



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

February 2013 • Shvat–Adar 5773

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2013!

Please remember to pay your annual membership dues. The congregation depends on everyone to pay promptly in order that we can continue our work.

There's lots happening in our congregation in February, but let's have a look back to what happened in January.

Many members braved the cold winter winds and snow to welcome 2013 on January 8th with a New Year's Reception. Faina Pelts welcomed everyone and introduced the musical program. The good music and food tickled souls and stomachs. Jewish, Ukrainian and Russian music filled the air and the dance floor. Friends and neighbors could catch up with news and family reports, giving everyone that "family feeling."

We want to thank everyone who helped make the evening unforgettable. We especially thank Mr. and Mrs. Bogatschik and Mrs. Arteeva for the festive meal and program, and Faina Pelts for the organization.

We welcomed a large audience on January 17th, when we co-hosted a fascinating podium discussion between two female religious leaders. Rabbi Irit Shillor and Pastor Christine Brendel illuminated how we pray; explaining the similarities and differences in Judaism and Christianity. Many questions were posed to the speakers, making for a lively discussion of a complex theme.

It is satisfying to see that our synagogue has become an important meeting place in Hamelin.

We celebrated our annual congregational Tu BiShevat Seder with Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell on January 25th. Liubov, Lydmylla and Feana created a Seder table for the "New Year of the Trees" laden with the "first fruits" and nuts, juices and wine. Together we participated in this beautiful tradition, which has its origins in the 16th century. The Seder was relaxed and fun for young and old, and Rachel gave everyone a gift of a Primrose plant, a symbol of hope and spring.

January 27th is international Holocaust Remembrance Day and recalls the liberation of the concentration camp in Auschwitz in 1945 by Soviet troops. At 7:00 p.m. the city of Hamelin will remember the victims of the Holocaust with a presentation of Anja Tuckermann's biography of Hugo Höllermann.

Several observances will be offered on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Our congregational choir "Shalom" has been invited to perform at Hamelin's main church, St. Bonifatius, on Sunday morning. In the evening we will be one of the sponsors of the city's commemoration when Anja Tuckermann will present the biography of Hugo Höllermann. The evening performance is open to the public and free of charge.

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. We appreciate any and all support.

Beitenu Concert

It's hard to believe, but we are about to celebrate our [second](#) anniversary in our new building. What better reason to celebrate and how better than with a piano concert from our very own Faina Pelts! Please join us on February 20th as we commemorate the second anniversary of the dedication of our new synagogue. Faina will offer a program of familiar music to sing along with and pieces to sit back, relax and enjoy.







Jewish February

We will celebrate Purim this year on the 14th of Adar, Sunday, February 24th at 3:00 p.m. The services will be led by Adrain Schell.

We will listen to Adrian reading from of the 100-year-old Megilah, which Rabbi Shillor donated to our synagogue last year, and read responsively in Hebrew, German, Russian and English. 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 them all.



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

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

We will gather around our festively decorated tables, sharing Hamentaschen, baked for the sixteenth year by Polina Pelts' German class. In addition, we will enjoy fruits, sweets, wine and juice and remember with gratitude how Esther saved our people so long ago.

Our festivities will end with a Purim concert from Elena Kondraschowa and Stella Perevalova from Hannover.

Rabbi Talk

Participation at our “Rabbi’s Table” has dwindled over the past months, so we’ve decided to offer this open question-and-answer session at a later hour in the hope of attracting those who would like to attend but couldn’t make an afternoon meeting due to work schedules or other obligations. Join us for an open discussion of those topics that interest you. Rabbi Shillor is pleased to field questions pertaining to religious, cultural and scientific concerns. We hope for interesting insights and new perspectives.

Torah Study

For the Jewish People, Shabbat is the holiest day of the week. Considering the small size of our congregation, our lively Friday night services are well attended. We have the opportunity to shake off the stress and worries of the week, sitting together in our beautiful sanctuary and raising our voices in prayer, meditation and song.

We also meet almost every Saturday morning for a morning service and communal luncheon, followed by a guided Torah study session. The study sessions are engaging and thought provoking, allowing everyone ample time to express opinions and thoughts. Translation is always provided and no one ever feels excluded. The sessions are led by our rabbi, rabbinical students or members. Curious? Join us next Saturday!



Annual Membership Meeting

Our members will receive an invitation to our annual membership meeting to be held on March 24th. Although we do not have elections this year, we hope everyone will come and hear the reports from the board.



Mazel Tov

Thanks to the dedicated work of our State Board of Jewish Congregations in Lower Saxony president Mrs. Katarina Seidler, she and vice president Rachel Dohme were invited to the Blue Salon of the Lower Saxony State Chancellery to sign the new State Contract providing our Jewish congregations with financial support. Present at the signing were Governor David MacAllister and Minister of Culture Dr. Bernd Althusmann.

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 and will be with you in our thoughts and prayers.



Donations — Tzedakah

We thank the following people and organizations for supporting our community life and the synagogue construction with generous donations. We thank Mrs. Elisabeth Pfeiffer, Mrs. Tatjana Meschede-Krasa, Mr. Dieter Vogelhuber, Mrs. Ursula Niedert, Mr. Adolf Späth, Mrs. Heidi Braun, Dr. Valentin Geletneky as well as Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and as always, thank you to Mrs. Ute Gibas. We also thank the contribution that was collected when the Russian Consul visited in January.

We thank the following generous donors from America and Israel: the Herz Family, Mrs. Connie Creshtool, Mrs. Gertrud Lind and Mrs. Suse Aronson, a descendent of a Hamelin Jewish family.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Winter is upon us. The wind is cold, the sky grey and the trees are bare. But inside our synagogue we hope to continue adding leaves to our tree and you can help! You can donate a leaf with an engraving in memory of special events, such as a birth, Bar or Bat Mitzwa, wedding, or other memorable occasions. Your donation contributes to the maintenance of the synagogue. Forms are available in our office. Thank you! Newly added were:

- Happy 75th birthday Dora Vinnytska from Lev Vinnytskyi
- Our Golden Wedding Anniversary from Vinnytskyi Family
- Todah Rabah In honor of Rachel Dohme from Polina and Faina
- Happy Birthday Leah Golberg from Opa, Oma and Uroma from the Golberg and Pelts families
- In Honor of Rachel Dohme, awarded the German Medal of Merit from Dr. Sally Lipsky

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We thank everyone who helps in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plans and organizes activities in our community. All the regular group activities, led by volunteers, contribute to our community life. We appreciate your commitment.

Yahrzeit in February

Anna Raik	2.12.2000 / 6.Adar I 5760
Vladimir Legkov	2.07.2003 / 6. Adar I 5763
David Saks	2.06.2008 / 30. Shvat 5768
Michael Lazer	2.05.2012 / 12. Shvat 5772

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.

Condolences

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Larisa Shapiro on the death of their beloved sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt. Larisa was a founding member of our congregation and active member. Her initiative "Russian Afternoon" was an important part of our cultural program for years. Larisa was a beloved member of our community and she will be sorely missed.



**We wish everyone a Happy 2013!
Shalom! —The Congregation Board**

[Newsletter Archives](#)

Program for February 2013 • Shvat–Adar 5773

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

Monday, February 4	12:00 noon	"Judaism" — a course in Russian with W. Pesok: "Purim"
Tuesday, February 5	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Board meeting
Thursday, February 7		Rabbi Irit Shillor's monthly visit
	6:30 p.m.	Open discussion with the rabbi — Questions and Answers
Friday, February 8	4:00 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, February 9	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Tuesday, February 12	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, February 15	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Peter Wendt & Gruppe Schalom
Saturday, February 16	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Peter Wendt
Wednesday, February 20	4:00 p.m.	Beitenu Concert — It's our new synagogue's 2 nd anniversary! Piano concert with Faina Pelts
Friday, February 22	10:00 a.m.	Hamentaschen Bakery with Polina Pelts
Saturday, February 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Sunday, February 24	2:00 p.m.	Netzer group with Adrian
	3:00 p.m.	PURIM with Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell Costumes, Graggers, Hamentaschen
	4:00 p.m.	Purim Concert with the Duo Elena Kondraschowa & Stella Peralova

Outside the congregation

Sunday, February 28	7:00 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews Annual Membership Meeting Lecture: Marie Florentine Holte: Jewish Museum Brussels Reform Lutheran Church, Hugenottenstrasse, Hameln
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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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