



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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October 2011 • Tishri–Heshvan 5772

[Program](#)



Dear members, friends and supporters,

*We wish everyone a peaceful, happy and healthy 5772!*

The crunchy leaves falling in a shower of colors and crisp autumn winds remind of us the season's change. The High Holy Days bring us together and warm our bodies and souls.

Looking back to September we note that rabbinical student Natasha Lyskovoy's visit and excellent sermon "Return" readied us for the New Year. We're pleased to have Natasha with us this year.

The annual Festival of Peace was again a success. Jews, Moslems and Christians celebrated and shared their religious culture with one another. The topic this year was "Abraham—Father of Three Religions." Music, readings, food and dialogue help remind us all that what we share is much more than what separates us. Our synagogue choir Shalom, almost a household name in Hamelin, was a crowd pleaser. Elke Leah Wendt read beautifully from Torah, Genesis 17, 1–9. What an amazing moment to hear the Hebrew words echoing in a church. Members of the Hamelin mosque chanted from the Koran, and church members gave interesting insights about the man Abraham.

The Cultural Festival was held in Hessisch Oldendorf this year. Our choir Shalom and Israeli dance troupe Chag Sameach performed to the delight of the hundreds in attendance. It is so important that we share our culture with our neighbors.

With the High Holy Days so late, we aren't able to offer a report about the beautiful services in this newsletter but promise a full report in our November newsletter. Our members found a sweet greeting in the sanctuary before Rosh Hashanah services began. There was a Shana Tovah card with a honey-flavored sweet waiting on every chair. Thanks to a contribution of sixty Russian-Hebrew bibles from Mrs. Anna van der Linden, each Russian-speaking member went home with a personal copy.

**Please Note!** Our synagogue office will be closed on Erev Yom Kippur, Erev Sukkot und Sukkot day as well as Simchat Torah.

## 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](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## Jewish October

Rosh Hashanah, the "head" of the New Year, leads us into the ten days of inner reflection. We are asked to take



personal spiritual inventory. These ten days between New Year and the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur offer each Jew the opportunity to seek forgiveness between himself and others and then between himself and God. This is achieved through Teshuva—Repentance, Tefila—Prayer, and Tzedaka—Charity.

On Friday, October 7, we will join together in our sanctuary for communal prayer with rabbinical student Adrian Schell. Together we will allow the stirring melody of the Kol Nidre prayer to enter our hearts and minds and carry us through the following days' intensive Yom Kippur prayers. The holiest day of the year will conclude with moving Yiskor services, Ne'ila prayers and a gentle breaking of the fast at sundown.

On Sukkoth our rabbi Irit Shillor will be with us. Everyone interested should come at 4:00 p.m. and help build and decorate the Sukkah. Rabbi Shillor will lead services in and around the Sukkah for our members. All Hameln friends and neighbors are invited to attend.

We're thrilled that Rabbi Shillor can return for the joyous holiday of Simchat Torah. Rabbi Shillor will lead services and read the last and first portions. Please join us as we rejoice with the Torah scrolls.

### **New Sanctuary Additions**

Many members have noticed something new on the Bimah. The Torah table has a bronze plaque attached to it. The plaque is a gift from Mr. Otto Bode from Bad Münden. It seems Mr. Bode liked to dig in the dirt around his home when he was a little boy in the 1950s. His greatest "treasure" was the plaque, although he never knew what it was. He did know there was Hebrew written on it. Upon hearing of our new synagogue, he made an appointment with our rabbi. He said he had a gift for the new synagogue and hoped we would like it. As he slowly unwrapped his package, our rabbi's eyes sparkled in recognition. What he had discovered was a "Shiviti," a meditational plaque based on the biblical verse: I have set (shiviti) the Lord always before me (Psalm 16:8). We thank Mr. Bode for this gift, which could have possibly originated from a pre-war synagogue. It has found a fitting home once again.



### **Informational Meetings in October**

We will offer two informational meetings in October. Both are of interest for our Russian-speaking members, and we hope the attendance will be good.

### **New Course: Hebrew for Adults**

Our member Israel Edelstein's new course, Hebrew for Adults, will begin on October 6th. The course will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### **Mazel Tov**

We wish to extend our congratulations to Adrian Schell on his appointment to youth director of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany. We are especially happy for him because he will combine the position with a quarter position as our rabbi in October 2012.

### **Get Well Wishes**

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

### **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: The Weserbergland Foundation, Hameln Marketing, Mrs. Heidi Braun, Mrs. Wrede and The Inner Wheel group, Dr. Ursula Rudnick, Dr. Peter Neumann and the House of World Religions, Mr. Wehnmann, the 8th grade class of Schiller Gymnasium and their teacher Mrs. Till, Mrs. Liesel Edeler, Mrs. Liselotte Günther, Hans and Johanna Weltner, and Rachel Dohme.

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 247th and 248th leaf has been ordered by: Mr. Wehnmann:

"In gratitude and respect for the new synagogue" and "Lara"



### **Thanks — Toda Raba**

We wish to thank Rabbi Irit Shillor, Rabbi Ilan Baird, Debbie Tal-Reuttger and Natascha Lyskovoy for the magnificent job they did creating our tri-lingual Machsor for the High Holy Days. Next year they hope to complete work on the Erev Rosh Hashanah and Rosh Hashanah morning services, which will complete the set. That's something to look forward to for 5773!

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.

### **Chevra 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.

### **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 October**

May the memory our our loved ones be for a blessing. Please join us 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 October 2011 • Tishri–Heshvan 5772

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

### Student rabbi Adrian Schell's visit

Saturday, October 1	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with student rabbi Adrian Schell
Tuesday, October 4	4:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	<b>KOL NIDRE service with student rabbi Adrian Schell</b>
Saturday, October 8	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. sundown	<b>YOM KIPPUR service</b> <b>YISKOR service</b> <b>NE'ILA service</b> <b>Break the Fast</b>
Monday, October 10	12 noon	Informational meeting: Social Security for former Russian residents

### Rabbi Irit Shillor's visit

Wednesday, October 12	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Building and decorating the Sukkah <b>SUKKOTH service with Rabbi Shillor</b>
Thursday, October 13	3:00 p.m.	Chevrah Kaddisha Workshop, Part I
Saturday, October 15	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Wednesday, October 19	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova

### Rabbi Irit Shillor's visit

Thursday, October 20	3:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Chevrah Kaddisha Workshop, Part II <b>SIMCHAT TORAH service with Rabbi Shillor</b>
Friday, October 21	5:30 p.m.	Friday night service with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, October 22	10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor Klezmer Concert: Roman Kupperschmidt with friendly support of the Central Council of Jews in Germany
Tuesday, October 25	11:00 a.m.	"Russian Afternoon" with M. Olvovskaja Art History class
Saturday, October 29	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Sunday, October 30	12 noon	Guest speaker: Boris Bujanov, Leipzig "Caring for the aged"

### [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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