

## CALL FOR AID TO SAVE THE DEVENTER SHUL!

Dear friends of Beth Shoshanna,

As you may have read in the media, our small Jewish community is in danger. The beautiful Great Synagogue of Deventer was sold a few months ago to an entrepreneur who wants to turn it into a food hall.



That would mean that we would no longer be able to have our services there, what could be the end of Jewish life in Deventer. And we are one of the two only Masorti kehillot in The Netherlands. In the black days of history, the interior of the shul was destroyed by Dutch nazi's from Deventer. The police were there and did nothing. In fact, the Deventer police fanatically helped with the search for and arrest of Jews. Later the perpetrators were never prosecuted. Most of the Deventer Jews were murdered during the war. The little group that was left could no longer pay the shul and the building had to be sold to a Christian community. Now it has been sold again to an entrepreneur. We still have to cope with the small number of members, but each of us fights in his own way to preserve the traditions of his parents or ancestors, and we are growing and flourishing. The current generation of Jews in The Netherlands is re-discovering their Jewish roots. This historic shul is essential for this development.

Important side-activities are the lessons we give to school classes (see photo on the right). In addition, we maintain very good contact with the Turkish Centre Mosque, through various joint activities in recent years. This contact is perhaps even of national importance, given the tensions between Muslims and Jews. We teach people who want to return to Judaism, we receive groups of non-Jews from all over the country who want to have more knowledge about Judaism. In short: we really have a role in society and are not introverted.



There are not many synagogues in the region with a living Jewish community. Therefore, most of them have now a different destination. In our view, the best solution would be that the shul would become a cultural building where (classical) concerts, lectures, conferences, exhibitions, and other cultural events are organized. The acoustics are great.

A separate foundation will coordinate the activities in order to exploit the building in a good way, and for additional income, for example, also let it for corporate events, weddings etc. The goal is that the Great Synagogue is preserved and Masorti Jewish Community Beth Shoshanna can continue her activities.

We are very pleased with the many statements of support we receive from all over the country and even outside The Netherlands. That is why we now dare to ask you this question:

**Please help us financially.** Together with other parties, we hope to be able to buy the shul and give it the cultural destination described above. The municipality and province are on our side. Our fundraising is very successful so far, but still more money is needed. For strategic negotiation-reasons, we decided not to

publish the target amount, but if you want to know more, don't hesitate to email us, and we will be happy to give you more detailed (classified) information.

*Because our congregation is certified as charity by the Dutch tax authority, your donation may be tax deductible, as The Netherlands are well-known for all the tax treaties with many countries.*

To make it easy for you, you can donate via PayPal or any credit card: <http://bethshoshanna.nl/english>  
For wire transfer: our account number is: **NL03SNSB0927312344** in the name of Masorti Joodse Gemeente Beth Shoshanna stating: "Donation Save the Deventer Shul". The BIC of our SNS Bank is: **SNSBNL2A**.

As a token of our big thanks you also get something from us:

- If you donate at least € 10.000, - you will receive:
  - an honourable and personal mention on a plaque that will be placed on the shul, and will be festively revealed during the initiation celebration
  - a personalized Jewish music CD + Jewish sing-along DVD
  - a Jewish-historical city walk through the centre of Hanseatic city of Deventer under the guidance of an experienced guide, where you will also be offered a lunch
  - an invitation with VIP treatment for the inaugural celebration in the shul
- If you donate at least € 25.000, - you will receive:
  - an honourable and personal mention on a plaque that will be placed on the shul, and will be festively revealed during the inaugural celebration
  - a framed photograph of you or your organization with your name, that will be hung in the gallery of honour in the shul and festively revealed during the inaugural celebration
  - an invitation with VIP treatment for the inaugural celebration in the shul
  - a Jewish-historical city walk through the centre of Hanseatic city of Deventer under the guidance of an experienced guide, where you will also be offered a lunch

Of course we are also very happy with smaller amounts. If you donate, do not forget to email us your name and address: [info@bethshoshanna.nl](mailto:info@bethshoshanna.nl)

If you also like a certificate with the indication of your gift as proof, you can indicate this in your mail.

More information about us:

- A short youtube impression with some highlights: <https://youtu.be/LlfXdeAS92M>
- Our website: <http://bethshoshanna.nl>
- Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bethshoshanna/>

Please forward this letter to as many people as possible.

**Thank you very much for your donation!**

