



Dear members, friends and supporters,

Upon joyous completion of the many holidays in the month of Tishrei, we wish you a good year and many blessings for all.



Rabbinical word

The holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have something absolute and all-encompassing: good or bad, right or wrong, mercy or sadness. There seems to be only one or the other, white or black. We dress in white for the holiday to express the desire to remove all the “stains” in our lives. And just a few days after Yom Kippur, Sukkot comes and this festival seems to convey a more nuanced message: we are surrounded by imperfection. A sukkah is a very inadequate structure: the leaf

laden roof is not at all rainproof or weatherproof, three walls are sufficient for our booth instead of four, the wind whistles through it. Rather, it is about not putting our warm, comfortable home at the center of our lives for a week, but rather a temporary hut that makes us think about what really gives us security and warmth. And that it’s not so much about perfection as our intention and our striving to do the right thing. And if the walls only reach a hand’s breadth under the roof, that’s fine too. The main thing is that we are serious about our efforts. The Feast of Tabernacles helps us to transfer the good intentions of Yom Kippur into our reality here and now and make them more realistic. Nothing we do will ever be perfect, but we must not stop striving and improving.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Review of the month of September

The past month was all about the many Tishrei holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah lined up and led us through an alternating bath of intense emotions: review, sadness, joy, seriousness, festivity, painful and happy moments.

On Monday, September 6, we visited the graves of our deceased at the Scharnhorststrasse and Am Wehl cemeteries. These are moments full of memories, of sadness through loss, but also of appreciation for the people and their biographies who found their final resting place here, far from their homelands. Finally, we said Kaddish together in both cemeteries.

In the evening we celebrated Erev Rosh Hashanah together in our synagogue, the beginning of the year 5782. In the last year and a half we had gotten used to small gatherings or Zoom services due to the pandemic, but on Rosh Hashanah the synagogue was full again and it was a cause of great joy. We were also able to congratulate Emma Lebedinska and Mark Ovsievych on their special birthdays. And after the service, Liubov spoiled us again with a buffet full of delicacies. Liubov’s freshly baked round challot, apple with honey and pomegranate seeds symbolized our hopes for the New Year, may it be rich in sweetness, health and good deeds.

The following morning we prayed the Rosh Hashanah morning service with a smaller group, the shofar blowing after the Torah reading and in the Mussaf prayer in the tried, tested and impressive manner by Volodymyr Pesok. After the Kiddush we went to the Hamel River for the Tashlich ceremony to wash away our spiritual burdens. During these two days we were accompanied by the Tübingen theology student Sonia Reinig, who did an internship with us.

On Wednesday, September 15, we ushered in Yom Kippur with the “Kol Nidrej,” spoken in German and Russian and sung in Aramaic by Rabbi Offenberg. Many members had dressed in white and had put on their tallit for the solemnness of the day. The texts and melodies of the prayers had something serious, yet hopeful.



The next morning we continued with the Torah reading, the Mussaf prayer service including the traditional atonement rituals as performed by the High Priest during the days of the former Jerusalem Temple; fascinating for all to witness.

After a break we met again at the Yiskor, we remembered our beloved deceased families and friends, laid stones for them, heard the El Male Rachamim and said Kaddish together. The Ne’ilah prayer closed the day and in full devotion we sang “Avinu Malkenu,” the Shma Yisrael and heard the last shofar blast from Volodymyr Pesok and Rabbi Ulrike. After the Havdalah ceremony we were able to “break the fast,” with Challah and Rugelach baked by Liubov.



On Monday, September 20, the Kinderkehillah made decorations for our Sukkah. Drawings, garlands, pennants and many fruits adorned our booth. In the evening service, Rabbi Offenberg explained the basic ideas of Sukkot and the practice of shaking the Lulav. Afterwards we enjoyed Kiddush with wine and challah in the sukkah, but because of the cold and lack of space, we continued the meal in the synagogue. We were also happy about the visit of Klara Behncke and Alla Barskaja, the president and vice president of our sister congregation in Bad Pyrmont.

The holiday of Shmini Atzeret / Simchat Torah and the Haskarah (commemoration) for the parishioners Feliks Peres, Suya Varshavska, Evgeni Evdokimov and Arkadi's wife Emilia Sheenkova, who died in the last year and a half, took place after the editorial deadline, so we will report next month.

It was a very impressive holiday period. Many people, especially our Rabbi Ulrike, have contributed and we are very grateful to all of them. The taxi service made it easier for many members to come to the synagogue and return home in the evening. This option will be continued on Shabbat.

Jewish life in October

Birthday Kiddush

Because of the pandemic, we weren't able to hold services and events at all for a long time, and if so, then only in a reduced form. Sadly we didn't have the opportunity to celebrate milestone birthdays of some of the members. We want to make up for that now: On Friday, October 8th, 2021, after the Shabbat service, we plan to celebrate a festive Kiddush and celebrate those who have celebrated their 70th, 75th, 80th, 85th, 90th or even 95th birthday in the past year. Please come and congratulate them and enjoy the Shabbat evening with your friends together!

Annual general meeting and Elections

On October 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. our annual members' meeting with election of the board of directors will take place. Members received the invitation last month. Please consider if you would like to become a board member and deal with important and responsible issues in the life of our congregation.

We hope that the members will participate actively. If you are unable to attend, please give a power of attorney to a voting member so that your vote can be counted.

Get well wishes — Refuah Schlemah

We wish all those who are currently ill or 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: Mrs. Braun, Mrs. Grach, the Ovsievykh family, Mrs. Rubanova, the Rubanov family, Mrs. Evseeva, Ms. Schwigon, Mrs. Niedert, Judith Khan and family and the Dohme family.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

We apologize

We apologize for an error in the September newsletter in which we forgot to include the Yahrzeit of Yevgenij Yevdokimov on September 9, 2020/20 Elul 5780. We will commemorate his memory at the Haskarah on September 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the synagogue.

October Yahrzeits

Oleksii Bogdanov	October 10, 2014 / 16. Tishri 5774
Lev Bachmachnikov	October 15, 2017 / 25. Tishri 5778
Vladimir Borishansky	October 29, 2019 / 30. Tishri 5780

May their memory be for a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken with family members during services. Yahrzeit candles are available from the office for a small price.



**Shalom,
Your Board of Directors**

Program for October • Tischrei–Heshvan 5782

Monday, October 4	6:00 p.m.	Schanah & Sanah. Jewish-Moslem Dialogue with Rabbi Offenberg and Iman A. Reimann, via Zoom
Wednesday, October 6	6:00 p.m.	Shiur, Haftarah Shabbat “Noah,” via Zoom
Thursday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	“Bertha Pappenheim” — Rabbi Offenberg presents the personality and work of this pioneer of Jewish social work and the women’s movement. An event of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in the synagogue
Friday, October 8	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Birthday Kiddush
Saturday, October 9	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
	12:30 p.m.	Children’s Kehillah
Sunday, October 10	3:00 p.m.	Annual general meeting with election of the board of directors
Wednesday, October 13	6:00 p.m.	Shiur, Haftarah Shabbat “Lech Lecha,” via Zoom
Wednesday, October 20	6:00 p.m.	Shiur, Haftarah Shabbat “Vajera,” via Zoom
Thursday, October 21	11:00 a.m.	Information Meeting “What’s new in the Social Security Codex”
Friday, October, 22	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, October 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
	12.30 p.m.	Children’s Kehillah
Wednesday, October 27	6.00 p.m.	Shiur Haftarah Shabbat “Chaiay Sarah,” via Zoom

Outside the community:

Thursday, October 14	6:00 p.m.	Time travel: The month of Heshvan, via Zoom
Thursday, October 21	6:00 p.m.	Jewish-Christian Bible Dialogue: The Binding of Isaac, Dr. Christiane Desert and Rabbi Offenberg, via Zoom. Both events organized by “Encounter Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony” Registration: oef@begegnung-christen-juden.org
Friday, October 22	2:55 p.m.	“Shabbat Shalom,” Radio address by Rabbi Offenberg, NDR Info, Hameln on 99.9 Mhz

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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

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

Web site: www.jghreform.org Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@jghreform.org