



Dear members of the community, friends and supporters,

The warmth of June’s summer sun shone upon us as we were once again reminded that in Judaism happiness and joy go hand in hand with sadness and mourning.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and caring community. This gives true meaning to the name of our synagogue and congregation, Beitenu—“our house.” The month of June painted a picture composed of many moments, some happy and some of great sadness but all creating the mosaic of our Jewish life.



Our entire congregation as well as countless others from near and far mourn the death of Polina Pelts, of beloved memory. Polina passed away one day before her 82nd birthday, on Shabbat und Erev Shavuot. How fitting that Polina’s life on earth was crowned with these two holy days. Polina was the heart of our congregation, and it is difficult to imagine the synagogue without her.

We want to remember and honor Polina’s life and all she did to help re-establish Jewish life in Hamelin. Without her tenacity and calm wisdom, her warmth and understanding, her bottomless patience and energy, her endless acts of loving kindness and her vision, we would not be the congregation we are today. She embodied Jewishness from head to toe.

We will stand together with her family, Faina, Feliks, Greta and Inna with Elias and Lea and try to emulate her great love for Judaism. Our congregation will continue her dream of an authentic Jewish community. With every Shabbat, every festival, every social event or

lecture, every learning opportunity or just coming together as her big family, we will feel her presence among us. May her life be her legacy and our inheritance.

The following is a small selection from the many eulogies spoken:

“Polina Pelts was the foundation and heart of our congregation for 22 years. Her heart is still now, but her legacy lives on in all of us.”

“As we reflect on Polina’s life, we are filled with gratitude for everything she did, for the love she gave her family and her congregation. She was a woman of greatness, giving with passion all that life demanded of her and more.”

“Polina was instrumental in creating, establishing and developing the Jewish Congregation of Hamelin. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts.”

“There is an expression that when precious people die, they resemble stars—long after they have ceased, their light shines on in our lives. We mourn Polina, a most beautiful soul and proud Jew.”

May her memory be a blessing —Yehi Zikhronah Livrakha

Faina Pelts’ words of thanks:

Dear Friends,

I wish to express my deep appreciation to everyone who supported my family and me during the difficult days of my beloved mother’s illness and shared our pain and loss in her death. Thank you all for being with us for your prayers and your emotional support. My family and I wish to thank everyone who shared thoughts and words of comfort. We thank each and every member of our congregation, members from our sister congregations in Hannover, Bad Pyrmont, Göttingen, members of our Circle of Friends, the Society of Christians and Jews, our Synagogue Foundation, the city of Hamelin, the county of Hameln-Pyrmont, neighbors, friends living abroad, our State Board of Jewish Congregations and the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany. Your cards, letters, calls and personal support meant so much to us all.

May peace reside in your homes. May you all enjoy good health.

In gratitude,
—Faina Pelts





ROMAN KUPERSCHMIDTS KLEZMER MUSIK BAND

12. Juni 2019 / 17:00 Uhr
Aula, HLA Hameln, Mühlenstr.16

Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln e.V.
Synagogenplatz 1, Bürenstr. 31785 Hameln
Spende wird erwünscht

Shavuoth

On June 8th, we gathered together in the sanctuary for Erev Shavuot services. Together with Jewish communities around the world, we rejoiced in the receiving of the Torah. Our voices joined in reciting the prayers, singing the psalms and Torah study with our Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg. Everyone was called to the Torah, and we all felt as if we were on Sinai and receiving the Torah then as now. As Reform Jews, we value the tradition of “Tikkun haLeila Shavuot”—a study night revolving around a Jewish theme of importance. Knowing that the congregation was in communal mourning, Rabbi Offenberg used sensitivity in offering a study session that offered us hope.

The next morning we resumed with our annual Cheesecake Competition. The festive Kiddush table beckoned with an array of cheesecakes, cheese blintzes, filled pastries and salads. Our honorable judges needed ample time for tasting and awarding prizes. Parallel to the judging, another study session began. We studied Jewish texts prepared by Rabbi Offenberg addressing “Being a Stranger and Cultural Confusion.” The texts began with Ruth and arched to our own personal stories and experiences. It was a fascinating and lively discussion.

Finally it was time for the award’s ceremony, and Mascha won for the third year in a row! Everyone was a winner and we feasted and kibitzed on Shavouth.

Klezmer Concert

Our congregation shared an evening of Klezmer music from the well-known Cologne group, “Roman Kuperschmidt’s Klezmer Band.” For the first time we cooperated with a local high school, HLA, and the concert was held in their auditorium. Journalist Mr. Truchsess contributed an excellent article in our local daily newspaper, which whetted the appetite of many a Hamelin music lover. Board member Peter Wendt spoke words of welcome to the audience and introduced the musicians, adding loving words about Polina Pelts’ passing only days beforehand. It was decided to dedicate the concert in her memory. We thank the Central Council of Jews in Germany for their sponsorship, Bernd Strahler for his cooperation, the wonderful musicians and all who attended and who gave donations in Polina’s memory.

The following is an excerpt from the Mr. Truchsess’ newspaper article:

“Klezmer music is pure joy. In order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to enjoy this performance, the congregation welcomed the cooperation of the HLA High School. Their auditorium was a fitting setting. Principal Berndt Strahler remarked, “Our school is an Europa School, and this is a perfect vehicle to highlight inclusiveness and integration of all religions and cultures. Rachel Dohme agreed that this concert and cooperation is our way of showing that our Reform Congregation of Hamelin sees itself as a vital part of our community, dedicated to offering and sharing Jewish religiosity and culture with our friends and neighbors.”

Summer Shabbat services

We look forward to services with Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg during the summer months. Sitting together, singing and praying at Friday-night services, hearing Torah chanted during Shacharit services and sharing a meal enriches us religiously and socially. We will be holding Shabbat services in July and August as usual and hope for high attendance. With our trilingual Siddurim, everyone can participate and understand the prayers. It is our conscious choice and conviction that language skills or the lack of them should never be an obstacle to religious literacy and observation. All Jews have the right to their heritage!

It’s finally summertime and everyone is ready for vacation. Some of our regular courses and groups will be taking a summer break in July and August. Please check with group leaders.

Rabbinic Word

Vacation time is travel time. Finally there is the opportunity to relax and to broaden one’s horizons through traveling. Unknown places, whether inland or abroad, have their charm because they give us the task of reorienting ourselves in a new and possibly foreign cultural context. Of course, this applies in a special way to faraway countries with customs that seem unfamiliar or even exotic to us. Our scholars, who could not have known about tourism in the modern sense, still gave us rules of conduct for us.

“If someone travels to a foreign country and brings some food from home with him, he should not eat it but go shopping locally and buy his food there” (Midrash Tanchuma). Why? Doesn’t it make sense to save on travel expenses by using things brought from home? Of course it does. Money is always an aspect when traveling, but this Midrash wants to suggest that we should delve into and become involved in the foreign environment we are visiting. This is best done through contact with the locals, curiosity about their culture and daily life. This is sometimes challenging and questions our habits and beliefs but definitely gives the most interesting travel experience. So travel lightly, taking only the most necessary personal things and leave more space in your suitcase for souvenirs of all kinds.

Enjoy and come back healthy and renewed!

—Your Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

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. 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 insure that we can stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@ighreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.

Get Well Wishes — Refuah Shlamah

We wish our community members who are currently experiencing illness at home or in the hospital a complete and speedy recovery. Our prayers, thoughts and hearts are with them.

Donations — Tzedaka

We are grateful to the many people who continually support our work and help us maintain our new synagogue. We thank all those who contributed so generously: Mrs. Kollorsz-Treede, Mrs. Bode and her 6th graders from the Bad Pymont Gymnasium, the Hamelin Society of Christians and Jews, many anonymous donors, Ms. Constanze Stein, the Pelts/Golberg family, Ursula Niedert and Rachel Dohme. May you all be blessed for your generosity.



Tree of Life — Etz Chajim

Who will contribute the next leaf? Each leaf not only adorns our sanctuary but also helps us raise funds for our synagogue. Leaves can be ordered through our office or by contacting [Rachel Dohme](#) or on this Web site: [Tree of Life](#). Each leaf costs a minimum of \$100 (quadruple chai plus expenses). Please contribute a leaf and help us to maintain our new synagogue! The 326th leaf has been ordered by:

The Pelts/Golberg family: “In memory of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Polina Pelts”

Thanks — Toda Raba

We offer our heartfelt thanks all those who helped prepare the Meal of Consolation after Polina’s funeral.

We also thank the Pelts and Golberg family for the lilac tree, which they planted in our synagogue garden in memory of Polina.

We appreciate and thank our community members who help with the planning, organization and implementation of our holidays and services so special. Liubow always creates new and pleasing dishes and her Challah is second to none.

We wish to thank our cemetery team for their volunteer work at our “Jewish Cemetery am Wehl.” We are grateful to Aron Kaplan, Heinrich Moos, Steliano Mima, Mark Lazer, Alexander Pesin and Wolodymr Pesok.

There are so many regular activities offered in our congregation by congregants for congregants, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. We also wish to thank and mention the help and assistance given by our three BUFDI workers, Svetlana, Anna and Wolodymr.

Chevra Kaddisha members needed

One of the most important Mitzvot a Jew can perform is to be a member of the congregation’s Chevra Kaddisha, the burial society. Both the men and women’s group need new members. Please consider volunteering and contact the office. Thank you!

Condolences

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Pelts und Golberg family on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Polina Pelts, z.l. The funeral service was led by Rabbi Ulrike Offenber. The psalms were sung by Rabbi Emerita Irit Shillor.

The funeral of our member, Mariya Tretyachenko was led by Rabbi Shillor. Her husband preceded her in death in 2012. The couple had no children.

Yahrzeit in July-August

Nataliya Zaychenko	July 1, 2003 / 1st Tammuz 5763
Sergei Jevdokimov	July 21, 2008 / 18th Tammuz 5768
Inge Dickmann	July 16, 2008 / 13th Tammuz 5768
Ethel Lazer	August 16, 2009 / 26th Av 5669
Volodymyr Zaslavsky	June 29, 2012 / 10 Av 5772

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,

Your synagogue board

Program for July–August 2019 • Tammuz–Av 5779

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

JULY

Monday, July 1 10:00 a.m. Interfaith Women's group in the synagogue
 12:30 p.m. Monthly board meeting

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, July 5 2:00 p.m. B'nei Mitzvah class
 4:00 p.m. Giyur class
 5:30 p.m. Friday night services, Shalom choir and Oneg Shabbat
 8:00 p.m. Talmud study

Saturday, July 6 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning service and luncheon
 12:00 p.m. Torah study

Wednesday, July 17 11:00 a.m. Lecture: Esperanto, Eva Schkolnikova

Friday, July 19 5:30 p.m. Friday night services, Peter Wendt, Shalom choir & Oneg Shabbat

Sunday, July 28 3:00 p.m. Sonntag Café, Cake and Conversation

AUGUST

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, August 9 2:00 p.m. B'nei Mitzvah class
 4:00 p.m. Giyur class
 5:30 p.m. Friday night services, Shalom choir and Oneg Shabbat
 8:00 p.m. Group study, Pirke Avot

Saturday, August 10 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning service and luncheon
 12:00 p.m. Torah study for Tish B'Av

Thursday, August 22 7:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews
 Lecture: "Glück von Hameln", Rabbi Ulrike Offenberg

Rabbi Dr. Ulrike Offenberg

Friday, August 23 2:00 p.m. Bnei Mitzvah class
 4:00 p.m. Giyur class
 5:30 p.m. Friday night services
 8:00 p.m. Group study, Pirke Avot

Saturday, August 24 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning service and luncheon
 12:00 p.m. Torah study
 1:30 p.m. Religious class I
 2:30 p.m. Religious class II

Sunday, August 25 3:00 p.m. Sonntag Café, Cake and Conversation

Outside the congregation

Monday, August 26 4:00 p.m. In Cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Walking Tour of Jewish Hamelin with Hans-Georg Spangenberg. Group size is limited.
 Registration with Heinrich Hagemann

[Newsletter Archive](#)

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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