



Dear members of the community, friends and supporters,

After a very busy month of September in the Jewish world, everyday life returned in October—and with it many activities inside and outside the community.

In cooperation with the integration office of our county a cultural festival was held in the neighboring city of Bad Münden. Among many nationalities and religions, we were well represented. Our choir “Shalom” and our Israeli dance group “Chag Sameach” pleased the crowds with their song and dance.



The Cultural Fest opened with an interfaith peace celebration. Catholic and Protestant Christians, Muslims, Alevites and Jews devoted themselves to the theme of “Creation.” Israel Edelstein and Dieter Vogelhuber represented our community. They shared the meaning of tallit and tzitzit and explained in detail why the prayer shawl is so important and worn by the men and women in our congregation, both sexes equal in all religious rights and responsibilities in God’s creation.

We thank all who participated, demonstrating once again that we are Hamelin’s Jewish community and an especially beautiful thread in the fabric of our city and county.

With the new month, our autumn holidays neared their end. We celebrated Schemini Azeret and Simchat Torah on Sunday, the 30th of September. The traditional prayer for rain, in which Rabbi Offenberg inserted additional modern texts, reminded us of how dependent we are on nature. We all too often do not give this enough thought, getting caught up in our daily lives and choosing convenience over sustainability. The festival of Simchat Torah celebrates the end of the annual Torah cycle and beginning anew. Throughout the year, week after week, a passage from the Torah is read on Shabbat. It expresses our love for Torah and our willingness to keep it as a guide to our lives. It is not the wish of the “People of the Book” after completion to put Torah aside and away but to continue lifelong learning and so upon completion of the last sentence on Deuteronomy we begin reading Genesis. Before the rabbi leyned the last sentences of one of our scrolls and the first chapter of the story of the creation of the other, we all danced around the sanctuary seven times, allowing everyone an opportunity to hold the Torah. We sang and danced through the sanctuary and rows of seats, accompanied by Faina Pelts on the piano. The scrolls were held lovingly by our members and guests, both men and women, thus providing a direct, physical connection to the Torah. What a wonderful moment in time it was! Members from our sister congregation in Bad Pyrmont and our friends from the Society of Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony joined our festivities. We were pleased and honored that Professor Dr. Ursula Rudnick attended and she could as well as we, delight in the beautiful silk hand-stitched Torah covers for the High Holidays. Professor Rudnick’s Society had sponsored the cost of the new beautiful Torah Mantels. During the service, Rabbi Offenberg once again expressed our heartfelt thanks for this beautiful gift. A festive Kiddush was celebrated afterwards, prepared and set by Liubov.

On the 23rd of October a lecture on healthy nutrition took place within the framework of the project “Aktion Mensch.” At the table, prepared by Svetlana Gladchenko and Anna Anikina, the program addressed foods that contribute to longevity. This lecture series has been very well received and has resulted in lively discussions. We have the opportunity to reflect on our dietary habits and to learn much more about food and its ingredients. So we look forward to the next breakfast program.

On Wednesday, October 24, the inter-religious women’s group met in the Mosque Am Thiewall. These encounters help, one person at a time, to break down walls and provide an opportunity to get to know the customs and traditions of other religions. We thank the women of our synagogue who participated in this meeting and represented our community. Many thanks!

We will report next month on the excursion to Braunschweig and our congregation’s participation in the newly established and controversial Reformation Day.



Jewish life in November

Eighty years ago, on the night of November 9, 1938, the synagogue in Hamelin, constructed in 1879, was set on fire, reduced to ashes and rubble and destroyed during Pogromnacht. The Torah scrolls were burnt and the Jews of Hamelin forced to helplessly watch. It is an understatement to acknowledge the symbolic power, the “finger of God” that allowed our immigrant congregation to succeed rebuilding our new synagogue on this historical soil. With the rebirth of Jewish community life in Hamelin, we live with the loss every day, but every day we say, “We are here!” On Friday, the 9th of November, a memorial service will take place at 4:00 p.m. at the memorial in front of our synagogue. We will remember the Six Million Jewish children, women and men of our city. Following the memorial, all present are invited into our synagogue for a short Yiskor service. Friday night services will follow.



Mitzvah Day

“Mitzvah” is Hebrew and means colloquially “good deed.” We donate our time to bring help and joy where they it is needed. Mitzvot take many forms. One can visit the sick or elderly, work on projects with refugees, collect food for the homeless, plant trees or the like. More than 2,000 volunteers are active each year on Mitzvah Day in Germany to bring Tikkun Olam a little closer. Around the world, some 40,000 people spend their time to make our world a better place.

This year Mitzvah Day will be held in our community on the 18th of November at 3.00 p.m. We want to organize a “craft day” for our oldest members on this day. With a lot of fun, we will put up the decorations for our Hanukkah celebration. We invite all our congregants to join this afternoon!

Rabbinic word

Jewish history begins with Abraham and Sarah and it is during these weeks that we read about it again in the Torah. And when Abraham is told, “Go forth from your land, from your home and leave your father’s house” (Gen. 12: 1), it is also the beginning of the many wanderings we as Jews would endure then and today. Migration seems to be inscribed in the genes of the Jewish people. In most cases in our history and biographies, leaving home and family was not chosen voluntarily. We too are a migrant community. Almost all of our congregants can understand the experience of Abraham and Sarah, how it is when you have to give up the familiar environment and move into the unknown, a stranger not knowing what to expect there. The uncertainty clothed with the hope that it will be better or at least different and worth the risk of a fresh start elsewhere.

The land in which we were born and whose culture has been familiar to us since childhood, the family environment whose values have shaped us and the mother tongue is the composition which determines a person’s life. Leaving that behind—for whatever reason—requires an inner departure that is even greater than the actual change of location. Perhaps life in the new place will be better, but the feeling of alienation and the yearning for one’s home will remain. We understand only too well that the place where our feet carry us is not necessarily the place where the heart desires to be. Israeli Rabbi Tamar Duvdevani wrote a travel consecration that I would like to translate as a “Prayer for the Wanderer.” May it help and soothe us on our travels through life as we leave and arrive in often unexpected places.

“Let my feet go to the place that my heart loves.

Open my heart to love the place to which my feet go.”

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg



Winter Machaneh 2018

The Union of Progressive Jews in Germany invites children and youth to relax together with the youth of other Jewish communities in the Winter Holiday Camp (Machaneh) and to spend time in a Jewish atmosphere. The Machaneh takes place from the 23rd to the 30th of December 2018 in the Bergisches Land. For more information, contact the community office.

Information meeting

On Wednesday, the 28th of November at 11.00 a.m. a lecture on “Conserving Natural Resources” will be offered by our member Tatiana Geller. It is sure to be as interesting as it will be informative.

Please-Please-Please

We ask all group leaders and parents to help keep our synagogue beautiful and clean. Please pay attention to electrical appliances, window blinds and other objects so that they do not break. Please let us know when damage happens. Thank you very much!

Get well

We wish all the people of our community, who are ill or who are going through hard times a complete recovery. Our thoughts, prayers and hearts are with them.

Donations — Zedakah

We sincerely thank the members and friends who support our community life and the Synagogue construction with generous donations. Many dear people have donated in honor of the High Holidays too.

We would like to thank: Dr. Gesa Snell, the Kleper family, Mrs. Bachmatschnikova, Dr. Ursula Rudnick, the Mima family, Mrs. Regina Hölscher, the PTA and the five 10th classes of IGS Hameln, the Rubanov family, Mrs. Ursula Niedert and Mrs. Rachel Dohme.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Congratulations — Mazel Tov

Do you have Naches? Good news that you want to share with the community? Please inform us in our community office and it will appear in the next community letter.



Tree of Life — Etz Chayim

You can commemorate special occasions, e.g. Birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, thanks, Yahrzeit, memories or honors and also support the synagogue with a donation for a new 'leaf.' Forms are in the office. Many Thanks!

New leaves were ordered by:

- Ms. Genrietta Bachmatchnikova: "In memory of my beloved husband Lev Bachmatchnikov"
- Family Dohme: "In honor of the life of Gerd Scheunflug"

Condolences

We express our deepest condolences to the Scheunflug family on the death of their dear husband and father, Gerd Scheunflug. Mr. Scheunflug was a founding member of the Foundation Liberal Synagogue Hamelin and a staunch supporter of our congregation. He was a member of the board of trustees, a beloved friend and adviser. We will honor his memory.

Yahrzeits in November

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

May the memory of our dead be a blessing to us. Join us in reciting Kaddish during services with the family members. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.



Shalom!

Your board

[Newsletter Archives](#)

Program for November 2018 • Cheshvan–Kislev 5779

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

Thursday, November 1	10:00 a.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg		
Friday, November 9	2:00 p.m.	Bar/Bat Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Memorial service — 80 th Pogammnacht
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services followed by Oneg Shabbat
	8:00 p.m.	Mishnah study
Saturday, November 10	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services, Kiddush and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehillah I
	2:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehillah II
Tuesday, November 13	11:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bunch, “Healthy eating habits for seniors” Made possible by a grant from Aktion Mensch
Sunday, November 18	3:00 p.m.	“Mitzvah Day” — We will make Chanukkah decorations for the synagogue and those housebound
Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg		
Friday, November 23	2:00 p.m.	Bar/Bat Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services followed by Oneg Shabbat
	8:00 p.m.	Mishnah study
Saturday, November 24	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services, Kiddush and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehillah I
	2:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehillah II
Sunday, November 25	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Tea, Video: Roman Karze, made possible by a grant from Aktion Mensch
Wednesday, November 28	11.00 a.m.	“Energy Conservation,” Tatiana Geller
Activities outside the congregation		
Saturday, November 24	7:00 p.m.	Interfaith Podium: Reformation Day and Martin Luther, Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg, Dr. Kathrin Klausning & Pastor Dr. Petra Bahr, St. Andreas Church, Springe

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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