



Dear members, friends and supporters,

For those of us who live in Germany, by choice or by birth, the month of November brings a heaviness with its dark, rainy and sunless days. We live every day with loss—loss of those who came before us and their lives. They and their synagogues, homes and businesses are gone and with them every remnant of the lives they led here. We Jews living in Germany today, more than seven decades after the Holocaust, do not need the 9th of November ceremonies to remember them, and we do not need the so-called “stumbling stones” to think of them.



We have never forgotten them.

We have rebuilt the synagogue where it once stood, and we have re-established Jewish life and presence where it once flourished. Our new synagogue is a living memorial and a beacon of light for the future. Standing together on the 9th of November with members, friends, neighbors and strangers in remembrance of those whose lives were blotted out just because they were Jews may not lessen our pain, but it does console us.

And so, we gathered together on the 9th of November with a solemn crowd of more than 100 people to remember the more than 100 Hamelin Jewish men, women and children who were murdered at the hands of the Nazis. Our youth leader, Patrizia Berhovski, and classmate Henri Schulte read the names of dead, their young voices quivering with emotion. Pastor Herman recited Psalm 80 and members of the Society of Christians and Jews read excerpts from the life of the Binheim family. No one was left unmoved while hearing the memories of the family’s daughter Ruth and the discrimination she had to endure from her classmates in 1934. Rabbi Irit Shillor sang “El Male Rachamim” and led us in the recitation of Kaddish. Wreaths were laid and our choir sang several short pieces.

The memorial service concluded with several minutes of silence and the assembled were ushered into the synagogue for the opening of an exhibit we and the Society of Christians and Jews hosted for two weeks, “Anti-Semitism in Germany today.” First of many to view the exhibit and sign the guest book was our new mayor, Mr. Claudio Griese. People lingered at each poster with their thoughts and emotions, spoke softly with one another, warmed themselves with a cup of tea and went quietly home.

Several days later we welcomed Rabbi Dr. Gábor Lengyl of Hannover, who gave a well-attended lecture on Jewish life in the world. His talk centered on the development of Judaism throughout the centuries, the world over. He delved into the history of our religion, aptly explaining how our practices have never been static but have evolved with us as a People and our societal needs. The talk was a cooperation of our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews and we are already planning Rabbi Lengyl’s next visit.

A synagogue today offers more than a sanctuary for prayer. It is also a place where people feel at home and enjoy being with one another. This is good. Our “Senior’s Café” enjoyed a concert organized and performed by our members and for our members with nostalgic music from home that tugged on the heartstrings. Refreshments were served to round out the afternoon. Such a homemade concert involves many hours of practice and we thank everyone involved as well as “Aktion Mensch” for their support.



Dr. Levy, Herbert, 42 J., verschollen
Lilienthal, Emma Esther, geb. Feind, 78 J., deportiert am 28.8.1942, Theresienstadt
Löwenstein, Adele, 67 J., verschollen
Löwenstein, Hedwig, 61 J., deportiert 1942, Malféncik
Löwenstein, Hermann, 68 J., deportiert am 15.7.1942, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz
Löwenstein, Julia, geb. Levy, 64 J., verschollen
Löwenstein, Julius, 60 J., deportiert am 8.11.1941, Mittel
Löwenstein, Rosa, geb. Oberschützki, 60 J., deportiert 1942, Izbica
Löwenstein, Selma, 63 J., verschollen
Löwenstein, Wilhelm, 58 J., deportiert 1942, Izbica
Marcus, Erna, geb. Lehmann, 60 J., deportiert am 15.7.1942, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz
Marcus, Moses Moritz, 65 J., deportiert am 15.7.1942, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz





A very special event took place on November 16th, organized by Polina Pelts, supported by the Central Council of Jews in Germany and Aktion Mensch. Mitzvah Day is celebrated in synagogues around the world and now in Hamelin too! Mitzvah Day is a day to do something good for others. Each congregation involved decides on an idea. In various congregations all over the world, food or clothing is collected for the needy, or an environmental or neighborhood project is undertaken—the possibilities are endless. Our idea was to bake Challot for those members who are homebound. We were surprised and delighted with the response. Eighteen members, the youngest 6 and the oldest 88 years old, heard a short presentation on the meaning of Mitzvot and the history of the braided Shabbat loaf, Challah. Then everyone got down to work. Please read a report from Polina Pelts:

“Outside the weather was dark, cold and wet, but in our synagogue it was warm and bright. Eighteen members answered our call for Mitzvah Day. We all wanted to do something good for those members who are housebound. The idea was to bake the sweet Shabbat loaves we call Challah. Ludmylla Kravets had prepared the dough and demonstrated the braiding technique and assisted everyone present in braiding a loaf. She helped us to put our twisted dough onto baking sheets, and she watched over them as they baked and filled the synagogue with sweet smells. The aroma from the kitchen made everyone hungry and while we waited, we enjoyed tea and sandwiches and good conversation. Genrietta Bachmatchikova and Maia Olvovska recited poems, the children danced and Faina and Larissa played music. The atmosphere was lovely. Finally the Challot were done, and we packed each one and added a personal note and decided who would deliver to whom. I wish to thank everyone who helped, showing once again what a family we are.”

Giora Feidmann in Concert

The world renowned musician, Giora Feidmann performed in Hamelin on November 18th in Hamelin’s St. Bonifatius Church. We wish to thank Mrs. Hegemann, Pastors Mrs. Grothe and Mrs. Brendel and especially Mr. Frink from Bubu Concerts for arranging that 20 of our members could enjoy this wonderful evening of Klezmer and Jazz. The tickets were offered to those members who volunteer their services to the congregation as a gesture of gratitude for all they do. It was an unforgettable evening!

Rabbi Adrian Schell’s visit

When we bid Rabbi Adrian Schell goodbye last August, he promised to visit the congregation when he was in Germany. That promise will be fulfilled on Shabbat Vayashev, December 13th. Please join us to welcome him back for a one-day seminar. We’ll begin at 10:00 a.m. and end with Havdallah. The day’s topic is “Our prayers—origins and meaning.” Everyone is welcome to attend. There will also be time to hear all about Rabbi Adrian’s new congregation in Johannesburg. We will serve a light luncheon and ask those interested to register by December 23rd.

What else is happening in December?

If you’re looking for a reason to get out of the house, here are three opportunities.

- There will be an informational meeting for those holding Russian passports on December 3rd, in preparation for the Russian consul’s visit in January.
- On December 4th and 11th, members can take part in a computer course, organized by our state board of Jewish congregations.
- Members can wrap up the secular year with a Hanukkah Café at 11 a.m. on December 23rd. Join Polina for Hanukkah cookies, tea and a chat.



Jewish December

It's almost Hanukkah! This year the holiday begins on December 16th. Each of the eight evenings, we will light another candle in our Hanukkiot, say the blessings, sing Hanukkah songs, retell the Hanukkah story, enjoy dishes made in oil and exchange Hanukkah presents.

The congregational Hanukkah celebration will take place on Friday, December 19th at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we light the candles for Hanukkah and Shabbat. After a short service we have a Hanukkah surprise for the youngsters and the young at heart. Shlomit Tulgan's puppet theater, "The Bubales" will perform *Shlomo's Magic Lamp*. Ms. Tulgan and her puppets come to us from Berlin, and her performance is sponsored by the Central Council of Jews of Germany's cultural program for small congregations. It will be the perfect way to celebrate this holiday!

New Year's Party in January

The congregation's New Year Reception will be held on Sunday, January 4th. Many people are involved in the planning, organization and rehearsals. Once again, it will be a very special evening from our members for our members. Make sure to reserve by December 23rd.

We remind the organization team that the building is closed from mid-day on Wednesday, December 24th and reopens on Monday, December 29th. We close again from December 31st and reopen on January 2, 2015.

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, and we are grateful to all involved. If you would like to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.

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.



Donations — Tzedakah

We thank all those who donated to either the congregation or the synagogue foundation:

Thank you Mrs. Inna Lybych, the Dohme family, Mrs. Ursula Ryf, the Lutheran Reformed Church for their collection on November 9th, for those who left donations after visiting the exhibit, Rabbi Dr. Gábor Lengyl, Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Ute Gibas.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Brrrr—it's winter. How lucky that our tree lives indoors and regardless of the season permanently grows new leaves. 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.

Newly ordered: "In memory of Edith Shapiro" the Dohme family

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We thank everyone who help in making our holiday and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.

Unveiling

On Wednesday, November 26th, the gravestone for Alla Drejzer, of blessed memory, was set and an unveiling ceremony was held.

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 Hanukka to all our members, friends and supporters!
Merry Christmas to our Christian friends and supporters!
We wish everyone a healthy 2015!**

—The Congregation Board



Program for December 2014 • Kislev–Tevet 5775

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

Monday, December 1	12:00 noon	Judaism, a course in Russian with W. Pesok Topic: “Chanukah stories”
Wednesday, December 3	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only) Informational meeting: Russian pensions
Thursday, December 4	10:00 a.m.	Computer class with Natalia Daniloschkina
Rabbinical student Dr. Ulrike Offenberg’s visit		
Friday, December 5	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Giyur class Friday night services with rabbinical student Dr. Offenberg
Saturday, December 6	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Dr. Offenberg
Thursday, December 11	10:00 a.m.	Computer class with Natalia Daniloschkina
Saturday, December 13	10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.	Seminar with Rabbi Adrian Schell: “Origins and History of our prayers.” Registration deadline: December 8
Friday, December 19	5:30 p.m.	Congregational Chanukah Party Candle lighting and puppet show with “Bubales”, Berlin. Sponsored by the Central Council of Jews of Germany. Sufganiyot and sweet table
Saturday, December 20	2:00 p.m.	Chanukkah Netzer Hameln with Patrizia
Tuesday, December 23	11:00 a.m.	Chanukah Breakfast Club with P.Pelts. Sponsored by Aktion Mensch
Mark your calendars! Sunday, January 4, 2015	4:00 p.m.	Congregational New Year’s Reception. Registration deadline: December 23. 8 Euros per person



[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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