



Rabbinic word

Once again we are approaching a new year. September 25th and 26th we will commemorate Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the year 5783. The purpose of ushering in the New Year is to break the routine of our lives by placing a point in the flow of time that heralds the end of the past and the beginning of the new. The New Year invites us to look back and to reflect on where change is necessary and with what goal we want to shape the time ahead. In most cultures, the beginning of a new year is celebrated happily and festively, because with a new beginning there is hope that things will improve. Round challah, apple and honey, pomegranate seeds and many other symbols of Rosh Hashanah express these blessings. For the Jewish High Holidays, the process of introspection is the essential content of this phase of the year. In this month of Elul, which precedes Rosh Hashanah and the new month Tishrei, we are asked to reflect on our lives. Each individual should submit to the examination of their own words and deeds and find starting points and motivation for honest change. All in all, such a personal process then also has a social impact.



Rosh Hashanah is also the day we commemorate the creation of the world. This is also an issue that we have become aware of with particular urgency over the past year. Climate change is not only threatening some archipelagos in the Pacific, but is also clearly noticeable to us here through the heat waves and drought of this summer. The forests and gardens are longing for rain; a ship outing planned for our members could not take place because the water level in the Weser River is too low. It is important for us to apply critical self-examination as to how we treat others as we celebrate the High Holidays, no less than our relationship and interactions with the environment.

The Kotzker Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgensztern (1787–1859, Poland), is said to have once seen a young man eating fish with great relish. “I love fish!” he explained to him. The Rebbe gave him an ironic answer: “Of course you love the fish! You love them so much that you pull them from their elixir of life, water, cut off their heads and cook them. Young man, you don’t love the fish, you love yourself. Because you like the fish, you killed it and ate it!”

In a drastic way, the Kotzker Rebbe accused the young man (and us) of a mendacious attitude, which means that we are allowed to overexploit nature because of our consumption needs. Our way of life is quite selfish. Climate change, forest fires, poisoned or drying up rivers make it very clear to us that we humans are not masters of creation, but a part of it and dependent on a balance of interests between all forms of life. But insight is the first step to change. If we do what is humanly possible, the beginning of the year remains a time of hope. At the beginning of the year 5783, I greet us all with the words of an ancient prayer (Rabbi Shmaya Kosson, Morocco, 16th century):

“May we be granted this year to experience the kindness of God; our sorrows are replaced by joyful events.”

May we all be enrolled in the Book of Life for a year of health, joy and peace. —Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Summer camp

For ten days, from July 29th to August 7th, five children from our community took part in the summer camp of “Netzer Germany e.V.” and reconnected with friends from other German Reform congregations. About 60 Chanichim aged between 8 and 20 took part, including a number of Jewish refugee children, fleeing from the war in the Ukraine. Divided into four age groups, the pe’ulot (activities) consisted of playing, painting, learning and singing about Judaism and Jewish identity today. There were also various multi-age chugim (working groups) involving theatre, sports, cooking and games. In addition to swimming and nature hikes, the program also included a “Netzer Festival” One highlight was certainly the “Netzer Talent Show” on the last evening, where our children also took to the stage with piano and theater performances. Even Lennard, our youngest, for whom all this was a completely new experience, enjoyed the exciting time without becoming homesick. “We’ll definitely be back next year!” That was the conclusion of our children. We thank everyone involved!



Jewish Life in September

Rosh Hashanah

On the evening of September 25th, the Jewish year 5783 begins for us and with it an intense holiday period that extends to Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah in October. It is a time that guides us through a variety of emotions through rituals, prayers, symbols, texts and songs. Come and take part in services and Kiddushim so that as a community we can live through the happy and also the difficult moments and carry one another through them. No one should sit at home alone. If you are restricted in your mobility, please contact the office so that we can find a solution.

Cemetery visits

Each year before our High Holidays we visit the two Jewish Hamelin cemeteries to commemorate our departed loved ones and parishioners. On September 25th we meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Scharnhorststraße Cemetery and then drive to the Jewish Cemetery Am Wehl.

Book presentation and discussion

On Monday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m., Gerhard Haase-Hindenberg will present his book *I've never met a Jew* in our synagogue. In this book, published in 2021, he tells the life stories of Jews who were born in Germany or who moved here from Ukraine, Russia, Israel or the USA. Sensitive portraits were created that offer a very personal insight into the reality of Jewish life in Germany today. The author, Gerhard Haase-Hindenberg, wrote biographies of Rachel Dohme and Polina Pelts for the *Jüdische Allgemeine* weekly newspaper.

This event is organized by the Hamelin Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and we hope to see you there.

Cultural program of the Central Council of Jews

As part of the cultural program, Lena Gorelik will present her current novel *Who we are*, which was published in 2021. This autobiographical novel begins in 1992 and tells the story of a girl who emigrated from St. Petersburg to Germany with her parents, grandmother and brother. Lena Gorelik, a much sought-after author and publicist, was born in St. Petersburg in 1981 and came to Germany with her family in 1992.

We invite all members and friends to this interesting event on Sunday, September 11th at 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Classes with Rabbi Offenberg

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., Rabbi Offenberg continues her Shiurim on the weekly Haftarah (the reading of the Prophets) of the respective week. On Monday, September 5th, at 6:00 p.m., the monthly series "Schanah & Sanah" with Iman Andrea Reimann will deal with questions of livelihood and work in Islam and Judaism. On Thursday, September 8th, at 6:00 p.m., Rabbi Offenberg will present the month of Elul for "Encounter Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony." After 13 months (leap year!) this series called "Time Travel" comes to an end with the end of the Jewish year. The access data for the individual Zoom events will be sent to you by email. Let the rabbi know if you wish to join in.

Get well soon

May the One who blessed our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and our mothers Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, send blessings of health and healing to all who are ill. May they be blessed with patience and strength of heart and may they be granted full recovery in body and spirit. May all those who nurture and care for them also be strengthened with perseverance and hope.



Donations — Zedakah

We would like to thank everyone who supports our community life and the upkeep of the synagogue with generous donations. This month we would like to particularly highlight: Philosophy course of the Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium, Arkadi Zyryanov, Ute Niedert, Rachel Dohme, the city of Hameln, Ms. Menzel from the primary school in Kirchohsen and an anonymous donor.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

Sympathy

We express our heartfelt condolences to the widow Emma Kaplan, daughter Viktoria Agranovski, granddaughter Alina and the entire Kaplan/Agranovski family on the death of our beloved member, Aron Kaplan. Aron was one of the founders of the community, one of the first board members, headed the “Chevra Kaddisha” and took great responsibility for all matters relating to the cemetery. Every Shabbat he was in the synagogue and took an active part in the life of our community. We will miss him greatly and remember him with deep gratitude and love. The funeral was conducted by Rabbi Offenberg with many relatives and members in attendance. The mourners then gathered in the synagogue for a meal of consolation.

We would also like to express our heartfelt condolences to Boris Markhaseev on the death of his wife Elena Zaroubkinskaya, who died on July 20, 2022 after a long illness. The funeral took place under the direction of Rabbi Offenberg with the participation of members of the congregation and the dance group that Boris has led for years.

At the beginning of August we had to bury another long-standing, beloved member. Julia Shurupova died suddenly and unexpectedly. We mourn with her heartbroken husband Petro Shurupov, daughters Daria and Natalia, five grandchildren, sister Valentina and the entire extended family. A large congregation of mourners accompanied Julia on her last journey and thought of her lovingly afterwards in the synagogue.

September Jahrzeits

Samson Avrus — September 3, 1999 / 22 Elul 5759

Yevgeny Yevdokimov — September 9, 2020 / 20 Elul 5780

May their memory be a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken with family members during Shabbat services. Jahrzeit candles are available in the office.



**Shalom,
Your Synagogue Board**

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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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Shabbat and High Holidays, September 2022 • Elul 5782–Tishrei 5783
Jewish Community Hamelin
BEITENU, Synagogenplatz 1, Bürenstraße, 31785 Hameln

Shabbat

Friday, September 9, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 10, 10:00 a.m.
Friday, September 23, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 25
11.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m., Cemetery visit & Kaddish
1:00 a.m., Cemetery Scharnhorststrasse
12:00 p.m., Am Wehl Cemetery
5:30 p.m., Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 26
10:00 a.m., Shacharit Rosh HaShanah
12:00 p.m., Kiddush
1:00 p.m., Tashlich ceremony at the Hamel River

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 4
6:00 p.m., Kol Nidrej and Ma'ariv Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 5
10:00 a.m., Shacharit Yom Kippur
6:00 p.m., Jiskor and Ne'ilah, followed by "Break the Fast"

Sukkot

Sunday, October 9
4:00 p.m., Pe'ulah the children's Kehillah, Decorating the sukkah
5:30 pm, Erev Sukkot celebration with Kiddush

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah
Sunday, October 16
4:00 p.m. Pe'ulah the children's Kehillah
5:30 p.m. Maariv Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

HAPPY NEW YEAR 5783
LESHANAH TOVAH TIKATEVU!

