



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

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September 2010 • Elul-Tishri 5770-5771

[Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish all our readers a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year 5771!

September finds our community back to normal after the summer recess. All activities, classes and services are back on schedule.

As we look back we see that even with the summer schedule, our community life took little notice of vacation time. Beautiful Shabbat services were held, and many cultural activities also took place.

During one Shabbat weekend we had to say goodbye to our Abraham Geiger rabbinical student, Natascha Lyskovoy. Natascha's one-year internship had come to an end and as we celebrated Shabbat with her, we presented her with a gift of appreciation, "The Womens Haftarah Commentary." She was delighted! As a special "gift" to us, she brought her husband along, WUPJ Rabbi Sasha Lyskovoy from Moscow.



Our Saturday morning Torah study was doubly fascinating as members could choose between studying with Rabbi Sasha in Russian or with Natascha in German. We wish Natascha all the best in her further studies and hope to see her in Hamelin soon.



We enjoyed a cantorial concert with Mimi Sheffer on June 27th. Chassan Sheffer performed in "Haus der Kirche" in Hamelin. Unfortunately, concert attendance was lessened by the fact that the weather outside was unusually hot and steamy, and Germany was playing in the semi-finals of the World Soccer Cup. We were pleased, despite the heat and sports event, to receive a visit from the Jacob-Pins-Society and after a lecture in our congregation, the Society members joined us for the concert. An intimate but appreciative audience was captivated by Ms. Sheffers brilliant performance. Her program, "Chassanut 2010," included works from Yossele Rosenblatt, Meir Finkelstein, Louis Lewandowski, Eduard Birnbaum, Shlomo Ravitz, Max Yannowski, and Nurit Hirsch. Our congregation thankfully acknowledges the Central

Council of Jews of Germany for financing the concert for us.

On August 7th we were off to the neighboring town of Bad Münder to participate in this year's Cultural Festival. Besides an information booth, our groups "Shalom" and "Chag Sameach" performed Jewish music and Israeli dancing. We always feel this type of outreach helps tear down barriers and opens doors to dialogue, insuring a just and tolerant society.

The 16th annual conference of the UPJ was held July 8–11 in Berlin. This year's theme was "Liberal Judaism Today." Fascinating and informative workshops and seminars were offered by leaders and teachers from Germany and around the world. Moving services in Hebrew, German and Russian were also celebrated. New this year was a Music Festival, which ran parallel to the conference. Our synagogue choir, "Shalom," performed and did us all proud. An article in the *WUPJNews* appeared, which we will add here:

The [Union of Progressive Jews of Germany \(UPJ\)](#) held its 16th annual conference July 8–11 in Berlin-Spandau, attracting 277 participants, the highest number ever to attend. Keynote speakers included Dr. Jan Mühlstein, president of the UPJ; Leslie Bergman, president of the European Union for Progressive Judaism and a former World Union senior vice chair; Dr. David Breakstone, representing World Zionist Organization; and Rabbi Dr. Tovia Ben-Chorin, who, before recently retiring, was spiritual leader of Or Chadash, the World Union affiliate in Zurich.



evening, Saturday morning and Havdalla, were well attended. "With so many is a special facet of the annual meeting and is anticipated by many attendees," she says. "Of note was the Shabbat Shacharit service, competently and beautifully led by students from Abraham Geiger College," Germany's first post-war liberal rabbinic seminary.

Running parallel to the gathering was a music festival, which will become a regular element of the UPJ's annual conference. Attendees were able to attend cultural performances staged by members of movement congregations.

An annual membership meeting capped the conference, at which the UPJ accepted a proposal of standards for congregations. It was also decided that next year's conference will be held in Berlin-Spandau from July 7 to 10.

There were 24 workshops in German, Russian and English. Speakers and presenters came from Germany, Israel, the former Soviet Union, and South Africa. Among the topics were "Jewish-Muslim Dialogue," "Who is a Jew: Patrilineality in our communities," "Kosher & Co.: Food and Spirituality," "Judaism and the Ethical Considerations of Globalization," and "Youth Work in our Congregations."

"There was something for everyone," says Rachel Dohme, who heads up international relations for the UPJ, "and one often had the difficult choice of which workshop to attend."

According to Dohme, daily services, including Friday



Last but certainly not least to report is how happy the youth of our congregation returned home after attending this year's summer Machene. We wish to thank the Society of Christians and Jews for their grant, which in addition to the grant the congregation gave helped the families send their children to camp. Especially in countries where Jewish children don't have many opportunities to be with other Jewish children, the camping experience is vital to ground their Jewish identity. Anyone wishing to contribute to our Camping Fund should contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org. The children appreciate your support!



Miriam would like to share her thoughts about her experience at this year's Machene:

"I really enjoyed this year's Machene. There was lots to do and the Madrichim and Chanachim were all really nice and friendly. It was cool. I enjoyed being with other Jewish kids. Nobody could ever feel different or left out because we all share our Jewishness and respect for each other. The Machene grounds were beautiful. There was beautiful nature and so many trees to relax under. Although I liked all the activities we were offered, I also appreciated that we had time to ourselves."

As you see, everyone had many activities to choose from over the summer months.

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 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.

CD Shabbat Melodies

We are pleased that the CD has met with such positive reaction. The CD is selling for a contribution of \$25, and 100 percent of the money raised will go to our synagogue building fund. Please visit us online at www.jghreform.org and listen to an MP3 selection. It is also possible to download the CD liner notes in German and English.

We are thrilled that almost all 800 copies have been sold in Germany, England, and the U.S. We thank all those who have supported this project. Our vision was to share beautiful Shabbat music and help ourselves. Buying the CD affords one the performance of a double Mitzvah: contributing money to the building project and listening to Shabbat liturgy.

This CD makes the perfect gift for any occasion.



Ruth Cohen Honored

Ruth Cohen, a former president and now honorary president of the European Union for Progressive Judaism and a past president of the World Union, received the 2010 Israel Jacobson Prize in Berlin. The award, bestowed every two years by the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany, recognized Cohen for her contribution to the reestablishment of liberal Judaism in that country. The ceremony coincided with the 200th anniversary of the dedication of Israel Jacobson's temple in Seesen, Germany, recognized around the world as the birthplace of liberal Judaism, and was part of the festivities marking the bicentennial.

More than 50 rabbis and movement leaders from Israel, Great Britain and the US took part in the celebratory events.

Representing the World Union were Rabbi Andrew Goldstein, chairman of the EUPJ, and Leslie Bergman, its president.

"Mrs. Cohen was an enormous help in our effort to re-establish liberal Judaism in Germany," said Dr. Jan Mühlstein, president of the UPJ, in presenting the award. "She took part in numerous official and unofficial meetings and discussions in her position as president of the EUPJ, and later as president of the WUPJ, making a strong case for religious pluralism in Germany. Pivotal was her meeting with former Central Council of Jews in Germany (Zentralrat) president Paul Spiegel and former minister of the interior Otto Schily. The meeting with Schily took place parallel to Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Orthodox synagogue of Cologne on August 19, 2005. This meeting opened the dialogue of acceptance of the liberal movement within the Central Council." (WUPJNews)

Jewish September

Our congregation will celebrate the High Holy Days, beginning with Erev Rosh Hashana services on September 8th. We are pleased that Rabbi Ilana Baird from Haifa will join us for the "Days of Awe" for the fourth consecutive year.

Rosh Hashana celebrates the Jewish New Year and culminates with Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, ten days later. The ten days between New Year and the Day of Atonement offer each Jew time to seek forgiveness between himself and others and then between himself and God. This is achieved by threefold by

Teshuva — Repentance Tefila — Prayer Tzedaka — Charity

Erev Rosh Hashana services will begin on Wednesday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m. A communal meal will be offered after services. Besides the traditional apples and honey, we ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share. Rosh Hashana morning services will continue the next morning at 10:00 a.m. We'll enjoy a communal lunch and then observe the Tashlich ceremony riverside.

The Kol Nidre melody on Erev Yom Kippur on September 17th will open our hearts and stir our souls, preparing us for Yom Kippur prayers on Saturday, September 18th. After Yiskor and Ne'ilah services we will break the fast together, spiritually refreshed and renewed for the New Year 5771.

Roof-Raising Celebration on Sukkot, Thursday, September 23rd!



Anyone who drives through the Bürenstrasse can see that our synagogue building is progressing by leaps and bounds. Our synagogue will be the first newly constructed Reform synagogue in post-war Germany.

We invite all our members, friends and supporters to join us on Sukkot, September 23rd at 11:00 a.m. in the Sukkah in the Bürenstrasse, as Rabbi Irit Shillor celebrates Sukkot with us. After everyone has had a turn to shake the Lulav, we will go next door to our new synagogue and celebrate our "Roof Raising"—a German tradition at 12 noon. We will greet many local politicians, church leaders and representatives of local social and cultural organizations and raise our glasses to the wonder unfolding before our eyes and thanking God. The daunting symbolism of Sukkot, a holiday which reminds us of our wanderings and a roof-raising which establishes our spiritual home is absolutely awesome. Join us!

Jewish Culture in September

Our congregation will take part in a Jewish-Christian exhibit and ceremony on Sunday, September 12th in the St. Petri-Pauli Lutheran Church in Bad Münder. Rabbi Ilana Baird, Rachel Dohme and our synagogue choir, "Shalom" will participate. The theme is "The Ten Commandments". Ten beautiful glass windows from glass artist, Werner Kothe will be on display. Rabbi Baird will read each of the Ten Commandments in Hebrew and Rachel Dohme will read the German translation. Rabbi Baird will also recite a Psalm. This is the first cooperation of this sort in Bad Münder and we are pleased to play a part. We appreciate that the church's collection for the event will go to our synagogue building fund.

Mazel Tov

We congratulate Benyamin Krasa-Meschede, our former "exchange student" on his selection as a recipient of the Diller Teen Fellowship in Boston. It was wonderful having Benyamin and his grandparents spend Shabbat with us in August. All the best to you, Benyamin and visit us again!

We congratulate the von Klencke family on the wedding of their daughter, Anna in September. Mr. von Klencke is a member of our Foundation's board.

Mazel Tov to our member Peter Wendt on his new position as Director of the Caroline Oetker Senior Residence in Bielefeld.

Donations — Tzedaka

We are grateful to the many people who continually support our work and our plans to build a new synagogue.

We wish to thank each and every person and organization who has purchased our CD *Shabbat Melodies* in Germany, England, Israel, and America.

We also wish to recognize and thank the following people for their contributions: Margarita Hermann, Senior Residence Springe, Christina Whitelaw and "Netzwerk Bünde," the Lutheran Church of Hamelin, Peer Friese, Rainer Krahl, M. Dammaschke, R. Dohme, Bettina Manz, Bettina Kurtz, and Adolf Späth.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.

Friends

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our "Friends"—Mrs. Margarita Hermann and Mrs. Hannelore Ney.



Tree of Life — Etz Chayim

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 build our synagogue! Two new leaves have been donated:

Feana Engler: "In memory of my beloved mother, Klara Zak, 5.05.1925–19.04.2010"

Bettina Manz and Bettina Kurtz: "Our friend, Kirsten Schwartzkopff"

Thank you — Toda Raba

We appreciate and thank our community members who helped make our holidays, services and celebrations special. The homemade dishes were delicious and we thank everyone who helped with the planning, organization and implementation of our festivals.

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 thank our synagogue choir, "Shalom," and our Israeli dance troupe, "Chag Sameach," for their performances in Bad Münder. They help promote an understanding and appreciation of our Jewish culture. We also thank the Ukrainian music group led by Svitlana Banschukova and an info-stand organized by Mrs. Todryna.

Many thanks to Rudi Brückner for the Jahrzeit Wall he contributed.

We thank Mr. Norbert Raabe for making color copies of our New Year's greeting for our members.

We thank Dieter Vogelhuber for his participation at the anti-Nazi demonstration in Bad Nenndorf.

Yahrzeit in September

- Samson Avrus — September 3, 1999 / 22nd Elul 5759

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

We wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year 5771! —Your Synagogue Board

Program for September 2010 • Elul–Tishri 5770–5771

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

Monday, September 6	10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon	German class and film: <i>The Border</i> with P. Pelts “Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, September 7	11:00 a.m.	BESUCH RABBI ILANA BAIRD, Haifa Congregational Cemetery visit
Wednesday, September 8	5:30 p.m.	EREV ROSH HASHANAH Service with Rabbi Baird Festive buffet Please bring a vegetarian dish to share
Thursday, September 9	10:00 a.m.	ROSH HASHANAH Service with Rabbi Baird Communal luncheon followed by Tashlich ceremony
Friday, September 10	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with Rabbi Baird
Saturday, September 11	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Baird
Wednesday, September 15	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Friday, September 17	6:00 p.m.	KOL NIDRE Service with Rabbi Baird
Saturday, September 18	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	YOM KIPPUR Service with Rabbi Baird YISKOR NE'ILA Congregational Break the Fast
Tuesday, September 21	5:00 p.m.	BESUCH RABBI IRIT SHILLOR Bat Mitzvah class
Wednesday, September 22	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Building the Sukka Bat Mitzvah class
Thursday, September 23	11:00 a.m. 12:00 noon	SUKKOT SERVICE in the Sukka ROOF RAISING CEREMONY in the new Synagogue
Saturday, September 25	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Monday, September 27	11:00 a.m.	German class & Senior Café with P. Pelts Slide show: “Impressions from Moscow” with H-G Spangenberger
Tuesday, September 28	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja Art History class

Activities outside the community

Sunday, September 12	11:30 a.m.	Glass Festival: “The Ten Commandments” with Rabbi Baird, Rachel Dohme, congregational choir “Shalom” St. Petri-Pauli Church, Bad Münder
Tuesday, September 14	5:00 p.m.	Inter-religious Women’s Group Hunoldstrasse Mosque

Archived Newsletters:

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2007:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
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2002:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun–Aug	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2001:		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	

Jewish Community of Hamelin

Member of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany

Member of the World Union of Progressive Judaism

Member of the Central Council of Jews of Germany

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