



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

September-October 2015 • Elul–Tishrei–Cheshvan 5775/5776

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

Dear members, friends and supporters,

There is a special moment before services begin when people arrive and greet one another, catching up with the news of the week, sharing a photograph or laughing at a well-told joke. The doorbell rings and welcoming greetings of “Shabbat Shalom!” add to the happy chatter as everyone slowly finds a seat in our lovely sanctuary.

The noise of the street drifts slowly away as a feeling of Shabbat peace settles over the congregation and the service begins.

Throughout the summer we have held services and offered our members the opportunity to gather together to sing, pray, reflect and study. We have enjoyed the visits from Rabbi Sascha Lyskovoy, Rabbi Irit Shillor and Dr. Ulrike Offenberg. Each of these spiritual leaders offers something new, and we are fortunate to be so well served.

As readers know, our congregation is richly sown with a variety of musicians. The summer harvest of concerts was especially bountiful. Beginning with the duo of Faina Pelts and Larissa Bellgardt, followed by an afternoon serenade performed by students from the Viktoria Luise Gymnasium and ending with the ensemble of Valerij Fridman, Svetlana Bantshukova, Wladimir and Nadya Pesok, one can rightly say “music was in the air.” Thank you one and all!

Our congregation also enjoyed a joint day trip to Hildesheim, organized by Deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberg and Polina Pelts. “Our members thoroughly enjoyed spending the day with members and guests of the Society of Christians and Jews, expertly guided through the historical city of Hildesheim. Mr. Spangenberg’s knowledge of the city and its Jewish and Christian heritage was informative as well as entertaining.”

Sofer Neil Yerman, New York, visited us again as Scholar in Residence this summer. His work on restoring our Torah and making final improvements on the newly acquired Torah, which will be inaugurated by Rabbi Irit Shillor at our October Simchat Torah services, is a permanent loan from our president, Rachel Dohme. Members and guests, including a very excited group of students could look over the shoulder of Sofer Yerman as he worked, which made his visit an even more special occasion than it already was.



Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln

Jewish September and October

Our congregation will celebrate the High Holy Days, marked by Teshuvah, Tefilah and Tzedakah, beginning at sundown on September 13th. We will usher in the New Year 5776, led through the Days of Awe, by Dr. Ulrike Offenberg.

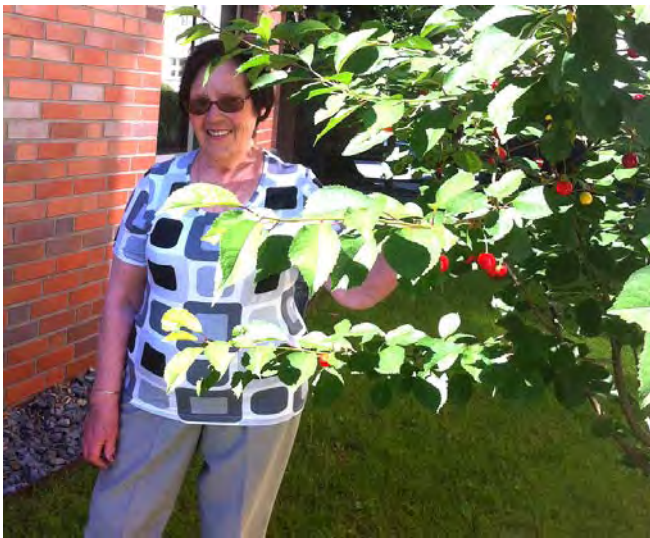
Please bring a vegetarian dish to share on Sunday evening, Erev Rosh Hashanah, and join us for Tashlich after Rosh Hashanah morning services the following morning as we symbolically toss our sins into the stream. Allow your heart and soul to be moved by the chanting of Kol Nidre and experience communal fasting and prayer on Yom Kippur, ending with a gentle Break-the-Fast meal after Yiskor and Neila services at sundown on Wednesday evening.

Join us in erecting the Sukkah on the afternoon of September 27th. Faina and Peter will lead a short service and invite everyone to shake the Lulav and enjoy the sweet smell of the Etrog in the Sukkah.

Rabbi Irit Shillor will visit us on the first weekend in October. She will lead us in weekend services and take part in a panel discussion at the House of World Religions. Her visit will culminate in leading our Simchat Torah services, and as is our tradition, stand in the middle of our sanctuary as we, as a community, hold the unrolled Torah. This year’s ceremony will be especially meaningful. Rachel Dohme has purchased a Torah, which Rabbi Shillor will dedicate, adding joy to the festival. We hope to see everyone there.

Eternal Rest Rights for Our Cemetery I

It has been a long 13-year process involving many persons, but we have finally secured eternal rest rights for our cemetery. It was dedicated in 2001 by Rabbi Dr. Henry Brandt. Rachel Dohme never gave up and with the strong support of Rabbi Irit Shillor, and Katarina Seidler, president of our State Board of Jewish Communities in Lower Saxony, the goal was achieved. We wish to personally thank our city’s new mayor, Claudio Griesse, Cemetery Officer Mr. Sanneck and Building Commissioner Mr. Aden for their help and support in seeing this change of bylaws through. It is of positive note that the City Council voted unanimously in favor of our request.



JHG
Home



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

Please read a report from our member and conference delegate Heidi Braun:

“The 20th annual conference this year was the weekend home to hundreds of Jews from Germany and many international guests. Our conference center in Berlin offered religious, cultural and political workshops and lectures to interest every mind. Our congregation was represented by five members, allowing us to attend a variety of the workshops. The opportunity to listen and learn from one another and to open ourselves to new ideas and thoughts strengthen us as a liberal congregation. For many of us from small congregations the pleasure of celebrating Shabbat with hundreds of fellow Jews was spiritually satisfying. New information could be brought back to our home congregations. The UPJ will offer a series of family weekend seminars again this year. More information about this program is available by writing to hnitzanim.le.kesher@gmail.com.”

Get Well Wishes

We send our wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to all who are ill at home or in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Contributions

We wish to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions to our congregation or foundation: Ms. Klein and the confirmation class of Bodenwerder Church, Ms. Ruppert and Ms. Fuchs and the 6th grade class of Viktoria Luise Gymnasium, Ms. Kucholl and the 4th grade class of Wangelist, Ms. Aue and the 4th grade class of Saaletal, Dr. Rhode and his students from the Bad Pyrmont Gymnasium. We thank Ms. Ursula Niedert, Ms. Metzger-Dieselkamp's 4th grade class from Rinteln, Dr. Gesa Snell's honorarium for newspaper articles she wrote, Ms. Bruns's 11th grade students from the Elisabeth Selbert School, Ms. Zischkale-Hensen's BUFDI group from Ith, Ms. Jacob-Buhmann's 6th grade class, Hessisch Oldendorf, Ms. Lonkwitz's 11th graders, Eugen Rentjes School, Ms. Schroth's 6th grade class, Albert Einstein Gymnasium, and members of the national Maccabbi Youth Basketball Team from Israel.

We thank Mr. Hans Weltner and Rachel Dohme for their monthly contributions.

May all be blessed for their generosity!

Tree Of Life

Autumn is ushered in with the falling of colorful leaves, but we hope many members and friends will donate new leaves to our ever-growing “Tree of Life.”

A new leaf was donated by the Dohme family: “In honor of the life of Gertrud Lind.”

Mazel Tov

We wish all our students a good new start in their further schooling or professions.

We congratulate the Lippold von Klencke family on the birth of their grandson, Leopold.

Mazel Tov to the Spangenberg family on the betrothal of their daughter.

Thank You — Todah Rabah

We thank all our members who are always ready to lend a hand to help make everything we do so successful. Many regularly volunteer for the good of our congregation. Our thanks and appreciation to you all!

Condolences

We wish to express and extend our deep condolences to the Lind family on the passing of Gertrud Lind, Rochester, New York. Gertrud Lind and our friend, Art Herz, both of beloved memory, were members of Temple Brith Kodesh and worked tirelessly to educate their members about the rebirth of Reform Judaism and raise funds for our new synagogue. They will never be forgotten. Their acts of loving kindness are etched in our hearts.

Yahrzeit in September and October

Samson Avrus September 3, 1999 Elul 22, 5759

Oleksii Bogdanov October 10, 2014 Tishri 16, 5774

May their memories be for a blessing. Join us at services as we recite Kaddish for them.

Gemar Chatimah Tovah! May You Be Written in the Book of Life!

Your Synagogue Board



Program for October 2015 • Tishrei–Cheshvan 5776

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Friday, October 2	3:00 p.m.	Open education class in German with Rabbi Irit Shillor
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Saturday, October 3	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Sunday, October 4	7:00 p.m.	Simchat Tora and Torah dedication service with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Monday, October 5	3:30 p.m.	Netzer Youth Group with Faina
Monday, October 12	3:00 p.m.	Inter-religious Women's Group Final meeting this year-please bring your favorite vegetarian dish to share
Tuesday, October 13	11:00 a.m.	Breakfast Club: Lecture with Hans-Georg Spangenberg Led by Polina Pelts and with support from "Aktion Mensch"
Friday, October 16	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel Dohme
Saturday, October 17	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, October 25	3:00 p.m.	Senior's Café: Guest, Dr. Hill, led by Polina Pelts and with support from "Aktion Mensch"
Monday, October 26	3:30 p.m.	Netzer Youth Group with Faina
Friday, October 30	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Peter Wendt and Synagogue choir "Shalom"
Saturday, October 31	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study with Peter Wendt

Activities outside the congregation

Sunday, October 4	4:00 p.m.	Interreligious Forum, Johanneskirche, Rinteln Rabbi Irit Shillor
Sunday, October 10	8:00 p.m.	Concert with our synagogue choir "Shalom" in Altenhagen

[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

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln • Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.jghreform.org • Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 • Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@jghreform.org