



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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September 2012 • Elul–Tishri 5772–5773

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year 5773. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life! L'Shana Tovah Tiketevu!

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely summer. Even though things in our congregation slowed down, we enjoyed several excellent programs and services together. At the top of the list was a festive Friday night service in a filled sanctuary, led by Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell and musically framed by our choir, "Shalom." Our honored guest, Austin Beutel, was visiting us from his home in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Beutel has followed our developments for years, keeping up with each new step we have taken, through personal contact and this newsletter. As we reported last month, he and his lovely wife, Nani gave our congregation a most generous contribution, to be used for educational purposes. We were of course very excited to celebrate Shabbat with him and the Madrichim from our movement, who held a seminar during the afternoon. Mr. Beutel spoke with the young youth leaders after a mouth-watering Oneg Shabbat, an encounter rewarding for both. Members of the congregation hosted Mr. Beutel during the weekend.



On Sunday, August 12, we hosted the opening of an interesting exhibition. Sponsored by BAMF, our congregation and the Viktoria Luise Gymnasium, the students who participated in a year-long project, "Theresienstadt," shared what they learned, presented on 14 posters. The posters describe and document their findings, which include interviews with our members, a tour and lecture to our synagogue, information about the history and present day life of Hamelin's Jews (not excluding Germany's horrible past), and the Holocaust. Faina Pelts facilitated the project together with the local high school and project director Dr. Sabine Kempf, who gave a short lecture at the opening. Our choir Shalom framed the opening musically. The exhibit is open to the public until September 9, and we are pleased to report that many people have taken the time to see the exhibit and it has been well-received. We commend these young people for their outstanding work.



Flyer and Membership card

Our members will receive a copy of our new colorful flyer and a membership card. The flyer describes our congregation and all we offer. It has been done in German, a Russian translation is included.



House of Worship Tour

Our congregation has always worked toward a positive relationship with other religions and set a high priority on interreligious dialogue, living the motto of Rabbi Jo David, “Hope and Healing”.

It is with this intention that we suggested a House of Worship Crawl this year. The event begins in our synagogue at 5:00 pm. on Sunday, September 9th and we hope to welcome many friends and neighbors. Beginning in our synagogue we will follow a route leading us to the Lutheran reform church, the Hunoldstrasse Mosque and finish at the Baptist church. Refreshments will be served.

We feel this will be a wonderful opportunity to see how others worship and will open doors to new dialogue possibilities.

Synagogue Tour

Many members have seen the school classes, church groups and civic organizations who have visited our synagogue. Most often, our president Rachel Dohme offers each group a active lecture on the history of our congregation, Reform Judaism and the meaning of objects found in a sanctuary.

So why not offer our own members such a tour? Rachel Dohme would be pleased to welcome all interested members on Thursday, September 6th. She hopes to welcome many members and who knows, you might just learn something new.

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. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish September

September means Rosh Hashana and we will come together for the second time in our new and beautiful synagogue for Erev Rosh Hashanah services on September 16th and the following morning for Rosh Hashanah morning prayers. We ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share to Erev Rosh Hashanah services and look forward to wishing each other a happy and healthy 5773, dipping crisp and juicy apples in sweet honey and sharing home-made dishes together after services.

The ten days of Teshuva follow and culminate with Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services on September 25 and 26.

Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell will lead all our High Holy Day and Sukkoth services and we look forward to welcoming him to the Bimah.

Please join us in decorating the Sukkah on Sunday, September 30th and for a service in the booth. Bring your creative ideas and let's make this year's Sukkah the brightest and happiest ever.

18th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany and Abraham Geiger Prize

The 18th annual conference of the UPJ was held July 19–22 in Berlin. This year's theme is “Liberal Judaism Today” celebrated the UPJ Germany's 15th anniversary. 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 also celebrated.



The Abraham Geiger Prize was awarded to Dr. Jan Mühlstein, former president of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany and Dr. Leo Hepner, former officer of the European Union of Progressive Judaism and staunch supporter of the German liberal movement.



Our congregation was represented well with six members and our Rabbi Irit Shillor and future Rabbi Adrian Schell. We enjoyed celebrating Shabbat together, dancing and singing Jewish songs together.

We hope there will be many more opportunities to get together as a movement. Such conference strengthen our identity as Reform Jews and aide us in returning refreshed to our home communities with new and creative ideas.

Summer camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp was held in Poland this year. Our campers were joined by campers from the Reform Congregation of Beth Warsaw.

The campers enjoyed two fun-filled weeks led by the UPJ Youth director and our future rabbi, Adrian Schell. Haakon reports:

"It was great to meet Jewish kids from Poland. We had fun being outside all the time and enjoying nature. We played soccer and even held Shabbat services outside! We took a midnight hike and visited an amusement park and enjoyed swimming in the ocean. I had the chance to be with other Jewish kids from all over Germany who I hadn't seen since last year and that was good too."



Special thanks to those who sponsored our children and youth for this years' camping experience!

- Austin and Nani Beutel
- Heidi Braun
- The Hameln Society for Christians and Jews
- Our congregation

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our member Mrs. Jankowski on the Chuppa of her daughter, Marina and her son-in-law Jan.

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 and will be with you in thought and heart.

Donations-Tzedakah

Thank you Mrs. Birtner and the religion teachers from Hamelin-Pyrmont, two classes from Humbolt Gymnasium in Bad Pyrmont with teachers Mrs. Conring and Mr. Lucht, Mrs. Jankowski, Mrs. Tretyachenko, the Diocese Wolfsburg with Pastor Meyer. and Mr. Piske's senior group from the Marktkirche Hamelin. We thank Pastor Karl-Heinz Schnell, Mrs. Brigitte Ochs, Mr. H. Weltner, and Mrs. Rachel Dohme. May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Autumn has arrived and with the change of season, so every tree changes too. Instead of losing leaves, we've added three! 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. Thank you!

Three new leaves were ordered by:

- Rachel Dohme: Honoring the life of "Art the Heart" Herz
- Mrs. Jankowski: Blessings on the wedding of Marina and Jan
- Mrs. Tretyachenko: In loving memory of my husband, Wolodymr Zaslavsky

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We thank everyone who help in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.

New members

We welcome Mrs. Hiltrud Schulz to our Friends.

Condolences

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Valentina Barulina, z"l, on the death of their beloved mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law.

Heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Tretyachenko on the passing of her beloved husband, Wolodymr Zaslavsky, z"l.

September Yahrzeit

Samson Avrus — 3. September 1999 / Elul 22, 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.

Happy and healthy New Year to all our friends all over the world!

Shalom!

—The Congregation Board



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 September 2012 • Elul–Tishri 5772–5773

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

Saturday, Sept. 1	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi assessor A.Schell
Monday, Sept. 3	12:00 a.m.	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, Sept. 4	9:00 a.m.	Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only)
Thursday, Sept. 6	10:00 a.m.	Our Synagogue: tour and discussion (for members only) with R. Dohme
Saturday, Sept. 8	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study
Sunday, Sept. 9	5:00 p.m.	“House of Worship” tour: Synagogue-Church-Mosque We begin at our synagogue!
The High Holy Day services will be led by Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell. The synagogue office is closed on holidays		
Friday, Sept. 14	10:00 a.m. –12 noon	Congregational Cemetery visit
Sunday, Sept. 16	5:30 p.m.	EREV ROSH HASHANAH Service with student Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell. Festive buffet—Please bring a vegetarian dish to share
Monday, Sept. 17	10:00 a.m.	ROSH HASHANAH Service with student Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell. Communal luncheon followed by Tashlich ceremony
Wednesday, Sept. 19	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Thursday, Sept. 20	7:30 p.m.	In Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: “Israel-Palestine—What does the future hold?” with Dr. Stefan Hagemann in our Synagogue
Saturday, Sept. 22	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell
Tuesday, Sept. 25	6:30 p.m.	KOL NIDRE Service with Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell
Wednesday, Sept. 26	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	YOM KIPPUR Service with student Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell YISKOR NE’ILA Congregational Break the Fast
Saturday, Sept. 29	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study
Sunday, Sept. 30	3:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Building and decorating the Sukkah Sukkoth service with Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell

Activities outside the community

Thursday, Sept. 13	5:00 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews. Tour of the Münster Church, Hamelin
Saturday, Sept. 15	3:00 p.m.	Cultural Festival, Bad Pyrmont
Thursday, Sept. 20	5:00 p.m.	Interreligious Women’s Group, Mosque, Hunoldstrasse



We wish all our readers a happy and healthy 5773!