



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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September 2011 • Av–Elul–Tishri 5771–5772

[Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

The warm and relaxing days of summer are drawing to a close, and we ready ourselves for a new Jewish year. Before looking ahead, we look back to what went on in our synagogue during the summer months.

Certainly the high point was the joyous celebration of Sören Jaakov Wendt being called to the Torah for the first time, becoming the first Bar Mitzvah in our new synagogue. It was moving as well as historic. Sören stood side by side with our Rabbi Irit Shillor on the bimah and welcomed a full sanctuary. Sören had prepared his Torah portion and sermon well, reading fluently. The beautiful service was enriched as many congregants, family members and friends took part with additional readings, making for a happy mixture of young and old voices. The synagogue choir, “Shalom,” presented a short concert in honor of the Bar Mitzvah, and the congregation presented Sören with a certificate commemorating this special day. Sören was thrilled to learn that the congregation’s gift was summer camp. The synagogue board set a new precedent and will cover each future Bar/Bat Mitzvah’s summer camp fee for that year. As always, the congregation joined with the family around a richly set Kiddush table, laden with delicious foods and lovingly decorated by Elena and Liubow. The following article appeared in the *WUPJNews*:

Sören Jaakov Wendt was called to the Torah for the first time on Shabbat Korach and became the first Bar Mitzvah in the new Hameln synagogue. The Shacharit service was led by Rabbi Irit Shillor. Members and relatives participated by leading readings. Sören assisted Rabbi Shillor during services, delivered a thought-provoking sermon and read his portion beautifully. Sören became the third youngster in his family to celebrate Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Every seat in the new sanctuary was filled with members and guests, and Sören was showered with sweets upon completion of the Torah service, to the delight of the youngest children. The synagogue choir, “Shalom,” offered the Bar Mitzvah boy a short concert in honor of his special day. After services a festive Kiddush buffet was enjoyed by young and old, and everyone had time to congratulate the Bar Mitzvah, enjoy the delicious home-made dishes and visit with one another.

On the eve of the Bar Mitzvah during Friday night services, British Jewish textile artist Jane Hewison presented the congregation with a beautifully crafted blue velvet Torah table cover, complimenting the ark curtains and Torah mantles she had designed and sewn for the February dedication. We thank her.

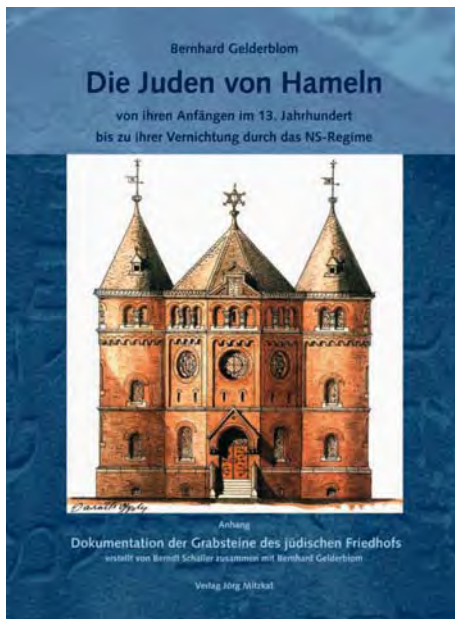
Even during the summer months, services were offered, led by different congregants. It was wonderful seeing friends and neighbors, welcoming newcomers and visiting family members of our congregants and hearing the patter of little feet running to and fro during the service. When three-year-old twins opened the door for the “Shabbat Queen” and ask loudly, “Where is she?” everyone had a good laugh. It was especially sweet to have our former exchange student Benyamin Meschede-Krasa and his grandparents with us again.

We would like to recommend a book to German readers of our English addition. Local historian Bernd Gelderblom has concluded his life’s work with a beautiful edition of *Die Juden von Hameln*. Rachel Dohme congratulated him on behalf our congregation on this monumental work when she spoke at the book presentation ceremony. We encourage readers to get their copy by contacting the publisher at: www.mitzkat.de (ISBN 978-3-940751-39-3, 29.90 Euros).

Social worker Faina Pelts represented our congregation at a well-attended podium discussion organized by the Integration Council of Hameln.

We are extremely pleased to see the continued interest in our new synagogue and our congregational life. Many different groups come through our doors. School classes, church groups and clubs receive information about the building and Reform Judaism during the one to two hour tour and discussion. Each group offers a contribution for the building of the synagogue, showing viable support for our new and permanent home.

Among recent guests were Dr. Werner Meimers, president of the state commission for the history of Jewish life in Lower Saxony, and even the Israeli basketball team, Makabbi Motzkin.







Last but certainly not least was an important moment as we presented Mr. Helmut Volkmer, CEO of the Hameln German Red Cross, with a check for the earthquake victims in Japan. The contribution of \$300 was the result of a benefit concert we held in late May. His thank-you letter has been displayed in the display case in the synagogue foyer.

Please Note! Our synagogue office will be closed on Wednesday, September 28th, from noon until Friday morning, September 30th, because of Rosh Hashanah.

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 to 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 built as a result and we are grateful to all involved. If you would like to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish September

Our congregation will celebrate the High Holy Days, beginning with Erev Rosh Hashanah services on September 27th. We are pleased that Student Rabbi Adrian Schell will lead us in prayer for the “Days of Awe.”

Rosh Hashanah celebrates the Jewish New Year and culminates with Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, ten days later. The ten days between New Year and the Day of Atonement offer each Jew time to seek forgiveness between himself and others and then between himself and God. This is achieved by threefold through: Teshuva—Repentance, Tefila—Prayer, and Tzedaka—Charity.

Erev Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 5:30 p.m. A communal meal will be offered after services. Besides the traditional apples and honey, we ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share. Rosh Hashanah morning services will continue the next morning at 10:00 a.m.

We’ll enjoy a communal lunch and then observe the Tashlich ceremony riverside. The Kol Nidre melody on Erev Yom Kippur on October 7th will open our hearts and stir our souls, preparing us for Yom Kippur prayers on Saturday, October 8th. After Yiskor and Ne’ila services we will break the fast together, spiritually refreshed and renewed for the New Year 5772.

Karla Reveh

Mrs. Karla Reveh, the last Holocaust survivor in the city of Lemgo honored us with a visit to our Friday night services on July 29th. Mrs. Reveh lives in Kiriya Tivon, Israel, and was visiting her hometown. She speaks to school classes and church groups when in Germany about her youth in Lemgo, the tragic years of persecution and her experiences in several concentration camps. On her last visit to Germany four years ago, a group from our congregation travelled to her former home and heard her speak of her experiences and memories. It was a very moving experience for all, first-hand and very private. We wish Mrs. Reveh continued good health and hope to see her again in our synagogue or visit her in Israel. Our Jewish past—beautiful, poignant and painful—is tangible through such visits and contacts. We thank her for spending Shabbat with us.



The 17th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 17th annual conference of the UPJ was held July 7–10 in Berlin. This year's theme was "Liberal Judaism Today." Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars were offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. Moving services in Hebrew, German and Russian were celebrated.

Board elections were held at the annual membership meeting, and we are pleased to report the exciting results. The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's new president is Sonya Gunthner from Cologne, and the vice-president is Debbie Tal-Ruettger from Gudensberg. They are supported by Paul Yuval Adam, Michelle Picirillo, Daniel Peisner, our own Faina Pelts and Rabbi Dr. Walter Rothschild. We're thrilled that a member of our congregation is on the national board.



The membership thanked outgoing president Dr. Jan Mühlstein, vice-president Michael Lawton, and international contact person Rachel Dohme.

Summer Camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp was held in Radstadt, Austria, this year.

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 could attend summer camp this year.

Sören Wendt wrote the following report:

Summer camp is always an adventure. I wondered what it would be like this year. I admit that I had mixed feelings as I said goodbye to my parents and boarded the train to Munich with my younger brother. As soon as I arrived and saw all my old friends from the other congregations, I knew it was going to be a great two weeks. After catching up with old friends, I decided to get to know the newcomers. The activities for the older kids were fun and I enjoyed myself. We also discussed difficult things like the Holocaust, which carried each of us off in our own thoughts. Hiking through the woods was more relaxing as was canoeing. It was really exciting to swing from a ten meter high rope into the cold river. Shabbat services were enjoyable. Rabbi Tom Kucera led them, and he's a really cool rabbi and understands us kids. Our Shlichah Jehudith celebrated her Bat Mitzvah and everyone was impressed with her. We also took a trip to Salzburg, and I was glad to see that the city has more to offer than just Mozart! I want to thank my congregation for the great camping experience—it was a great Bar Mitzvah present!

New Course: Hebrew for Adults

Our member Israel Edelstein's new course, Hebrew for Adults, will begin in October. Serious participants can register through our office. The course will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Chvra Kaddisha Members Needed

One of the most important Mitzvot a Jew can perform is to be a member of the congregation's Chevrah Kaddisha. Both the men and women's group need new members. Please consider volunteering and contact the office. Rabbi Shillor will offer participants a two-part workshop in October.

Mazel Tov

We wish to extend our congratulations to:

- Dr. Rabbi Gábor lengyl on his dissertation.
- The newly elected board of the UPJ.
- Our sister congregation Emet v'Shalom in Gudensberg on their new Sefer Torah.
- Our sister congregation Beth Shalom in Munich on their new rooms.

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:

Mr. Manfred Uhlit, Mr. Rainer Krahl, Mrs. Agathe Metzger-Diesterkamp, Mrs. Lange, Mrs. Schliep,, Mrs. Gerda Schmalkuche, Dr. and Mrs. Meiners, Mr. Jakob Muijnck, Mrs. Valentina Barulina, the St. Elisabeth Catholic church's women's group, Mr. Adolf Späth, Mrs. Anne Armbrecht, Hans and Johanna Weltner, and Rachel Dohme.

American contributions came from Stephen Jacobs, Marc Jacobs and our dear friends at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York. Marc Jacobs made his contribution in memory of his grandparents and great-grandparents, Max and Helen Feuerstein. Stephen Jacobs presented us with the donations when he visited our congregation. We thank our member Mrs. Elke Wendt, who received Mr. Jacobs and showed him our new premises. We hope he will take our greetings and warm feelings back to all our friends at B'rith Kodesh.

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 246th leaf has been ordered by Mrs. Valentina Barulina in memory of her husband Abrash Baruchov.

Thanks — Toda Raba

We wish to thank our Rabbi Irit Shillor, Debbie Tal-Reuttger, Natascha Lyskovoy and Elke Wendt for the magnificent job they did renewing our Shabbat Shacharit siddur.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Valentina Barulina who donated her beloved husband Abrash Baruchov's Bucharest prayerbooks. We will cherish them.

We thank the Foundation Sparkasse Weserbergland for their contribution, enabling us to purchase a new library wall. Thanks to our members who filed all the books.

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.

Get Well Wishes

Refuah Schlema to Dr. Rabbi Gábor Lengyl. We pray for his full recovery after a difficult operation.

New Yahrzeit Memorial Board

Our congregation has installed a beautiful Yahrzeit memorial board on the wall of our new sanctuary. It hangs on the opposite wall from our "Tree of Life." It was lovingly created by the young men who work at the Youth Workshop of the city of Hamelin. The congregation will cover the cost of engraving name plaques for our deceased members and affixing them to the memorial board. We wish to honor their memories and have them symbolically with us in our sanctuary. The family members have been informed of our intention to observe this beautiful Jewish tradition.

Yahrzeit in September

Samson Avrus — September 3, 1999 / 22nd Elul 5759

May his memory be for a blessing. Please join family members during Sabbath services as we recite Kaddish. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.

L'Shana Tovah Tikatevu!
We wish everyone a happy and healthy 5772!

Shalom
—Your Synagogue Board



Program for September 2011 • Av–Elul–Tishri 5771–5772

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

Saturday, September 3	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Monday, September 5	11:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok Monthly synagogue board meeting
Friday, September 9	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical student Natascha Lyskovoy
Saturday, September 10	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Natascha Lyskovoy
Tuesday, September 20	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja, Art History class
Wednesday, September 21	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Saturday, September 24	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Visit from student Rabbi Adrian Schell		
Tuesday, September 27	3:00 p.m.	Congregational Cemetery visit
Wednesday, September 28	5:30 p.m.	EREV ROSH HASHANAH Service with student Rabbi Adrian Schell. Festive buffet: Please bring a vegetarian dish to share
Thursday, September 29	10:00 a.m.	ROSH HASHANAH Service with student Rabbi Adrian Schell Communal luncheon followed by Tashlich ceremony
Friday, September 30	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with student Rabbi Adrian Schell
Saturday, October 1	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with student Rabbi Adrian Schell
Friday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	KOL NIDRE Service with student Rabbi Adrian Schell
Saturday, October 8	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	YOM KIPPUR Service with student Rabbi Adrian Schell YISKOR and NE’ILA — Congregational Break the Fast

Activities outside the community

Sunday, September 4	5:00 p.m.	Peace Festival — Elke Wendt & congregational choir “Shalom” Münster St. Bonifatius Church, Hameln
Saturday, September 17	11:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.	Cultural Festival — Congregational choir “Shalom” and congregational dancers “Chag Sameach” Market Square, Hessisch Oldendorf

[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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