



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

April 2013 • Nisan-Ijar 5773

[JGH Home](#) [Program](#)

**Dear members, friends and supporters,**

**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 April will hopefully bring a few sunbeams along with showers so that the flowers will bloom. We are all winter weary.

This past month in our community mirrored our lives, bringing sad as well as happy moments. Let's turn the calendar page back and have a look.

We enjoyed a foot stomping, knee slapping, concert with Klezmer greats, "The Ginzberg Dynasty" from Berlin in honor of International Women's Day. The men of the congregation opened the afternoon with poems and red carnations for all the ladies. Our members and many guests filled the sanctuary, and extra chairs had to be found and set up to accommodate the large crowd. It was a joyous and unforgettable performance, and we thank the Central Council of Jews of Germany for their support, which made this concert possible. Sharing our Jewish culture with our non-Jewish neighbors is a positive vehicle for outreach. Music is an international language that needs no translation.





### **We did it!**

Thanks to so many contributions, large and small, we managed to raise the 400 Euros (about \$530) needed to buy the beautiful silver Hanukkia, which has been on loan in our synagogue for the past several weeks. Mr. Specht, a local Hamelin citizen, bought the Hannukia in an antique store years ago. 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.

We wish to thank everyone who contributed: Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, the members of Polina's German Class, the members of Dieter's German class, Mr. Lior Bar-Ami, Mrs. Faina Pelts, our congregational choir Shalom, and many anonymous contributors. Everyone has helped to insure that the Hanukkia is where it should be—in our synagogue!

On Shabbat Ha Gadol, March 22nd and 23rd, we were honored with a visit from Josh and Judy Herz from Rochester, New York. Josh is the son of Higa and Art Herz, of blessed memory. “Art the Heart” as he was known to many, was instrumental in organizing support in the Rochester Reform Temple Brith Kodesh for our synagogue construction. Art was assisted by many in the Rochester community; of special mention was and is Gertrud Lind. Besides organizing fundraisers for our building project, they opened many a door and heart to our situation in Hamelin. Art worked tirelessly for healing and dialogue. It was as much an honor for us as for Josh that Rabbi Shillor asked him to carry the Torah at Saturday morning services in honor of his father.

On Sunday, March 24th, we held our annual membership meeting. We had a reasonably good turnout and lively discussions. The minutes of the meeting will be available in the office.

We are still awed when we realize we are celebrating Pesach for the third year in our beautiful new synagogue. Rabbi Shillor led the Seder with more than sixty in attendance. Our amazing kitchen team set the tables, shimmering with our best white tablecloths, a happy collection of Seder plates, ruby red sweet wine and juice and fresh, crispy Matzot. The Seder was lively, happy and fun. Sascha found the Afikomen buried under the Kippot and ransomed it to the rabbi for some Pesach Gelt and chocolates. Delicious Matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, piping hot mounds of potatoes and salads filled our stomachs, leaving just enough room for Passover cakes, enjoyed by all.



**We wish everyone a sweet Pesach.**

**The holiday ends on April 1st.**

### **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 April**

Please join us on Monday, April 8th, to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust on Yom Ha Shoah. Our memorial service will begin at 5:00 p.m. We will never forget: The silence of the Six Million. The silence of the others. The silence of remembering. Let us remember them.

We will end the month on a happy note when we celebrate Lag B'Omer with a community picnic, as we do every year—in the garden of the Reformed Lutheran Church. We hope for good weather, happy faces and lots of delicious food to share with friends and neighbors.





## Women of Reform Judaism

The Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) visited Israel and Berlin as part of their Centennial Celebration Mission. The group of twenty-two women from WRJ chapters in North America spent the last two days of their trip in Berlin. The WRJ was established in 1913 and today represents more than 80,000 women in more than 500 chapters internationally. We hope the next new chapter will be in Hamelin! The WRJ is known for its service to the Jewish people and especially for their work in strengthening the development of Reform Judaism worldwide. The WRJ's YES Fund supports among other projects rabbinical students. Locally the YES Fund supported our community in the development and publication of the first book to be used in the German public schools solely about Reform Judaism, *My Judaism*. The book is now a part of

religious education in the public schools in our city and county schools.

At the invitation of WRJ President Lynn Magid Lazar, our president, Rachel Dohme, joined the group in Berlin for Shabbat. Beginning with a Shacharit service and ending with Havdallah, the women spent the day exploring Berlin. Before Havdallah, Rachel told the story of our congregation's establishment and development and synagogue construction of the first newly constructed Reform synagogue in post-war Germany. She also spent time explaining the situation for Reform Jews in Germany today with all its complexities and challenges. It was a wonderful day!



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM  
*stronger together*

## Netzer Hamelin

The youth of our congregation look forward to their monthly get-togethers with youth leader Adrian. Fun is always on the agenda as the young people discover through activities, discussions and projects their Jewish identity, as individuals and as a group. Information about summer camp is now available in the synagogue.



## Rabbinical Ordination in Erfurt

This year's ordination ceremony of the Abraham Geiger College will take place on April 10th in Erfurt. Our rabbinical student Adrian Schell and Alexander Nachama are in this year's graduating class. We all say Mazel Tov and wish these two fine young men all the best in their future work as spiritual leaders. Our synagogue board will travel to Erfurt to share Adrian's special day with him.

## Congregational Concert

Our congregation is blessed with many creative members. It can certainly be said that our congregation is very musical. Anyone who has been to our services can attest to the “music of the heart” that fills our sanctuary weekly. It seems then only natural that our two choirs perform a spring concert for us and for as many guests who choose to come and enjoy the afternoon with us on Sunday, April 21st. We’ll begin at 4:00 p.m. See you there. As always, the concert is free but donations are always welcome.

## International Women’s Group

Our congregation is proud to have been an active participant in many inter-religious programs throughout the years. We take inter-religious dialogue seriously and feel it is part of our tradition as Reform Jews. One of the groups we are part of is a multi-faith women’s group. Usually we meet three times a year, and each year has a motto or theme. This year we decided our topic would be religious music. We have planned four meetings this year, one at each house of worship and each program emphasizing the music of that religion. The final meeting will be held in our synagogue and showcase all three monotheistic religions and their music. Beginning on April 9th at 5:00 p.m., we will meet at the Hunoldstrasse Mosque for an afternoon of Islamic music. Jewish music will be performed in our synagogue on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and Christian music on June 4th at the Lutheran Reformed Church with the final concert in our synagogue on June 23rd. We hope you will join us!

## Mazel Tov

Do you have Naches to share? Let us know!

## New member

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Mrs. Sandi Firstel of Vernon Hills, Illinois. Mrs. Firstel was moved by the story of our congregation’s rebirth. She was part of a WRJ Centennial Mission to Israel and Germany this March. After hearing our president, Rachel Dohme, address the group, she spontaneously decided to offer a year’s membership dues and become a member. While we can’t expect to see Sandi at services, she does hope to get her community interested in our community. Let’s hope she succeeds!

## 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. Klein, Friends of Israel, Mrs. Fricke, Lutheran Women’s group, the Drejzer family, Mrs. Marina Hasina, Mrs. Faina Pelts, Mr. Karl-Heinz Schnell, our synagogue choir Shalom, Mrs. Wachtel-Wittrock and the 6th grade of the Humboldt High school of Bad Pymont, Mr. Hebel and the 11th grade class of the Business High School of Hamelin, Mr. Lindert and the 8th grade of the Emmerthal Middle School, Dieter’s German class, Mrs. Niedert, Mr. Wolfgang Schultner, the Ronnenberg Lutheran church, as well as Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and as always, thank you to Mrs. Ute Gibas. We also thank the contributions from our March 9th concert.

We thank the following generous donations from North America, Mrs. Sandi Firstel, Mrs. Rosanne Selfon and Mrs. Lynn Magid Lazar.

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 the birth of Matilde from her grandparents”

Newly ordered from the Drejzer family is: “In memory of my wife and our mother Sarra Drejzer”

## 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 Drejzer family on the death of beloved wife, mother, sister, sister-in-law and aunt Alla Sarra Drejzer, of beloved memory, who passed away on March 2nd. She was highly respected in our congregation and loved greatly by her family and friends.

We also wish to express our sympathy to the Jevdokimov family on the passing of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Oksana Kozlova, of blessed memory, who passed away on March 11th. She was highly respected for her wisdom and will to live.



## 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 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.

## Shalom! — The Congregation 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 2013 • Nisan–Ijar 5773**

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

Monday, April 1		Office closed
Tuesday, April 2	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Board meeting
Saturday, April 6	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Heidi Braun
Monday, April 8	12:00 noon 5:00 p.m.	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok “Yom Ha Shoah” Yom Ha Shoah memorial service
Thursday, April 11	7:00 p.m.	<b>Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit</b> In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews: Lecture, “Holy spaces” with Rabbi Irit Shillor and Deacon H-G Span- genberger
Friday, April 12	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, April 13	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Tuesday, April 16	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Saturday, April 20	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, April 21	4:00 p.m.	Congregational Concert with choirs Shalom and Benkschaft
Friday, April 26	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Rabbi Adrian Schell’s monthly visit</b> Bar Mitzvah class Friday night services
Saturday, April 27	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Schell Netzer group with Adrian
Sunday, April 28	3:00 p.m.	Lag B’Omer picnic In the garden of the ev.-ref. Church, Hugenottenstrasse Everyone please bring a vegetarian dish to share Kosher hot dogs and drinks provided

#### **Outside the congregation**

Tuesday, April 9	5:00 p.m.	Interreligious Women’s Group: “Music in our Religion” Part I Islamic Music, Mosque, Hunoldstrasse
Tuesday, April 24	7:00 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture and discussion, “Why we need God,” Speaker: Jan Ross Lutheran Free Church, Schubertstrasse 1-3