

THE JEWISH ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE BERLIN (“JÜDISCHE VOLKSHOCHSCHULE”)

HISTORY AND TASKS

The Jewish Adult Education Centre (“Jüdische Volkshochschule”) is a unique institution in Germany. It was reestablished by the Jewish Community of Berlin in 1962 in the tradition of the “Freie Jüdische Volkshochschule” founded in 1919.

Alongside with the library, the “Jüdische Volkshochschule” embodied the concept of an open community centre as initiated by the late Heinz Galinski in which Jews and non-Jews alike were able to receive information on Judaism. This was a reaction to a heightened interest of the general public in Jewish topics.

The aim of the institution is to inform a broad public on Judaism and Israel, and to encourage an encounter and dialogue beyond religious boundaries. Another aspect relates to the Jewish community itself by providing a forum in which Jews can deepen and refresh their knowledge and conduct a debate on their own values and objectives.

Twice a year, the “Jüdische Volkshochschule” presents a program consisting of lectures, readings, events and courses. Competent experts do their best to emphasize a tradition of learning rooted in Jewish tradition from time immemorial. Jewish religion, philosophy, history and culture as well as contemporary history, Hebrew and Yiddish courses reflect the diversity of Jewish identity.

Thanks to a large number of readings by authors, concerts, exhibitions and courses, the “Jüdische Volkshochschule” has been able to maintain its position in Berlin cultural life. In this respect there is regular cooperation with other significant cultural institutions throughout the city.

Meanwhile our institution has acquired a considerable artistic reputation reaching far beyond Berlin. Our program is open to everyone.

