



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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February 2011 • Shevat–Adar I 5771

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## Dear members, friends and supporters,

The New Year was welcomed by many members with an “After New Year’s Party” on January 5th. The year 2011 will be filled with hope and dreams realized as Rachel Dohme said in her opening remarks. Everyone enjoyed the evening, which was the result of many members’ help. Delicious food, pleasant music and dancing and the chance to catch up with neighbors and friends made for a lovely evening. We wish to thank all those who helped.

Organization: Faina Pelts

Musical program: Faina Pelts, Nadja Pesok, Valerij Bogatchyk, Polina Lyfschitz, the “Ukrainian Group”, led by Svitlana Banschukova

Buffet: Dora and Valerij Bogatchyk, Nadja and Wladimir Pesok, Elena Gorbacheva, Viktor Shilzov, Petro Schurupov, Olga Gerr, Eva Schkolnikova, Feana Engler and Eugenia Drozdova.



Several of our members represented our congregation at a function of the “Women’s Archive” of the city of Hamelin. This was the result of our members taking part in interviews which recorded their biographies. The interviews are now part of the permanent collection of the city archives. We thank Mrs. Scheunflug who organized the event.

Our Tu Bi Shevat Seder was very nice. With winter winds blowing outside, inside it looked a bit like spring. We enjoyed tasting the fifteen types of fruits, nuts and seeds as proscribed in our Seder. Everyone took an active part in the ceremonial meal. The Seder and holiday reminds us that in Israel the first fruits can be harvested and is a testimony to nature’s bounty. This year, we especially think about the horrific forest fires in Israel and collected money for reforestation projects there.

A special thanks to our kitchen team, Elena and Liubow for the beautiful table they prepared. Everyone took a bit of spring home with them in the form of a pot with parsley seeds. Hopefully the seedlings will produce greens for Pesach Seder plates.



## Synagogue Dedication

We are filled with gratitude and happiness that we will dedicate our new synagogue, **“Our House”—Beitenu**, on Sunday February 20, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. Members, Foundation members, friends and supporters as well as representatives from civic, political and religious organizations will fill our new sanctuary for the joyous and historic event. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead the services, assisted by our young cantor, Rebekka Dohme. Our honored guest will be Rabbi Jo David.

The religious service will be followed by speeches from local

and international dignitaries, framed by music from our synagogue choir “Shalom.” A festive buffet will be offered.

We respectfully ask for understanding that we cannot invite everyone we wish we could. For those who have not received an invitation we hope you will understand that seating on the 20th is extremely limited. We hope those who cannot come on the 20th will join us for a festive Friday night service on February 18th as we usher the new Torah into our new home.

### To our “Friends”

We hope our Friends membership will join us on Friday, February 18, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. for the first services in our new building. Rabbi Jo David will be bringing the Torah for our new home and Rabbi Irit Shillor will read from it for the first time.

In addition, we are holding an Open Door Day on Sunday, February 27, from 12:00 until 5:00 p.m. for all who are interested.

We hope all our friends understand that the limited space of our new sanctuary prohibits us from inviting everyone on the 20th.

It fills us with gratitude to know that so many people wish to share in our joy.



### A Torah for Hameln and More

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to those who have helped us procure a Sefer Torah from America for our new synagogue.

We thank Lynn Magid Lazar, Ina Rae Levy, Art Herz and anonymous donors from New York City in addition to the generous contribution of the Hameln churches which make it possible. We thank Rabbi Jo David and her husband Sofer Neil Yerman for restoring the Torah. We also thank them for their generous gift of Atzei Chayim und Rimmonim for the new scroll which Rabbi David will bring with her in February. May all the donors be blessed for their contributions.

We will dedicate the new scroll on Friday, February 18th during Erev Shabbat services. We hope that many members and friends will join us for this wonderful evening.

Our new ark curtain will beautify our sanctuary as well as the new Torah mantles that textile artist Jane Hewison created for us. The new mantles are in part made from the old Torah mantles we had.

Ms. Hewison beautifully created a connection from the old to the new in her work.

The pieces are in lovely hues of blue, green and gold and carry the theme of trees, leaves and the seasons. Ms. Hewison can be commissioned for work at [JaneHewison21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:JaneHewison21@yahoo.co.uk).



Our new Ner Tamid was created by glass artist Ruth Schweining. It beautifully expresses the four seasons. We see this as symbolic for our community, its growth and development, its past, present and future. Ms. Schweining can be contacted at [schweining@tesco.net](mailto:schweining@tesco.net). Ms. Schweining will join us at Friday night services on February 18th and will talk about her work.

We also thank Temple Sinai in Atlanta, Georgia, for their contribution that helped pay for the Ner Tamid.



Both Ms. Schweining and Ms. Hewison are members of Rabbi Shillor's Leichester congregations in England. We thank Rabbi Shillor for arranging the contact and for bringing the pieces to us from England. Rabbi Shillor has contributed much of her time and expertise to our project, often quietly and behind the scenes. We will be forever indebted to her.



### **Jewish February**

How often can we say it? We're about to dedicate the first newly constructed reform synagogue in post-Shoah Germany.

Join us for our first Kabbalath Shabbat service on Friday, February 18th. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead services. Our honored guest will be Rabbi Jo David. Together we will dedicate our new Sefer Torah which Rabbi David will be bringing from New York. Following the service, we invite all to join us for a festive Oneg Shabbat.

### **Culture in February**

We invite all our members, friends and supporters, especially those who couldn't make it on February 20th to visit our new synagogue on Sunday, February 27. from 12 noon till 5:00 p.m. We're opening our doors to all who are interested. We'd love to show you around, meet and greet you. Join us for the afternoon.

### **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.

### **Moving Day**

Helpers are needed for our big move on February 24th. Please contact Mr. Moos in our office if you can lend a hand... or two.

### **Mazel Tov**

Please excuse us, but this time we'd like to congratulate ourselves on our new synagogue and thank God for reaching this moment. We thank all the many people who have shared in our vision during the last ten years and helped us reach our dream of our own synagogue. Mazel Tov to us!

### **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: Mr. Fred Filsoof, Rainer Krahl, Tatjana Meschede, Mr. Hans and Johanna Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme, Mrs. Elisabeth Pfeiffer, Mr. Lev Vinnytska, Mrs. Rimma Rubanov and the Lutheran church of Hamelin.

Contributions from America came from Mr. Art Herz, Lynn Magid Lazar, Ina Rae Levy, and anonymous donors from New York City. These donations together with a generous donation from the Hameln churches will go toward the cost of a Torah for our new synagogue. We thank Rabbi Jo David and her husband Sofer Neil Yerman for procuring and restoring the Torah. We also thank them for their generous gift of Atzei Chayim und Rimmonim for the new scroll which Rabbi David will bring with her in February.

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 leaves were contributed by Mr. Fred Filsoof:

In memory of David and Salti Filsoof

In memory of Moshieh and Lea Daniali

In memory of Ebrahim Pourmoradi

### **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 Mr. Wolfhard Truchseß for several of the lovely pictures in this newsletter.

### **February Yahrzeit**

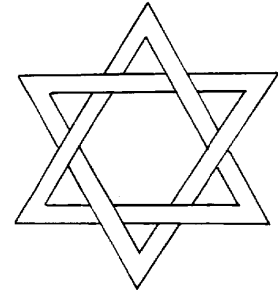
Anna Raik February 12, 2000 / 6th Adar I 5760

Vladimir Legkov February 9, 2003 / 6th Adar I 5763

David Saks February 3, 2008 7 30th Shevat 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

—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 February 2011 • Shevat–Adar I 5771

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

Tuesday, February 1	3:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, February 4	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Religious class Friday night services with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
Saturday, February 5	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
Monday, February 7	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a class in Russian with W. Pesok
Saturday, February 12	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and R. Dohme
Wednesday, February 16	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Thursday, February 17	3:00 p.m.	<b>Rabbi Shillor’s visit</b> “Rabbi’s Table: Universal God”
Friday, February 18	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Youth Club with Greta Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor Dedication of the new Sefer Torah Honored Guest: Rabbi Jo David, New York
<b>Sunday, February 20</b>	3:00 p.m.	<b>DEDICATION Service</b> <b>By invitation only, Admittance at 2:00 p.m.</b>
Tuesday, February 22	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja Art History class
Saturday, February 26	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and R. Dohme
Sunday, February 27	12:00– 5:00 p.m.	Open Door Day
<b>Activities outside the community</b>		
Wednesday, February 9	6:00 p.m.	Sumpflume Cultural Center, Film: “A Heart for Jenin” 4 Euros/ 2 Euros
Thursday, February 10	7:30 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews Professor Eva Martson, Lecture, “Richard Wagner and Judaism” Ev.-Ref. Church, Hugenottenstrasse
Wednesday, February 16	7:00 p.m.	Series: “Let’s Talk,” “Islam” Lecture, Professoer Dr. Rauf Ceylan St. Elisabeth Catholic Church, Arndtweg 17
Wednesday, February 23	7:00 p.m.	Series: “Let’s Talk,” “Judaism” Lecture, Rabbi Dr. Henry G. Brandt Baptist Church, Schubertstrasse 1-3