



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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October 2012 • Tishri–Cheshvan 5773

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

September was filled with holiday services and celebrations. We began on Sunday, September 16th, and Monday, September 17th with Erev Rosh Hashanah and Rosh Hashanah Shacharit and Mussaf services. Every seat in our beautiful new synagogue was taken as Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell welcomed the New Year 5773 with us. The services were both moving and meaningful, especially the communal singing of Avinu Malkenu and for the children, the blowing of the Shofar. We thank Wladimir Pesok for the Shofar service. Our choir accompanied the service, adding a special touch and engaging everyone to raise their voices in song.

As is our custom, everyone brought a covered vegetarian dish to share—from Tzimmes to apples and honey—the table was as full as our hearts and stomachs. Once again the Kitchen Team did a beautiful job.

Kol Nidre service and Yom Kippur services followed and were ended with a Break-the-Fast communal meal.

The month ended with the festive holiday of Sukkoth. We hope you have a few photos to show you in next month's newsletter.



Our congregation has always made an effort to be an instrument of peace and understanding. On Sunday, September 9th, we participated in a House of Worship tour with more than 100 participants. Beginning in our synagogue, we walked to our neighbors, the Reformed Lutheran Church, went on to the Hamelin Mosque and ended the tour at the New Apostolic Church. What better way to discover the myriad colors of the religious rainbow than to visit each other's houses of worship! The successful evening left everyone saying, "Let's do this again!"

The Interreligious Women's Group ended this year's cycle with a visit to the Hamelin Mosque, where among other topics, the liveliest discussion was about the current conflict concerning the legality of religious circumcision in Germany. A young Muslim woman was heard to say, "We Muslims are not worried—with you Jews helping, it'll all work out!" Now that's Jewish-Muslim solidarity!

A final program completed our interreligious work this past month. Between the High Holy Days we invited the Middle East political expert Dr. Steffan Hagemann to speak on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. It was an intellectually demanding evening but well worth the effort. Following Dr. Hagemann's excellent lecture, many fascinating points of question and thought were raised.

German Medal of Honor

On August 17, 2012, the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck, awarded Rachel Dohme the German Medal of Honor (Knight's Cross) on the recommendation of Lower Saxony's Minister President McAllister. County Commissioner Mr. Rudiger Bütte will present the award at a festive Friday night service on December 14th. Although Rachel is receiving the award, it was earned and belongs to the entire congregation, the Foundation and its members and everyone who has helped and supported the re-establishment of Jewish life in Hamelin.

Congregational Outing

Twenty members took part in a congregational outing to the capitol of Berlin. Many of the participants were elderly and would have not ventured there on their own. For many it was their first visit to Berlin and all the more impressive. The two-day trip was packed full of exciting program points. The group enjoyed a city tour by bus, a visit to the Jewish Museum and a visit to the Reichstag and its beautiful glass dome. Special thanks go to Faina Pelts for organizing this excellent and educational trip.



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 October

Join us as we celebrate Simchat Torah with our rabbi, Irit Shillor. We invite everyone to join us for the joyous festival of Simchat Torah on Tuesday evening, October 8th. We will read the last words in Devarim and the first in Bereshit. Reading from the last book, followed by words from the first book symbolizes that the Torah never ends, nor does our learning from it. As is our Minhag, we will all hold the Torah as it is completely unrolled showing that as we hold the Torah, the Torah holds us.

Our Israeli dance group will add to the holiday spirit with a performance. See you there!

Our “Rabbi’s Table” has a fresh venue of topics this year. Rabbi Shillor will begin the new cycle with a discussion entitled “Baby Blessings for Girls.” She will teach and answer any and all questions.

Rabbi assessor Adrian Schell will discuss a topic of religious and political interest: Circumcision. We look forward to good attendance and lively discussions.

Concert in October

We will be welcoming the musicians of the Klezmer group “Klezmeron” from Nürnberg on Sunday, October 14th, thanks to the financial support of the cultural program of the Central Council of Jews of Germany. The artists performing are Mykhailo Synelnykov (violin), Natalie Lamm (accordion), Yakiv Ostrovsky (contrabass) und Alexander Golik (percussion). We’re looking forward to a great evening of music so come early and get a good seat.

Exhibit Opening

Our congregation will host its second exhibit this year. On October 16th at 6:00 p.m., we will open a thought-provoking exhibit, “70 years later—The destruction of Hamelin’s Jewish Families.” The exhibition has been assembled by local historian Bernd Gelderblom. The exhibit will be open to the public daily until November 20th. Our choir, Shalom, will perform at the opening.

The exhibit will tell the stories of some of the 106 Jewish residents of Hamelin whose lives were destroyed by the virulent anti-Semitic policies of the Nazis.

On October 23rd at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Gelderblom will read from his book, *The Jews of Hamelin*.

We invite everyone to attend this important exhibit.

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

Our national religious movement offers many learning experiences for young and the young at heart. The seminars, workshops and camping experiences anchor Jewish identity and enrich Jewish education.

We are happy to inform all campers between 8 and 18 that the Winter Machene is being planned. The campers can enjoy winter fun and Jewish learning in Bad Sachsa in the beautiful Hartz Mountains from December 22nd to 30th. Information flyers and registration forms are available in the synagogue and online at www.upj-netzer.de. Questions are happily answered at the UPJ Youth office: 0521 3043185.

Youth Director Adrian Schell is happy to report that our Schlicha, Hagar Levy-Kedmy has arrived. Hagar will soon visit each congregation. Welcome Hagar!

The UPJ is offering a weekend seminar in Berlin entitled “Rituals and Traditions.” The seminar will be taught by Rabbi Dr. Tovia Ben-Chorin and his wife, Adina, and Rabbi Dr. Walter Rothschild. Five of our members will participate, and we are sure what they learn will profit our congregation.



Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our sister congregation in Bad Pyrmont on their 15th anniversary and in Bad Segeberg on their 10th anniversary.

We congratulate Rabbi Dr. Gábor Lengyl on his book, *Modern Rabbinical Training in Germany and Hungary*.

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

We thank Dr. Brigitte Loewe, Mrs. Barbara Conring, the St. George's Women's Club, Mrs. Ursula Ryf, Mr. H. Weltner and Mrs. Rachel Dohme for contributions. We thank Mrs. Uta Gibas for her monthly contribution.

Donations in honor of the High Holy Days were made by Mrs. Polina Pelts, Mrs. Soya Varschavska, Mrs. Nadija Krivtowa, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Anne Armbrecht.

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'd like to add them! 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 supports the maintenance of our synagogue. Thank you!

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We thank the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany for the financial support for rabbinical costs for the High Holy Days.

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

Yahrzeit

May the memory of our loved ones 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



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.ighreform.org • Email: igh@ighreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@ighreform.org

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Program for October 2012 • Tishri–Cheshvan 5773

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

Monday, October 1	12:00 noon	“Judaism,” a course in Russian with W. Pesok, Sukkoth
Tuesday, October 2	9:00 a.m.	Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only)
Friday, October 5	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Saturday, October 6	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit		
Monday, October 8	5:30 p.m.	Erev Simchat Torah with Rabbi Irit Shillor We will hold the Torah, the Torah will hold us
Tuesday, October 9	3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Topic: Baby Blessings for Girls In cooperation with the society of Christians and Jews “Israeli Identity Today” with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Saturday, October 13	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with H. Braun
Sunday, October 14	3:00 p.m.	Concert: Klezmeron, Nürnberg Sponsored by the Central Council of Jews in Germany
Monday, October 15	10:00 a.m.	Informational meeting: Russian pensions
Tuesday, October 16	11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova Exhibit opening: “70 years ago-Jewish families in Hameln” — Bernd Gelderblom
Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell’s monthly visit		
Thursday, October 18	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Topic: Circumcision
Friday, October 19	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Bar mitzvah class Friday night services
Saturday, October 20	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell New! Youth Group with Adrian
Monday, October 22	10:00 a.m.	Informational meeting: Hamelin Funeral Home, Mr. F. Faehndrich
Tuesday, October 23	7:00 p.m.	Author reading, B. Gelderblom, <i>The Jews of Hamelin</i>
Saturday, October 27	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Sunday, October 28	3:00 p.m.	Netzer Hamelin with Marysol Fischer