



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

June 2017 • Sivan–Tammuz 5777

JHG Home Program

**Dear members, friends and supporters,**

Please remember to pay annual membership dues. The congregation depends on everyone to pay promptly to enable us to continue our work. Thank you!

Please note our bank information:  
Sparkasse Weserbergland  
IBAN: DE47 2545 0110 0031 030380  
BIC: NOLADE21SWB



We remembered WWII heroes, celebrated Lag B'Omer and Shavuoth in the merry month of May.

We observed Memorial Day on May 9th, the day Fascism was eradicated by the allied troops in 1945 and marked the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. We honor and thank our veterans, who sacrificed so much to free the world of the tyranny of Nazism.

In honor of the day, we gathered in the synagogue, presenting our veterans with flowers and gratitude. Those who are housebound were also visited and thanked.

We prayed, sang and shared stories and memories with one another. This day means so much to our members and it was good to be together. The day honors so many of our more senior member's lifetimes.

Our thanks go to all who made the day memorable. Kitchen magicians were: Dorothea und Valerij Bogachyk, Ludmila Zajchenko, Anna Anikina, Maria Belau, Motel and Larissa Dvortsis, Olga Gerr, Heinrich Moos, Polina Pelts, Viktor Shilzov and Irina Grach. Thank you all!



On Sunday, May 14th, we celebrated our annual Lag B'Omer picnic. Lag B'Omer is celebrated on the 33rd day between Pesach and Shavuot. Faina Pelts read a sermon that Rabbi Offenberg had prepared for the day. The festival is traditionally celebrated with a picnic and barbeque outdoors. Kosher hotdogs and drinks were enjoyed, grilled perfectly by our grill masters Arkadij, Petro, Valerij and Sascha. The table was loaded with delicious home-made vegetarian dishes. The sun didn't let us down, shining on us in the garden of the Lutheran Church, where we meet every year. We thank Pastor Sophia Sander and her congregation for hosting us in their lovely garden.

Shavuot is a joyous festival, which goes hand in hand with Pesach. Pesach celebrates our freedom from slavery and Shavuoth celebrates the giving of the Law. Freedom without law or law without freedom would be meaningless. We see once again that the Torah's teachings and wisdom has led the way to what we see as modern democratic thought.

The congregation, led by Rabbi Ulrike, will celebrate with an Erev Shavuoth service, followed by a Tikkun ha Leila, an evening study session and a morning Shavuoth service the following day.

On Shavuoth morning we are holding a Shavuoth Cheese Cake Contest and have a qualified jury of cheese cake connoisseurs to select the best of the best. Everyone wins as there will be loads to eat!

Since Shavuoth falls on May 30th and 31st, pictures will only be available in next month's newsletter.

The final meeting of this year's Inter-religious Women's Group will meet at 5:00 p.m. on May 31st. Rabbi Offenberg will offer a Torah reading and lead a discussion, in keeping with the spirit of Shavuoth.

## Jewish June

This year, 2017 is our twentieth year. Who could've believed in 1997 as Rachel Dohme and Polina Pelts met with recently immigrated FSU Jews that what they would establish that day in the rooms of the St. Elisabeth Catholic Church would change their lives and the religious landscape of their new home in Hamelin, Germany forever. The vision, love of Judaism and determination has more than paid off for that small group and the 200 members who would follow throughout the two decades. The city of Hamelin has been bettered with the establishment and development of our Reform congregation. Our congregation was blessed to have the hand of Rabbi Irit Shillor guiding us religiously through the years. The jewel of our vision was the construction of and dedication on February 20, 2011 of the first Reform synagogue to be built in post-Shoah Germany, which stands on the very ground the city's synagogue stood until its destruction on November 9, 1938. The synagogue has become the focal point of our members' lives. The congregation has grown, on many levels, over the last twenty years. The members are secure in their faith, educated about their religious roots and active in all facets of congregational life. Some are drawn to opportunities for prayer, observance and religious study; others find their place in the liturgy, culture and history of our people; for others the accent on social justice and community service. There are many ways to be Jewish.

Sonntag, 11. Juni 2017

# הנכם מוזמנים

Herzliche Einladung  
zum Jüdischen Kulturtag 2017

– anlässlich des 20. Jubiläums der  
Jüdischen Gemeinde Hameln

› Programm auf der Rückseite



Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

## Programm für Sonntag, 11.06.17

- 12.00 Uhr › Eröffnung  
› Führung
- 13.00 Uhr › „Frag die Rabbinerin“-Tisch (Gespräch)
- 14.00 Uhr › Israelischer Tanz-Workshop
- 15.00 Uhr › Führung  
› Kaschrut / Jüdisches Essen (Workshop)
- 16.00 Uhr › Jüdische Musik (Workshop)
- 17.00 Uhr › Führung  
› Hebräisch-Workshop
- 18.00 Uhr › Konzert „Stellena-Duo“  
Stella Perevalova (Klavier) und  
Elena Kondraschowa (Violine)  
› Grußworte (Landrat Tjark Bartels und  
Oberbürgermeister Claudio Griese)
- 19.00 Uhr › Schluss und Shalom

### Durchgehende Angebote:

- › Künstler-Tisch
- › Israel-Info-Tisch
- › Kinder-Bastelecke



Sparkasse  
Hameln-Weserbergland

STADTWERKE  
HAMELN

...näher geht's nicht

### Kontakt

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It has also become a place where our non-Jewish neighbors can come and learn about Judaism, where dialog and encounter, where healing can occur.

Our twentieth year should not only be a celebration for us. We wish to reach out to our greater community too. On June 11th we will open the synagogue doors and welcome everyone interested to the 1st Jewish Cultural festival in Hameln. The mayor and county commissioner will be in attendance as well as many church and civic leaders. We hope to offer a day of outreach, sharing our history, culture and religion with all who wish to come, see and learn. It will be an open door day offering various sessions with Jewish music, Israeli dance, information about Israel, Hebrew language, an "Ask the Rabbi" booth, tours of the building, work from Jewish artists, a children's arts and crafts table, kosher food table and much more.

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

Enjoy the banner of pictures on our Web site at [www.jghreform.org](http://www.jghreform.org).

### **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.

### **New Members**

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Nadea Alhaffar. She is our member Sofia Banchukova's daughter and Svetlana Banchukova's granddaughter as well as Maya Banchukova's great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Inna Bilousova has joined our "Friends" organization.

Welcome to you all!



### **Donations — Tzedakah**

We wish to thank the 8th grade class from Barntrop High school, Frau Fuchs and Frau Lindhorst with their 6th grade classes from Viktoria-Luise High school in Hameln, Pastor Reunig and his confirmation group from Ohnsen, Frau Seebothe and The Landfrauen, the DeJong family, Irina Grach, Mrs. Gibas, Mrs. Niedert and Rachel Dohme for donations in May.

We thank Mrs Meschede-Krasa for her generous donation in honor of our 20th Anniversary.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

It's finally summer! Add your leaf to our blossoming Tree of Life. The Tree of Life 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 ordered by the Dvortsis family: "In memory of our son-in-law Igor"

And from Irina Grach: "In memory of my mother Hina Soroker"

### **Mazel Tov**

Mazel Tov to our congregation on our twentieth year!

### **Thank you — Todah Rabah**

We thank everyone who helps to make our holiday and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.



## Unveiling

Rabbi Offenberg dedicated the gravestones for Jakovs Judelsohns and Mikhail Timonim in May.



## June Yahrzeit

- Dr. Iljja Latkov June 5, 1998 / 11. Sivan 5758
- Matvey Slavinskiy June 23, 1998 / 29. Sivan 5758
- Etja Scheinberg June 1, 2011 / 28. Iyar 5771
- Abrash Boruchov June 6, 2011 / 4. Sivan 5771
- Elena Gorbacheva June 4, 2012 / 14. Sivan 5772
- Valentina Barulina June 23, 2012 / 3. Tammuz 5772
- Grigori Ziskand June 15, 2013 / 17. Tammuz 5773

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 Congregation 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 2017 • Sivan–Tammuz 5777

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

Sunday, June 4 4:00 p.m. Concert, Synagogue Choir “Shalom,” in cooperation with Aktion Mensch  
Wednesday, June 7 6:00 p.m. “My Life” with Polina Pelts, in cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews

### Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, June 9 3:00 p.m. Bnei Mitzvah class  
4:00 p.m. Giyur class  
5:00 p.m. Friday night services. Join us as we honor Polina Pelts on the occasion of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!  
8:00 p.m. Mishna Study

Saturday, June 10 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning services and Torah study  
1:30 p.m. Kinder Kehilla

Sunday, June 11

### Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House

12 noon **Welcome**  
1:00 p.m. **Synagogue tour/ Rabbi’s Table**  
2:00 p.m. **Israeli Dance Workshop**  
3:00 p.m. **Synagogue tour/ Kaschrut Workshop**  
4:00 p.m. **Jewish Music Workshop**  
5:00 p.m. **Synagogue tour/Hebrew Workshop**  
6:00 p.m. **Concert: Duo Stellena (Central Council of Jews Cultural Program)**  
12:00–6:00 **Israel Info Booth, Community artists exhibit, Arts and Crafts**

Tuesday, June 20 11:00 a.m. Brunch and Art with Boris Kagan, “ Impressionism” in cooperation with Aktion Mensch

### Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, June 23 3:00 p.m. Bnei Mitzvah class  
4:00 p.m. Giyur class  
5:30 p.m. Friday night services  
8:00 p.m. Mishna Study

Saturday, June 24 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning services and Torah study  
1:30 p.m. Kinder Kehillah