



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



[JHG Home](#)

November 2010 • Heshvann–Kislev 5771

[Program](#)



## Dear members, friends and supporters,

The center of our religious and spiritual life is certainly the Torah. We come together to celebrate the holiday of Simchat Torah each year. In our congregation we look forward to this holiday all year long.

Our tradition is beautiful and meaningful, stirring many to tears of joy. Our two Torahs are passed lovingly from hand to hand, from person to person, from child to adult, from man to woman until everyone has had an opportunity to hold the Torah close to their heart. There is singing and dancing, and the feeling of community is experienced by all. Next, one of the Torahs is completely unrolled and every man, woman, teenager and child helps hold the parchment with utter respect and care. Rabbinical student Adrian Schell, who led the service, stands in the middle of a sea of Torah and glowing faces and reads the last sentences of the fifth book and begins anew with the first reading of the first book.





This symbolizes that Torah has no end, and our learning from Torah goes on and on and on. Happily, Adrian identified and read several sections of Torah and answered any and every question the members posed. After the service, everyone enjoyed sharing their feelings about holding the Torah as the Torah held them while enjoying a festive Kiddush.

Prior to the service, our younger members enjoyed a “Netzer Day” with Jehudith Weinberger and Greta Golberg. The theme was, of course, Simchat Torah!

Our congregation prides itself in its dedication to Torah study. Almost every Saturday we hold morning services followed by Torah study. The exchange of ideas, the sharing of interpretations from a wide variety of biblical scholars is fascinating and always thought provoking. We look forward to this weekly study with young and old and always welcome new faces. Please join us each Shabbat morning and notice how it will set the tone to your Shabbat.

Our congregation also enjoyed cultural events last month. Polina Pelts offers this description of an outing in October:

Twenty members enjoyed an outing to the city of Bielefeld on October 21st. Our theme was “Jewish Life in Bielefeld.” We heard a fascinating lecture about Jewish life in Bielefeld before and after WWII. We then toured the beautiful new Bielefeld synagogue, renovated from a former Lutheran church. The community’s social worker, Elena, showed us the building and answered all our questions. Afterwards, congregational president Irith Michelsohn welcomed us and we enjoyed lunch together in their social hall. Last but not least, Irith took us on a bus tour through the city center. It was a long but perfectly organized and enjoyable day for all.



We wish to thank Polina Pelts for organizing this trip, which gave so many people so much pleasure.

An excellent lecture was given by Hannover Rabbi Gábor Lengyl on October 27th in the social hall of the St. Augustinus Catholic Church. He was invited by the Hamelin Society of Christians and Jews. His topic was the different streams of Judaism.



### **Patrizia Berhowski’s Bat Mitzvah**

We will report on Patrizia’s Bat Mitzvah in our next newsletter. The ceremony took place on October 30th. In next month’s newsletter, you can read a full report and see all the pictures.

### **New Rabbinical Student**

This year, Nils Ederberg will visit our congregation on six weekends. Nils would like to introduce himself with these lines:

“My name is Nils Ederberg. I am 43 years old, married to Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, and together we are the parents of three children. We have 10-year-old twins as well as a two year-old. We live in Berlin. I decided to study to become a rabbi after many years of volunteer work in our Conservative congregation. I began my studies at Abraham Geiger Seminary and am in my second semester there. I have a degree in Jewish

Studies from the University of Potsdam. I’m looking forward to my internship with your congregation. I speak German, English and Hebrew. I haven’t learned Russian yet.”

### **Jewish November**

On November 9th, we will commemorate the “Pogromnacht,” 72 years after the destruction of Germany’s synagogues, with a memorial service in front of our new building. Wreaths will be laid and we will publically recall the names of the murdered and persecuted Jews of Hamelin, concluding with the communal recitation of Kaddish. Among other readers, our Bat Mitzvah, Patrizia, will read the poem “I am a Star” and our group Schalom will sing several pieces. The lights of our new synagogue will shed a soft light of hope as we remember in sorrow the darkest years of German history.



## **Jewish Culture in November**

The Hamelin chapter of the Society of Christians and Jews will celebrate its 30th anniversary this November 18th. The evening's activities will be held at the Haus der Kirche in Hamelin. Guest speaker Pastor Wolfgang Raupach-Rudnick's lecture will address 30 years of Christian-Jewish dialogue. Our congregation and many of our congregants are members in good standing and our congregational president is a member of the society's board. We feel honored that our synagogue choir, Schalom, will frame the evening musically. A festive buffet will be offered to members and guests.

The Senior Club has planned an enjoyable afternoon program on November 21st. Polina Pelts has invited the Duo Masieva to present a musical program. We are asking for a donation of 3 Euros. The collection will be given to the musicians. Please join us for a relaxing afternoon. Music warms the soul on these cold and dark November afternoons.

## **It's Almost Hanukka Time!**

Mark your calendars now for our Hanukka service and party on Friday, December 3rd at 5:30!

## **Behind the Scenes: Our New Synagogue**



There are many people to recognize and thank when it comes to our plans for our new synagogue. Our architects, Mr. Nasarek and Mr. Bojic, assure us we are absolutely on schedule and can look forward to a February dedication. Our treasurer, Mr. Tilch, reassures us that our finances are in good order. Of course, we greatly appreciate all donations, which help ease our financial burden! The Foundation board and advisory committees meet regularly to discuss and make decisions. Rabbi Shillor is constantly available with advice and ideas. Recently she chauffeured our president through England in order to meet with Jewish artists who will design and create our Torah Mantels, Parochet and Ner Tamid. Step by step, we come closer to the realization of our dream and will celebrate our beautiful new spiritual home, "Beitenu," together.

## **Winter Machene**

UPJ Youth Director Galit Reich sends the following information:

- What: Winter Machene
- When: December 23- 30, 2010
- Where: Bad Fallingbostel
- How much: 200 Euros per Person, Sibling discount: 10%

RSVP: December 1, 2010-10-25. Registration forms available in your synagogue office

## **Mazel Tov**

We congratulate the three graduates of Abraham Geiger Rabbinical Seminary on their ordination on November 4, 2010. The ceremony will be held in the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue in Berlin. We extend our best wishes to the three new rabbis, Alina Trejger, Konstantin Pal and Boris Ronis. We are particularly proud of Alina Trejger, who was our first rabbinical student. Mazel Tov Alina! Good luck with your first pulpit in Oldenburg.

## **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 congregation's efforts and developments. 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@ighreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@ighreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## **Donations — Tzedaka**

We are grateful to the many people who continually support our work and our plans to build a new synagogue.

We wish to thank each and every person and organization who has purchased our CD *Shabbat Melodies* in Germany, England, Israel and America. Thank you all!

We thank Mr. Klaus Arnold, Mr. Adolf Späth, Mr. Valentin Geletneky and the Hamelin Rotary Club for their generous gifts for our synagogue building fund.

Other contributors this month were: the Schurupov family, Rachel Dohme, Jose Rivas-Gonzales and Indra Rivas Y Sandin, Sabine Demuth, Ursula Bomnüter, Wolfgang Fischer, Jürgen Hanke, Hannalore Ney, Melissa Heise, Renate Kramer, Hans Weltner, Anne Marx and Stefan Scheloske.

Contributions from America came from Lynn Magid Lazar and Audrey Friedman Marcus.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

## **Friends**

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Larissa Altvarikh and daughter, Karina Altvarikh to our "Friends." We thank you for your interest and financial support.

## **Tree of Life — Etz Chayim**

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 build our synagogue!

## **Thank you — Toda Raba**

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.

We recognize and appreciate the excellent media coverage we enjoyed at our Sukkoth and Roof-Raising ceremony. We are grateful to all those who helped us.

Thanks to Heidi Braun for another excellent leadership seminar.

Thank you to Genrietta Bachmatchnikova for her informational meeting for our members who still hold Russian citizenship. The next meeting will be in January when the Russian consulate officer will visit our congregation.

A very special thanks to all those who helped write projects for the coming year. Thank you Heidi Braun, Rachel Dohme, Irith Michelsohn, Dieter Vogelhuber, Faina Pelts and Greta Golberg.

## **Condolences**

Our heartfelt condolences to the Dohme family on the death of their beloved aunt, Hanna Mackensen and cousin, Edeltraud Spilker.

## **November Jahrzeit**

Dr. Siegmund Kratzenstein	November 28, 1938 / 5th Kislev 5699
Revolod Banschukov	November 28, 1999 / 19th Kislev 5760
Jan Olvovskj	November 25, 2001 / 10th Kislev 5762
Riva Voronova	November 16, 2002 / 11th Kislev 5763
Josif Pelts	November 20, 2008 / 22th Heshvan 5769

May their memory be for a blessing. Please join family members during Sabbath services as we recite Kaddish. Jahrzeit candles are available in the office

## **—Your Synagogue Board**



## Program for November 2010 • Heshvann–Kislev 5771

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Tuesday, November 2	3:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, November 5	4:00 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
Saturday, November 6	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Nils Ederberg
	9:30 a.m.	Youth group outing, Info: Ioulia Berhovski
Tuesday, November 9	3:30 p.m.	Memorial service, “Pogromnacht” Synagogenplatz 1, Bürenstrasse
Saturday, November 13	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & R. Dohme
Monday, November 15	12:00 noon	Informational meeting with Margarita Souslovic State Board of Jewish Congregations in Lower Saxony
Wednesday, November 17	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, November 19		<b>Rabbi Irit Shillor’s Visit</b>
	4.00 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Netzer Day with Jehudit & Greta
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, November 20	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Sunday, November 21	4:00 p.m.	Senior Café with Duo Masieva, 3 Euros
Monday, November 22	12:00 noon	“Judaism,” a class in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, November 30	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja Art History class

### Activities outside the community

Sunday, November 14	6:00 p.m.	Hameln Forum: Lecture: Avi Primor, Jerusalem City Library, 7,50 Euros/5,00 Euros
Thursday, November 18	6:30 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews, 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Lecture: “30 years of Dialogue,” Pastor W. Raupach-Rudnick. Musik: “Schalom,” Haus der Kirche, Hamelin

### Archived Newsletters:

2010:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>		
2009:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2008:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2007:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2006:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2005:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2004:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul–Aug</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
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2002:	<a href="#">Jan</a>	<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun–Aug</a>		<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>
2001:		<a href="#">Feb</a>	<a href="#">Mar</a>	<a href="#">Apr</a>	<a href="#">May</a>	<a href="#">Jun</a>	<a href="#">Jul</a>	<a href="#">Sep</a>	<a href="#">Oct</a>	<a href="#">Nov</a>	<a href="#">Dec</a>

## 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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