



Dear members, friends and supporters,

Please note that our synagogue office will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd.

Our sanctuary will not be accessible from December 13th to December 15th due to renovations.



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

Mrs. Daria Leuthier read a piece describing the Hamelin Jewish family Bernstein and all that they suffered. The names of the murdered Hamelin Jews were recited by three students of the Viktoria-Luise-Gymnasium and were followed by the laying of wreaths. Our members Aron Kaplan and Dieter Vogelhuber laid a wreath for our congregation.

After the service, our rabbi Irit Shillor invited all in attendance to come into the synagogue for a Havdalah service. In the darkened sanctuary, lit only by the flickering light of the Havdalla candle, people of different religions and cultures sat quietly, reciting the prayers, smelling the sweet aromas from the spice boxes and setting an example that Jewish life, in sadness and in joy, can rise from the ashes of the Shoah again.

We hosted two interesting and thought-provoking lectures in November. Rabbi Irit Shillor lectured on the concept of Holiness. Many questions and

points of discussion rounded out the evening. Later in the month, Dr. Steffen Hagemann was our guest. Dr. Hagemann has lectured in our synagogue about the political situation in Israel before. The topic of his talk was German Near-East Politics. The audience learned many new things during his talk, and a lively discussion followed. It is gratifying to see that our synagogue is not only a house of prayer but also a house of study and learning.

As the month drew to a close, we recalled the story of Hanukkah with a congregational service and concert on Saturday, November 30th. The pictures of our happy celebration can be viewed in our January newsletter.



Our Internet Presence

Those of you reading this newsletter in English are reading the Internet version. The newsletter is also available as a PDF 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. Please help us stay online; contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.



Jewish December

We are very happy to be able to offer a Shabbat Seminar on Saturday, December 7th. Debbie Tal-Reuttger, vice president of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany, will lead the seminar dedicated to Tikkun Olam. Please join us at 10:00 a.m. for Shacharit services and spend the day with your friends and neighbors as we discover the many facets of the concept of “healing the world.”

We are looking forward to the return of our rabbi Adrian Schell in January. Adrian has been in Israel for the past three months, and we are sure to profit from his studies there. Our members are happy to see him in Hamelin or on the streets of Jerusalem. What a surprise for the Berhowski family to run into him there recently. He sent this greeting with them:

Dear Friends,

I send you all my very best greetings from Israel. I'm enjoying my studies here. It's exciting to learn new things, and I'm looking forward to putting some of these new ideas into my work with you in Hamelin.

It's fascinating to see the development of the Reform congregations here in Israel. Our movement is growing from year to year and is involved in many new initiatives. Many of the Israeli Reform congregations are also active politically and are doing what they can to move Israeli religious society to become more just, equal and fair to all. There is still much hard work ahead. This can be especially felt in issues of marriage. Israelis who wish to marry religiously in Israel can only do so with an Orthodox rabbi and the many who wish a non-Orthodox wedding ceremony are forced to marry outside the country. This is just one example of religious discrimination which the WUPJ and the Reform movement in Israel are working on. There are first signs of success, and who knows, perhaps we will witness another Hanukka miracle soon.

I wish you all a very happy Hanukka.

B'vracha

Your Rabbi Adrian



Ner Tamid

We are thrilled that our beautiful Ner Tamid, which has graced our Bima for almost three years, burning brightly day and night, has been successfully repaired by its designer, Mr. Jürgen Zarham and rehung by Dieter Schulz — and all in time for Hanukkah!

Volunteers found!

We were looking for a few members who were willing to give a “little extra” for the good of the congregation. In our congregation, we didn't need to wait very long. We're pleased that a sizable group of volunteers has offered to help with our three non-religious holiday celebrations, and they are already busily planning the New Year's party. Thank you, one and all!

Our synagogue library has found a new librarian, and we thank Mrs. Soya Koudinov who has offered to take on the job. Mrs. Koudinov is busy sorting the shelves, and soon newly ordered books will arrive. We thank her for stepping up to this important congregational task.



Important January Dates

The congregation will greet the new secular year 2014 with a party and hope many will attend. The party is planned for Sunday, January 5th, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Many members are involved in the planning of the festive day. As always with our celebrations, there will be entertainment and delicious home-made food. Please register in the office by December 20th and assure yourself a seat.

A very important date is Saturday, January 18th. Haakon Magnus Wendt will become Bar Mitzvah and be called to the Torah on Shabbat Yitro. Rabbi Irit Shillor will lead services with Haakon at her side. The proud parents and siblings invite everyone to share this special day with Haakon. Haakon has worked hard preparing for his Bar Mitzvah service and we as his congregation want to celebrate with him. Haakon is the fourth and youngest child of the Wendt family, his older siblings all having celebrated Bar or Bat Mitzvah

in our synagogue with our Rabbi. Please mark the date and enjoy the day with Haakon.

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.

Mazel Tov

We congratulate Professor Dr. Rabbi Walter Homolka on the opening of the Zacharias Frankel College at the University of Potsdam.

Friends

We wish to welcome Mrs. Pamela Walkerman to our Friends group. Many members have already met Pam at services. Please make her feel welcome.



Donations — Tzedakah

We thank the group donation from an informational meeting in November: Mrs. Pamela Walkerman, Mrs. Kreth and her 4th grade class, Mrs. Ursula Ryf, Mrs. Ioulia Berhowski, Mrs. Elisabeth Pfeiffer, the Ukrainian choir, Mr. Hans Weltner and Mrs. Rachel Dohme for their contributions. We thank Mrs. Uta Gibas for her monthly contribution.

We especially wish to thank Ruth Torode and Frank Jones, descendants of the Hamelin Jewish family Jonas, for their generous donation.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Autumn has arrived and winter is just around the corner. The change of seasons changes the trees, 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. A new leaf was donated from the Dohme family: In memory our Donor Mrs. Elisabeth Belling

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.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the Vinnytska family on the death of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, Lev Vinnytskiy, of blessed memory.

We extend our condolences to the family of Elisabeth Belling, of blessed memory. Mrs. Belling was one of our synagogue's staunchest supporters, and her numerous and generous donations helped to insure the success of our building project.

Yahrzeit in December

Roza Chirita	12/1/2000 / 4. Kislev 5761
Frida Dachkevich	12/3/2001 / 18. Kislev 5762
Grigori Drabkine	12/7/2005 / 6. Kislev 5766
Igor Fuksa	12/5/2006 / 15. Kislev 5767
Genrich Leimunski	12/29/2006 / 8. Tevet 5767
Ira Leimunskis	12/3/2011 / 7. Kislev 5772
Milja Golberg	12/18/2012 / 5. Tevet 5773

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 to all our members, friends and supporters!
Merry Christmas to our Christian friends and supporters!
We wish everyone a healthy 2014!**

Program for December 2013 • Kislev–Tevet 5774

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

Sunday, December 1	2:00 p.m.	Netzer Hamelin with Claudia Netzer Hanukka party
Monday, December 2	12 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, December 3	10:00 a.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
Friday, December 6	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Saturday, December 7	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services with Debbie Tal-Reuttger SEMINAR: Tikkun Olam with Debbie Tal Reuttger
Tuesday, December 10	11:00 a.m. 7:00p.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Film & Discussion: “The Escape” a film depicting one woman’s survival during the Holocaust
Friday, December 20	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with P. Wendt and Choir “Shalom”
Saturday, December 21	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with P. Wendt

Outside the Community

Thursday, December 5	10:30 a.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: “Marc Chagall: Artist of the Invisible” with Deacon Hans-Georg Spangenberg in the Reformed Lutheran church, Hugenottenstrasse, Hamelin
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Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, January 5, 2014	4:00 p.m.	Community New Year’s party €8 per person
Saturday, January 18, 2014	10:00 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah Haakon Wendt

[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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