



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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July–August 2011 • Sivan–Tammuz–Av–Elul 5771

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

It's finally summertime and everyone is ready for a pause in our busy congregational life. It's been an amazing and utterly awesome year. Everyone has worked so hard and so long, and a quiet time will allow us to recharge our batteries for a new Jewish year in our beautiful new synagogue.

The warm June days were felt outside as well as inside our sanctuary. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and caring community. The atmosphere gives true meaning to the name of our new synagogue, Beitenu—"our house." The month of June painted a picture composed of many moments, some happy and some sad but all creating the mosaic of Jewish life in Hamelin today.

We celebrated Shavuot together, hosted many school classes and church groups interested in our Jewish life and new building, and comforted and consoled members of our community in mourning. The month ended with the joyous occasion as Sören Jaakov Wendt was called to the Torah for the first time, becoming the first Bar Mitzvah in our new synagogue. We will report more fully and share pictures of the happy event in our September newsletter.

On June 7th we gathered together in the sanctuary for Erev Shavuot services, led by Abraham Geiger student rabbi Adrian Shell. Together

with Jewish communities around the world, we rejoiced in the receiving of the Torah. Our voices joined in reciting the prayers, singing the psalms, and reading the Book of Ruth in Hebrew, Russian, German and English. Everyone had a turn to read part of the book in his or her mother tongue.

We enjoyed a festive Kiddush of cheesecake, cheese blinzles and other dairy dishes before beginning a night of study. As Reform Jews, we hold the tradition of "Tikkun haLeila Shavuot"—a study night revolving around a Jewish theme. Student rabbi Adrian had prepared a topic of interest to all. "La Dor VaDor—From Generation to Generation."

We examined what parents pass on to their children and delved into Jacob's testimony to his sons in the book of Genesis, chapter 49, verses 1–33. It was a fascinating and lively discussion. At midnight we enjoyed a hot vegetable soup, prepared by Dieter Vogelhuber. Well into the early morning hours, we each headed for home, tired but content.

The Society of Christians and Jews offered a trip to Eschershausen in June, and many of our members, as well as members of the Jewish community of Bad Pyrmont, took part. The Holocaust memorial "Lenner Lager" was visited. Mr. Hans-Georg Spangenberg offered historical information and answered questions. Mrs. Polina Pelts assisted with translation as necessary. As difficult as such trips are, they are necessary. We will never forget.

The month of June ended happily with Rabbi Shillor's visit. Crowning her visit was Sören's Bar Mitzvah service. As usual, when Rabbi Irit arrives from England, she never comes empty handed. She always brings something to help the congregation. This time it was new Shacharit Siddurim, which she, Debbie Tal-Reuttger and others had worked long and hard on. The 50 new prayer books arrived just in time for Sören's Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat morning, June 25th. There were twice as many at services as there were prayer books, but that's always a good sign!



We thank Rabbi Shillor and all those involved in preparing the new trilingual Siddur. This is just one example of the many things Rabbi Shillor does “behind the scenes” to help us intensify and enrich our religious lives.

Our congregation, like almost all in Germany, is a house of many languages. It is our conscious choice and conviction that language skills or the lack of them should never be an obstacle to religious literacy and observation. All Jews have the right to their heritage.

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 informing others of our congregational efforts and developments. This newsletter has been the most efficient and successful outreach tool in our attempts to network internationally. Many new relationships have been established, 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.



Summer Break

Our regular classes and groups will be taking a summer break in July and August. Check the program carefully. We will be holding Friday night services in July and August and hope for high attendance. On July 29th, member Peter Wendt has prepared a sermon about the summer holidays and the Jewish traveller's prayer. We hope his thoughts will be just the thing to help ready those who will be travelling this summer. We especially hope the youth who will attend summer camp in August will attend.

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 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 17th annual conference of the UPJ will be held from July 7th to 10th 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).

We will give a report in our September newsletter and wish all those participating an enriching experience. We thank the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany for the financial support, which enabled five FSU congregants the opportunity to attend.

Summer Camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp will be held in Radstadt, Austria, this year. Camp dates are August 1–14. 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).

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Society for Christians and Jews, the Catholic church and our own congregation for financial support, making it possible that six youngsters can attend summer camp this year.

Chevra Kaddisha Members Needed

One of the most important Mitzvot a Jew can perform is to be a member of the congregation's Chevra Kaddisha. Both the men's and women's groups need new members. Please consider volunteering and contact the office. Rabbi Shillor will offer an evening workshop during her September visit.

New Members

We welcome new members Mr. Michael Lazer and the Sukharov family.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to Sören Wendt on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

We congratulate all the youth of our congregation who have graduated from high school this year. Well done!

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:

Mrs. Lehrke and Mrs. Lüttgen-Friess and their three 4th grade classes; Mrs. Lange and Mrs. Schliep's 4th grade classes; Mrs. Krebber's 6th grade class; Pastor Fröhlich and her church group; the Hannover Technical University; Mrs. Wahmes and the St. Elisabeth Catholic Church's senior group; Mrs. Kornelia Nolting; the Bauer family; Mrs. Glaser; Mr. Hagemann; Robert and Ingrid Wander, USA; Mrs. Anne von der Linden, Netherlands; the Sheinberg family; the Boruchov family; Mr. Khasanov; Hans and Johanna Weltner; and Rachel Dohme.

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 245th leaf has been ordered by:

Irina and Izabella Sheinberg: In memory of my parents, Zalman and Etya

Thanks — Toda Raba

We wish to thank everyone who performed at our first "Jewish Culture Day." The artists donated their performances for a benefit concert for the earthquake victims in Japan. The concert was well attended by our members as well as many Hamelin citizens. The donation of 232 Euros was presented to the German Red Cross, earmarked for Japan. We thank everyone for helping to make this effort a success.



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 Sheinberg family on the death of their beloved mother, Etya Sheinberg. The funeral service was led by rabbinical student Adrian Shell. Our condolences to the daughters, Irina and Izabella. Mrs. Sheinberg was a member of the Jewish Congregation in Bad Pyrmont.

The funeral of our dear member Abrash Boruchov took place on June 10th. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Valentina Barulina, and their family. Rachel Dohme and Wladimir Pesok led the funeral services.

Yahrzeit in July and August

- Nataliya Zaychenko July 1, 2003 / 1st Tammuz 5763
- Sergei Jevdokimov July 21, 2008 / 18th Tammuz 5768
- Inge Dickmann July 16, 2008 / 13th Tammuz 5768
- Ethel Lazer August 16, 2009 / 26th Av 5669

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

We wish everyone a happy summer!

[Newsletter Archives](#)

Program for July–August 2011 • Sivan–Tammuz–Av–Elul 5771

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

All courses will resume in September.

Thursday–Sunday, July 7–10	.	17. Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany in Berlin/Spandau
Friday, July 15	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Friday, July 29	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services and Birthday Shabbat with P. Wendt and F. Pelts
Wednesday, August 10	10:00 a.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, August 12	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Friday, August 26	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme

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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