



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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January 2011 • Tevet–Shevat 5771

[Program](#)

## Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2011! This will certainly be a historic year for our young congregation. We are about to dedicate the first newly constructed Reform synagogue in post-war Germany. The dream we have dreamt so long is about to become reality. We can barely find words to express our joy and gratitude.

In December we celebrated Hanukka for the last time in our rented rooms. Every seat in the sanctuary was taken. Before Shabbat began, we lit the third Hanukka candle and recited the blessing in unison. Together we celebrated Shabbat and Hanukka with a lovely service. Many members took readings, and our community's famous "family feeling" was evident to one and all.

After services, we held our traditional annual Hanukka raffle. Patrizia, Sören and Naomi selected the numbers, and the happy winners went home with lovely Hanukka presents. This year we offered a special raffle as a fundraiser for our new synagogue. The prize was a 14-carat gold ring, set with a ruby-colored stone. Each raffle ticket was sold for 5 Euros and 200 Euros were raised. We thank all who took a chance. The lucky winner was Wladimir Pesok, and his wife Nadja was thrilled with the unexpected Hanukka gift. After the excitement of the drawing, everyone enjoyed the delicious holiday foods, which enticed many to stay a while longer around the festive table. Our Israeli dance group, Chag Sameach, performed and invited everyone to join in. Once again we enjoyed a joyful celebration among friends and neighbors in our community.





A special Hanukka treat was a cultural program presented by Arnold Sarajinski, the famous Moscow pantomime on Sunday, December 5th. Although we experienced a sudden and very harsh winter storm, the program was well-attended. Mr. Sarajinski's wordless magic had everyone under his spell. His performance was enjoyed by young and old, and for once language was not a barrier. His partner, Maya Rosenblatt, accompanied Mr. Sarajinski on the piano. We thank the Central Council of Jews of Germany for the financial support, which made this evening possible.



The snow outside was piled high, the temperatures dropped and the winds howled, but everyone in our sanctuary was warmed by Rebekka Dohme's beautiful voice as she led services during the final Friday night service of the year. We were pleased to have her with us again. After services there was ample time to chat, catch up with one another and take time to enjoy the Shabbat feeling of being together.



### Synagogue Dedication

Our members and friends will be receiving personal invitations to our February 20th dedication ceremony within the first weeks of January. As much as we would love to invite each and every person who would like to attend the ceremony and share in our joy of this most historic moment, we just do not have the room to do so. We have built a small and modest synagogue to suit our needs and a building we will be able to financially maintain. Normally the sanctuary will seat 100 worshippers and we feel this will serve us well.

Because of the very limited seating we ask that invitation cards be returned as soon as possible. We are pleased to have many honored guests on this day and hope members will understand that seating for our own members will be limited.

Everyone is invited to Friday night services on February 18th. Rabbi Shillor will make every effort to create an especially beautiful service and we will provide a festive Oneg Shabbat. We hope all our members will make an effort to attend this service.



### Jewish January

The news of the horrific fires in Israel filled us all with sadness. The state of Israel has accomplished the unbelievable by creating a fertile, green and blooming countryside from a desert. Every tree and plant is a small miracle, gently coaxed and cared for. Certainly this year our Tu biShvat Seder will have a special and poignant meaning. Please bring a donation for our collection for the JNF to support doing our part to insure that flora and fauna will be restored to health and vigor in Israel. Please join us on Friday, January 21st, as we celebrate the holiday with a Tu biShvat Seder, the New Year of the Trees. During the Seder, we will eat the different "first fruits" and be reminded of our responsibility of "Tikun Olam"—healing the world.

## **Culture in January**

We invite all our members, friends and supporters to join with us as we greet the new secular year on January 5th. Faina Pelts has organized a musical program. Tickets are 7 Euros each. Join us for a happy get together to welcome 2011.

## **Rabbi Shillor's January Visit**

We look forward each month to Rabbi Shillor's visits to our congregation. She will be with us from January 13th until the 15th. We look forward to her open discussion session, "Rabbi's Table", to Friday night and Shabbat morning services and Torah study.

## **Netzer Day on January 28<sup>th</sup> — Save the Date**

Mark your calendars now for the next Netzer day for our congregation's youth. Jehudith Weinberger has another fun-packed day planned on January 28th. Netzer Days are an extra treat in between the Machenot. Please make sure you're there at 4 p.m. when the fun begins. Jehudith is looking forward to seeing everyone there.

## **Behind the Scenes: Our New Synagogue**

It's almost moving day and we will soon be in "our house," Beitenu. Anyone who has ever moved in his life knows what a major logistical feat it involves. Any and everyone who can help will be appreciated.

During these last few months before our dedication, we need to all be flexible and understand that the normal and fluid community life we have become used to may be affected. We happily accept all these inconveniences because we know we will soon be in our own new synagogue and community center. May we never cease to be thankful and may we ever be conscious of the wonder of this achievement, to which we owe so many our thanks, above all to God.

We are about to take a gigantic emotional step in the history of our congregation. We hope our final services and programs in our temporary rooms will be especially well attended by many members. We want to consciously say goodbye to our own young history in our provisional rooms. Let us take time with one another and recall all the wonderful memories, experiences and events of the past thirteen years. We are Bat/Bar Mitzvah. We are ready to say goodbye to our youth, having studied, learned and prepared for this day. Mazel Tov to us!

## **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 congregation's efforts and developments. 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 like to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## **Ioulia Berhovski Recognized**

The city's social service organization has published a beautiful book with twelve portraits of highly successful new immigrant women. We are proud that our member Dr. Ioulia Berhovski was one of the 12 women selected. The publication is available in our library.

## **Mazel Tov**

We congratulate Dr. Dieter Graumann on his election as president of the Central Council of Jews of Germany. We look forward to a positive and productive relationship with him.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Gábor Lengyl on his 70th birthday.

We congratulate Rabbi Dr. Walter Homolka upon receiving the Medal of Honor in gold for his successful inter religious work within the German armed forces.

## **Donations — Tzedaka**

We are grateful to the many people who continually support our work and our plans to build a new synagogue.

We thank all those who contributed so generously:

Dr. Hinrich Bökenkamp, Mr. Hans Weltner, Rachel Dohme, Viktor and Elena Gogulinski, the Jewish Congregation of Bad Pyrmont, the Junker Roofing company and the Latzel Heating company.

Contributions from America came from Dr. Susan Arjmand.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



### **Tree of Life — Etz Chayim**

Who will contribute the next leaf? Each leaf not only adorns our sanctuary but also helps us raise funds for our synagogue. Leaves can be ordered through our office or by contacting Rachel Dohme or on this Web site: [Tree of Life](#). Each leaf costs a minimum of \$100 (quadruple chai plus expenses). Please contribute a leaf and help us to build our synagogue!

The newest leaf was contributed by Elena and Viktor Gogulinski in loving memory of their mother Nadya Fesyk.

### **Thank you —Toda Raba**

We appreciate and thank our community members who helped make our holidays, services and celebrations special. The homemade dishes were delicious and we thank everyone who helped with the planning, organization and implementation of our festivals.

There are so many regular activities offered in our congregation by congregants for congregants, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication.

We wish to thank our Israeli dance group, Chag Sameach, for their performance at our congregational Hanukka party. We also thank all who baked and prepared the delicious food for the party. The Macabees would have been proud of our kitchen team!



### **January Yahrzeit**

Chaja.Rahel Kruchkovitch 29.01.2003 / 26. Schevat 5763

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

**We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2011!**

**—Your Synagogue Board**

### **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 January 2011 • Tevet–Shevat 5771

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Monday, January 3	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a class in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, January 4	3:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Wednesday, January 5	4:00 p.m.	Community New Year’s Celebration, Tickets: 7 Euros
Saturday, January 8	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F.Pelts and R. Dohme Regional Hanukka Netzer Day in Göttingen Registration & Information: Jehudit Weinberger 0521-92919793
Thursday, January 13		<b>Rabbi Shillor’s visit</b>
	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table”
Friday, January 14	4:00 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, January 15	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Wednesday, January 19	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Thursday, January 20	10:00 a.m.	Visit of the Russian consulate; Organization: Mrs. Bachmatchnikova
Friday, January 21	4:00 p.m.	“Young and Jewish” with Greta Golbereg
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services/ Tu bi Shevat Seder with R. Dohme
Saturday, January 22	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and R. Dohme
Tuesday, January 25	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja Art History class
Friday, January 28	4:00 p.m.	“Young and Jewish” 3 <sup>rd</sup> Netzer Day with Jehudith Weinberger
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg Honored Guest: Rabbi Dr. Tovia Ben Chorin
Saturday, January 29	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg; Honored Guest: Rabbi Dr. Tovia Ben Chorin

### Activities outside the community

Thursday, January 27	6:00 p.m.	Holocaust Remembrance Day: Reading from letters and documents of Anne Frank’s family, Hameln Theater
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### Archived Newsletters:

2010:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2009:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2008:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2007:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2006:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2005:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2004:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2003:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2002:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun–Aug</a>		<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2001:		<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>