



Dear members, friends and supporters,

Now that the turbulent days of the New Year are behind us, we want to dig in and get back to work for our Jewish life in Hamelin.

We celebrated a lavish New Year's reception with a large crowd who came together to welcome the New Year 2020. Chairperson Rachel Dohme, wished everyone present health, well-being and peace followed by asking for a moment of silence we remembered those who passed away last year. She talked about special moments in the past year, such as the wonderful gift of a silver Yad (Torah pointer) and the annual

financial support from the county of Hameln-Pyrmont. This support will help us to continue to provide rabbinical services. We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to former County Commissioner, Mr. Tjark Bartels, who spearheaded the effort.

The evening continued with a wonderful musical program. There was also no lack of various delicious dishes that many members had brought to the festive table. Dancing and conversations embellished this evening. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the organization and preparation. Working together brings us closer and we feel like one big family. We thank "Aktion Mensch" for the kind support.

We were pleased to have our rabbi Ulrike Offenberg with us on January 17th, 18th and 31st, guiding us through services and study hours. Her sermons are also an added plus. As Shabbat drew to a close on the evening of January 18, she led Havdalah. We took sweet leave of Shabbat and joined hands to greet the new week. A small group of members took part and sang traditional melodies and to reflect on the interweaving of the holy and the mundane moments in our lives. The ceremony ended with the blessing over wine, the lighting of the braided Havdalah candle and the sweet smell of spices. The deliberate decision to have a rabbi with us every other week sustains our community and safeguards our liberal religious future, inside and outside our synagogue. Visit our Shabbat and holiday services!

The city of Hamelin and the Hamelin Forum held a memorial, commemorating the anniversary of January 27, 1945. The Lutheran Youth organization Hamelin prepared readings, texts and pictures. Our community was in cooperation of this memorial event.



Jewish life in February

Annual Membership Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on February 2nd at 3 p.m. It is important to exercise the right of democratic participation. After the meeting there is an option to pay outstanding membership fees.

Tu biShvat



Tu biShvat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shvat, is the "New Year of the Trees". In the 16th century, it became the custom to hold a special Tu-biShvat-Seder in which different types of fruit, seeds, nuts and types of wine are eaten and drunk. This day marks the beginning of the new growing season and we celebrate it as a symbol of new life and to emphasize, as partners with God, our responsibility for the environment. Another beautiful custom is to plant a tree for the festival. At the same time, we express our solidarity with the land of Israel by enjoying Israeli products during the meal. We will celebrate this festival on and with Erev Shabbat. We look forward to a short lecture from our special guest, Mr. Otmar Heise, Hamelin forest ranger, on the condition of the city forest.

Rabbinic word

What gives us happiness? Is it a loving partnership, children, prosperity, satisfying work, the recognition of others? All of this is important, but does that mean that we can't be happy if one or more of these components is missing? What happens then when we experience sad events like illness, death or loss that assault our lives, leaving us despondent and helpless. Who can say they are always happy?





Happiness is not to be had as a constant. We strive for a feeling of contentment and fulfillment. We yearn to find our individual and personal place in life. We wish not to be dependent on the opinion of others and the urge to please them, finding our own purpose in life. We work on being able to choose a path and setting foot toward it, being able to create respectful and mutually-oriented relationships, while countering the volatility of our lives with something permanent. In the Bible (Psalm 1: 1-3) and fitting to Tu biShvat — a happy person is compared to a tree:

“Happy is the person who does not walk on the counsel of wrongdoers,
Nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the circle of mockers,
But has pleasure in the teaching of the Eternal and ponders day and night about His teaching.
That person will be like a tree, planted by streams of water,
Which gives its fruit in the right season and whose leaves do not wither,
And whatever that person does shall be prosperous.”

- —Your rabbi Ulrike Offenberg
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"Aktion Mensch"

On February 4th, at noon, we invite our members to a Senior's Brunch. Bring a good appetite.

Our 23rd Birthday

Our congregation is a confident young 23 year-old! Join us at 3 p.m. on February 17th as we take a few hours to celebrate ourselves! We'll sit down together in a relaxed atmosphere, sharing homemade vegetarian dishes we are asking everyone to bring. The congregation will supply ample drinks. A musical program will be provided by our group ? "Shalom" in their original form of Faina Pelts, Mark Ovsievich and Nadja Pesok under the direction of Valerij Fridman. We look back on 23 years of very successful community work and look hopefully into the future.

Federal Voluntary Service (BFD) position

We are looking for a BFD for kitchen work. If you are interested or know someone who is, please register in the office: 05151/925 625.

Get well soon

We wish everyone in our community who is going through illness or difficult times a speedy recovery. Our thoughts, prayers and hearts are with them. All members are invited to recite "MiSheberach" at Shabbat services for loved ones and friends.

Donations — Zedakah

We thank the members and friends who have supported our community life with generous donations. Thank you Renate de Jong, Heidemarie Braun, Ursula Niedert, Iris Grabowski-Holscher, the Lutheran church of Hamelin-Bad Pyrmont, Mrs. Gibas and Rachel Dohme. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

Thank you — Todah Rabah

Thanks to everyone who helped make our celebrations and activities and so many members happy. There are many regular groups taught by members for members which benefit so many. Thank you all!



Chevrah Kaddisha

Accompanying a person once life has passed is one of the greatest Mitzvot in Judaism. A Chevrah Kaddisha, the Holy Funeral Society, has been working in our community for many years. A male and a female Chevra Kaddisha perform the ritual washing of the deceased. We are currently looking for volunteers for these groups. Please contact the office.

Deepest Sympathy

We express our condolences to Mrs. Denisa Mima on the death of her beloved father, Mr. Albert Serti. Our condolences to the entire family, to son-in-law Stelian and the grandchildren Greta and Samuel.

February Yahrzeit

Anna Raik	February 2, 2000 / 6th Adar I 5760
Vladimir Legkov	February 2, 2003 / 6th Adar I 5763
David Saks	February 2, 2008 / 30th Shvat 5768
Michael Lazer	February 5, 2012 / 12th Shvat 5772

May the memory of our deceased be a blessing for us. Kaddish is spoken to and with family members during services. Yahrzeit candles are available from the community office.



Shalom, Your Community Board

Program for February 2020 • Shvat–Adar 5780

Office hours: Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 1	10:00 p.m. Shacharith Shabbat, followed by Kiddush lunch 12:00 p.m. Shiur for Parsha “Bo” 1:30 p.m. Children’s Kehillah
Sunday, February 2	3:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 4	12:00 noon Senior’s Brunch
Thursday, February 6	11:00 a.m. Russian Consul’s visit with Olga Gerr
Friday, February 14.	4:00 p.m. Giyur group 5:30 p.m. Kabbalath Shabbat, followed by TuBiSchwat Seder 8:00 p.m. Guest speaker, Hamelin Forest Ranger, Mr. Otmar Heise, Mishnah Study group Tractate “Pirkei Avot”
Saturday, February 15	10:00 p.m. Shacharith Shabbat, followed by Kiddush lunch 12:00 p.m. Shiur for Parsha “Shemot” 1:30 p.m. Children’s Kehillah 6:00 p.m. Havdalah with songs, readings, light, wine and spices
Monday, February 17	3:00 p.m. Our 23rd birthday celebration: Concert with our choir Shalom, Valerij Fridman on piano. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share!
Friday, February 28	4:00 p.m. Giyur group 5:30 p.m. Kabbalath Shabbat, followed by Kiddush 8:00 p.m. Mishnah Study group Tractate “Pirkei Avot”
Saturday, February 29	10:00 a.m. Shacharith Shabbat, followed by Kiddush lunch 12:00 p.m. Shiur for Parsha “Terumah” 1:30 p.m. Children’s Kehillah

Interesting programs outside our synagogue

Tuesday, February 11	7:00 p.m. Reading: Eyewitness Eva Umlauf, “That Child Won’t Survive” In cooperation with Hamelin Forum, Lalu in Hefehof, Hamelin
Sunday, February 16	3:00 p.m. “Abraham,” Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg, St. Andreas Church, St. Andreas Street 5, Springe

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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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