



Rabbinical Word

In the ANU, the new Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, there is a work of art at the entrance to the exhibition that triggers many associations. It is a sculpture made up of thousands of dials from old wristwatches. They come from different countries, sometimes square, sometimes round, labeled with Roman or Arabic numerals or just with dashes. Some still have pointers, some don't. They are lined up, one on top of the other, on long metal bands twisted into the shape of a funnel. It is as if all of these individual times together form a spiral leading to a center. The lifetimes of those who owned these watches combine into one great shared story. You have to get close to see each dial, but if one were missing there would be a dark hole.



All of these clocks were once used to tell the time and to integrate their owners into the rhythm of the community, regardless of each person's personal sense of time. We are currently experiencing something similar with the Omer period, which stretches from Passover to Shavuot. From the second day of Passover we count the days of the Omer every night until we observe Shavuot on the fiftieth day. The daily count connects these two holidays like a tape measure. But this is not a mathematical exercise — the dates of the festivals could also be found on a calendar. It is a spiritual journey that begins with the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and leads to the gift of the Torah at Sinai. First, people had to experience their physical freedom in order to be able to become spiritually free to accept a new way of life. Step by step, each day of the Omer moves away from bondage to self-determination. The Torah was adopted as a constitution for Israel as a people and as a guide for every individual in Israel, but it also became influential for other peoples in its call to establish an order of law and justice.

So we are counting fifty days until the arrival at Sinai, and we are doing this in ascending order, beginning with 1. But if the act of giving the Torah is so momentous for the future, why not count in the form of a countdown: Thirty days, twenty more, ten more...? The answer is: our path does not end at Sinai. It goes on from there with the Torah, on the way to one's own country and on the arduous way through history, in which the fortunes of the individual people in joy and sorrow are connected with the migration of the Jewish people. Personal desires, hopes, goals are woven into, influenced by and contributing to the destiny of the community. Just as the private watches of the individuals who are linked to form the long band of Jewish history.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Looking back to April

Pesach

On April 5th we were once again able to celebrate Seder in a full synagogue. Rabbi Offenberg led congregation through the order of texts, songs and rituals, with community members reading from their Haggadah in turn. Once again, we thank Lioubov for cooking the multi-course menu, thanking as well, Masha and Sveta, who helped with the preparation and the festive setting of the tables. Large quantities of delicious charoset were prepared by Feana; Valery and Misha were of great help in converting the synagogue into a large ceremonial hall, as well as in cleaning up afterwards. Peter Wendt thanked everyone on behalf of the synagogue board.

Yom HaShoah

On April 17th and 18th, the murdered Jewish women, children and men were commemorated worldwide. The commemoration event in our synagogue, the only observance in Hamelin, was led by Volodymyr Pesok. The texts and prayers touched everyone present. After the lighting of six yellow candles, our members read the names of the murdered former members of the Jewish Congregation of Hamelin.



Our Jewish Life in May

Shabbaton Limmud Rabbah

Rabbi Offenberg has been leading “Limmud Rabbah” every Wednesday for almost three years. It is a Torah study via zoom in which 30–40 people regularly take part. In addition to members of our congregation, people from all over Germany take part, especially from the Jewish communities in Freiburg, Stuttgart and Berlin and even from abroad. This course was originally intended to maintain contact and learn together during the lockdown of the Corona pandemic, but it has now become a permanent institution. In order to offer the participants an opportunity to get to know one another personally, our congregation is organizing a second annual Shabbaton. On Shabbat “Emor” we will welcome many guests in our synagogue, who will join us from Friday, May 5th to Sunday, May 7th. Shiurim on very different topics are on the program, including a visit to the documentation and education site in nearby Bückeberg, the scene of the National Socialist “Reich Harvest Festival.” We look forward to our members joining our guests for this fascinating weekend program.

Shavuot

We celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) on Shabbat, Friday evening, May 26th at 5:30 p.m. The evening service centers on the giving and receiving of the Torah and continues on Shabbat morning, with a joyous Torah service. Our cheesecake competition will sweeten the following Oneg Shabbat.

Get well soon

Who blessed our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and our mothers Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, may all our sick be blessed and healed. May they be blessed with patience and strength of heart and may they be granted full recovery in body and spirit. May all those who nurture and care for them also be strengthened with perseverance and hope.



Donations – Zedakah

We would like to thank everyone who supports our congregational life and the upkeep of the synagogue with generous donations. This month we wish to highlight: Ms. Nicole Elias, Ms. Sabine Demuth, Ms. Badawi with the 4th grade of the Pezalozzi School, Mr. Müller and his 7th grade class from Schiller Gymnasium and Ms. Büsse and Ms. Dr. Schmidt with their 11th grade classes from Elisabeth Selbert School, as well as the Dohme family. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

We mourn the loss of a good friend and a Mensch

On Friday, April 21, a longtime, loyal friend of our community was buried. Wolfhard F. Truchsess has accompanied our path since the beginning in the 1990s. He was one of the first members of our Circle of Friends, served the Board of Trustees of our Foundation, and was a member of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and a successful and important journalist for the Hamelin daily newspaper, the *Dewezeit*. Only two months ago he visited the synagogue and took part in the planning of future community projects. Together with his wife and children, we mourn the loss of “Wolla,” this intelligent and warm-hearted person who was a reliable and always approachable friend to us. May the memory of him be a blessing.



May Yahrzeits

Betya Kholmer	May 8, 1997 / Iyar 1, 5757
Evgenia Benderskaya	May 24, 2001 / Sivan 2, 5761
Vladimir Rubanov	May 14, 2002 / Sivan 3, 5762
Sofia Kaspler	May 13, 2008 / Iyar 8, 5768
Feliks Gurevich	May 1, 2014 / Iyar 1, 5774
Isaak Frid	May 7, 2020 / Iyar 13, 5780
Mark Ovsievych	May 30, 2022 / Iyar 29, 5782



Family members are invited to recite Kaddish during services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office. Jehi sichram baruch - May their memory be blessed and be a blessing to us too.

Shalom,
Your Synagogue Board

Program for May 2023 • Iyar–Sivan 5783

Daily Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3	6:00 p.m.	Shiur via Emor via the weekly portion, Zoom
Friday May 5	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, May 6	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat, followed by Kiddush. Rabbi Tamarah Benima/Amsterdam: a conversation about Judaism in the Netherlands
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Kehillah
	3:00 p.m.	Visit to the Bückeberg documentation and learning center
	6:00 p.m.	“The Noahic Commandments.” Shiur with Itai Böing
	8:00 p.m.	Israeli songs and music, Rabbi Offenberg & Rabbi Benima
	9:30 p.m.	Havdalah Shabbat
Sunday, May 7	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit
	10:30 a.m.	Shiur with Rabbi Offenberg: “God’s presence since Creation” Two humorous tales from the Midrash
Wednesday, May 10	6:00 p.m.	Shiur via the weekly portion Behar-Bechukkotai, Zoom
Wednesday, May 17	6:00 p.m.	Schiur via the weekly portion Bemidbar, Zoom
Wednesday, May 24	6:00 p.m.	Schiur via the weekly portion Nasso, Zoom
Friday, May 26	5:00 p.m.	Erev Shavuot. Followed by kiddush and cheesecake
Saturday, May 27	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat Shavuot, followed by Kiddush and Shiur
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Kehillah
Wednesday, May 31	6:00 p.m.	Shiur via the weekly portion Beha’alotcha, Zoom

[Newsletter Archive](#)

Jewish Community of Hamelin

Member of the Jewish Liberal-Egalitarian Organization, the World Union of Progressive Judaism, and the Central Council of Jews of Germany

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.jghreform.org Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915