



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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February 2010 • Shvat–Adar 5770

[Program](#)



Dear members, friends and supporters,

We are all looking forward to an exciting and important year. We will face many challenges and changes with positive energy and community spirit. In order to achieve our goals and continue to provide our members with religious, social and cultural services and programs, each and every member needs to show responsibility and pay their membership dues promptly. We thank those who have paid already and acknowledge those who've added an extra contribution.



Our children and youth enjoyed several Netzer Days in the past weeks. Some of these were shared with youth from other liberal congregations and some were held just for us.



Jehudith and Lior offered a Netzer Day on January 3rd with the title of "Dreams and Visions." It was discussed how important it is to have dreams and how to achieve them. Everyone enjoyed making and eating an "Israel pizza" and sweet chocolate pudding, watching the film *Up* and sharing thoughts and feelings about personal dreams for the future. It was emphasized that we need to

help each other realize their dreams too. It was a great afternoon, and everyone is looking forward to the next Netzer Day in April. Thank you Jehudith and Lior!

In spite of icy winter winds and snowstorms in January, we enjoyed Friday night services led by Rebekka Dohme. It was a pleasure to hear and see her again and enjoy the Shabbat liturgy from her CD *Shabbat Melodies* "live." The CD is being sold as a fundraiser for our synagogue building project. The congregation looks forward to Rebekka's next visit in May.

Chanukka Tag in Hameln— Besuch von Göttingen Kids:



Rabbi Shillor's January visit was punctuated with a fascinating lecture on the Bible, Sabbath services and Torah study. She'll join us again in February and we invite everyone to join in the learning. Our traditional New Year's Party was enjoyed by more than 40 members and friends. The winds



blew and the snow fell outside while friends and neighbors gathered together to greet 2010 in our cozy, decorated rooms. Different groups organized an exciting program. Our synagogue choir, "Shalom" performed as well as a group led by Svitlana Banschukova. Popular Jewish and Russian melodies flooded the room and created a celebratory mood. Mrs. Drozdova and Wladimir Pesok offered comedy skits. Mrs. Pesok interviewed members Emma Lebidinska, Valerij Friedmann and Jevgenij Jevdokimov about their hopes and goals for the new year. Dieter Vogelhuber wished everyone a successful new year and was presented with a gift and words of thanks from his German language class as was Polina Pelts. Delicious dishes were prepared, thanks to the culinary talents of the kitchen team of Mr. and Mrs. Pesok, Mr. and Mrs. Bogachyk and Mrs. Gorbacheva. At the end of the evening the twinkling stars lit the way home.

A musical highlight was enjoyed by our members and hundreds in Hamelin when Klezmer giant, Giora Feidman performed his program, "Feidman and his Gerschwin Quartett" in the St. Bonifatius Lutheran Church. Our special thanks to Mr. Feidman, not only for an evening of wonderful Jewish music but also because he offered our members tickets at reduced prices. In addition, our congregation also contributed, reducing the price of the tickets for our members even more. This enabled many to attend. After the two hour concert, congregational vice president Polina Pelts thanked Mr. Feidman personally and many members had the opportunity to meet and greet the great master. It was a perfect evening in which Jewish music was performed, shared and enjoyed by all.

In our own rite, a flute concert was on the program for our monthly "Senior's Café." We

thank Matvej Dvortsis for organizing the afternoon, enjoyed by many.

On January 18th the Russian Consul, Mr. Surgaev visited our congregation. The visit was organized by our member, Mrs. Bachmatchnikova. Members still holding Russian citizenship had the opportunity to arrange their affairs, particularly their pensions. This annual visit assists many, otherwise unable to make the trip to the Embassy in Hamburg. We thank Mrs. Bachmatchnikova for her initiative which helps so many others. We also acknowledge and thank this group for their donation to congregational programs in a gesture of gratitude.

Last but not least and too late for this newsletter was the Tu Bi Shvat Seder on January 29th, led by our religious school students. Look for a report and photos in next month's newsletter.

Our Internet Presence

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 to our congregational 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. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish February

We will celebrate Purim this year on Sunday, February 28th at 3:00 P.M. The services will be led by Abraham Geiger rabbinical student Natascha Lyskovoy.

Our holiday recalls the story from 357 B.C.E. when the evil Haman plotted to destroy the Persian Jews. Queen Esther, using brains, beauty and a strong faith in God, succeeded in saving our people from annihilation. There have been many “Hamans” in our history and we have and will survive because of our unyielding faith in God.

Purim is a colorful and noisy holiday. Hopefully many people will come to the service in costume and help recount our history, drowning out the name of Haman with noisemakers, graggers.

For those members confined to hospital or home, Schlachmones baskets will be delivered. These lovingly prepared baskets of food will bring a little bit of Purim to those who are ill.

Our Purim festivities will end, gathered around festively decorated tables, sharing Hamentaschen, baked for the thirteenth year in a row by Polina Pelts’ German class. In addition we will enjoy fruits, sweets, wine and juice and remember with gratitude how Esther saved our people in days of old.



Annual Membership Meeting

We invite all members to attend our annual membership meeting on Sunday, March 14th.

This meeting is important because we will be voting on a constitutional change and voting for a new board member. This is necessary because board member Matvej Dvortsis is stepping down due to health concerns. We are saddened that Matvej is unable to serve out his term but wish him well and thank him for his excellent work in the area of culture on the board. We look forward to his continued support and assistance in congregational events.

Members wishing to run for this position on the board are kindly asked to speak with a board member. An active group of members interested in planning and organizing cultural events in the congregation awaits the new board member, ready and willing to help out.

Shabbat Melodies CD Selling Well

We are pleased that the CD is meeting with such positive reaction. The CD is selling for \$18 and 100 percent of the money raised will go to our synagogue building fund. Please visit us online at www.jghreform.org and listen to an MP3 selection. It is also possible to download the CD liner notes in German and English.

We are thrilled that almost all 500 copies have been sold in Germany, England and the US. We thank all those who have supported this project. Positive newspaper articles were very helpful and we especially wish to thank Mr. Truchsess and the Deister und Weser Zeitung, the Deister Anzeiger and the European Region Newsletter for publicizing our project. Our vision was to share beautiful Shabbat music and help ourselves. Buying the CD affords one the performance of a double Mitzvah: contributing money to the building project and listening to Shabbat liturgy.

This CD makes the perfect gift for any occasion.



Cultural Events in February

In cooperation with the Society for Christians and Jews we are offering a trip to Hannover to visit the new liberal synagogue. Rabbi Lengyl will offer us a tour. There will be ample opportunity for questions and conversation. Refreshments are included. For further information and registration, please contact Polina Pelts, 05151 56259.

Our congregation will celebrate its 13th birthday in February. We invite all our members and friends to a birthday party on Sunday, February 14th at 3PM. Our choir “Shalom” and our Israeli dance troupe “Chag Sameach” will perform. The UPJ Music Festival in Hannover planned for the weekend has been canceled but we will enjoy the fruits of their labor, with both groups performing the programs just for us. So join us for this celebration, enjoy the cultural program and raise your glass with us as we toast our wonderful congregation and our future.

ZWSt Senior Seminars in Bad Kissingen

Members have the opportunity to attend Senior Seminars in Bad Kissingen. The schedule is posted on our bulletin board. Please inform yourself. Registration forms are available in the office. Please be advised that we send the forms out but have no say who is accepted and for which sessions. These decisions are wholly the responsibility of the ZWSt.

New Series with Rabbi Irit Shillor

Rabbi Irit Shillor will continue this year's monthly “Rabbi's Table” with the second in a series of study sessions revolving around great Jewish books. On Thursday, February 4th, she will continue with a discussion of the Mishna and Talmud. We hope to see many members and guests there.

Mazel Tov — Congratulations

Congratulations to Gregor and Mariah Wettberg on the birth of their daughter, Sarah June. Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Ingrid and Peter Wettberg.

We congratulate to Mrs. Klara Benke on her election as president of our sister congregation in Bad Pyrmont. We look forward to working together.

Donations — Tzedaka

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

We wish to thank: The Pesok family, Eva Skholnikova, the Dohme family, Mark Schwartz, Connie Kreshtool, Gertrud Lind, Renate Cramer, Gisela Grimme, Renate de Jong, Mrs. Lango, the Taube family and Malies Söhlke.

We especially wish to thank all our members, Jewish congregations in Hannover, Bad Pyrmont, Munich, in Carlisle and Butler, Pennsylvania, New York City and Rochester, New York and in Harlowe, England, in addition to churches and organizations in Hamelin who have bought Rebekka Dohme's CD and in doing so have

helped raise money for our synagogue building project. We thank every single person.

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 page: [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!



New leaves have budded:

- In loving memory of Miep Gies 1909–2010, donated by Mark H. Schwartz
- In honor of the birth of Elijah Joseph Schwartz, donated by the Dohme family

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 are grateful to each and every person and every organization, in Germany and America, for their support of our community. We especially wish to acknowledge Gertrud Lind, Rochester, New York for her help getting packages of CDs to various U.S. congregations across the country.

Thanks go out to Mr. Timonin, Mr. Markhaseev and Mr. Kaplan for new books for our library.

Yahrzeit in February

Anna Raik — February 12, 2000 / 6th Adar I 5760

Vladimir Legkov — February 7, 2003 / 6th Adar I 5763

David Saks — February 6, 2008 / 30th Shvat 5768

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,

—Your Synagogue Board

Program for February 2010 • Shvat–Adar 5770

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

Monday, February 1	12:00 p.m.	“Judaism” — a class in Russian with Wladimir Pesok
Tuesday, February 2	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Video Afternoon with Isaak Katz
Thursday, February 4		Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit
	3:00 p.m.	Rabbi’s Table: Midrash and Talmud with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Friday, February 5	4:00 p.m.	Religious school with Lior Bar-Ami & Faina Pelts
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Saturday, February 6	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Saturday, February 13	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, February 14	3:00 p.m.	Our 13 th Birthday Party! Birthday Concert with “Shalom” and “Chag Sameach” Refreshments
Wednesday, February 17	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with Alexandra Konstantinova
Saturday, February 20	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Faina Pelts & Dieter Vogelhuber
Tuesday, February 23	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” art history class with Maya Olvovska
Friday, February 26	4:00 p.m.	Religious school with Jehudith Weinberger and Faina Pelts
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel Dohme
Saturday, February 27	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, February 28	3:00 p.m.	Purim Party with rabbinical student Natascha Lyskovoy Come in costume Reading of the Megillah, Graggers and Hamentascen

Activities outside the community

Thursday, February 11	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews Day trip to Liberal Jewish Community of Hannover Tour through the new synagogue, coffee and cake Registration: Polina Pelts, 05151 56259
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Archived Newsletters:

2010:	Jan										
2009:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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2003:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2002:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun–Aug		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2001:		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Jewish Community of Hamelin

Member of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany

Member of the World Union of Progressive Judaism

Member of the Central Council of Jews of Germany

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