



## Rabbinic word

As I write these lines, almost three weeks have passed since the October 7th massacre committed by Hamas in Israel. The abyss that has opened up before us since then can hardly be measured: the grief for the approximately 1,400 murdered people – babies and children, women, men, Israelis and people of other nationalities – cannot be expressed in words. The personal cruelty and sadism of the murderers defies our worst nightmares. We are consumed with fear for the more than 220 abductees, from small children to old people. We hope and pray that diplomatic efforts will yield a miracle, quickly returning them to their families and their homes.



In the midst of our speechlessness, the term “Simchat Torah Pogrom” is beginning to gain currency because it occurred on the day we complete the reading of the Torah and begin again. In confronting the massacre, we are going back to the very beginning with the Torah in these weeks and asking with Parashah “Bereshit”: Are humans; are all humans, really created in the image of God? What does it mean that at the beginning of becoming human is the ability to distinguish between good and evil? And the weekly section “Noah” presents us with the question of how we can rebuild our world after a catastrophe. “Lech Lecha” describes how Abraham does everything he can to free his kidnapped nephew Lot from captivity. And “Vayera” tells us clearly that there should be no religious fanaticism that relies on killing people.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

## Here is a prayer for this time of distress:

Our God, who frees prisoners and supports the oppressed, send complete salvation and deliverance to all those who are in captivity of the enemy.

Strengthen their minds with confidence; let them know that our thoughts and prayers for protection from all evil accompany them.

Give wisdom to the Israeli forces so that they can free the hostages without loss of life.

Plant insight and repentance into the hearts of our enemies so that they may release those abducted, intact in body and soul, and have compassion for their own people.

You, God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, protect the innocent civilians of Gaza.

Source of our life, comfort those who mourn and those who care for the fate of their loved ones. Give comfort to the brokenhearted, healing to the traumatized.

Rock and Redeemer of Israel, strengthen the defenders of the State of Israel, the soldiers and the civilians. Fill them with strength and courage, with trust and hope. Protect them amidst hails of rockets, shelling and terror.

Bless also all Jews in the Diaspora that we may live in safety, protected from hatred and hostility, proud of our Judaism and strong in love for the land of Zion and Jerusalem.

“May the LORD give strength to his people; may the LORD bless his people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

## October in Review

I find it difficult to reflect on the abundance of our fall holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. It is as if these memories belong to a bygone world. But the holidays have given us many moments of joy and happiness: the last shofar of Yom Kippur, blown by Volodymyr, the hugs at the Havdalah, the Kiddush in the Sukkah beautifully prepared by Matvey and Valera, the culinary pampering from Liubov with the help from Masha and Sveta, dancing with the Torah scrolls and our long polonaise through the sanctuary. The pictures bear witness to these happy events, and even if sadness and fear are at the forefront for us at the moment, these experiences give us strength. They also make it clear that we have to stand together and find support in one another.







## **Vigil**

The vigil of committed citizens from Hameln and the surrounding area who gathered in front of our synagogue on October 13th to demonstrate that they are protecting us also gave us strength. Around 100 people came, including some of our community members, the Lower Saxony State Commissioner against Anti-Semitism and for the Protection of Jewish Life, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Wegner, as well as the mayor of Hameln, Claudio Griese, who also gave a speech. Below we reproduce excerpts from his letter to our community:

“ Hamas’ unprecedented terror in Israel is not only stoking fear of a new war. It also opens up wounds, it brings back memories of traumatic experiences, and for some of you this terror is even closer: many of you have families and friends in Israel whose safety you fear. Many of you have your home in Ukraine. They are now faced with two wars.

“The city of Hameln is at your side during this difficult time. We assure you of our support and protection. Jewish life in Hameln is as old as our city itself. Life in Hameln, its history is inextricably linked to Jewish religion and tradition. People from the USA, Russia and Ukraine, from all over the world have found not only a religious but also a social home in their communities and at the same time a safe haven. Whoever attacks your community is attacking our community of solidarity. Anyone who commits crimes against humanity and acts of terror behind the scenes challenges us all. Anyone who tries to wipe out the state of Israel has lost our understanding.

“You, dear Jewish fellow citizens, are not alone in these hours and days. Jewish life is under special protection in our country and in our city. We gladly and proudly bear this responsibility. We made a promise: Never Again! We stand by these words now and in the future.

“With warmest regards – Claudio Griese, Mayor of the City of Hameln”

## **Practical help for Israel**

Anyone who would like to support the people of Israel can donate to Magen David Adom (the “Red Cross” of Israel). You can transfer money to our community account using the reference “Magen David Adom,” and we will forward these funds. The bank details at Sparkasse Weserbergland are:

Jewish Community of Hameln; IBAN: DE47 0110 0031 0303; BIC: NOLADE21SWB

## **Jewish life in the month of November**

### **Services in November**

Due to the clock change to winter time, our evening services will from now on always begin at 5 p.m. on Fridays — until spring gives us longer daylight again.

### **Commemoration of the November pogrom of 1938**

On Thursday, November 9 at 4 p.m., we will meet again in front of the synagogue to commemorate the pogrom that cost hundreds of lives 85 years ago. Tens of thousands of Jews were imprisoned in concentration camps, and hundreds of synagogues were burned down. In memory of the destruction of the Hamelin synagogue and its community, the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation invites you to a memorial hour. The event is accompanied by students from the Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium.

### **Mitzvah Day**

This year’s Mitzvah Day, the “Day of Good Deeds,” takes place on November 19. We meet in the community at 11:00 a.m. to bake cookies and other goodies and then deliver them to the elders of our congregation.

### **Information event**

This event was planned last month but had to be canceled at short notice. The social worker from the Lower Saxony regional association of Liberal and Reform Congregations, Margarita Suslovyeh, will offer a lecture and Q and A opportunity about new guidelines in social legislation. On Thursday, November 23rd at 11:00 a.m. she will address changes to the Care Act that will become law, beginning in 2024.

## Tree of Life

A leaf on our Tree of Life is used to commemorate special occasions: birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, thanksgiving, Yahrzeit or in honor of something or someone. The Tree of Life not only offers a permanent remembrance but also adds to the maintenance of the synagogue, supported with your donations. With three new leaves, the Dohme family expresses the joy and sadness in their family and in the community's circle of friends:

Rachel Dohme:

“On the birth of Galila Yara Schleier”,

“In memory of Wolla Truchseß” as well

“Ferdinand Dohme – love of my life, Rachel”

## Donations — Tzedakah

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our community life and the maintenance of the synagogue with generous donations. This month we would like to particularly highlight Benjamin Möller-Struß and the Evangelical Lutheran Seminar, Dr. Ferdinand Dohme and family, Sarah Kaplan, Gudrun Thiel, Aleida Siller, Ioulia Berhovski, Ingedore Rüdlin, Christiane Klein and the Evang.-Luth. Hameln-Holzminden church district and Juanita Scheffler. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

## Condolences

On October 4, 2023, Maya Olvovska died after a long illness. She was buried next to her husband in our Am Wehl Jewish cemetery.

We also mourn the loss of the former superintendent Lutheran churches in the city of Rinteln, Pastor Dr. Peter Neumann, who died on October 9, 2023. He was a member of the Liberal Synagogue Hameln Foundation and supported our community from the beginning.

Our deepest condolences go out to our chairwoman, Rachel Dohme, and her family upon the passing of her husband and father, Dr. Ferdinand Dohme, who without his generous and diverse support, our community and the synagogue would probably not exist today.

Ferdinand and Rachel Dohme were married for 41 years. They met in the United States, where Dr. Ferdinand Dohme worked scientifically as a biologist at various American universities. In 1981, in order to take over the family business, Weser-Champignon, the company founded by his parents, Rachel and Ferdinand Dohme moved to Höfingen. Ferdinand Dohme continued to develop his parents' company through out the years. Rachel and Ferdinand Dohme became parents of three children, Max, Rebekka and Julian. The children were active in our congregation in Hamelin, and Rebekka married here. Ferdinand Dohme supported community life in the background. He attended many events and supported his wife Rachel and the congregation.

Without him, a synagogue would probably not have been built in Hamelin. In 2001 he bought the property in the Bürenstrasse from the city of Hameln for a considerable amount and bequeathed it to the “Liberal Synagogue Hamelin Foundation” in 2004. He was one of the founders of the Synagogue Foundation and a “safety net” for “A Synagogue for Hamelin” working group.

Ferdinand Dohme was focused on people. He loved meeting other people, but he especially loved his family. In addition to his work in the company, which he carried out with great responsibility and skill, he was a sports enthusiast, interested in art and had an eye for other people's needs. He was socially active in a variety of ways.

Over the past 12 years his health had been severely compromised. During this time, Psalm 23 became particularly important to him, especially the following verses::

And even though I wandered through the Valley of Death,  
I fear no misfortune;  
Because You are with me,  
Your rod and Your staff comfort me.

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, Ferdinand Dohme died. He was 71 years old.

—Hans-Georg Spangenberg

## November Yahrzeits

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 / 22. Cheshvan 5769
Lev Vinnytskiy	November 21, 2013 / 18. Kislev 5774
Dr. Leo Hepner	November 25, 2015 / 13. Kislev 5776
Boris Utchitel	November 22. 2018 / 14. Kislev 5779
Dr. Felix Peres	November 21, 2020 / 5. Kislev 5780



May their memory be blessed. Kaddish is said with family members during services. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.

We ask you to think about a power of attorney for funerals while you are still alive. Forms are available in the office.

**Shalom,  
Your community board**

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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

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## Program for November 2023 • Cheshvan–Kislev 5784

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

The office will be closed until November 3rd, 2023.

Thursday, November 9	4:00 p.m.	Commemoration of the November pogrom of 1938, at the Memorial next to the synagogue
Friday, November 10	5:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Chajej Sarah, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, November 11	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Shacharit, followed by Kiddush and Shiur Youth Kehillah
Sunday, November 19	2:00 p.m.	Mitzvah Day. We bake for sick community members
Wednesday, November 22	6:00 p.m.	Shiur on the Maccabees books, Zoom
Thursday, November 23	11:00 a.m.	Information session with Margarita Suslovych: “The changes to the Care Act from January 1, 2024”
Friday, November 24	5:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Vajetze, followed by Kiddush
Saturday, November 25	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Shacharit Shabbat, Kiddush Youth Kehillah
Wednesday, November 29	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Shiur on the Maccabees books, Zoom Ruth Frenk: “Everything was completely normal for us.” An author reading from her memoirs, in cooperation with the GCJZ

### Outside the community

Thursday, November 2	7:00 p.m.	“The Situation in Israel today” In his lecture, Dr. Steffen Hagemann (TU Kaiserslautern) will offer insight into the current situation in Israel. An event organized by the GCJZ, St. Augustinus Community Center, Vicelinstrasse
Friday, November 10	8:30 p.m.	Shabbat Shalom, NDR Info, Hameln FM 99.9 MHz Torah interpretation by Rabbi Offenber
Thursday, November 16	6:00 p.m.	BCJ Digital Bible Dialogue: The Book of Judges. Pastor Ina Petermann and Rabbi Offenber speak on Richter 11, Zoom
Thursday, November 30	6:00 p.m.	Project Jewish-Muslim Dialogue. Iman Andrea Reimann and Rabbi Offenber in conversation, Zoom