



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

May 2022 • Nissan-Ijar 5782

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Dear community members, dear circle of friends!

Rabbinic word

It is now 77 years since the Allied forces defeated Nazi Germany and forced their surrender. We have remembered this momentous day in our congregation annually because the traces of the horrific Second World War remain omnipresent. During last year's program, many members shared memories and stories of relatives who lost their lives as soldiers or civilians, described the evacuation of their families, and recounted the difficult survival during and after this war. May 9th was a solemn date which commemorated the terrible sacrifices made then.



This year we will not have a "Victory Day celebration" as in past years. Our hearts are broken as we hear the daily news of Russia's war against Ukraine. The reports and the horrific images that reach us every day mingle with those we remember and leave us full of the speechless fear. We will have to find the form and language for future commemorations.

Our mourning for the soldiers who died in the fight against Nazi Germany and the civilian victims we express in this Yiskor prayer:

Yiskor for the brave men and women of the Allied Forces who lost their lives in World War II as they fought to defeat the evil of Nazi Germany.

Eternal One,

We thank you for the victory of the allied forces over the criminal powers of the Second World War.

We bring before you the memory of the men and women who fought for and gave their lives for victory over tyranny.

Grant them true rest under the wings of the Shechinah and bind their souls in the Covenant of Life. Millions of innocent civilians and soldiers were killed and murdered. Countless millions experienced terrible suffering.

We pray for all the souls of all who were killed, be they Jewish, Christian, Moslem or atheist, for recruits and volunteers, young and old, military personnel and partisans, underground heroes and resistance fighters against Nazism.

We commemorate the members of the Red Army, the soldiers of the U.S. Army, the British Armed Forces, La Résistance and all other armed forces that did their part in the resistance and defeat of the forces of evil.

We pray for all those, who, on land, in the air and at sea, in Europe, Asia and Africa and for those who fell in battle and for those who succumbed to their injuries and for those who did not experience Victory Day.

In blessed memory of all those who sacrificed so that we live today, we offer you this prayer.

Eternal, remembering the covenant and grace, accept our prayer for the fallen and murdered. Blessed are you, Eternal One, who answers prayers.

—written by Dr. Igor Genkin, member of the Jewish Reform Community in Moscow
Let us say, Amen. Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of April

Passover

For the first time in three years we could gather again for this celebration, retelling the story of our journey from slavery to freedom. Our communal Seder evening on Friday, April 15th, allowed us to remember, standing together in our living Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Offenberg led the Seder and the members took turns reading from the Pesach Haggadah. In accordance with the traditional dramaturgy, we began with the narration of our oppression, followed by the liturgy of salvation and liberation. The evening ended with the happily sung "Chad Gadya." Special thanks to Liubov who does the tremendous work of shopping and cooking the beautiful and delicious meal. Heartfelt thanks to everyone else involved in the preparation and who helped out in the kitchen for this lovely celebration. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to Larissa Dvortsis, Mascha Bielau, Valerij Bogatchik and Heinrich Moos. Thanks to Feana Engler, who made mounds of delicious charoset.



Due to the editorial deadline, our Yom HaShoah Memorial service and the Shabbaton with Limmud Rabbah will be reported next month.

Passover



Passover



Jewish Life in May

Lag BaOmer

On Thursday, May 19th at 5:00 p.m., we will celebrate Lag BaOmer once again in the garden of the Lutheran-Reformed Church, Hugenottenstraße 3. Lag BaOmer marks the 33rd day of the seven weeks from Passover to Shavuot, the Omer Period. Historically, in the days of the Jerusalem Temple, a thanksgiving offering was made from the first barley harvest on the first morning of the Passover. From that point on, the days were counted until the 50th day, which was Shavuot. A thanksgiving offering of the first fruits and wheat was made.

The Talmud speaks of Rabbi Akiva students' dying during the Omer period, this period is considered a period of mourning. But the 33rd day is observed as a joyful day, since then the dying stopped. We celebrate the end of this mourning period with a campfire and a picnic. As in previous years, we will offer a barbeque with kosher hotdogs and ask everyone to bring a parve salad to share. Heartfelt thanks to our neighbors for sharing their church yard. We hope many church members will join us!

Project “Mensch”

Beginning in May 2022, our project “Aktion Mensch” will begin. The title of the first get-together is “What did our ancient ancestors eat in ancient Orient” on Thursday, May 5th at 11.00 a.m. Come and learn over breakfast. Everyone is cordially invited.

Annual Membership Meeting

Our annual general meeting will take place on June 12th. Members will receive an official invitation with this newsletter.

Shavuot

The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) falls on the first weekend in June this year. On Saturday, June 4th, we will celebrate an evening Torah service commemorating the receiving the Torah at Sinai. On Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. we will hold our now traditional “Cheesecake Competition” and hope the table holds under the delicious weight of all the offerings. What will you prepare this year?

Community Shabbaton in Berlin

We are planning a trip to Berlin on the weekend of June 24–26. We intend to celebrate Shabbat in different Berlin synagogues, celebrating from Friday evening until Havdallah. We will also visit the Jewish Museum and take in other city attractions. We'll travel by train and public transportation. Please register in the office if you are interested in participating in this trip.

Get well soon

May the One who blessed our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and our mothers Sarah, Rebeccah, Rachel, and Leah bless all our members who are ill with hope and healing. May they be patient and have strength of heart, and may they experience a full recovery in body and spirit. May also all those who nurture and care for them have strength, perseverance and hope.

Donations – Zedakah

We would like to thank everyone who generously supports our community life and the maintenance of our synagogue building through their generous donations. This month we would like to highlight: Borys Kopirovski, Mark Judelson, the Schwartzkopff family, the Ovsievitch family for their monthly donation, Ute Niedert, Ute Gibas, and the Dohme family. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Tree of Life

You can commemorate special occasions, e.g. birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a wedding, an anniversary, or honor someone. Make a donation to community life.

Newly ordered by Borys Kopirovski: “In memory of our mother Rimma Kopirovskaja, 07/15/1926–03/17/2022.” We share in the grief of Michael and Borys Kopyrovski's loss of their mother, who was our oldest member. Rimma was one of the founders of our community and took part in community life well into her old age. The funeral took place in the Jewish Cemetery Am Wehl and was conducted by Rabbi Offenberg.

Yahrzeit in May

Betya Kholmer	May 8, 1997 / Iyar 1, 5757
Evgenia Benderskaya	May 24, 2001 / Sivan 2, 5761
Vladimir Rubanov	May 14, 2002 / Sivan 3, 5762
Sofia Kaspler	May 13, 2008 / Iyar 8, 5768
Feliks Gurevich	May 1, 2014 / Iyar 1, 5774
Isaak Frid	May 7, 2020 / Iyar 13, 5780



Family members are invited to say Kaddish during services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office. Yehi zichram baruch — May their memory be blessed and be a blessing to us too.

Program for May 2022 • Nissan–Iyar 5782

Daily Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 1	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Rosh Chodesh Iyar
	11:00 a.m.	Shiur: "Yom Ha'Atzma'ut," via Zoom
Wednesday, May 4	6:00 p.m.	Shiur: The Haftarah of Shabbat "Emor," via Zoom
Thursday, May 5	11:00 a.m.	Project Mensch Breakfast and discussion "What did our ancestors eat and drink in the Ancient Orient?"
Wednesday, May 11	6:00 p.m.	Shiur: The Haftarah of Shabbat "Behar," via Zoom
Friday, May 13	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, May 14	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
	12:30 p.m.	Children Kehillah
Wednesday, May 18	6:00 p.m.	Shiur: The Haftarah of Shabbat "Bechukkotai," via Zoom
Thursday, May 19	5:00 p.m.	Lag BaOmer, Barbecue in the garden of the Lutheran Reformed Church. Hugenottenstr. 3A. Please bring salads and dishes (parve) to share. Kosher hotdogs provided.
Friday, May 20	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, May 21	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
	12.30 p.m.	Children Kehillah
Outside the community		
Thursday, May 5	6:00 p.m.	"Time travel: The month of Iyar," Rabbi Offenberg, lecture "Traditions and Festivals of the Jewish Year," BCJ Lower Saxony e.V., via Zoom
Thursday, May 19	6:00 p.m.	"Digital Bible Dialogue". Rabbi Offenberg and Prof. Dr. Klaus Grünwaldt talk about Wajikra/3rd Book of Moses/Leviticus, BCJ Lower Saxony e.V., via Zoom
Friday, May 27	2:55 p.m.	"Shabbat Shalom," Torah interpretation by Rabbi Offenberg, NDR Info, 99.9 MHz

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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

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.ighreform.org Email: igh@ighreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@ighreform.org