



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

October 2013 • Tishri– Heshvan 5774

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish everyone a peaceful, happy and healthy 5774!

September was filled with holiday services and celebrations led by Rabbis Adrian Schell and Irit Shillor. Rabbi Schell led us through the High Holy Days and Sukkot, and Rabbi Shillor celebrated Simchat Torah with us. The holidays mirrored the many emotions and moods of our religious and spiritual lives. There were moments of quiet introspection, thoughtful meditation, beseeching prayer and joyful and resounding song.

We began by visiting the graves of our loved ones the day before Erev Rosh Hashanah. We retold stories about them, remembering them, leaving pebbles and stones on their gravestones. Rabbi Schell also led an unveiling service for the stone of Mr. Zaslavsky.

Every seat in our beautiful sanctuary was taken as we welcomed the New Year 5774. Young and old, men and women sat and prayed together. There was a young French family with a 4-month old baby sitting next to a South American mother of twins, next to a Russian grandfather and his grandson, and our oldest member, a wonderful woman 86 years old. How wonderful to see so many familiar faces. As is our custom, everyone brought a 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.

Our president, Rachel Dohme, said, “It was like shul I remember from my youth, everybody talking at once, food all over the place, laughter, people trying out blowing the shofar, kids running around, someone hammering on the keyboard. Wonderful! I am so happy and proud of what we built here. Just amazing.” We agree!

Kol Nidre services struck a more solemn tone, and Faina’s beautiful rendition of Kol Nidre was filled with the emotion of the many generations before us who have chanted this haunting melody. Yom Kippur services were both moving and meaningful, especially the communal singing of Avinu Malkenu.

Our Jiskor services allowed everyone the opportunity to lay a stone and say the names of beloved family members. As each person gently laid a stone, they were enveloped in memories engraved in their hearts and for just a moment, were reunited with those no longer there, if only in thought.

Symbolically the “Gates of Heaven” slowly closed as we ended our services with Ne’ila prayers. The sun had set, the Havdallah candle was extinguished in a puddle of wine and soft greetings of Shavua Tov and Shana Tovah were heard. Physically exhausted but spiritually empowered, we sat together to Break the Fast with a simple communal meal. Happy and thoughtful, we wandered in the twilight to our homes.

The following Wednesday, we celebrated Erev Sukkot. Nature’s fruits and sweets were on the tables in the Sukkah that the children had decorated. Rabbi Adrian guided everyone in shaking the Lulav and saying the blessings. The fragrant Etrog found its home in the lovely olive wood box donated last year by the Meschede-Krasa family.

We wish to thank Polina and Faina Pelts for their translating skills during the holidays and Aron Kaplan and his team for building the wonderful Sukka again this year!

The month ended with the festive holiday of Simchat Torah. Hopefully in next month’s newsletter, we’ll have a few photos to show you. Please enjoy the pictures on the following page from the High Holy Days and Sukkot.

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 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

The past month of September was filled with Jewish holidays. October looks like it will be a quieter month. This will give us the opportunity to turn our attention to inter-religious dialogue.

Our congregation has always made an effort to be an instrument of peace and understanding.

On October 20th we will welcome the Library Society and their program “Mascha Koléko” into our sanctuary. Mrs. Jutta Rosenkranz will deliver a lecture about the Jewish-Russian poet. The matinee begins at 11:15 a.m.

A mere four days later, on October 24th, we invite everyone to attend a fascinating and provocative lecture from Dr. Ursula Rudnik from the Lutheran State Church Board entitled “Martin Luther’s Anti-Semitism and its consequences.” Dr. Rudnik will speak at the Ecumenical Center in Klein Berkel and is a guest of the Hamelin Society of Christians and Jews.

Both lectures promise to be enlightening and we hope many members will attend.

We are offering members a congregational outing to the city of Lügde on Friday, October 18th. Faina Pelts has made all the arrangements. Our sister congregation, Bad Pyrmont has invited us to celebrate Friday night services with them afterwards. Please sign up by October 8th in the office. The congregation will cover the costs of the outing and hopes it will be a sunny fall day.

Polina Pelts has organized an afternoon Senior’s Café and invites members to attend on Sunday, October 27th at 3:00 p.m. Our theater group will present a biblical play, “*Jonah*,” directed by Valerij Bogatchyk. Refreshments will be served.



News from Summer Camp

Summer camp was quite a while ago but we received a lovely thank you note from one of our teens and it’s worth sharing. Here’s the note from Gabriel, in his own words:

Dear Rachel and congregation,

I wanted to write and tell you about my summer camp experience. The two weeks were really great. Something different happened every day. The Madrichim had great ideas. I really had a lot of fun. There was always something to laugh about and new things to try. I learned a new Israeli dance and it was fun. I also learned lots of new songs and made friends with the other campers.... Jewish friends.

I want to thank the congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews who sponsored me, allowing me to take part.

Many thanks,
Gabriel

Taglit-Birthright

Taglit-Birthright Israel aims to change the course of Jewish history and ensure the continuity of the Jewish people by strengthening Jewish identity, Jewish communities, and solidarity with Israel through an educational trip to Israel for Jewish young adults around the world.

At this rate, within a decade, one in every two Jewish young adults worldwide would participate in a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip. By 2015 we seek to achieve our mission of becoming the leading organization transforming the Israel experience into an integral part of the lives of young Jews worldwide.

The aim is to foster participants’ understanding and identification with Israel, and through the “mifgash” program, strengthen the solidarity of Israeli young adults with their Jewish peers abroad and develop the Jewish identity of individuals in both groups.

Our hope is that our trips motivate young people to continue to explore their Jewish identity, support for Israel, and to maintain long-lasting connections with Israelis after their trip has ended. We encourage our alumni to take active roles in Jewish organizations and to participate in follow-up activities worldwide.

This free 10-day trip to Israel is for Jewish youth between the ages of 18 and 26. Want more information? Talk to us in the synagogue office.

Immigration Council

The county has established an Immigration Council. Members for an advisory board will be elected on October 13th. Anyone interested in working on this important council should contact us or inform themselves with the flyers which are available in the synagogue.

Bibliothek

Our synagogue library has been well received and well used over the years. The library was the initiative of Josef Pelt, of beloved memory. During the past few years, Mrs. Konstantinova has taken care of the library but because of health issues cannot continue.

Even with care, the library books are, at present, in a state of disorganization. We need to cull books that are no longer in reasonable condition, create a more modern lending system and to add new additions to our library shelves.

Does this sound like something for you, dear reader? Who is interested in taking on this job? Please contact us in the synagogue office.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to the Jankowski family on the birth of their two grandchildren. May they grow in the light of Torah.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Adrian Schell on receiving his Masters in Jewish religion, history and culture from the University of Potsdam. His dissertation was entitled "Imdutz Jeladim—Adoption from a Jewish Perspective."

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 Yan and Marie Glanz for their very generous contribution in honor of their daughter's birth. We thank Mr. Wolfgang Fischer, Mr. H. Weltner and Mrs. Rachel Dohme for contributions. We thank Mrs. Uta Gibas for her monthly contribution.

High Holy Day donations were made in honor of or in memory of parents or families by Mrs. Nadija Krivtowa, the Köhler family, Mrs. Ambrecht, Mrs. Demuth, Mrs. Polina Pelts, Mrs. Soya Varschavska, the Dohme family, Mrs. Rimma Kopirovskaja, Dr. and Mrs. Oleg Rubanov and Marie and mother Rimma, Mr. Samuil Koudinov, Mr. Arkadij Zyranov and guests from the Orthodox congregation.

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 support the maintenance of our synagogue. Thank you!

Two new leaves have been added, contributed by Alla and Wolfgang Jankowski:

In honor of the birth of our grandson, Jakob on July 7, 2013

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Victoria Sophia on August 8, 2013.

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.

Condolences

We extend our heartfelt condolences to our Rabbi Irit Shillor on the passing of her mother.

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

Program for October 2013 • Tishri– Heshvan 5774

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

Saturday, October 5	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with S.Kudnokow & F. Pelts
Monday, October 7	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, October 8	9:00 a.m.	Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only)
		Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit
Friday, October 11	4:00 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Saturday, October 12	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Tuesday, October 15	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, October 18	1:30 p.m.	Congregational trip to Lüdge
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services in Bad Pyrmont
Saturday, October 19	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Sunday, October 20	11:15 a.m.	In Cooperation with the Library Society, Lecture: Jutta Rosenkranz, “Mascha Koléko”
		Besuch Rabbi Yurij Kadnikov
Friday, October 25	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Kadnikov
Saturday, October 26	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Kadnikov
Sunday, October 27	3:00 p.m.	Netzer Hamelin with Marysol Fischer
	3:00 p.m.	Senior’s Café with P. Pelts, Play: <i>Jonah</i> , Theater Group with V. Bogatschuck

Activities outside the community

Thursday, October 24	7:00 p.m.	Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: Dr. Ursula Rudnik, “Martin Luther’s Anti-Semitism and its Consequences”; Ecumenical Center, Klein Berkel
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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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