



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



[JHG Home](#)

April 2012 • Nissan–Iyar 5772

[Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

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



Every last seat was taken in the sanctuary a day before Purim this year. The reason was the Purimspiel “Esther” performed by Valerij Bogachick’s theatre group, which included Valerij Bogachik, Feana Engler, Volodymyr Pesok, Matvej Dvorsis, Evgenia Drozdova, Eva Shkolnikova, Nadja Pesok, Evelina Nikolaisen, Viktor Shilzov and Lev Bachmatchnikov. Dora Bogachik and Petro Schurupov were the narrators, and Faina Pelts added the musical touch on the piano. The actors performed their hearts out to the delight of all in attendance. Although the play was performed in Russian, language was no barrier. We thank everyone involved.

We celebrated Purim the next day with Rabbi Irit Shillor. On Erev Shabbat and Shushan Purim, Rabbi Irit presented our congregation with a Megillah Esther. We thank her for this very generous gift and the pleasure of hearing her read the Purim







story from our very own scroll. The celebration ended as they always do in our congregation—around the Kiddush table. Everyone enjoyed the delicious and sweet homemade plum and poppy filled Hamentaschen baked by the experienced team including Feana Engler, Elena Gorbacheva, Nadja Krivtsova, Sinaida Gogulinska, Alessandra Konstantinova, Lyudmyla Kravets, Larisa Dvortsis, Ioulia Berhovski, Dora Bogachik, Olga Gerr und naturally, Polina Pelts. One could taste the love in every single bite! The Jewish tradition of preparing food baskets (Schlachmones) for homebound members was fulfilled, and we thank everyone who helped deliver them.

The Shabbat morning minyan enjoyed in-depth study with Rabbi Irit and the scroll the next morning. The scroll has an honored place in our ark next to our two Torah scrolls.

### Annual Membership Meeting

We are pleased to announce that congregational president Rachel Dohme was re-elected. Polina Pelts was also re-elected to the position of vice president. Board members are Faina Pelts, Olga Gerr and Peter Wendt.

Aron Kaplan decided not to run for a board position again. The congregation thanked Aron for his many years of faithful service and presented him with a beautiful watch engraved



with the words “With deepest thanks from your Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln—Hineni.” Aron promised to continue his service to the community wherever and whenever he can. We know he is a man of his word. Dieter Vogelhuber was also thanked for his many years as treasurer of the congregation and for his expertise and active participation.

The membership meeting was well attended. We especially thank Heidi Braun for writing the protocol. The minutes of the meeting are available in the office.

### **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](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

### **Vacation**

Our office will be open, but Synagogue secretary Faina Pelts will be on vacation from April 2nd to April 11th.

### **Jewish April**

Let's get ready for Pesach! This year Pesach begins on April 6th and ends on April 14th. Make a note to drop by the synagogue for your Pesach purchases.

The synagogue will be kosher P' Pesach on April 5th. Please do not bring any Chametz in the synagogue during the week of Pesach.

We will celebrate the Festival of Freedom for the second time in our new synagogue. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead the Seder on April 6th. We recall our people's exodus from slavery to freedom, and we celebrate the journey from the desert to Sinai. A new era began for our people just as we have experienced a new beginning here in Hamelin. We have truly taken ownership of our new synagogue during the past year. We've welcomed more than a thousand guests this past year, sharing the beauty of our religion with them. Our synagogue doors are open to Elijah all through the year.

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!**



### **Jom HaShoah Memorial Day**

The following sentences were found on the wall of a cellar where a few Jews hid from the Nazis during the entire war:

“I believe in the sun, even when it doesn't shine. I believe in love, even when I don't feel it. I believe in God, even when He is silent.”

We will hold a memorial service on Thursday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will never forget.

### **Refu'ah Shlemah — Get well soon**

We pray for the complete recovery of all who are ill. We will recite Mi Sheberach for them during services.

### **Tzedakah — Donations**

We thank our members and friends, who support our community life and the building of our synagogue with generous donations.

We thank the Hamelin Society of Christians and Jews, the 4th grade class of the Elementary school Sonnenthal in Hessisch Oldendorf, the 9th and 10th grade classes of the Schieder-Schwalenberg Middle School, Mrs. Anne Armbrecht, Mr. Mark Lazer, Mr. Hans Weltner and Rachel Dohme.

May they all be blessed for their generosity.

### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

Spring has sprung! Add new leaves to our tree. The tree offers our members, friends and supporters the opportunity for two mitzvot (good deeds) at once. One can commemorate special occasions, such as births, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, weddings, Yahrzeits and special honors, and also support the maintenance of our synagogue. Thank you!

### **Mazel Tov**

We congratulate the newly elected synagogue board.

### **Todah Rabah — Thank you**

We thank everyone who helped in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped make International Women's Day and Purim so enjoyable. Special thanks to the Purimspiel actors and Hamentaschen bakers!



### **Condolences**

Heartfelt condolences to the Breuste family on the death of Hans Jürgen Breuste. Mr. Breuste designed the memorial in front of our synagogue.

### **Yahrzeit in April**

Tetyana Khodos — April 4, 1998 / 8 Nisan 5758

Anna Pototcaia — April 11, 2000 / 6 Nisan 5760

Eugenia Boraschanskai — April 26, 2004 / 5 Iyar 5764

Boris Frid — April 28, 2011 / 24 Nisan 5771

May their memory be for a blessing. Kaddish will be recited during our Shabbat services. Yahrzeit candles can be bought at the community.

**Shalom and a sweet Pesach!**

**The Community 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

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln • Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: [www.ighreform.org](http://www.ighreform.org) • Email: [igh@ighreform.org](mailto:igh@ighreform.org)

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: [racheldohme@ighreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@ighreform.org)

[Newsletter Archives](#)

## Program for April 2012 • Nisan–Iyar 5772

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

Monday, April 2	12 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian
Tuesday, April 3	1:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
		<b>Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit</b>
Thursday, April 5	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Relationships from a Reform perspective
Friday, April 6	4:00 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	<b>Congregational Seder</b>
Saturday, April 7	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F.Pelts & R. Dohme
Saturday, April 14	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Monday, April 16	5:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews “Jewish-Christian Dialogue: Passover and Easter” Peter Wendt and Hans-Georg Spangenberg
Wednesday, April 18	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Thursday, April 19	5:00 p.m.	<b>Jom HaShoah memorial service</b> R. Dohme, W. Pesok and Gruppe Shalom
		<b>Student rabbi Adrian Schell’s visit</b>
Friday, April 20	4:00 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with student rabbi Adrian Schell
Saturday, April 21	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with student rabbi Adrian Schell
Tuesday, April 24	11:00 a.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with I. Lipovitsch, Bad Pyrmont Art History class
Saturday, April 28	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F.Pelts & P. Wendt
Sunday, April 29	3:00 p.m.	“Young and Jewish Jr.” with Marysol Fischer
<b>Activities outside the community</b>		
Monday, April 16	7:00 p.m.	Opening of the school project “Theresienstadt” Auditorium of the Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium, Hameln
Tuesday, April 24	7:00 p.m.	School project “Theresienstadt”; “Andorra” by Max Frisch Auditorium of the Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium, Hameln