



Dear community members, dear circle of friends!

Rabbinic word

All Jewish festivals have their own aroma: Rosh Hashanah tastes of apples and honey, Sukkot smells of autumn leaves, and on Hanukkah the smell of oily latkes is in the air. Tu BiShvat is inconceivable without nuts, dates and lots of fruit, Purim tastes like Hamantaschen (and a little bit like vodka), Pessach is the festival of dry matzah with bitter herbs and sweet charoset. But the taste of Shavuot is that of cheesecake, blintzes and many kinds of dairy foods. This custom has been handed down since the Middle Ages, although we don't know much about its origin.

According to biblical sources, Shavuot is the festival of the wheat harvest and first fruits of the season. And because the description of the revelation on Mount Sinai, which begins with the verse: "In the third month after the children of Israel left Egypt they came into the desert of Sinai" (Ex 19:1), the rabbis interpreted Shavuot as the festival of the gift of the Torah.

But what taste does the Torah have? According to the rabbis, it can only be thought of as sweet and pleasant, like "honey and milk under your tongue" (Song 4:1). And so numerous culinary traditions developed, all centered around milk and cheese and referring to the gift of the Torah. The Hebrew word for milk ("chalav") has a numerical value of 40, which was taken to refer to the 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai to receive the Torah. The numerical value of "gvinah" (Hebrew: cheese), on the other hand, is 70, a symbol for the 70 faces of the Torah. Children had fond memories of their first encounter with studying the Torah: the custom was handed down from the medieval city of Worms, Germany of bringing boys at the age of three on Shavuot to the rabbi. He, in turn recited the Hebrew alphabet from a carved wooden board and gave the child the reading board, the letters covered in honey, which the child then tasted. There were also cakes dipped in honey with Bible verses baked into them and a hard-boiled egg also with verses written on them. In this way, the children could literally absorb the Torah and had their first formative experience of learning in a positive way.

We are building on that again this year with our "cheesecake competition," which will not only bring us culinary delights, but is also linked to Torah study and fellowship. Regardless of who wins, we will eat the "entries" together and remember that the gift of the Torah at Sinai became the founding document of the Jewish people.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg



Review of the month of May

Yom HaShoah

On April 28th we observed the Jewish memorial day for the Holocaust, Yom HaShoah. Members gathered in the synagogue. In a calm and thoughtful mood, Volodymir Pesok greeted those present. At the beginning the song "Ani Ma'amin" was played, sung by Rebekka Dohme. Her voice and words touched everyone's heart. Timur and Eva Trieskunov read out the names of the murdered Jewish men, women and children of the city of Hamelin. At the end, six candles were lit — in memory of the unbelievable number of six million murdered European Jews.

Shabbaton by Limmud Rabbah

From April 29 to May 1, participants in the weekly online Shiur course "Limmud Rabbah" were our guests. They came from Wiesbaden, East Friesland, Berlin and other places in Germany to get to know each other and our community after almost two years of learning together via zoom. They took part in our Shabbat services and had a tour of the museum and a walking tour of the Old City, discovering traces of Hamelin's Jewish history. Of course, the study of Torah was the main focus. Rabbi Offenberg offered several shiurim. At the end of Shabbat, the group celebrated a moving Havdalah ceremony. Many said goodbye with the firm intention of coming back next year.



Lag BaOmer

On Thursday, June 19, we gathered in the garden of the Lutheran Reformed Church to celebrate Lag BaOmer. Pastor Anne Walter and Rabbi Offenberg guided the members of both congregations into a lively conversation. After a joint “Le Chayim” the beautiful buffet was opened, which Lioubov had prepared extensively and for which community members also contributed salads and other dishes. Meanwhile, Petro Shurupov was the grill master and prepared the kosher hotdogs on the grill. Many thanks also to Christian Meyer from the Reformed Church and to Heinrich Moos, who helped set everything up.

Jewish in June

Shavuot



Shavuot, one of our traditional pilgrim festivals, marks the 50th day after Passover. It is dedicated to gratitude for the gift of Torah and invites us every year to study in a very special way and to use the Torah as a standard for our own lives.

On Saturday, June 4, at 5:30 p.m., we celebrate an evening service in the synagogue, during which we also recite the holiday reading from the Torah,

which deals with the gift of the Torah at Sinai. The next morning, Sunday, June 5th, at 11:00, we will hold our now traditional “cheesecake competition,” in which everyone is cordially invited to participate.

Lecture on Marc Chagall

In cooperation with the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, we offer a lecture by Mr. Spangenberg on the famous Jewish artist Marc Chagall. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, June 1st at 11.00 a.m. in our synagogue. We would like to thank Hans-Georg Spangenberg very much and look forward to his interesting lecture and seeing him again.

Info event

On Wednesday, June 8th, an informational event concerning Ukrainian refugees will take place in our rooms. Our State Board of Jewish Congregations’ social worker, Margarita Suslovitsch, will speak on the topic of “Diploma recognition and the labor market.”

Annual Membership Meeting

Our annual general meeting will take place on June 12th. We hope for a lively participation. Anyone who is unable to attend the general meeting can submit a power of attorney in the office.

Our 25th anniversary

We invite our friends, neighbors and members to celebrate our 25th anniversary on Sunday, June 19th. The festivities begin at 3:00 p.m. with a concert from “Duo Nefesh.” You will enjoy the music of Marjan Abramovich and Olga Abdissa. Marjan Abramovitsch has been performing Yiddish songs and jokes since 2005. He will be accompanied musically by the pianist Olga Abdissa. We thank the Central Council of Jews for their friendly support.

A buffet with Jewish snacks as well as a Jewish book sale will open after the concert. Come celebrate with us!



Congregational Shabbaton in Berlin

We are going on a congregational trip to Berlin! We will visit the Shabbat services of various synagogues, visit the new exhibition at the Jewish Museum and also tour the city. We will travel by train and public transport, our hotel rooms are reserved in the center of Berlin. If you would like to take part in this community outing, please contact the office by June 10th. The cost will be around €100 per person.

Refuah Shlamah

May the One who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and our mothers Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, send blessings and healing to all who are ill. 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.



Mazel Tov

We congratulate Rebekka and Amitai Schleier on the birth of their daughter Galila Yara. Mazel Tov to the Dohme and Schleier families. At the end of May, Lea Golberg will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah in the Berlin Synagogue Oranien-burger Straße. We congratulate her warmly and are happy for her Pelts-Golberg family.

Donations — Zedakah

We would like to thank everyone who supports our community life and the construction of the synagogue with generous donations. This month we would like to particularly highlight: the Ovsievitsch family for their monthly donation, Berger-Haustein (BAFZA), V. Bogachyk, Nira Scherer, Itai Böing, Ute Niedert, Ute Gibas, and the Dohme family. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Yahrzeit in June

Dr. Ilya Latkov	June 5, 1998 / 11. Sivan 5758
Matvey Slavinskiy	June 23, 1998 / 29. Sivan 5758
Etya Scheinberg	June 1, 2011 / 28. Ijar 5771
Abrash Boruchov	June 6, 2011 / 04. Sivan 5771
Elena Gorbacheva	June 4, 2012 / 14. Sivan 5772
Valentina Barulina	June 23, 2012 / 03. Tammuz 5772
Grigori Ziskand	June 25, 2013 / 17. Tammuz 5773
Mariya Tretyachenko	June 5, 2019 / 02. Sivan 5779
Polina Pelts	June 8, 2019 / 05. Sivan 5779
Etya Scheinberg	June 1, 2011 / 28. Ijar 5771



May the memory of our dead be a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken to the relatives during the services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.

Schalom,
Your Board

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Jewish Community of Hamelin

Member of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, the World Union of Progressive Judaism, and the Central Council of Jews of Germany

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Program for June 2022 • Sivan–Tammus 5782

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

Wednesday, June 1	11:00 a.m.	“Marc Chagall” : Lecture by Hans-Georg Spangenberg In cooperation with society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation
Saturday, June 4	5:30 p.m.	Erev Shavuot : Worship service with Torah reading
Sunday, June 5	11:00 a.m.	Day 1 Shavuot : “Cheesecake Competition”
Wednesday, June 8	11:00 am	Information event for Ukrainian refugees : “Recognition of diplomas and the labor market”. With Margarita Suslovitsch (Hannover)
	6:00 p.m.	Shiur about the Haftarah of Shabbat "Beha'alotcha," via Zoom
Wednesday, May 18	6:00 p.m.	Shiur : The Haftarah of Shabbat “Bechukkotai,” via Zoom
Sunday, June 12	3:00 p.m.	Haftarah
Wednesday, June 15	6:00 p.m.	Shiur Annual General Meeting of Shabbat “Schlach Lecha,” via Zoom
Friday, June 17	11.00 a.m.	Breakfast for seniors on the subject of “History and life of Jews shtetl.” Direction: Olga Gerr. With the kind support of “Aktion Mensch.”
Sunday, June 19	3:00 p.m	25th anniversary of the community : Open house and concert by “Duo Nefesh.” Baking Challot for our 25th Anniversary Buffet. Everyone is welcome to help out. With the kind support of the Central Council of Jews.
Wednesday, June 22	6:00 p.m	Shiur on the Haftarah of Shabbat "Korach," via Zoom
Friday–Sunday, June 24–26		Congregational Shabbaton in Berlin . Please register in the office by June 10th
Wednesday, June 29	6:00 p.m.	Shiur on the Haftarah of Shabbat “Chukkat,” via zoom
Outside the community		
Thursday, June 2,	6:00 p.m.	“Travel through time: The month of Sivan” : Rabbi Offenberg talks about festivals and traditions of the Jewish Year, Meeting Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony eV, via Zoom
Monday, June 13th	6:00 p.m.	“Schanah & Sanah” : Talk between Iman Andrea Reimann and Rabbi Offenberg about the cycle of life in Islam and Judaism, via Zoom
Thursday, June 16,	6:00 p.m.	“Digital Bible Dialogue” : Rabbi Offenberg and Prof. Dr. Klaus Grünwaldt talk about Leviticus/Vajikra/Lev 19. Encounter Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony eV, via zoom