



## Dear members, friends and supporters,

During the last days of May, we celebrated the joyous festival of Shavuot. The photos weren't ready in time for the last newsletter but you can enjoy a double collage this month with pictures from Shavuot weekend and our big 20th anniversary celebration as you scroll down.

Rabbi Ulrike led our holiday observance, attended by many of our members. Our synagogue was decorated with boughs of green, fresh flowers and sheaths of wheat. Rabbi Ulrike gathered us to the Torah to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments. We listened and heard and felt as if we too had stood at Mount Sinai. The sweetness of the moment was translated into a luscious cheesecake and blini buffet, created lovingly by Liubov. With our hearts and stomachs full, we began our Tikkun Leyl Shavuot. We read the book of Ruth aloud in Hebrew, Russian, German and English, as is our tradition. This old text is ever new and addresses personal identity and community inclusion. Once again we celebrated our beautiful holiday, easily finding a bridge between tradition and modernity.

Our synagogue is a house of prayer and learning, and we wish to thank Rabbi Ulrike and Liubov especially for making the holiday a pleasure for heart and soul.

Dayenu—it would have been enough—the next day, Shabbat morning, the celebration of the "Giving of the Law" continued.

Our Kiddush table was transformed into a sea of homemade delicacies made of milk and honey. The idea of a cheesecake contest went above and beyond all expectations. There was Lochschen kugel, sweet dairy-stuffed cakes and tarts and blintzes galore. The many recipes came from family traditions and new ideas. Where there is a contest, there must be a jury and prizes. Our highly competent jury of Valerij, Berta, Evgenija, Anna and Matvey had a monumental task to choose among the twelve entries. They decided everyone was a winner and the prizes were awarded by a lottery. The prizes were beautifully handmade candles from a Jewish sheltered workshop in Berlin, OMANUT, which affords work for Jewish people with cognitive and emotional challenges. After the jury and bakers were thanked, everyone sat down to a sweet feast.

The month of June was ushered in with a Sunday concert from our synagogue choir, "Shalom." We are so blessed to have so many talented members and music has always been a spiritual magnet in our congregation. Many members and guests were in attendance as our choir gave the kick-off program for our big 20th anniversary celebration on June 11th.

Before we report on our anniversary celebration, it was of note that our beloved Polina Pelts celebrated her 80th birthday on Shabbat B'ha'alotcha. No seat was empty as we honored Polina for her love and dedication to our congregation. Valeri Friedmann read a poem he had written for her, many members offered testimonies of her selflessness over the years, bouquets and gifts were bestowed and President Rachel Dohme gave her a necklace with a tree of life in silver embellished with red heart-shaped leaves. In addition, the weekly national Jewish newspaper, *Jüdische Allgemeine*, has honored her with a full-page portrait of her work. Dear Polina, "bis 120!"

## Our 20th Anniversary

The Mishna teaches us that the age of 20 is a time of striving, driven by ambition to achieve something important. This certainly describes our first 20 years!

June 11th saw us opening our synagogue doors as wide as could be and welcoming over 400 guests to celebrate with us and experience Jewish culture and tradition firsthand. The year of planning bore fruit as our members and guests could spend an entire day with us. We offered a full day of programming, including synagogue tours and an Ask-the-Rabbi session, workshops in Israeli dance with Boris, Jewish music with Faina and Kashrut with Ioulia. Dieter manned the Israel information table, and Rabbi Ulrike offered an Introduction to Hebrew class. Olga and Feana entertained the children at an arts and crafts corner, and artists Yevgenii, Felix and Borys exhibited their art pieces.

Hamelin's mayor, Claudio Griese, greeted everyone and thanked the congregation for "re-establishing Judaism in Hamelin and for giving the city this beautiful House of God."

The celebration ended with a foot-stomping concert from the Hannover Duo, "Stellena." The two women, Stella and Elena, performed pieces on piano and violin, which were "forbidden music" as well as modern pieces from Jewish composers. After their fourth encore and thanks to everyone who had made the day so spectacular, it was time to cut the cake! Beautiful cookies, decorated with "20 Years JGH" and an amazing cake in the shape of our synagogue were devoured. It is no exaggeration to say that this first Jewish Culture Festival was a huge success!

Please enjoy the collages of Shavuot and our 20th anniversary as you scroll down.



# Shavuot



# 20th-Year Anniversary Celebration



## Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Rebekka and Amitai Schleier on the birth of their son, Taavi Lua. We congratulate the new grandparents, our president Rachel Dohme, her husband, Dr. Ferdinand Dohme, and Taavi's new uncles, Max and Julian.



## Donations in June

We wish to thank all who made generous donations for the synagogue: The Mima family, Mrs. E. Kondraschova, Mrs. Pfeiffer, Mr. A. Späth, Mayor Claudio Griese, the Grabowski-Hölscher family, Mrs. U. Bomnüter, Rachel Dohme and Mrs. Gibas. May you all be blessed for your generosity.

## Tree of Life

New leaves have been ordered in June by:

Mrs. E. Pfeiffer: "Happy 80th birthday POLINA"

Mrs. Kondraschova: "In memory of my aunt, Larissa Shapiro"



## Todah Rabah

WE thank all the helping hand and happy hearts who helped us this past month and every day making our congregation a big Jewish family, caring and inclusive.

## Yahrzeit in July and August

Nataliya Zaychenko	July 1, 2003 / Tammuz 1, 5763
Sergei Jevdokimov	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 their memories be for a blessing. Please join their families at services as they say Kaddish. Yahrzeit candles are available in the synagogue office.



## [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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## Program for July–August 2017 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5777

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

Thursday July 6	11:00 a.m.	Senior's Breakfast club, "Jewish Humor" Part I
Friday, July 7	4:00 p.m.	Gijur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
	8:00 p.m.	Mishnah class
Saturday, July 8	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services, followed by lunch and Torah study
Saturday, June 10	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services and Torah study
Sunday, July 23	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Cafe, Guest performance of the Moscow Theater of the Nations
Thursday, August 10	11:00 a.m.	Seniors Breakfast, "Jewish Humor" Part II
Friday, August 18	3:00 p.m.	Bnei Mitzvah class
	4:00 p.m.	Giyur class
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
	8:00 p.m.	Mishnah class
Saturday, August 19	10:00 a.m.	Saturday morning services, followed by lunch and Torah study
	1:30 p.m.	Children's religious class
Sunday, August 20	3:00 p.m.	Sunday Café, Concert: "Ukranian Songs" with support from "Aktion Mensch"