



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

January 2014 • Tevet–Shvat 5774

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

**We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2014!  
Please remember to pay your annual membership dues.  
The congregation depends on everyone to pay promptly to enable us to continue our work.**



Before we can greet 2014 we want to look back and remember the services and activities that brought our congregational calendar to an end in 2013. We recalled the story of Hanukkah with a congregational service and concert on Saturday, November 30. After a short service and inspirational message delivered by congregational president Mrs. Rachel Dohme, we lit the fourth candle of the beautiful silver Hannukia, which we purchased through contributions last year. It's a beautiful hand-crafted piece from Portugal. The children were delighted to receive their Hanukka bags, lovingly prepared by Mrs. Olga Geer. Not only the children enjoyed a Hanukkah surprise. "Trio Kaljushny" from St. Petersburg/Berlin treated us all to an amazing concert. Faina Pelts organized the concert, thanks to the friendly financial support of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. Marina Kaljushy (piano), Michael Kaljushy (clarinet) and Slava (vocals) took us on a musical journey, spanning well-known liturgical pieces, jazz and classical selections. The concert ended much too soon. Musicians and members enjoyed a mouth-watering Hanukka repast, organized by Mrs. Polina Pelts and our kitchen team, Liubov Pesin and Lydmylla Krevets. Enjoy the photos!



Winter weather has a mind of its own. Because of inclement weather and dangerous street conditions, we had to cancel our Shabbat Seminar "Tikkun Olam" on Saturday, December 7, with Debbie Tal-Reuttger, Vice President of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany. Everyone was very disappointed. We are pleased to announce that a new date has been booked, and our seminar will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at 10:00 a.m. Make a note of this date in your new calendars!

## Senior's Café

Please enjoy a short report about a special concert given by our members for our members as a program of the Senior's Café from congregational Vice President Mrs. Polina Pelts.

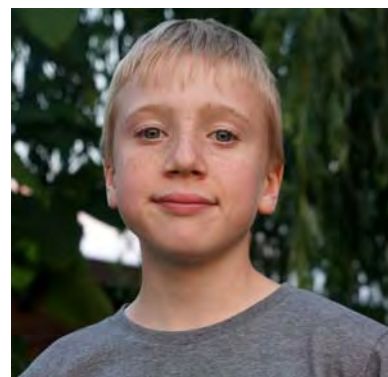
Many members and guests took their places in our Synagogue on Sunday, November 10. The crowd was excited about this program. The Ukrainian choir, made up of our own members, gave a concert of songs from their homeland. The atmosphere was relaxed and harmonious. It didn't take long until everyone was singing along. We thank those involved: Valerij Bogatschyk, Mark Ovsievych, Nadja Pesok, Dora Bogatschyk, Inna Weinberg and Larissa Bellgardt.

## Our Internet Presence

Those of you reading this newsletter in English are reading the Internet version. The newsletter is also available as a PDF 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, and we are grateful to all involved. Please help us stay online; contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## Haakon's Bar Mitzvah

A very important date is Saturday, January 18th. Haakon Magnus Wendt will become Bar Mitzvah and be called to the Torah on Shabbat Yitro. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead services with Haakon at her side. The proud parents and siblings invite everyone to share this special day with Haakon. Haakon has worked hard preparing for his Bar Mitzvah service and we, as his congregation want to celebrate with him. Haakon is the fourth and youngest child of the Wendt family, his older siblings all having celebrated Bar or Bat Mitzvah in our synagogue with our Rabbi. Please mark the date and enjoy the day with Haakon.



## Jewish January

We are pleased that Rabbi Shillor will celebrate Tu BiShvat with us this year. Please join us on January 17th as we celebrate our annual congregational Tu BiShvat Seder, the "New Year of the Trees." Our Seder celebrates the "first fruits," and we will taste fruits and nuts, juices and wine together as we recall this beautiful tradition, which has its origins in the 16th century. We have celebrated this holiday together since we established our congregation in 1997. The Torah teaches us that we are akin to a "tree in the field" held by our roots and yearning toward the heavens. We seek to understand our relationship with God and its meaning. Similar to a tree, we hope our lives leave something of value behind. A tree is a sign of life and hope, and it is our hope that a peaceful solution can be found in Israel and that peace and security will reign within its borders.

January 27th is international Holocaust Remembrance Day and recalls the Liberation of the concentration camp in Auschwitz by Soviet troops in 1945. The day of remembrance was instituted in Germany in 1966 by Chancellor Roman Herzog. At 7:00 p.m. the city of Hamelin will remember the victims of the Holocaust with a theatrical reading. Our congregation sponsors this evening along with Hamelin's churches.

## New Year's Reception

The congregation will greet the new secular year 2014 with a party and hope many will attend. The party is planned for Sunday, January 5th, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Many members are involved in the planning of the festive day. As always with our celebrations, there will be entertainment and delicious homemade food.

## Interreligious Dialogue

The new year will afford us new opportunities to enter into interreligious dialogue with our non-Jewish friends and neighbors. The Interreligious Women's Group has discussed many different topics of shared interests over the past years. This year we have decided to explore the foods we eat, when and why in Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Our first meeting will be held in the Mosque in the Hunoldstrasse as we look at foods eaten in Islam. We'll begin at 5:00 p.m. and hope to meet and greet many new faces. In March we'll meet in our Synagogue and in May in the Lutheran church. It's certain to be tasty!

Our work with the Society of Christians and Jews enters its 17th year. We are proud to be such an active partner in the work we've invested in, creating an atmosphere of respect and trust between the religions, discovering what we share and exploring what separates us. This effort is viable proof of our commitment to Reform Judaism. We'll kick off the year with a podium discussion entitled "Great Rabbis and Christian Saints." Rabbi Adrian Schell and Deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberg will lead the discussion. Join us on January 30th at 7:00 p.m.

### **Russian Consul**

We will once again welcome the Russian Consul in our Synagogue. He will spend several hours with us on January 28th. He is with us to help those members still holding Russian passports. We are happy to assist our members and Russian citizens living in Hamelin in this way.

### **Youth Group**

We're looking forward to Rabbi Adrian's return from Israel. In January he will be back with us and that means the youth group Netzer Hamelin can continue where it left off. Mark your calendars and don't miss a single program that Rabbi Adrian has in store for the kids in the congregation.

### **Renovation on our Sanctuary Flooring**

We have celebrated many wonderful holidays during the last three years since the dedication of our Synagogue. Each holiday in the Jewish year found us in the sanctuary and each holiday (except Days of Fasting) was underscored with delicious meals that we partook together. So many memories have left their mark on the beautiful wooden floor: there were traces from spilt wine, oily tracks from long-forgotten home-made dishes, all slowly marking the wood, and something had to be done. Mr. Dieter Schulz worked with our custodian Mr. Moos and the floor now looks as good as new. We are grateful to both men who worked so hard on restoring the floor.

A word to our members—our synagogue's name is "Beitenu" and means "our house." We ask everyone to treat "our house" as if it were their own home. Let's all make a concerted effort to keep our new building—from floor to ceiling—beautiful!

### **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.



### **Donations — Tzedakah**

We thank the following for their contributions to our congregation or our synagogue fund: Mr. Dieter Vogelhuber, Mrs. Marta Zarham, Mrs. Eva Shkolnikova, Mrs. Emma and Mr. Aron Kaplan, Mrs. Stille and her Bible study group, Mrs. Irmis Spangenberg and her 11th grade religion class, HLA School, Pastor Longwitz and her two 11th grade religion classes, HLA School and the Eugen-Reinjes School. We thank all our members for their Hanukkah contributions.

We thank Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Uta Gibas for their monthly contributions.

We especially wish to thank Mrs. Renate Cramer and Dr. Valentin Geletnky for their especially generous donations.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

Our Tree of Life is perhaps the only tree that grows leaves in winter. Please do your part and help a few more grow! 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.

Two new leaves were donated from:

Eva Shkolnikova: "In honor of the building of our Synagogue May 2009–February 2011"

Emma and Aron Kaplan: "60 years together: December 5, 1952, Emma and Aron Kaplan"

## Thank you — Todah Rabah

We wish to thank Mr. Joachim Göres for the excellent article he wrote about our wonderful congregation. The article appeared in the November 29 issue of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, a prominent newspaper in Germany.

Our thanks to the Ukrainian Choir and Dr. Ioulia Berhowski whose programs enriched the meetings of the Senior's Café last month.

We thank the newly formed team who planned and organized the New Year's Reception.

We thank everyone who helps in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.



## Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the Vinnytska family on the death of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, Lev Vinnytskiy, of blessed memory. The funeral was held on November 26th. Rachel Dohme and Wladimir Pesok led the service. The congregation has ordered a plaque for our Yahrzeit board.

It was only one year ago that the Vinnytskiys celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in our synagogue under the chuppah, the poles held by their daughter and granddaughter and two cousins, fulfilling their life-long wish to be married according to Jewish law. Rabbi Shillor performed the ceremony.

## Yahrzeit in January

Chaja-Rahel Kruchkovitch — January 29, 2003 / 26. Shvat 5763

Larisa Shapiro — January 4, 2013 / 22. Tevet 5773

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

**Shalom and best wishes to everyone for a healthy 2014!**

**The Congregation Board**



## [Newsletter Archives](#)

### **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 2014 • Tevet–Shvat 5774

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

Sunday, January 5	4:00 p.m.	Congregational New Year's Reception
Monday, January 6	12 noon	"Judaism" a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, January 7	10:00 a.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
Friday, January 10	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Saturday, January 11	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with H. Braun
Tuesday, January 14	11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova Interreligious Women's Group. Our Theme this year: Food in our Religion, Part I: "Food in Islam: What We Eat, When and Why" Mosque, Hunoldstrasse
Wednesday, January 15	11:00 a.m.	Guest speaker: Mrs. Shilzov: "Apothecaries" <b>Rabbi Irit Shillor's monthly visit</b>
Friday, January 17	5:30 p.m.	Tu Bi Shvat Seder with Rabbi Shillor
<b>Saturday, January 18</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bar Mitzvah Haakon Wendt followed by a festive Kiddush luncheon</b>
Saturday, January 25	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Tuesday, January 28	12 noon	Russian Consul's visit <b>Rabbi Adrian Schell's monthly visit</b>
Thursday, January 30	7:00 p.m.	In Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews: Discussion: Important Rabbis and Christian Saints Rabbi Adrian Schell and Deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberg
Friday, January 31	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Adrian Schell
Saturday, February 1	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study Netzer Hamelin with Rabbi Adrian
<b>Outside the Community</b>		
Monday, January 27	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with Hamelin Forum and the City of Hamelin: Holocaust Remembrance Day, Bückeberg Festival: Theatrical Reading, St. Bonifatius Church