



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

December 2020 • Kislev–Tevet 5781

[JHG Home](#) [Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters!



Remember to follow the rules when you enter the synagogue: social distancing, handwashing and masking up. Please also observe the Kiddush rules and stay seated after the services. We must protect one another.

Rabbinical word

When the world is at its darkest, we light the Hanukkah candles. This is true in a very literal sense. In the month when the days are the shortest and there is the least sunlight, our lights shine against the darkness. It also applies in a figurative sense. Wherever there is great and deep sadness, we should light lights of hope. The Hanukkah candles remind us of historical moments of self-assertion and give us assurance that difficult times will pass and that we should not become discouraged. We put the Hanukkah candles in the window so that the people around us can share in our confidence.

Corona-related contact restrictions have hit us hard, especially in the cold and dark season of the year — each and every individual is affected and has to find ways to cope with it. For us as a Jewish community it also makes the usual forms of being together almost impossible. It is not an individual fate, it affects everyone worldwide. The COVID pandemic seems to undo this imaginary division between Israel and the peoples of the world. Worldwide people suffer from it, and differences in how they are affected do not take place along religious or denominational lines, but between rich and poor and between solidarity versus selfish society. Dealing with the Corona crisis challenges us to new ways of thinking.

Judaism is a religion and a culture of hope and responsibility. Each individual is called upon to be a light in difficult times and thus to give others orientation. A well-known Hanukkah song says: “Kol echad hu or katan” — “Every single one is a little light.” And the stanza continues: “Wechulanu or ejtan” — “But together we are a constant, strong light.”

May we light a path through the darkness for one another.

This year our Hanukkah celebration in the community will be more modest than in past years. We will light the candles together, but the happy celebration afterwards will not take place. But all members receive a Hanukkah giftbag, with Hanukkah candles and goodies. Most people have Hannukiot at home. You can make one yourself by simply placing the lights on a level, fire-proof surface. Place your Hanukkiah on the windowsill so that the light can be seen outside. With the daily lighting we bring Jewish hope and self-assertion into our own homes and we let our surroundings share in it. From day to day there is one more candle and as the light grows we spread confidence, we strengthen ourselves and our surroundings.

Here are the blessings we say while lighting:

Baruch atah Adonaj, Elohejnu Melech HaOlam, ascher kidschanu bemizwotaw veziwanu lehadlik ner schel Hanukkah.

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, who sanctified us with his commandments of lighting the Hanukkah lights.

We light these lights because of the miracles, the feats, the help and the consolations that You worked through Your holy priests for our ancestors in those days at this season. During all eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred and we should not make ordinary use of them but look at them in order to express thanks and praise Your great name. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We will also meet to ignite the lights via Zoom, you will receive the link for this.

I wish us all a happy festival of lights – **חג אורים שמח**,

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

We wish our members a Happy Hanukkah, our Christian friends a Merry Christmas and everyone a Happy New Year 2021!

Commemoration of the November pogrom in 1938

This year's commemoration of the Reichspogromnacht on November 9, 1938 was vastly different than in previous years. The number of participants had to be limited, and we stood socially distanced due to the COVID pandemic. Mayor Claudio Griese, representatives of politics and civil life, members of the Society of Christians and Jews and our members gathered in front of our synagogue. Mr. Niklas Delp, president of the Society of Christians and Jews, welcomed those present followed by Ms. Daria Leuthier and Pastor Klaus Meyer from the New Apostolic Church, who read a psalm. Local high school students had prepared the reading of names of the Hamelin Jewish congregation of 1938, all of whom were murdered at the hands of the Nazis. During the reading a member of our congregation remarked, "Leaves fell from the two pyramidal oaks planted in 1879. It was as if the trees were crying."

Several wreaths were laid: Mr. Aron Kaplan and Mr. Dieter Vogelhuber laid a wreath for our congregation. Rabbi Offenbergl led the prayers, El Male Rachamin and Kaddish. The memorial ceremony was musically accompanied on piano by Faina Pelts. We would like to thank the City of Hamelin for the logistical help in carrying out the memorial under the currently difficult conditions.

Mitzvah day

"Mitzvah Day," a day dedicated to acts of loving kindness and charity, had to be canceled this year due to the Coronavirus. We hope that next year we can build on this successful tradition in our community and meet again to make the world a little better (Tikkun Olam).

Jewish December

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, reminds us just how fragile and dear religious freedom is: Freedom to live religiously as we choose and to protect others from those who would abuse it for their political gains. The wisdom of Jewish thought never becomes obsolete. Please join us for a short Hanukkah celebration on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a Hanukkah gift bag for everyone.

Hanukkah Tzedaka

The association "Encounter Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony" and its chairwoman, Professor Dr. Ursula Rudnick, has given our synagogue support over the past few years. The organization immediately offered us help when we encountered an existential crisis. They donated the beautiful white Torah covers for the High Holidays, designed by the American textile artist Cheryl Lynch. The association does its work and all of these good deeds through donations alone. Due to this year's pandemic, their funds have become seriously depleted. We are asking for a Hanukkah donation for their important work. If you can, a little or a lot, please help.

Donations can be made to: Begegnung Christen und Juden in Niedersachsen e. V.,

DE42 5206 0410 0000 6184 97, BIC GENODEF1EK1 or given to our office staff, and we will pass the contributions on to them. Thank you!

Claims Conference

The Commission for Jewish Material Claims against Germany (Claims Conference) announced the results of the organization's most recent negotiations with the federal government. Holocaust survivors who are entitled to payments from the Hardship Fund will receive payments totaling €2,400 over the next two years. The decision will take effect on December 1, 2020. Survivors who are eligible for payments from the Holocaust Victims Fund and who are not receiving a pension as compensation for the persecution during the Holocaust are entitled to these payments. An application must be submitted in order to be eligible for this payment. The Claims Conference will send personalized application forms to Holocaust survivors.

If you have changed addresses, please report this information to our office. We will forward the information to the Claims Conference. We will also help you fill in the applications. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

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!

Mazel Tov

We congratulate our sister community in Unna, "HaKochaw," on the reopening of the city's Jewish cemetery. The cemetery was opened in 1854 and has now been rededicated in October 2020.

Get well soon — Refuah Schlemah

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?

Donations — Zedakah

We thank members and friends who support our community life with donations. We would like to pay special tribute to Mrs. Rubanova, the Ovsijevich family, Mrs. Jevdokymova, Mrs. Gibas, the Dohme family and Mrs. Niedert.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Tree of Life — Etz Chayim

You can commemorate special occasions by commissioning a new leaf, e.g. birth, bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, thanks, Yahrzeit, memories or honors and thus also donate to the synagogue. Forms are available in the office.

Newly ordered:

“In memory of my beloved husband Yevgen Jevdokymov” by Iryna Jevdokymova

Sympathy

We mourn the great teacher of contemporary Judaism, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (HaRav Ya’akov Zvi ben David Ariele z”l). He died on Shabbat Vajera, November 7, 2020, 20th Cheshvan 5781, in London. May his memory be a blessing and his writings and contributions remain our guidance.

We mourn the passing of our member, Dr. Felix Peres, of beloved memory, who died on Shabbat Toldot, November 20, 2020, 4th Kislev 5781. We extend our deepest condolences to his family. The funeral service was led by Rabbi Offenberg.

Yahrzeit in December / Kislev–Tevet

Roza Chiriza	December 1, 2000 / 4. Kislev 5761
Ira Leimunskis	December 3, 2011 / 7th Kislev 5772
Frida Dachkevich	December 3, 2001 / 18. Kislev 5762
Igor Fuksa	December 5, 2006 / 15. Kislev 5767
Jakovs Judelsons	December 5th, 2015 / 3rd Tevet 5776
Grigori Drabkine	December 7, 2005 / 6. Kislev 5766
Mykhailo Gerr	December 12, 2018 / 4. Kislev 5779
Mikhail Timonin	December 14.. 2015 / 2. Tevet 5776
Milja Golberg	December 18, 2012 / 5. Tevet 5773
Professor Dr. Genrikh Yeger	December 23, 2018 / 15th Tevet 5779
Nechama Yeger	December 25, 2018 / 17. Tevet 5779
Genrich Leimunski	December 29, 2006 / 8. Tevet 5767



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

**Shalom,
Your Synagogue Board**

[Newsletter Archive](#)

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

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.ighreform.org Email: igh@ighreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@ighreform.org

Program for December 2020 • Kislev–Tevet 5781

The synagogue will be closed from December 20, 2020 until January 2, 2021

Wednesday, 2/12	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike, Va-yishlach on ZOOM
Friday, 4/12	5:30 pm	Friday night services with Rabbi Ulrike. Kiddush in your seat
Saturday, 5/12	10:00 am	Shabbat morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Ulrike
	6:00 pm	Religious school on ZOOM
Wednesday, 9/12	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike, Va-yeishev on ZOOM
Friday, 10/12	5:30 pm	Hanukkah Party with Rabbi Ulrike. Gift bags for everyone!
Wednesday, 16/12	6:00 pm	Candle lighting and Torah study on ZOOM with Rabbi Ulrike
Friday, 18/12	5:30 pm	Friday night services with Rabbi Ulrike, Kiddush in your seat
Saturday, 19/12	10:00 am	Shabbat morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Ulrike
	6:00 pm	Religious school on ZOOM
Wednesday, 12/23	6:00 pm	Weekly Parashah study with Rabbi Ulrike, Va-yiggash on ZOOM

