



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

July–August 2013 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5773

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## Dear members, friends and supporters,

Please remember: • The next newsletter will appear in September. • Mrs. Olga Geer will be on vacation from July 9th to August 1st. • Mr. Moos will be on vacation from August 19th to September 9th.

Let's now turn the calendar page back to see what happened in June.

Our members had received a position paper concerning congregational funeral practices from our Senior Rabbi Irit Shillor in May. We asked Rabbi Yuriy Kadnykov to come and discuss the issues in the paper in Russian with interested members. There was ample time for questions and answers, and the members felt this was an important meeting and a valuable service provided by the congregation. Our wish was to explain our traditions in order to avoid misunderstanding in the event of the death of a loved one. We wish to express our thanks to Rabbi Shillor and Rabbi Kadnykov for their sensitive handling of this subject.

In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, we offered a day trip to Hildesheim. Quite a large group took part. The participants enjoyed a full program, spanning both Jewish and Christian history. We wish to thank the organizers, Polina Pelts and Hans-Georg Spangenburg.

Our congregation performed in this year's Cultural Festival in Emmerthal on June 22. Our choir "Shalom" as well as our newly formed Ukrainian group and our Israeli dance group, "Chag Sameach," delighted the crowds. Our congregation strives to do its part to promote dialogue and understanding between cultures and religions in our region.

The Interreligious Women's Group has chosen "Music in Religion" as this year's topic. There were three interesting presentations of Islamic, Jewish and Christian music in each religion's respective houses of worship. The series was drawn to a close with a final concert in our synagogue on Sunday, June 23rd. It can be viewed as a small miracle that our sanctuary walls reflected the voices of Moslems, Jews and Christians as they sang their songs of worship and each other's.

We thank everyone involved in this valuable project, which showed that, if you will it, tolerance is as easy as do re mi.



Gesellschaft für  
Christlich-Jüdische  
Zusammenarbeit  
Hameln e.V.

Shabbat Pinchas was very special this year. Marie and Yan Glanz celebrated their baby daughter Charlotte's name-giving ceremony as part of the Saturday morning service. The ceremony was created and led by Rabbi Irit Shillor. Grandparents and family members arrived from France and were joined by our members to celebrate this wonderful ritual. Welcoming new life assures us all of continuity and our future. Mazel Tov to the parents and may Charlotte live a long, prosperous, happy, healthy life!



## Synagogue Visitors

It is gratifying to realize that all the hard work and effort it has taken to build the first newly constructed Reform synagogue in post-war Germany has borne the fruit of our labors. Clearly our own members rejoice in the communal achievement and religious space we have created. But adding to that joy is the interest and support of the citizens of Hamelin. Their interest to see the synagogue, to enter into dialogue with our members, and to learn about our Reform Jewish traditions and customs is extremely satisfying. "Beitenu" has become a visible sign of healing and hope and a living example of integration and tolerance.

Many members guide our guests, church groups, school classes and individuals through our synagogue and teach them about Reform Judaism. The

bulk of these tours are led by Rachel Dohme.

If she is unavailable, board members Faina Pelts and Peter Wendt jump in. Recently, Rachel hosted Naomi Bando and her husband, Peter, from Sydney. Naomi is Ruth Keret's daughter. Ruth was born in Hamelin and now lives in Israel. It was Naomi's first visit to Hamelin, retracing her mother's history. It was a very emotional trip for the Bandos. Another Israeli guest, Mr. Hahn from Modi'in, joined us for Shabbat services. Mr Hahn was also born in Hamelin. His moving words of gratitude that a synagogue once again stands where it once did were very touching. Our member Mrs. Ioulia Berhowski welcomed a Polish-German student exchange group from Viktoria Luise Gymnasium in June, and a few weeks later her daughter Patrizia offered answers to questions about our congregational life (in English!) to an Israeli basketball team from Kiryat Motzkin. We are all looking forward to the August visit of the 12-member Katzenstein family. The Patriarch, Michael Katzenstein, was born in Hamelin and lives today in Tel Aviv. They will be our honored guests for Friday night services, led by our members.

It is a sign of congregational identity that so many members offer guided tours and volunteer their time. Thank you!

### Netzer Hamelin

The youth of our congregation look forward to their monthly get-togethers with Rabbi Adrian. Enjoy the following pictures from their June outing.



### Summer Camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp will be held near Salzburg, Austria, this year. Camp dates are July 28th–August 11th. The two-week session for 8–18 year-olds costs €380 and includes everything. Adrian and the Madrichim Team look forward to seeing all the Hamelin kids there and have a super program prepared. We offer each and every child a stipend and the Youth Department will gladly assist families in need. Registration forms are available in the office and online at [www.upj-netzer.de](http://www.upj-netzer.de).

## Jewish July and August

Shabbat! Shabbat! Shabbat! Please join us for Friday night services in July and August. We are honored to welcome the Katzenstein family on Friday, August 9th. The Patriarch, Michael Katzenstein was born in Hamelin. He will be accompanied by 12 members of his family as he travels from his home in Tel Aviv to Hamelin, spending Friday night with us and the rest of the week in our city. The six adults and six grandchildren will spend the week exploring Michael's past—certainly a moving and bittersweet experience for all. We hope to make them comfortable in providing them a “Jewish space” when they join us for services.

Summer services will be lay-led by Rachel, Rebekka, Faina, Peter and our choir “Shalom.” Relax and enjoy pleasant and happy services with your friends and neighbors.

“Psalm Sounds” is the title of a special concert on Saturday evening, August 24, in the Münster Church St. Bonifatius in Hamelin. The concert will feature various psalms, presented by soloists, woodwind instruments, organ and piano and percussion instruments. We are proud that our Rebekka Dohme will represent our congregation and sing the 23rd Psalm in Hebrew.



## The 19th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 19th Annual Conference of the UPJ will be held July 11–14 in Berlin. Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars will be offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. We're thrilled that New York Sofer Neil Yerman will attend. 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](http://www.liberales-juden.de) (Jahrestagung 2013).

## Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to the Glanz family on the birth of their first child, Charlotte.

Congratulations to all our students for completing another school year. We wish everyone a great summer vacation! Do you have Naches to share? Let us know!

## 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 our thoughts and prayers.



## Donations — Tzedakah

We thank the following people and organizations for supporting our community life and the synagogue construction with generous donations.

We thank the Rabbi Yuriy Kadnykov, Mr. John Smith, Mrs. Spangenberg and her 11th grade students from the HLA School, Pastor Schlichting, Stadthagen, Mrs. Polina Bartenbaum, Pastor Lonkwitz and the 11th grade of the HLA School, Mrs. Tigges and the 10th grade class of Viktoria Luise High School, Mr. Lassel and Makabbi Kiryat Motkin, Israel as well as Mr. Hans Weltner, Mrs. Rachel Dohme and as always, Mrs. Ute Gibas.

We thank Judy, Yoshi, Koki and Miko Khan, USA, for a generous contribution in memory of Pinchas and Miriam Arnovitz

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

## 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 and we are grateful to all involved. If you would care to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support.

## Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Flowers now grace the boughs of the trees outside, and bird song fills the warm air. So too, should our Tree of Life sprout new “leaves.” You can donate a leaf with an engraving in honor of special events, such as a birth, Bar or Bat Mitzva, wedding, or other memorable occasions. Your donation contributes to the maintenance of the synagogue. Forms are available in our office or online. Thank you!

Newly added:

- Dr. Felix Peres: In memory of my parents Judif and Schimon Peres
- The Dohme family: In memory of County Commissioner Rüdiger Butte

Newly ordered from:

- Mrs. Polina Bartenbaum: In memory of Alla Saminara from her friends

## Danke — Toda Raba

We welcome initiatives from our members. Please approach the board with your ideas if you'd like to contribute for the general good of the community.

We thank everyone who helps in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plans and organizes activities in our community. All the regular group activities, led by volunteers, contribute to our community life. We appreciate your commitment.

## 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  
Wolodymr Zaslavsky — July 29, 2012 / Av 10, 5772  
Ethel Lazer — August 16, 2009 / Av 26, 5769

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



### 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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### [Newsletter Archives](#)

## Program for July–August 2013 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5773

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
All courses will resume in September.

Tuesday, July 2	9:00 a.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, July 5	5:30 p.m.	Friday Night Alive services with Peter Wendt & “Schalom”
Thursday–Sunday, July 11–14	.	<b>19th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany</b> in Berlin/Spandau
Friday, July 26	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme & F. Pelts
Sunday, August 4	3:00 p.m.	Senior Café: Concert “Russian Romances”
Tuesday, August 6	9:00 a.m.	Monthly board meeting
Friday, August 9	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel & Rebekka Dohme <b>Honored Guests: The Katzenstein family, Hamelin/Tel Aviv, Israel</b>
Friday, August 23	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel & Rebekka Dohme
Outside the congregation		
Thursday, August 15	7:30 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews Reading: “Courageous Women,” Haus der Kirche, Hamelin
Sunday, August 24	6:00 p.m.	“Psalm Sounds” with Irmgard Langhorst 23 <sup>rd</sup> Psalm, Rebekka Dohme Münster Church St. Bonifatius, Hamelin

**We wish everyone a happy summer!**

