



Dear members, friends and supporters,

We live in troubled times. It seems paradoxical that it is so difficult for us to find peace in a time of lockdown when we are forced to rest. Questions come to the fore that we otherwise overlook or even suppress in the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives. How do I spend my life, what relationships do I have with others, who is there for me and who am I there for? Who do I want to spend Hanukkah / New Year's Eve / Novy God with? Even those of us who continue to receive their salaries, pensions or welfare payments are feeling uneasy. How much more for those who are threatened in

their economic existence by the pandemic! Uncertainty weighs on our souls and we long for a return to the apparent predictability of our lives. The poem "Wanted" by the Israeli poet and Talmud professor Admiel Kosman expresses the longing for peace and security that many of us now feel.

Wanted

Wanted: a quiet place where the soul may rest,
If only a few moments.
Wanted: a place that gives an foot's breadth of support,
If only a few moments.

Wanted: a plant, a leaf, a stem, or a shrub
that won't collapse when it perches on it.
If only for a few moments.

Wanted: a word, pure, pleasant and warm,
that would serve as a place of rest and refuge for
something so close to me, a young pigeon; my soul,
who went out from the Ark, for a few moments,
in the morning hours, and since then has
not found a resting place for her foot.

מבוקש

מבוקש מקום שקט עליו תונח הנפש.
לכמה רגעים בלבד.
מבוקש מקום שישמש מדרה לכף הרגל.
לכמה רגעים בלבד.

מבוקש עציון, עלה, גבעול, או שית, שלא יקוים
ויתקפל כשהיא תבוא. לכמה רגעים בלבד.

מבוקש דבור אהד, נקי, נעים וחס שישמש ספסל
מקלט, למישהי, קרובה שלי, ילדה-יונה, נפשי שלי
אשר יצאה מן התבה, לכמה רגעים, בשעות הבקר,
ולא מצאה מאז מנוח לרגלה.

In various mythologies, the soul is compared with the dove — a peaceful bird, usually drawn in white, and after the Flood, bringing the news of a world worth living in (Picasso's "Peace Dove" embodies this image), and yet at the same time vulnerable, fluttering to and fro, preferably sitting still and expressing comfort through its own cooing.

The world is what it is. Our soul, the little dove, has to deal with it, even though sometimes nothing can affect much of a change. The soul so needs a resting place — these are the kind words that are bestowed upon it and which it itself grants to other troubled souls. During the lockdown period, we most probably will not hold services in the synagogue because "Pikuach Nefesch," the Jewish value of preservation of life, has priority. In order not to take any risk for our members, we will most likely continue Kabbalat Shabbat on Zoom from now on. In the sanctuary we sit at least one and a half meters apart but if we can no longer sing during the service, an essential part of the indispensable Shabbat atmosphere would be missing. So in the next few weeks we will meet by Zoom, which is not ideal, but better than nothing. This year we may not celebrate our popular Tu-BiShvat-Seder in the usual form, but if not, we will celebrate an equivalent in digital form. Please let the community office or me personally know if you are unsure about the medium "Zoom" — we will then try to find a solution together. All the courses of Gijur lessons, the children's Kehillah and the introduction of the weekly Torah reading, which have already taken place in digital format, will be continued. Currently we have services scheduled for the 15th–16th and for the 29th–30th of January, but whether these can take place must then depend on the situation in January. Please inform yourself beforehand through the community office.

For the coming weeks of uncertainty and insecurity, my wish is that your soul finds peace. May 2021 be a year of overcoming the pandemic and renewed joy in community for all of us.

—Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg



Hanukkah

Our congregation ended this difficult calendar year with our annual Hanukkah celebration and the hope of a healthy 2021. The celebration took place on December 10th in our sanctuary, observing all hygienic regulations. The synagogue shone with beautiful Hanukkah decorations. Stars of David, colorful candles, Hannukiot and dreidels hung on the walls and gave our sanctuary a festive look. Together with Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg we lit the first Hanukkah candle in the hope that the light of Hanukkah would cast off the darkness. Aron Kaplan, Maria Bielau and Tatiana Geller were called to light the first candle — thank you very much!

Each of the members received a Hanukkah gift bag in honor of the festival, which Olga Gerr had lovingly prepared. Everyone — adults and children alike went home with a gift. Hanukkah candles, a booklet with blessings, the hymn “Maos Tzur” and the Hanukkah story were inside. There was also a wooden sculpture that our Dr. Felix Peres s.A., had carved. We thank his granddaughter, Yulia Bergmann from Israel, for this loving initiative. The children received a Hannukia with colored candles, a dreidel, a Hanukkah coloring book and Hanukkah stickers. We thank the UPJ for their support.

Hanukkah culinary traditions include food baked in oil. Liubov had prepared sufganiyot and other goodies for everyone to take home — thank you very much!

Despite all the restrictions, it was a lovely celebration.

Jewish January

Tu biShevat

Tu biShevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is the "New Year of the Trees". In the 16th century the custom of observing a Tu biShevat Seder arose, during which different types of fruit and nuts are eaten and different types of wine are drunk. The first fruits in Israel form their buds around the time of Tu biShevat. We celebrate this feast day as a symbol of the regeneration of life and the coming of spring. The festival also reminds us to be thankful for all the food and natural resources God gives us. Since the 19th century, it has been the custom to plant a tree on this festival.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27

In 1996, January 27 was declared as a national Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust. This date was chosen to remember and honor the liberation by the Red Army of the last survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945, the largest extermination camp of the Nazi regime. The United Nations has declared this day to be International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On January 27th, there will be national and international commemoration services for the victims of the National Socialist persecution.

Annual general meeting in February

Board elections are to take place again in 2021. If you are interested in candidacy for the important voluntary board work, please contact the community office. An invitation to the general meeting on February 7, 2021 is enclosed with this letter for our members.

ZWSt Senior Retreat in Bad Kissingen

There are new opportunities to participate for the ZWSt senior's retreat in 2021. The annual program of dates is available in the community. Please inform yourself. Forms are available from the office. We ask for your understanding that we will submit your registration forms, but we have no influence in the decision process. This lies solely with the ZWSt.

Please note: The visit of the Russian consul is canceled this year

Get well soon — Refuah Shlema

We wish all of our members and friends who are ill a speedy recovery. We strive to keep in touch with you. Please also contact us if you need help.



Tree of Life

New this month is a leaf ordered by Yulia Bergmann:

“In memory of Dr. Felix Peres” from his family — March 15, 1932 - November 21, 2020”

Donate — Zedakah

We thank the members and friends who have supported our community life and the maintenance of the synagogue with their generous donations. We say thank you to the Ovsievitsch family, Dieter Shmuel Vogelhuber, Dr. Ivo and Kirsten Schwartzkopff, Yulia Bergmann, Ute Niedert and the Dohme family. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



January Yahrzeit

Chaja-Rahel Kruchkovitch 1/29/2003 / 26 Shevat 5763
Larissa Shapiro 1/4/2013 / 22 Tevet 5773

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

**Shalom,
Your board**

Program for January 2021 • Tevet–Shevat 5781

The synagogue will be closed until January 3, 2021

Wednesday, 1/6	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike, Sh'mot on ZOOM
Wednesday, 1/13	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike, Va'yera on ZOOM
Friday, 1/15	5:30 pm	Friday night services with Rabbi Ulrike, Kiddush in your seat
Saturday, 1/16	10:00 am	Shabbat morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Ulrike
	6:00 pm	Religious school on ZOOM
Wednesday, 1/20	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike, Bo on ZOOM
Wednesday, 1/27	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike B'shallach on ZOOM
Friday, 1/29	5:30 pm	Friday night services & Tu Bi Shevat Seder with Rabbi Ulrike
Saturday, 1/30	10:00 am	Shabbat morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Ulrike
	6:00 pm	Religious school on ZOOM

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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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