

Chagim uMoadim

in the Masorti Movement



בס"ד

Tisha be Av in Berlin

The Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue in Berlin, the one with the landmark Golden Dome, was inaugurated 150 years ago, vandalized during Kristallnacht, destroyed during the war, left standing in ruins till the early 90ies – and is today home to a museum, an archive, offices and our Masorti congregation.

On Tisha be Av, the building itself becomes our message and brings meaning to the old texts we are reading. The traces of destruction are visible on the building - the main sanctuary was never rebuilt, modern architectural elements clash with the old stones.

We are reciting traditional Kinot, interspersed with more modern texts, sitting out there in the dark, under the sky, where more than 3000 people could have assembled for prayer – and now we are thirty, maybe sixty, reading from Eikha, reading a Kinah, a lament from 13th century Frankfurt, which talks about destroyed synagogues and abandoned children – and it could have been written in 1938. Reading a poem by Paul Celan: “Dark milk of daybreak, we drink you at evening ... we shovel a grave in the air.” And we read both the Kinah from the 9th century and from Megilat Hashoah: “over these all I weep ...” and the emptiness of the sky, and the cry where to find a hidden God, in the darkness of mourning.

This year, we will add another layer of meaning, when Pari Ibrahim, from the Free Yezidi Foundation will share experiences from today’s suffering.

Remembering the suffering and destruction of our people is a duty, a Mitzvah for us. But not only that. Connecting with our souls and emotions to the pain of generations past will enable healing for ourselves and strengthen our efforts for Tikkun Olam, for working together towards healing the world.

Rabbi Gesa Ederberg

Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue in Berlin, Germany



Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, Rabbi of the „Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue“ of the Juedische Gemeinde zu Berlin (since February 2007). Ordained in 2002 at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

Founder of Masorti e.V. – Verein zur Foerderung der juedischen Bildung und des juedischen Lebens, in Berlin and the Masorti Kindergarten.

Speaks German, English, Hebrew, Spanish, French and Russian.

Published several prayerbooks, Sympathiemagazin Judentum Verstehen (Understanding Judaism), Pluspunkt Deutsch für jüdische Zuwanderer (German language for Jewish Immigrants)

Member of the Executive Council of the International Rabbinical Assembly of Masorti/ Conservative Rabbis.

Director of Congregational Proficiency at the Masorti Rabbinical Seminary “Zacharias Frankel College” in Potsdam.

Founding member of IsraAID Germany, supporting refugees in Germany.



*The activities of Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami are implemented
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