



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

April 2017 • Nisan–Iyar 5777

[JHG Home](#) [Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

Please remember to pay annual membership dues. The congregation depends on everyone to pay promptly to enable us to continue our work. Thank you!

Please note our bank information:

Sparkasse Weserbergland

IBAN: DE47 2545 0110 0031 030380

BIC: NOLADE21SWB



The clocks have sprung ahead for spring and we are ready. Festive occasions abound in April, but first a review of happy moments last month.

Remembering and honoring Jewish women and in keeping with International Women's Day, we celebrated with a gala concert from and for our members. In keeping with our tradition, the men congratulated the women with a colorful spring blossom in honor of the day. Our musicians—Svetlana, Valerij, Faina, Borys, Doroti and Valerij, Ina, Nadja and Wladimr and Peter sang their way through the afternoon and into the hearts of our members and guests. Sweet wine, pralines and cakes rounded off the happy day.

Erev Purim followed a few days later, and once again our synagogue was filled with happy chatter and a festive air. Fanciful costumes, glittering masks and the sound of noise makers created a joyful cacophony.

Rabbi Ulrike read from the Megilla Esther. Our Rabbi emerita, Irit Shillor, had donated the scroll several years ago. In addition to the Hebrew reading, members read aloud in German and Russian, allowing everyone to hear and understand.

The theatrical talents of our children's group and rabbi were showcased in a Purimspiel, *Esther*. The children had as much fun as the audience with the piece. Everyone joined in for Purim songs. Clearly the children, parents and grandparents as well as all our members look forward to many more holiday performances.

Thanks to Polina Pelts and her Hamentaschen Bakery, we enjoyed the sweet, three-corned Purim cakes afterwards. Polina and her group of bakers produced hundreds of Hamentaschen. Everyone had their fill and Purim baskets, "Schlachmones, were put aside for members who were homebound. Each basket was delivered by a member living close by, insuring a Purim visit and a detailed description of the festival for those at home, in the hospital or nursing home. We are a caring community.



The inter-religious women's group met for the first time this year. There are to be three meetings again this year. Each will take place in a house of worship and each will offer a reading and discussion from that religion's writings. We began with Pastor Sophia Sander and met in the Market Church in March. In April we are invited to hear verses from the Koran in the Hunoldstrasse Mosque. In May, the third and last session, will feature our Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg, who will read from the Torah and lead a discussion. We hope these meetings help build bridges of understanding between the three monotheistic religions.

Purim



Annual General Meeting

We held our annual meeting on March. The board and treasurer offered reports, answered questions from the members and requested suggestions from the members.

Our president, Rachel Dohme, thanked everyone for their help and support. The board members were thanked additionally with a spring bulb basket, and the board members thanked Rachel Dohme with a beautiful bouquet for her efforts.

Jewish April



Our 20th Year

A Jewish Culture Festival (the first ever in Hamelin) will be celebrated on June 11th with an open house day. The program will begin at noon and end at sundown.

The day will offer information booths and multiple opportunities to explore and experience the wonderful world of Judaism, foods, music, dance, Hebrew and much more. It has always been our intention to share our religious and cultural heritage with our friends and neighbors.

Our congregation was established 20 years ago on February 17, 1997 with 18 men and women who had a dream and a hope to reestablish Jewish life in Hamelin. We consciously decided to carry on the religious Reform tradition which was celebrated in Hamelin until the congregation and Jewish life was destroyed in 1938. Building on the shoulders of those who came before us, we have, through hard work, patience and love of Judaism created a community which is steadfast. Miracles happen every day; many of us just don't notice them. Our miracle, our synagogue, our community stands and we are indebted and grateful to all those who helped build what we have today.

In our 20th year we will celebrate our past, present and future and hope you will all take part.

Pesach

Kosher Passover products are available in the office as long as the supply lasts.

The synagogue will be made "koscher l'Pesach" for the holiday. The "Chamez-Putz" will ensure our rooms are cleaned of any foods not allowed during the week of Passover. We remind all members and guests to not bring any Chamez during the Pesach week!

Chag Kasher v' Sameach! A happy and kosher Pesach!

Rabbi Ulrike will lead us through this year's Seder on Monday evening, Erev Pesach, April 10th.

Please join us for the "Festival of Freedom." We will use Russian-Hebrew and German-Hebrew Haggadoth and retell our story, as in every generation, with symbols from the Seder plate. The youngest will ask the Four Questions, "Ma Nishtana," search for the Affikommen and receive their rewards and join together in singing "Dayenu" and other Pesach melodies.

We are certainly the only congregation in Germany that doesn't ask its members to pay for the Seder evening and meal. Our community prides itself on not charging a fee for the Seder and the delicious meal to follow. We hope we can uphold this tradition, which began with our first Seder in 1997. We do ask guests to make a contribution.

In our Jewish lives happy holidays are intermingled with days of sadness and remembrance. So it is that Wladimir Pesok will lead Yom Ha Shoah service on April 24th. The Israeli parliament established the 27th of Nisan, this year April 24th, as a Shoah memorial day. We will never forget those who came before us, and we will continue to work to re-establish Judaism here and now.



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. We appreciate any and all support.

Enjoy the banner of pictures on our Web site at www.jghreform.org.

PC Course

For the fourth time we are offering a computer course for beginners. The class runs for four Thursdays, beginning April 20th. If interested, please register in the office as space is limited.

Transportation to the Synagogue

We offer members who wish to attend services the opportunity. Call the synagogue office no later than two days prior, and we will have a minivan pickup arranged. This service is being offered to our seniors or those who cannot get to synagogue any other way.

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.



Donations — Tzedakah

We wish to thank Mrs. Gibas and Rachel Dohme for donations in March. May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Winter was upon us, but our tree needs to keep its leaves and add more. The Tree of Life 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.



Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our friend and Stiftungs member Hans Georg Spangenberg and his wife Irmi Spangenberg on the birth of their first grandchild, Lene.

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We thank everyone who helps in making our holiday and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plans and organizes activities in our community.

April Yahrzeit

Tetyana Khodos	April 4, 1998 / 8. Nissan 5758
Anna Pototcaia	April 11, 2000 / 6. Nissan 5760
Eugenia Borishanskai	April 26, 2004 / 5. Iyar 5764
Boris Frid	April 28, 2011 / 24. Nissan 5771
Juriy Lebedinskiy	April 2, 2012 / 10. Nissan 5772
Alex Voronov	April 10, 2012 / 18. Nissan 5772
Ryssja Kotschergina	April 27, 2015 / 8. Iyar 5775

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!

—The Congregation Board

[Newsletter Archives](#)

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.jghreform.org • Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 • Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@jghreform.org

Program for April 2017 • Nisan–Iyar 5777

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 8.00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 2	4:00 p.m.	20 th anniversary of the Jewish Congregation of Hamelin Festive concert and buffet. Come celebrate the rebirth of Reform Judaism in Hamelin!
Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg		
Tuesday, April 4	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Film and discussion, “You won’t get me”
Monday, April 10	5:30 p.m.	SEDER led by Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg
Tuesday, April 11	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit Pesach
	12:30 p.m.	Pesach Shiur
Monday, April 24	5:00 p.m.	Yom HaShoah led by Wladimir Pesok
Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg		
Friday, April 28	3:00 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, April 29	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Kinder Kehilla
	5:00 p.m.	Lecture: “Religion and Society”
Outside the Congregation		
Tuesday, April 4	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with Hamelin Forum, Lecture from Sebastian Krumbiegel, “Social Justice,” Lalu Hefehof, Hameln Tickets €9.50 and €7.50
Sunday, April 23	6:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews and Jewish Congregation of Bad Pyrmont: Concert “Shalom—Synagogue Music Meets Church Music,” Stadtkirche Bad Pyrmont, Friedrichstrasse 9
Thursday, April 27	5:00 p.m.	Inter-religious Women’s Group, Part II, The Koran—a reading and explanation, Hunoldstrasse Mosque

