



Dear members, friends and supporters,



Remember to follow the rules when you enter the synagogue: social distancing, hand washing and masking up. Please also observe the Kiddush rules and stay seated after the services!



Rabbi's Thoughts

After the holidays everything is renewed
The days of everyday life renew and return,
The air, the dust, the rain and the fire,
You and even you will renew yourself.

—Naomi Schemer

אַחַר־יְהוּדֵי תְּחִלָּה הַלֵּל.
יְתַדְּשׁוּ וְיִשׁוּבוּ יְמֵי הַחַל,
הָאֵיר, הָעֶפֶר, הַמָּטָר וְהָאֵשׁ,
גַּם אַתָּה, גַּם אַתָּה תִּתְחַדֵּשׁ.

Our autumn holiday marathon is always associated with the feeling of new beginnings and renewal. At Rosh Hashanah, the New Year lies before us like a white sheet of paper that can still be written on with good deeds. Yom Kippur gives us the possibility that knowing one's self through introspection can create new beginnings in our own life. The confidence and happiness of Sukkot aids our ability to look optimistically toward our world. At Shemini Azeret, our prayers for rain are an expression of our hope for blessings. On Simchat Torah we begin a new Torah reading cycle, which we know will give us different, new insights than the reading last year.

And then comes the month of Heshvan, the only month on the Jewish calendar that does not have holidays. Our wise elders therefore also called the month “Marcheschwan” — “Bitter Heshvan.” We notice the change in our own mood as we turn the clocks back and the days are suddenly shorter and dark and the cold winds announce winter's approach. We tend to prepare for social hibernation and the exhilaration of a new beginning is fades.

But Naomi Schemer (1930–2004), the great Israeli musician and poet, sings to us about the fact that the process of renewal perhaps even really only begins after the experience of the past festivals. Holidays are times that break through our everyday lives and represent special moments. But we cannot rush from one climax to the next; the fullness of life takes place in everyday life. The question remains- how can you renew yourself in everyday life? Isn't everyday life always shaped by routines, with repetitive processes and habits? Routines can be beneficial because they give us support in an uncertain world. We need this reliability if we want to implement only a fraction of what we have resolved to change.

Heshvan is the month of everyday life and its unspectacular renewal. May we be blessed with uneventfulness, especially against the backdrop of the pandemic.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Sukkoth, Shemini Azeret and Simchat Torah

Sukkot is called “Sman Simhateinu,” the “Time of our Joy.” But how difficult it is to celebrate happily when socializing has to go hand in hand with distance?

So after the Sukkot service we gathered in front of our Sukkah, not in it! During Kiddush only individuals or families could sit in the Sukkah, which was colorfully decorated with garlands and fruit by Greta and Samuel. But at least we could hold the Shiur in the Sukkah the next morning after the morning Shabbat services. Our imaginary guests joined us, the seven traditional Ushpisin (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and David) and as guests of honor also many Ushpiset, their wives or sisters as well as deserving women from Jewish history and present.

Rabbi Offenberg explained the meaning of the Lulav, and everyone had the opportunity to shake it afterwards.

The question of how we could celebrate Simchat Torah caused our rabbi even greater headaches based on necessary Corona regulations: we had to forego performing Hakkafot (processions) with the Torah scrolls through the synagogue. We could not hold the Torah scrolls, let alone dance with them. No one was allowed to come to the Bimah for the reading, to which all parishioners are usually called. Rabbi Offenberg came up with a new ceremony: instead of the procession with the Torah scrolls, she sang “Elohej HaRuchot,” the traditional song for Simchat Torah, divided into seven stanzas. After each stanza a text from the Torah, the Mishnah or the Talmud, was recited by members and then sung in a short song. Thusly we organized seven “Limmud-Hakkafot,” which captured the mood of Simchat Torah and honored the Torah through the individual texts. Rabbi Ulrike then read out the last and the first chapter from our Torah scrolls, with the call of which usually individual deserving parishioners are honored as “Bridegroom/Bride of the Torah” or “Bridegroom/Bride of Bereshit.” This time these aliyot were first given to those present in the right and then in the left side of the synagogue. In this way the entire community was honored. Thanks to Rabbi Ulrike we were able find a creative solution which allowed us to celebrate our holiday, despite the restrictions.



55pa Kotschergina 04.2015 8.Jjar5775	Genrikh Yeger 23.12.2018 15.Tewet5779
Mikhail Timonin 2.2015 2.Tewet5776	Nechama Yeger 25.12.2018 17.Tewet5779
Kovs Judelsons 2.2015 3.Tewet5776	Alexandra Konstantinowa 20.03.2019 13.Adar5779
Vilien Feldman 1.2016 16.Nissan5776	Mariya Trétyachenko 05.06.2019 25.Swan5779
Bachmatchnikov 1.2017 25.Tech5778	Polina Pelts 08.06.2019 5.Swan5779
Urkadij Drejzer 2018 19.Nissan5778	Vladimir Borshanski 29.10.2018 30.Tech5780
Laida Gogulinski 4.2018 4.Jjar5778	
Borys Uchytel	



After reading the Torah, Rabbi Offenberg introduced the main theme of Schemini Azeret, the prayer for rain. This aspect is often not taken seriously in rainy central Europe. But after the third dry summer in a row and the visible damage to nature caused by the drought, this request has gained new meaning for us. Rabbi Offenberg presented traditional and new texts of the prayer for rain and thus expressed our hope for blessings for people and nature.

Jewish Hamelin in November

We look forward to Shabbat services, Shiurim and the meetings of the children's Kehilla with our rabbi on two weekends in November.

Limmud Rabbah

With the beginning of the new reading cycle of the Torah, since the week of "Bereschit," Rabbi Offenberg and her colleagues also offer a study lesson on the weekly Torah section via ZOOM, usually on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The exact dates can be found in the program and the links sent. You can participate in the comfort of your home. Should anyone have technical difficulties, we will be happy to help clarify them. In the Shiur, Rabbi Offenberg first explains the structure and characteristics of the Parashah and then deals with a selected topic in more detail. This is presented in an interesting and humorous way.

9th of November Memorial service

This year's commemoration of the November pogrom of 1938 will take place on Monday, November 9th, at 4.00 p.m. We will meet in front of our synagogue. After the wreaths have been laid, silent prayers can be said. This year, due to Corona regulations, we do not allow stones or flowers to be laid at the memorial.

Rabbi Offenberg will sing the "El Male Rachamim" and the Kaddish. The commemoration is organized by our congregation in cooperation with the city of Hamelin and the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. Faina Pelts will accompany the memorial service on the piano.

Board election 2021

Our board of directors is looking for some new faces. Please consider whether you would like to participate in this important work. Together we can do a lot and more!



Tree of Life

You can dedicate a new leaf to commemorate special occasions: birth, bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, thanks, Yahrzeits or honors. These events will be remembered permanently and the maintenance of the synagogue will be supported with a donation. Order forms are available in the office or on this website. Many Thanks!

Get well wishes — Refuah Shlemah

We wish all our members who are ill a complete and speedy recovery. Our thoughts and hearts are with them. People also get sick from loneliness. Who can you visit or call?

Donate — Zedakah

A big thank you — Todah Rabah! — to all members and friends who have supported our community life and the synagogue with generous donations. We would like to especially thank Dr. Oleg Rubanov and family, Mrs. Rimma Rubanov, Ovsievyeh family, Mrs. Ute Gibas, Dr. Brigitte Loewe and the Dohme family. We would also like to thank the Hameln-Pyrmont County politicians for their annual generous and important support. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Thank you — Todah Rabbah

Our thanks also go to the Hameln-Pyrmont police officers for the security measures they provide for our congregation and the good cooperation in relation to our community.

Members wanted for the Chewra Kaddisha!

It is one of the greatest Mitzvot of Judaism to belong to a Chewra Kaddisha. It performs the Taharah, the ritual washing and clothing of the deceased. We are looking for men and women who can practice this Mitzvah for our members and thus pay their final respects.

Yahrzeit in November

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



May the memory of our loved ones be a blessing to us. Kaddish is spoken with family members during services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office for a small fee. We ask you to think about assigning a power of attorney while you are still alive. Forms are available from the office.

Shalom, Your board

Program for November 2020 • Heshvan–Kislev 5781

Every Wednesday at 6:00 on Zoom: Torah Study with Rabbi Offenberg and friends! Sign up and get the link!

Friday, 11/6	5:30 pm	Friday night services; Kiddush in your seat
Saturday, 11/7	10:00 am	Shabbat morning services and Torah study
	1:30 pm	Religious school
Monday, 11/9	4:00 pm	Night of the Broken Glass 1938 Memorial service. We will meet in front of our synagogue. Please wear a mask.
Sunday 11/15	4:00 pm	Mitzvah Day, F. Pelts and S. Baris, We're baking Challot and Fladenbread
Friday, 11/20	5:30 pm	Friday night services; Kiddush in your seat
Saturday, 11/21	10:00 am	Shabbat morning services and Torah study
	1:30 pm	Religious school

Mitzvah Day

15th November 2020

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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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