



The Jewish Community of Hameln Newsletter

March 2016 • Adar I–Adar II 5776

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

Please remember to pay your annual membership dues. The congregation depends on everyone to pay promptly to enable us to continue our work.

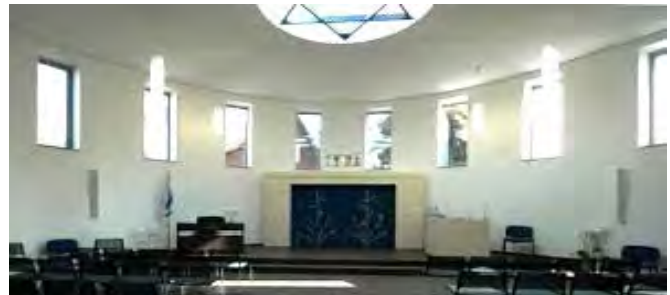
Please note our new bank information: Sparkasse Weserbergland
IBAN: DE47 2545 0110 0031 030380 BIC: NOLADE21SWB



Last month began with a return of wintery weather outside but the warmth of a weekend visit from Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy. Rabbi Sascha has helped the rebirth of Reform Judaism in the FSU for years, working under the auspices of our mother organization, the WUPJ. Rabbi Sascha is a graduate of Leo Baeck College in London and well-known to all of us, especially our Rabbi Irit Shillor, who studied with him at the British seminary. We are always pleased to welcome Rabbi Lyskovoy and look forward to his next visit. He brings with him a scholar's depth and offers our Russian-speaking members the opportunity to deepen their religiosity in their mother tongue. What a pleasure it is to see our members' spiritual thirst quenched in Russian. You can get a feel for the visit from the photo collage on page 2.

Our congregation celebrated our 5th anniversary in our beautiful synagogue on February 19th. Rabbi Irit Shillor led our congregation and guests through festive Shabbat services. Our sister congregation from Bad Pymont joined us for the joyous occasion. Our kitchen team outdid themselves with delicious dishes and beautifully laid tables. As always, Shabbat was enjoyed, the Oneg was appreciated and conversations between neighbors, friends and guests shed a warm glow throughout "Beitenu."

What does "home" mean to you? For many of us, it is our synagogue. Beitenu opens its doors to those seeking religious, cultural and social encounters with a vast variety of people. Home also means familiarity—a feeling of our childhood, of memories, of our past.



On Sunday, February 21st, Faina Pelts and Larissa Bellgardt offered an anniversary concert: "Melodies of the Jewish Soul," which did just that. Both music and song were beautiful and as the lyrics in Hebrew, German and Russian filled the air, so too, were the voices of those so moved to sing along. It was the appropriate icing on our 5th anniversary cake! Pictures of our celebration will follow in next month's letter.

Please read a note from our long-time friend and supporter, Mr. Späth:

"It is a special honor and privilege for me to congratulate the congregation on your 5th building anniversary today. During the last years you have not only built this beautiful House of God but also your community. The Hameln Synagogue is a shining and vivid example in and beyond our city limits. May the congregation continue to grow and thrive, bringing the teachings of Reform Judaism to all, now and in the future."

Shalom, Adolf Späth

Youth Activities

Our wonderful Madricha, Patrizia Berhovski, is spending a year in Israel in the Netzer Olami Schnat program. She is still shy of the funds needed. Please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org if you can contribute to her year. We and the children miss her and are thrilled that she is participating in this program. Her lively, happy personality is certainly an asset to the World Union of Progressive Judaism's Schnat Israel program.

Faina is offering our youngsters an afternoon of Jewish learning fun each month, and Ioulia is offering regular family outings. We ask parents and grandparents to instill in their children the importance of their Jewish identity and take part in these activities.

Tu Bi Schwat Seder



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 March

Join us on March 25th as we celebrate Purim. We will hear the Megillah read in Hebrew, German and Russian. Our children's group, Netzer Hameln, have a special Purim surprise for us, and Valerij Bogatchyk and his thespians will treat us to a Purim Spiel in Russian. Come in costume, grab a "gragger" and enjoy the holiday. Polina Pelts and her culinary crew will satisfy every sweet tooth with their delicious and mouth-watering plum and poppy seed homemade Hamentaschen cakes.

"Aktion Mensch"

Valentine's Day was certainly magical this year. Dr. Helge Hill captured everyone's fantasy with his magic show. Dr. Hill is not only a well-known and respected Hameln internist but a passionate magician. It was lovely to see how adults and children all enjoyed his performance which speaks to the child in us all.

This month Aktion Mensch, organized by Polina Pelts, will support our Women's Day and Purim celebrations. We thank everyone who lends a hand... or two!

Interreligious Women's Group

The first of three meetings of our women's interreligious group met in the Hameln Mosque beginning the three-part theme this year, "Our holy texts—their meaning and importance." The next date is in May in our synagogue with Rabbi Irit Shillor.

Annual Membership Meeting

Members please note that our annual membership meeting will be held on March 13th.

New Members

With the more than 1000 new Syrian refugees in Hamelin, suitable apartments have become harder to find. If you know of an available apartment, please inform us in the synagogue office.

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, for the Youth Fund or the synagogue foundation: We acknowledge and thank Mrs. Sabine Demuth, Mr. Guido Tinne-mann, Mr. Norbert Baum, Mrs. Rimma Kopirovska, Mrs. Polina Pelts, Mrs. Ioulia Berhovski, guests of the Russian Consulate visit, Mr. Hans Snell, Mr. Wolfgang Schultner, Mr. Uwe Wolandowitsch, Mrs. Heidi Braun, Mrs. Heidi Kuntzag, Mrs. Analiese Ambrecht, the Ith Educational Center, Mrs. Swidder and the Lutheran Women's group of Emmerthal, Mr. Adolf Späth, Mrs. Rachel Dohme und Mrs. Ute Gibas.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to all of us on the 5th anniversary in our beautiful shul!

Tell us if you have good news to share and we will be happy to add it to the newsletter!

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.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Spring is just around the corner, hopefully encouraging our tree to sprout a new leaf or two. 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 added: Dora Vinnytska: “May our congregation be blessed”

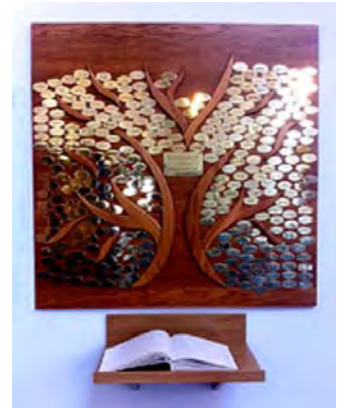


Jahrzeit im März

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|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Riva Slavinska | March 18,2005 / 7. Adar II 5765 |
| Gersch Kogan | March 19,2009 / 23. Adar 5769 |
| Polina Khazanova | March 19,2011 / 13. Adar II 5771 |
| Elena Grabovska | March 28,2012 / 5. Nisan 5772 |
| Alla Drejzer | March 2,2013 / 20. Adar 5773 |
| Oksana Kozlova | March 11,2013 / 29. Adar 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
The Congregation Board



Program for March 2016 • Adar I–Adar II 5776

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10.00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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| Wednesday, March 2 | 4:30 p.m. | Video: “The Suitcase” in Russian, Moscow Theater |
| Friday, March 4 | 5:30 p.m. | Friday night services with P. Wendt and synagogue choir “Shalom” |
| Saturday, March 5 | 10:00 a.m. | Saturday morning services and Torah study with P.Wendt |
| Tuesday, March 8 | 11:00 a.m. | International Women’s Day Concert With friendly support of “Aktion Mensch” |
| Sunday, March 13 | 1:00 p.m. | Monthly board meeting |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Annual Membership meeting |
| Thursday, March 17 | 7:30 p.m. | In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: “Judah” from Amos Oz, Dr. Herrenbruck |
| Friday, March 18 | 5:00 p.m. | Friday night services with F. Pelts |
| Thursday, March 24 | 10:00 a.m. | Hamentaschen Bakery with P.Pelts |
| Friday, March 25 | 5:30 p.m. | PURIM — Reading of the Megillah, Netzter group performance, Purimspiel , with friendly support of “Aktion Mensch” |
| Saturday, March 26 | 10.00 a.m. | Saturday morning services and Torah study with R. Dohme |

[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.ighreform.org • Email: igh@ighreform.org

Office: Neue Heerstraße 35, 31840 Hess. Oldendorf

Tel.: 05152/8374 • Fax: 05152/962915

Email: racheldohme@ighreform.org