



Dear members, friends and supporters,

We always look forward to the summer months when the vacation season begins for our families and us. However, due to the corona pandemic, summer 2020 will be completely different. Despite the easing in the lockdown rules and regulations, our options are still limited and we have to adhere to strict hygiene standards. We want everyone to remain healthy and safe.

Due to the Corona virus, no religious services were allowed from mid-March until June. We were overjoyed to be able to open the synagogue doors again for Shavuot. Under strict conditions and the chairs are far apart, the “traffic flow” in the hallways had been carefully considered beforehand. Finally we had the opportunity to see each other again and to hear how we managed through the months of complete lockdown. We held the evening service to celebrate the Giving of the Torah and we celebrated the next morning with the Hallel and Torah reading of the Ten Commandments. We could not hold a festive Kiddush or our now traditional cheesecake competition, but Lyuba had baked Challot and lovely quark pastries, which we enjoyed and had the sweet pleasure to taste Shavuot on our tongues.

We are grateful to our Rabbi for organizing digital communication during the days, weeks and months of social distancing. It has been an important tool for us but there are many things it cannot do. On Shavuot and Shabbat, we greeted each other without physical contact, the happy faces were recognizable behind the masks. It's not just the lips covered by the mask that are involved in a smile!

In the meantime, we've returned to our bi-monthly Shabbat service in June, again with many restrictions, but at least this will afford members an opportunity to meet, pray and learn who cannot be reached by emails or video conferences.

Beginning in mid-June, we also are allowed German and Hebrew classes to resume. Please inquire with the course instructor as to when the language courses will take place during the upcoming vacation period. When the choir, the dance group and the yoga group can meet again will depend on the course of the infection in Germany and in our district.

The weekly Torah study session, which usually took place after Kiddush on Shabbat morning, will still take place, albeit digitally by Zoom due to the distance rules until mid-July. Join us on Thursday evenings before our Shabbat weekend at 6 p.m. Rabbi Offenberg gives an insight into interesting aspects of weekly Parashah. If you want to take part, but have not yet received the links for it, please register in the office.

Kinderkehillah met again in the synagogue in person in June after we had only met on computer screens during the previous two months. It was a great pleasure to learn and play together again in the synagogue garden.

Jewish life in Hamelin in July and August

Services

Our Shabbat services take a break in the second half of July due to holidays and start again on the first weekend in August. Hopefully we can then continue our activities in the synagogue gradually. With the exception of the summer holidays, the Kinderkehillah continues to meet weekly, always alternately on the Shabbat in the community or digitally via Zoom. The Gijur lessons are also continued weekly, but only on Zoom.

We are happy to inform you about the new program of the Central Council of Jews for families with children between two and eight years. The families who register will receive an age-appropriate book free of charge every month (10 times a year). The beautifully illustrated children's books convey Jewish culture, values and traditions in a loving and age-appropriate manner. The participation in the program is free for the families. In order to register a child for the program, membership of a parent in a Jewish community in Germany is a prerequisite. The books will be shipped for the first time in September 2020. Registration is now possible at www.pj-library.de. Information about the program can be obtained by phone at 030-28 44 56 0 or by email: mpj@zentralratderjuden.de.





Jüdische Kinderbücher zum Vorlesen? Wir haben sie!

PJ Library – Mit dem neuen Programm
für Kinder zwischen 2 und 8 Jahren
erhalten Sie kostenfrei zehn Kinderbücher
pro Jahr nach Hause.

Mehr Info und Anmeldung:
www.pj-library.de



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Programm des

ZENTRALRAT DER JUDEN
IN DEUTSCHLAND



Rabbinic word

Shadow and Water from the Well

On the mountain slope above the wadi
an almond tree blooms,
the scent of myrtle hangs in the air.
This is the time before summer
whose gates open the heart
and the entrants are always welcome.

In days like this
waiting for the night to come
one waits for the approaching steps.
You don't close the bar
you don't close your eyes,
on days like this you listen.

Whoever is hungry will find a piece of bread with us,
those who are tired will find shade and water here
from the well,
whoever collapses, quietly step in the door,
He stealthily enters and can stay forever.

This is the house we built
this is the pine tree that we planted
this is the path and this is the well.
Who comes here, siblings,
whoever comes may sit down with us for a meal,
and the gate will not close again.

This song was penned by the Israeli poet Yoram Taharlev and is based on a story he experienced as a seven-year-old boy in his Kibbutz Yagur near Haifa. In October 1945, a command by Palmach, the elite force of the Haganah underground Jewish army, broke into the British internment camp Atlit and freed over 200 refugees there. Only two days earlier, these women, men and children, all Shoah survivors from Europe, had illegally immigrated across the northern border to Syria and had been picked up by the British army. The British interned them in Atlit to be deported back to their home countries at the next opportunity — where they had already lost everything. Certain death awaited them. To prevent this from happening, two commanders, including the later Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize winner Yitzhak Rabin, planned the nightly liberation action. The refugees were brought to the Yagur Kibbutz, where they were hidden. This experience prompted Yoram Taharlev to write this song, which is about moving closer and solidarity in times of great distress.

I will write these lines on June 20th, the “United Nations Refugee Day.” The radio reports that almost 80 million people are currently displaced, which is about one percent of the world's population. This number has doubled in the past ten years (in 2010 there were 40 million refugees). More than half of these people were displaced within their own country due to violent conflicts, natural disasters and hunger which forced them to give up their homes. Of those who had to flee abroad, three quarters stayed close to their home countries, hoping to be able to return there soon. And do you know which countries received the most refugees last year? It was Turkey, Colombia, Pakistan and Uganda. Germany only ranks fifth. In Europe today, the direction of escape is reversed from that of Jewish Shoah survivors described above.

Nobody is on the run voluntarily. To be on the run is an undertaking that demands the physical and mental strength beyond measure. In the past few months, the Corona pandemic has had a particularly negative impact on the fate of refugees. This is due not only to the increased risk of infection and the poor health care in reception centers but because the distancing requirement actually turned into a lack of empathy. The borders were closed, the refugee camps were overcrowded, all states and societies were concerned with their own and so there was little solidarity left for these weak and vulnerable people.

Questions of losing one's home and fleeing are also very close to us as our Jewish community in Hamelin is made up primarily of Jews who have been accepted as quota refugees in Germany. It is precisely an expression of the search for a home that the members chose “Beiteinu” — “Our House” — as the name of our Jewish Community Center.

Again this song also has something to say to us beyond the refugee problem:

“In days like this waiting for the night to come, you wait for approaching steps.”

We are exhausted from the past three months of the Corona pandemic that has upset our daily lives. After the first weeks of fears, insecurities, the closure of all public institutions, our daily life is somehow going on, but everything is difficult. When will we come to rest? It is obvious that this state of affairs will not stop so quickly, but will be with us for many months to

צל ומי באר

במדרון מעל הוואדי
עץ השקדייה פורח
באוויר ניחוח הדסים
זה הזמן לפני הקיץ
שעריו הלב פותח
ותמיד ברוכים הנכנסים.

בימים אשר כאלה
מחכים עד בוא הליל
מחכים לצעדים קרבים
לא סוגרים את הבריח
לא עוצמים את העיניים
בימים כאלה מקשיבים.

מי שרעב ימצא אצלנו פת של לחם
מי שעיף ימצא פה צל ומי באר
מי שסוכתו נופלת
חרש יכנס בדלת
חרש יכנס ועד עולם יוכל להישאר.

מי שרעב ימצא אצלנו פת של לחם
מי שעיף ימצא פה צל ומי באר
מי שסוכתו נופלת
חרש יכנס בדלת
ותמיד יוכל להישאר.

זה הבית שבנינו
זה האורן שנטענו
זה השביל וזוהי הבאר
מי שבא לפה אחינו
מי שבא יסב איתנו
והשער שוב לא יסגר.

come. Protective measures are still necessary everywhere, all informality and lightness seem to have disappeared, nobody remains unaffected. We are glad that we can meet again for services and individual courses, but the masks make it difficult to speak and prevent us from looking each other in the face. The lack of our happy sociability is stressful. And it is precisely here that it is important that we find encouraging words for each other and support each other. Here is what I want for our congregational life despite the Corona conditions:

Whoever is hungry will find a piece of bread with us,
 if you are tired, you will find shade and water from the well,
 if the hut collapses, quietly step in the door...
 This is the house we built...
 Who comes here, siblings,
 whoever comes may sit down with us for a meal,
 and the gate will not close again.
 May we be blessed with good courage, health and empathy at all times!

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

General Information

Beginning in June trips to Bad Kissingen are possible again. If you are interested, please speak to our office employees.

Thankfully, the Central Council of Jews has succeeded in making to make the admission process easier for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. You can get more information from our synagogue office.

Get well wishes — Refuah Schlemah

We extend our best wishes to our congregational members and their families who are currently going through difficult times, a good recovery. Our thoughts and hearts are with them. Please contact Mrs. Bantschukova if you need help, a visit or just someone to talk to.



Donations — Zedakah

We would like to thank the following members and friends who support our community life with their generous donations. Our thanks go to: Mrs. Lynn Magid Lazar (USA) in honor of Finias Tira Schleier’s birth, Mrs. Scheunpflug, Mr. Mark Ovsievych, Mr. John Smith, Mrs. Ute Gibas and the Dohme family. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

Tree of Life — Etz Chajim

You can commission a new leaf on our “Tree of Life” and help grace our sanctuary walls. Commemorate special events, e.g., Birth, Bar or Bat mitzvah, wedding, a special thank you, Yahrzeit, in memory of someone or to honor someone and in this way also actively donate to the synagogue building fund, the youth fund and our congregational life. Forms are available in the office. Thank you so much!



Newly added: “In memory of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother Polina Pelts”
 — the Pelts / Golberg family

Newly ordered: “In honor of Taavi Lua Schleier, In honor of the birth of Finias Tira Schleier” — the Dohme family

Thank you — Todah Rabbah

Thanks to the efforts of the community employees, the intense work of the rabbi and the board, we have adapted to the circumstances of the Corona pandemic and the community has. We are very grateful to everyone for that. Thank you so much!

Yahrzeit in July and August

Nataliya Zaychenko	July 1, 2003 / 1st Tammus 5763
Sergei Jevdokymov	July 21, 2008 / 18th Tammus 5768
Inge Dickmann	July 16, 2008 / 13th Tammus 5768
Wolodymyr Zaslavsky	July 29, 2012 / 10th Av 5772
Ethel Lazer	August 6, 2009 / 26th Av 5769



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

Please note: the next newsletter will appear in September! The synagogue office will not always be opened during the summer months. Faina Pelts, Olga Gerr and Heinrich Moos will be on vacation at various times. Check our program of events for times. In an emergency, please call the office or contact a member of the board.

Shalom

—Your Community Board

Program for July 2020 • Tammuz–Av 5780

Friday, June 10 5:30 p.m. Friday night services
 8:00 p.m. Mishnah Study Tractate Pirke Avot

Saturday, June 11 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning services
 12:30 p.m. Kinderkehillah

Program for August 2020 • Av–Elul 5780

Friday, August 7 5:30 p.m. Friday night services
 8:00 p.m. Mishnah Study Tractate Pirke Avot

Saturday, August 8 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning services
 12:30 p.m. Kinderkehillah

Friday, August 21 5:30 p.m. Friday night services
 8:00 p.m. Mishnah Study Tractate Pirke Avot

Saturday, August 22 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning services
 12:30 p.m. Kinderkehillah

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



[Newsletter Archive](#)

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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