



# The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

July–August 2016 • Sivan–Tammuz–Av 5776

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## Dear members, friends and supporters,

It's finally summer! You'll notice that this is a double edition for July and August.

But first a look back to a very special outing in May, which occurred after the distribution of last month's newsletter. On May 31st, Polina Pelts and Hans Georg Spangenberger organized a day trip to Osnabrück. This was a joint program of our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews. Members and members from our sister community in Bad Pyrmont joined us for the day. The group enjoyed a city walking tour, led by Mr. Spangenberg in which he described the city's political and religious history. A visit to the Felix Nussbaum Museum was fascinating. A visit to the Osnabrück Jewish community rounded out the day. We thank them for their hospitality and their cantor's impromptu guitar concert!

There were many enjoyable moments in June—let's mention a few.

It was a bittersweet moment as we bid Rabbi Alexander Lyskovoy goodbye after his last visit with us on Shavuot. Rabbi Lyskovoy has accepted a position in Moscow, but we hope to invite him for a weekend seminar when he is in Germany visiting his wife, Rabbi Natascha Lyskovoy. Our members love his authentic, entertaining and dramatic style and especially hearing it all in their mother tongue.

It was fitting that his last weekend with us this year be on Shavuot. After services and a festive Kiddush of cheesecakes and fruits were enjoyed—a semi-circle was formed and the learning began. The aroma of spring flowers was as sweet as the lively discussion with Rabbi Sascha.

A parting compliment was overheard as a member said, "I will miss his visits. When he speaks, I understand everything. He touches my heart." We wish Rabbi Lyskovoy all the best.

Have a look at the Shavuot photos in the collage on page 2.

Our members Boris Utchitel and Arkadij Drejzer gave a fascinating lecture about the history and development of the FSU space program. Both octogenarians spoke excitedly about their part during their careers. Those in attendance were captivated and one question followed another. The discussion continued at the refreshments table, beautifully prepared by Doroti and Valerij Bogachyck.

Here yet another valuable afternoon program organized by Polina Pelts and supported by "Aktion Mensch." We thank Aktion Mensch for help and support for seed monies that address the needs of our older congregants. Polina Pelts organizes the monthly get-togethers. These programs have been very well received and are as informative as they are entertaining. We thank Polina for all her hard work and logistical talent.

We enjoyed a lovely visit from our former Bar Mitzvah Benyamin Meschede and his mother. They were visiting family in Hannover. One could hardly recognize Benyamin. He has grown up and is a college student, finishing his Master's degree in Boston. There is a picture of a happy reunion with Benyamin, Faina and Polina in the collage.

## 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 like to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at [racheldohme@jghreform.org](mailto:racheldohme@jghreform.org). We appreciate any and all support!

## Our Youth Group

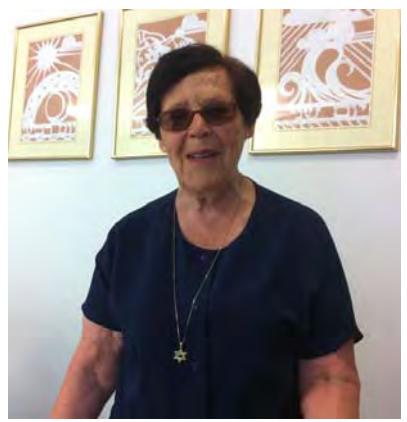
Ioulia Berhowski offered our youth group and their parents a day trip to Hannover in June. We hope you enjoy the pictures of them in the collage.

## Jewish July and August

The summer months of July and August are summer vacation months and although our synagogue will stay open, many classes and groups will be on break. We will offer Friday night services twice a month and hope to see many of you there.



## June Photos





In July we look forward to welcoming Patrizia Berhovski back from her year in Israel. Patrizia took part in the SCHNAT program of the WUPJ. She wishes to thank everyone who supported her during the year and offers a lecture: "My year in Israel" on July 20th at 5:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. She will talk about her experiences and impressions and hopes for many questions from the audience. The talk is a joint program of our congregation and the Society of Christians and Jews.

Welcome home Patrizia!

### **Chuppa for Rebekka Dohme and Amitai Yareev Schleier**

Our congregation is nearing the end of its 19th year. We established our congregation in 1997 with a group of 18 Jewish men and women and a small group of children. The establishment and rebirth of Reform Judaism in Hamelin was not just historic but also miraculous. In 1997, 60 years after the

Shoah, Jewish life returned to the city of Hamelin.

We established our congregation as a Reform community and joined the EUPJ and WUPJ. It was important to us to become members of the largest worldwide organization of non-Orthodox Jewish congregations and follow in the spiritual footsteps of the Jewish congregation of Hamelin that had preceded us. The Reform movement began in Seesen in 1810, here in our state of Lower Saxony.

During the past two decades our congregation has grown and developed. We have learned, celebrated and lived our Judaism together. Children were born and taught, and Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations were held under the pleased eyes of a growing congregation. Some members even decided to renew their marriage vows according to Jewish tradition. Rabbi Irit Shillor guided us through it all. We all have matured over the years, especially in our spirituality.

It is then with great pleasure that the Dohme family wishes to share their happiness with members of the congregation in early September as their daughter Rebekka and Amitai Yareev Schleier marry under the Chuppah. Rebekka and Amitai's families welcome you to share their joy and rejoice with them on this very special occasion. The young couple is the first to stand under the Chuppah in our new synagogue. Personal invitations for our members will arrive by post.

### **Mazel Tov**

Mazel Tov to Rimma Kopirovska on her 90th birthday. Sei Gesund!

We congratulate Mr. Lippold von Klencke, member of the board of our Building Foundation and his wife, Christine, on the marriage of their son and their new daughter-in-law.

Mazel Tov to our friend Rabbi Joel Oseran, former vice-president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), on his new pulpit, Beth Hillel Roma.

Mazel Tov to our rabbi Irit Shillor on her marriage to Lesley Bennett. We wish the happy couple all the best!

Do you have Naches to share? Let us know and we'll print it in next month's newsletter for all to see!

### **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 the following for their contributions to our congregation or our synagogue fund: We thank those who left a donation after our spring concert, Pastor Reuning and the confirmation class, Petri Church of Ohnsen, Mr. Adolf Späth, Mrs. Rust and the administrative staff of the Lutheran Church of Hannover, Mr. Schmidt and two classes of the 6th grade and Mr. Riesing and the 7th graders of Viktoria-Luise Gymnasium and Mr. Dieter Vogelhuber.

We thank Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Uta Gibas for their monthly contributions.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.

### **Etz Chayim — Tree of Life**

It's summertime! It's time to remember that special person or event with a new leaf on our Tree of Life. Please do your part and help a few more grow! 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 — Todah Rabah**

We wish to thank everyone once again who helped make this month's congregational events so successful. We thank everyone who helps in making our holidays and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.

## **Yahrzeit in July–August**

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**



## **Program for July–August 2016 • Sivan–Tammuz–Av 5776**

**Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.**

### **July**

Friday, July 8	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Faina Pelts
Wednesday, July 20	5:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: Patrizia Berhowski "My Year in Israel"
Tuesday, July 26	11:00 a.m.	Senior's Café, led by Polina Pelts, Guest: Rimma Kopirovska With friendly support of Aktion Mensch
Friday, July 29	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Peter Wendt and synagogue choir

### **August**

Friday, August 5	3:00 p.m.	Board meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rachel Dohme
Sunday, August 7	3:00 p.m.	Summer concert featuring S. Banchukov, V. Fridman, N. & W. Pesok
Friday, August 19	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Faina Pelts

## [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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