



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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November 2011 • Heshvan–Kislev 5772

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

Celebrating the High Holy Days in our new synagogue was a wonderful and uplifting experience. All seats were filled for Rosh Hashanah, and we were pleased to welcome many guests, and the children helped to make the holidays a special occasion. After the “Avinu Malkeinu” and the sounding of the shofar, we closed our High Holy Days with a festive Kiddush and meal. The many languages spoken at our holiday table made the diversity of the Jewish people especially clear—a fact that gives us strength when we find ourselves in synagogues all over the world.

Adrian Schell, rabbinical student at Abraham Geiger rabbinical college, led our services. After the morning service on Rosh Hashanah, we went down to the river for Tashlich, showing the inhabitants of Hamelin: “Yes, Jews again live in Hamelin!”

In a newspaper article Adrian Schell wrote: “The New Year makes us pause for a moment and use the days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur to look back over the past year and make a personal *cheshbon nefesh*, an accounting of the soul. Frankly speaking, if it were not for the High Holy Days, many of us would probably not look back and simply forget, or we would find excuses not to. If we didn’t take time to consider the goals we would like to achieve, we would walk blindly through our lives. The High Holy Days are a gift. Now we have time to refill our strength, to set new goals and to grow.”

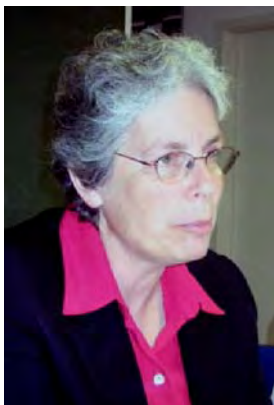
In this way we were well prepared for Yom Kippur. It was a solemn occasion, and after the prayers we went home humbled and calm. The next day Adrian led our Yom Kippur prayers. We met for *yizkor*, during which we remember our deceased and recited the *neila* prayers, remembering the image of the closing gates of Heaven, hoping that our prayers will be heard and we will be inscribed for a new and good year.

After Yom Kippur, our holidays went on, with Sukkot, which the Torah calls *zman simchateinu* (time of our rejoicing). Our rabbi, Irit Shillor, had come from England especially to celebrate the holidays with us. Our services found their climax with a beautiful and delicious Kiddush in our sukkah. This time, thanks to our new synagogue, our sukkah can finally stand for all the seven days of the holiday.

Rabbi Irit Shillor spoke to a small group of community members interested in participating in our *chevra kadisha*, who assume the respectable duty of preparing the bodies of our deceased for burial.

Elke Lea Wendt remarked, “I was especially moved by the words of Aron Kaplan, who has so much experience and knowledge and who had shared his feelings with us.”

Rabbi Shillor brought our Jewish tradition again into connection with the present, and she was able to answer all our questions and address all our worries and insecurities about such a sensitive topic.



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 November

On November 9 we remember the Pogrom Night at 3:30 PM at the memorial in front of our synagogue. This year we will especially commemorate the story of Leon Kratzenstein and his family. After the memorial service we invite everyone to the exhibition “We want to remember, not forget” in our synagogue. The exhibition shows glass art by Frieder Korff. The exhibition will stay in our synagogue until November 23 and can be visited Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gilad Shalit’s Freedom

We rejoice with people throughout the world for Gilad Shalit’s release from captivity. Gilad had been kidnapped and held captive by the Hamas in the Gaza Strip for more than five years. Upon his return to Israel, Gilad spoke about his hope for a peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians. May he find strength through the healing love of his family and friends as he resumes his life finally safe and sound back at home.

Winter Machene

As in every year, our annual winter camp for 12–18 year olds takes place. This year the winter fun will be in the lovely Eiffel Mountains. The camp will be held December 23–30, and the teenagers will be celebrating Chanukah in the beautiful mountain range in the Rhineland of Germany. It’s sure to be a mixture of fun and with enough time for consideration and study, making the days spent together unforgettable. Please register with UPJ Youth Leader Adrian Schell or through the UPJ office.

Invitation by the Muslim Community

The Hameln Muslim Community Hameln has extended an invitation to a Festival of Peace on November 27. Music, poetry, Qur'an recitations, food and drinks will afford visitors an opportunity to get to know their community. Mayor Susanne Lippman and County Commissioner Rudiger Butte will also take part in this special event.

Mazal Tov — Congratulations

We congratulate this year’s Abraham-Geiger-Award winner Ms. Helen Zille, and we congratulate the graduating class of Abraham Geiger College who will receive their ordination on November 27.

Refu’ah Shlemah — Get well soon

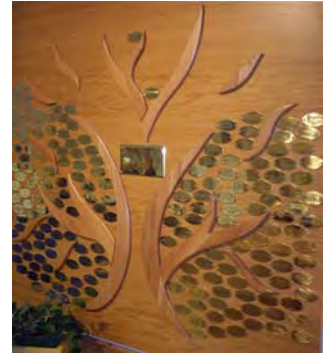
We pray for a fast recovery of Dr. Ferdinand Dohme.

Tzedakah — Donations

We thank our members and friends, who support our community life and the building of our synagogue with generous donations: We thank Ms. Gröne; the Rabe Company; Dr. Valentin Geletneky; Dr. Oleg Rubanov and his wife, Anna, with Marie and Mrs. Rimma Rubanov; Ms. Susanne Kessler; Ms. Anastasia Kryvzova; Mr. Wolfgang Fischer; Reverend Lange-Kabitz and the Men's Club; the Kolping Club Detmold; Ms. Löber; Pastor Block; the Lutheran Church of Höxter and Adolf Späth; the Springe Women's Ring; Ms. Joop and the Senior Residence of Bad Pyrmont, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Weltner; and Rachel Dohme. And from the USA we thank Mr. Andrew Kronitz for his contribution through the Good People Fund. May they all be blessed for their generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

We will need new leaves for our tree especially during the fall. 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!



Todah Rabah — Thank you

We thank our Rabbi Irit Shilor, Rabbi Ilana Baird, Debbie Tal-Rüttger, and Natascha Lyskovoy for the work they did on our *machzorim* for the High Holidays.

We thank rabbinical student Adrian Schell for the wonderful services he led during the High Holy Days.

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

New Yahrzeit Board

In honor of our deceased members a new Yahrzeit Board has been added and hangs in our sanctuary. Just like the Tree of Life the Yahrzeit board was made by the Jugendwerkstatt Hameln (a craft shop for disadvantaged teens). Unlike the Tree of Life, the costs of a remembrance plaque will be sponsored by the community. We will honor the memory of deceased community members by adding their names to the board, so they will be in our midst during our prayers.

Yahrzeit in November

Dr. Siegmund Kratzenstein	11/28/1938 / Kislev 5, 5699
Revoid Banchukov	11/28/1999 / Kislev 19, 5760
Jan Olvovskj	11/25/2001 / Kislev 10, 5762
Riva Voronova	11/16/2002 / Kislev 11, 5763
Josif Pelts	11/20/2008 / Cheshvan 22

May their memory be a blessing. Kaddish will be recited during our Shabbat services. Yahrzeit candles can be bought at the community.

Shalom,

—Your Synagogue Board

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Program for November 2011 • Heshvan–Kislev 5772

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

Student rabbi Natascha Lyskovoy's visit

Friday, November 4	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, November 5	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study
Wednesday, November 9	3:30 p.m.	9 th of November Memorial service in front of our synagogue, followed by glass exhibit opening in the sanctuary, an opportunity to meet glass artist Frieder Korff
Saturday, November 12	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with P. Wendt
Wednesday, November 16	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova

Rabbi Irit Shillor's visit

Thursday, November 17	3:00 p.m.	Rabbi's Table: Question and Answers
Friday, November 18	5:30 p.m.	Friday night service with Rabbi Shillor
Saturday, November 19	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Friday, November 25	11:00 a.m.	"Russian Afternoon" with M. Olvovskaja Art History class
Saturday, November 26	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & D. Vogelhuber
Sunday, November 27	3:00 p.m.	"Young and Jewish" with Marysol Fischer Sunday Café: Lecture: "Daniel Liebeskind" with K. Benke, Bad Pymont

Outside the congregation

Tuesday, November 1	4:30 p.m.	Interreligious Women's Club Lutheran Reform church, Hugenottenstrasse, Hamelin
Wednesday, November 8	7:00 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: "Kibbutz Nes Ammin-a historical perspective" Pastor Borchert Lutheran Reform church, Hugenotten Str. Hameln

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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