



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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July–August 2012 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5772

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

Fifty days after Passover we celebrated Shavuot. As always it was a joy having our Rabbi, Irit Shillor, who is always eager to join us in the happiness of the holidays and share with us the spirit of the Jewish festivals. On Shavuot we celebrate the giving of the Ten Commandments, which over generations have become the cornerstone of every modern society.

Rabbi Shillor presented each commandment during our breakfast after morning services, helping us to find a personal connection to each one. This offered new dimensions and insights for every participant.

We also shared traditional holiday dairy foods, such as cheesecake, adding a delicious touch to food for thought.

Our rabbi also took part in the international women's meeting, which our community hosted. The topic was "Moses." Jewish, Christian and Muslim women exchanged their views on the historic figure Moses, and it was fascinating to hear the different perceptions in each religion.



Our community offers every member a place to gather spiritual strength through our Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services. Coming into the quiet, peaceful and beautiful sanctuary adds to the joy of Shabbat. Meeting other members, singing and praying together, and laughing and eating gives us strength for the coming week. Our community blossoms with joy when Rabbi Shillor, rabbinical student A. Schell or community members lead them in prayer. Therefore, we invite everyone to join us for regular Shabbat prayer!

The English textile artist Jane Hewison visited us in June. Jane's work graces our synagogue. Her embroidered blue velvet pieces are a delight. On this visit she added a new element to our Torah reading table. Thank you very much, Jane, for your lovely work!

Faina Pelts had organized a very interesting presentation on "Jews in Bad Pyrmont." Together with our sister community, we learned important historical facts from city archivist Mr. Willicke. Presentations such as this one remind us that we are descendants of Jews who once lived in this very region and were Judaism's witnesses long before us.

Please remember: The next newsletter will appear in September.

Mrs. Faina Pelts will be on vacation from July 23rd to August 6th.

Mr. Moos will be on vacation from July 16th to August 8.

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@jghreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish July and August

We will receive an honored guest in early July and are very excited to welcome Austin Beutel from Toronto, Canada, to our new synagogue. Together with rabbinical student Adrian Schell we will celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat services. The Beutel family initiated the “Beutel Seminar” in Israel. These seminars offer Reform Jewish men and women from around the world an opportunity to experience Israel and become familiar with our international movement, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and take part in leadership seminars, which are designed to aid them in leadership roles in their home communities. Over the past 10 years, three of our members have enjoyed being Beutel scholars. This visit will also afford us an opportunity to thank Mr. and Mrs. Beutel for the most generous donation they awarded us in December; it will be used for Jewish educational projects in our community. Please join us for this special Shabbat service!

On July 8th, the House of Religion celebrates its 10th anniversary. We have been actively involved in the House’s work for a decade. Polina Pelts will be representing our community at this event. Congratulations to the House of Religion for its initiative and steady work in interreligious dialogue.

On August 12th, we will be hosting the opening of an interesting exhibition. Sponsored by BAMF the Viktoria Luise Gymnasium, the students who participated in a year-long project, “Theresienstadt,” will share what they have learned. Our congregation worked closely with these young people. They interviewed our members, visited our synagogue, researched both the history and present-day life of Hamelin’s Jews, and confronted Germany’s horrible past and the Holocaust. The teens performed several theater pieces and one evening involved the school orchestra and our synagogue choir “Shalom.” Faina Pelts facilitated the project together with the local high school and project director, Dr. Sabine Kempf. We hope many people will make a point of visiting the exhibition, which is to run for a month.

In memory of Elena Gorbacheva, z"l

Dear Elena,

We will miss your smile, with which you greeted everyone who came into our synagogue. You were the one who filled our kitchen with the most delicious smells, decorated our festive tables and offered delicious meals for our holidays and Schabbatot. One says that the kitchen is the heart of every house. This is where we meet, where we laugh, talk and exchange news. The door of our kitchen was always open, but it was also the door to your heart. After having moved to Germany you found out how rich Judaism is. You always wanted to learn more and told us how happy you were to continue learning, adding your quiet wisdom to every Shabbat Torah study. When the news of your illness broke, the community gathered around you. We thought of you so often and were able to be with you. Thank you so much, that we could say goodbye to you together with your dear family, especially during your last hours.

Elena, we will miss you very much, but you will live on in our hearts and thoughts.

Your generosity and your smile will never die!



18th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 18th annual conference of the UPJ will be held July 19–22 in Berlin. This year’s theme is “Liberal Judaism Today” and will celebrate the UPJ Germany’s 15th anniversary. Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars will be offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. Moving services in Hebrew, German and Russian will also be celebrated. We hope many of you will attend. Information is available online at www.liberales-juden.de (Jahrestagung 2012).

Summer camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp will be held in Poland this year. Our campers will be joined by campers from the Reform Congregation of Beth Warsaw. Camp dates are July 26th to August 8th. The two-week session for 8- to 18-year-olds costs €380 and includes everything. Adrian looks forward to seeing all the Hamelin kids there, and he has a super program prepared. Registration forms are available in the office and online at www.upj-netzer.de.



Mazel Tov

Mazel to the Jewish Community Magdeburg, our newest and 23rd member of the UPJ (Union for Progressive Jews). We wish the community all the best.

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.

Donations — Tzedakah

Thank you Faina Pelts, Family Lebedynskiy, the 10th grade of Schiller Gymnasium and their teacher Mrs. Planert, the family of Elena Gorbacheva's, z"l, Mrs. H. Schulz, Mrs. A. Konstantinova, St. Monika's home for the elderly, the Ecumenical Center, Mr. Späth of the Protestant men's circle Hörter, Mrs. A. Grah, Mr. John Smith, Mr. H. Weltner and Mrs. Rachel Dohme. May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

The summer sun had added new leaves to our tree. 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. Thank you!

New leaves were ordered by:

Faina Pelts: In honor of my mother's 75th birthday

The Dohme Family: Thank you, Elena Gorbacheva

Jewish Community Hamelin: Todah Rabah, Elena Gorbacheva

Gorbacheva Family: In memory of our mother Elena Gorbacheva, her children

E. Gorbacheva: For the world's best grandmother, Elena Gorbacheva, her granddaughter Elena

Alexandra Konstantinova: In memory of my beloved mother, Chaja-Rahel

The Lebedynskiy Family: In memory of my father and our grandfather, Juriy Lebedynskiy

Thank you — Todah Rabah

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

Condolences

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Elena Gorbacheva, z"l, on the death of their beloved mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law.

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Valentina Barulina, z"l, on the death of their beloved mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law.

July and August Yahrzeit

Nataliya Zaychenko — July 1, 2003 / Tammuz 1, 5763

Sergei Jevdokymov — July 21, 2008 / Tammuz 18, 5768

Inge Dickmann — July 16, 2008 / Tammuz 13, 5768

Ethel Lazer — August 16, 2009 / Av 26, 5769

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

Shalom! The Community Board



Program for July–August 2012 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 57725772

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

All courses will resume in September.

Tuesday, July 3	1:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, July 6	2:00 p.m.	Madrichim Seminar with Youth Director Adrian Schell
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbinical student Adrian Schell Honored Guest: Mr. Austin Beutel, Toronto
Thursday–Sunday, July 19–22		18th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany in Berlin/Spandau
Tuesday, August 7	1:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, August 10	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with P. Wendt and F. Pelts
Sunday, August 12– September 6	3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Opening: “Jewish Life in Hameln—Persecution and Return” With the friendly support of the BAMF and Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium. Opening remarks: Dr. Sabine Kempf; Music: Synagogue Choir Shalom
Friday, August 31	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbinical student Adrian Schell
Saturday, September 1	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study
Activities outside the community		
Sunday, July 8	3:00 p.m.	House of Religion, Steinbergen, Festival of Religion. Polina Pelts
Sunday, July 15	4:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews “Museum Day” Outing to the new Hamelin Museum, €5

We wish everyone a happy summer!

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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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