



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

March 2013 • Adar–Nisan 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 to continue our work.

The month of March brings with it the promise of spring. After the snows and chill of winter, Nature stretches and yawns and throws off the monotony of drab colors and tired feelings. The first green shoots poke their heads through the soil in our gardens and the first buds are visible on the charcoal-black boughs. March ushers in color, cheerfulness and of course, Pesach. The month of February was also filled with many pleasant moments, so let's take a look.



On Sunday, March 24th, the 14th of Adar, we celebrated the festive holiday of Purim. Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell led services, reading from our beautiful scroll, the Megillah Esther in Hebrew, as the congregants read responsively in German, Russian or English. We thank Rabbi Shillor for both the scroll of Esther and the tri-lingual Purim service booklets. The graggers sounded as we retold the Purim story. Many came in costume, and everyone enjoyed the delicious homemade Hamantaschen baked by Polina's Hamantaschen bakers. The sweet three-cornered cakes were filled with poppy seed, jam and lots of love.

Before services began, Adrian met with our Netzer group and prepared Schlachmones, baskets of food traditionally shared at Purim, for those who are ill or homebound. Activities such as these teach our youngsters Jewish values while having fun.

Our holiday celebration ended with a lively concert excellently performed by the Duo Elena Kondraschowa & Stella Perevalova from Hannover.



Our synagogue's second birthday was celebrated on Wednesday, February 20th. Polina Pelts gave a short history of our congregation while Rachel spoke about music's important role in Judaism. We welcomed members of the congregation and members of our foundation to a lovely concert performed by our very own Faina Pelts. Faina's voice has sweetened many Shabbat services over the past years, and so it was fitting that she began the birthday concert with songs of prayer. Her program included several Israeli pieces as well as Russian melodies familiar to many of our members. The afternoon quickly turned into a sing-along concert, enjoyed by all. Faina was thanked with hearty applause and a colorful bouquet. We congratulated ourselves after the concert with a bubbly glass of champagne before heading home with a song in our heart and the realization that our new synagogue is a small and wonderful miracle of faith. L'chayim!

## 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, and we are grateful to all involved. If you would care to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## Jewish March

March offers our members much to choose from. Actually, there's no need to choose—come to everything!



We are privileged to host Jewish educator and the vice president of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany, Debbie Tal-Ruettger, in our synagogue for a seminar on Sunday, March 3, at 3:00 p.m. She will spend the afternoon with us, leading a study session on Reform liturgy. Refreshments will be served and there is no cost to attend.

Let's get ready for Pesach! This year Pesach begins on March 25th and ends on April 2nd. Make a note to drop by the synagogue for your Pesach purchases.

The synagogue will be kosher l' Pesach on Sunday, March 24th. Please do not bring any *Chametz* in the synagogue during the week of Pesach.

We will celebrate the Festival of Freedom for the third time in our new synagogue. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead the Seder on Monday, March 25th. Please register by March 18th so we can plan the meal. We are the only congregation in Germany who still does not charge its members for Seder.

Join us for the first Seder, hear the youngest ask the Four Questions, sing Pesach songs with us and feel at home with our big Jewish family!



**We wish everyone a sweet Pesach!**



## Hanukkah in March?

Anyone who enters our synagogue is awestruck by the beautiful silver Hanukkia on our Bimah. It doesn't belong to us (yet), but we hope with everyone's help to change that. Mr. Specht of Hamelin bought the Hanukkia years ago and has offered it to us for 400 Euros (about \$530). The Hannukia was beautifully handcrafted over 100 years ago in Portugal. Dolphins grace the foot, and each movable branch is adorned with blossoms and leaves, held by a hand and can be removed. Help us insure that the Hannukia will become a permanent part of our synagogue.

We wish to thank Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, the members of Polina's German class and the many members who have contributed. All [donations](#) are welcome.

## International Women's Day

We will celebrate International Women's Day on Saturday afternoon, March 9, with an amazing Klezmer concert, sponsored by the Central Council of Jews of Germany. The nationally acclaimed "Ginzberg Dynasty" from Berlin will perform. It is certainly to be

a concert everyone will want to attend and no one will forget. We hope to see you there. Make sure to arrive early to assure a good seat. The concert is free. We ask for donations toward our Hannukia project.

## Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to us on our second birthday in our new and beautiful synagogue! Do you have Naches to share? Let us know!

## New Member

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Mr. Boris Uchitel. Mr. Uchitel comes to us from Odessa where he worked as an engineer for many years. We look forward to seeing him at our services and cultural events.

## 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: Mr. Uwe Wolandowitsch, Mrs. Sabine Demuth. Mrs. Anne Armbrrecht, Mr. and Mrs. Pesok, Mr. Lior Bar-Ami, Mrs. Edelgard Schlagmann, Albert Einstein High School class 9 and their teacher Mrs. Schroth, Mr. and Mrs. Truchsess, as well as Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and as always, thank you to Mrs. Ute Gibas. We also thank those who contributed to our Hannuka!

We thank The Canadian Friends of the World Union of Progressive Judaism for their most generous donation. We also thank Mrs. Tatjana Meschede-Krasa and family for the beautiful Etrog box. We look forward to using it next Sukkoth!

May you all be blessed for your generosity.



## Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

The first buds are showing through the snow and we yearn for the first flowers of spring. So too, should our Tree of Life sprout new “leaves.” You can donate a leaf with an engraving in honor 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 or [online](#). Thank you!

Newly added is:

In Honor of Rachel Dohme, awarded the German Medal of Merit from Wladimir and Nadya Pesok

Newly ordered from the Truchsess family is:

In honor of the birth of Matilde from her grandparents

## Thank you — Todah Rabah

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

## Condolences

We wish to express our sympathy to the Catholic churches of Hamelin on the passing of Father Otto Pischel, who was a long-time friend and staunch supporter of our community.

## Yahrzeit in March

Riva Slavinska	March 18, 2005 / 8th Adar II 5765
Gersch Kogan	March 19, 2009 / 23rd Adar 5769
Polina Khazanova	March 19, 2011 / 13th Adar II 5771
Elena Grabovska	March 28, 2012 / 5th Nisan 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.

**We wish everyone Happy Pesach 5773!**

**Shalom! —The Congregation Board**



[Newsletter Archives](#)

**Program for March 2013 • Adar–Nisan 5773**

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

Sunday, March 3	3:00 p.m.	Seminar: Reform Liturgy with Debbie Tal-Ruettger
Monday, March 4	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok “Pesach”
Tuesday, March 5	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Board meeting
Friday, March 8	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell’s monthly visit</b> Bar Mitzvah class Friday night services
Saturday, March 9	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Adrian Schell Netzer group with Adrian Concert for International Women’s Day: “The Ginzbergs” Berlin. Thanks to the friendly support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany
Tuesday, March 12	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, March 22	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit</b> Bar Mitzvah class Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor and honoured guests Judy and Josh Herz, Rochester, New York
Saturday, March 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Sunday, March 24	3:00 p.m.	Annual Membership Meeting
Monday, March 25	5:30 p.m.	<b>Community Seder with Rabbi Shillor</b> Members: no charge/Guests: 10 Euros p.Person
Saturday, March 30	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Peter Wendt
<b>Outside the congregation</b>		
Tuesday, March 5	7:30 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews, Film: “The Pianist” and discussion St. Elisabeth Church, Arntweg 17, Hameln

**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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