



Rabbinical Word

In the Mishnah, the core of the Oral Torah, written down by highly learned rabbis around 200 C.E., Rabbi Yehudah HaNassi found the remarkable sentence (Proverbs 4:1):

“Ben Soma teaches: Who is wise? Who learns from every human being.”

Rabbi Shimon ben Soma was famous for his deep religious insights and was among the leading rabbis who rebuilt Judaism after the Romans had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. Today that is called the “Rabbinic revolution” because Torah study now took the place of sacrificial service. It preserved the Temple in memory, but countered the historical catastrophe with learning:

Decentralized houses of learning emerged; their insights and interpretations were disseminated through messengers and itinerant rabbis. It was this identity-forming learning that the Romans and all subsequent rulers opposed but were powerless to destroy. Due to this evolution, Judaism has been preserved and developed for 2,000 years.

The statement by Ben Soma, who worked in the midst of this culture of schools of learning, is all the more surprising in its message: Learning and attaining wisdom is not necessarily only possible through the Bet Midrash, an academy or other study institutions. Rather, he becomes wise who sees his entire environment with all its encounters, exchanges and possibilities as learning opportunities.

Everyone you meet can become a teacher, because everyone has something unique to share. Every counterpart, every fellow human being has something that can enrich us and from which one can learn. Wisdom is not a quality that is proven by academic degrees and titles. In general, it is not the intelligence quotient that is decisive, but above all: modesty. Wise people know their own limitations and are not satisfied with their own acquired knowledge. Rather, they see themselves as constant learners and see the whole world as a place of possible new knowledge.

In the encounter, a new level of our reality can be experienced that was previously closed, due to one’s own perspective. This not only brings an increase in knowledge, but opens a spiritual dimension because our counterpart represents a different facet of God’s image and thus allows us to recognize the presence and infinity of God. But as soon as a person identifies as learned and wise, one stops learning and atrophies, mentally and spiritually.

The Jewish learning festival LIMMUD has made Ben Soma’s motto its motto. From June 9th to 11th, make it a point to travel to Villa Seligmann in nearby Hannover. Hundreds of Jews come together to learn and meet each other. Because of the geographic proximity, it’s a unique opportunity for us Hamliners to take part – and become a little wiser than before! You can still register, also as a day guest: <https://www.limmud.de>.

With warm regards and Shalom —Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of May

Shabbaton by Limmud Rabbah

A smaller-scale learning festival also took place from May 5th to 7th at our Jewish community in Hamelin. Participants of the weekly Zoom shiur “Limmud Rabbah” were our guests. They came to us from Stuttgart, Hamburg, the Baltic Sea area, Berlin, Freiburg, Düsseldorf and even Amsterdam. Our member Heidi Braun writes:

“It was the third time that a Shabbaton weekend took place in our Jewish community. This time there were fourteen participants from near and far who, under the guidance of our Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg, guest Rabbi Tamarah Benima (Amsterdam) and Itai Böing (Berlin), discussed and studied various texts, celebrated Shabbat services and Kiddush with our members and also visited the documentation center of the NS-Reichserntedankfeste in the nearby town of Bückeberg. The exhibit shows how masses of people were blinded by propaganda and mobilized against unwanted minorities. It was a moving experience, which left one with sad, disturbed and angry thoughts and feelings.





großartig
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awesome
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מדהים

Das Limmud.de Festival ist zurück!
9. – 11. Juni 2023
Hannover, Villa Seligmann

limmud.de

Limmud.de Festival ist zurück. Wir wollen es wieder wagen und mit euch drei Tage zusammen lernen, diskutieren, feiern, lachen und vor allem wiedersehen.

WANN? КОЛИ? WHEN? КОГДА? מתי?
9. bis 11. Juni 2023

WO? ДЕ? WHERE? ГДЕ? היכן?
Hannover, Villa Seligmann

WER? ХТО? WHO? КТО? מי?
Du und viele andere. Limmudanfänger:innen und Limmudsenior:innen.

Anmeldung und mehr Informationen in allen Festivalsprachen unter | Реєстрація та додаткова інформація всіма мовами фестивалю за посиланням | Registration and more information in all festival languages at | Регістрація и дополнительная информация на всех языках фестиваля на сайте

www.limmud.de/festival-2023

“Nevertheless, the prevailing mood of this learning seminar was positive and cheerful. Those who only knew each other digitally got to know each other personally, enjoying various opportunities for study and discussion, and they forged friendships. Our excellent kitchen team ensured our culinary well-being during these three days. Many thanks especially to Masha and Sveta for the delicious meals and snacks.

“We especially thank our Rabbi Ulrike, who made the Shabbaton possible and this through her selection of topics, her professional competence and openness offered everyone a unique learning experience. We felt spiritually enriched.”

Shavuot

Shavuot services were celebrated on May 25–26, recounting the gift of receiving the Torah, and our now traditional “Cheesecake Competition.” We will report on this in the July letter.

Jewish June

On June 7, 2023, at 3 p.m. we invite members and friends to join us as we remember our former vice president and soul of our congregation, Polina Pelts, of beloved memory. She will never be forgotten, a person with an unusually bright soul and a big heart.

On June 29, 2023 at 11 a.m. Margarita Suslovic, Hannover State Board of Jewish Congregations, will speak on recent legal changes and offer a question and answer session.

Upcoming concert in July

We thank the cultural program of the Central Council of Jews for a summer concert on Sunday, July 2, at 4:00 p.m. We will welcome Cantor Assaf Levitin in our synagogue. He is Chasan of the Reform Synagogue in Hamburg and nationally as well known through “The Three Cantors” and the “Kolot Ensemble.” Last year he released his new album “Mizmor leAssaf.”

Under the heading “What’s new? New Music for the Synagogue, Made in Germany,” he will give a concert in which he will present his new compositions, including “Lecha Dodi,” “Lechu Neranena,” “Ma Tov” and many more. The concept of his concert is to invite the audience to sing along. Cantor Levitin will be accompanied by Naaman Wagner (piano) and David Hason (guitar and drums).

Get well soon

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 or suffering. 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 care for them, be strengthened with perseverance and hope.



Donations – Zedakah

We would like to thank everyone who has helped our community life and the upkeep of the synagogue building through their generous donations. This month we want to highlight Birgit Schintlholzer-Barrows and John Barrows, Christine Kimmich, Itai Böing, the Dohme family and Tatjana Meschede in memory of Polina Pelts. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

June Yahrzeit

Dr. Ilya Latkov	05. 06. 1998 / 11. Sivan 5758
Matvey Slavinskiy	23. 06. 1998 / 29. Sivan 5758
Etya Scheinberg	01. 06. 2011 / 28. Iyar 5771
Abrash Boruchov	06. 06. 2011 / 04. Sivan 5771
Elena Gorbacheva	04. 06. 2012 / 14. Sivan 5772
Valentina Barulina	06. 23. 2012 / 03 Tammus 5772
Grigori Ziskand	06. 25. 2013 / 17 Tammus 5773
Mariya Tretiyachenko	05. 06. 2019 / 02. Sivan 5779
Polina Pelts	08. 06. 2019 / 05. Sivan 5779
Nina Sinizina	06. 02. 2022 / 03. Sivan 5782



May the memory of our departed be a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken with the relatives during services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office for a small price.

Shalom,
Your synagogue board

Program for June 2023 Schedule • Sivan–Tammus 5783

Office hours: Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m

Wednesday, June 7,	3:00 p.m.	Remembrance Celebration honoring Polina Pelts, of blessed memory
	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah: "Shelah Lecha", Zoom
Friday, June 9,	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, June 10,	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat "Schelach Lecha", followed by Kiddush
	12:00 p.m.	Shiur on the weekly portion of the Torah
	1:00 p.m.	Children Kehillah
Wednesday, June 14,	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah: "Korach", Zoom
Wednesday, June 21,	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah: "Chukkat," Zoom
Friday, June 23,	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, June 24	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat "Chukkat," followed by Kiddush
	12:00 p.m.	Shiur on the weekly portion of the Torah
	1:00 p.m.	Children Kehillah
Wednesday, June 28,	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah: "Balak," Zoom
Thursday, June 29	11:00 a.m.	Information session with Margarita Suslovyc
<i>Please note:</i>		
Sunday, July 2,	4:00 p.m.	Summer Concert with Cantor Assaf Levitin, with the kind support of the Central Council of Jews

Outside the community

Thursday, June 1,	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue: Jos. 6. Rabbi Offenberg and Dr. Catherine Großmann talk about the book of Joshua/Yehoshua. Encounter Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony e.V., via Zoom
Friday–Sunday, June 9–11		Limmud Learning Festival in Hannover. Program and registration via https://www.limmud.de
Thursday, June 29,	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue: Jos. 24. Rabbi Offenberg and Dr. Catherine Großmann talk about the book of Joshua/Yehoshua. Encounter Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony e.V., via 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

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