



## Dear members of the community, friends and supporters,

Summer is upon us and we are looking forward to having a little time off for rest, relaxation and vacations in order to refuel and gather new strength and insights. After the summer break, we will begin preparing for the next Jewish year and the High Holidays, which commence on the September 9. This newsletter comes your way with news and programs for the months of July and August in a “double pack”! We hope you enjoy reading through it. Our next newsletter will be

published in September. Regular courses and groups should talk to their instructors concerning summer class schedules. Here is a review of our numerous June activities.

### Trip to Hamburg

A day trip to the city of Hamburg was enjoyed by eighteen members of our community and as many members of the Society of Christians and Jews. The trip was organized by the Society of Christians and Jews under the direction of Hans-Georg Spangenberg. The 2 hour bus ride whizzed by as Mr. Spangenberg held a fascinating lecture about the history of the city. During the past hundred years, many Eastern European Jews left from the Hamburg docks for a life of promised freedom in the United States. Wolfgang Georgy, the vice chairman of the Hamburg Liberal Jewish Congregation offered our group a tour of Jewish Hamburg and to the early sites of Reform Judaism. In 2018 we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Hamburg Temple. The city tour was very informative and Mr. Georgy’s knowledge was impressive. In the afternoon we visited the synagogue of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Hamburg, welcomed by Rabbi Moshe Navon. He gave a presentation about their community’s religious life. Around 8:00 p.m. we returned to Hameln. We thank the Society of Christians and Jews, Mr. Spangenberg and Mrs. Polina Pelts for organizing this wonderful excursion. You can see a few snapshots in our collage.

### Children’s Kehilla

The twelfth trip with our children's Kehillah took place early in June. We visited a local garden adventure park. It is located close to our community and offers children plenty of space for romping, playing, climbing and gardening. Seven children and four adults took part in our trip, which was now the twelfth for our family group. It was a surprise that there is such a quiet and cozy place in the middle of the city. Each child found something interesting in the garden- some picked sweet strawberries, climbed on trees and ate juicy cherries while others bounced on trampolines or played soccer. The children were careful with the trees and plants and discussed how we must respect God’s gift of nature. During the breaks we had a picnic and ate sandwiches, fruit, biscuits and snacks. We spent a lovely day together and enjoyed hours in this enchanting garden.

### Senior’s Luncheon

On June 12, the community organized a luncheon for our seniors, thanks to the support of our Aktion Mensch project. The table talk this time dealt with the benefits and disadvantages of sugar. Faina Pelts presented the pros and cons in a thoughtful lecture and Dr. Ioulia Berhovski added additional medical information. Many of those present asked questions. Sugar in our diet is of importance when trying to make healthy choices. Dora and Valery Bogachik, as well as Anna Anikina prepared a wonderful table with healthy snacks, a warm dish and dessert. The afternoon was as delicious as



it was educational. We thank Polina Pelts for organizing the luncheon and Aktion Mensch for their financial support.

### Exhibition by Boris Kagan

Numerous members and many Hameliners came to the opening exhibition of our member, Boris Kagan on June 19th, housed in the Tourist Information Center. Boris Kagan's works showed paintings of our city. Mr. Wagner, the head of the Center opened the exhibition. In his opening remarks he emphasized that he was happy to work with the Jewish community of Hamelin and thus deepen mutual understanding and further integration.







The former mayor of Hamelin, Mrs. Christa Bruns, as well as the chairperson of the Jewish Community of Bad Pyrmont, Mrs. Klara Behnke, were present. Boris Kagan told the audience about his artistic path and explained that this is his twentieth exhibition. *Impressions, New and Old* will be shown until August 27th. The artist is showing paintings from the last two years as well as some earlier works. Boris Kagan would like to thank everyone who visits his exhibition for the attention and interest in his work and wishes everyone enjoyment engaging with his paintings.

### Interfaith Women's Group

On Thursday, June 21st, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Jewish-Christian-Muslim Women's Group. The get together was held at the Lutheran Reformed Church's social hall. Delicious homemade cakes, coffee and tea encouraged new ideas for the 11th year of this interreligious circle. Here's a greeting from Pastor Sophia Sander:

"Women from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities of the city come together in the various places of worship three to four times a year and exchange ideas. Many topics have been dealt with in the past ten years. Among the topics were biblical figures, questions of tradition, traditional foods, religious music, rituals and clothing in the three world religions and interpretation of each of our sacred scriptures, holidays in Judaism, Islam and Christianity. There were often (sometimes surprising) commonalities and exciting differences."

We are happy to be part of this open initiative. The group is open to women of all ages, whose goal it is to seek communication with other denominations and cultures. The next meeting will take place on October 24th in the DITIB Mosque on Thiewall. See you there!

We will report about the events at the end of June in the September newsletter. Of special interest will certainly be an article about the journalist and author Igal Avidan, speaking in our synagogue on June 26th and the community meeting with Rabbi Offenbergs and funeral director Mr. Faehndrich on end of life issues.



### Rabbinic word

A few days ago I took part in a special cycling tour: imams, rabbis, dedicated women and men from Jewish and Islamic communities cycled through Berlin together - at the "meet2respect" demonstration under the motto "Together against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia!" We biked from the Holocaust memorial next to the Brandenburg Gate to Bebelplatz, where the Nazis burned books in 1933, 18 km through the entire city center, passing several synagogues and mosques. The special thing about it was that each a Jewish-Muslim team drove together on a tandem or in a rickshaw - creating a situation in which one had to cooperate with one another and seek conversation if only because a tandem only works if both partners coordinate with each other and pedal in unison. About 200 people came along in the colorful headgear of their respective traditions - kippah, fez, headscarves, hats of all shapes and colors - it was clear to passers-by that there was a strong commitment to pluralism and tolerance in the city. It was also a rejection of positions that try to play Jews and Muslims against each other.

In our war-and-hate world, religions are often perceived as a source of war and strife and unfortunately there are too many examples of extremists who portray their misanthropic positions as God-given. But when clergymen of different religions join forces in tandem, they set a sign that no faith can privatize God in order to incite and even murder other people in the name of God. Not the Holy War, but the everyday, peaceful coexistence is the higher ideal.

Even if a bicycle demonstration is only a symbolic act and will not change the world, it sends out a message that religion can not only be divisive but also a binding force if we shape our coexistence in such a way that we are all equal creatures in God's sight. It is important to get to know each other and to recognize that every person has the same joys, fears and worries as oneself. My tandem partner was Siham, living longer in Germany than in her native India, married to an Ethiopian, her three sons, native Germans. In the bell jar of the tandem bicycle we talked about Jewish, Muslim, German, Indian and Ethiopian traditional foods and learned a lot about the life of the others. Siham and I will exchange invitations to dinner at each other's homes and deepen our budding friendship. Germany has become a colorful country and it is important to appreciate the diversity brought by migrants. And who knows? If people of different religions can meet each other in a friendly way, then perhaps it will also be possible within one and the same religion to do the same not claim God for themselves alone. Perhaps an Orthodox rabbi and a liberal rabbi will soon be able to sit on a tandem together.

—Your Rabbi, Dr. Ulrike Offenbergs

## Circle of friends of the community

Dear Friends, we kindly ask you to pay your annual dues. Some members in our Circle of Friends have been in default for several years. We must assume that there is no interest in the Circle of Friends activities and in the community newsletters if the pending membership fees are not paid by July 15th. We will, at that time remove the names from our mailing and membership lists. If you have any questions, please call the community on Tuesdays or Thursdays (05151 925625) to speak with Treasurer Olga Gerr. We depend on the contributions from our Circle of Friends and thank you for your support for Jewish life in Hameln!

## Jewish Life in July and August

In June we were able to enjoy worship services with Rabbi Offenberg three times. Even on Friday evening, June 8, one could hear her voice in the NDR radio show “Shabbat Shalom” as she shared her thoughts on the Torah reading, Schelach Lecha.

In the coming summer months, we will continue to offer Shabbat worship services. We hope to see you at a lay led service in July and two in August with our rabbi. Please look at the program for the dates and join us. The Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday nights and the Shacharith on Saturday morning offer the opportunity to confront completely different topics than usual in everyday life and draw strength for the new week. Entering into the peace and joy of Shabbat, meeting other members of the community, singing and praying together, laughing and eating—the synagogue becomes a haven of peace and brings festivity and splendor into our lives. We encourage everyone to visit our services and discover their diversity.



## Guided tours of the synagogue

It is gratifying to see that our synagogue is important not only for our members but also for the citizens of Hameln and the surrounding area. Many school and adult groups visit our community regularly. This interest in the synagogue, the Jewish faith, our traditions and encounters with us is very encouraging. This is a true indicator that integration and tolerance are possible, that dialogue is the key to understanding, that building bridges is always preferable to erecting walls. We are and can be proud of our efforts here in Hameln. Most of the tours in our synagogue are led by Rachel Dohme and surprisingly, the teaching sessions have not decreased in more than 20 years. These tours also bring donations which benefits the maintenance of our beautiful synagogue.

## Masel Tov

We congratulate Mr. Boris Kagan on his well-received exhibition at the Hameln Tourist Center.

We congratulate the Interfaith Women's Meeting on its 10th anniversary.

We congratulate our sister community in Gudensberg to their new name—the Jewish Reform Congregation in the Kassel Region.

Masal Tov to Cantor Svetlana Kundisch on her ordination. She heads the liberal synagogue in Braunschweig. Kol haKavod Ms. Kundisch!

Masal Tov Pastor Wilfred Mannecke. Lower Saxony pastor Wilfried Mannecke received the Paul Spiegel Prize for Civil Courage from the Central Council of Jews in Germany this year. The award ceremony took place on June 18, 2018 in Hannover. Pastor Mannecke has been working against right-wing extremism since 1995. Margot Käbmann, the former Council President of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), emphasized in her laudation that Mannecke, “did not make things easy for the neo-Nazis.” The pastor from Unterlüß near Celle courageously opposes right-wing extremists, even if he is insulted or threatened, she said at the award ceremony in Hanover, “as all reasonable people with a spark of education and humanity should do.”



## Get well

We wish all the people of our community, who are going through hard times, a complete recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



### **Tree of Life — Etz Chaim**

It is possible to commemorate the commission of a new leaf in our “tree of life” in the synagogue for special occasions, e.g. birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, thanks, Yahrzeit, memories or honors, and in this way also donate to synagogue construction. Forms are in the office. Many Thanks!

### **Donations — Zedakah**

We sincerely thank the members and friends who have supported our congregational life and synagogue building with generous donations.

We thank: Ms. Menzel, Emmerthal, Ursula Niedert, the 6th grade of the Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium and Mrs. Weller-shaus, Vladislav Lebedinski, Gisela Meyer and Rachel Dohme.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

### **Yahrzeit in July and August**

- Nataliya Zaychenko — June 1, 2003 / 1 Tammus 1, 5763
- Sergei Jevdokymov — June 21, 2008 / 18 Tammus 18, 5768
- Inge Dickmann — June 16, 2008 / 13 Tammus 13, 5768
- Ethel Lazer — June 16, 2009 / Av 26, 5769
- Volodymyr Zaslavsky — June 29, 2012 / 10 Av 10, 5772

May the memory of our loved ones be for a blessing! Kaddish is spoken during services with 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 July–August 2018 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5778

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

### July

Tuesday, July 17	11:00 a.m.	Eating Healthy-Breakfast for Seniors, With the support of “Aktion Mensch”
Friday, July 20	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel and Rebekka
Sunday, July 29	4:00 p.m.	Sunday-Café Video: “Russian Jews” Part I, Refreshments and Discussion after the video, with the support of “Aktion Mensch”
Tuesday, July 31	10:00 a.m.	Monthly Board meeting

### August

Tuesday, August 7	11:00 a.m.	Eating Healthy-Breakfast for Seniors With the support of “Aktion Mensch”
Sunday, August 19	4:00 p.m.	Sunday-Café Video: “Russian Jews” Part II Refreshments and Discussion after the video With the support of “Aktion Mensch”
Thursday, August 23	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews Discussion: “Edith Stein- a Jewish and Christian view” Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg and Pastor Christiane Brendel
Friday, August 24	2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class Giyur class Friday night services Group study, Pirke Avot
Saturday, August 25	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study Kinder Kehilla

### Outside the Congregation

Sunday, August 12	2:00–4:00 p.m.	Interfaith Festival in Rinteln
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