



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

June 2014 • Sivan–Tammuz 5774

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**Dear members, friends and supporters,**

**The congregation is very grateful for any and all donations that enable us to continue our work.**

The sunny month of June has arrived, and we hope to enjoy many warm moments inside and outside our synagogue walls.

Once again our synagogue drew Jews from near and far to our doors. Holocaust survivor Mrs. Margit Siebner was in Hameln speaking to the students of a local high school. After her lecture, she was presented with roses, one from each student. She asked the young people to accompany her to our building and she left two large vases of flowers at the memorial. This act was important and symbolic of her work of healing the scars of the Holocaust.

On a May Shabbat morning, we had a visitor from Bochum who was traveling through Hamelin. How good it is to see our synagogue welcome those seeking a Jewish space when in town.

Now let's take a closer look back at what went on during the past weeks.

Polina Pelts organizes the monthly get-togethers, which address the needs of our older congregants thanks to a project sponsored by "**Aktion Mensch**." An outing was organized at the end of April, and 26 members went on an excursion to Cologne and Bonn. Polina's hard work bore fruit, and our seniors enjoyed a day tailored to their needs, which would have been otherwise impossible for them. Besides their many physical handicaps, most of our seniors live on a fixed budget, and outings are usually beyond their financial reach. Enjoy Polina's report of the day:

"Our group met at the train station bright and early. Everyone found a comfortable seat in the bus and after a short greeting, we were off. The day-long trip made us feel as if we were a big Jewish family—the air filled with happy chatter and sharing of tasty foods prepared and brought from home. All our aches, pains and worries were forgotten for the day. Everyone was in a happy mood. We had the good luck to have an excellent tour guide with us who added to our appreciation of the cities we toured. It was such a wonderful day and a special treat for our seniors. Hopefully, we can arrange similar outings in the future and say thank you to "Aktion Mensch" for brightening the lives of those who have seen little pleasure in their lives."

We had the rare opportunity to celebrate **Shabbat** and **May 9th Memorial Day** together this year. Rabbi Adrian explained that we could honor the Sabbath and remember the brave soldiers who fought to end World War II. Rabbi Adrian's moving and poignant sermon addressed both. We, as many Jewish communities in Germany did, found it possible and important to observe the Shabbat and Memorial Day together. The prayers and songs, the readings and poems all added special meaning to the day. The entire congregation was invested and actively involved. Our congregation is unusual in that so many of our members are so talented. On this special Shabbat all these talents were showcased. We thank Rabbi Adrian, Polina Pelts, Larissa Bellgardt, Valerij Bogaschyk, Mark Ovsievych, Boris Uchitel, Larissa Dvortsis, Genrietta Bachmatchnikova, Nadya Pesok, Dora Bogachyck, Lev Bachmatchnikov, Wladimir Pesok, Svetlana Bantschukova und Valerij Fridman.

A special highlight in May's calendar was the visit from **Sofer Neil Yerman**, New York City. We were honored to have Sofer Yerman with us for a two-day program. More than forty people attended the evening program and members drifted in and out during the next day's "open studio" as Sofer Yerman worked on our scroll, allowing them to assist him. Neil Yerman, a gifted sofer, artist and scholar, enabled his listeners to learn, question and watch him as he worked at this ancient and holy task. Explaining complicated spiritual concepts comes easy to this talented and charming man. The audience was invited to examine his tools and to gaze upon the scroll as he worked. We hope to host Sofer Yerman again soon and have the opportunity to experience the living Torah.

**Lag B'Omer** was celebrated with a congregational picnic on Sunday, May 18th. We were once again guests of our neighbors, the Reformed Lutheran church, and held our picnic in their beautiful garden. Everyone brought a covered dish to share, more than 70 kosher hot dogs sizzled over the fire, and the relaxing atmosphere was enjoyed by the one-year olds as well as the ninety-one year olds! Rabbi Adrian got everyone singing and a fine time was had by one and all. We thank the many helping hands—Polina Pelts, Aron Kaplan, Lyudmyla Kravets, Petro Schurupov, Valerij Bogatschyk, Felix Peres, Lev Bachmatchnikov, Arkadij Zyryanov, Wladimir Pesok, Boris Uchitel and Mark Ovsievych.









## Jewish June

We will be celebrating **Shavuot** this year on June 5th. Rabbi Adrian will lead a Shavuot service, followed by rich and creamy cheesecakes at the Kiddush table. Strengthened by the service and the sweet taste of milk and honey, we will begin a study night, addressing the Book of Ruth and the question of conversion in Judaism, its biblical, historical and modern interpretations. We've invited members of the Society of Christians and Jews to join us this year and hope for a good turn-out and lively discussions.

A special treat will be Sabbath Korach and our special guest, Debbie Tal-Reuttger, vice president of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany. Debbie has offered to lead Shacharit services and after Kiddush, offer us a workshop on the Jewish concept of **Tikkun Olam—Healing the World**. We hope many members will take advantage of this special Shabbat and workshop. Let's come together to deepen our understanding and strive to better our world as we better ourselves with new impulses and information. A light lunch and refreshments will be served.

Our month of June will end with a performance by our theater group on the 22nd. The play *My Jewish Stetl* was written by Josef Pelts, of blessed memory, years ago. The play describes life in the stetl (village) of our grandparents. The theater group, led by Valerij Bogatschyk and Petr Chrastina, has practiced many long hours and hope for a full house. Please honor the memory of Josef Pelts and the hard work of our talented thespians and treat yourself to a wonderful afternoon of theater.

## 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 and we are grateful to all involved. If you would care to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## Sunday Café and Computer Course

"Jewish Composers" had to be canceled in May, but a new date has been set for June. Please refer to the program for date and time. Join Faina Pelts, Larissa Bellgardt and Samuil Koudinow for this informative and entertaining program, sponsored by "Aktion Mensch."

The computer course, offered through our state board of Jewish communities, will take place on June 13th and 20th. Those registered are asked to contact Faina Pelts during office hours for details.

## Mark your calendar now!

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

The annual conference of the UPJ will be held from July 24th to the 27th in Berlin. Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars will be offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. Come and see old friends and meet new ones while deepening your Jewish identity, knowledge and spirituality. Moving services in Hebrew, German and Russian will also be celebrated. A children's program is being offered again this year and promises to be as successful as last year's. We hope many of you will attend. Information is available online at [www.liberales-juden.de](http://www.liberales-juden.de) (Jahrestagung 2014)

## Mazel Tov

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 Edelstein family, the Reese family and the Lutheran church of Weibeck.

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

We thank Mrs. Hildegard Herz of Rochester, NY for her generous contribution.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

Summer temperatures have coaxed our tree to add 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 the Dohme family: “In memory of Fritz Söhlke”

### **Thank you — Todah Rabah**

We wish to thank Aron Kaplan and the men of the Chevra Kaddisha for their selfless and holy work. They dedicate themselves quietly and never expect to be thanked, but we want them to know how much we value their loving attention to this holy Mitzvah.

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.

### **Condolences**

We extend our condolences to the Gurevich family on the death of beloved husband, father father-in-law and grandfather, Felix Gurevich, who passed away on May 1st /1. Iyar. The funeral service was held at the old Jewish Cemetery, led by R. Dohme and W. Pesok. The congregation has ordered a plaque for the Yahrzeit board in our sanctuary.

### **Yahrzeit in June**

Abrash Boruchov	June 6, 2011 / 4. Siwan 5771
Valentina Barulina	June 23, 2012 / 3. Tammus 5772
Elena Gorbacheva	June 4, 2012 / 14. Siwan 5772
Dr. Iljja Latkov	June 5, 1998 / 11. Siwan 5758
Matvey Slavinskiy	June 23, 1998 / 29. Siwan 5758
Grigori Ziskand	June 15, 2013 / 17. Tammus 5773

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**



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## Program for June 2014 • Sivan–Tammuz 5774

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

Monday, June 2	12 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok “Shavuot”
<b>Rabbi Adrian Schell’s visit</b>		
Thursday, June 5	2:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Monthly Board Meeting <b>Shavuot</b> service, cheesecake and study night: “Ruth-Conversion in Judaism”
Friday, June 6	1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Rabbi’s office hours <b>NEW!</b> “Judaism from A to Z” with Rabbi Adrian Friday night services with Rabbi Adrian
Saturday, June 7	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Adrian <b>NETZER</b> Hameln with Rabbi Adrian & Patrizia
Sunday, June 8	5:00 p.m.	Sunday Café with P. Pelts. Speaker and Concert: “Jewish Composers” with S. Koudinov, F. Pelts & L. Bellgardt. Sponsored by <b>Aktion Mensch</b> .
<b>Rabbi Irit Shillor’s visit</b>		
Friday, June 13	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Gijur class <b>NEW!</b> Let’s study Talmud” with Rabbi Irit Friday night services with Rabbi Irit
Saturday, June 14	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit
Tuesday, June 17	11:00 a.m.	Senior’s Breakfast and Video tour of Hamelin with I. Lyubych and P. Pelts. Sponsored by <b>Aktion Mensch</b>
Saturday, June 21	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Workshop: Tikkun Olam with Debbie Tal-Reuttger
Sunday, June 22	3:00 p.m.	Theater: <b>My Jewish Stetl</b> , with Petr Chrastina and Valerij Bogachyk’s theater group. Sponsored by <b>Aktion Mensch</b> .

### 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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