



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

May 2016 • Nissan–Iyar 5776

[JGH Home](#) [Program](#)

## Dear members, friends and supporters,

April was a month full of activities in our congregation. We rode an emotional roller coaster, experiencing deep sadness and happiness and joy. Reflecting upon it now, we realize how our lives are a span of these feelings and how good it is to have the support and love of a community as we travel through the ups and downs.



Let's begin by reviewing our congregational life in April.



It is wonderful to see how we've grown spiritually through the almost 20 years since our establishment as the first Jewish congregation after WWII in Hamelin. The small group of Jewish immigrants has created "Beitenu"—our house. Leading weekly Shabbat services is one of the ways we embrace our communal heritage. In April we had no rabbinical visits but held moving and joyous services ourselves. We thank the following members for their leadership: Heidi Braun, Rachel Dohme, Vladimir Pesok and a special thanks to Peter Wendt and Vladimir Pesok for leading Pesach Seder so well.

We had a full house on Pesach, and Vladimir and Peter welcomed everyone to take a seat at the beautifully prepared tables. We upheld our tradition of not charging our members for the Seder, so lovingly prepared by Lydmylla and Luibov, assisted by Feana.

Each table was festively decorated and set with a Seder plate and Haggadot in Russian or German. The room was hushed as Peter read in German and Vladimir read in Russian. The congregants acted as a huge choir, singing the songs in Hebrew and were delighted as the youngest recited the Four Questions. The festive meal left nothing to be desired, delicate gefilte fish, hot and piping matzah ball soup, juicy Charoset for the stacks of crisp matzah, salads and cakes and cookies, washed down with sweet wine and juice. Thundering applause for our wonderful kitchen team echoed through the sanctuary. Finally the children could wait no longer and the Afikomen search began. All the youngsters were rewarded with gifts and sweets. It was a beautiful evening and we thank everyone for making it so.

Our project "Aktion Mensch" supported two moving evenings for our seniors in April. Polina Pelts, Valerij Bogachyk and Alla and Inna Luybich presented a program about the cities and villages in the FSU where most of our members came from. Readings and a slide presentation brought back moving memories of days gone by. The afternoon ended with a program of Israeli dance from our group, "Chag Sameach," led by Boris Markhaseev. Of course, everyone joined in!

Another program supported by "Aktion Mensch" was a fascinating lecture by Inna Luybich entitled "The Inheritance of the Maccabees—Soviet-Jewish resistance during WWII." Much of this history has been lost or forgotten, and we thank Mrs. Luybich for her informative lecture. Refreshments were prepared by Dora Bogachyk and were enjoyed by all.

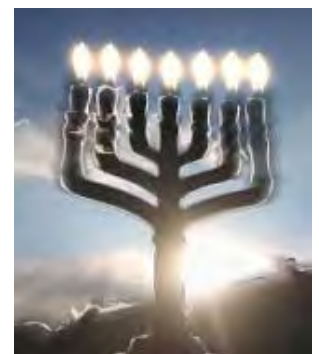
## Netzer Hamelin

Our youngsters enjoy regular meetings and activities with Faina. The activities deepen and strengthen their Jewish identity and their understanding of their traditions and holidays. Ioulia Berhovski's family outings strengthen those bonds. Recently a group of 17 parents and children attended a Young People's Concert "Music for Heroes." The children and families appreciate the fine work Faina and Ioulia are organizing.

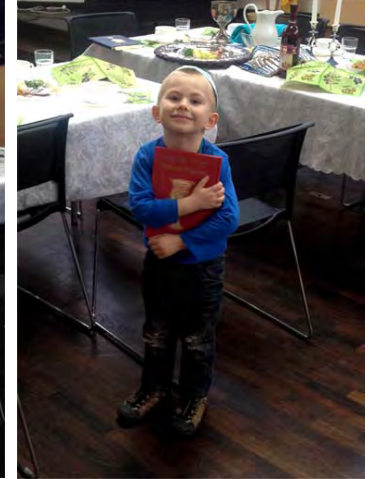
## Jewish May

The congregation will gather to observe Yom Ha Shoah on Thursday, May 5th. Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy will lead us in a memorial service. After six members light six yellow candles in commemoration of the Six Million, we will also hear the names of the 102 Hamelin Jews who were murdered at the hands of the Nazis. Once again their names will be recalled in the space they once worshipped. We will never forget those who came before us.

On May 26th, we will meet in the garden of our friends, the Lutheran Reformed Church, for a Lag Ba'Omer picnic. Kosher hot dogs and drinks will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring a vegetarian covered dish to share. We thank Pastor Sander and her congregation for this neighborly act of kindness and hope many of their members will join us.



# Pesach





## 28th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The conference of the UPJG has a new home. This year we will meet in Bonn from July 28 to 31. The conference offers fascinating speakers, hands-on workshops, moving services and time to reconnect with colleagues and friends from all over Germany. There is a children's program and, as always, the conference languages are German, Russian and English. Information and registration is available online and in our office.

### Aktion Mensch in May

Please join us for Memorial Day on May 9th as we recall and remember the end of WWII. We wish to honor those, living and dead, who fought against Fascism and allowed us to live in freedom. A program of poetry, readings, music and recognition of those of our members who served their countries in time of war will be presented. After the memorial service, we will sit together for a meal. An evening of classical music at the Hamelin Theater has been organized by Polina Pelts for the following evening, May 10th. It is certain to be a lovely evening.

### Inter Religious Women's Group

Part II of this year's Inter Religious Women's Group will be held in our synagogue on May 19th. This year's theme is "Our Sacred Texts." Our Rabbi Irit Shillor will read and teach Torah to the group of Jewish, Christian and Moslem women—certainly a first in Hamelin. We are proud, as the Reform congregation of Hameln, to be involved in this important program. Encounter and dialogue are the building blocks to peace and understanding between different faiths, and we consciously desire to do our part.

### Cultural events in May

We extend an open invitation to a concert in our synagogue on May 29th. The concert is made possible by a grant of the Central Council of Jews of Germany. We are thrilled to host two magnificent musicians, Pablo Quintanilla, violin and Roman Yuispey, accordion. The concert is free of charge although contributions to our synagogue are always appreciated.

### Apartments needed

The city of Hamelin has taken in over 1,000 Syrian refugees and housing has become scarce. If you know of a vacant apartment, please let us know in the office.

### Mazel Tov

Congratulations to our sister congregation in Unna for their new abode. If you have Naches-good news, let us know and we'll be happy to spread the word!

### Get Well Wishes

We wish all who are ill at home or in the hospital a complete recovery. Our thoughts are with you. Let us know in the office if you would like a visit or need anything. We are family.

### Condolences

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of our beloved Rabbi Arnold Zoref, USA. Rabbi Zoref was our first spiritual leader, sponsored by Rabbi Jo David and the Jewish Appleseed Foundation. We will never forget him.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Dvortsis family on the death of their beloved son-in-law.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Janna Vainberg on the death of her husband, Villen Feldmann. Mr. Feldmann was interned in our cemetery.



### Thank you

We wish to thank all those who help to make our synagogue and our activities and festivals so beautiful. We are blessed with so many helping hands and hearts, making "Beitenu" truly our house.



### Tree of Life

The trees in our gardens are all blooming with the milder spring temperatures. Help us add a few leaves to our Tree of Life by donating a minimum of €50 to our synagogue fund. Information and forms are available in the office.

### Yahrzeit in May

Betja Khomer	May 8, 1997 / 1 Iyar 5757
Evgenia Benderscaia	May 24, 2001 / 2 Sivan 5761
Wladimir Rubanov	May 14, 2002 / 3 Sivan 5762
Sofia Kasplar	May 13, 2008 / 8 Iyar 5768
Felix Gurevic	May 1, 2014 / 1 Iyar 5774

May their memory be for a blessing. Please join the families at services to say Kaddish. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.

**Shalom,  
The Congregation Board**

## Program for May 2016 • Nissan–Iyar 5776

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10.00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Monday, May 2      1:00 p.m.      Monthly board meeting

### Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy's visit

Thursday, May 5      5:00 p.m.      Yom Ha Shoah memorial services

Friday, May 6      3:00 p.m.      Rabbi's Study session  
5:30 p.m.      Friday night services with Rabbi Lyskovoy

Saturday, May 7      10:00 a.m.      Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Lyskovoy

Monday, May 9      3:00 p.m.      Memorial Day celebration

Tuesday, May 10      8:00 p.m.      Theater Hameln, Symphony Orchestra with the friendly support of "Aktion Mensch" project

Saturday, May 14      10.00 a.m.      Saturday morning services and Torah study with P. Wendt

### Rabbi Irit Shillor's visit

Thursday, May 19      3:00 p.m.      Interreligious Women's Group, Part II "Holy Scriptures—Torah"

Friday, May 20      3:00 p.m.      Rabbi's Study session  
5:30 p.m.      Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor

Saturday, May 21      10:00 a.m.      Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor

Tuesday, May 24      11:00 a.m.      Senior's Breakfast Club, Russian Poetry with S. Banschukova

Thursday, May 26      3:00 p.m.      Lag B'Omer Picnick, Lutheran Reformed Church garden, Hugenottenstrasse. Bring a vegetarian dish to share

Sunday, May 29      3:00 p.m.      Concert with Pablo Quintanilla (violin) & Roman Yuispey (Accordian) with the friendly support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany

Tuesday, May 31      8:00 a.m.      Day trip to Osnabrück in cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews. Meeting point: Hameln train station. €10,- per person More info and registration contact: 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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