

The Roots of Reform Judaism – A Pilgrimage in
Observance of the 200th Anniversary of the
Reform Movement
Berlin – Seesen -Dessau – Schwerin – Hamburg

July 15 – 20, 2010.

Thursday, July 15th – Berlin

Participants will make their own flight arrangements to Germany from their local point of departure, and should plan to arrive in Berlin by Wednesday evening, July 14.

Driving tour of general and Jewish Berlin with emphasis on the heritage of Reform Judaism (Western part of the city). Among the sites we will see or visit:

Memorial Site of the Synagogue on **Levetzow St.**, used as a Deportation Center by the Nazis. Memorial Site: **Platform 17**, one of the former deportation train stations in Berlin-Grunewald.

Israel Jacobson Villa-Home of the Founder of German Reform

Visit the exhibit in the **House of the Wannsee Conference**, site of the 1942 Nazi convention called to organize and implement "the Final Solution."

Memorial Site: '**Places of Remembrance**' in the Bavarian Quarter.

Jewish Community Center, site of the renowned pre-war Fasanenstrasse Synagogue.

Drive by shopping areas like the Kurfuerstendamm boulevard and Tauentzien St. (with the famous **KaDeWe**, the largest department store in continental Europe and formerly Jewish-owned).

The home of the great 19th century composer of Synagogue music, **Louis Lewandowski**.

The "Friedenstempel" Synagogue, a famous center of pre-war progressive Judaism.

Headquarters of the Central Union for German Citizens of the Jewish Faith.

B'nai B'rith Headquarters

Embassy area in the Tiergarten (Berlin's major park), **Cultural Forum** with the New National Gallery, Berlin Philharmonic, Old Masters Gallery and National Library.

"**Checkpoint Charlie**" and remains of the Berlin Wall.

'**Topography of Terror**'. Between 1933 and 1945 the Nazi SS and the notorious Gestapo headquarters were located here.



Oranienburgerstrasse Synagogue Abraham Geiger College, Rabbinic Ordination 2006

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Evening - **Welcome dinner**

Friday, July 16th - Berlin

Full Day Driving Tour of General and Jewish Berlin with emphasis on the heritage of Reform Judaism (Eastern part of the city)

Drive through the new government area including the Reichstag and the New Chancellery. Berlin's most picturesque historic square **Gendarmenmarkt** and the newly restored Friedrichstrasse -center of the 1920s 'Cabaret' spirit.

Grand Boulevard **Unter den Linden** with its famed landmarks: the State Opera, Humboldt University (see where Einstein taught), the Old Armory, the Berlin Cathedral and Museum Island.

Bebelplatz: site of the infamous Book Burning in 1933.

Tour of the **Old Jewish Quarter** of Berlin, including the site of Berlin's old Jewish cemetery with Moses Mendelssohn's grave and the Jewish High School, the site of the first synagogue of Berlin, the Memorial for the Women's Protest in Rosen St and the Leo Baeck House -the former Seminary for Jewish Studies ,now the seat of the Central Council of the Jews in Germany.

The "New Synagogue", Oranienburgerstrasse, Berlin's largest 19th century Temple, now newly restored as a museum of Berlin Jewish life, The complex also includes archives, a community center and a chapel where services are held.

The house of the Society of Friends, the Quakers who were among the first to come to the aid of Jews in the 1930's..

Synagogue of the pioneering Berlin Reform Congregation..

Jewish cemetery -graves of leading pioneers of Reform Judaism-Israel Jacobson, Rabbi Abraham Geiger, Leopold Zunz, Rabbi Samuel Holdheim,

The former homes of Jacob Hertz Beer, Israel Jacobson, Dr. Leopold Zunz, Rabbi Abraham Geiger, Rabbi Samuel Holdheim, Rabbi Josef Aub, Dr. Hermann Jacobson, Rabbi Regina Jonas (the first woman rabbi in modern history), Bertha Falkenberg.

Brandenburg Gate and Paris Square.

The **Holocaust Memorial.**



Cemetery Schönhauser Allee Sukkat Shalom, Berlin's contemporary Reform Synagogue, Huettenweg

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Afternoon - **Inauguration ceremony of the memorial plaque for Israel Jacobson.** Shabbat Service at Sukkat Shalom, the **Liberal Synagogue on Huettenweg.** **Shabbat Dinner** with members of Berlin's Jewish community and students of Geiger College.

Saturday, July 17th - Berlin

Morning: **Special Commemorative Sabbath Service to mark the bicentennial of the opening of the first Reform temple in Seesen on July 17, 1810**

Afternoon: Guided Tour of the Jewish Museum Daniel Liebskind (the architect who is to re-build Ground Zero) has created a fascinating documenting 2000 years of German-Jew



The Jewish Museum Berlin

Evening: **Attend the Israel Jacobson Prize ceremony of “The Union of Progressive Jews.”**

Sunday, July 18th - Halberstadt, Seesen, Dessau

Halberstadt

Halberstadt is the hometown of Israel Jacobson. In the 17th century, Halberstadt had one of the most important Jewish communities in central Europe. Notable amongst the local Jews of that time was Berend Lehmann (1661-1730), a court Jew, who founded the Klaus shul, a center of Jewish learning. Today, the Berend Lehmann museum based there provides information about the town's rich Jewish history. Halberstadt, in reaction to Jacobson's reforms, became a stronghold of the neo-orthodox movement, retains many important historic buildings and much of its medieval townscape.

Seesen: Home of the First Reform Temple

On this weekend marking the exact 200th Anniversary of the dedication of the first Reform Temple, we will meet with representatives of the municipality at the memorial erected in 1946 in the Jacobson Square to mark the site of the Seesen Temple, destroyed on Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938)

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Halberstadt Israel Jacobson The Seesen Temple, destroyed in 1938

Visit to the Jacobson Gymnasium, the successor of the school installed by Jacobson in 1801. The old building was demolished in 1975.

Dessau

Bauhaus tour to pay tribute to 90 years of Bauhaus Style (also known as International Style). This school launched the theories of modern design that gave Jewish artists and designers new opportunities and became the favoured style for synagogues throughout the world in the 20th century. Many Jewish graduates of this school, whose premises are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, became builders of the new city of Tel Aviv in the 1930's – still a center of Bauhaus architecture.

Visit to the Mendelssohn Center. Dessau was the hometown of Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786), the great German Jewish philosopher whose ideas became the inspiration for the Haskala, the "Jewish Enlightenment," which provided the intellectual roots of Reform Judaism.



*Gravestone
Moses
Mendelssohn,
Berlin*

*Mendelssohn
Center, Dessau*

*Bauhaus,
Dessau*

The exhibition that pays tribute to Mendelssohn and his parents is housed in a Bauhaus building in the residential area named after Bauhaus director and architect Walter Gropius

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Monday, July 19th – Schwerin, Hamburg



Meeting with Rabbi William Wolff (born in Berlin in 1927) at the recently opened synagogue next to the home of Samuel Holdheim. Holdheim, one of the founding fathers of Classical Reform, lived here from 1840-1847.

New Synagogue, Schwerin



Short driving tour to catch a glimpse of the landmarks of Schwerin, including the magnificent palace.

Hamburg

Hamburg is Germany's 2nd largest city and a port metropolis spectacularly located on the Elbe and Alster Rivers.



The famed Hamburg Temple, Oberstrasse

The Jewish community here was born with the arrival of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews in the 16th century. In 1818 one of the leading pioneer Reform synagogues, the "Hamburg Temple" was

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dedicated, with organ and mixed seating for men and women We will stop to pay tribute at the last sanctuary of the congregation, on Oberstrasse, built in 1931 as one of the last major landmark synagogues in pre-war Germany. The impressive Bauhaus style building serves today as broadcasting studios for the German National Radio network.

In Hamburg, we will meet with members of the newly re-organized Reform congregation for lunch at Café Leonar, opposite the Talmud Torah school at the Grindel, once the hub of Jewish life in the city..
Return to Berlin.

Tuesday, July 20th

Departure

Itinerary is subject to change.

Please scroll down to next page for
details on costs, booking and tour
extensions.

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Tour Information:

Costs: \$1700. per person. Single room supplement \$170. (If the number of participants is less than 25, the price can increase slightly). Costs may alter in response to necessary changes in the program. This package price includes hotels, transportation, guided tours, and entrance fees, as well as breakfast and one additional meal per day.

Please note that arrival in Berlin should be scheduled by each participant by Wednesday evening, July 14. Hotel accommodations for that night are not included in the above package price. The double occupancy rate for each additional night will be \$80 (US) per person. Participants may arrange for additional nights both prior to and following the designated Tour dates.

A non-refundable \$425 (25%) deposit (per person) will be due by March 31, 2010. Checks, payable to the SCRJ, should be sent to the address below.

Hotel: 5 star modern hotel, located just off the Kurfurstendamm, Berlin's premier shopping boulevard.

Transportation: Private, air-conditioned bus on all days.

Tour Guides: An English speaking guide accompany the group. SCRJ rabbis (including Dr. Gary P. Zola, Hebrew Union College Associate Professor and Executive Director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives) will offer personal commentary and historical perspectives on the special significance of major sites the history of Reform Judaism.

Tour extensions: Participants interested in additional days before or after the tour in Berlin, or in excursions to Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary or elsewhere in Europe, may contact Milk & Honey Tours for specific proposals on customized supplementary itineraries.

Contact and booking:

The Society for Classical Reform Judaism
15 Newbury Street Boston Massachusetts
02116

See the special link on our website: www.renewreform.org

Toll free in USA -877.326.1400

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For tour extensions contact directly:

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