



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

September 2016 • Av-Elul 5776

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely, warm and relaxing summer. Classes, groups and congregational activities will start up again. We're all ready to get involved. Together we can achieve great things for our congregation.

We met in our cool sanctuary during the hot summer months of July and August for lay-led services, Torah study and discussion. Our choir "Shalom" beautified the services as did Faina on the piano. We look forward to autumn services in September as we ready ourselves for the High Holy Days.

In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews our members and guests could enjoy a fascinating evening with one of our younger members, Patrizia Berhowski. Patrizia had just returned from a year in Israel with the WUPJ's Schnat program. The congregation and Society, as well as many individuals offered Patrizia financial support for the year-long stay.

Patrizia had prepared an excellent lecture and PowerPoint presentation. The many guests and members listened, watched and asked many questions as the excited teen shared her experiences with her attentive audience.



A special birthday celebration was held on July 26th. We honored one of our oldest members, Mrs. Rimma Kopirovskaja, on her 90th birthday. It was a joyous celebration. Rimma was especially thrilled that Suja Varschavska attended. Suja was honored last December on her 90th birthday.

Rimma spoke words of thanks:

"I wish to thank the synagogue board and especially Polina Pelts for this birthday celebration. Thank you to everyone who shared the day with me and wished me well. I appreciate all the kind words, gifts and flowers. I wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Bogachik for preparing the lovely meal and Mrs. Luibich and Mr. Resnick for their organizational help. I am happy to be surrounded by so many good people. I wish you all good health and happiness. May it be God's will that we gather again for my 100th birthday!"



Jewish September

This September 4th will see the first Chuppah of a young couple in our new synagogue. The Dohme family has the extreme pleasure to bring their daughter and our former cantor, Rebekka Dohme under the chuppah with Mr. Amitai Yareev Schleier, who will be accompanied by his parents and sister. Our rabbi, Irit Shillor, will marry the young couple.

The families of Rebekka and Amitai, coming from Germany, USA and Israel are delighted to share this day with our congregation. Rebekka said, "It is important to me to share this moment with the congregation I grew up with".

A festive Kiddush will follow the ceremony. The bride and groom ask in lieu of flowers or gifts for a donation to the synagogue in commemoration of their marriage. Pictures of the wedding will appear in next month's newsletter.

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 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 like to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org. We appreciate any and all support!

High Holy Days with Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Dr. Ulrike Offenberg will lead our High Holy Day services and we look forward to welcoming her to the Bimah. Dr. Offenberg is finishing her rabbinical studies at HUC in Jerusalem and will receive S'micha (ordination) in November.

We look forward to German, English, Hebrew and Russian High Holy Day services, engaging study sessions and meaningful sermons—a perfect match for our congregation!

Members who need transportation assistance attending services should please contact the synagogue office.

In December of this year, as our beloved Rabbi Irit Shillor retires, she will induct Dr. Offenberg as our new rabbi.

In preparation for the High Holy Days, Rachel Dohme offers members the opportunity to visit their loved ones' graves with an annual congregational cemetery visit. We will begin at the old cemetery at 10:00 a.m. and continue to the new cemetery. As is our custom, we will stop at each grave, remember the departed, lay stones of remembrance and recite communal Kaddish for all.



21st Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 21st annual conference of the UPJ was held July 28th–31st. 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 participants and presenters came from our national and international congregations, striving to learn from one another, exchange ideas and celebrate Judaism together.

A special children's conference, organized by Debbie Tal-Ruettger, was offered again this year. Our congregation was represented by Borys Utchitel. Here his report:

“My experience at the conference was emotionally powerful. I enjoyed the beautiful and moving services led by our movement's rabbis and cantors. I also enjoyed a variety of workshops and seminars. The outing to the History Museum was an added plus. I felt enriched by the three days as I experienced my Reform Judaism in all its facets through ample discussions, beautiful liturgy and the opportunity to share information with members from other congregations.”



Summer Camp in Bavaria

Little Eva Trieskunova is back home after an exciting summer Machene experience. Jewish camp experience offers our youngsters the opportunity to spend several weeks immersed in a Jewish atmosphere with other Jewish children and youth. Eva thought “camp was awesome.”

Here's her report:

“My name is Eva Daniela Trieskunova. I am 8 years old and a 4th grader. This was my first camping trip ever. Until now I'd never been anywhere without my parents and family! I was a little scared, but everything was so much fun and the activities were great. I learned a lot about my Jewish religion and our culture. All the Madrichim (counselors) were super nice to me. It was especially cool to have Patrizia Berhowski there as a counselor. It was really nice to be with so many other Jewish kids.

I want to thank our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews for helping to make it possible. Thanks to their help, I could go to camp.”

Concerts in September

It will be a special pleasure to introduce Dr. Jean Goldenbaum and Mr. Viktor Santana to our members and interested guests on Sunday, September 18th. The Berlin musicians will spend the afternoon with us, offering a presentation and performance of Jewish classical composers. Our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews are the hosts.

The following morning Dr. Goldenbaum has agreed to teach a Master's Class at our neighboring high school, Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium, for seniors majoring in music. We are pleased to share our cultural heritage with these talented young people.

On the same day, there will be an interreligious festival in Bad Münden. Dieter Vogelhuber will represent our congregation and Cantor Elija Schwarz represents Hannover at “Bad Münden's Tolerance Day”.

The following week our choir “Shalom” and our Israeli dance troupe “Chag Sameach” will perform at a Cultural Festival in Salzhemmendorf.

Netzer Hamelin

After summer vacation, our youth group resumes. Faina Pelts will offer group meetings on two Monday afternoons a month. Our rabbi hopes to meet regularly with our young people, too. Make sure your youngster or grandchild is a part of the group.

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to our president Rachel Dohme and her husband Dr. Ferdinand Dohme and family and to Uriel and Dianne Schlair on the marriage of their children Rebekka and Amitai Yareev.

We wish them “Glick und Mazel”!

Donations — Tzedakah

We thank all those who donated to either the congregation or the synagogue foundation:

We wish to thank Jana Vainberg, all those who donated at our concerts, Rachel Dohme, Ursula Niedert and always Mrs. Ute Gibas.

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 one! 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!

A new leaf has sprouted:

“In beloved memory of my husband Villen Feldmann,” donated from Jana Vainberg.

Refu'ah shleimah

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.

Thank you — Todah Rabah

Our thanks also go out to Heinrich Moos and Dieter Schulz for their work on the sanctuary flooring.

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

September Yahrzeit

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

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!

—The Congregation Board



Program for September 2016 • Av–Elul 5776

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10.00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 4	11:00 a.m.	Chuppah for Rebekka Dohme and Amitai Yareev Schleier; Officiant: Rabbi Irit Shillor. Festive Kiddush after the ceremony. In lieu of gifts or flowers, the bride and groom would appreciate donations for the synagogue
Friday, Sept. 9	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Sunday, Sept. 18	5:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture & Performance: Dr. Jean Goldenbaum & Viktor Santana: "History and Performance of Jewish Classical Composers"
Friday, Sept. 23	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Shiur with Dr. Ulrike Offenberg Friday night services with Dr. Ulrike Offenberg
Saturday, Sept. 24	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Dr. Ulrike Offenberg
Friday, Sept. 30	10:00 a.m.	Annual congregation cemetery visit. We begin at Scharnhorststrasse

Activities outside the community

Saturday, Sept. 10	After Sundown	Cultural Festival in Salzhemmendorf: Choir "Shalom" and Dance group "Chag Sameach"
Sunday, Sept. 18	10:30–4:00	Interreligious Celebration in Bad Münden, Dieter Vogelhuber and Cantor Elija Schwarz
Sunday, Sept. 25	5:00 p.m.	House of World Religions in Steinhagen: "Living in Germany Today as a Jew," Rachel Dohme and Polina Pelts
Tuesday, Sept. 27	7:30 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lutheran Church Center Hameln, Lecture: Dr. Steffen Hagemann: "Jerusalem"

[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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