



Dear members, friends and supporters of the community,

As the New Year begins, the board wishes you and your families all the best, health, happiness, peace, and well-being for the coming year 5782!

Shanah Tovah!

Rachel Dohme, Olga Gerr and Peter Wendt



Rabbinical message

“Man, why do you sleep?” This is the opening line of one of the most famous poems that is said and sung in the month of Elul. The High Holidays are just around the corner, and now is the time to prepare for them. The daily shofar blowing in the month of Elul is a wake-up call to detach yourself from the routines of our everyday life and to pause. According to Maimonides, the great scholar, philosopher and doctor (Córdoba 1138–Cairo 1204), the Shofar calls to us: “Wake up, you sleepers, from your sleep, and your slumbering, awaken from your slumber. Examine your deeds and repent, remember your Creator. Those who forget the truth about the trifles of time and chase after the vain and useless ..., look to your soul, improve your ways and your deeds” (Hilchot Chuwah 3: 4).

Wake up—why and what for? To consider who we are and what our purpose is in this life. The upcoming holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur invite us to look critically at ourselves, to see what we are doing or not doing and to make corrections. The Jewish tradition describes this with the terms Cheshbon Nefesh (giving an account to ourselves) and Teshuvah (repentance). What can I change? Which habits should I get rid of? Where can I find the courage to make changes and start anew?

The New Year 5782 is a Schmittah year, also called the Year of Remission or Shabbat Year. We understand it as the seventh year during which the Torah says that the fields should not be tilled so that the ground can come to rest, slaves should be released and debts should be forgiven (see Ex 23, Lev 25 and Deut 15). Now, as a rule, we are not engaged in agriculture, we do not keep slaves and only some hold debts over others. In addition, these regulations only applied to the biblical land of Israel. And yet the Jewish tradition of being able to observe a Sabbath year is also relevant for us. It expands our view from the individual examination of the soul to our responsibility for society and the environment and presents us with important questions: Do we participate in the destruction of nature and the exploitation of people through our way of life? Do we define ourselves by categories of “possession” and “domination”?

The Schmittah year is based on a different vision: modesty, renunciation of vain status symbols, and respect for all the other creatures on our beautiful, but so troubled earth.

During the High Holidays, the Book of Life is open—may we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and blessed year of joy, health, knowledge and insight!

Leschanah towah umetukah tikatewu wetechatmu!
—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

July and August Review

Shabbat services

We discovered that our little garden is a beautiful space to hold services. Olga Gerr and Heinrich Moos had acquired comfortable plastic chairs which made it possible, allowing us to celebrate services outside. Since many of the prayers and songs for Shabbat are about praising creation, a special atmosphere is created when the worship service takes place outdoors and the chirping of birds can be heard. It also had the advantage that we could sit and sing without masks. We also used the garden whenever possible for the Shiurim on Shabbat morning. On the last two Shabbatot we were able to gather at a table prepared by Ljuba for a delicious Kiddush. How much we had missed this get-together, the opportunity for informal conversation and to celebrate the Shabbat!

We hope that the number of coronavirus cases does not increase and that we can continue to gather in our synagogue for the Shabbat service, where everyone is greeted with a warm “Shabbat shalom” as we sing together: “Hinei mah tov umah na’im shevet achim gam yachad” (“How beautiful and pleasant it is to sit together like brothers and sisters.”)

Although we are currently meeting again in person for most of the synagogue activities, the weekly Torah course will continue to take place on Wednesdays via Zoom. We are pleased that so many people from all over Germany and guests from France, Austria, Italy and the USA have joined us, that Limmud Rabbah will stay online. For our additional Shiur on Shabbat in the synagogue, Rabbi Offenberg will deal with other topics from the Torah: the Haftarah, the liturgy and the calendar—Jewish learning is inexhaustible!

Kinderkehillah

On the last Shabbat before summer vacation, the children received certificates in the synagogue that confirmed their learning progress in Hebrew and religion classes over the past year. Rabbi Offenberg emphasized the children's commitment to learning, even under the difficult conditions of the many months of meetings, which were only possible via video conference. We have great respect for you, children! Kol hakawod, jeladim wejeladot!



Netzer Germany Summer Camp

Five children from our community attended to this year's Netzer Germany summer machaneh. Eva Trieskunova reports:

"This year my brother and I went to the summer machaneh again and we really enjoyed it! We had a lot of fun there, and I was very happy to see my friends there again. I also learned a lot of interesting things there. Every day there was a varied program, consisting of many fun games, excursions or other interesting activities. The madrichim were also very nice. It was a week full of fun, joy and wonderfully spent time!

I would like to thank the Hamelin Jewish Community for the support that made it possible for us to experience such an unforgettable time in summer Machaneh."

The children and their parents also thank the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation Hamelin very much. Thanks to your support, the children of our congregation were able to take part in this great program and learn a lot about Judaism and their own identity.

Hamelin Dialogue

Our synagogue is located in a densely populated and culturally colorful southern district of our town. For a number of years now, the effort has been networking the different organizations and to plan joint activities. On July 20th, as part of our community project "Interfaith Dialogue," the planning meeting took place in our synagogue. The event began with a welcome by Claudia Schmidt from Hamelin City Hall and followed by a brief presentation by Faina Pelts, our congregation's social worker. She highlighted current projects in cooperation with BAMF, Office of Integration of FSU Jewish immigrants in Germany. A mutual exchange on the issues of integration, living with coronavirus, youth work, working with refugees and more closed the afternoon event. We were happy to host the meeting, showing our dedication to dialogue. The contacts and with other organizations in the city of Hamelin is very important to us.

Jewish life in September



High Holidays

The month of September is marked by the Tishrei holiday marathon: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Azeret and Simchat Torah. Rabbi Offenberg will guide us through all the holidays.

The Erev Rosh Hashanah service begins on September 6th at 5:30 p.m. We will welcome the New Year 5782 with apples, honey and round challot. After the morning service and a festive Kiddush we will walk to the Hamel River for the Tashlich ceremony. Yom Kippur will open with the hauntingly beautiful Kol Nidre liturgy on September 15th at 6:30pm. After the morning service there will be a break, meeting again for Jiskor and Ne'ilah in the evening. We will end the day with a light Break the Fast meal.

Of course, children, the elderly and those who are ill are exempt from fasting. Forms for school exemption on Yom Kippur are available in the office for our school-age children.

On Monday, September 20, we will decorate our sukkah at 4:00 p.m. and ask everyone who enjoys it to take part. The Sukkot service for our Feast of Tabernacles begins at 5:30 p.m. On Monday, September 27, we will celebrate the beginning of autumn with Schmini Azeret and the end and new beginning of our Torah reading cycle with Simchat Torah.

The next morning we will hold a memorial service for those congregants whom we lost last year. We invite everyone to come and collectively remember our beloved deceased friends and neighbors with a special Haskarah.

Please note! Due to the coronavirus precautions, we ask you to wear masks during services inside the synagogue and to keep your distance at all events. On the holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, First Day of Sukkot and Shmini Azeret / Simchat Torah, the synagogue office is closed and the regular group meetings do not take place.

Cemetery visits

As every year, we visit the cemeteries before the High Holidays to commemorate the deceased relatives and parishioners. On Monday, September 6, we will meet at 11 a.m. at the Scharnhorststrasse cemetery and around 12 p.m. at the Wehl cemetery.

Driving services

Many of our community members are elderly or handicapped and are additionally restricted by the poor bus connections in the city. In order to make it easier for them to take part in our services and community events, we are setting up a car service that brings those members who need such help home. The trips are coordinated by Olga Gerr; please notify her of your needs.

Interreligious women's meeting

As part of the "Interreligious Dialogue" integration project, an "Interreligious Women's Meeting" is planned for September 21 at 4:00 pm in the Protestant Reformed Church, Hugenottenstrasse. Representatives of the three religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, want to exchange ideas about their religious traditions and their lived practice. This is intended to strengthen mutual understanding and good relationships with one another. We ask the women of our community to take part in this important event!

New BFD volunteers

On September 1, 2021, Valerij Bogachyk (care for the cemetery) and Larissa Dvortsis (support for cultural events) will begin their work as volunteers. We warmly welcome them and look forward to their help.

We thank our former volunteers, Peter Shurupov and Zoja Pupiseva, for their excellent work in the community and wish them continued success and all the best.

Get well wishes — Refuah Schlemah

We wish all people in our community who are currently going through difficult times a good recovery. Our thoughts and hearts are with them. People also get sick from loneliness. Who can you visit or call?

Donations — Zedakah

A big thank you—Todah Rabbah!—to all members and friends who have supported our community life and the synagogue with generous donations. We thank: the Ovsievyeh family; The Academy of Jewish Religion, New York; Mr. Steven Goldstein, New York; Ute Niedert and the Dohme family. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Condolences — Mourning for Rabbi Richard Hirsch, of Blessed Memory

On August 16, 2021 / 8. Elul 5781, Rabbi Ascher Richard "Dick" Hirsch died in Florida, USA. He was a formative figure in the Reform movement, fought for civil rights and was close to the Rev. Martin Luther King. From 1962 to 1973 he headed the Religious Action Center and then assumed the office of President of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, of which our congregation is also a member. One of his many merits is the promotion of the close ties between Reform Judaism and the State of Israel. In 1972 he made Aliyah with his family and founded the headquarters of the World Union in Jerusalem, which had established a large center, Beit Shmuel. His wife Bella, who unfortunately passed away in 2019, came from the former Soviet Union and played a major role in the World Union's dedication to building liberal Jewish communities in her old homeland and issuing Russian-language prayer books and Torah commentaries. As a charismatic person, Rabbi Hirsch succeeded in getting many people enthusiastic about Reform Judaism and Israel. We mourn this great rabbi and pioneer. Jehi sichro baruch — May his memory be a blessing.

Yahrzeit in September

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

May his memory be a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken during services. Yahrzeit candles are available from the office.



Shalom,

Your Board of Directors

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

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.ighreform.org Email: igh@ighreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@ighreform.org

High Holidays 5782 / 2021

Rosh HaShanah

Monday, September 6 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Visit to the Scharnhorststrasse and Am Wehl cemeteries
5:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah, followed by Kiddush

Tuesday, September 7 10:00 a.m. Shacharith Rosh Hashanah
12:00 p.m. noon Kiddush and Taschlich ceremony at the Hamel river

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 15 6:30 p.m. Kol Nidre / Ma'ariv Yom Kippur

Thursday, September 16 10:00 a.m. Shacharit Yom Kippur
7:00 p.m. Jiskor and Ne'ilah, followed by Break the Fast

Sukkoth

Monday, September 20 4:00 p.m. Pe'ulah with the children's Kehillah and decorating the Sukkah
5:30 p.m. Erev Sukkoth celebration

Tuesday, September 21 10:00 a.m. Shacharit Sukkoth

Schemini Azeret and Simchat Torah

Monday, September 27 4:00 p.m. Pe'ulah of the children's kehillah
5:30 p.m. Ma'ariv Shmini Azeret / Simchat Torah

Tuesday, September 28 10:00 a.m. Memorial service Haskarah

Limmud Rabbah — Shiurim for the weekly portion of the Torah, via zoom, on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 1 6:00 p.m. Nitzawim

Thursday, September 9 6:00 p.m. Wajelech and Ha'asinu

Wednesday, September 22 6:00 p.m. Wesot Habrachah

Outside our synagogue:

Thursday, September 2 6:00 p.m. "A journey through time through the Jewish year: Tishrei Zoom course by Rabbi Offenberg at "Encounter Christians and Jews Lower Saxony e.V." For the Zoom link, please register at oef@begegnung-christen-juden.org

Friday, September 3 2:55 p.m. "Shabbat Shalom". Radio NDR Info, Interpretation of the Torah by Rabbi Offenberg

Tuesday, September 21 4:00 p.m. Interfaith women's meeting in the Protestant Reformed Church, Hugunoten Street

Thursday, September 23 6:00 p.m. Jewish-Christian Bible Dialogue. Rabbi Dr. Offenberg and Dr. Conversation with Dr. Christiane Wueste. For the Zoom link, please register at oef@begegnung-christen-juden.org

***HAPPY NEW YEAR 5782 — LESCHANAH TOWAH TIKATEWU!
May we all be inscribed in the Book of the Life!***