



Dear members of the community, friends and supporters,

Looking back on July and August, the hot and steamy summer days and nights which were also characterized by activities in our community, we remember happy hours with family and friends and look forward to the cooler days of autumn.

During summer vacation, our community was very active. We came together for Shabbat, studied the Torah, sang, exchanged thoughts and celebrated life cycle events. In addition to Shabbat services led by our rabbi Ulrike, Peter Wendt and our choir “Shalom,” led a lovely service while our rabbi was at a retreat at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.



Seniors Breakfast and Sunday Café were held, thanks to the support of our project with “Aktion Mensch.” The events were well attended and everyone present had fun eating, talking and spending time together.

The Jewish New Year 5780 begins this year on September 29th with Rosh HaShanah. It is the day of remembrance, for on that day, God graciously remembers us. These days are vital to our lives as Jews and we hope that every single member will participate in our worship services. The High Holy Days in our synagogue provide a beautiful and meaningful opportunity to celebrate our Jewish traditions and reconnect with our very own souls. Wishes for a sweet New Year are symbolically expressed by eating apples with lots of sweet honey. Please remember to bring a vegetarian dish to our communal Erev Rosh HaShanah Buffet. Thank you very much!



Rabbi Lionel Blue wrote this about the upcoming Holy Days:

“A new year is open before us. We approach it full of uncertainty but at the same time full of hope. We do not know what lays ahead, what opportunities and what temptations, what joys and what sorrow. On the threshold between the old and the new, we pause. In silence we reflect on the past year and think about what we have made of it. May the new year make us wiser. May we recognize what gives meaning to our lives and significance to our days.”

Please let us know if you need a ride to services. Limited mobility should not limit anyone wishing to attend services. Call the office if you need a ride.

Cemetery visits

We will visit the two Jewish cemeteries before the High Holy Days and commemorate our deceased loved ones and members. Please meet us on Sunday, September 29th at 11:00 a.m. We will begin at the Old Jewish Cemetery Scharnhorststraße and afterwards at the Jewish Cemetery Wehl.

Rabbinic word

When I tell outside Germany that I am a rabbi in Hamelin, many of them are astonished: “Oh, that town really exists?” The Pied Piper legend has been translated into many languages and is widely known so some think it is a fictional fairytale town. But if my counterpart is Jewish, some people immediately exclaim: “Glikl!” Glikl/Glückel von Hamelin lived in our town three hundred years ago and made Hamelin famous in the Jewish world!



Glikl bat Judah Leib (1645–1724), also called Glikl of Hameln and was the mother of fourteen children and after the death of her husband, Chaim from Hamelin, continued his business as an independent merchant. In order to travel with business partners and attend fairs, she traveled widely—this was most unusual for a woman at that time. Her business success made it possible for her to give her children a thorough education and also arrange good marriages for them. She missed her beloved husband Chaim and in an effort to stave off her sadness, she began to write her memoirs - destined for her children and grandchildren, “so you know what kind of people you came from.”

She described not only family affairs, but also under what conditions Jews lived in Germany, the difficulties they faced through the church and civil authorities, described the hardships brought on by high compulsory levies and limited occupational opportunities. The memoirs convey a rare view of Jewish medieval life, the joys and worries of everyday life of an excluded minority. Her Memoirs are a valuable document of the social history of the Jews in Central Europe and a rare literary feminist testimony.

Glückel also wrote about religious issues, reflecting a woman of deep faith in God. She reveals her profound knowledge of Jewish writings and often quotes verses and parables from the Bible and rabbinic literature. To honor her, this month's Rabbinic Word is dedicated to Glückel of Hamelin. Let us hear her voice pertaining to the High Holy Days:



“We humans are given the choice that we can do what we want: evil (God forbid) or good. But the great, gracious, benevolent God with his great mercy has thrown us ropes to cling to. This is our holy Torah. . . . And in the Torah is written of reward and punishment for good and evil deeds. ‘But you choose life.’ So man should set himself up as soon as he has done a little or great sin, to repent and to repent, . . . so that the sin of the book will be extinguished and even a good deed will be written for it.”

The High Holy Days invite us to consider our lives and make choices, to throw out the ballast and keep the good. May we all be enrolled for a good and happy year 5780, blessed with health and joy.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

We wish all community members and friends a healthy and successful year 5780!

“Leschanah tovah tikatevu”

Rosh haSchanah Challah

Why do you think the Shabbat Challa has a braid shape? Legend tells us that a long time ago, a Jewish Polish baker made the Shabbat bread, weaving the dough into a lush braid, resembling the hair of his beloved. There was also a custom of calling the Shabbat bread “L’ Chajim” which means “life” or “good health.” Challah also reminds us of the heavenly manna that God gave the Jewish people during their 40 year long journey through the desert from Egypt to Eretz Israel. Challah is often sprinkled with sesame or poppy seeds. The white embroidered challah cover is also no coincidence- it symbolizes the dew that covered the manna in the desert. Challah is made in various sizes and shapes, all of which have a meaning. Braided ones, which may have three, four, or six strands, are the most common, and because they look like arms intertwined, symbolize love. Three braids symbolize truth, peace, and justice. Twelve braids from two small or one large braided bread recall the miracle of the 12 loaves for the 12 tribes of Israel. Round loaves, where there is no beginning and no end, are baked for Rosh Hashanah to symbolize continuity. The round shape symbolizes the wholeness we desire for ourselves and our entire people. Ladder and hand shapes are served at the meal before the fast of Yom Kippur, the ladder signifying that we should ascend to great heights, the hand that we may be inscribed for a good year. So everything is symbolic!



Culture Festival

On Sunday, September 15th, this year’s Cultural Festival takes place in Hessisch Oldendorf from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Our community is represented by our dance group “Chag Sameach” under the direction of Boris Markassev.

Sparkassen Helper Day

Our local house bank, the Sparkasse Hameln –Weserbergland, organizes a "Helper Day" every year. Our application for a project was selected from many and Sparkassen employees will join us to ready our cemetery for the High Holy Days. We are looking for a small group of volunteers who can assist the helpers of the Sparkasse who will be cleaning up the cemetery. If you have any questions, please contact Olga Gerr in the synagogue office. We thank the Sparkasse Hameln-Weserbergland with a heartfelt Todah Rabah!

Get Well Wishes — Refuah Schlemah

We wish everyone who is currently experiencing hardship, illness or emotional struggles a complete recovery. Our thoughts and hearts are with them. Let us know if we can help.

Donations — Zedakah

We sincerely thank the members and friends who have supported our religious life and the synagogue construction and upkeep with generous donations.

We thank Dr. Brigitte Löwe, Mrs. Constanze Stein, Mrs. Ursula Niedert and the Dohme family.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Tree of Life — Etz Chaim

Please consider the commission of a new leaf on our “Tree of Life” in the synagogue. It can be for a special occasion, a birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, thanks, Yahrzeit, a special memories or an honor, and in this way also donate to our synagogue upkeep. Forms are in the office. Thank you!

Newly ordered: “Polina Pelts—The Heart of our Congregation” by the members of the Jewish community Hamelin and “In loving memory of Polina Pelts” by Dohme family

Mazel Tov

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Spangenberg on the birth of their second granddaughter and wish the entire family joy and all the best.

Congratulations also to Mr. Lippold von Klencke and his family on the birth of their newest grandchild. Mazel Tov!

Thanks — Todah Rabah

We are grateful that several projects have been awarded, allowing us to continue various programs. We thank “Aktion Mensch” as well as the Central Council of Jews and the Sparkasse Hameln-Weserbergland for the friendly financial support of our submitted projects.

We thank Mrs. Khem, who has worked on repairing our Thoramantel. They are beautiful again.

We extend many thanks to Mr. Boris Kagan, who allowed us to use his beautiful oil painting of our synagogue to make greeting cards. Each member will receive a card with this newsletter as a gift for the High Holidays. If American readers are interested, a package of 10 cards is available for \$18.00. Please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org.

There are many regular activities in our community offered by our members for our members and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication.



Yahrzeit in September

Samson Avrus — September 3, 1999 / 22nd Elul 5759

May the memory of him be a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken with family members during services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office. We ask you to plan a funerary mandate during your lifetime. Forms are available in the office.



Shalom,

Your synagogue board

[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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Program for September 2019 • Elul 5779–Tishrei 5780

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

Wednesday, September 4		Sparkassen Helper Day — We're looking for a few volunteers to clean up the cemetery. Registration and details, Olga Gerr
Friday, September 6	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services followed by Oneg Shabbat
	8:00 p.m.	Mishnah study group
Saturday, September 7	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services, Kiddush and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehillah
Tuesday, September 10	11:00 a.m.	Senior's Breakfast — Thanks to the support of Aktion Mensch
Friday, September 20	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services followed by Oneg Shabbat
	8:00 p.m.	Mishnah study group
Saturday, September 21	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services, Kiddush and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehillah
Sunday, September 22	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Café Guest: Isaak Katz, Bad Pyrmont — Thanks to the support of Aktion Mensch
Thursday, September 26	1:30 p.m.	Board meeting
Sunday, September 29	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Cemetery services
	5:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah services; please bring a vegetarian dish to share
Monday, September 30	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah services
	12:30 p.m.	Luncheon followed by Torah study, "The Binding of Isaac" — Tashlich at the river Hamel

Outside the congregation

Thursday, September 5	7:00 p.m.	The Society of Christians and Jews: "Richard Wagner" — Lecture: Professor Dr. Eva Märtsen, Lutheran Reformed Church, Hugenottenstrasse
Friday, September 6	2:55 p.m.	Radio program "Shabbat Shalom" NDR Info, UKW 99,9 Mhz, Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg
Thursday, September 19	7:00 p.m.	In Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews: Lecture: Dr. Steffan Hagemann, "Important People and Positions in Israel today"; St. Elisabeth Church, Arndtweg 17