



The Jewish Community of Hamelin **Newsletter**

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April 2011 • Adar II–Nissan II 5771

[Program](#)



Dear members, friends and supporters,

The first weeks in our beautiful new Synagogue have been filled with a myriad of activities. Naturally there is a period of transition necessary. There are still boxes to unpack, pictures to hang and our day to day community life is not quite settled but all will fall into place given time.

Our friends and neighbors have shown an amazing interest in our new synagogue. We held an open door day a week after our dedication and were overwhelmed by the more than one thousand visitors who passed through our doors. School classes, church groups and clubs have signed up for tours, which we happily oblige. This form of outreach is a positive way to touch many of our non-Jewish fellow citizens and educate Hamelin's school-aged children and youth. People stop by every day and ask to see the sanctuary, always leaving with a positive idea of Judaism and Jewish life. Local residents have shared their memories and private stories with us. The new synagogue is a bridge between the past and present, a source of healing and hope.

Certainly some of our new neighbors must have wondered what was going on as they saw many of us in colourful costumes entering the building on March 19th. Rabbinical student Adrian Schell was welcomed by a happy and full sanctuary as we celebrated Purim together. Everyone had a turn reading verses of the Megillah Esther in Hebrew, German or Russian, and Haman's name was drowned out with the sound of graggers and other noise makers. The highlight was a *Purimspiel* performed by Russian-speaking members of our congregation. Valerij Bogachick wrote and directed the piece. The costumes, music and dialogue were perfectly executed. Hours of practice paid off and the play was a complete success. Watch out Broadway! The play was performed in Russian and for the few of us who couldn't understand each word, the actors' gestures told the story. It was an absolute pleasure for all in attendance. Thundering applause was well earned by Valerij Bogachick, Dorit Bogachick, Wladimir Pesok, Matvey Dvortsis, Evgenia Drozdova, Feana Engler, Eva Shkolnikova, Lev Bachmatchnikov, Viktor Schilzow, Petro Schuruov, and Faina Pelts.

After the festivities every enjoyed the delicious homemade Hamentaschen prepared lovingly by Polina Pelts' German class. We thank the Hamentaschen Bakers: Polina Pelts, Suia Varschaska, Anastasia Krivtsova, Irina Jevdokimova, Alexandra Konstantinova, Elena Gorbacheva, Elena Grabovska, Feana Engler, Lyudmyla Kravets, Dorit Bogaschik, Larisa Dvortsis, Nadejda Artamonova and Olga Gerr.

Boris Markhaseev and his dancers from "Chag Sameach" got everyone up and dancing. It was a fun-filled Purim Party for the young and the young at heart.

Of course, Schlachmones packages of sweets were prepared for the homebound. It is a lovely tradition that members visit those who weren't well enough to attend with the food baskets.

Enjoy the photo collage of the day that Adrian Schell has put together. Thank you, Adrian!

Dues

We thank all who have paid their membership dues. We are indebted to the "Friends" for their membership dues and donations too. Now more than ever, we depend on your financial support. The new synagogue will afford much upkeep and everyone is asked to help.

Please make sure to let us know if your address changes and if you have a new Email address. Sending our newsletter by Email cuts costs and affords the reader the opportunity to receive our newsletter in color.

Dedication

All of us will carry the beautiful pictures of our synagogue's dedication in our minds and memories for a lifetime. Please enjoy the photo collage that rabbinical student Adrian Schell created on the following page. We thank Adrian for the excellent pictures.

Moving Day and Cleaning Day

We wish to thank all the wonderful members and friend who helped us on moving day and cleaning day.

On moving day, no back was spared and our thanks go out to our custodian Heinrich Moos, Wladimir Pesok, Uwe Wolandowitsch, Grisha Maslovych, Aron Kaplan, Petro Schurupov, Julian Dohme, Dieter Schultz, Valerij Bogaschik, Matvey Dvortsis, Dieter Vogelhuber, Elena Gorbacheva, Liubow Pesina, Polina Pelts, Rachel Dohme, the Jugendwerkstatt, and the Integration officer, Dr. Feyzullah Gökdemir. Thank you all!

Cleaning day was no easier and our thanks go out to Elena Gorbacheva, Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, Patrizia Berhowski, Polina Pelts, Wladimir Pesok, Rachel Dohme, Heidi Braun, Peter and Elke Wendt, and Dieter Schultz.



Dedication

Nürnberg

Faina Pelts and Rachel Dohme accepted an invitation from the Ministry for Migration and Refugees in Nürnberg on March 17th. They participated in a day-long program in which projects from different Jewish organizations and congregations were presented. Three other German liberal congregations presented their projects. Our project was presented and reviewed as especially valuable for the contribution we have made to the integration of FSU Jews in Hameln. We thank the Ministry for their support.

Jewish April — Getting ready for Pesach

This year Pesach begins on April 18th and ends on April 26th. Make a note to drop by the synagogue for your Pesach purchases. The synagogue will be kosher l' Pesach on April 17th. Please do not bring any Chametz in the synagogue during the week of Pesach.

Pesach

We will be celebrating Pesach for the very first time in “Beiteinu,” our house, this year. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead the Seder on Monday, April 18th. On Pesach we recall our ancestors’ journey from slavery to freedom, from Egypt to Israel, as they wandered forty long years through the desert. Pesach reminds us that freedom can never be taken for granted and that we must work hard and consciously in order to preserve our freedom. For us, our new synagogue symbolizes that our days of wandering are finally over.

We are finally home. We won’t ever have to worry about moving again or that the rent will be increased. Our days of wandering, like those of our ancestors in the Pesach story, are over. We have arrived and it is good. We are not standing at Mount Sinai but are standing at Beitenu—our house. We share a commonality with our ancestors—our Jewish identity.

For some of us, our Jewish identity is mirrored in our love and interest in a religious and spiritual life. We rejoice in our religious services and the opportunity to deepen and intensify our understanding of the immense wealth of our religious heritage. Others find their identity through cultural associations. Jewish music and Jewish culture are their windows to Judaism. Jewish culture has been a long and vibrant aspect of Jewish life throughout the world. It was often the saving factor in times and places where no other form of Jewishness was allowed. Still others find their Jewish identity on a social level, enjoying the company of fellow Jews. No one wants to live in a ghetto but there is a certain comfort level with being with others with a shared background.

Our Jewish identity, whether it be religious, cultural or social or a blending of all, is the recipe which gives our congregation in Hamelin the sweet and pleasant “*Geschmack*.” Our congregation has always been known for its feeling of family. The atmosphere has always been welcoming and accepting. Whether we come together for Kiddush after services, for a concert of Ukrainian-Jewish music, a workshop about an upcoming holiday, or a discussion about a Russian author or a program about Chagall, we retain a respectful and accepting manner with one another. This is important, precious and something we must consciously continue. This is what makes Beitenu truly our house.

Every change brings new situations. Every new situation offers an opportunity and a challenge to find compromises and solutions. Together, as we have always done, we will find the answers.

Like a song one hears for the first time, at first strange, slowly becoming familiar each time it is repeated, and suddenly a melody sung with enthusiasm; so it is with our new home. We have built a home for the Jews of Hamelin. A home built not only from bricks and mortar but with love, patience and the belief that Jewish life in Hamelin has taken its rightful place once again. Each one of us will find his place in our new home, and every one of us will insure that what we have achieved will be cared for and passed on to those who come after us.

5. Netzertag with Jehudith

Jehudith will once again offer a “Netzer Day” on April 15th for the children and youth of our congregation. Jehudith always comes with great ideas, providing fun and something to think about. Please make sure the children are dropped off punctually, parents!

New Course: Hebrew for Adults

Our member Israel Edelstein would like to offer a new course, Hebrew for adults. Serious participants can register through our office. The course will be held on Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

“Friends”

We welcome two new members to our “Friends”: Mrs. Nina Zabolina and Mr. Norbert Baum. We look forward to seeing you.

Mazel Tov

We congratulate our board member Aron Kaplan on being honored by the city of Hameln for his volunteer work in our congregation. Mazel Tov Aron!

We congratulate our former rabbinical student, Alina Treiger on her rabbinical investiture on March 27th in Oldenburg.

Donations — Tzedaka

We are grateful to the many people who continually support our work and help us maintain our new synagogue.

We thank all those who contributed so generously: Edith Hövelmann, the Liberal Congregation of Bad Pyrmont, Hans and Johanna Weltner, Rachel Dohme, Harold and Eva Brown, Heinz-Helmut Sobotka, Barbara Lorenz-Vollmers, Dr. Ulrich Knufinke, Gerda Herste, Norbert Baum, Dr. Ivo and Kirsten Schwartzkopf, Mr. and Mrs. Wandelt, Dieter Schultz, Anneliese Armbrecht, and Sabine Demuth.

We thank Mr. and Mrs. Garbe for their most generous contribution on Open Door Day. We thank all our guests and visitors for coming and contributing more than 1000 Euros in honor of the day.

We thank the Lenze Company for their generous contribution.

We thank the Central Council of Jews of Germany for their grant.

We thank our American friends for their contributions: Rabbi Arnold Zoref.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Tree of Life — Etz Chajim

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 maintain our new synagogue!

Thanks — 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.

Thanks go out to all who help on moving day, cleanup day, Open Door Day and Purim.



Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the Khazanov family on the death of their beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Polina Khazarnova, who passed away on March 19, 2011.

April Jahrzeit

Tetyana Khodos	April 4, 1998 / 8 Nisan 5758
Anna Pototcaia	April 11, 2000 / 6 Nisan 5760
Eugenia Boraschanskai	April 26, 2004 / 5 Iyar 5764

Shalom

—Your Synagogue Board

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Program for April 2011 • Adar II–Nissan 5771

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

Monday, April 4	12:00 noon	“Judaism,” a class in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, April 5	3:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, April 8	4:00 p.m.	Religious class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
Saturday, April 9	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
Monday, April 11	12:00 noon	Information meeting: “New welfare laws” with F. Pelts
Thursday, April 14		Rabbi Shillor’s visit
	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table”: The Haggadah
Friday, April 15	4:00 p.m.	Religious class
		Netzer day with Jehudith
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, April 16	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Monday, April 18	5:00 p.m.	Community Seder
Wednesday, April 20	11:00 a.m.	Russian Literature Club with A. Konstantinova
Saturday, April 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Sunday, April 24	3:00 p.m.	Senior Café with P. Pelts
Tuesday, April 26	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja, Art History class
Friday, April 29	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with F. Pelts & P. Wendt
Saturday, April 30	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme

Activities outside the community

Sunday, April 17	5:00 p.m.	House of World Religions, Steinbergen Lecture: “Joy in Judaism” with Rabbi Shillor
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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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