



Dear members, friends and supporters,

The month of May will hopefully bring not only showers but also flowers as we in northern Germany yearn for some sun and warmer temperatures. We are honoured to welcome international Jewish visitors in our lovely synagogue, many of whom are the children and grandchildren of former Jewish citizens of Hamelin. They bring with them their Jewish identity and find ours. Were there no synagogue in Hamelin, they couldn't come, and the moving encounters couldn't take place. We feel blessed when "Beitenu"—our house—becomes their house too.



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.

The month began with Jewish Memorial Day, Yom Ha Shoah. We gathered solemnly in the synagogue on Monday, April 8th, to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust. The moving memorial service was held, as all our services are, in Hebrew, German and Russian. With deep respect six members came forward and lit six yellow candles to commemorate the murdered 6 Million.

Mother and daughter, Claudia and Marysol Fischer, read the names of the 102 Hamelin victims of the Holocaust. Hearing the seemingly unending list of names felt like a knife in the heart as we remembered those who came before us. Recalling them by name brought them back to us for a moment.



Rabbinical Ordination in Erfurt

Our rabbinical student Adrian Schell and Alexander Nachama received S'micha on April 10th in the New Synagogue of Erfurt. Two rabbis and two cantors celebrated their ordination under the interested eye of the German media, various guests and well-wishers. Among the distinguished guest speakers was the Minister President of the State of Thuringen, Mrs. Christine Lieberknecht. The entire synagogue board travelled to Erfurt to share in Adrian's joy on the day of his ordination. What a pleasure it was to see and share Adrian's happiness on this momentous day.

Rabbi Shell wishes to share his thoughts and feelings with our members and readers:



Dear members and friends,

I want to thank you all. My studies would not have been as satisfying and successful had it not been for the unconditional support of the Hamelin congregation. I learned, grew and developed so much with and from you all, gained so many experiences, all of which made my journey toward becoming a rabbi so much more meaningful. I look back on the many beautiful services we celebrated together, the happy as well as the sad moments, which taught us all so many valuable lessons. The opportunity to work with you as a congregation, the opportunities you offered me and your feedback were all very important to me. The honest and open manner with which you treated me helped me to arrive where I am today.

My learning does not end with my ordination. Many colleagues and friends have told me that this is just the beginning. I'm thrilled

that I can continue my learning in and with you in Hamelin. I am also very happy that Rabbi Irit Shillor will continue to help me carry on her work in the congregation and become the best rabbi I can.

I thank the members and the board for your belief in me and look forward to our future together.

Your Rabbi, Adrian

The month of April ended on a musical note or rather many musical notes. There were more guests than chairs as we opened our synagogue doors to members, friends and neighbors for a concert of Jewish music from our two choirs, "Shalom" and "Benkschaft." Not many congregations of our size can boast of two talented musical groups. Rachel Dohme praised the members of both choirs in her opening remarks: "We thank you for your voluntary work in our congregation. Your voices and song have reawakened Jewish culture in our city and you have helped to share our traditions in and outside of the synagogue walls. We commend and thank you for this vital sign of cultural integration, something we, as a Reform congregation, strive for. Music is the language of the heart that needs no translation. Many thanks for all the generous donations, totaling more than 300 Euros. Faina, Nadja, Larissa, Genrietta, Dora, Mark, Valerij and Uwe—music to our ears!"



Netzer Hamelin

The youth of our congregation look forward to their monthly get-togethers with youth leader Adrian.

One of the special programs was the Aviv Seminar in Israel in March and one of our teens, Patrizia, took part. In her own words:

"The seminar was wonderful. There were so many awesome people in attendance and it was so much fun! I only regret that the time went by so quickly, even if we ate matzah all the time. I can't wait for the next seminar!"

Off to Bad Segeberg for kids and teens, aged 8 to 14, May 17-20, for a Mini-Machene. Campfires, study night, singing, dancing and lots of fun await. We'll celebrate Shabbat, enjoy the great outdoors, relax and have a great time being together. The Madrichim Team looks forward to seeing you there, so get your parents to register you by May 4th. The four-day weekend costs €50 for lodging, food and program. Registration forms are available through Rabbi Adrian Schell: mschell@upj-netzer.de or 0521-3043185.

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp will be held near Salzburg, Austria this year. Camp dates are July 28–August 11. The two-week session for 8–18 year-olds costs €380 and includes everything. Adrian and the Madrichim Team look forward to seeing all the Hamelin kids there and have a super program prepared. We offer each and every child a stipendium, and the Youth department will gladly assist families in need. Registration forms are available in the office and online at www.upj-netzer.de.

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 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. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish May

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 Tuesday, May 14th, we will celebrate Erev Shavuoth services with Rabbi Adrian Schell. After services we will feast on dairy dishes and hope everyone has new and delicious recipes to share. The Tikkun this year will revolve around the topic of "Israel"—appropriate as we celebrate the State of Israel's 65th birthday. We look forward to meeting and greeting many members and friends and hope the evening will give everyone "food for thought."

The interreligious Women's Group has chosen "Music in Religion" as this year's topic. Part I was Islamic music in the Hunoldstrasse Mosque. A girls' choir performed several pieces, and a short talk on music in Islam followed. A discussion over tea and cakes rounded off the afternoon. Part II, "Music of the Synagogue," will take place in our synagogue on May 7th. We look forward to welcoming many for the afternoon program. Music opens the heart, allowing this form of dialogue to bring us closer together.



19th annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 19th annual conference of the UPJ will be held July 11–14 in Berlin. Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars will be offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. We're thrilled that New York Sofer Neil Yerman will attend. Moving services in Hebrew, German and Russian will also be celebrated. We hope many of you will attend. Information is available online at www.liberales-juden.de (Jahrestagung 2013)

Mazel Tov

We congratulate our vice president Polina Pelts on being selected for the series "Portraits of Volunteers in Hamelin" in our local newspaper. It's a glowing article about a brilliant person!

Can we say it often and loudly enough? Mazel Tov Adrian Michael Schell on your rabbinic ordination! Do you have Naches to share? Let us know!

New member

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Mr. Villen Feldmann.

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: Dr. Peter Neumann, Pastor Longwitz and the 11th grade class of the Eugen-Reinjes School, Klein Berkel church group, Mrs. Heilemann and the 6th grade class of Victoria Luise High School, Mr. Adolf Späth and the Höxter Free Masons, Mrs. Lemon and the Volksen Lutheran Confirmation class, Psychiatric day clinic Hameln, Mrs. Droge and the 4th grade class of the Hessisch Oldendorf elementary school 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 April 21st concert.

We thank Josh and Ruth Herz, Rochester, New York, USA, for their generous donation.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

The first flowers are gracing the boughs of the trees 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:

“In memory of my wife and our mother Sarra Drejzer from the Drejzer family”

Newly ordered from Anne Armbrrecht and Sabine Demuth:

“In honor of the life of Josif Pelts”

“Yahrzeit of Yuriy Lebedynskyi”

Newly ordered from the Jevdokomov family:

“In memory of our beloved mother Oksana Kozlova from Irina and Eugen”

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We all thank the members of our two choirs, “Shalom” and “Benkschaft,” for the amazing concert they gave on the 21st of April.

We thank everyone who helps in making 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.

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 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

Program for May 2013 • Ijar–Sivan 5773

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

Wednesday, May 1		Office closed
Thursday, May 2	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Board meeting
Saturday, May 4	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Monday, May 6	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok “Shavuoth”
Tuesday, May 7	5:00 p.m.	Interreligious Women’s Group “Music in our Religion” Part II Jewish Music
Thursday, May 9	4:00 p.m.	9 th of May Memorial Day Commemoration, 8 Euros per Person
Friday, May 10	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with “Shalom” and P. Wendt
Saturday, May 11	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & P. Wendt
Tuesday, May 14	5:30 p.m.	Rabbi Adrian Schell’s monthly visit Erev Shavuoth services and Study Night Please bring a dairy dish to share!
Friday, May 17	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, May 18	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Schell Netzer group with Rabbi Adrian
Sunday, May 19	11:00 a.m.	“Important information about a hospital stay” with Ioulia Berhovski
Tuesday, May 21	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Saturday, May 25	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & H. Braun
Monday, May 27	12:00 noon	New! “Let’s talk politics” with S. Koudinov
Thursday, May 30	7:00 p.m.	Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews: Lecture, “The concept of a Messiah in Judaism” with Rabbi Irit Shillor and Deacon H-G Spangenberg
Friday, May 31	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, June 1	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Outside the congregation		
Sunday, May 26	5:00 p.m.	Lecture: “God after Auschwitz” with Rabbi Adrian Schell House of Religion, Steinbergen

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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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