



On the eve of Yom Kippur

we set off
 from our past experiences
 toward the experiences waiting to begin
 On the eve of Yom Kippur,
 it felt as if we were at the beginning of Time
 with the stillness of an island that
 the sea illuminated with candles.
 There you adopted me
 into your aching heart,
 before all that could have been.
 Before you go to pray with everyone
 before you stand in front of the congregation
 in the Temple,
 one of the trees in the forest.

—Zelda

זלדה:

ערב יום הכיפורים

בערב יום הכפורים

הפלגנו

מנסיונות שתמו אל נסיונות שהחלו

ערב יום הכפורים הנה לנו ראשית הזמן

בדממת אי שהאיר

ים בנרות

שם אמצת אותי אל לבך הדואב

לפני הכל יכול

בטרם תלך להתפלל עם כלם

בטרם תהיה אחד מן העדה

בהיכל

אחד מן העצים

ביער.

Rabbinic word

According to our calendar, Rosh Hashanah separates one year from the next, but the real watershed is Yom Kippur. The poet Zeldah (Zeldah Schneurson Mischkovsky, 1914–1984) understood this day like one sailing across the sea. On this day, the experiences of the past year form the shore from which we cast off and hopefully reach and anchor on a new shore. On this day, exists the stillness of Yom Kippur, the Sea of our Thoughts, prayers and hopes for a new beginning.

It has to be this year that we succeed... but when crossing over to the shore of the new possibilities, we need the stillness and the warm light of the holiday candles in order to access and call up that point of inner personal stillness, of grounding permanence, that permits us to find a reason to hold on. For one day, we switch off the sounds of the world, the constant noise and roar of political news, of busy minds, of our own restlessness and helplessness. We need this place of stillness and the knowledge of being accepted in order to cross over to the other bank. We need this stillness in order to reach and be ready for new experiences there. In this place of stillness, repentance is possible and a new beginning.

In Hebrew there is one and the same word for “experience,” “trial” and “test.” During the past year our actions, encounters and words have been attempts to change something. In the coming year we will continue to make new attempts, we will be tested in many things and all this will add to our experiences and in that way, we write the book of our lives.

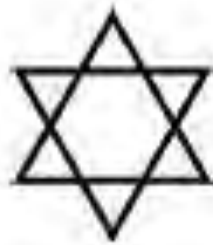
May this Yom Kippur be an empowering crossing, during which we find the silence and compassion for each of us before we enter the other shore.

טובה חתימה גמר, an entry for a year of ambitious attempts, bearable trials and goodness, is my wish for you all,

—Rabbi Ulrike Offenber







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„Beitenu“

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

**Zu Rosch Haschana 5783 wünschen wir
allen Mitgliedern und Freunden im In- und Ausland
ein glückliches und friedvolles neues Jahr.**

Хорошей записи в Новом году!

Rabbinerin Dr. Ulrike Offenberг

www.JGHRreform.org

Looking back and ahead with “Aktion Mensch”

On July 15th the senior’s group met in our community. Valery Bogachik showed videos of our synagogue’s 20th anniversary of the Jewish community in Hamelin. Delicious food was prepared by our volunteers Larissa and Matvey Dvortsis, Maria Bilau, Dora and Valery Bogachik under the guidance of Olga Gerr. Many thanks to all participants for a lovely afternoon. Communication, memories and songs framed this meeting.

A similar meeting took place on August 10th. We watched a film, made twenty years ago at our Rosh Haschanah celebration. We saw dear members who are no longer with us and held them in fond memory. At the deliciously laid table, people remembered and talked for a long time. We plan to continue holding such meetings and hope that many will attend.

Our Congregation

On Shabbat Nitzavim, several train cancellations meant that Rabbi Offenbergl only reached the synagogue several hours late. But what a surprise! The congregants had not remained passive, but had started the Kabbalat Shabbat service independently! The shofar was blown, the candles were lit, the service began and the Draschah was read aloud. Singing filled the synagogue; Rabbi Offenbergl simply had to take over upon arrival and continue the service. What a committed and competent congregation has grown here over the years!

Cultural and social events

In cooperation with the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, Gerhard Haase-Hindenberg presented his book *I Have Never Met a Jew...*, which contains various life stories of Jews in Germany. There was also a presentation of the book *Who We Are* by the author Lena Gorelik. In it she addresses Jewish immigration to Germany using the example of her family. Many members of the congregation, as well as many guests attended. Our members were reminded of their own story reflected in the chapters read by Lena Gorelik. We thank the Central Council of Jews and Faina Pelts for organizing this event.

Also in September, Margarita Suslovich, the social worker from the State Association of Israelite Religious Communities in Lower Saxony, visited us to talk about the topic of “medical care and health insurance.” As always at her events, the information she provided was very useful as it helps to understand important laws and regulations.

A dear guest, Mr. Werner Kothe, visited our community. Mr. Kothe is an artist who works primarily with glass. He created and donated the beautiful glass doors with the golden letters of the Ten Commandments that adorn our Aron HaKodesh. We discussed possibilities for another art project with him for our synagogue.

Jewish Life in October

Yom Kippur

On Sunday, September 25th, we welcomed the new Jewish year 5783 with Rosh Hashanah. Now the first half of October is all about the Tishrei holidays. Yom Kippur begins Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m. with Kol Nidre followed by the evening service. On Wednesday, October 5th we will continue our prayers at 10:00 a.m. At 6:00 p.m. we invite you to attend the Yiskor service. This year we have to add many new names of dearly departed. This will be followed by the closing prayer Ne’ilah and we end Yom Kippur with a common Break-the-Fast in the synagogue. Whoever is healthy enough should try to fast on this day.

Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

The Feast of Tabernacles then brings us an autumn mood. We will decorate our Sukkah on Sunday, October 9th and then celebrate Sukkot at 5:30 p.m. with songs, prayers and the waving of the Four Kinds, the Lulav. We will make every effort to fulfill the central commandment of this festival: “You should be happy on your holidays.”

A week later, on Sunday, October 16th, we observe Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. We will dance with our Torah scrolls, read the last chapter of the Torah and then come right back to the beginning, the story of Creation. Don’t miss this beautiful festival when we hold the Torah as the Torah holds us.

As always: If you want to come to the service but are disabled, the costs for the bus and shared taxi will be reimbursed upon presentation of a ticket/receipt. Call the office if you have any questions.

Get well soon

May the One who blessed our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and our mothers Sarah, Rebeccah, Rachel and Leah, bless and heal those 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 maintenance of the synagogue with generous donations. This month we would like to particularly highlight: Arkadi Zyryanov, Ute Niedert, Rachel Dohme, Sabine Demuth, Ute Gibas, Jonathan Beere, Ioulia Berhovski, the Rubanov family, Ingedore Rüdlin and an anonymous donor. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

Tree of Life — Etz Chayim

New to our Tree are the Leaves “Judith Arnovitz Khan — In loving memory” and “Aron Kaplan — In eternal memory” donated by the Dohme family.

Condolences

With sadness and gratitude we think of Mrs. Adina Ben-Chorin and Rabbi Dov Marmur, who passed away in the summer. Both were warm-hearted people, scholars and influential personalities of Liberal Judaism, who accompanied and promoted the development of our community.

Adina Ben-Chorin led a workshop on Jewish feminism and took part in our work in many ways.

Rabbi Dov Marmur, in his capacity as President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, worked closely with Rachel Dohme, then UPJD Board Member for International Relations.

Rabbi Offenberg was also closely connected to both of them. Adina Ben-Chorin and Rabbi Dov Marmur enriched our community life with their advice and helped us to connect with the wider Jewish world. We miss them very much and express our condolences to Fredzia Marmur, the children and the families.

Seasons in October

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

May their memory be a blessing to us.



Wishes of Shalom from 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 October 2022 • Tishrei–Cheshvan 5783

Office hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Tuesday, October 4	6:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre and Ma`ariv Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 5	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Shacharit Yom Kippur Jiskor and Ne'ilah, followed by "Break-the-Fast"
Sunday, October 9	4.00 p.m. 5.30 p.m.	Pe'ulah of the Children's Kehillah, adorning the Sukkah Erev Sukkot celebration with kiddush
Wednesday, October 12	6:00 p.m.	Shiur: The Haftarah Shabbat Chol HaMo'ed Sukkot, via Zoom
Friday, October 14	11:00 a.m.	"Songs Gladden the Soul": Singing together, "Aktion Mensch"
Sunday, October 16	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Pe'ulah the Children's Kehillah Erev Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah
Wednesday, October 19,	6:00 p.m.	Shiur on the weekly reading "Bereshit", via Zoom
Friday, October 21	5:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, October 22	10:00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Shacharit Shabbat Children Kehillah
Wednesday, October 26	6:00 p.m.	Shiur on the weekly reading "Noah," via Zoom

Outside the community

Monday, October 3	6:00 p.m.	"Schanah & Sanah" Conversation between Iman Andrea Reimann and Rabbi Offenberg on the life cycle in Islam and in Judaism: "Aging," via Zoom
Friday, October 14	2:55 p.m.	"Shabbat Shalom": Torah sermon by Rabbi Offenberg, NDR Info, VHF: Hamelin 99.9 MHz
Thursday, October 27	6:00 p.m.	"Digital Bible Dialogue" Rabbi Offenberg and Prof. Dr. Klaus Grünwaldt talk about Leviticus/Vajikra/Lev. 19 hosted by Encounter Christians and Jews, Lower Saxony e.V., via Zoom