



Prayer for protection for the State of Israel

צור ישראל וגואלו Our Divine Guardian, Rock and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the first flowering of our redemption. Shield it beneath the wings of Your steadfast love and spread over it a shelter of Your peace. May a spark of Your Spirit inspire the actions of its leaders, officials, judges and advisors so that they may follow the path of justice, liberty and freedom. Strengthen the hand of those who defend our holy land and give them salvation and life.

Be near to all the people of Israel throughout the lands of their dispersion. Plant within their hearts the love of Zion. Spread your spirit in the heart of all the inhabitants of our country. Uproot hatred, jealousy and malice disappear from within, and plant love and brotherhood, peace and friendship in all of our hearts, and soon let the vision of your prophet come true: “Nation shall not lift up sword against Nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isa 2, 4). Let us say: Amen!



Our hearts and minds are restless. We are worried about relatives, friends and acquaintances who live in Israel under constant rocket attack. The criminal Hamas system, which aims to destroy Israel, is the first to abandon its own people to die. We are disheartened at the wave of violence unleashed within Israel by hateful Jewish and Arab extremists. They want to make any coexistence impossible and hide their racist ideology behind religious symbols. According to Rabbi Akiva, the most important sentence of the Torah is: “Love your neighbor as yourself,” and that does not only mean the neighbor of the same religion or nationality.

We are concerned about the anti-Semitic remarks and threats that are being voiced in this country at demonstrations and on social media. The obvious intention of these messages of hatred is to destroy the coexistence of Jews and Muslims here in Germany as well. We must not allow their hatefully shouted slogans to silence our interfaith efforts of understanding. Our dissenting voices must also be heard. We will continue to call consistently anti-Israel narrative what it is: Anti-Semitism.

I began with a prayer for the welfare of Israel, and I would like to close with a verse from our central prayer, the Amidah: “Give peace, happiness and blessings, life, grace, love and mercy to us, your People Israel and all the inhabitants of the world.”

—Shalom, Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of May

May 9 — Victory Day

Despite the current limitations caused by the pandemic, it was important for our congregation to observe Victory Day. We met on May 9th via Zoom, as we did last year. Valerij Bogatchik had put together a video of historical film clips, reminding us all again of the sacrifice of war.

In addition, Valerij presented recordings of Memorial Day concerts from previous years in our synagogue. It emphasized the importance of this day in our congregation and, unfortunately, also of members who are no longer with us.

One element featured a witness report by Maya Banchukova, who told of her family’s life during the war. Encouraged by her, those present told the story of their families. There were stories of fathers, uncles and brothers who had fought at the front, some of whom died at a very young age. Escape of families to Siberia or Central Asia, evacuation, hunger, Babi Yar, forced labor in Germany, POW camps — these are just a few key words that describe the fate of men, women and children. While the soldiers helped stop the enemy and fought back, the civilians’ struggles for survival were no less heroic. It was a very moving afternoon hearing each other’s biographies, and there was a warm-hearted atmosphere, supported by mutual empathy. Finally, Rabbi Offenberg sang El Male Rachamim and read the names of our members’ relatives who died in the war. Together we said Kaddish for them.

On behalf of the community, Faina congratulated our veterans, and volunteers brought them flowers of gratitude for their service. Special thanks go to Valerij Bogatchik for creating the film and preparing this event. These weeks mark the 80th anniversary of the attack on the Soviet Union. It is important that we find a way to write these stories down and keep them for those who will be born later.

Limmud Freiburg

On Sunday, May 2nd, the “Limmud Freiburg” festival took place, largely co-organized by our sister community Chavurah Gescher in Freiburg. The digital format of all lectures, shiurim and concerts made it possible for people from different places in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to take part. A number of members from Hamelin also took part. Rabbi Offenberg gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Jews in Frankfurt am Main. “Vintz Purim,” about a week after the traditional Purim festival,

which marked the return of the Frankfurt community to Judengasse in 1616, from which they were expelled in a pogrom two years earlier. A 350-year-old hymn tells the story and in remembrance of this historical date, having been observed until the Nazi era. This commemoration was overshadowed by the monstrous extent of the Nazi crimes, and explains why this special Frankfurt Purim festival is hardly known today.

Shavuot

Shavuot is the festival of the gift of the Torah! We celebrate the receiving of the Torah and the Ten Commandments and, of course, eating delicious dairy foods, especially cheesecake. Organizing a cheesecake competition by Zoom is an impossible feat as the sensual element of looking at and tasting the self-made dairy dishes is missing. We paid tribute to the cheesecakes, salads and muffins presented on the screen. Our holiday joy was tempered as we discussed the events in Israel. It was important to talk to each other and to exchange ideas about the worrying news and reports, the unrest and the public discussion about them. We have no control over what happens, but we can listen to one another and take each other seriously with our questions and fears.

Shanah & Sanah

Some of our community members regularly take part in the Jewish-Muslim seminar “Shanah & Sanah,” which Rabbi Offenberg and the director of the German Muslim Center, Iman A. Reimann, have been holding since January. At the last meeting on May 3rd, we broke the Ramadan fast with a date and a glass of water. Rabbi Offenberg congratulated the German Muslim Center on Eid ul-Fitr, the final festival of Ramadan, and wrote:

“I congratulate you warmly with ‘Eid Mubarak’. Although we are all far away from the fighting in Israel and Gaza, we are also hurt by it. This is not a religious but a political conflict. It is our fervent hope that it should not come between us and interfere with our sincere efforts and hard work to get to know and understand each other. Let us not permit ourselves be drawn into the maelstrom of polarization, which only divides the world into opposites.”

Iman Reimann replied:

“Shavuot begins today and I wish you all the best and many blessings. I send you my warm greetings. Your words mean much to me. I am with you in my thoughts and in my heart. I wonder what we can do about this conflict which has affected Jewish and Palestinian people for decades. What are the right words and actions? I fully agree that we will not allow our efforts and our solidarity to be damaged and that we continue to build hope together.”

Dedication of the Yeyger Auditorium

A year and a half ago, we lost two very important members, Nechama and Genrikh Yeyger. Genrikh Yeyger was a well-known professor of German philology and worked as an academic and journalist up until the last weeks of his life. We have just learned that his Alma Mater, the University of Kharkov, has named a lecture hall in his honor. The head of the Department of German Philology and Translation, Serhiy Ivanovych Kryvoruchko, wrote to friends of the Yeygers, Ella Markivna and Jana Zelenskaya, the following letter: (translation from Russian)



“The classroom, in which the esteemed Professor Dr. Genrikh Wilhelmovich Yeyger once worked, now bears his name. We are proud that the memory of this outstanding man, who has influenced so many in science in general and for our department and the university in particular, will not be forgotten. We honor him and his work. We will hold his memory in the hearts of his students and colleagues.”

“Connections”: Digital conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism

After the editorial deadline, from May 19th until May 22nd, the international conference of our global umbrella organization will take place. Congregations and institutions of Reform Judaism usually meet in Jerusalem every four years, but because of the pandemic, the conference will be held digitally for the first time. A wealth of events brings together Jews from Europe, Asia, Australia, North and South America. Rabbi Offenberg is one of three European rabbis participating in the international Shabbat service, which is intended for congregations from South Africa, Israel and Europe according to the time zones.

1700 years of Jewish life in Germany

Our community is quite involved in the nationwide series of events showcasing Jewish life in Germany during the past 1700 years. Please refer to the attached program. (in German only)

Workshops und Veranstaltungen

Donnerstag, den 20.04.2021 um 19.00 Uhr via ZOOM: „1700 Jahre jüdisches Leben in Deutschland – Antisemitismus heute“, Vortrag und Diskussion mit Dr. Rebecca Seidler

Donnerstag, den 27. Mai 2021 um 19.00 Uhr via ZOOM: „Die Berufung am brennenden Dornbusch“, Gesprächsabend mit Rabbinerin Dr. Ulrike Offenbergl und Hans-Georg Spangenberg, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

Donnerstag, den 24. Juni 2021 um 19.00 Uhr via ZOOM: „Der Tanz ums Goldene Kalb“, Gesprächsabend mit Rabbinerin Dr. Ulrike Offenbergl und Hans-Georg Spangenberg, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

Sonntag, den 29. August um 15.00 Uhr im Garten der Liberalen Jüdischen Gemeinde Hannover: „Musikfestival Le Chaim“ mit der Musikband Lechaim und weiteren jüdischen Musiker*innen, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover

Mittwoch, den 01. September 2021 um 17.00 Uhr im Stadtteilzentrum Wolfsburg: „Interaktiver Tanz-Workshop zu jüdischen Volkstänzen“ mit Larissa Schein, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Wolfsburg

Dienstag, den 14. September 2021 um 19.00 Uhr, Gemeindezentrum St. Augustinus, Vizelinstr.: „Schonzeit vorbei – über das Leben mit dem täglichen Antisemitismus“, Lesung mit Juna Grossmann, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

Mittwoch, den 22. September 2021 um 18.00 Uhr, Synagoge LJGH: „Sukkot – jüdische Ethik und was Sukkot damit zu tun hat“ mit Alisa Bach, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover

Donnerstag, den 30. September 2021 um 19.00 Uhr, Synagoge Celle: „Einführung in die Grundsätze des Judentums“ mit Patrick Hahne, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Celle

Donnerstag, den 07. Oktober 2021 um 19.00 Uhr, Synagoge Bärenstr.: „Bertha Pappenheim – Soziale Arbeit aus jüdischer Perspektive“, Vortrag von Rabbinerin Dr. Ulrike Offenbergl, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

Donnerstag, den 14. Oktober 2021 um 19.00 Uhr, Synagoge Celle: „Jüdisches Leben in Celle/ Niedersachsen“ mit Dorit Schleinitz, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Celle

Sonntag, den 17. Oktober 2021 um 16.00 Uhr: „Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur“, Vortrag mit musikalischem Konzert der Gruppe Simha, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Bad Pyrmont

Mittwoch, den 20. Oktober 2021 um 18.00 Uhr, Synagoge LJGH: „Jüdische Migrant*innen in Deutschland – Geschichten und Erfahrungen“ mit Yevgen Bruckmann, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover

Mittwoch, den 27. Oktober 2021 um 18.00 Uhr: „Die Grundsätze des Judentums im Kontext von Dialog- und Bildungsarbeit“ mit Rabbinerin Jasmin Andriani, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Wolfsburg

Donnerstag, den 28. Oktober 2021 um 19.00 Uhr, Synagoge Celle: „Vermittlung von Judentum und jüdischem Leben im Kontext Schule“ mit Dr. Rebecca Seidler, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Celle

Sonntag, den 07. November 2021 um 11.00 Uhr, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover: „Konzert mit Frühstücksbrunch zu Gunsten der WIZO“ mit dem Duo Levinsky und Budenstein, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover

Mittwoch, den 17. November 2021 um 18.00 Uhr, Israel Jacobson Bibliothek: „Antisemitismus heute und Handlungsmöglichkeiten für die Zivilgesellschaft“ mit Dr. Kay Schweigmann-Greve, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover

Sonntag, den 21.11.2021 um 18.00 Uhr: „Das Wunder von Chanukka im Lichte von 1700 Jahre jüdischer Diaspora“ mit Rabbinerin Jasmin Andriani und Kantor Daniel Kempin, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Göttingen

Sonntag, den 05. Dezember 2021 um 15.30 Uhr in der Liberalen Jüdischen Gemeinde Hannover: „Konzert anlässlich Chanukka“ mit dem Asamblea Mediterranea, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover

Dienstag, den 07.12.2021 um 19.00 Uhr, Synagoge Bärenstr.: „Zeitreisen – Feste und Traditionen des jüdischen Jahres“, Vortrag von Rabbinerin Dr. Ulrike Offenbergl, Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

Jewish life in June

Shabbat services

Since many members of the community have already received the second vaccination and the overall number of infections is falling, we want to welcome our members again into our synagogue for Friday night and Saturday morning services. Join Rabbi Offenberg and your friends and neighbors at our first Shabbat of the month on June 4th and 5th.

We will still follow the hygienic rules, wearing a mask and sitting in safe distance from each other. We look forward to seeing each other again in person, especially those who have not been able to use Zoom. We hope for good weather so that we can use our garden as much as possible. The Kinderkehillah will also meet again in the community center. After half a year of almost exclusive meetings in 2D, the return to our synagogue will be a celebration in itself!

Sommermachaneh from Netzer Germany

Netzer Germany invites children and teens to Summer Machaneh during the school summer vacation. Session 1 is open for the children, 8 to 14 years old. Summer camp takes place in the first week of summer vacation — July 22nd to 29th, for teens from August 1st to 8th. Register today!

Donations — Zedakah

We thank everyone who supports our community life with donations. This month our thanks go to the Union of Progressive Jews, Rabbi Lior Bar Ami, the Mima family, the Ovsievitch family, Mrs. Ute Gibas, Mrs. Niedert and the Dohme family. May all be blessed for their generosity.

Get well

We wish all who are currently ill a speedy and complete recovery. Our thoughts and hearts are with them. Let us know if you need any help.

Condolences

Condolences to Feana and Ariel Engler on the death of ex-husband and father, Josef ben Siegfried Engler. The funeral took place in Estonia.

Yahrzeits 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 / 4 Sivan 5771
Elena Gorbacheva	June 4, 2012 / 14 Sivan 5772
Valentina Barulina	June 23, 2012 / 3 Tammus 5772
Grigori Ziskand	June 25, 2013 / 17 Tammus 5773
Mariya Tretyachenko	June 5, 2019 / 2 Sivan 5779
Polina Pelts	June 8, 2019/ 5 Sivan 5779



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

Shalom,

Your Board Of Directors

Program June 2021 • Sivan–Tammus 5781

Synagogue office hours: 9:00 am–5:00 pm daily

Dates can change at short notice

Wednesday, June 2	6:00 pm	Shiur for the weekly portion of the Torah "Schlach Lecha," via Zoom
Friday, June 4	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, in the synagogue
Saturday, June 5	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat
	12:30 pm	Kinderkehillah, in the synagogue
Wednesday, June 9	6:00 pm	Shiur for the weekly portion of the Torah "Korach," via Zoom
Wednesday, June 16	6:00 pm	Shiur for the weekly segment of the Torah "Chukkat," via Zoom
Friday, June 18	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, in the synagogue
Saturday, June 19	10:00	Shacharit Shabbat
	12:30 pm	Kinderkehillah, in the synagogue
Wednesday, June 23	6:00 pm	Shiur for the weekly portion of the Torah "Balak," via Zoom
Wednesday, June 30	6:00 pm	Shiur for the weekly portion of the Torah "Pinchas," via Zoom
Friday, June 25	2:55 pm	NDR Radio, "Shabbat Shalom" Torah sermon with Rabbi Offenberg

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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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