



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

July–August 2014 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5724

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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 month of June kept us very busy. Let's have a look at some special things that happened.



**Shabbat** in our synagogue is always special, made even more so when our choir “Shalom” joins in. Petr Chrastina accompanied the choir on the piano. Peter Wendt led services and involved many members with readings in German, Hebrew and Russian and his Shabbat sermon as always, offered food for thought.

We celebrated **Shavuot** this year on June 5th with Rabbi Adrian Schell. We enjoyed a lovely service, followed by an Oneg with sweet and creamy cheesecakes, home-made blintzes smothered in fresh fruit and other dairy dishes, prepared by our kitchen team, Liubow and Lyudmyla. With our stomachs happily filled, we began an intense study session on the Book of Ruth and the concept of conversion from a Reform Jewish perspective. The lively discussion left us satisfied in mind and body. We bid the holiday farewell with a short Havdallah service.

The following day, we met again on Erev Shabbat. Rabbi Adrian welcomed Larissa Bellgardt to accompany the Shabbat liturgy on the piano for the first time, assisted by Faina Pelts.

Debbie Tal- Reuttger, vice president of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany was our special guest on Shabbat Korach. Debbie led Shacharit services, leyning Torah beautifully and after a delicious Kiddush lunch, offered a **workshop on the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam—Healing the World**. Besides our own members, a group from the Reform Congregation of Göttingen joined us for a day of prayer and learning with Debbie. Working in small groups on biblical and Talmudic texts, allowed us to deepen our understanding on this topic. We thank Ioulia Berhowski for translating and hope to host Debbie again soon.

Polina Pelts offered several successful programs in June through the support of a grant from Aktion Mensch. There was a nice turnout for a lecture and concert of “Jewish Composers”. Samuel Koudinov, Faina Pelts and Larissa Bellgardt presented the topic well. Later in the month, our seniors were invited for breakfast and a virtual tour through Hamelin. Hamelin tour guide and member, Inna Lyubych gave our seniors a guided tour of our beautiful and historic city, using a slide show. What a great idea!

Finally Polina arranged a bus trip for our members with limited mobility. A small bus picked up members at home and dropped them off after the outing, making such a trip possible for those depending on canes and walkers to get around. The bus trip drove them to and through the city of Bad Pyrmont, including the city gardens and a stop for coffee and cake. It was a “wellness day” for our oldest members. We were happy to pamper them in this way, thanks to Polina’s organization and the grant from Aktion Mensch.

Our busy month of June ended with a highlight. Valerij Bogatchyk and his theater group performed an original play, written many years ago by Josef Pelts, of blessed memory. The play describes life in the Russian Stetl (village) of our grandparents, told through the voice of the village rabbi. The thespians, Boris Utchitel, Mark Ovsievych, Genrietta Bachmatchnikova, Larissa Dvortsis, Nadja Pesok, Dora Bogachyck, Faina Pelts und Lev Bachmatchnikov, mesmerized the full house. Musical accompaniment was provided by Petr Chrastina and Larissa Bellgardt. The play began with a video comprised of stills of Russian Jewish life before the Shoah. The 90-minute play followed, taking the audience on a trip back in time, spiced with humorous and bittersweet moments and wonderful musical performances. Our talented members were thanked with red roses and thundering applause—all more than deserved!





## Time to say Goodbye

Dear members and friends,

Having to say goodbye to you all today is a hard task, yet I must. During the last seven years I have served you as a rabbinical student and ordained rabbi. We have celebrated Shabbat and holidays together and have been a part of each other's lives. During the summer months, I will begin a new chapter in my career and have accepted a position with a congregation in Johannesburg, South Africa.

I want you all to know how happy I was to be your rabbinical student and your rabbi. The experience I gathered in Hamelin influenced me deeply. Because of my time with you, I have grown professionally and I want to thank you for the wonderful opportunities you afforded me. They are engraved on my heart. Each and every one of you made my time with you a time of happiness,

friendship and trust. We celebrated happy and sad times together and I value them all.

There are so many people I want to thank but there is not enough room on this page to name them all so for you all, I wish to mention four wonderful women. I wish to thank our Rabbi Irit Shillor for sharing her Bimah with me and always supporting me and helping me to develop. I thank Rachel Dohme, who believed in me from the beginning and made so many things possible for me which would've been otherwise impossible. My thanks to Polina (and her husband Josef, of blessed memory) Pelts who received me with a warm and open heart and Faina Pelts for her wonderful musical accompaniment during services and her translations.

There are so many people I wish to thank. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your sincerity, honesty, friendship and much more. I hope I have the opportunity to thank each and every one of you during my last two visits in July and August. I hope we can remain in touch after I leave. My email is: [rabbiner.schell@online.de](mailto:rabbiner.schell@online.de) and I would love to hear from you.

I wish you all a good New Year and wish you all good health, happiness, contentment and blessings.

B'Vracha

Your Rabbi, Adrian M. Schell

## Farewell Oneg for Rabbi Adrian

Please join us for a final Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Adrian on Friday, August 1st. We want to say goodbye and wish Adrian well.

## 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, 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.

## Jewish July and August

Our congregation in cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews is offering a day bus trip to Wolfenbüttel. Participants will meet at the Hamelin main train station at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 1st. Leading the trip from our congregation is Mrs. Polina Pelts and for the Society, Deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberger. The day trip will offer a good mix, especially a walking tour through "Jewish Wolfenbüttel" where together will look at the history of the Hamelin Jewish family Katzenstein, who originally hailed from there.



Gesellschaft für  
Christlich-Jüdische  
Zusammenarbeit  
Hameln e.V.



### Summer Concert

We are pleased to invite all our members, friends and supporters to a Summer Concert of Jewish music in our sanctuary on Sunday, July 20 at 3:00 p.m. The concert is being organized by Faina Pelts and will showcase all our music groups and dance group. Plan to attend an entertaining summer afternoon with us. The concert is free but we always welcome contributions for the synagogue.

### Information from the Central Council of Jews in Germany

We have received a letter from Dr. Dieter Graumann, President of the Central Council of Jews of Germany, which addresses the situation for Jews in Ukraine. The German government in cooperation with German Jewish organizations is easing regulations for Ukrainian Jews to enter Germany. If you know of anyone who wants to immigrate to Germany, please contact us so we may facilitate their case. The letter is available in our office.

### Mark your calendar now!

### 20th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 20th annual conference of the UPJ will be held July 24–27 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:

We thank the teaching staff of the Emmerthal school system, the Truchsess family, Mr. Adolf Späth and the 6th and 9th grade class of Mrs. Szymanski, Viktoria-Luise High School.

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

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

### Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Sommer 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 can be seen:

“In honor of the birth of our grandson Sherlock William from his grandparents Alla and Wolfgang”

A new leaf has been ordered:

“In honor of the birth of Sinje Thea Truchsess from her grandparents”

## **Thank you — Toda Raba**

We welcome initiatives from our members. Please approach the board with your ideas if you'd like to contribute for the general good of the community.

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. All the regular group activities, led by volunteers, contribute to our community life. We appreciate your commitment.

## **July and August Yahrzeit**

Nataliya Zaychenko — July 1, 2003 / Tammuz 1, 5763  
Sergei Jevdokymov — July 21, 2008 / Tammuz 18, 5768  
Inge Dickmann — July 16, 2008 / Tammuz 13, 5768  
Wolodymr Zaslavsky — July 29, 2012 / Av 10, 5772  
Ethel Lazer — August 16, 2009 / Av 26, 5769

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**

**We wish all our members, friends and supporters  
a happy and healthy summer vacation!**



[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 July–August 2014 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5724

**Office hours: Due to summer vacation, our office will be irregularly staffed.  
Please call ahead for appointments. All courses will resume in September.**

Tuesday, July 1	8:00 a.m. Hamelin Train station	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews and support from <b>Aktion Mensch</b> : Guided trip and tour to Wolfenbuttel, with Polina Pelts and H-G Spangenberg
<b>Rabbi Adrian Schell's visit</b>		
Friday, July 4	1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Rabbi's office hours "Judaism from A to Z" with Rabbi Adrian Friday night services with Rabbi Adrian
Saturday, July 5	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Adrian <b>NETZER</b> Hameln with Rabbi Adrian & Ioulia
Tuesday, July 8	10:00 a.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, July 18	5:30 p.m.	Friday Night services with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, July 20	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Café with P. Pelts. Summer Concert—from and for our members, organized by F. Pelts, sponsored by <b>Aktion Mensch</b>
Thursday– Sunday, July 24–27		<b>20th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany</b> in Berlin/Spandau
<b>Rabbi Adrian Schell's last visit</b> ☹		
Friday, August 1	1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Rabbi's office hours "Judaism from A to Z" with Rabbi Adrian Friday night services with Rabbi Adrian and Farewell Oneg Shabbat
Saturday, August 2	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Adrian <b>Family NETZER</b> Hameln with Rabbi Adrian
Sunday, August 3	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Café with P. Pelts. Concert "Russian Romances" with S. Bantschukova, V. Fridman and W. Pesok, sponsored by <b>Aktion Mensch</b>
Tuesday, August 5	10:00 a.m.	Monthly board meeting
Sunday, August 17	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Café with P. Pelts, Concert: Folksong Singalong, sponsored by <b>Aktion Mensch</b>
Friday, August 22	5:30 p.m.	Friday Night services with Peter Wendt & Shalom choir
Sunday, August 31	3:00 p.m.	Membership meeting

**We wish everyone a happy summer!**