



## Rabbinic word

“Everything has its appointed time, every matter under heaven has its time: a time for weeping and a time for laughter, a time for lamentation and a time for dancing, (...) there is a time to love and a time to hate, a time of war and a time of peace...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). The author of these words from the biblical book of Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes Solomon) was of the opinion that times of joy and sorrow have their place in our lives, everything in its own time. We read these verses and the entire book as Megillah, as a special holiday reading on Sukkot, when we sit in the fragile tabernacles and celebrate the harvest of the past year. Then we look back and know that there were good and difficult times, and we are grateful for what has succeeded.



The High Holy Days demand a serious test from us: We are to look at ourselves critically and give honest accountability. This year, however, these weeks are an extraordinarily difficult time. From Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur and Sukkot to Simchat Torah, we go through an emotional roller coaster ride: The sweetness of apple and honey on Rosh Hashanah is followed by the first anniversary of October 7, 2023, when Hamas massacred nearly 1,200 civilians in southern Israel. Our horror and grief are still fresh, even in view of what came after: war, fallen soldiers, civilian casualties, the terrible suffering of the hostages, the homelessness of the evacuees. How can we enter Yom Kippur, how can we come to rest? How to give room to joy on Sukkot, how to dance Torah to Simchat?

The Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai (Würzburg 1924 – Jerusalem 2000) contradicted the preacher Solomon, who said that everything had its time. In the poem “A person in his life” he countered:

A man must hate and love at the same moment,  
 cry and laugh with the same eyes,  
 Throwing stones with the same hands  
 and with these same hands gathering them,  
 Making love in war and making war from love.  
 And hating and forgiving and remembering and forgetting  
 and creating order and confusing everything and eating and digesting  
 which is what a long history does in very many years.

Despite our worries, we will celebrate and in the midst of our holidays we will remember and mourn. It won't be easy, but we're not alone — we share sorrow and joy with Jews around the world. May the curses of the past year end and the New Year 5785 bring much blessing, healing, comfort, freedom, homecoming, and peace. I wish you, your families and loved ones a good year, health and joy. Shanah Tovah.

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

## Review of the month of September

### Bat Mitzvah of Florencia and Anamaría

In August and September celebrated the Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah of three young people in close succession. On the Shabbat “Ki Tawo,” September 20/21, Anamaría and Florencia Fiebich and also their mother Claudia Fischer were called to the Torah for the first time. The girls recited their verses confidently and in beautiful cantillation from the Torah scroll. Claudia then read the Haftarah, the text from Isaiah 60 assigned to this Shabbat. Many guests, family and friends took part in this festive service and applauded this achievement of learning and preparation. In memory of their Bat Mitzvah, Florencia and Anamaría received a siddur and a Hebrew-German Tanakh (Bible) from the community as a gift as the basis for their future Jewish learning and Claudia received a challah cover for Shabbat and holidays. Masal tov, you three!





## Excursion to the Steinhuder Meer

Sponsored by “Aktion Mensch,” Olga and Eva organized a trip to the Steinhuder Meer for our senior members. Our chairman, Peter Wendt, also took part. We thank Boris Kogan for his impressions of the day:

“Our bus trip on September 17 to one of the most beautiful resorts in Lower Saxony will be remembered by all participants. The drive took about 6 hours, but we saw and learned a lot. Veta Banchukova kindly took on the role of tour guide. She told and showed us the most important sights. Those who wanted to, could take a boat trip on the lake or visit a café. We are very grateful to the organizers of this wonderful trip.”

## Jewish Life in October

### The High Holidays

This year, all holidays from Rosh Hashanah to Simchat Torah fall in the month of October. The prelude will be the cemetery visits on Wednesday, October 2, 11:00 a.m. Scharnhorststraße and 12:00 p.m. Am Wehl to remember our deceased relatives. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year 5785, will be celebrated in the evening of the same day (Wednesday, October 2, 5:30 p.m.), as well as with the Shacharit on Thursday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. And Yom Kippur begins on Friday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m., with the Kol Nidrej. The following day we continue at 10:00 a.m. with the morning service and conclude the Day of Atonement with Yiskor and the closing prayer Ne'ilah from 5:30 p.m. At this point, we appeal to every single member of the congregation to also attend the morning services, so that a minyan, the minimum number of ten people, is guaranteed at all times.

### October 7

On the occasion of the anniversary of the terrible Hamas massacre, we invite the Hamelin public and community members to a commemoration in the synagogue on Monday, October 7, 4:00 p.m. Rabbi Offenberg will organize this event together with young people from our community.

### Donate — Zedakah

We would like to thank all those who support our community life and the construction of the synagogue with generous donations. This month we would like to highlight Rachel Dohme, Ursula Niedert and Ewelina LeMaitre. May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

### Get well soon

Who blessed our fathers Abraham, Yitzchak and Jakov, and our mothers Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel and Leah, may he send blessings and healing to all our sick. May they receive a full recovery in body and mind. May all those who care for others also be blessed with strength, perseverance and hope.

### Yahrzeit in October

Maia Olvovska	October 4, 2024 / 19 Tishrei 5784
Oleksii Bogdanov	October 10, 2014 / 16 Tishrei 5774
Lev Bakhmachnikov	October 15, 2017 / 25 Tishrei 5778
Vladimir Borishanskij	October 29, 2019 / 30. Tishrei 5780
Marianne Kleper	October 29, 2021 / 23. Cheschwan 5782

May the memory of them be a blessing for us. Kaddish is said during the services. Seasonal candles are available in the office.



## **Interview project with Jewish families from Ukraine**

We received the following inquiry from the Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg:

Around 45 percent of Jewish families living in Germany have their roots in Ukraine, but little is known about their history. The research project "Blind Spot" wants to change this and therefore addresses a request to all interested parties who come from Ukraine:

We are looking for Jewish families and relatives from different generations who are willing to tell us their life stories. The interviews will be conducted in German and Russian. We look forward to your feedback and will be happy to answer your questions about the project. You can reach us by phone or e-mail:

Dr. Karen Körber (Project Leader)

Phone: 040-42838-2935

Email: [karen.koerber@igdj-hh.de](mailto:karen.koerber@igdj-hh.de)

Jana Matthies, MA

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We wish all members of our community and their circle of friends as well as their families and loved ones a year blessed with health, happiness and peace 5785. Shanah Tovah , Chativa veChatimah Tovah — May we be sealed for a good year!

**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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