



Dear community members, friends and supporters!

Rabbinic word

Our hearts are heavy. The news that has been pouring in since last week has left us stunned. We had hoped there would be no war. To describe a neighboring state as a “brother nation” and then to invade it seems to be the height of cynicism. We are concerned about family, friends and acquaintances in Ukraine who are now fearing for their lives. Hundreds of thousands are fleeing again. And on the Russian side, too, mostly young soldiers who die in the war are the beloved sons, husbands and fathers. For many of our members, the horrors of the last war are still present — this is made clear again and again at our May 9th annual commemorations. A war brings only suffering, no problem in this world is solved by a war. A war deepens the wounds, not only between the immediate opponents, but the whole world is again divided and the polarization reaches into our midst. How will current events this year shape our commemoration of May 9th?



I am well aware that there are different perspectives in our community as well and those opinions are influenced by whether we get our information from Russian, Ukrainian or German media. But we must not allow polarization to tear apart our coexistence in our Jewish community. It is no historical coincidence that Jews from the states of the former Soviet Union founded a community in Hamelin. While we are all very upset by the political news, our priority is to be there for one another. It is not the members of the Jewish community in Hamelin who oppose each other as opponents of the war.

There is an important Jewish principle, which is called “Kol Yisrael arewim seh baseh” (“All Jews are responsible for one another”). This has been the basis of our congregation’s work for the past 25 years. We want to continue to treat each other with respect. The strength of a community becomes visible when it manages to stick together even in difficult and very polarizing times. We cannot solve the big political questions, but it is in our hands that our community, which we have called “Beiteinu” (“Our House”) carries us through this journey through the Wilderness. Our synagogue should remain a “tent of encounters” — our prayers and hopes are directed toward peace. Our song that we sing every Shabbat should not be an empty ritual: “Oseh Schalom bimromaw Hu ja’asseh Schalom alejnu weal kol Jisrael weal kol haolam,” may it please God to create peace for us, the People, Israel and the whole world.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of February

We had actually wanted to celebrate the 25th birthday of our community in February, but because of the unexpected surge of the Corona Virus we decided not to have a party. But that does not mean that we have been forgotten: we have received congratulations from various friends and supporters. Pastor Anne-Mirjam Walter brought a bouquet of flowers and a card on behalf of the Evangelical-Reformed Church in Hugenottenstraße, which said, “We thank God that you exist!” The church board and Heike Köhler, the new pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church, also congratulated and will pay us a visit soon. From the association “Encounter — Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony e.V.,” which has accompanied and supported us for many years, and Prof. Dr. Ursula Rudnick, we received a birthday present in the form of a carton of kosher wine. Thank you all. If we have forgotten anyone, we will acknowledge your gift in next month’s newsletter.

Jewish Life in March

March 8 — International Women’s Day

International Women’s Day has a long tradition of over 100 years. It has now been declared a public holiday in 26 countries. Within Germany, it is only a public holiday in Berlin.

We would like to warmly congratulate all the women of our community on International Women’s Day and wish you the most important and priceless things: health, love and simple human happiness. May there always be warmth and comfort at home, may loved ones and relatives always be near, may life be full of joy.



Hamantaschen bakery

On Tuesday, March 10th at 11 a.m., our community will smell of sweet poppy seed pastries again. Under the direction of board member Olga Gerr we will once again turn our kitchen into a Hamantaschen Bakery! Join in the fun!



Purim

We are looking forward to celebrating Purim, which falls on the 14th of Adar II this year. We remember how the Jews of Shushan were saved as described in the Book of Esther, which we will hear read aloud on Erev Purim, Wednesday March 16 at 5:30 pm. We will drown out the name of the evil Haman, sing songs in praise and eat our fill of sweet and delicious Hamantaschen during this happy and noisy festival. Come in your favorite costume. Those who are housebound will, of course, receive “Shlachmones” packages delivered to their doors.

Let us celebrate this happy festival together!

Get Well Wishes

May the One who has blessed our Fathers, Abraham, Issac and Jacob and our Mothers, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, bless all who are ill and may they heal quickly and completely.

Donations

We wish to thank all our members, friends and supporters who have given freely from their hearts in support of our congregation. We are ever so grateful. Mrs. Ludmilla Späth, Nani and Austin Beutel, Canada, Joshua and Ruth Herz, New York, in honor of the 101st birthday of Father Art Herz's, of beloved memory, Mrs. Maria Mezheryska, Mrs. Sabine Demuth, Mrs. Heidi Braun, Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, Mr. Uwe Wolandowitsch, the 11th grade class of the Elisabeth Seibert High School, Mrs. Ute Niedert, Mrs. Elisabeth Pfeiffer, Mrs. Edelgard Schlagmann, anonymous donations and the monthly donations from the Ovsievych and Dohme families. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Condolences

We mourn with the family of Judith Esther Arnovitz Khan, who died on February 6, 2022 / 5th Adar I 5782. Our deep condolences to her husband Yoshi Khan, her daughters Koki Pesha and Miko Aaron, her brothers Benton and David Arnovitz, her sister Rachel Arnovitz Dohme, brother-in-law Dr. Ferdinand Dohme, and her nephews Max and Julian Dohme, her niece Rebekka and husband Amitai Schleier and their children Taavi Lua and Finias Tira.

On February 7, 2022 / 6th Adar I 5782, Landesrabbiner Dr. Henry G. Brandt passed away at the blessed age of 94. He was buried in the Jewish cemetery of Munich. We express our sympathy to his wife Sheila and their three children. Rabbi Brandt was a mentor and spiritual guide for the renewal of Reform Judaism in Germany. He supported our community from the beginning, inaugurated the new Hamelin Jewish cemetery and served as the Jewish patron for our Synagogue Foundation.

We offer sincere condolences to the Weinberg family to the death of Shanna Weinberg, who died after a long illness and was buried on February 28th. The funeral service was led by Rabbi Offenber.

March Yahrzeits

Riva Slavinska	March 18, 2005 / 8. Adar II 5765
Gersch Kogan	March 19, 2009 / 23. Adar 5769
Polina Khazanova	March 19, 2011 / 13. Adar II 5771
Elena Grabovska	March 28, 2012 / 5. Nissan 5772
Alla Drejzer	March 2, 2013 / 20. Adar 5773
Oksana Kozlova	March 11, 2013 / 29. Adar 5773
Alexandra Konstantinova	March 20, 2019 / 19. Adar II 5779
Polina Peker	March 18, 2020 / 22. Adar 5780

Kaddish is spoken during Shabbat services with family members. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.



Shalom,

Your synagogue board

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Jewish Community of Hameln

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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