



## Dear community members, friends and supporters!

We are still in the holiday season of the month of Tishrei, still dipping the challah in honey and wishing you all that the year that has just begun will be a good and sweet one.

### Rabbinic word

Yom Kippur and with it the Jamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, are behind us. It is an intense time of reflection and self-examination. We start the uncertainty of the year 5784 ahead of us with a lot of good intentions. Yom Kippur was full of texts and symbols that expressed our hopes and also our fears: many of us dressed in white, fasted and entered into a deep dialogue with ourselves and with God through prayers. It is said that with these customs we imitate the angels — flawless beings without sins or bodies. We pretend for a day as if we have no physical needs and are detached from the world; we don't eat or drink, don't exchange caresses, don't use creams and extensive body care, we don't do our work and dress in white. We limit this for no longer than 25 hours, as we are humans and not angels. God expects us to live, to work and create here and not in heaven, but with both feet securely on our earth. We are given the opportunity to start anew, full well knowing the New Year will bring new errors on our part. That's why Yom Kippur is actually considered one of the happiest days of the year (even if it's sometimes hard to believe that). The following round of holidays of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah brings us many joyful and even sensual moments; the Sukkah decorated with fruits and foilage reminds us of the wealth of nature and our gratitude for it. At Simchat Torah we dance with the Torah scrolls and are exuberant — the angels may live in heavenly spheres, but we have both feet on the ground and hold the holy source of our joy in our arms. The weekly Torah reading also begins again — with the story of the creation of the world, the beginning of all beginnings.



May this year and may our new beginnings be blessed — Shanah Tovah!

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

### September in Review

September was all about the High Holy Days. Upon invitation of the Hamelin Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, Rabbi Offenberg presented the Tishrei holidays, their meaning and customs. The remarks sparked a lively discussion among the interested group.

Before Rosh Hashanah we visited the two Jewish cemeteries in Hamelin again, walking from grave to grave and remembering the deceased community members. Relatives and members talked about the lives of the deceased, remembered their personalities, happy and formative events shared in the past with them. Finally, we said Kaddish together at both cemeteries. The Rosh Hashanah services were well attended. Liubov had once again outdone himself with the lavish holiday table. At the time of going to press, Yom Kippur was still ahead of us.

When this newsletter reaches you, we will begin the Feast of Tabernacles, Sukkoth, also known as our “time of rejoicing.” A week later we move on to Shemini Atzeret and the Simchat Torah, Torah Joy Festival. We will pray for the blessing of rains in due seasons and dance with the Torah scrolls.

### Limmud Rabbah

The weekly Zoom event “Limmud Rabbah,” usually led by Rabbi Offenberg, is sometimes reinforced by other rabbis such as Tamarah Benima from Amsterdam, now in its fourth year. For two years we dealt with the respective weekly portion of the Torah, followed by a year of weekly study, concentrating on the Haftarot, the readings from the Prophets. In the coming year, the Megillot, the Biblical books associated with the festivals will be the focus of our communal learning. We begin with the book of Kohelet (also called Solomon or Ecclesiastes), which is assigned as the holiday scroll of Sukkot. The Feast of Tabernacles will then be over, but in this way we can get to know a philosophically rich text that addresses many questions that also concern us today.





## Informational event

Our State Board of Liberal congregations' social worker, Margarita Suslovy, will make her monthly visit, providing information about innovations in social legislation. On Tuesday, October 10th at 2:30 p.m. she will speak about changes to the Care Act that will come into force at the beginning of 2024.

## Synagogue office

Due to vacations and school fall break, the synagogue office will be closed from October 19th until November 3rd, 2023. In emergencies, please call Rachel Dohme or Peter Wendt.

The Shabbat services for Shabbat Noah (October 20th/21st) will still take place.



## Donations — Tzedakah

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 donations in honor of Rosh Hashanah from Ute Gibas, Ursula Niedert, Christoph Elsner, the Rubanov family, the Dohme family, the Dvortsis family, Ioulia Berhovski, Viktor Gogulinskiy and an anonymous donor.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

## Circle of Friends

We warmly welcome Mr. Christoph Elsner as the newest member of our community's Circle of Friends. Welcome! We are happy to have another comrade-in-arms.

## Condolences

We mourn the loss of Alexander Gogulinskiy, who died on September 3rd after a long illness. Our condolences go especially to his son, Viktor Gogulinskiy. The funeral took place at our cemetery Am Wehl.

## Yahrzeit in October

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

May their memory be a blessing to us. Kaddish is said during Shabbat services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.



**Shalom and Shanah Tovah,  
Your synagogue Board of Officers**

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### **Jewish Community of Hamelin**

Member of the JLEV (Jewish Liberal-Egalitarian Organization), 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](http://www.ighreform.org) Email: [igh@ighreform.org](mailto:igh@ighreform.org)

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: [racheldohme@ighreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@ighreform.org)

## Program for October 2023 • Tishrei–Cheshvan 5784

Office hours: Thursdays and Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m

Due to vacation, the synagogue office will be closed from October 19 to November 3.

|                              |                         |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Friday, September 29th       | 5:30 p.m.               | Maariv Sukkot, followed by Kiddush in e Sukkah   |
| Saturday, September 30       | 10:00 a.m.<br>1:00 p.m. | Shacharit Sukkot 1st day, followed by Kiddush and Shiur Youth Group  |
| Wednesday October 4          | 6:00 p.m.               | Shiur, Torah reading for Simchat Torah, Zoom   |
| Friday, October 6            | 5:30 p.m.               | Maariv Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, followed by festive Kiddush  |
| Saturday, October 7          | 10:00 a.m.<br>1:00 p.m. | Shacharit Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, followed by Kiddush and Shiur Youth Group   |
| Tuesday, October 10          | 2:30 p.m.               | Information event with Margarita Suslovych:<br>“Changes to the Care Act from January 1, 2024”  |
| Wednesday, October 11        | 6:00 p.m.               | Shiur on the book of Kohelet/Ecclesiastes Solomon, Zoom  |
| Friday, October 20,          | 5:30 p.m.               | Kabbalat Shabbat Noah, followed by Kiddush   |
| Saturday, October 21st       | 10:00 a.m.              | Shacharit Shabbat, Kiddush   |
| Wednesday, October 25        | 6:00 p.m.               | Shiur on the book of Kohelet/Ecclesiastes Solomon, Zoom  |
| <b>Outside the community</b> |                         |  |
| Thursday, October 5          | 6:00 p.m.               | Feast of Tabernacles in Villa Seligmann with Eliah Sakakushev von Bismarck, Rabbi Dr. Offenberg about the background, symbols and customs of Sukkoth. Cantor Sveta Kundish will offer a concert dedicated to Sukkoth. Villa Seligmann, Hohenzollernstraße 39, 30161 Hanover, Tickets €10 |
| Friday, October 20           | 2:55 p.m.               | “Shabbat Shalom”, NDR Info, Hameln FM 99.9 MHz<br>Torah interpretation by Rabbi Offenberg  |