



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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May 2012 • Iyar–Sivan 5772

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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.



We began the month by enjoying our congregational Seder together with friends, neighbors and Rabbi Irit. It was a wonderful feeling to celebrate the holiday of freedom for the second time in our synagogue. Many helping hands made the building “kosher l’pesach.” Our members bought our stores of Matzah and Maneschewitz and readied their homes as well.

Rabbi Shillor had help with Russian translation from Wladimir Pesok as we read through our Haggadot together. One of your youngest, Haakon Wendt, recited the Four Questions and the children searched and found the Afikomen. Two British students joined our celebration as our guests, reminding us of the importance of our synagogue for us as well as Jews traveling through Hamelin. The meal was superb, beautifully prepared by our kitchen team and their helpers. The fragrance of gefillte fish and matzah ball soup perfumed the air and satisfied our hunger. The family atmosphere was relaxed and happy. We thank all who helped make Pesach such a harmonious and lovely evening.

Later in the month, on April 19th, we joined for the solemn occasion of remembering those who perished during the Holocaust. Rachel Dohme and Wladimir Pesok led a moving Yom Ha Shoah service of communal prayers and readings. Our choir “Shalom” added music to the memorial service.

Six yellow candles were lit in memory of the Six Million and the names of the Hamelin Jews were read aloud in a sanctuary lit only by flickering candlelight. Sadly and quietly we returned to our homes and families, knowing we must never forget and dedicated to insuring that Judaism in Hamelin will speak the language of rebirth, hope and healing.

In our continual and conscious effort to encourage inter-religious dialogue, we hosted an evening with the Society of Christians and Jews, discussing the holidays of Pesach and Easter. Our member, Peter Wendt, and Catholic deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberg led a lively discussion and fielded many questions from the more than sixty in attendance. Serious points were made, but there were lighter moments,

too. Peter Wendt offered a short tour of the building in conclusion. Refreshments included Passover foods, including homemade Matzah cake and Matzah, which was a first for many. We intend to continue to host such evenings and do what we can to keep the lines of dialogue open.

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.

Jewish May

On May 8th our synagogue choir “Shalom” will be performing with the Viktoria-Luise High School orchestra. The evening is one of the program points of the “Theresienstadt” project the school is involved in. Our choir worked with the 6th graders, teaching them Hebrew and Yiddish songs. The students also visited our synagogue and received lessons about Judaism from Rachel Dohme. In addition, the students interviewed various members of our congregation. The project has been a great success and very well received.

We will hold our traditional 9th of May Memorial Day commemoration again this year. We remember and honor those who fought against Fascism during the Second World War. The moving service will include prayers, poems and songs and of course, honor those who fought. Please reserve a seat now.

On Friday, May 11th, we will gather in the garden of the Lutheran Reformed Church for a Lag Ba Omer picnic and Friday night service under the stars. Special thanks to our kind neighbors, who invite us to use their garden every year. Rabbinical student Adrian Schell will lead the celebration. Kosher hot dogs and drinks will be provided, but we ask everyone to add a vegetarian dish to share to our buffet table.

On Sunday, May 13th, we are hosting a Netzer Day for families of our and surrounding communities to celebrate Lag Ba Omer with games, singing, good food and fun. Marysol Fischer and Adrian Schell have worked out an exciting afternoon of activities for young and young at heart. We encourage our post Bar and Bat Mitzvah youth to attend, too.



A very special treat awaits us on May 21st when Victor Sanovec will be our guest. Mr. Sanovec will read from his newest book, *Jewish Cooking School*. There will be kosher treats to sample and the opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of the book. The evening is sponsored by our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews. The public is welcome to attend.

Jewish May will end with the sweet holiday of Shavuot. Because we share our rabbi with the Harlowe Jewish Community in England, our rabbi makes every effort to be with both congregations on all festival days. In the past, she has often offered a Tikkun leyl Shavuot, a night of learning in our congregation. This year our friends in Harlowe wish to enjoy her teaching through the night and Rabbi Irit has agreed to come to us for Shavuot breakfast and study on Sunday, May 27th. Instead of “midnight soup” we will enjoy a cheesecake and other dairy delights as we study together.

**Netzer Tag
in Hameln
Lag Ba Omer**
**13. Mai 2012
14.-17.00 h**

Für alle zwischen 6 und 14 Jahren
und Geschwister, Eltern und Großeltern.
Triff alte und neue Freunde und habe
eine Menge Spaß. Wir werden basteln,
malen, singen und grillen.

**Bitte melde Dich hier an:
0521 / 3043185
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Union progressiver
Juden in Deutschland
Diesterwegstraße 7
33604 Bielefeld

Trip to Detmold

Polina Pelts of our congregation and Hans-Georg Spangenberg of the Society of Christians and Jews are leading an excursion to the city of Detmold on May 15th. It's sure to be an interesting outing. Please reserve your seat by contacting either of them.

UPJ Seminar in our Synagogue

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany will launch a series of seminars this year. The first will be held in our synagogue on Monday, May 28th. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead the seminar. The theme is “Reform Judaism—Mizvot and Halacha.” We look forward to welcoming many of our friends from the German Reform congregations to “Beitenu,” our house.

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 and the Kolping Family Hamelin, Mrs. Hendel’s 9th grade class of the Hessisch Oldendorf Middle School, Mrs. Brauckmann and Mrs. Heilemann’s 6th grade classes of the Viktoria-Luise High School, the Foundation Former Synagogue of Stadthagen, Mr. Wladimir and Mrs. Nadja Pesok, Mr. Wolfhard Truchseß, Mrs. Elisabeth Pfeiffer, Dr. Peter Neumann, 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!

New leaves were ordered by:

Mrs. Elisabeth Pfeiffer: “Elisabeth Pfeiffer, Eldagsen honors Polina Pelts”

Wladimir and Nadja Pesok: “In honor of Rachel Dohme’s 60th birthday”

Wolfgang Truchseß: “In honor of the birth of our grandchild Klara-Liska Truchseß”

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 Mr. Wolfhard Truchseß for the lovely article in the Hamelin newspaper about our congregation.

Condolences

- Heartfelt condolences to the family of Elena Grabowska.
- Our deepest sympathies to Emma and Vladislav Lebedinska on the death of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, Juriy Lebedinynskyi.
- Our condolences to the family of Alexey Voronov.
- Our sympathies to the Herzig family in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the death of their beloved husband and father, Dr. Alfred Herzig.



Yahrzeit in May

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. Kaddish will be recited during our Shabbat services. Yahrzeit candles can be bought at the community.

Shalom and a sweet Shavuot! The Community Board

Program for May 2012 • Iyar–Sivan 5772

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

Friday, May 4	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Saturday, May 5	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and R. Dohme
Monday, May 7	12 noon	“Judaism” — a class in Russian with W. Pesok 1 st anniversary of our synagogue’s groundbreaking
Tuesday, May 8	1:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Wednesday, May 9	4:00 p.m.	9 th of May Memorial Day Commemoration. 6 Euros
Student rabbi Adrian Schell’s visit		
Friday, May 11	5:30 p.m.	Lag Ba Omer Picnic and Kabbalath Shabbat Please bring a vegetarian dish to share Kosher hot dogs and drinks provided. Ev.-Ref. church’s Garden
Saturday, May 12	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit and Torah study with A. Schell
Sunday, May 13	3:00 p.m.	NETZER DAY Lag Ba Omer Family Day with A.Schell and M.Fischer
Wednesday, May 16	11.00 a.m.	Russian Literature Club with A. Konstantinova
Saturday, May 19	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F.Pelts & P. Wendt
Monday, May 21	6:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews “Jewish Cooking School” with Victor Sanovec, Lecture and Tasting
Saturday, May 26	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and R. Dohme
Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit		
Sunday, May 27	10:00 a.m.	Shavuot Breakfast and Study. Please bring milchiges to share.
Monday, May 28	11.00 a.m.	UPJ Seminar — Reform Judaism with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Activities outside the community		
Tuesday, May 8	7:00 p.m.	School project “Theresienstadt” — “Jewish Life in Hameln” Synagoge choir “Shalom”; Cafeteria of the Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium, Hameln
Tuesday, May 15	9:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews Trip to Detmold. Organization and registration: H-G Spangenberg and P. Pelts

[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

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