



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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June 2011 • Iyar–Sivan 5771

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

The month of May was as colorful and varied as our summer gardens. Services and a myriad of programs filled our beautiful new synagogue with life. June promises to continue the trend with Shavuoth and our first Bar Mitzvah in our new building on June 25th as Sören Jaakov Wendt is called to the Torah for the first time.

On May 2nd, we came together, as did Jews throughout the world, to remember our lost loved ones on Yom HaShoah. With dignity, deep respect and sadness, we remembered the murdered millions. Faina Pelts and Wladimir Pesok led the congregational memorial service with sensitivity.

We observed Memorial and Remembrance Day on Sunday, May 8th. The program included poetry, readings and music. We began with the recitation of Kaddish for those who fell fighting Fascism during WWII. The veterans were honored with flowers and applause. Much time, energy and love was invested and was evident to all those in attendance. For our many members from the FSU and those born elsewhere, remembering those who fought in World War II is a day of gratitude, freedom and honor. Observing this day is not only a political act but also a deeply religious one as well. Many members proudly wear their medals of service next to their Magen David and we salute them. Both attest to their identity. After the moving program, a hearty meal of potatoes and herring was enjoyed by one and all. Special thanks to all those who helped make this day so meaningful.

Our rabbinical student Nils Ederberg visited us for the last time in May. His internship in our congregation involved six weekend visits. We wish him all the best in his further studies at Abraham Geiger Seminary.

Youth leader Jehudith was also with us six times over the past year. On her final visit, she opened an exhibit dedicated to the work of our national youth movement, “Young and Jewish Netzer.” After this year’s summer camp, Jehudith will return to Israel and begin her university studies. We wish her all the best.

Polina Pelts thanked both Nils and Jehudith for their work in our congregation and presented each of them with a gift of appreciation. Lehitraoth Nils and Jehudith!

Yom HaAtzma’ut was observed in our sanctuary on May 10th with a lecture from Dr. Steffen Hagemann. Dr. Hagemann’s talk was entitled “The effects of violence on the Israeli population.” This timely theme is a sad reality of life in Israel today. The speaker offered current political information to a fascinated audience and a lively discussion ensued. We were pleased that our community hosted this important and informative lecture and that so many Hamelin citizens were in attendance. This underscores our desire to open our synagogue doors to the public and make Beitenu—our house a meeting house for our city, our members and our neighbors.

On Sunday, May 22nd, bathed in sunshine and laughter, we celebrated Lag BaOmer in the garden of the Ev.-Ref. church. Rabbinical student Adrian Schell offered an interesting view of the history of this festival. Peter and Felix busied themselves with the barbeque grill and the turkey hotdogs. The buffet was opened and the tables creaked, as usual, with delicious summer salads and sweet deserts. Some sought shade while others enjoyed the sunshine and the sound of children’s laughter filled the air. What a pleasure to see everyone so happy just being together. We thank the Lutheran Reformed Church for inviting us to use their garden again this year. The weekend was complete after having enjoyed Shabbat services with Adrian, assisted by soon-to-be Bar Mitzvah Sören. Special thanks to Adrian for the beautiful photo collage of the picnic.

Still to come in May will be our rabbi’s monthly visit and our first Jewish Culture Day. We will report on these in our double summer issue next month.



Jewish June

Rabbinical student Adrian Schell will be with us on June 7th for an Erev Shavuoth service as well as a Tikkun Shavuoth. Together we will study and discuss “L’ Dor V’ Dor: from Generation to Generation—what parents pass on to their children.” We hope that many families will join us for the evening and hope to hear what the youth expect from their parents. This topic fits well with our holiday of “the first fruits.” Join us for a holiday evening and don’t forget to bring a cheesecake to share! A vegetable soup will be served at midnight.

Lag BaOmer Picnic



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.

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, beginning this fall. Serious participants can register through our office. The course will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Integration Seminar

Our state board of Jewish congregations is offering a three day integration seminar for new immigrants. Information and registration forms are available in the synagogue office. The fee for the seminar is €10. Transportation costs will be reimbursed.

17th annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 16th annual conference of the UPJ will be held July 7–10 in Berlin. This year's theme is "Liberal Judaism Today." Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars will be offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. 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 2011).

Summer Camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp will be held in Radstadt, Austria, this year. Camp dates are August 1st–August 14th. The two week session for 8–18 year-olds costs €380 and includes everything. Gali and Jehudith look forward to seeing all the Hamelin kids there and have a super program prepared. Registration forms are available in the office and online at www.liberales-juden.de (Machene 2011)

Mazel Tov

We congratulate Lyudmyla Kravets on the birth of her 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: The Fischbeck church, Mrs. Lehrke's and Mrs. Lüttgen-Friess' 8th grade class, Mrs. Hunte-Schinke's 8th grade class, Mrs. Bruns' 4th grade class, Mr. Laurenz's 5th grade class, the German Women's club, Hans and Johanna Weltner, Mrs. Dora Vinnytska, Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, Mr. Heinz Wandelt, Mr. John Smith, Mr. Boris and Michael Kapirowski and Rachel Dohme.

We also wish to acknowledge Mrs. Uta Gibas. Mrs. Gibas donates every month and has had a tree planted in Israel in honor of our synagogue dedication.

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!

The 244th leaf has been ordered by:

Mrs. Alla Jankowski: In memory of my parents, Rachel and Abram.

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 helped to make our holidays this past month such a beautiful holiday experiences for all.

Condolences

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Frid family on the death of their beloved husband and father Boris Frid. The funeral service was led by Wladimir Pesok on May 5th.

June Yahrzeit

Dr. Ilja Latkov — June 5, 1998 / 11. Sivan 5758

Matvey Slavinskiy — June 23, 1998 / 29. Sivan 5758

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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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 June 2011 • Iyar–Sivan 5771

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

Thursday, June 2	3:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Saturday, June 4	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Monday, June 6	12:00 noon	“Judaism,” a class in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, June 7	7:00 p.m.	Erev Shavuoth services with rabbinical student Adrian Schell Festive Kiddush
	8:00 p.m.	Tikkun Shavuoth: “L’Dor V’Dor — What do parents pass on to their children.” Midnight soup
Friday, June 10	4:00 p.m.	Religious class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Saturday, June 11	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme and F. Pelts
Wednesday, June 15	11:00 a.m.	Russian Literature Club with A. Konstantinova
	2:00–7:00 p.m.	Trip with the Society of Christians and Jews to “Lenner Lager,” Eschershausen. Information: P. Pelts. Fee: €5/€3 Meeting point: St. Augustinus, Lohstr. 8
Friday, June 17	9.30 a.m.	Inter-religious Women’s Group, Synagogue tour with F. Pelts Breakfast in the garden of the Ev.-Ref. Church. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.
Saturday, June 18	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and D. Vogelhuber
Tuesday, June 21	4:00 p.m.	Video Afternoon with Isaak Katz
Thursday, June 23		Rabbi Shillor’s visit
	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table”
Friday, June 24	4:00 p.m.	Religious class
	5.30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, June 25	10:00 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah Sören Jaakov Wendt — Festive Kiddush
Sunday, June 26	4:00 p.m.	Senior Café with P.Pelts with guest Klara Behnke

Activities outside the community

Tuesday–Thursday, June 14–16	10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.	Integration seminar Liberal Jewish Congregation Hannover Registration forms available in our office. Fee: €10
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