



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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April 2010 • Nissan–Ijar 5770

[Program](#)



Dear members, friends and supporters,

Our April newsletter begins with a description of a Kabalah Shabbat service. It is our tradition to honor all those having a birthday at the last Friday night service in the month. Those having a birthday in the month are first given the honor of lighting the Sabbath candles and leading the congregation in the recitation of the blessing. After services, a special Kiddush is offered and each person celebrating his or her birthday receives a small gift. The Kiddush table is especially festive and those celebrating surprised us with homemade cakes, cookies and champagne. Thank you Tamara and Feana! We sat together, ate and drank together, sang Shabbat songs together and had the feeling of belonging to a big, Jewish family.



The next day, our kitchen was transformed into a “Hamantaschen Bakery”. Polina Pelts and her German class were assisted by women from the congregation and the air was heavy with the fragrance of poppyseed, plums and marmalade. Busy hands created hundreds of triangular Purim baked goods from recipes handed down from generation to generation. We thank Ira Jevdokimova, Rimma Kapirovskaia, Elena Gorbacheva, Soja Varschavska, Anastasia Krivtsova, Sinaida Gogulinskaja, Tatyana Babich, Alexandra Konstantinova, Lydmilla Kevets, and Feana Engler.

On the 14th of Adar, the 28th of February, we celebrated the Purim festival with a beautiful service, led by Abraham Geiger rabbinical student Natasha Lyskovoy. Young and old were in costume and masks and the atmosphere was light and jovial. Together we read the Book of Esther, Megillah Esther in Hebrew, German, Russian and English. Naturally the reading was interrupted with whistles, graggers and other noise-makers when the name of evil Haman was mentioned. There was



much laughter and it was clear that everyone enjoyed the service, the reading and of course the Hamentaschen. Thanks to everyone who once again made our holiday so special. A special thanks to the baking team and everyone who helped prepare the day.

We also celebrated International Women's Day on March 7th with vice President Polina Pelts greeting everyone and congratulating the women of our congregation. It was a wonderfully festive day and more than 50 members and friends gathered in our rooms to mark this day dedicated to women. The men were especially attentive, honoring the ladies with flowers, sweets and champagne. In honor of the day a concert was performed in which many members took part. The performances showcased the many talents and abilities of our members. Songs and ballads were presented as well as poems, a short play and even a quiz. Matvej Dvortsis was the charming MC of the evening. There was much laughter, dancing and amusement and no one wanted the evening to end. We wish to thank the programming group, Faina Pelts, Matvej Dvortsis, Mark Ovsievych, Nadja Pesok, Valerii Bogachyk, Larissa Dvortsis, Genrietta Bachmatchnikova, Vladimyr Pesok, Dora Bogachyk, Alexandra Konstantinova, Polina Lyfschyz, Evgenija Drosdova and Svetlana Banschukova. We also wish to thank the women of our kitchen committee, Elena, Lubov and Tatjana Babich.



Last but not least is of note that our congregational president and honorary vice president of the European Union of the World Union for Progressive Judaism travelled to Paris from March 4th - 7th for the organization's Biennial conference. Our national movement, the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany, was well represented with 15 persons from various communities and organizations. Valuable workshops, thought-provoking lectures and impressive services held at various French liberal synagogues rounded the 4 day event. Rachel Dohme noted that it was especially gratifying to address the more than 250 delegates from fifteen countries, informing them about our congregation's work and activities, of special note, our fundraising CD project, "Shabbat Melodies". Many participants, among them rabbis, cantors and congregational leaders showed their support by purchasing a CD. There has been much positive feedback and we thank all who wrote. We especially acknowledge the help of Ken and Marilyn Teacher from "Friends of Progressive Judaism for their assistance at the conference.

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. 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@ighreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish April

Pesach began this year at sundown on March 29th, the 14th of Nisan, and ends on sundown on April 6th, the 22nd of Nisan. Our congregational Seder was held on Monday, March 29th, and was led by Rabbi Irit Shillor and Wladimir Pesok assisting with Russian translation. Our Seder was held in Hebrew, German and Russian. We participated in the age-old tradition, set down in our Hagaddot, using the symbolic items on the Seder plate; the roasted egg, parsley, roasted bone, bitter herbs, sweet charoset, salt water and lots of Matzah, to retell the story of our ancestors' exodus from Egyptian slavery to freedom. We never tire of hearing the words of our Exodus which recount the more than 3,000-year history of our people. The children chanted "Ma Nishtana," the Four Questions and searched for the Afikomen, the hidden piece of Matzah, which they happily ransomed off for a gift. Photos of our celebration will be posted in next month's newsletter.

Please be aware that only Pesach foods will be allowed in the synagogue during the week.

On Sunday, April 11, we will hold Yom HaShoa services with a short memorial service followed by a reading from the book *If Only the Stars Could Speak*. Dieter Vogelhuber's German class will lead the reading.

On Sunday, April 18, our youth group will meet for a Netzer Day at 11 a.m.. Their theme for the day will be Israel. Youth leaders Greta, Lior and Jehudith have a memorable day of activities planned for them. The congregation is invited to join them at 3 p.m. for their presentation in which Yom HaZikaron und Yom HaAzma'ut will be the central themes.

CD *Shabbat Melodies*

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

We are thrilled that all 500 copies have been sold in Germany, England and the US. We thank all those who have supported this project. We have just re-ordered and 300 CDs await happy listeners. Our vision to share beautiful Shabbat music and help ourselves 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.



Pesach sales

We are offering our members Israeli Matzah in one kilogram packages for 4 Euros and Manischewitz wine in ,75 liter bottles for 5 Euros. These products are certified kosher for Pesach. Supplies are limited so shop early.

New Series with Rabbi Irit Shillor

In April, we'll meet for "Rabbi's Table" as usual on Thursday, April 29th at 3:00 p.m. and discuss Schulchan Aruch. We hope to see many members and guests at both sessions.

Mazel Tov — Congratulations

- Mazel Tov to our member Mrs. Kevets on the birth of her grandson, David.
- Mazel Tov Naomi Herman, Los Gatos, California on becoming Bat Mitzvah.
- Mazel Tov to our Sören Wendt on his performance in his school's ballet.

Please share your Simchas with us.



Annual Membership Meeting

This year's annual membership meeting was held on Sunday, March 14th. Regular business, as well as a detailed report of the year's activities and a full financial report were given, allowing members the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions for next year. Each board member was thanked for their work by Rachel and presented with a potted plant. The board members thanked her and gave her a lovely bouquet of flowers. A constitutional change was unanimously voted for and Faina Pelts was unanimously elected to the board, filling the position previously held by Matvej Dvortsis. She will be responsible for cultural activities in the congregation and an active group of members interested in planning and organizing cultural events in the congregation is ready and willing to assist her.

The minutes of the meeting can be viewed in the office.

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 each and every person and organization who has purchased our CD "Shabbat Melodies" in Germany, England, Israel and America.

We also wish to recognize and thank the following people for their contributions: Rabbi Gábor Lengyl, Netzwerk Bünde, Mr. Norbert Raabe, Westermann Publishing House and Mr. Mark Schwartz.

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 227th leaf has been contributed by Netzwerk Bünde and reads: "In honor of Paul Shalom Herlinger from Netzwerk."

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 Polina Pelts German class for once again baking this year's delicious Hamentaschen.

Thanks to Heidi Braun for leading a leadership skills seminar for the board. We also thank her for writing the minutes of our annual membership meeting.

Yahrzeit in April

Tetyana Khodos	April 4, 1998 / 8 th Nisan 5758
Anna Potozkaja	April 11, 2000 / 5 th Nisan 5760
Evgenia Borischanskaja	April 26, 2004 / 5 th Iyar 5764

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 March 2010 • Nisan–Iyar 5770 5770

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

Saturday, April 3	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Monday, April 5	12:00 p.m.	“Judaism” a class in Russian with Wladimir Pesok
Tuesday, April 6	3:00 p.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
Friday, April 9	4:00 p.m.	Religious school with Lior Bar-Ami & Faina Pelts
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical Student Natascha Lyskovoy
Saturday, April 10	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with rabbinical student Natascha Lyskovoy
Sunday, April 11	4:00 p.m.	Yom HaShoah Memorial Day, Memorial service
Tuesday, April 13	4:00 p.m.	Video Afternoon with Isaak Katz
Saturday, April 17	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, April 18	11:00 a.m.	3 rd Netzer Day for youth, Theme: Israel Lead by Greta Golbereg, Lior Bar-Ami & Jehudith Weinberger
	3:00 p.m.	Yom HaAzmaut Party, led by our youth group Sweet Kiddush table
Tuesday, April 20	3:30 p.m.	Guest speaker: Mrs. Scheunpflug, German Women’s Club Topic: The Women’s City Archiv
Wednesday, April 21	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with Alexandra Konstantinova
Saturday, April 24	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, April 25	4:00 p.m.	Senior Café with Polina Pelts
Tuesday, April 27	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” art history class with Maya Olvovska
Thursday, April 29		Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit
	3:00 p.m.	Rabbi’s Table: Shulchan Aruch
Friday, April 30	4:00 p.m.	Religious school with Lior Bar-Ami & Faina Pelts
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Irit Shillor

Activities outside the community

Wednesday, April 7	8:00 pm	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews and the city Youth center, Sumpflume
	7:30 p.m.	“Waltz with Baschir” — Discussion after the film led by Pastor Martin Hoffmann. Tickets 4 Euros and 2 Euros

Archived Newsletters:

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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

Community Center: Bahnhofstr. 22, 31785 Hameln Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.jghreform.org • Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@jghreform.org