



Rabbinic word

The current year 5784 is a leap year, and so the Jewish calendar gives us an extra month. The twelfth month is doubled: we have a First Adar and a Second Adar, which means that Passover comes later this year. So are we in a time warp? Are we repeating in the next month what we did in the previous one? Are we celebrating Purim twice?

No, we celebrate Purim in Second Adar, so the preceding twin month of the First Adar is a month without major events, without days of celebration or commemoration. We celebrate Purim in second Adar because it is linked to Passover, which always follows it four weeks later. The Jewish holidays tell us that the attempted destruction of the Jewish people is followed by an act of awakening and liberation. It is not fear and terror that have the last word, but the experience of awakening and liberation.

And what do we do with the days gained through a leap year? The Gregorian calendar also has an extra day for us this year, February 29. Is this day or the doubling of the month of Adar a gift of time? Or is it merely an act of astronomical calculation, a transfer of the orbital periods of the moon and sun into human time? Calendars and their statutes give us food for thought about what time is, what it means to us and how we use our time.

The flow of time is beyond our control. It is only visible in the position of the moon and sun, in the seasons, in the changes in nature, in the growth, maturing and ageing of ourselves and the people around us. We have no influence on the passing of time, but we do have an influence on how we shape it. The annual cycle with its feast days and days of remembrance gives us a framework within which we synchronize our own days with the life of the community and society. The fact that in a leap year the additional month is inserted before Passover of all days reminds us that the Jewish calendar is based on the time of our freedom from bondage.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of February

Book presentation

At the invitation of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, the Munich author and theater critic C. Bernd Sucher presented his book "Unsichere Heimat" on February 15. In it, he describes the re-emergence of Jewish communities after the Shoah and provides an insight into Jewish life in Germany from 1945 to the present day. Interviews with many interviewees from different biographical backgrounds reflect the self-image of Jews living here. After the reading, the large audience had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the book, after which the author signed copies of his book.

Rally: Anti Rightwing Extremist Rally

On February 10 a demonstration against right-wing extremism took place in the City Park and Gardens. More than 5,000 people from Hamelin and the surrounding area, including many of our members, expressed their concerns about the rise of right-wing extremist forces. The keynote speaker was former regional Bishop Margot Käßmann, who, referring to the persecution of Jews under National Socialism, warned: "It is up to us to be vigilant today and prevent this catastrophe from happening again." Never Again is Now! The attached photos give an impression of the slogans and the atmosphere at this major rally.







Outlook for the month of March

JLEV Shabbaton

On the very first weekend in March, our community will be hosting the JLEV Shabbaton. JLEV stands for Jüdischer Liberal-Egalitärer Verband, (Jewish Liberal/Reform/Progressive Egalitarian Association), the association of liberal communities founded last year under the umbrella of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. More than 30 guests from our sister congregations in Germany have registered for the event. We will welcome prominent rabbinical presence: The chairwoman of the General Rabbinical Conference, Rabbi Prof. Dr. Elisa Klapheck, our own Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg and the rabbi of our sister congregation in Hanover, Rabbi Alex Kovtun, will be involved in the conference program. The Mayor of Hamelin, Claudio Griese, will give a welcome address at the opening on Friday evening. The Shabbat services will be conducted by Rabbi Offenberg and the Frankfurt cantor, Daniel Kempin. Our community members are cordially invited to attend the entire Shabbaton from Friday to Sunday, but are asked to register for this at the community office.

Annual general meeting

Our annual general meeting will take place on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 3.00 pm. The agenda includes a report on the past year's community activities and board elections. The invitations have been sent out to members in good time.

Purim

The Purim festival is based on the biblical book of Esther with its account of the attempted mass murder of the Jewish people. This year, after the massacre carried out by Hamas on October 7, the topicality of this story is very disturbing. Can we celebrate this year with as much fanfare as usual? We will certainly gather in the synagogue on Saturday, March 23 at 5.30 p.m. to read the Megillah and enjoy the home-baked hamantaschen.

We invite anyone who would like to help bake hamantaschen to join us on Thursday, March 21, at 11:00 a.m., in our community kitchen.

Donations — Zedakah

Many people and institutions have responded to our request to donate to the Magen David Adom, the Israeli "Red Cross," which plays an outstanding role in the first aid and medical aftercare of those injured in the Hamas massacre and war against Israel. We raised a total of 2,250 euros, which we passed on to Magen David Adom in Israel. We would like to thank all donors from the bottom of our hearts for their active empathy.



We are also grateful for the donations received in recent weeks for our community. We would also like to thank those who made donations in recent weeks for our community life and the synagogue. Our gratitude goes especially to Mrs. Edelgard Schlagmann, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Wellershaus with her AP course in religion.

We thank our members who have given their time and commitment to help us bridge the vacancy of the janitor position. We would particularly like to mention Matvey Dvortsis, Dora Bogachyk, Svetlana Rubinska and Valeri Bogatchyk. Many thanks also go to Dieter Schultz and Heinrich Moos, who renovated the floor in the synagogue at the end of January.

May all those who selflessly give their money and time to the community and to healing the world's fractures be blessed for their generosity.

Tree of Life

New leaves on our Tree of Life were donated by the Dohme family for Ferdinand Dohme, Wolla Truchseß and Galila Yara Schleier.

Jahrzeit plaques

Unfortunately, we have had to add names, in blessed memory of deceased members. New plaques now commemorate Boris Markhashev, Alex Gogulinski, Maia Olvovskaja and Arkadij Zyryanov.

There are several graves in our cemetery that require a headstone and/or grave maintenance. We ask the relatives to take care of them and in this way preserve the memory of the deceased in a dignified manner.

March Jahrzeit

Alla Drejzer	March 2, 2013 / 20. Adar 5773
Oksana Kozlova	March 11, 2013 / 29. Adar 5773
Riva Slavinska	March 15, 2005 / 18. Adar II 5765
Rimma Kopirovska	March 17, 2022 / 14th Adar II 5782
Polina Peker	March 18, 2020 / 22. Adar 5780
Gersch Kogan	March 19, 2009 / 23. Adar 5769
Polina Khazanova	March 19, 2011 / 13. Adar II 5771
Alexandra Konstantinova	March 20, 2019 / 19th Adar II 5779
Elena Grabovska	March 28, 2012 / 5th Nissan 5772



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 March 2024 • Adar I-II / Nissan 5784

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

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

Friday, March 1.	5:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush, JLEV Shabbaton
Saturday, March 2.	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat "Ki Tissa", JLEV Shabbaton
Wednesday, March 6.	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom
Friday, March 8	1:00 p.m.	International Women's Day Celebration
Sunday, March 10.	3:00 p.m.	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, March 13	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom
Thursday, March 14.	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue. Prof. Dr. Klaus Grünwaldt and Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg, First Book of Samuel. This time: Sam.I, v.25
Wednesday, March 20	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom
Thursday, March 21.	11:00 a.m.	Hamantaschen Bakery
Friday, March 22	5:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, March 23	10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Shacharit Shabbat "Wajikra (Sachor)", Kiddush and Shiur Purim with reading of the Megillah and Hamantaschen
Wednesday, March 27	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom

Outside the congregation

Friday, April 22	8:30 p.m.	"Shabbat Shalom", Radio NDR Info, Hameln 99.9 MHz Torah interpretation by Rabbi Dr. Offenberg
Saturday, April 23.	6:35 a.m.	"Word for the Day", Radio Deutschlandfunk, 94.5 MHz Rabbi Dr. Offenberg on the Purim festival

Outlook for the month of April

Friday, April 5	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, April 6	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Shacharit Shabbat "Shemini (Hachodesh)", Kiddush and Shiur Youth Kehillah
Wednesday, April 10.	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom
Thursday, April 11.	6:00 p.m.	Digital Bible Dialogue. Pastor Dr. Katrin Großmann and Rabbi Dr. Offenberg discuss the Second Book of Samuel
Wednesday, April 17.	6:00 p.m.	Limmud Rabbah, via Zoom
Monday, April 22.	5:30 p.m.	Seder evening
Tuesday, April 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Passover, Kiddush and Shiur

Regular classes via Zoom:

Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. Bar Mitzvah class
Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. Bat Mitzvah lessons
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. Limmud Rabbah