



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



[JHG Home](#)

November 2012 • Heshvan–Kislev 5773

[Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

November is an especially poignant and melancholy month for the Jewish people. We remember those who came before us and the suffering they endured at the hands of the Nazis and all those who followed their lead. As Rabbi Assessor Adrian Shell said, “We do not have this older generation of German Jews in our congregations, we cannot speak to them, ask them questions or learn from them and we cannot share our Jewish lives with them. They are sadly missed.”

But we are here, we are the Jews of Hamelin now and the words of the Yiddish song “Wir leben ewig” ring so true. We remember those who came before us every day, with every recitation of Kaddish on Shabbat and Festivals. We remember them with the laying of stones at Jiskor services, thinking of our loved ones and those whom we never knew, who are buried here, there or nowhere. We especially remember them on the 9th of November, we the Jews of Hamelin and our neighbors. Please join us for this year’s memorial services on Friday, November 9, at 3:30 p.m. and for Friday night services afterward.

Our Jewish life is akin to a carpet woven with many different colors-gloomy and dark, bright and colorful, nuances which describe our lives and experiences. We reflect on the past month and the joyous festivals we celebrated together. We enjoyed many hours in our beautiful new synagogue, hours filled with prayer, music and friendship.

On September 30th, many hands decorated our Sukka. Besides meeting and greeting many congregants, we welcomed Mrs. Bruening and her students from “Netzwerk Buende,” a high school history group, which has supported our congregation and synagogue building project over the past several years. Taking turns, almost everyone sat in the Sukka, reciting the prayers, shaking the Lulav and fulfilling the Mitzvah at Sukkoth. Adrian led lively and meaningful services and afterwards everyone enjoyed the festive Kiddush buffet, lovingly prepared by Liubov and Ludmylla. Rachel harvested her pear tree and brought bushels of pears to share. Everyone took sweet pears and good feelings home with them.

A week later, Rabbi Shillor was with us and we celebrated the festive holiday of Simchat Torah. Young and old held the parchment of our Torah, which wound several times around our sanctuary. After reading the last and first sections, Rabbi Shillor went in the middle and read selected sections aloud and explained their meaning and importance. Boris Markhaseev and his Israeli dance group “Chag Sameach” performed and invited everyone to join in. The holiday was happy and enjoyed by all.

We hope our readers will enjoy the photographs on the following page.

Jewish music has always been a priority in our congregation. We truly believe music reaches the heart and soul. Besides our own talented members, we have the opportunity to invite brilliant Jewish artists twice a year to perform in our synagogue, thanks to the financial support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany. We are proud to share our Jewish culture with our non-Jewish neighbors. In October the group “Klezmeron” bedazzled an audience of more than 130 music lovers. As Polina put it, “It was a concert of the soul.” The artists, Mykhailo Synelnykov (Violin), Natalie Lamm (Accordeon), Yakiv Ostrovsky (Contrabass) and Alexander Golik (Percussion) thrilled the audience and were showered with thundering applause. We thank Faina and Uwe for making the arrangements.

In November we expect another top notch concert with Professor Igor Epstein. Igor Epstein directs the Cologne Klezmer Academy and is known throughout Europe. His charming wit enhances his musical talent, sharing wistful and pensive anecdotes which frame the history, background and influences of eastern European music. The concert begins on Sunday, November 11th at 3:00 p.m. It will certainly be an afternoon of music no one will want to miss!

On a different note, we wish to thank Mr. Florian Faehndrich for speaking to us about an important topic. Mr. Faehndrich answered questions and explained carefully and gently any and all concerns dealing with funeral arrangements. Although we have no Jewish funeral chapel in Hamelin, several local undertakers have been open and willing to be instructed in our customs and rituals. Mr. Faehndrich has been especially supportive, working with our board and Chevra Kaddisha. We thank Faina for organizing the lecture and Polina for translating.





Exhibit Runs until November 16

Our congregation hosted its second exhibit this year with an opening on October 16th at 6:00 p.m. The thought-provoking exhibit “70 years later—The destruction of Hamelin’s Jewish Families,” assembled by local historian Bernd Gelderblom tells the stories of some of the 106 Jewish residents of Hamelin whose lives were destroyed by the virulent anti-Semitic policies of the Nazis. Mayor Susanne Lippmann spoke with great emotion at the opening as well as Rachel Dohme, who reminded the audience that Hamelin’s Jewish history did not end with the Holocaust but is being written anew. Our synagogue choir “Shalom” added soulful music to the opening, ending with the stirring Yiddish piece, “Wir leben ewig” (We live forever).

Mr. Gelderblom was thanked for his passionate and dedicated work. The exhibit is open to the public daily until November 20th. On October 23rd at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Gelderblom read from his book, *The Jews of Hamelin*.” A small but interested audience assembled for the reading.

Many people have visited the exhibit and have taken the opportunity to spend some time in our synagogue and speak with us, adding to our hope that the new synagogue be a meeting space, a place for healing and hope. A YouTube video is available, thanks to Mr. Ralf Hermes. See the JGH home page, www.ighreform.org.

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@ighreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish November

We will conduct a memorial service in front of our synagogue on November 9th at 3:30 p.m. The service is a joint effort of the city of Hamelin, the Society of Christians and Jews and our congregation. We will be joined by Hamelin citizens and the students and teachers from the Elisabeth Selbert School, who this year have organized an exhibit in honor of Anne Frank. After the memorial service, we invite all to attend Friday night services, conducted by Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell. After services and Kiddush, Mr. Gelderblom’s exhibit in our sanctuary can also be visited.



We commend the students and teachers of the Elisabeth Selbert School for their hard work in bringing the exhibit, “Anne Frank—A Story for Today” to our city and especially the young guides, who will lead visitors through the exhibit, which opens on November 9th and runs until November 30th. The exhibit is housed in the Technical Academy rooms, situated at the Hamelin train station. Private photographs combined with personal accounts and quotes from Anne’s famous diary help to make her story come alive.

The exhibit hopes to draw visitors of all ages and engage them in dialogue about Germany’s past and present. Many Hamelin individuals and organizations, including our congregation have helped and supported the students in this important undertaking.

Excursion: Chagall Exhibit

The Society of Christians and Jews is offering an all-day excursion to Muenster to attend the Chagall exhibit, “Marc Chagall and the Bible” on Tuesday, October 27th. The meeting point is the train station at 8:45 a.m. For members of our congregation on a fixed budget, the Society is offering a reduced price of 10 Euros. Information and registration is open until November 19th with Polina. Flyers are available in the synagogue.

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

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-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.



Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our former rabbinical student, Yuriy Kadnikov, on his induction as rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation Etz Chayim in Hannover on October 18. Mazel Tov Yuriy!

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 Mrs. Vera Hirtz, California, for Jewish children's books in German. The books belonged to her as a child. They are a bittersweet reminder of pre-war German-Jewish life.

We thank the following individuals and organizations for contributions to our congregation and/or Foundation: Dr. Oleg Rubanov and wife Anna with Marie Miriam and mother Rimma, Mr. Wolfgang Fischer, Mrs. Sabine Demuth, Mrs. Schulte and the Catholic Women's Club, Pastor Lange-Kabitz and the Lutheran Church of the Holy Cross and the men's club, Mrs. Pieper and the Women's club, Mr. H. Weltner and Mrs. Rachel Dohme for contributions. We thank Mrs. Uta Gibas for her monthly contribution.

A donation in honor of the High Holy Days was made by Mr. Semen Koudinov.

We thank all who gave generous donations at the Klezmer concert in October.

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!

In memory of my husband Juriy Lebedynskyi from Emma Lebedinska

In honor of the life of "Art the Heart" Herz from the Dohme family

A new leaf has been ordered by the Dohme family: In memory of Henry Friedlander



Thank you — Todah Rabah

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 in November

Dr. Siegmund Kratzenstein	11/28/1938 / Kislev 5, 5699
Revolod 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 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 November 2012 • Heshvan–Kislev 5773

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

Saturday, November 3	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Monday, November 5	12:00 noon	“Judaism,” a course in Russian with W. Pesok Topic: 9 th of November
Wednesday, November 7	9:00 a.m.	Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only)
Rabbi Assessor Adrian Schell’s monthly visit		
Thursday, November 8	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Topic: Circumcision
Friday, November 9	3:30 p.m.	Memorial service in front of our Synagogue
	4:30 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, November 10	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with A. Schell
	2:00 p.m.	NEW Youth group with Adrian
Sunday, November 11	3:00 p.m.	Concert: Professor Igor Epstein, Cologne Sponsored by the Central Council of Jews in Germany
Tuesday, November 13	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, November 16	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with P. Wendt und Gruppe Shalom
Saturday, November 17	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with P. Wendt
Sunday, November 18	3:00 p.m.	Natalia Arenstein. Author reading in Russian
Wednesday, November 21	11.00 a.m.	Guest speaker: Mr. Linde, Hameln Police Department “Protection against Swindlers”
Sunday, November 25	3:00 p.m.	Netzer Hamelin with Marysol Fischer
Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit		
Thursday, November 29	3:00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Topic: Jewish education
Friday, November 30	4:30 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, December 1	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Outside the congregation		
Tuesday, November 27	8:45 a.m.– 7:30 p.m.	All-day excursion to Muenster: Art Exhibit: “Marc Chagall and the Bible.” Meeting point: Hameln train station. Registration: P. Pelts 10 Euros

[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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