



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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May 2011 • Nissan–Iyar 5771

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

The month of April has blown past like a fresh spring gust of wind. Pictures and plaques have been re-hung, and our new synagogue has the look of familiarity. We've enjoyed Sabbath services, held meetings, and our classes and groups are meeting regularly again. Beitenu is certainly becoming our home.

Social worker Faina Pelts offered an informative lecture after having attended a four-day seminar concerning new laws and initiatives pertaining to our members from the FSU. Our members profit in very practical ways from her newly acquired knowledge.

Since the dedication of our new synagogue, school classes and church groups have shown a great interest in visiting our new building and learning about Reform Judaism. We have always offered schools and churches the opportunity to visit us, but the new building has intensified this interest profoundly. Rachel Dohme takes great pleasure in working with these groups and sharing the beauty of our religion with them. The school children seem especially interested and fascinated and lively discussions are the result. It pleases us to see how accepted our new community center is and that it truly is a meeting place for people of all faiths. This work functions to build bridges, break down barriers and offers true and vital interreligious outreach opportunities.

The annual memorial service in Bergen-Belsen was held on Sunday, April 17th. Dieter Vogelhuber represented our congregation and laid a wreath there.

We experience so many "firsts" with our new synagogue. This year was the first community Seder in our new synagogue. Everyone felt immediately at home. The kitchen team prepared beautiful tables, each with a Seder plate in reach. The room sparkled with the love the



ladies had put into dressing the room and tables. The Haggadoth in Hebrew, Russian and German lay ready. Rabbi Shillor led the Seder, assisted by Wladimir Pesok. We enjoyed re-telling the story of our Exodus from Egypt, the sweet juice and wine, the crunchy Matzot, and

the delicious dinner of Matzah ball soup, gefillte fish, home-made Matzah latkes and sweet cakes and fruits. There was time for catching up with neighbors and friends and of course the youngest delighted in finding the Afikomen and ransoming it for a gift. Thanks go to all who helped make our first Pesach Seder so meaningful.

Project HEART

A new restitution project, an initiative of JAFI (The Jewish Agency for Israel) was established to offer Shoah survivors or their heirs restitution for expropriation suffered during the Shoah. More information and application forms are available online at: www.heartwebsite.org.



On Sunday, May 22nd, we'll celebrate Lag B'Omer with rabbinical student Adrian Schell. We hope the weather is sunny and fine and we can barbeque in our synagogue garden for the first time. Kosher hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert.

Jewish Culture Day

The Talmud teaches us: "Charity outweighs all other religious precepts." We feel for the victims of the earthquake in Japan. The images and news reports touch us and we feel empathy with those who have lost everything through this natural catastrophe. In order to help in some small way, we have decided to offer a benefit concert, featuring musicians from our congregation. We invite our members, neighbors and friends to join us for a day of Jewish culture on Sunday, May 29th. Our synagogue choir Shalom, Duo Choloimes, our dance troupe Chag Sameach, and young Ariel Shoshyn will perform. The concert is free, contributions are welcome.

"Young and Jewish"

Our youth group, "Young and Jewish" enjoyed an outing to the city of Hildesheim. They visited the memorial for the Hildesheim Synagogue and explored Hildesheim's Jewish past. The day-long outing included a walking tour of the old city with its quaint buildings and cobble stone alleys, a visit to the city's museum, a snack at the Chocolateria and a swim to round off the day. The group of 16 returned home tired and happy after a day of learning and fun. Our special thanks go to Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, who once again planned and arranged everything for an unforgettable day.

Last Netzertag with Jehudith

Jehudith will visit us one last time before returning to Israel. Jehudith has been our movement's Schliach for the past two years and we have all grown very fond of her. We wish her all the best back home as she begins her university studies. The 6th and final "Netzer Day" this year will be held on Friday, May 6th. Jehudith will also open the AVIV exhibit on Friday. The exhibit documents the experiences of our Jewish youth movement at last year's AVIV seminar. The exhibit will be on display in our sanctuary for a month.

Sören Wendt's Bar Mitzvah

Sören Wendt will be the first youngster to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in our new synagogue. Please join Sören and his family on Shabbat Korach, June 25th, at 10:00 a.m. Sören has worked long and hard to prepare himself for this special day. We look forward to a filled sanctuary as we rejoice with this young man.

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 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Jewish May

We hope many members will join us on May 2nd at noon when we hold a short Yom Ha Shoah service, led by Faina Pelts and Wladimir Pesok. We will remember the victims of the Holocaust with Jews around the world.

On Sunday, May 8th we invite everyone to a Memorial Day program. We will remember and honor all those who fought with the allied forces against the Fascists in WWII.

On May 10th we will celebrate the 63rd Independence Day of the State of Israel. Dr. Steffen Hagemann will offer a lecture. We are pleased to co-host the evening with the Society of Christians and Jews.



ZWSt Seminars

Our new synagogue has a new information display case in our foyer. Please inform yourself by checking the postings regularly.

Mazel Tov

We congratulate Rimma Kapirovskaja on the birth of her great-grandchild! Mazel Tov !

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: Mrs. Schmidt's 11th grade class, Mr. Lucht's 6th grade class, Mrs. Spangenberg's 11th grade class, Mrs. Wendemeyer and Pastor Lonkwitz's 11th grade class, Mrs. Edelstein's 6th grade class, Mrs. Wachtel-Wittrock's 6th grade class, Pastor Hoffmann's adult discussion group, Pastor Andrea Gärtner, Mr. Martin Ney, Mrs. Emma Lebedinska, Mrs. Christa Maria Bruns, Pastor Martin Hoffmann, the Lutheran Diocese of Hameln, the Catholic Diocese of Hameln, Mrs. Michelson's 11th grade class, Hans and Johanna Weltner, the Grossart family, Mrs. Feuerhake, the Schlee family, Mr. Schultner, Dr. Peter Neumann and Rachel Dohme.

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! New leaves have been ordered by:

Emma Lebedinska: In memory of my relatives, Mira, Sima and Rachel Lomowatskiy

Christa Maria Bruns: in memory of my parents, Gertrud and Heinrich Lemke

Pastor Martin Hoffmann: In memory of my parents

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 to made Pesach such a beautiful holiday experience for all.



Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the Khazanov family on the death of their beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Polina Khazarnova. The funeral was held on April 6th.

May Yahrzeit

Betja Kholmer	May 8, 1997 / 1 Iyar 5757
Evgenia Benderskaja	May 24, 2001 / 2 Sivan 5761
Vladimir Rubanov	May 14, 2002 / 3 Sivan 5762
Sofia Kaspler	May 13, 2008 / 8 Iyar 5768

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

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Program for May 2011 • Nissan–Iyar 5771

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

Monday, May 2	12:00 noon	Yom Ha Shoah service with F. Pelts and W. Pesok
Friday, May 6	4:00 p.m.	Religious class
	5.30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg 6 th Netzer day with Jehudith and AVIV Exhibit
Saturday, May 7	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
Sunday, May 8	3:00 p.m.	Memorial Day — Day of Remembrance
Tuesday, May 10	7:00 p.m.	Yom Ha Atzma'ut 63 rd Israel Independence Day Lecture: Dr. S. Hagemann, Berlin: "The effects of violence on the Israeli society" in cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews
Wednesday, May 11	12:00 noon	Information meeting: "New welfare laws" with M. Souslovic
Saturday, May 14	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Wednesday, May 18	11:00 a.m.	Russian Literature Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, May 20	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical student Adrian Schell
Saturday, May 21	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student A. Schell
Sunday, May 22	2:00 p.m.	Lag B'Omer picnic with rabbinical student Adrian Schell Please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share Kosher hot dogs and drinks will be provided.
Monday, May 23	6:00 p.m.	Synagogue tour for members of the Society of Christians and Jews with R. Dohme
Tuesday, May 24	4:00 p.m.	"Russian Afternoon" with M. Olvovskaja Art History class Guest speaker: Inessa Lipovych, Bad Pyrmont
Thursday, May 26		Rabbi Shillor's visit
	3:00 p.m.	"Rabbi's Table"
Friday, May 27	4:00 p.m.	Religious class
	5.30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, May 28	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Sunday, May 29	4:00 p.m.	Jewish Culture Day: A Concert for Japan Program: Choir Schalom, Duo Chalomes, Dance troupe Chag Sameach and Ariel Shoshin

Jewish Community of Hameln

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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