students from the Catholic College in Mainz visits TIFTUF and takes an interest in the origins of the group and the developments in the remnants of the former Bingen synagogue.

Dec. 05, 2012: An article in the Neue Binger Zeitung:

From the Cycle of Creation - Exhibition in the former synagogue

Aus dem Schöpfungszyklus

Ausstellung in der ehemaligen Synagoge

BINGEN. In der ehemaligen Synagoge in der Rochusstraße 10 zeigt „TIFTUF Förderverein für jüdisches Leben in Bingen heute“ seit einem halben Jahr einen Bilder Zyklus der Künstlerin Brigitte Zander. Das Thema beschäftigt sich mit der Schöpfung Gottes. Jedes der farbenfrohen Ölbilder arbeitet einen der Schöpfungstage heraus. Besonders passten die strahlenden Gemälde zum Fest „simcha tora“, dem Fest der Tora freude (Tora sind die fünf Bücher Mose). Zu diesem Anlass wird wieder der Anfang der Bibel - also der Schöpfungsbericht gelesen. Mitglieder von TIFTUF studieren regelmäßig den speziellen

Wochenabschnitt, der für jede Woche festgelegt ist. Die Gruppe stellt viele Fragen zu den Texten und diskutiert lebhaft zum Abschnitt passende rabbinische Kommentatoren. TIFTUF ist froh, dass diese Aktivitäten gerade in dem authentischen Ort der ehemaligen Synagoge heute wieder möglich sind. Der attraktive Schöpfungszyklus lockte in der letzten Woche auch zwei große Besuchergruppen an, die sich über das jüdische Leben in Bingen heute informieren wollten. Die Künstlerin stellte ihre Werke gern dem Verein in Bingen zur Verfügung, die nun jedoch bald zurückgegeben werden müssen.
red/Foto: privat



BINGEN. „TIFTUF - Association for the Promotion of Jewish life in Bingen Today“ at 10 Rochus Street has been exhibiting for half a year a cycle of painting by artist Brigitte Zander. Its theme is God's creation. Each one of the colorful oil paintings deals with one of the days of creation. The radiant pictures are especially well suited to the Holiday of “Simchat Torah”, the feast of rejoicing with the Torah (the Torah being the Five Books of Moses). On the occasion of this

holiday, the beginning of the Bible – that is, the story of creation – is being read. Members of TIFTUF regularly study the weekly Torah portion. The group asks many questions and animatedly discusses the various rabbinical commentaries. TIFTUF is pleased that these activities are possible again today in the very place of the former synagogue. The attractive “Creation” cycle drew two large groups of visitors last week, who wanted to learn about Jewish life in Bingen today. The artist was happy to loan her works to the association in Bingen, but they will soon have to be returned.
Ed./photo: private

Dec. 07, 2012: *Kabbalat Shabbat VAYESHEV*: we read the beginning of the story of Josef as well as the intriguing story of Judah and Tamar. Among other things, we discussed our own experiences with our siblings.

Dec. 14, 2012: *Hanukkah party* – lighting of the seventh candle in the Hanukkah menorah.



Dr. David Berlimble making Kiddush (reciting the blessings over bread and wine).



"S'vivon, sov, sov, sov" the story of the Maccabees... Fun games with the dreydl (spinning top) for "Hanukkah gelt" made of chocolate.



Having fun with good conversation, games, laughter and the best of moods

Dec. 26, 2012: Cordial congratulations on Elena Metelitsyna's 60th birthday

Dec. 28, 2012: Cordial congratulations on Alla Kheit's 75th birthday.

Many thanks for this year to all friends of TIFTUF – we have continued to grow! Aside from cultural events and excursions we celebrated Jewish holidays and regularly studied the weekly Torah portion. Our discussions taught us about their universal values and we noticed that their philosophical topics touch our lives time and again. As a bottom line of his book "Altneuland", Theodor Herzl wrote that dreams are as different from deeds as one might think. All human deeds begin as dreams.

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This is certainly true of TIFTUF!