



Dear members, friends and supporters,

Our High Holiday services gave us the opportunity to address one another and ourselves in thoughtful retrospection through personal and communal prayer, moving liturgy and ritual observance. The emotional impact of those hours resides in our hearts and souls, allowing a gentler step into the cold and dark month of November. Before we begin, let's look back.



Jewish November

The High Holidays were quickly followed by Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We celebrated Sukkot, the Jewish harvest festival, on October 4th on the grounds of our synagogue. Our Sukkah was dressed with fruits, vegetables, children's pictures and was crowned with corn stalks, fresh from the fields. Our members and those from our sister congregation in Bad Pyrmont joined us for what was once one of the three pilgrimage festivals to the Temple in Jerusalem. Rachel led a short service emphasizing that the huts we build remind us that life itself is a pilgrimage, an illusion of security and reinforce our need to call up on our God-given strength and intention, supported by our beliefs. With a deeper appreciation for the festival, the Lulav was eagerly shaken by all present. Laughter emanated from our little Sukkah, laden with fruits, challot, and wine and with a strong sense of community.

On October 11th, Simchat Torah found us rejoicing with Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg. The sanctuary was filled for our beautiful celebration, where everyone holds the Torah just as the Torah holds us. To see the entire Torah unraveled, to hear and feel it, touches every heart and soul. We rejoiced passing the scrolls to each other to lovingly hold and dance. After enjoying a delicious buffet, Boris Markhashev and the members of "Chag Sameach" demonstrated Israeli dances, inviting everyone to join in. The happy ring with members of all ages, hand in hand, learning the steps from and with one another gave this holiday a gleeful touch.

Project "Aktion Mensch"

Aktion Mensch affords us the possibility to brighten the lives of our members with activities we could normally not afford. In August and October two outings were organized by Polina Pelts. Polina arranged a boat excursion to Bodenwerder as well as a bus trip to the Harz Mountains. Both trips were enjoyed by large groups of our members who were extremely thankful. We thank Aktion Mensch for making this possible and Polina Pelts for all her hard work. On Sunday, October 29, there will also be a Sunday brunch in which our member Borys Kagan will introduce "Jewish architects of Kharkov."

Jewish life in November — Commemorating the November Pogrom 1938

On the night of November 9, 1938, Jewish synagogues burned all over Germany. The shop windows of Jewish businesses were smashed, the dwellings of Jewish citizens demolished, and their inhabitants were abused. More than 90 dead, 267 destroyed houses of God and 7,500 devastated shops was the "official" record of terror. In fact, more than 1,300 people died during and immediately following the riots. Over half of all synagogues and prayer houses in Germany and Austria were severely damaged or completely destroyed.

On Thursday, November 9, we remember the destruction of the synagogues in Germany at the hands of the National Socialists. Every year it is important for us to take this sad day as a reminder of the once flourishing Jewish life in Germany. A memorial service will commence at 4:00 p.m. in front of our synagogue. We will stand and listen and hear, lay a wreath and remember those who came before us.

After the memorial service, we invite all in attendance into our sanctuary. In cooperation with the city of Hamelin, the association of churches and the Society of Christians and Jews, author Alois Prinz will read from his book *The Life History of Milena Jesenská*. Milena Jesenská was a writer, a translator of Franz Kafka's work and a Czech resistance fighter. In 1939 she was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp where she died on May 17, 1944. Through the discovery of some of her letters it became possible to bring this long forgotten woman back into our consciousness.





Mini-Macheneh

The day-to-day life of children is often different from that of adults so it is difficult to find the time to attend school, do homework, attend after-school activities such as music classes, sports, art classes and hobbies, as well as find time for Hebrew and religious education. In addition to our two-week meetings, a “mini-machaneh” offered an opportunity to get to know one another and to play, learn and have fun with one another. Six children aged between five and ten took part, came to the synagogue in the morning and spent the day under the guidance of Rabbi Offenberg until the late afternoon. On the first day we learned about Sukkot, heard a story about this holiday in our Sukkah and happily shook the Lulav. The next day we learned about Simchat Torah, opened the Aron Hakodesh and examined in awe the magnificent crowns and decorations of our two Torah scrolls. We concentrated while looking at the handwritten Torah and searched for letters that we can already read.

We played many games, baked cookies in the shape of the Hebrew alphabet and in the shape of our Hebrew names and worked on a poster about the Jewish holidays. The sunny October weather also allowed visits to playgrounds on the Weser River. In Hamelin’s town museum, a children’s guide was waiting for us and made us acquainted with the Pied Piper saga and the lives of real rats!

The “mini-machaneh” was a lot of fun and we hope to hold it regularly during school holidays. We thank Nani and Austin Beutel for helping to make this project possible!

Rabbinic Word by Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

The history of the “Tower of Babel” covers only nine verses in the Torah (Gen. 11: 1–9), but it is famous as a mythological explanation for the existence of countless different languages in the world. When there was only a single language in the world, people agreed: “Let us build a city and a tower, whose top reaches heaven, because we want to make a name for ourselves” Because God was annoyed at this chutzpah and foresaw where such human arrogance would lead, he destroyed the tower and “confused their language that one does not understand the language of his neighbor.” How difficult it is to communicate in a foreign language and how much this hinders one’s daily life and personal development. I believe almost all our members could confirm this from their own experience.



In the Tate Gallery in the London Museum of Modern Art, I saw a sculpture entitled *Tower of Babel*. This work by the Brazilian artist Cildo Meireles is a tower that extends from floor to ceiling and is composed of hundreds of radios. All of these radios are switched on, and a program is running on each channel, except that each of these radios is tuned to a different station. If you keep your ear on a certain radio, you can hear what’s going on. But if you step back just a little, you are surrounded by a cacophony—the words and music shreds of all the devices melt into an enormous noise, in which one no longer understands anything.

Sometimes it is not so much in the different languages, why we humans have difficulties of understanding. Sometimes the difficulty in understanding doesn’t only depend on the different languages. Perhaps it is more that we try to be “on the air” too often and we are more driven to express our own message than to be “on reception”—to listen carefully to what the other person says. Communication only works in both directions and requires the readiness to be open for its counterpart. Only then does it depend on words, but also on gestures and looks.

Mitzvah Day

“Mitzvah” is Hebrew and means “good deed.” We donate our time to bring help and joy to where they are needed. On this day it is not about money, but about experiencing in the community that everyone—really everyone—can make our world a little better. On the 19th of November, we would like to organize a day to honor our synagogue’s oldest members with coffee, tea, cakes and an opportunity to hear their stories. Please join us and help us to provide our eldest congregants with a nice afternoon. This initiative is sponsored by Central Council of Jews in Germany and YOU can perform a Mitzvah to do something good for others.

Theater Performance — *To an anonymous Friend*, performed by Gilles Welinski

On November 2nd, in cooperation with Theater Hameln, our synagogue will host a dance performance with the French dancer Gilles Welinski. Since his engagement with the Wuppertal Dance Theater, Gilles Welinski has established himself as one of the most prestigious solo dancers in Europe. The synagogue will act as a special venue in his staging and performance. We are looking forward to the experience. We would like to thank the Theater Hameln for providing 20 tickets for our community members. The performance is sold out.

Please note that because of rehearsals, the synagogue will be closed on October 31st, November 1st and 2nd.

Informational Meetings

On Monday the 13th of November at 11.00 a.m. we offer an information event with the managing director of the care association Hameln-Pyrmont, Martin Bischof. He will speak about advanced health directives and patient care.

A further informational event will take place on Thursday, 23rd of November at 1 pm with the social worker of the Lower Saxony regional association, Margarita Suslovic, on "Health Care Reform—Questions and Answers."

Get well wishes

We wish all the people of our congregation who are going through the difficult times a good recovery. We are talking about the prayer Mi Scheberach at the service. Our thoughts, prayers and hearts are with them.

Donations — Tzedakah

We sincerely thank the members and friends who support our community life and the synagogue building with generous donations. Many kind people have donated in honor of the High Holidays. We would like to thank Mrs. Kleuker and the Landfrauen Springe, Mr. Lippold von Kléncke, the Rubanov family, Mrs. Ursula Niedert, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Ute Gibas.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Congratulations — Mazel Tov

We congratulate our friends and supporters, Nani and Austin Beutel, who will be honored with the WUPJ Humanitarian Award in Boston, USA. The Beutels have dedicated their lives through personal commitment and generosity to liberal Judaism throughout the world. We honor and thank them.

We congratulate Dr. Jan Mühlstein, former chairman of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany and chairman of the Liberal Jewish Community of Munich, for receiving the Order of Merit of the Federal Government of Germany. Dr. Mühlstein has greatly advanced the interests of the liberal communities in Germany.

Tree of Life — Etz Chajim

One may commemorate someone or something with the commission of a new leaf for special occasions: birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, in appreciation or honor, a Yahrzeit and doing so also donate to the synagogue building fund. Forms are in the office. Many Thanks!

Deepest Sympathy

We express our deepest condolences:

- to the family Heidimarie Braun on the death of her beloved mother, Agathe Braun
- to the family of Israel Edelstein on the death of his wife, Gerlinde Edelstein
- to the family of Genrietta Bachmatchnikov on the death of her husband and Lev Bachmatchnikov

The burial of Lev Bachmatchnikov took place on October 17th at the Jewish Cemetery Am Wehl Rachel Dohme and Vladymir Pesok led the funeral service.

- We also extend our deepest condolences to the Keret family on the death of Mrs. Ruth Keret. She was a Shoah survivor and former resident of the city of Hamelin.

They all remain in our memory and our hearts.

Yahrzeit in November

Dr. Siegmund Kratzenstein	28. 11. 1938 / 5. Kislev 5699
Revolld Banchukov	28. 11. 1999 / 19. Kislev 5760
Jan Olvovsk	25. 11. 2001 / 10. Kislev 5762
Riva Voronova	16. 11. 2002 / 11. Kislev 5763
Josef Pelts	20. 11. 2008 / 22. Cheshwan 5769
Lev Vinnyskiy	21. 11. 2013 / 18. Kislev 5774

May the memory of our deceased be a blessing for us. Kaddish is spoken during services with the family members. Yahrzeit candles are available at the office.



Shalom! —The Congregation Board

Program for November 2017 • Cheshvan–Kislev 5778

Office hours: Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 2	7:30 p.m.	Theater Hameln: Gilles Welinski performs a one-man dance created for our synagogue. The performance is sold out.
Thursday, November 9	4:00 p.m.	9 th of November—Pogromnacht Memorial service in front of the synagogue, followed by a reading by Alois Prinz, “The Life of Milena Jesenska” in our sanctuary
Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg’s weekend		
Friday, November 10	5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Friday night services Mishna Study Group, Tractate Berachot
Saturday, November 11	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study Kinder Kehilla
Monday, November 13		Informational meeting, Mr. Martin Bischof, “Advance Healthcare Directive”
Sunday, November 19	3:00 p.m.	MITZVAH DAY: “Honor Your Elders,” Our Seniors will enjoy an afternoon just for them as a sign of respect
Thursday, November 23	1:00 p.m.	Informational Meeting, Margarita Souslovitch, “Health Reforms”
Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg’s weekend		
Friday, November 24	5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Friday night services Mishna Study group, Tractate Berachot
Saturday, November 25	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study Kinder Kehilla

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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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