



# Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln e.V.

Mitglied der Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland

Mitglied der Weltunion progressiver Juden

Mitglied des Zentralrates der Juden in Deutschland

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## Program for January 2009 • Tevet–Shvat 5769

Office hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE!** The office will not be staffed until January 9, 2009.

Sunday, January 4	5:00 p.m.	After New Year's New Year's Party, Tickets: €6
Tuesday, January 6	9.00 a.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, January 9	4:00 p.m.	Religious school with P. Blase & F. Pelts
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel and Rebekka Dohme
Saturday, January 10	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit services/ Torah study with R. Dohme
Tuesday, January 13	10.00 a.m.	Informational meeting: Russian Consulate with G. Bachmatchnikova
Saturday, January 17	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit/ Torah study with D. Vogelhuber
Monday, January 19	10.00 a.m.	Russian Consulate with G. Bachmatchnikova
Tuesday, January 20	4.00 p.m.	"Russian Afternoon" with M. Olvovskaja
Saturday, January 24	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit /Torah study with R. Dohme
Sunday, January 25	3.00 p.m.	Sunday Café with M. Dvortsis
Tuesday, January 27	4.00 p.m.	Holocaust Remembrance Day: Memorial services
Friday, January 30		<b>Rabbi Irit Shillor's Visit</b>
	4.00 p.m.	Religious school with P. Blase and F. Pelts
	5.30 p.m.	Friday night services: Acceptance Ceremony with Rabbi Shillor, followed by a festive Kiddush
Saturday, January 31	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit/ Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
	6.00 p.m.	Havdallah and Baby Blessing for the Rubanov family, followed by a festive Kiddush

### Activities outside the community

Friday, January 23	8.30 p.m.	Sumpflume: Amsterdam Klezmer Band, € 14/ €17
Sunday, January 25	11:15 a.m.	Society for Christians and Jews: "Jewish Tales," City Library
	2:00 p.m.	<b>Dedication of the Liberal Jewish Community Center Hannover, "Etz Chaim" and inauguration of Rabbi Gábor Lengyel</b>
Thursday, January 29	6.00 p.m.	Hamelin Forum: Lecture: "Children and Youth in the Holocaust" B. Gelderblom, Music: Ulrike Dangendorf, Weserberglandzentrum

**Dear members, friends and supporters,**

The past month of December began and ended on a religious note. The month began on December 5<sup>th</sup> with the second visit of our rabbinical student Yan Tsipris. Our synagogue was filled as we joined together for Friday night services, welcoming the Pelts and Golberg family back after the week of *Shiva*. (week of mourning) Yan selected soft Shabbat melodies, sensitive to the feelings of many of the congregants. At the Kiddush table, congregants spontaneously spoke, remembering Josif Pelts, of blessed memory. The very emotional evening was appreciated by the family.

The month came to a close with our congregational Hanukka party. The sanctuary was filled once again with members and guests. The celebration on December 21st had a family atmosphere. The first candle of our eight-day holiday was lit to the delight of young and old.. A short Hanukka service was held in Hebrew, German and Russian, followed by a program from our religious school children.

The children presented a play and many congregants joined in as they sang, "*Maoz Tzur*" ("*Rock of Ages*") Thanks go to teachers Faina and Peter and naturally to the children, Joshua, Ron, Patrizia, Miriam, Sören, Gabriel, Haakon und Sascha. *Kol haKavod!* Well done!



Our choir, "Shalom" prepared a Hanukka concert. Every foot was tapping or hands clapping along with their happy selections. Boisterous applause brought them out for an encore. Thanks to all the members of "Shalom" for all the hours of hard work which go into preparing a concert.



Thanks to the generous gifts from the October visit of Temple Sinai in Denver, Colorado, we enjoyed a Hanukka Raffle. The gifts were wrapped in Hanukka paper and ribbons, tempting everyone whose number was drawn. It was fun seeing what was inside and the happy faces of those who took home their Hanukka treasures of Hanukka menorahs, boxes of Hannuka candles, Mezuzas, Kiddush cups, Shabbat candles. No one went home empty-handed, thanks to the big bag of colorful Dreidels!



Almost every Jewish holiday has its specific culinary treats and Hanukka is certainly no exception. Foods prepared in oil were enjoyed by all, our kitchen team outdoing themselves with sizzling and mouth-watering latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) to satisfy every sweet tooth.

We wish everyone a good secular New Year 2009. Our congregational "After New Year's New Year's Party" will be held on January 4<sup>th</sup>. See you then!



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### **Jewish January**

In January we will observe Holocaust Remembrance Day. On January 27, 1945, the Red Army liberated the concentration camp Auschwitz. We will observe this day with a short memorial service at 4:00 p.m.

### **Press Work**

Once again, we thank our local press for the interesting article about Hanukka. Thanks also to the Brückner family for giving the interview. We are pleased that there is public interest in Reform Judaism and our congregational life. We are happy to nurture this positive interest through newspaper

articles and synagogue tours, requested and attended by local schools, churches and clubs. This public relations work shows the importance of our community as an integrated element of our town.

### **Rachel and Rebekka in Rochester**

Our congregation was honored with an invitation to visit Temple Brith Kodesh in Rochester, New York. Our president has maintained a friendly and supportive relationship with members of this American Reform congregation for years. Temple Brith Kodesh's Committee for Israel and World Jewry has supplied their congregants with information about our congregation over the last months. Mrs. Gertrude Lind organized a bulletin board with newsletter and newspaper articles, which added to their community's better understanding of our struggles and successes.

Rachel and Rebekka Dohme were thrilled to travel to Rochester and join this wonderful congregation for Friday night services. Rebekka assisted Temple Brith Kodesh's Cantor Keri Berger musically during the service and Rachel spoke to the more than 200 congregants who filled the chapel, introduced by Rabbi Larry Kotok.



A delicious catered Shabbat dinner followed services. Rebekka and Rachel fielded many questions from members after the meal. There were more questions than time allowed and afternoon meeting was held the next day in the home of Art and Hildegard Herz. Again members were given the opportunity to meet and inquire about developments in Jewish Germany.

Many new ideas were discussed for a continued cooperation of our two congregations. How fortunate we are to have such good friends. We appreciate all the support.

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### **Foundation for a Synagogue in Hamelin**

We wish to thank our city and county leaders for approving our proposal, requesting 1/3 of the building costs of our new synagogue. We also wish to thank the state government for their intention to provide the second third of funds needed. We will continue to work diligently to secure material and financial support for our third. We are deeply grateful for every contribution.

It really seems that we are well on our way to building the first newly constructed Reform synagogue in post-war Germany hopefully beginning in 2009.

## Netzer Day

Greta Golberg and Shlichia Sivan Gaides prepared a "Netzer Day" in our community on December 7th, from 12:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This youth get-together was a first. We thank Greta and Sivan for all their hard work. The day was a great success and the children enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next "Netzer Day." The following is a report from Miriam Brückner, one of the young participants:

*We all met in our synagogue on "Netzer Day." Greta, Joshua, Sören, Haakon, Patrizia Gabriel and I were there. Greta and Sivan had set up a scavenger hunt in the building and we had to find cards with Hebrew letters on them. It took a while but we found them all and put them together. They spelled "Young and Jewish Junior Netzer." Afterwards we went on a walk, which ended at the old Jewish cemetery. We gathered around Dr. Siegmund Kratzenstein's grave, and Greta told us all about him.*

*Afterwards we went into town and Sivan bought everyone a pretzel at the market. It started to rain so we all went to Patrizia's house where we all wrote our wishes for 2009 in hopes that they will come true.*

*It was such a fun day and we look forward to being together again.*

*Shalom! Miriam*

## Torah Study

For over three years, we have been meeting almost every Saturday morning for a short Saturday morning service. Together we've familiarized ourselves with the morning service liturgy. Afterwards, we enjoy Kiddush with wine, juice and home-made Challa before commencing with Torah study. Our lively discussions about the weekly portion are held in German and Russian. Happily, we're always a *Minyan* (10 people) but we are always looking for more interested participants. Everyone is welcome, with nothing to bring but a curious mind. So don't be shy-come and join the learning!

## Annual Membership Meeting

Our annual membership meeting will take place on Sunday, February 22, 2009. Members will find an invitation with this newsletter. Elections for board members will be held. Please consider if you'd like to run for office. Please submit your name and any other questions or proposals by February 13<sup>th</sup>. You may contact the office or any board member. We respectfully remind all members to submit their annual dues for 2009.



## New Members

We are truly honored to announce that Eva and Harold Brown have applied for membership to our congregation. Eva Brown is the granddaughter of Dr. Siegmund Kratzenstein. Dr. Kratzenstein was the last president of the pre-war Jewish Congregation of Hamelin. Having this family join us in membership is a meaningful and moving gesture, connecting our congregation today with the congregation who came before us in a very real way.

We also welcome Ms. Alla Lybych back to our congregation.

## Friends of Jewish Congregation of Hamelin

We welcome Ms. Lydmyla Todryna to our Friends of Jewish Congregation of Hamelin group. We look forward to Ms. Todryna's active participation. She arranged a concert with students

from the Lubov Conservatorium. The young people added to Herr Dvortsis' monthly meeting, "Senior's Café" in December. Mr. Dvortsis had planned a program about the Ukraine and the singers fit in well. Thank you!

## Donations — Tzedaka

We are grateful to the many people who continually support our work and our plans to build a new synagogue. We are deeply grateful for very generous contributions from Temple Brith Kodesh, Rochester, New York and Temple Sinai, Atlanta, Georgia. These contributions bring us closer to our dream of our own synagogue. We thank all those individuals, who gave so generously.

We thank Ruth Torode and Frank Jones for their contribution. Ms. Torode and Mr. Jones are family members of former citizens of Hamelin's pre-war Jewish congregation, the Jonas family. They made their contribution in honor of their children.

We appreciate the contributions made by the following people: Polina Pelts, Faina Pelts, the Golberg family, Rabbi Jo David and Sofer Neil Yerman, USA, Arkadij Zyranov, Peter Blasé, M, and F. Duee, E. Dittrich, R. Wuttke, U. Ryf, Rabbi Gábor und Anikó Lengyel, I Niemann, I. Fischer, M.Hanser, J.Göttling, G. Koehrs. Von Klencke family, Bökenkamp family, K. Martens, Reformed Lutheran Church of Hamelin, J. Wolf, USA and G. Lind, USA.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



### **Tree of Life — Etz Chayim**

Who will contribute the next leaf? Each leaf not only adorns our sanctuary but also helps us raise funds for our synagogue. Leaves can be ordered through our office or by contacting [Rachel Dohme](#) or on this Web site: [Tree of Life](#). Each leaf costs a minimum of \$54 (triple chai). Please contribute a leaf and help us to build our synagogue!

Seven new leaves grace our Tree of Life which now has 215 leaves. We thank and acknowledge the following people:

- Polina Pelts: "In loving memory of my husband Josif"
- Pelts and Golberg families: "In loving memory of our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather Josif"
- Faina Pelts: "In honor of my parent's golden wedding anniversary"
- Rabbi Jo David and Sofer Neil Yerman: "In memory of Josif Pelts"
- Dohme family: "In honor of the life of Josif Pelts"  
"In honor of the birth of Marie Mohaupt"
- Morgan and Ana Kroneberg: "Morgan and Ana Kroneberg"

### **Mazel Tov — Congratulations**

We congratulate our newest members who will be welcomed with an Acceptance Ceremony on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mazel Tov to Dr. Oleg and Anna Rubanov and Grandmother Rimma Rubanov on their daughter and granddaughter, Marie Rubanov's naming ceremony, to be held on January 31<sup>st</sup> after Havdallah services.

Congratulations to the Jewish community of Hannover, "Etz Chaim" on the dedication of their new community center and synagogue. The dedication ceremony will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We also congratulate our former rabbinical student, Rabbi Gábor Lengyel on being named as their congregational rabbi.



### **Thank you —Toda Raba**

We are grateful to each and every person and every organization, in Germany and America, for their support of our community.

We thank Hartmut Bomhoff for contributing books to our synagogue library, made in honor of Josif Pelts, of blessed memory.

We appreciate and thank all community members who helped in making the holidays special.

We thank Julian Dohme who helped with the layout of this newsletter.

### **January Birthdays**

We wish all those celebrating a January birthday, the very best of health and happiness. We have a small gift for all our January Birthdays after services on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Join us for coffee and cake after services!

### **Refuah Schlama — Get Well Wishes**

We wish all who are confined to their homes or in the hospital a complete recovery. If you would like a home visit please contact the synagogue office.

### **December Yahrzeit — We remember:**

- Chaja-Rahel Kruchkovitch — January 29, 2003/ 26. Schwat 5763

May her memory be for a blessing. Please join family members during Sabbath services as we recite Kaddish. Yahrzeit candles are available in the office.

Shalom,

—Your Synagogue Board