



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

July–August 2021 • Tammuz–Elul 5781

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In the Jewish calendar, the summer months are a burdensome time: the 17th of Tammuz (this year: June 27th) is considered the day on which the Babylonian troops broke through the city walls of Jerusalem. It was the beginning of the end — the destruction of the city and temple was now in sight. That is why the “Three Weeks in Distress” (Bejn Hametzarim) begin on the 17th of Tammuz and extend to the 9th of Av (this year falls on the 18th of July). On this day in 587 B.C.E. the First Temple and later, in 70 C.E., the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans. Other misfortunes occurred on this date, so that the 9th of Av became the saddest day of the Jewish year, still observed today with fasting and various mourning rites. At the same time, these weeks are a time full of contradictions for us: the beauty of nature, the summer flowers, the grain harvest — all these are signs of joy and vitality that make us happy. And then: Why should we mourn something that dates back 2,000 years and for which Judaism has since found convincing substitutes?



For the generation that saw the Temple destruction, this was the ultimate catastrophe, no one could imagine how Israel could continue as a People, as a religion and as a civilization without its center Jerusalem with the Temple as the literal abode of God. And yet the scholars in Yavneh and in other houses of learning initiated something that we today call “the rabbinical revolution.” Our prayers took the place of the animal and food offerings; instead of the rituals performed by the priests, everyone could fathom the will of God by studying the Torah; instead of atonement through a scapegoat, each and everyone was asked to do Teshuvah (repentance). Zedakah (charity) and the Jewish identity cultivated in one's own home replaced pilgrimage and Temple attendance. Instead of the Kohanim (priests) and Levites as mediators of the worship service, every Jew could cultivate a relationship with God and the congregation directly, without mediation. The place of all these acts became thousands of “little sanctuaries,” the synagogues. A hierarchically structured religious system was replaced by a grassroots democracy, which has shown its vitality to this day.

Perhaps the meaning of the 9th Av (Tischah Be'Aw) for us today can be that it is indispensable to mourn all the catastrophes and losses in our history, but at the same time make ourselves aware what life force and adaptability Judaism repeatedly demonstrates. This knowledge can carry us through difficult times and help us to overcome crises.

We can be grateful and thank God that we got through the pandemic relatively lightly. Let us now turn our synagogue into a “little sanctuary” again, the center of our community, where Jewish history and the present are inspiration and strengthening for our lives! Old and newly developed forms of community work should find their place in it, preservation and change at the same time secure our future.

—I wish us all a nice summer, good rest and shalom, Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg



## Jewish life in June

### Shabbat services

After a long break, we returned to our Shabbat services, still with some restrictions, but at least an offer for those parishioners who could not be reached by e-mail or video conference. The atmosphere on the first Shabbat in June was wonderful. Everyone was very happy to see each other again. Because of the lovely weather we were able to hold our service in our synagogue garden, so nothing stood in the way of singing together. Seeing everyone in Shul again was a great pleasure. Since the number of infections is currently falling and many have now been vaccinated for the second time, we are optimistic about the future and hope to soon return to our usual life in our community center.

## Jewish life in July and August

### Shabbat services in summer

In July and August we will hold Friday and Saturday services as usual. We can celebrate our services together in the synagogue, or weather permitting, in our small, beautiful garden. We invite all members to attend the Shabbat services in our congregation, to feel the goodness of communal prayer and song and to maintain personal contact with one another again.

### Summer Camp for children and teens

We are happy to announce that five children from our community will take part in the summer machaneh (Jewish summer camp). The Machaneh program will be challenging and varied. The community and the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation support the families with a donation so that all of our children can participate. Such a holiday program brings the children into contact with their peers from other communities and strengthens the Jewish identity. Have fun kids!

### Appeal for donations

Netzer Germany needs your support for the Jewish holiday camps, for the implementation of the summer and winter machaneh as well as the seminars for the Madrichim and Madrichot. All donations will be used directly and exclusively for the activities of youth work this year. You can make your donations to the following donation account:

Netzer Germany  
IBAN.: DE35 2505 0180 0000 821 837  
BIC: SPKHDE2HXXX  
Many Thanks!

### Leisure time for seniors in Bad Kissingen 2021

This year there is an opportunity for seniors to relax in the Jewish summer program in Bad Kissingen. Please contact the community office for information. Please note that our office only sends the forms and does not influence the decision to participate in any way. This is solely a matter for the ZWST (Central Welfare Office of the Central Council of Jews).

### Senior Council Election

After more than 35 years of existence, the Hamelin Seniors' Council has developed into an established institution that represents the interests of Hamelin seniors in numerous political and social bodies and committees. The five-year term of office of the current Senior Citizens' Council expires in autumn this year. If you are interested in becoming active in the Seniors' Council, please contact the community office. The registration deadline is July 16, 2021. Candidates must be at least 60 years of age and who live in Hamelin.

### Mazel Tov!

We congratulate Yeva Trieskunova on successfully applying for the START scholarship. This is a program to support talented young people with a migration background. Seminars and activities at different locations as well as diverse encounters will bring the young people into close contact with politics and current affairs in Germany and strengthen their social commitment. Congratulations on this exciting program, Yeva!

### Get Well Wishes

We wish all people in our community who are currently ill a speedy and complete recovery. Our thoughts and hearts are with them.

### Donations

We would like to thank the members and friends who support our community life with generous donations. For donations in June we thank Dr. Ioulia Berhovski, Mark Ovsieych, Ute Gibas and the Dohme Family.

### Yahrzeit in July and August

Natalia Zaychenko	July 1, 2003 / Tammus 1, 5763
Sergei Jevdokimov	July 21, 2008 / Tammus 18, 5768
Inge Dickman	July 16, 2008 / Tammus 13, 5768
Wolodymyr Zaslavsky	July 29, 2009 / Av 10, 5772
Musiy Khazanov	August 7, 2020 / Av 17, 5780
Ethel Lazer	August 6, 2009 / Av 26, 5769
Emilia Sheenkova	August 18, 2020 / Av 28, 5780

May their memory be for a blessing to us.



**Shalom and good health!**  
**Your Rabbi and Board**

## Program July–August 2021 • Tammus–Elul 5781

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

Dates can change at short notice

Friday, 7/2	5:30 pm	Friday night services
Saturday, 7/3	10:00 am 12:30 pm	Shabbat morning services Kinderkehilla
Wednesday, 7/7	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah study, via Zoom
Monday, 7/12	6:00 pm	“Shanah and Sanah” Jewish-Muslim Dialogue, via Zoom
Wednesday, 7/14	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah study, via Zoom
Friday, 7/16	5:30 pm	Friday night services
Saturday, 7/17	10:00 am 12:30 pm	Sabbath morning services Kinderkehilla
Wednesday, 7/21	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah Study, via Zoom
Friday, 7/23	8:30 pm	“Shabbat Shalom” Radio NDR,99.9MHz Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg
Wednesday, 8/4	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah Study, via Zoom
Friday, 8/6	5:30 pm	Friday night services
Saturday, 8/7	10:00 pm	Sabbath morning services
Monday, 8/9	6:00 pm	“Shanah and Sanah” Jewish-Muslim Dialogue
Wednesday, 8/11	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah Study, via Zoom
Wednesday, 8/18	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah Study, via Zoom
Wednesday, 8/25	6:00 pm	Weekly Torah Study, via Zoom

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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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