



Dear members, friends and supporters,

The congregation depends on everyone to pay dues promptly in order to enable us to continue our work.

The beautiful month of May welcomes us with a spring designer collection of colors in every imaginable hue and pattern! Nature has awakened and beauty abounds. Let's hope the good weather continues so that we can enjoy a Lag B'Omer picnic under blue skies.



Let's review our congregational events in April.

On Monday, April 28, we observed Yom HaShoah. Rachel Dohme and Wladimir Pesok led a short memorial service, which began with the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. The flickering light of the six yellow candles shed soft light in the darkened sanctuary. Prayer and text followed, and especially moving was the recitation of the names of the Hameln Jewish victims of the Holocaust read by father and son, Peter and Sören Wendt. Larissa Bellgardt and Faina Pelts offered a Ningun and the piece "Dona, Dona" beginning and ending the service. We will never forget!

Members and guests enjoyed a concert from the Cologne klezmer group "Klezmer Tunes Band," thanks to the financial support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany. This program makes it possible for small congregations to receive professional Jewish artists twice a year. Dmitri Schenker (clarinet), Igor Marizky (violin) and a guitarist performed a varied program from jazz to klezmer to the delight of all in attendance. We thank the artists, the Central Council and all the music enthusiasts for the lovely afternoon and contributions.

We thank "Aktion Mensch" for help and support for seed monies, which address the needs of our older congregants. Polina Pelts organizes the monthly get-togethers. These programs have been very well received and are as informative as they are entertaining. We thank Polina for all her hard work and logistical talent. In April a Pesach Breakfast was held, and Maya Olvovska lectured on the works of J. Mandelstamm. In May, Polina invites all to attend on Sunday afternoon, May 25th, when Samuel Koudinov will present the biographies of better- and lesser-known FSU Jewish composers. Selections will be performed by Faina Pelts and Larissa Bellgardt. We hope for another full house and all are welcome to attend.

On Monday, April 14th, the members one by one and in groups happily filled the synagogue for our community Seder. The tables were lovingly set on crisp white tablecloths, Seder plates were filled with spicy Charoset and the other ritual foods and objects, and Haggadot in Hebrew–German or Hebrew–Russian offered everyone the opportunity to actively follow Rabbi Adrian Schell's lead, supported and assisted by Wladimir Pesok. The meal was delicious and bountiful and little Elias was proud to have found the Afikomen. All the children were rewarded with a gift.

We welcomed guests from Bielefeld and Berlin—it's wonderful to see that our warm and inclusive atmosphere is felt by others. Sitting together we relived the ancient story of our deliverance from slavery to freedom and reflected upon our own spiritual journey throughout the past 17 years of our congregation's existence. We thank everyone who helped make this community affair such a success and so meaningful to so many.

Please enjoy the photo collage on the next page and get a feel for our wonderful Holiday of Freedom. Thanks to Adrian and Chayim for the beautiful pictures.



Jewish May

There will be many reasons to be in the synagogue this month—let's have a look:

Shabbat and Victory Day coincide this year, and we feel it is the perfect opportunity to celebrate both together. Rabbi Adrian will lead Friday night services and we will honor Erev Shabbat. After services are concluded we will honor those who fought to end WWII and remember those on the 9th of March 9, Victory Day. A Kiddush table awaits all as we observe Shabbat and remember those who fought against tyranny. Please join us.

Sofer Niel Yerman will be our honored guest for several days. Sofer Yerman is the husband of our loyal friend and supporter, Rabbi Dr. Jo David of New York City, USA. Sofer Yerman will be concluding a one-month scholar's visit in Germany. Our national movement, the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany, hosted his visit, which allowed him to serve many Reform German congregations.

Sofer Yerman will end his trip with a visit to our congregation, and we are offering two opportunities to meet him and watch him work. On Monday evening, May 12th, Sofer Yerman will examine our scrolls and explain his work. The following morning at 11:00 a.m. he will continue, answering any and all questions, making this a learning experience for all. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy this unique opportunity to look over a scribe's shoulder. Don't miss this!

Lag B'Omer — The holiday of Lag B'Omer falls this year on May 18th. "Lag" is a word constructed from the Hebrew for the number 33. According to legend, a horrible plague befell the students of the great Rabbi Akiva, but on the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer, the plague miraculously ended. It has become traditional on this day to celebrate with picnics and bonfires. It is a time of celebration and we intend to celebrate!

As is our tradition, we will celebrate this happy holiday with a picnic in the garden of our kind neighbors, the Reformed Lutheran church. The picnic will be held on May 18th and the service will be led by our Rabbi Adrian. We ask everyone to bring either a vegetarian salad or a desert. Kosher hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the congregation. We hope to see many members and guests there and wish to thank Pastor Sander and her congregation for this annual show of hospitality.

Rabbis for Hamelin

Our Rabbi Irit Shillor has served our congregation with monthly visits since 2001. She has helped us create the congregation we have today. We are pleased she will continue coming to us, leading services, giving lectures and continuing to work on improving our religious texts, making them accessible to all our members.

We are pleased to announce that Rabbi Adrian Michael Schell will also serve us with monthly visits. He will lead us through services and the High Holidays, offer courses and seminars and work with our youth.

The conscious decision to have rabbinical guidance and presence every two weeks ensures our place as a viable Reform congregation. Financially this will be no easy task and we appeal to you, dear readers, to help us achieve this goal through your generosity.

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.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our friend and loyal supporter, Rabbi Jo David, New York City, on receiving her doctorate. Congratulations Rabbi Dr. Jo!

Do you have Naches to share? Let us know and we'll print it in next month's newsletter for all to see!

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 thank the following for their contributions to our congregation or our synagogue fund: the Lutheran Congregation of Halle, Heyen, Ottenstein-Vahlbruch and Kirchbrak-Hunsen, Dr. Peter Neumann, Mrs. Anneliese Armbrrecht, Mr. Wolfgang Albat, Mrs. Nina Zabolina and Mr. and Mrs. Jaffee.

We thank Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Uta Gibas for their monthly contributions.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Spring has sprung and our tree has added a new leaf. Please do your part and help a few more grow! 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.

A new leaf was donated from Mrs. Nina Zabolina:

“In memory of my husband, Samouil Chtchoutchinski, May 15, 2001”

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We wish to thank everyone once again who helped make our Pesach Seder so beautiful. We thank everyone who helps in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plans and organizes activities in our community.

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



[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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Program for May 2014 • Iyar–Sivan 5774

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

Saturday, May 3	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services & Torah study with S. Koudinov
Monday, May 5	12 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Thursday, May 8	10:00 a.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
Rabbi Adrian Schell’s visit		
Friday, May 9	1:00 p.m.	Rabbi’s office hours
	4:00 p.m.	NEW! Judaism from A to Z with Rabbi Adrian
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Adrian and Memorial Day services
Saturday, May 10	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Adrian
	2:00 p.m.	NETZER Hameln with Rabbi Adrian
Monday, May 12	6:00 p.m.	Sofer Neil Yerman, NYC, “A Sofer’s Work,” in cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews
Tuesday, May 13	11:00 a.m.	Sofer Neil Yerman, NYC, Questions and Answers
	5:00 p.m.	Interreligious Women’s Group: Part III “Food & Religion” in the community center of the Reformed Lutheran Church, Hugenottenstrasse
Rabbi Adrian Schell’s visit		
Friday, May 16	4:00 p.m.	NEW! Judaism from A-Z with Rabbi Adrian
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Adrian
Saturday, May 17	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Adrian
Sunday, May 18	3:00 p.m.	Lag B’Omer Picnic with Rabbi Adrian in the garden of the Reformed Lutheran Church. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share. Kosher hot dogs and drinks provided.
Sunday, May 25	5:00 p.m.	Sunday Café with P. Pelts. Speaker: S. Koudinov, “Jewish Composers” with F. Pelts & L. Bellgardt. Sponsored by AKTION MENSCH.
Friday, May 30	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with P. Wendt & our synagogue choir “Shalom”
Saturday, May 31	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with P. Wendt