



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

November 2013 • Cheshvan–Kislev 5774

[JGH Home](#) [Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

Let us look back at our last festival, Simchat Torah, which we celebrated as we always do, our members holding the Torah as the Torah holds us. What a beautiful symbolic meaning to this beautiful and joyous holiday.

We thank Rabbi Irit Shillor for leading this meaningful weekend of celebrations and services.



On Sunday, October 20, and in cooperation with the Library Society and the Society of Christians and Jews, we opened our synagogue doors to a lecture from Mrs. Jutta Rosenkranz about her research collecting the works of the German-Jewish poet Mascha Koléko. Congregational vice president Polina Pelts and Library Society Chairman Berndt Bruns welcomed the more than 100 in attendance. Mrs. Pelts was especially pleased “to hear the poems of the Jewish poet in our synagogue.”

Mr. Wolfhard Truchsess wrote an excellent article in the local Hamelin newspaper, *Deister und Weser Zeitung*, an excerpt of which follows:

The author Jutta Rosenkranz has, with her book of the collected poems of Mascha Kaléko, saved her lyrics from loss and neglect. The lecture, held before a very well-attended audience in the synagogue was made possible through the cooperation of the Library Society, the Society of Christians and Jews and the Jewish Congregation of Hamelin.

We are pleased that our synagogue serves not only our religious and spiritual needs but also serves as a Jewish house of learning for all the citizens of Hamelin.

Our members are involved and active in providing programming for our congregation within and outside the walls of our building. On Friday, October 18, Faina Pelts organized a trip for our members. In her own words she reports:

We traveled to the small town of Lüdge where we were met by local historian Mr. Willike. Lüdge is a lovely small town near our sister congregation of Bad Pyrmont. The city enjoys a long history of Jewish life. Mr. Willike spoke of the town’s Jewish cemetery and former Jewish residents, and he showed us monuments erected by the town. He held our rapt attention for several hours.

The weather was perfect and the fall foliage made it a pleasure to walk through the cobblestoned streets of this old city.

We traveled on to Bad Pymont where we joined the congregation for Friday night services, which I led. It was good to celebrate Shabbat together. We thank Mr. Willike for his time and efforts and the warm hospitality of the Bad Pymont congregation. I am pleased to have organized this day.

We say thank you!

Polina Pelts organized an enjoyable afternoon for the congregation's seniors on October 27th. Her monthly Senior's Café enjoyed a performance of the biblical play *Jonah* from our thespian group, led by Valerij Bogatchyk. The group thanks the support of the Council of Jews of Germany, who, through a project, helps finance their work. Tea and cake were served, and everyone enjoyed the play as well as the refreshments and seeing one another. We thank everyone who helped make the day special for our seniors.

Peter Wendt represented our congregation at a podium discussion for the House of World Religion in Steinbergen on October 27th. The theme was "What have I done to deserve this?—Religious perspectives and responsibilities to fate." The discussion is a follow-up program to this year's topic at the House of World Religion. Rabbi Adrian Schell held a lecture on the subject on May 26th there.



Tree of the World's Religions

Our congregation is proud of the many interreligious activities we are involved with. This work is evidence of our dedication to building a better world, Tikkun Olam, a world of understanding, of healing and hope. One of these associations has been our 10-year involvement with the "House of World Religions" in Steinbergen.

On October 18th, a celebration was held honoring the House's 10th birthday. A tree outside the main entrance was dedicated. This is a very special tree, as you can see. May this Tree of Religion be a Tree of Life and remind us all that what we have in common is much stronger than that which separates us.

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 November

This year the calendar in November plays with our emotions with two days at either end of their month of opposite intention which, by closer examination, share some common ground. The themes of Remembrance, Loss and Hope underline these two events for the Jewish People.

On the 9th of November we will gather in front of our synagogue to remember and mourn our loss. We will stand together with our neighbors and friends as we, the city of Hamelin and the Society of Christians and Jews, observe a Holocaust memorial service remembering those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

We invite all in attendance to come into the synagogue afterwards for a Havdalah service, led by Rabbi Irit Shillor.

As the month draws to a close, we recall the story of Hanukkah. The eyes of our children will sparkle with delight as they gather around the Hanukkia with its glowing candles to hear, once again, the recounting of the story of Hanukkah and the miracle of the few triumphing over the many. The holiday begins very early this year. The first





candle will be lit on November 27th and the congregation will celebrate with a Hanukkah service, party and concert on November 30th. Join us as we light the 4th candle. The children will receive a Hanukkah gift, and we'll all enjoy sweet Sufganiyot and other delicious treats. Our holiday celebrations will be crowned with an amazing concert, performed by the famous Russian "Trio Kaljushny." We thank the Central Council of Jews of Germany for their financial support in making this concert possible. Happy Hanukkah!

Ner Tamid

Our beautiful Ner Tamid has graced our Bima for almost three years, burning brightly day and night. Sadly there is a problem with the transformer and the light has gone out. We won't have to get oil as the Macabees did, but we do have to send the light to Mr. Jürgen Zarham in Munich, who designed and built it for us. We hope he'll be able to repair it quickly, and that we will be able to rekindle it again—perhaps for Hanukkah!



Netzer Winter Camp

This year's Winter Camp for children and youth runs from December 22nd to December 29th. The camp will be held near Weimar and Erfurt. The Motto this winter is "Me-You-Us = Netzer." Posters, information and registration forms are available in the synagogue office. Sign up now!

Volunteers Needed

We're looking for a few members who are willing to give a "little extra" for the good of the congregation. We hope you will feel that this is something for you and that you will let us know that you are ready and willing.

Each year our congregation celebrates three non-religious holidays, and we need a group willing to organize the meal associated with each of these events. One may commit to only one of the three celebrations. Please let us know because New Year's is just around the corner. Sadly, if no one is interested, we will continue to celebrate these special days but will have to do so without food.

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, develop 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.

Informational Meeting

Once again we are offering our members and local Hamelin citizens still holding Russian passports the opportunity to renew their passports with the Russian consul, who will make his annual visit in January. In order to prepare the paperwork, we ask all interested to attend an informational meeting on Monday, November 4, at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Mrs. Svetlana Banchukova is our congregation's emissary and visits those members who are ill at home, in the hospital or in nursing homes. She assists our members with doctor's appointments, makes home visits, accompanies those convalescing on walks, brings them books from our library and in general, with her competent and friendly manner, cheers them up, practicing Bikur Cholim. The following is a note from one of our members:

Dear Friends,
I want to thank our congregation for not forgetting about me. I especially thank you for bringing me books and sheet music. These things make my life better.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Frid

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to our member Mrs. Lydmyla Kravets on the birth of her 4th grandchild.

Mazel Tov to our member Mr. Genrikh Yeyger. In honor of his 90th birthday, his hometown, the city of Charkov, Ukraine has published a book of his works.

We congratulate Professor Dr. Rabbi Walter Homolka on another “first.” On November 29th, the Jewish School of Theology at the University of Potsdam will be opened.



Donations — Tzedakah

We thank Heidi Braun for her generous donation, earmarked for our youth programs. We thank Mr. H. Weltner and Mrs. Rachel Dohme for contributions. We thank Mrs. Uta Gibas for her monthly contribution. Thanks also to Mrs. Susanne Kessler, Mr. Norbert Baum and Mrs. Vestermann and her group from the town of Börry. 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. Who will be the next to donate a leaf?

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We thank Dora Bogatchyk for her donation of plants.

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
Revold 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 22,5769

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 and Happy Hanukkah!
Shalom! The Congregation Board

Program for November 2013 • Cheshvan–Kislev 5774

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

Saturday, November 2	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & S.Kudnokow
Monday, November 4	10:00 a.m.	Informational Meeting
		Rabbi Irit Shillor's monthly visit
Thursday, November 7	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Unveiling at the cemetery (Gorbacheva and Ziskand) Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, "In Dialogue: The concept of Holiness" with Rabbi Irit Shillor and Deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberg
Friday, November 8	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class Friday night services with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Saturday, November 9	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit Shillor 9 th of November Memorial service in front of the Synagogue Directly afterwards Havdallah service in the Synagogue
Sunday, November 10	3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Senior Café with P. Pelts Concert: Ukrainian Choir Netzer Hamelin with Claudia. We're going swimming!
Tuesday, November 12	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Wednesday, November 13	7:00 p.m.	Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: Dr. Stefan Hagemann, Kaiserslautern „German Political Involvement in the Near East“
Saturday, November 16	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & H. Braun
		Visit from Rabbi Yurij Kadnikov
Friday, November 22	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Kadnikov
Monday, November 25	12:00 noon	„Judaism“ a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Saturday, November 30	4:00 p.m.	Hanukkah Party and Concert Kindling the Hanukkah candles and Hanukkah Concert with „Trio Kaljushny“, Berlin thanks to the friendly support of the Central Council of Germany

[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

Bürenstrasse, Synagogenplatz 1, 31785 Hameln • Tel/Fax: 05151/925625

Web site: www.jghreform.org • Email: jgh@jghreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@jghreform.org