



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

September 2017 • Elul–Tischri 5777–57

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year 5778. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life! L'Shana Tovah Tiketevu!

Shanah Tovah wishes to all of our readers, from the Synagogue Board,  
—Rachel Dohme, Polina Pelts, Faina Pelts, Olga Gerr and Peter Wendt



Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely, warm and relaxing summer. Classes, groups and congregational activities will start up again. We're all ready to get involved. Together we can achieve great things for our congregation.

We met in our cool sanctuary during the hot summer months of July and August for Shabbat services, Torah study, and discussion, welcomed visitors into our synagogue and enjoyed cultural programs. We look forward to autumn services with our Rabbi Offenberg in September as we ready ourselves for the High Holy Days.

“Aktion Mensch” helped us provide enjoyable and meaningful programs for our seniors during the summer months. Besides musical programs, Polina Pelts organized a boat trip from Hameln to Bodenwerder on the Weser River. Such an outing affords much time and organizational talent and we thank Polina and her assistants, Doroti and Valerij and especially Aktion Mensch. Here an impression:

Our excursion on the Weser River was wonderful. The weather was perfect and the sun shone on idyllic landscapes on shore. Grazing animals, green hillsides and lush fields formed the background to happy conversation and pleasant chatter among friends. We arrived in Bodenwerder, we walked from the pier into the Old City and enjoyed coffee and cake in a local café. The evening breeze accompanied us home, tired and happy. Thank you Polina and Aktion Mensch!

Hameln celebrated a Cultural Festival in August. Our Israeli dance troupe “Chag Sameach” and our synagogue choir “Shalom” performed for large crowds. The local newspaper reported on the event and one bystander was quoted to say, “How wonderful to have a Jewish community in our town again!” We agree!

## Our Internet Presence

Those of you reading this newsletter in English are reading the internet version. The newsletter is also available in print form in [German](#) and [Russian](#) for members and supporters here in Germany. Many hours and many hands and heads go into producing this monthly informational newsletter. Keeping us online is no small expense for our small community of 90 percent Russian Jewish immigrants. We recognize the importance of this media tool in connecting and informing others of our congregational efforts and developments. And this newsletter has been the most efficient and successful outreach tool in our attempts to network internationally. Many new relationships have been established and built as a result of this newsletter and we are grateful to all involved. If you would care to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## Jewish September

### High Holy Days with Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg will lead our High Holy Day services, and we look forward to welcoming her to the Bimah.

We look forward to inclusive High Holy Day services in German, English, Hebrew and Russian, and engaging study sessions and meaningful sermons with our rabbi.

It will be our pleasure to welcome guests traveling to and near Hamelin to our services again. This year we welcome the Harrison family from Rachel Dohme's home congregation, Congregation B'nai Abraham, from Butler, Pennsylvania, USA. Welcome!

Members who need transportation assistance attending services should please contact the synagogue office.

In preparation for the High Holy Days, Rachel Dohme offers members the opportunity to visit their loved ones' graves with an annual congregational cemetery visit. We will begin at the old cemetery at 11:00 a.m. and continue to the new cemetery. As is our custom, we will stop at each grave, remember the departed, lay stones of remembrance and recite communal Kaddish for all.

## Torah Mantels



On Wednesday evening, September 20th, our High Holy Day services with Erev Rosh Hashanah will begin. Also, on the following morning we will come together for the sixth time in our beautiful synagogue for Rosh Hashanah morning prayers and Tashlich. We ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share, and we look forward to wishing each other a happy and healthy 5778, dipping juicy apples in sweet honey and sharing home-made dishes together after services.

The ten days of Teshuva follow and culminate with Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services on Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th.

### **Donation from “Society of Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony”**

We are honored that the Society of Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony, led by Professor Dr. Ursula Rudnick, Hannover will visit Hamelin and our synagogue on Friday, September 15th.

Mr. Hans-Georg Spangenberg will lead the group around the city, emphasizing the pre-war achievements and loss of the Jewish community. The group will return to the synagogue for a conversation with Rachel and Rabbi Ulrike and join us for Friday night services.

Professor Dr. Rudnick and her organization have made a large donation to our community, funding the purchase of two white High Holiday Torah mantels. American textile artist Cheryl Lynch was chosen to create the Torah covers for us. The intricate and hand-made covers will be completed next year. A large poster of the Torah covers will be displayed for all to see. We thank Dr. Rudnick and all the donors for this wonderful gift.

### **Twenty-third Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany**

The 23rd annual conference of the UPJ was held July 27–30. Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars were offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world.

Moving services in Hebrew, German and Russian were also celebrated. Our Polina Pelts was honored with a reading of the prayer for our congregations in Russian. The participants and presenters came from our national and international congregations, striving to learn from one another, exchange ideas and celebrate Judaism together.

Elections were held and a new national board was selected. Congratulations to the new board!



### **Mazel Tov**

Congratulations to the ZWSt (Central Jewish Welfare Society) on their 100th birthday!

Congratulations to the new Union of Progressive Jews of Germany board members on their election.

We congratulate Mr. Hans-Georg Spangenberg on his retirement as Deacon of the Catholic Church, St. Augustinus. Herr Spangenberg has been one of our most ardent supporters and helpers since we formed our community in 1997. Thanks to Mr. Spangenberg's efforts, we were allowed us to meet in his church's social hall from 1997 to 1998. We will be ever grateful to him. Mr. Spangenberg is officially pensioned, but his devoted work for interreligious tolerance and understanding will continue. He remains on our Synagogue Building Foundation board and on the board of the Society for Christians and Jews in Hamelin.

We also congratulate our good friend and supporter, Pastor Christiane Brendel. She will resign her position in St. Bonifatius Lutheran Church and will accept a position at St. Annen Lutheran Church. We are thankful that she will stay in Hamelin, and we look forward to working with her. We wish her all the best!



### **Donations — Tzedakah**

We thank all those who donated to either the congregation or the synagogue foundation: the Society of Christians and Jews in Lower Saxony, Alla Jankowski, Rachel Dohme, Ursula Niedert and always Mrs. Ute Gibas. May you all be blessed for your generosity!

### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

Autumn has arrived and, with the change of season, so every tree changes too. Instead of losing leaves, we've added one! The tree offers our members, friends and supporters the opportunity for two mitzvot (good deeds) at once. One can commemorate special occasions, such as births, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, weddings, Yahrzeits and special honors and also support the maintenance of our synagogue. Three new leaves have been ordered:

“Thanks to my congregation for 20 wonderful years” donated by Rachel Dohme

“Mazel Tov on the birth of Taavi Lua Schleier” donated by the Dohme family

“Our grandson Hannes” donated by Alla Jankowski



### **Refu'ah shlemah**

We pray for the complete recovery of all who are ill, and everyone who is going through difficult times. We will recite Misheberach for them during services.

### **Thank you — Todah Rabah**

Our thanks also go out to Heinrich Moos and Dieter Schulz for their work on the sanctuary flooring.

We thank everyone who helped in making our holiday and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plans and organizes activities in our community.

### **September Yahrzeit**

Samson Avrus — September 3, 1999 / 22 Elul 5759

May their memory be for a blessing. Please join family members during Sabbath services as we recite Kaddish. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.

### **Shalom!**

—The Congregation Board



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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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## Program for September 2017 • Elul–Tischri 5777–5788

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

### Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, September 1	3:00 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:00 p.m.	Friday night services
	8:00 p.m.	Mishna Study
Saturday, September 2	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehilla
Sunday, September 10	4:00 p.m.	Russian Theater with Yuriy Zelkine In cooperation with Aktion Mensch

### Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, September 15	11:00-1:00	Communal cemetery visits in preparation for the High Holy Days
	3:00 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services and festive Oneg Shabbat with special guests, Dr. Ursula Rudnick and members of the Lutheran State Church. They have donated two new Torah Mantels for the High Holy Days!
Saturday, September 16	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehilla
Tuesday, September 19	11:00 a.m.	Senior's Breakfast and concert of Jewish music with guests Svetlana & Faina

### HIGH HOLY DAY Services with Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Wednesday, September 20	6:00 p.m.	<b>Erev Rosh Haschanah</b> Please bring a vegetarian dish to share
Thursday, September 21	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Haschanah morning services followed by a luncheon and Tashlich ceremony at the Hamel River
Friday, September 29	6:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Saturday, September 30	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur services
	5:00 p.m.	Yiskor and Ne'ila services
	Sundown	Break the Fast communal meal

### Outside Events

Thursday, September 7	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture, Dr. Steffen Hagemann "Israel's Culture of Memorials"
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