



Rabbinic word

On Shavuot we celebrate the gift of the Torah. But how can we hear God's "voice"? How can we humans perceive God's communication with us?

The Torah describes the revelation at Sinai in dramatic images: the mountain shook, smoke rose, there was lightning and thunder, and above all a piercing shofar sound. After the first words, the people recoiled and asked Mosheh to be a middleman. The Midrash Shemot (Exodus) Rabbah of Exodus mentions a voice that went throughout the whole world, north, south, east and west. It was present everywhere and was perceived as coming from all directions, from heaven and from earth.

The Torah says (Ex 20:15): "All the people saw the thunders." And because thunder is spoken of in the plural, Rabbi Jochanan believed that God's voice was expressed in 70 voices, that is, in 70 languages, so that all the nations of the world could hear it. Some people fainted... The voice went through the world and came to every person in Israel according to their individual strength: to the old and the young according to their capacity, to the children, the babies and to the women according to their strength. Even to Mosheh in a way that he could endure it. Pregnant women could also have heard the voice according to their strength. This is the meaning of Psalm verse 29:4 (which we sing every Friday evening): "The voice of God is in power." Not: "In His (God's) power," but in the power of the individual human being.

So this is the Midrash with its idea of how the revelation could have taken place at Sinai. He does not say that everyone heard something different, but that everyone was able to receive the message in their own way. And it is also said that even the future generations were present at Sinai at that time. Because that's what it's all about: The one-time act of giving the Torah is countered by the daily act of accepting it, from each and every individual — a long bond of generations through history all the way back to Sinai.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of May

Interreligious women's meeting

On May 2nd, about 20 Jewish, Christian and Muslim women gathered in our synagogue. Together we studied the "Praise of the Efficient Woman" from the biblical book of Proverbs, Chapter 31. Rabbi Offenberg presented this text to us in German, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Russian, Turkish and Arabic. She also sang these verses as they are sung by families on Shabbat evening. Over coffee, tea and pastries we discussed the image of women described in this text and its transferability to our own real lives. The large number of participants and the lively interest were encouraging, but also made it clear how urgently we need opportunities for interreligious conversation.

Bet Din

With his Bar Mitzvah planned for the end of August, our Timur appeared in front of the Bet Din in Berlin on May 15th to reaffirm his affiliation with Judaism. He confidently answered all of the rabbis' questions and demonstrated his knowledge and his knowledge of Hebrew. Masal Tov, Timur! We are looking forward to your Bar Mitzvah.

Shabbaton

At the end of May, people from Stuttgart, Gießen, Wiesbaden, Mainz, Düsseldorf and Berlin traveled to us on the occasion of the Shabbaton of "Limmud Rabbah." They are among those who study texts from the Tanach (Hebrew Bible) and Jewish tradition together with Hamelin community members every Wednesday in the "Limmud Rabbah" course. In addition to the Shabbat services, various shiurim were on the program: Gerald Beyrodt presented his blog with Jewish comments on current events. John Barrows gave insight into the life of the Israeli politician Yehuda Hashai, originally from Yemen. Itai Böing presented his recently





Published book *Belonging, A German-Jewish Life*. Rabbi Offenberg led a shiur on the Kaddish, the creation and use of this text, known as the funeral prayer. An excursion took the group to the Bückeberg learning and documentation site, which clearly exposed National Socialist mass propaganda. Many thanks also to Olga, Evgen and Petja for their support. It was a Shabbaton rich in opportunities for learning, conversation, and recharging during a difficult time.

Lag BaOmer garden party

The Evangelical Reformed Community once again hosted our Lag BaOmer festival. Rabbi Offenberg and Pastor Walter had prepared opening questions that brought the members of both communities into conversation in pairs. Sometimes speaking in different languages, we managed to communicate and get to know each other. The summer weather, the beautiful garden, the delicious salads and the kosher grilled sausages contributed to a happy atmosphere. We would like to thank our grill masters Valerij, Alexej and Petja, as well as Dora and Sveta for the generous buffet, as well as everyone who contributed salads and helped with set-up and dismantling.

Outlook for the month of June

Jewish-Christian conversation about tolerance and intolerance

The event series running in the city until June 8th is “Hamelin is colorful. Experience diversity. For human rights and tolerance.” With lectures, discussions and an exhibition on the upper floor of the city gallery, coexistence and the diversity of cultures in our society are discussed. Our congregation is also taking part in this and is hosting a panel discussion between the superintendent of the Evangelical Lutheran Church District of Hameln-Pyrmont, Dr. Stephan Vasel, and Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg. On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., both will discuss aspects of tolerance and intolerance in the Christian and Jewish traditions. We expect a large audience from Hamelin and the surrounding area, so we recommend arriving early.

Shavuot and “Cheesecake Contest”

The daily counting of the Omer prepares us for Shavuot: step by step we climb Mount Sinai to accept the Torah once again. We will celebrate this on Tuesday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. with a Maariv service in which we will read the Torah and recite the Ten Commandments. And the next day, Wednesday, June 12, at 11 a.m., we will gather again for our now legendary “Cheesecake Contest.” Community members are invited to prepare milky dishes — sweet or savory — and convince a critical jury of their extraordinary enjoyment. It is an opportunity to present old family recipes, regional culinary traditions or completely new creations. While the jury does its work, Rabbi Offenberg will bring us into conversation through the study of texts. And after the award ceremony, we eat the competition entries together.

Interfaith Outreach Award

After Rachel Dohme, Rabbi Offenberg is now also being honored with the Blickwechsel Prize from the “Meeting Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony” association. This prize is awarded to people who are committed to Jewish-Christian dialogue. The renewed award to Hamelin is also an award for our community, which is very actively committed to interreligious conversation, exchange and understanding in our society. A warm invitation to this festive honor on Friday, June 28th, 4:00 p.m.

Donations — Tzedakah

We thank you for the donations received last month for our community and for the synagogue. We would like to mention by name: Anat Ausländer, Birgit and John Barrows, Itai Böing, Daphna Dürsch, Mina Gampel, Bertilla Jontofsohn, Ruth Nauhaus-Kurnik, Kim Pitzer, Nira Scherer, Sabine Segoviano, Rachel Dohme, Tim Kipp with his class Victoria-Luise-Gymnasium, Robin Unger and the 4th grades from the Wangelist elementary school, Ursula Niedert, Yevgenii Reznik, Ioulia Berhovski, and Ms. Lange with her class from the Albert-Einstein-Gymnasium. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Baruch Dayan HaEmet — Condolences

On May 24th, the father and grandfather of our community members Tatjana and Benyamin Meschede died in old age, surrounded by his family. We express our condolences to his daughter, grandson and the entire family.

Yahrzeit in June

Etya Sheinberg	June 1, 2011 / 28 Iyar 5771
Nina Sinitsyna	June 2, 2022 / 3. Sivan 5782
Elena Gorbacheva	June 4, 2012 / 14. Sivan 5772
Ilya Latkov	June 5, 1998 / 11. Sivan 5758
Marija Tretyachenko	June 5, 2019 / 2. Sivan 5779
Abrash Borukhov	June 6, 2011 / 4. Sivan 5771
Polina Pelts	June 8, 2019 / 5. Sivan 5779
Matvey Slavinskiy	June 23, 1998 / 29. Sivan 5758
Valentina Barulina	June 23, 2012 / 3. Tammuz 5772
Grigori Ziskand	June 25, 2013 / 17. Tammuz 5773



May their memory be a blessing.

Shalom,
Your Community Board

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Jewish Community of Hamelin

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

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Program for June 2024 • Sivan 5784

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

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Wednesday, June 5	7:00 p.m.	Panel discussion between Superintendent Dr. Stephan Vasel and Rabbi Offenberg on “Tolerance and Intolerance in New Testament or in the Jewish tradition”
Tuesday, June 11	5:30 p.m.	Maariv service for Shavuot with Torah reading, afterwards festive kiddush
Wednesday, June 12	11:00 a.m.	“Cheesecake Contest”
Thursday, June 13	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue. Dr. Katrin Großmann and rabbi Offenberg talk about the 2nd book of Samuel, chapter 24. Zoom
Sunday, June 16	11:30 a.m.	“The Weekday Amidah”. As part of the JLEV teaching house Rabbi Offenberg explains the Eighteen Petitions Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday, June 19	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah: “The fasting day of the 20th Sivan”. Zoom
Wednesday, June 26	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. With Rabbi Tamarah Benima. Zoom
Friday, June 28	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Presentation of the Blickwechsel Prize to Rabbi Offenberg Kabbalat Shabbat, festive Kiddush
Saturday, June 29	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Shacharit Shabbat “Schlach Lecha”, Kiddush and Shiur Youth Kehillah

Outlook for the months of July and August

Friday, July 12	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat with Peter Wendt, followed by Kiddush
Friday, July 19	2:55 p.m.	NDR Info “Shabbat Shalom”. Radio speech by Rabbi Offenberg
Wednesday, July 24	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah: “Ejcha/Lamentations”. Zoom
Friday, July 26	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, July 27	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat “Pinchas”, Kiddush, Shiur
Wednesday, July 31	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. With Rabbi Tamarah Benima. Zoom.
Friday, August 2	8:30 p.m.	NDR Info “Shabbat Shalom”. Radio speech by Rabbi Offenberg
Wednesday, August 7	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. “Ejcha/Lamentations”. Zoom
Friday, August 9	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, August 10	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Shacharit Shabbat “Devarim (Chazon)”, Kiddush, Shiur Youth Kehillah
Wednesday, August 14	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. “The joyful day of the 15th of Av”. Zoom.
Wednesday, August 21	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. Zoom
Friday, August 23	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, August 24	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat “Ekew”, Bar Mitzvah Timur Treskunov
Wednesday, August 28	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. Zoom

Regular courses via Zoom:

Tuesdays, 4 p.m. Bar Mitzvah classes
Wednesdays, 4 p.m. Bat Mitzvah class
Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Limmud Rabbah