



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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June 2012 • Sivan–Tammuz 5772

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

The sunny month of May welcomed many excellent programs, services and activities that we would like to describe to you.

On May 8th vice president Polina Pelts, accompanied by congregation members, were guests at an evening performance in the Viktoria-Liuse Gymnasium. Our synagogue choir “Shalom” performed with the Viktoria-Liuse orchestra as part of the evening’s program, “Theresienstadt,” a year-long project, in which the school students have been involved. The theme of the evening was “Jewish Life in Hamelin—Persecution and Return.” The 6th graders enjoyed learning Jewish songs and accompanying our singers. The students also reported about their visit to our synagogue and shared their impressions from interviews they led with various members of our congregation.



The project has been a great educational success, and we are pleased to have taken part in it, impressing once again, that our community strives to build bridges of communication, to work for understanding and tolerance by sharing the values and traditions of Reform Judaism.

We observed the 9th of May Memorial Day in commemoration, remembrance and honor of those who fought against Fascism during the Second World War. Polina Pelts welcomed everyone and read a message from the Central Council of Jews of Germany to those present. The Veterans were honored and thanked and presented with flowers. The moving service included prayers, poems and music, organized by Faina Pelts and

Valerij Bogachyk. Many members participated and made the day personal and meaningful. Dora Bogachyk und Nadja Pesok prepared a festive table and served a delicious meal enjoyed by all. Memories were shared, tears fell and hearts were full of appreciation for the freedom we all enjoy.

Our congregation and the Hamelin Society of Christians and Jews offered and enjoyed a day trip to the city of Detmold. The tour of the city was well prepared, and we learned many new things about the city’s Jewish past. Polina Pelts and Hans-Georg Spangenberg organized a fascinating and informative day, which gave us the opportunity to meet the members of the Detmold Society of Christians and Jews. Well done!

On Friday, May 11, we met in the garden of the Lutheran Reformed Church for a Lag Ba Omer picnic and Friday night service. Our plans for a breezy picnic on benches and blankets in the church garden and greeting Shabbat under a canopy of stars could not be reconciled with a May cloudburst and chilly temperatures. This is not uncommon for those of us who live in northern Europe. There’s a saying, “If you don’t like the weather, wait a minute and it will change!” Unfortunately for the children, the weather didn’t change until much later, so we moved everything indoors.

We were pleased to welcome our friends from the Jewish community of Bad Pyrmont, always welcome guests at any and all of our activities and services.

Our Barbeque Team of Arkadij, Petro, Victor and Sascha prepared the kosher hot dogs perfectly, and everyone enjoyed each other’s covered dishes.

Rabbinical student Adrian Shell led us in singing Shabbat songs, accompanied by Faina on the church's keyboard. Six year-old Naomi recited the Brachot for wine and Challah with a clear and assured voice. Our holiday services always have a homey touch and this was no exception!

Special thanks to Pastor Hoffmann and his parishioners, our kind neighbors, who invite us to use their garden every year.

A very special treat took place on May 21st when Victor Sanovec presented his newest book, *Jewish Cooking School*. We had a nice turnout and learned many new tidbits about Jewish cooking traditions and what they say to us today. Mr. Sanovec's talk did not center upon what Jews are forbidden to eat according to the laws of Kashrut but what Jews actually eat, and he encouraged his listeners to pose ethical questions about animals and food in terms of Tikkun Olam. The evening was relaxed and humorous yet informative and enjoyable. Those in attendance tasted kosher treats and took the opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of the book. The evening was sponsored by our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews.

Jewish May will end with the sweet holiday of Shavuot. Because the festival will take place before this issue goes to print, we'll have to report about it in our next issue. We hope everyone enjoyed a sweet Shavuot!

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 June

Informative and interesting activities await our members in June.

- On June 1st. we will celebrate Friday Night Alive—a Friday night service with our synagogue choir “Shalom.” Join us as we welcome Shabbat musically.
- On June 13th, the director of the Bad Pymont archives will share his research on the history of the Jews of Bad Pymont.
- The interreligious Women's Group will meet in our synagogue on June 14th in a second afternoon discussion of “Great Religious Leaders.” Rabbi Shillor will hold a discussion on Moses.
- Mr. Boris Faehndrich will offer an afternoon informational discussion about Jewish funerals on June 19th.



Many of our members have noticed how many school classes, church and civic groups visit our beautiful new synagogue. Last year more than 50 groups came for a synagogue tour. The participants are interested in learning about Reform Judaism and how we, as an active congregation, practice our religion. We are very happy to offer educational programs for them and see this as a proactive method of outreach. The groups usually offer a donation in support of our building costs and our congregation, for which we are grateful.



Here is an example of a thank you note:

Dear Mrs. Dohme.

I wish to thank you again for your dedication and good work. The information you offered our group shed light on Reform Judaism. We were all very impressed with your presentation. You may have noticed that this was the first encounter with Jewish religious tradition for many in the group. It is certain not to be the last.

*Sincerely,
Dieter Dargies*



18th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 18th annual conference of the UPJ will be held July 19–22 in Berlin. This year's theme is "Liberal Judaism Today" and will celebrate the UPJ Germany's 15th anniversary. 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 2012)

Summer Camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp will be held in Poland this year. Our campers will be joined by campers from the Reform Congregation of Beth Warsaw. Camp dates are July 26th to August 8th. The two week session for 8- to 18-year-olds costs €380 and includes everything. Adrian looks forward to seeing all the Hamelin kids there, and he has a super program prepared. Registration forms are available in the office and online at www.upj-netzer.de.



Mazel Tov

We send happy congratulations to our former rabbinical students Rabbi Alina Treyger and Rabbi Jona Simon on their son's Brit Milah.

We congratulate our member Lior Bar-Ami upon being accepted into the rabbinic program at Abraham Geiger College. He will begin his five-year program of studies this summer.

We congratulate our sister congregation in the state of Northern Rhineland-Westphalia on establishing their state board of Jewish communities, following our lead in Lower Saxony.

Refu'ah Shlemah — Get Well Soon

We pray for the complete recovery of all who are ill. We will recite Misheberach 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 50th reunion class of Schiller Gymnasium and Mr. Dargies, Dr. Ioulia Berhowski, 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:

The Dohme Family: In memory of our beloved aunt, Alyce Kaplan
In honor of Polina Pelts' 75th birthday

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.



Condolences

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Uwe Wolandowitsch and his wife, Evelyn, on the death of Evelyn's mother.

June Yahrzeit

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

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

Abrash Baruchov — June 6, 2011 / 4. Siwan 5771

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! The Community 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 June 2012 • Sivan–Tammuz 5772

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

Friday, June 1	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with P. Wendt and Synagogue Choir “Shalom”
Saturday, June 2	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and P. Wendt
Monday, June 4	12 noon	“Judaism” a class in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, June 6	1:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Saturday, June 9	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts and R. Dohme
Wednesday, June 13	4:30 p.m.	Lecture: “The Jews of Bad Pyrmont,” Archives Director Mr. Willicke
Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit		
Thursday, June 14	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Questions and Answers
	5:00 p.m.	Interreligious Women’s Group, Great leaders: Moses” with Rabbi Shillor
Friday, June 15	4:00 p.m.	Religious school
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, June 16	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Tuesday, June 19	4:00 p.m.	Informational meeting with funeral director B. Faehndrich, Hamelin
Thursday, June 21	3:30 p.m.	Video Afternoon with Isaak Katz
Saturday, June 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F.Pelts & H. Braun
Sunday, June 24	3:00 p.m.	Young and Jewish club with Marysol Fischer
Student Rabbi Adrian Schell’s monthly visit		
Friday, June 29	4:00 p.m.	Religious school
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with A. Schell
Saturday, June 30	10:00 a.m	Shacharit services and Torah study with A. Schell
Activities outside the community		
Tuesday, June 5	7:00 p.m.	School project “Theresienstadt” Opera, “ The Children of Olymp” Auditorium, Viktoria-Luisa Gymnasium