



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

June 2016 • Ijar–Sivan 5776

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

## Dear members, friends and supporters,

The beautiful month of May welcomed us with a spring temperatures and June's promise is that summer is finally here! The good weather allowed us to enjoy a Lag B'Omer picnic under blue skies, but let's look what else happened in May.

But first a look back to a very special outing in April, which occurred after the distribution of last month's newsletter. On April 29th, Polina Pelts organized a day trip to Lüneburg and Celle for our members and members from our sister community in Bad Pyrmont. "Aktion Mensch" sponsored the event, allowing seniors to enjoy a day away from home, which they might not normally have been able to afford. The adventure began with meeting at the train station at 9:00 a.m. "It felt as if we were one big Jewish family! It was a day of happiness and good spirits," was Polina's summation of the day.

Polina had two more program points for the month of May in store. Another unforgettable outing for our seniors (also through the sponsorship of "Aktion Mensch") was an evening out in the theatre to hear a program of classical music. The final program was a "Senior's Breakfast." One of our younger members read her poems to the enjoyment of the breakfast bunch.

We thank "Aktion Mensch" for help and support for seed monies that 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.



On Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, we observed Yom HaShoah. Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy led a memorial service, which began with the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. The eerie light of the six yellow candles flickered in our darkened sanctuary. Prayer and text followed, and especially moving was the recitation of the Hamelin Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Rabbi Lyskovoy spoke of the great catastrophe and all that the world lost through the madness of the Shoah. Members and guests were visibly moved. It is never so poignant as on these days of remembrance that we feel how undisputable it was and is that we rebuilt our synagogue upon the exact soil it had once stood. We honor those who came before us, whose lives were cut down without mercy, and we promise to never forget them!

May 9<sup>th</sup> offered another memorial day, Victory Day, which commemorates and celebrates those who fought to end WWII. We remember those who fought against tyranny and thank them for their wartime efforts. We are proud to have veterans as congregational members and that afternoon dedicated to them. The afternoon was filled with nostalgic memories, brought alive with lyric and music. We say thank you to Valerij and Larissa for the program and Dora for the following meal.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> we were pleased with a record attendance of Jewish, Christian and Muslim women for Part II of this year's Interreligious Women's Group. The year's theme is "Our Holy Texts and Their Meaning in Our Lives Today." What a wonderful learning experience for everyone to learn about Torah, hear a reading and have a guided discussion by our Rabbi Shillor. This was an exceptional experience for our non-Jewish friends. We believe encounter is the best path to mutual understanding and respect.

The garden of the Reformed Lutheran church was flooded with sunshine and happy faces as we celebrated Lag B'Omer with our neighbors. Celebrating in the church garden has been our tradition for nearly 20 years. Everyone brought a dish to share, our "Barbeque Kings" got the fire going with kosher hot dogs, and even Pastor Sander joined in and had her first taste of kosher wine, declaring it "very sweet." The holiday's history and meaning, explained by Rachel was informative and entertaining, we spoke the blessing together and broke into song as the hours flew by.

An article about our celebration appeared in the German Jewish weekly newspaper, "Jüdische Allgemeine." Enjoy photos from Lag B'Omer on page 3.

Members and guests enjoyed a concert on May 29th. Roman Yuispey and Pablo Quintanilla performed beautifully, thanks to the financial support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany. This program makes it possible that small congregations receive professional Jewish artists twice a year. The musicians performed a varied program on violin and accordion 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.

## Our Youth Group

Most Jews agree that religious education is a key to Jewish identity. We have made an effort to afford the youngsters of our community and their families free educational and social programming. Thanks to the dedication and creative planning of Ioulia Berhovski and Faina Pelts our children's group is growing and developing. If your child or grandchild would like to join the group, please call the office.

## Jewish June

The upcoming Jewish month of Sivan means Shavuot is around the corner. Shavuot is 49 days after Pesach and is one of our three pilgrimage festivals. Symbolically speaking, we receive the Law and the Torah anew each year. In every generation it is our responsibility to develop a deeper understanding of our texts and intensify our relationship to them. We look forward to having Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy with us twice in June and especially look forward to having him with us for Shavuot.

It's a sweet Shavuot tradition to eat foods made of milk. Please join us for services and Torah study. And bring a "milchige" dish to share. Who has a good recipe for cheesecake? We will satisfy our physical and intellectual hunger at Tikkun ha Shavuot on June 11th.



## 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@ighreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@ighreform.org). We appreciate any and all support!

## Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our friend, Rabbi Joel Oseran, vice-president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) on his well-deserved retirement. We thank him for his many years of support for our congregation and for his insistence that the German Reform movement (UPJ) is an important member in the WUPJ.

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.



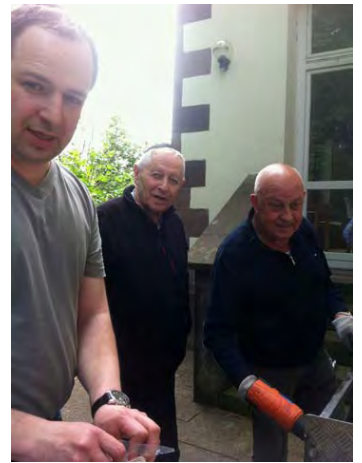
## Donations — Tzedakah

We thank the following for their contributions to our congregation or our synagogue fund: We thank the Community Charities of Hameln, Max Born High School in Bad Pyrmont, Mrs. Fuchs and the 6th grade class of Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium, Pastor Reuning, Petri Church of Ohnsen.

We thank Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Uta Gibas for their monthly contributions.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

# Lag B'Omer





### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

It's summertime! It's time to remember that special person or event with a new leaf on our Tree of Life. 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.

### **Thank you — Todah Rabah**

We thank our synagogue choir "Shalom" for their part in our sister congregation in Bad Pyrmont's Pesach celebration.

We wish to thank everyone once again who helped make this month's congregational events so successful. We thank everyone who helps in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.

### **Yahrzeit in Juni**

Dr. Ilja Latkov	June 5,1998 / 11. Siwan 5758
Matvey Slavinskiy	June 23,1998 / 29. Siwan 5758
Abrash Boruchov	June 6, 2011 / 4. Siwan 5771
Elena Gorbacheva	June 4, 2012 / 14. Siwan 5772
Valentina Barulina	June 23, 2012 / 3.Tammus 5772
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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#### **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 2016 • Ijar–Sivan 5776

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Friday, June 10      3:00 p.m.    Monthly board meeting

### **Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy's visit**

Friday, June 10      4:00 p.m.    Rabbi's Table- Open learning session  
5:30 p.m.    Friday night services with Rabbi Lyskovoy

Saturday, June 11    10:00 a.m.   Saturday morning services and Tikkun ha Shavuot study with Rabbi Lyskovoy. Bring cheesecake to share!

Saturday, June 18    10:00 a.m.   Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme

Sunday, June 19      3:00 p.m.    Senior's Café, led by Polina Pelts. Guest: Borys Uchitel. With friendly support of Aktion Mensch

### **Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy's visit**

Friday, June 24      4:00 p.m.    Rabbi's Table- Open learning session  
5:30 p.m.    Friday night services with Rabbi Lyskovoy

Saturday, June 25    10:00 a.m.   Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Lyskovoy