



Dear members of the community, friends and supporters,

Hurray! It's finally summer! The cold weather is over and we are enjoying warm weather again. In the summer we can enjoy the sun and the warm days, take long trips and go on hikes and dip into cool swimming pools. The children will soon be on summer vacation and some of them will attend the Sommer Machaneh.

Our community is also preparing for the summer. Many of us will be on vacation, go to the ocean or visit friends and family. Nevertheless, our activities in the community continue. Shabbat, for example, is not dependent on the season.



But first to the events in May:

Lag BaOmer

On Lag BaOmer, not only was the sun smiling upon us but also all the faces of our happy members, young and old. We were pleased that several members from our sister community in Bad Pyrmont came to celebrate with us. It was especially nice that we could also welcome members of the Lutheran Reformed Church, our host for the day, to join us.

Thanks to Liubov, Lucia and many other helpers, everything was set up in the garden of the Lutheran Reformed Church as members arrived. Tables, benches, chairs and a large buffet were waiting for the homemade salads and sweets. Everyone contributed something: crisp salads, colorful fruits and fresh berries, juices and kosher wine all beckoned one to find a sunny or shady spot and enjoy the picnic foods. The barbeque grill was hot and the 120 kosher hot dogs our rabbi had brought from Berlin were soon gone. Thanks to the grill masters Matvej, Alex, Valerij and Viktor!

Everyone was thrilled to see our children's group, now actively involved with more than 14 children and teens. Nothing heightens our spirits and hopes than seeing youngsters actively taking part in community life! Youth leader Olga and Rabbi Ulrike offered many games and even more fun. The youngsters helped the little ones to grill "stick bread" and marshmallows.

It was a wonderful day, and we thank all who helped! Of course, we say a warm Toda Rabbah to our neighboring parish for their generous hospitality.

May 9 — Victory Day

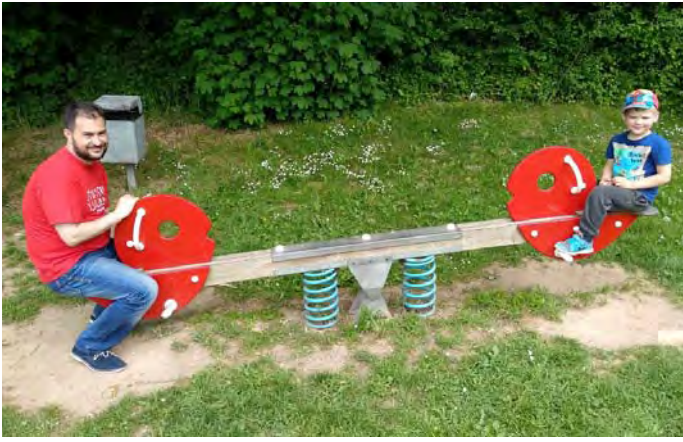
This year we celebrated Memorial Day on its 73rd anniversary. For our members this day is observed with gratitude to those men and women who served and fought against Nazi tyranny. A festive table, financed through a grant from: "Aktion Mensch," was organized.

Our talented members presented a musical program. The program offered literary and musical performances. Valery Bogachyk created a video in which he edited film material joined with poems and songs. Dora Bogachik worked out the film's underlying story. This time special attention was paid to the war children and the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The program included the pieces "Veselka" (Steppe), Faina Pelts ("Uninspected War"), Dora Bogachik ("Children of War"), Valery Bogachik ("Kolya") and Marika Ovsievich ("My Homeland"). Those present were visibly touched as described in the line of a well-known song, "this is the time of tears." Sveta Banchukova and Valery Fridman, Faina Pelts, Mark Ovsievich, Anna Anikina, Maria Bilau, Larissa Dvortsis and Nadja Pesok performed songs that sounded bright and beautiful. We wish to mention and thank Nadja and Volodymir Pesok as well as Maria Bilau. The concert left no one unmoved. A big thank you to our artists!

A festive table was prepared by Dora Bogachik and Lyudmila Zaichenko, who had had gone to great lengths to prepare the food. We are grateful to Anna Anikina, Maria Bilau, Elvira Nicolajzen and Matvey Dvortsis for their organizational assistance.

Shavuot

On the 50th day after Passover, the festival of weeks, Shavuot is celebrated. This year the festival fell on the 19th and 20th of May. Many members came to commemorate the gift of the receiving of the Torah. In the evening service, we gathered around the Torah scroll, and Rabbi Dr. Offenberg chanted the dramatic events on Sinai and the Ten Commandments. Earlier she explained how important it is to contrast the gift of Torah with the process of its adoption—an act that needs to be constantly repeated in each generation and by each individual. We felt as if we were on Mount Sinai ourselves. Afterwards, a festive Kiddush table was waiting for us, full of homemade cheesecakes, milk and quark dishes lovingly prepared by Liubov. After the service and communal meal, we started with the Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, the tradi-





tional learning night that makes this holiday special. This time Rabbi Offenberg prepared a shiur for the previously read Torah text. We discussed how to translate the Ten Commandments into our time and what fundamental importance they have for the coexistence of human beings. Once again we had a feast of joy that linked tradition and modernity. It has given everyone much to ponder, and we look forward to the Tikkun next Shavuot. We treasure that our synagogue is a house of prayer and learning. We thank Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg, Liubov and all the contributors for this beautiful holiday that delighted the mind, the heart and the palate.

Cheesecake Competition

The next day we held our second annual cheesecake competition. Last year's competition was so successful we thought it should be an annual event. Our members went all out—anyone thinking one cheesecake is like another has not seen our member's creative culinary talents! There was sweets and savories, cheesecakes, Lochschenkugel (noodle casserole), pudding, Zaziki, stuffed dumplings, cheesecake cupcakes and much more. Some used family Shavuot recipes or traditional dairy delights from their homeland, others tried new recipes. A highly competent jury, consisting of Valerij Bogachyk, Svetlana Hladchenko and Tatjana Geller, tasted of all fifteen works of culinary art but could not agree to choose a winner because all the dishes were so delicious and original. It was impossible to establish objective criteria on taste issues, and so the jury decided that each of the judges should be allowed to select their own favorites. Five blooming lavender plants rewarded the creators of the excellent creations, but we were all winners because everyone present had great fun. After the award ceremony, all contestants and spectators gathered around the table, tasting these delicious cheese dishes and sharing their recipes. There was a happy atmosphere and everyone was very satisfied.

While the jury made its wise judgment, tasting and competently judging all competition entries, a round of talks took place about Shavuot. In the middle of the circle lay a pretty arrangement of grains and various fruits. Faina Pelts gave a presentation on the diverse and healthy properties of Quark. Rabbi Offenberg introduced the second reason behind the holiday of Shavuot—namely the offering of the first fruits (Bikkurim). The Mishnah portrays how splendidly our ancestors decorated the wagons and baskets our ancestors carried to Jerusalem were. Shavuot, one of the three pilgrimage festivals in Judaism, was observed by traveling to the Temple and showing gratitude for the rich harvest. The farmers wanted to express their bond with the land. For us today, this custom is of historical importance. The Temple has not been the center of our religious life for 2,000 years, and only a few of us have direct contact with the growing of our food. A fascinating conversation unfolded about the question of which “first fruits” of each and every one of us matured in the past year. Newborn grandchildren, a rediscovered love of music, the Aliyah of family members to Israel and a visit to the old hometown with all the reflections it triggered were named. Giving the traditional customs meaning and creating relevance for us today left a deep impression on all participants.

Shavuot-Pe'ulah with the children's Kehillah

While the adults were still dining and chatting, the children stormed in, ready for a Shavuot activity. With full stomachs, they sat together with Rabbi Ulrike to talk about the Ten Commandments. Together and in small groups they discussed and worked on the meanings of the “Ten Words” creating a poster collage. The lesson ended with Shavuot songs and of course, an ice cream party. There were so many gallons of ice cream in so many flavors that there was even some left over! It is amazing how much can fit into children's stomachs!

Children's Kehillah at the children's festival of the Islamic community

A report by Mrs. Olga Trieskunova, Youth Leader:

I thought it was very good that we were there and presented our congregation. We were personally welcomed by the organizers and felt very welcome. The Chairman of the Migration Council, Mr. Ahmet Özcan, addressed his opening remarks to our community. He told me that it is a great pity that anti-Semitism is so present in Germany today and wants the members of our community to understand that they personally and the Muslim community do not accept it. Mr. Özcan thought it was very good that we were there, introduced himself and his family and said that it would be welcomed if our communities visited each other more often. In my opinion it is imperative to make connections with the members of the Muslim community.

Our kids had a lot of fun there and enjoyed playing with all the other kids. Reaching out and getting to know each other leads to building bridges between cultures and eliminating prejudices.

Jewish life in June

The glorious summer months lie ahead, hopefully for most of us a special time of regeneration. But we are also happy to be able to offer Shabbat services during these months. Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg comes to us three times in the sunny month of June. We are grateful for her rabbinic care which besides leading services, teaching our children and preparing our teens for Bat or Bar Mitzvah, enables us to explore our religion, asking questions and discovering answers. Rabbi Ulrike also offers individual pastoral care for our members. Many of our members are elderly and look forward to a personal conversation with her in their native language. We cordially invite you to make use of this opportunity.

Excursion to Hamburg

The trip to Hamburg took place on May 30 in cooperation with the Christian-Jewish Society. Because this trip took place after the editorial deadline, we will report about it in our next newsletter.

Intercultural women's meeting

We invite the women of our community to an intercultural women's meeting. This year's second session will take place on June 21st at 10:00 in the Lutheran Reformed Church, Hugenottenstraße. This informal group is a perfect way to make us more familiar with other denominations and build a bridge of understanding. Please join us!

Community meeting with Rabbi Dr. Offenberg and Mr. Fähndrich

We invite all members to a meeting on Friday, June 29, at 4:00 p.m. We want to hold an open discussion about all matters relating to Jewish funerals, rituals and cemetery rules. Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg and Mr. Florian Fähndrich, Hameln Funeral Home, will chair the meeting. We plan to discuss religious and practical questions about funerals, their formalities and costs. We ask all members to come to this very important meeting!

Rabbinical Word

The topic of death is something many of us fear. We'd rather repress any thoughts about it. The reality is that death is a part of life—sometimes it is only our own finitude which helps us value the moments, the relationships and health of our body and of the soul. This is why we need to address these issues in a timely manner. It can provide the impetus to redefine priorities in our lives. We want to put things in order and make arrangements while we are mentally and physically fit and not leave the burden to our children and families. We need to think, plan and talk about our funeral care. In Judaism, burial culture and caring for mourners are part of the “Gemilut Hassadim shel Emet” (acts of loving kindness), the highest form of ethical behavior. Depending on how we deal with questions about death, burial and mourning, the spiritual-moral level of our society is expressed, because the deceased can no longer take responsibility for themselves. Because all these questions are so important and touch each of us so profoundly, I would like to invite you to come to a special membership meeting on June 29th. We will talk about the Jewish customs of burying and mourning, but also introduce many practical information concerning the formalities and costs required in Germany.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

New Friend Circle Member-Freundeskreis

We welcome a new member, Mrs. Elvira Nikolajsen to our Circle of Friends group. We hope to see you often.



Donations — Zedakah

We sincerely thank the dear members and friends who have supported our congregational life and synagogue building with generous donations. We thank the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and the Catholic Youth Office which gave donations for summer camp of our children, the Meschede-Krasa family who honored Mrs. Heidrun Meschede's 80th birthday with a donation, Mrs. Ioulia Berhovski, Mrs. Jacqueline Drechsler, Mrs. Ursula Niedert, Mrs. Lindhorst and her 6th grade class from Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium, Mrs. Kleine and her 6th grade class from Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium, Pastor Reuning with his confirmation course of the Petri-Church in Ohnsen, Mrs. Dr. Schmidt and her 11th grade class from Elisabeth Selbert School and the Dohme family. We thank Mrs. Mascha Hasin, the daughter of Arkadij Drejzer, of beloved memory, who made a donation in gratitude for the funeral service and funeral for her father. May all who contribute be blessed for their generosity.

Masal Tov — Congratulations

We congratulate our friend, Professor Dr. Ursula Rudnick. She received the prize of the LEKKJ for decades of theological work in Judeo-Christian dialogue. She holds the office of Jewish-Christian Dialogue in the State Lutheran Church. Professor Dr. Ursula Rudnick was honored for her outstanding contribution to the international dialogue between Jews and Christians. The award was presented on April 28, 2018 at the Conference of the Lutheran European Commission for Church and Judaism (LEKKJ) in Amsterdam. The LEKKJ Prize is the only prize awarded at the European level for Christian-Jewish dialogue.

Tree of Life — Etz Chajim

Now in the summer months we see the beautiful leaves and blossoms on all the trees. So it is with our “Tree of Life,” which graces our sanctuary wall in the synagogue. It is possible to commemorate the commission of a new leaf for special occasions like birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a wedding, thanks, Yahrzeit, memories or honors and so also donate to the synagogue. Forms are in the office. Many Thanks!

A new leaf was ordered by the Dohme family: “In memory of Pastor Martin Hoffmann”



Get Well Wishes — Refuah Shlamah

We wish a complete and speedy recovery to all those in our community who are unwell or going through hard times. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Condolences

We mourn the passing of Pastor Martin Hoffmann and our deepest condolences go to his partner Susanne, his family and his congregation. Pastor Hoffmann was a member of the Foundation Liberal Synagogue Hamelin and a faithful friend of our congregation. The world is poorer without him. The funeral took place on May 4th.

We also extend condolences to our members, the Wendt family on the death of Elke's mother, Peter's mother-in-law and beloved grandmother of Malin, Joshua, Sören and Haakon.

We also mourn with the wife and family of our former youth leader Gali Schir, who died on May 11, 2018.

Yahrzeit in June

Etya Scheinberg — June 1, 2011 / 28. Iyar 5771

Dr. Ilja Latkov — June 5, 1998 / 11. Sivan 5758

Matvey Slavinskiy — June 23, 1998 / 29. Sivan 5758

Abrash Boruchov — June 6, 2011 / 04. Sivan 5771

Elena Gorbacheva — June 4, 2012 / 14. Sivan 5772

Valentina Barulina — June 23, 2012 / 03. Tammuz 5772

Grigori Ziskand — June 25, 2013 / 17. Tammuz 5773

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



Shalom,

—Your Synagogue board

[Newsletter Archives](#)

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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Program for June 2018 • Sivan–Tammuz 5778

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

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

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| Friday, June 1 | 2:00 p.m. | Bnei Mitzvah class |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Giyur class |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Friday night services |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Group study |
| Saturday, June 2 | 10:00 a.m. | Saturday morning services and Torah study |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Kinder Kehilla |
| Monday, June 4 | 10:00 a.m. | Monthly Board meeting |
| Tuesday, June 12 | 1:30 p.m. | Eating Healthy-Brunch for Seniors, With the support of “Aktion Mensch” |

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

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| Friday, June 15 | 2:00 p.m. | Bnei Mitzvah class |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Giyur class |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Friday night services |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Group study |
| Saturday, June 16 | 10:00 a.m. | Saturday morning services and Torah study |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Kinder Kehilla |
| Tuesday, June 26 | 7:00 p.m. | In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Reading with Igal Avidan: “Mod Helmy—how an Arab doctor in Berlin saved Jews from the Gestapo” |

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

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| Friday, June 29 | 2:00 p.m. | Bnei Mitzvah class |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Membership Meeting on Jewish Funeral Practices |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Friday night services |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Group study |
| Saturday, June 30 | 10:00 a.m. | Saturday morning services and Torah study |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Kinder Kehilla |

Outside the Congregation

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| Thursday, June 21 | 10:00 a.m. | Inter-religious Women’s Group, Part II, Lutheran Reformed Church, Hugenottenstrasse |
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