



Rabbinic word

It's summer and holiday season, and many of us take the opportunity to travel. Some are curious about the distant and unknown; others like to return to familiar places. In the Tosefta, around the year 220 C.E., in an edited collection of rabbinic sayings, it says: "Hillel the Elder said: To the place my heart loves, thither my feet will lead me" (TosSukkah 4:1). Your own wishes and desires are so powerful that your body follows them. Over a thousand years later, the famous commentator Rabbi Shlomoh ben Yitzchak (Rashi, 1040–1105, France) put it this way: "On the path that a person wants to go, one leads him." That sounds very similar, but it has an additional meaning: Who or what guides us? And where does this path lead?



It is the big question about our freedom of will and responsibility. Do we decide for ourselves what we do and what we don't do? What drives us, what are the motives behind our actions? Which feelings, secret desires, traumas and unconscious imprints guide us in our daily decisions? Are we clear about our intentions and can we assess the consequences of our actions and words?

In the small and big things in life, we should always ask ourselves self-critically what drives us and what path that takes us. Is it the right one? Is it for the good of ourselves and for the good of those around us? Even if our feet are confident, it's good to leave room for doubt. In the uncertainty about the path and destination of our actions, Rabbi Tamar Duvdevani from Jerusalem gives us a prayer for the journey:

“Let my feet walk
to the place,
whom my heart loves.
Open my heart,
that it loves the place,
to which my feet run.”

That we remain protected on all our paths, the short and the long.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of June

Tolerance

“Hameln is colorful. Experience diversity. For Human Rights and Tolerance” was the title of a series of events that took place at various locations in the city in May and June. In this context, the superintendent of the Evangelical Lutheran church district of Hameln-Pyrmont, Dr. Stephan Vasel, and Rabbi Offenberg held a conversation in our synagogue on June 5th about “tolerance and intolerance in the Christian and Jewish traditions.” Dr. Vasel discussed the church’s history, which has long been one of blindness and hatred towards Jewish brothers and sisters. Even Martin Luther called for rabbis to be banned from preaching and synagogues to be burned. We learned from this terrible story: “My church is open to everything — but not intolerance.” One must always find ways to live peacefully with religious differences, emphasized Dr. Vasel. Rabbi Offenberg pointed out that every person is in God’s image and is entitled to respect. Unethical behavior is therefore blasphemy. Tolerance means wanting to understand the perspective of the other person. Intolerance, on the other hand, is a sign of a lack of self-confidence, which seeks its way out by devaluing the other person. Both agreed that love for God and love for one’s neighbor are interdependent. This is also the common heritage of Judaism and Christianity. The church district’s pop cantor, Marco Knichala, provided music for the evening with many songs to sing along to.





Shavuot

On Shavuot we connected with the origins of the people of Israel and symbolically stood at Mount Sinai. We celebrated the gift of the Torah with a well-attended service in which all community members were called to read the Torah. A long chain of tradition connects us today with the generation to which the Ten Commandments and God's Torah were directly revealed. Afterwards we were able to enjoy the delicacies that Liubov had prepared for us: cheesecakes, blintzes filled with quark, salads and many milky delicacies. Our tried and tested "cheesecake competition" the next morning was also dedicated to this culinary aspect of Shavuot. While the jurors Bella, Valerij and Alexej critically and expertly examined all the dishes and baked goods submitted, the other community members devoted themselves to studying the Torah. Rabbi Offenberg led a shiur about tzedakah and our duty to allow everyone in our society to participate in justice through donations, gifts and active help. Then came the awards: Masha's cheese balls, a cheese and fruit cake from Dora and a cheese shish kebab from Rabbi Offenberg were particularly highlighted. The decision was difficult because the other competition entries were also delicious. How nice that we then sat at the table together and ate everything in a happy atmosphere.

Our community garden

The cherry tree is full of fruit, lots of grapes grow on the vines, roses bloom in different colors — the small garden next to our community center is transformed into a small Garden of Eden. We have our Matvej to thank for this, who lovingly looks after it and also looked after the rhododendron bushes at the entrance. In the last few weeks and months he has planted several rose bushes, fertilized and watered everything, and built a trellis for the vines. Thanks to his care, Polina's lilacs bloomed profusely and for a long time now the roses in different colors are a feast for the eyes. Thank you very much, Matvey!

Outlook for the months of July and August

Synagogue services in summer

We will continue to celebrate Shabbat services every other week throughout the holiday season. In the first half of July, Rabbi Offenberg will take part in further training at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. That is why our chairman, Peter Wendt, will lead Kabbalat Shabbat on July 12th, and there will be no Shacharit on Saturday morning. A special highlight awaits us on Shabbat "Ekew", 23/24. August, when Timur Treskunov is called to read the Torah for the first time on Shabbat morning. He is currently preparing very diligently to read from the Torah himself for the first Bar Mitzvah celebration in many years. And we can already look forward to the next Simchah, the Bat Mitzvah of Anamaría and Florencia Fiebig, together with their mother Claudia Fischer, at the end of September.

Sephardic music concert

We invite you to a concert on **Sunday, July 21st at 4 p.m.:** The group DAVAGARIKO reinterprets traditional songs of the Sephardic Jews with modern instruments and a unique style. These songs, mostly sung in Ladino, are partly centuries old and were sung in medieval Spain as well as after the expulsion from the Iberian Peninsula in 1492. The Sephardic Jews found refuge near the Mediterranean, in the Balkans, in North Africa and on the Black Sea. The local musical and linguistic influences of these countries in turn influenced the music. The songs reflect homesickness and longing, pain, love and hope. The concert was made possible with the support of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and admission is free.

Donations — Tzedakah

We thank you for the donations received last month for our community life and the synagogue. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

We would like to thank Harald Langguth, Dr. Werner Kamsker, Valerij Bogatchyk and Berta Friedman.



Get well wishes

We sincerely wish all of our community members who are currently in the hospital or sick at home Refuah schlemah umeherah — a speedy and comprehensive recovery.

Yahrzeit in July and August

Nataliya Zaychenko	July 1, 2003 / 1 Tammus 5763
Inge Dickmann	July 16, 2008 / 13 Tammus 5768
Volodymyr Zaslavsky	July 19, 2012 / 10 Av 5772
Borys Markhasev	July 19, 2023 / 1 Av 5783
Elena Zaroubkinskaya	July 20, 2022 / 21 Tammus 5782
Aron Kaplan	July 21, 2022 / 22 Tammus 5782
Sergei Yevdokimov	July 21, 2008 / 18 Tammus 5768
Julia Shurupova	August 1, 2022 / 4 Av 5782
Musiy Khazanov	August 7, 2020 / 17 Av 5780
Ethel Lazer	August 16, 2009 / 26 Av 5769
Emilia Sheenkova	August 18, 2020 / 28 Av 5780
Alexander Gogulinsky	August 31, 2023 / 14 Elul 5783

May their memory be a blessing.



**Shalom,
Your Community Board**

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Jewish Community of Hamelin

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Program for July–August 2024 • Sivan–Tammus–Aw 5784

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

Telephone: 05151 / 925 625 Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Wednesday, July 3,	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, with Rabbi Tamarah Benima, via Zoom. Topic: The book of the prophets Habakkuk
Wednesday, July 10	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom.
Friday, July 12	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat “Chukkat”, with Peter Wendt, followed by Kiddush
Wednesday, July 17	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom.
Sunday, July 21	4:00 p.m.	Concert by the group “Davagariko” with Sephardic songs.
Wednesday, July 24	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom. Topic: “The 17th of Tammuz”
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, via Zoom
Wednesday, August 7	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. “Megillat Ejcha/Book of Lamentations,” via 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/Chason”, followed by Kiddush Youth Kehillah
Wednesday, August 14	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. “Megillat Ejcha/Book of Lamentations,” via Zoom
Thursday, August 15	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue. Rabbi Offenberg and pastor Petermann talk about the book of 1 Kings, via Zoom
Friday, August 23	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, August 24	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat “Ekev”. Bar Mitzvah by Timur Treskunov
Wednesday, August 21	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. via zoom
Wednesday, August 28	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah. via zoom

Outside the community

Friday, July 19	2:55 p.m.	NDR Info, “Shabat Shalom”. Torah interpretation by Rabb. Offenberg
Friday, August 2	8:30 p.m.	NDR Info, “Shabat Shalom”. Torah interpretation by Rabb. Offenberg

Outlook for the month of September

Thursday, September 5	6:00 p.m.	“Experiences of Anti-Semitism by Jews in Germany before and after October 7, 2023”. Rabbi Offenberg reports on a study that she conducted over the last three years and on the website www.juedischleben.de . In cooperation with the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation Hameln
Thursday, September 19	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue. “The Book of 1 Kings,” via Zoom
Friday, September 20	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat. Draschah: Claudia Fischer. Conn. Kiddush.
Saturday, September 21	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat “Ki Tawo”, Bat Mitzvah of Anamaria and Florencia Fiebig and Claudia Fischer, festive Kiddush
Every Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom.