



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

September 2013 • Elul–Tishri 5773–5774

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Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year 5774. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life! L'Shana Tovah Tiketevu!

L'shanah Tovah!

**Rachel Dohme, Polina Pelts, Faina Pelts,
Olga Gerr and Peter Wendt**



Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely summer. Even though things in our congregation slowed down, we enjoyed several excellent programs and services together.

What is more wonderful than a newborn? Only one thing—when that newborn is named and celebrated by its congregation! On Shabbat Pinchas our congregation gathered together to share in the joy of the naming ceremony of Charlotte Kalsche, daughter of our members Marie and Yan Glanz. The child was held lovingly by her parents and surrounded by their families, who'd traveled from Paris for the happy occasion. Rabbi Irit Shillor created a beautiful service of poignant texts in five languages, read by family members and congregants, moved many to tears. The Kiddush table was festive and full, and the celebratory atmosphere was enjoyed by all well into the afternoon hours.

We thank the Glanz family and everyone who helped with the organization: Rabbi Shillor, Polina Pelts, Liubow Pesina and Lydmylla Kravets—and naturally Charlotte Kalsche!



During our “summer vacation” several lovely services, led by our members, were held. The services are always a positive spiritual experience, allowing us to engage with one another in a relaxed atmosphere.

In July Peter Wendt and our choir “Shalom” offered a musical Friday night service. The services with Peter and Shalom are always well-attended and enjoyable.

We were pleased to welcome Ruth Torode and Frank Jones from Ireland and England to our synagogue. Ruth and Frank are descendants of the Jonas family of Hamelin. The family was almost totally decimated by the Nazis. Facing such a painful past is always an act of courage.

Following them was the family of former Hamelin resident, Michael Katzenstein of Tel Aviv, who visited for a week, accompanied by his nine children and grandchildren, certainly an emotional rollercoaster ride where the past and present meet. We were thrilled to have the family join us for Friday night services, allowing the former Jews of Hamelin an opportunity to get to know the new Jews of Hamelin. Rachel and Rebekka Dohme led a full sanctuary in song and prayer. The service was designed to have as many readers as possible, making it especially meaningful, and was framed by Rebekka's beautiful voice. The Katzenstein family was impressed with our new synagogue and the work and dedication it took to achieve. During the week in Hamelin, the family was hosted by members of the Society of Christians and Jews. We are grateful to Hamelin's former Jewish citizens for returning and visiting us and feel honored that they seek out our synagogue as their Jewish space in Hamelin.



A concert from and for our members was offered on August 4th. Polina Pelts organized the afternoon, entitled “Russian Romantic Melodies.” We thank Svetlana Bantchukova, Valerij Fridman and Volodymr Pesok, who invested heart and soul, and were thanked with resounding applause.

The month ended as it began—with Jewish music. A concert, “Sound of the Psalms,” was held in St. Bonifatius Münsterkirche in Hamelin. The evening was organized by Irmgard Langhorst. A variety of musicians performed a variety of psalms, and we were honored to be asked to participate. Rebekka Dohme represented our congregation, singing the 23rd Psalm beautifully in Hebrew.

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. We appreciate any and all support.

Jewish September

September means Rosh Hashana, and we will come together for the third time in our new and beautiful synagogue for Erev Rosh Hashanah services on September 4th and the following morning for Rosh Hashanah morning prayers. We ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share for Erev Rosh Hashanah services and look forward to wishing each other a happy and healthy 5774, dipping crisp and juicy apples in sweet honey and sharing home-made dishes together after services.

The ten days of Teshuva follow and culminate with Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services on September 13th and 14th.

Rabbi Adrian Schell will lead all our High Holy Day and Sukkoth services, and we look forward to welcoming him to the Bimah.

Please join us in decorating the Sukkah on Wednesday, September 18, and for a service in the booth. Bring your creative ideas and let’s make this year’s Sukkah the brightest and happiest ever.

Rabbi Irit Shillor will celebrate Simchat Torah with us on Friday, September 27. As is our Hamelin tradition, we will unroll the scroll, read from it, look at it and celebrate our Book of the Law. We need many hands to hold the scroll, symbolically demonstrating that the Torah holds us as we hold the Torah. Join us for the joyous celebration.

Members who need transportation assistance attending services should please contact the synagogue office.

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

The 19th annual conference of the UPJ was held July 11–14 in Berlin. Anyone who didn’t attend has only themselves to blame. 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.



The participants and presenters came from our national and international congregations, striving to learn from one another, exchange ideas and celebrate Judaism together. More than 60 registrations had to be turned away for lack of rooms. The year 2014 will see our last and 20th conference in Berlin, and we are now looking for new and bigger accommodations.

New this year was a parallel children's conference, organized by Debbie Tal-Ruettger. Magic moments were provided by Israeli cantor, Boaz Davidoff and Sofer Neil Yerman from New York City, husband of our beloved Rabbi Jo David.

Our congregation was represented well with eight members: Rachel, Faina, Elisabeth, Heidi, Boris, Samuil, Chayim and Rabbi Adrian, who led Friday night services "Hamelin style" with the Madrichim. We enjoyed celebrating Shabbat together, dancing and singing Jewish songs.

Our Faina entertained everyone on Friday and Saturday evening with her lovely voice, singing Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian pieces, encouraging everyone to sing along.

We hope there will be many more opportunities to get together as a movement. Such conferences strengthen our identity as Reform Jews and aide us in returning refreshed to our home communities with new and creative ideas.

Summer camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany's summer camp was held near Salzburg, Austria this year. The campers enjoyed two fun-filled weeks led by the UPJ Youth director and our rabbi, Adrian Schell, assisted by his team of Madrichim and Schlicha Hagar.

The children and youth enjoyed an exciting program of events, outings, outdoor activities and services.

Special thanks to those who sponsored our children and youth for this year's camping experience!

- Heidi Braun
- The Hameln Society for Christians and Jews
- Our congregation

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to all the children and youth on a successful and happy new school year.

We congratulate Dr. Anja Schmidt and her students on being awarded a prize for "Exceptional Achievement towards Integration of new Immigrants." The students decided to donate half the prize money to the three main religious denominations in Hamelin, and we say thank you for their accomplishment and donation to our synagogue. We are pleased to have regularly hosted Dr. Schmidt and her students in our synagogue throughout the years and look forward to meeting her new classes.

Refu'ah shlemah

We pray for the complete recovery of all who are ill and for everyone who is going through difficult times. We will recite Misheberach for them during services and will be with you in thought and heart.

Donations — Tzedakah

Thank you Mrs. Dagmar Brautlicht, Yan und Marie Glanz, Rabbi Irit Shillor, Harold und Eva Brown, Mr. Adolf Späth, Dr. Anja Schmidt, HLA Hamelin, as well as Mr. Hans Weltner, Rachel Dohme and always Mrs. Ute Gibas. May you all be blessed for your generosity.

Etz Chayim — Tree of Life

Autumn has arrived and with the change of season, so every tree changes too. Instead of losing leaves, we've added two! 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!

Two new leaves grace our tree:

- Mrs. Polina Bartenbaum: In memory of Alla Saminara from her friends
- Rabbi Irit Shillor: Thank you for the happy years with the congregation

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We wish to thank the Krasa-Meschede family, USA, for the Shabbat plate they donated. The plate will provide our Shabbat candlesticks a safe and beautiful base. Their son, Benyamin, spent a school year in Germany several years ago and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in our synagogue. It's wonderful that the mutual bonds are still strong.

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.

New Members

We welcome Mr. Lutz Frenschock to our Friends.



Condolences

Heartfelt condolences to the family of our member, Grigori Ziskand, of beloved memory, who passed away on June 25, 2013 / 17. Tammuz 5773. The funeral service was led by Rabbi Irit Shillor.

Herr Michael Ziskand wrote: "Our family wishes to thank the congregation, who honored our father and grandfather, paying him their last respects. We especially wish to thank Rachel Dohme, Mrs. Polina Pelts, Mr. Aron Kaplan and Mr. Eugeniy Ewdokimov for their help and support."

September Yahrzeit

Samson Avrus — 3. September 1999 / Elul 22, 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



Happy and health New Year to all our friends all over the world!

**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 September 2013 • Elul–Tishri 5773–5774

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

Monday, Sept.2	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok Topic: The High Holy Days
Tuesday, Sept. 3	10:00–12:00 1:00 p.m.	Annual Congregational cemetery visit Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only) High Holy Day services will be led by Rabbi Adrian Schell
Wednesday, Sept. 4	6:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah services Festive buffet. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share
Thursday, Sept. 5	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah services Communal luncheon and Tashlich ceremony at the river
Friday, Sept. 6	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Religious class Friday night services
Saturday, Sept. 7	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study Netzer Youth group
Friday, Sept. 13	6:00 p.m.	KOL NIDRE Service
Saturday, Sept. 14	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	YOM KIPPUR Service YISKOR NE’ILA Congregational Break the Fast
Tuesday, Sep. 17	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Wednesday, Sept. 18	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Building and decorating the Sukkah Sukkoth service with Rabbi Adrian Schell
Monday, Sept.23	12:00 noon	“Let’s talk politics” with S. Koudinov Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit
Friday, Sept.27	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Religious class Erev Simchat Torah with Rabbi Irit Shillor We will hold the Torah, the Torah will hold us
Saturday, Sept. 28	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Shillor
Activities outside the community		
Tuesday, Sept. 17	7:00 p.m.	Hamelner Forum, Lecture: Ruth Kinet, “Israel-A Portrait” Lalu Hefehof, Hamelin Tickets €7,50 / €5.00

We wish all our readers a happy and healthy 5774!

