



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter

September 2014 • Elul–Tishri 5774–5775

[JGH Home](#) [Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year 5775. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life! L'Shana Tovah Tiketevu!

Shanah Tovah wishes to all of our readers from the Synagogue Board: Rachel Dohme, Polina Pelts, Faina Pelts, Olga Gerr and Peter Wendt.



Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely, warm and relaxing summer. We enjoyed excellent programs, concerts and services during the summer months together.

In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, our members could enjoy a trip to the city of Wolfenbüttel. Mr. Spangenberg and Polina Pelts organized the trip, and sixteen of our members took part. The all-day trip afforded everyone an opportunity to tour the city, especially its Jewish history.

The summer months were months filled with music, concerts and performances in our congregation. We have such talented members, and they treated one another with many wonderful and enjoyable hours together. Svetlana Sokolski and Faina Pelts presented a musical evening dedicated to Jewish Tradition and Liturgy. Ms. Sokolski mesmerized her listeners with her violin performance, supported by Faina on the piano.

A gala summer concert for our members, from our members, showcased every artist in the congregation. Members Uwe Wolandowitsch, our synagogue choir “Shalom,” Faina Pelts and Boris Markhashev and his Israeli dance group “Chag Sameach” treated one another to a foot-stomping, hand-clapping festival of Jewish music and dance. Dr. Felix Peres displayed his wood carvings to the delight of all in attendance.

Two weeks later, Svitlana Bantschukova, Valerij Fridmann and Wladimir Pesok offered a concert that featured a program of Russian romantic pieces. Members and many guests enjoyed this afternoon of songs from their homeland.

Slowly but surely with the end of the month, it was time to bid summer goodbye. It was also time for the congregation to bid Rabbi Adrian Schell farewell. We were pleased to welcome so many members to Adrian's farewell services and see every seat in the sanctuary filled. Saying goodbye is always difficult, especially before the High Holy Days, but we all wish Adrian the very best for his new pulpit in Johannesburg, South Africa. Congregational president Rachel Dohme presented him with two copies (one in English and one in German) of *Glückel of Hamelin* and said, “We thank you for your honest dedication, especially with our children and youth and your shared and deep wish to re-build Jewish life with us in Hamelin and your belief in the sustainability of our congregation. We value you, Adrian, because you valued us. We look forward to your visiting us in the future and are certain that you will always carry a little bit of Hamelin in your heart.” After services everyone enjoyed a festive Oneg Shabbat and had time to talk to Adrian, wish him well, reminisce and of course shower him with gifts, hugs and kisses.

Our Rabbi Irit Shillor will continue to visit us and lead our congregation as she has done for the last 14 years. Thanks to Rabbi Irit, our congregation will retain rabbinical and spiritual leadership and guidance, and we thank her deeply.

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, and we are grateful to all involved. If you would like to help us stay online, please contact Rachel Dohme at racheldohme@jghreform.org. We appreciate any and all support.



20th Annual Conference of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany

The 20th annual conference of the UPJ was held July 24–27 in Berlin. 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.

A special children's conference, organized by Debbie Tal-Ruettger was offered again this year.

Our congregation was represented by Heidi, Patrizia, Elisabeth and Wolfgang. Everyone enjoyed celebrating Shabbat together, dancing and singing Jewish songs.

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.

Jewish September

September means Rosh Hashana, and we will come together for the fourth time in our new and beautiful synagogue for Erev Rosh Hashanah services on September 24 and the following morning for Rosh Hashanah morning prayers. We ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share to Erev Rosh Hashanah services, and we look forward to wishing each other a happy and healthy 5775, dipping crisp and juicy apples in sweet honey and sharing homemade dishes together after services.

The ten days of Teshuva follow and culminate with Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services on October 3rd and 4th.

Rabbinical student Dr. Ulrike Offenberg will lead our High Holy Day services, and we look forward to welcoming her to the Bimah. Dr. Offenberg studied and received her doctorate at the Free University of Berlin. She is a fourth year rabbinical student at Abraham Geiger College and has returned from her Israel year. Her studies focus on Jewish history, religion and culture. Dr. Offenberg speaks several languages besides German—English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish and Yiddish—a perfect match for our congregation!

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

Netzer Hamelin

We are happy to report that the parents, with the support of Patrizia Berhowski, have decided to lead our youth group, in lieu of Rabbi Schell's absence. The first meeting will be a children's sing-along service with Patrizia on September 27. Patrizia will meet the children, guitar in hand, in the upstairs classroom. The adults will celebrate Shabbat with Dr. Offenberg in the sanctuary, and we will all meet at the Kiddush table afterwards. Plans for the October meeting include Sukkah decorations, and an outing is planned for November.

Information from the Central Council of Jews in Germany

We have received a letter from Dr. Dieter Graumann, President of the Central Council of Jews of Germany, which addresses the situation for Jews in Ukraine. The German government in cooperation with German Jewish organizations is easing regulations for Ukrainian Jews to enter Germany. If you know of anyone who wants to immigrate to Germany, please contact us so we may facilitate their case. On September 8 at 11:00 a.m., our state board of Jewish congregations social worker, Margarita Souslovic, will offer an informational meeting concerning these new regulations.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to Patrizia Berhovski on her leading role and performance in her high school play.

We congratulate the newly elected board of the Union of Progressive Jews of Germany.

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 all those who donated to either the congregation or the synagogue foundation: Thank you Dr. Gesa Snell; Mrs. Knackstedt-Riesner and her confirmation class, Mrs. Zischkale-Henßen and her BUFDI group from the Ith Center, Mrs. Hoyer from IMPULS in Hamelin, the 5th grade class of Mrs. Conring in Hessisch Oldendorf, Jewish congregation of Unna, Mrs. Jördens and the Lutheran church of Eschershausen, the 7th grade class of Mrs. Hendel in

Hessisch Oldendorf, Mrs. Alla Lybych, all those who donated at our concerts, Mr. Scheffler and the Lemgo Museum's summer youth program, the Dohme family, 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 one! 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!

A new leaf has sprouted:

“Jüdische Gemeinde Unna HaKochaw” donated from the Jewish congregation of Unna

A new leaf has been ordered:

“In memory of Wilma Rinne” donated from the Dohme family

New Members

We welcome Mrs. Mariia Bielau to our congregation. Her arrival in Hamelin has reunited her with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the Trieskunov family. Please make her feel like one of our family, too!

Thank you — Todah Rabah

We wish to thank Aron Kaplan for manning the office during the summer months.

Our thanks also go out to Heinrich Moos and Dieter Schulz for their work on the sanctuary flooring.

We thank everyone who helped in making our holiday and cultural events very special. Our thanks go to everyone who plan and organize activities in our community.

September Yahrzeit

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

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.



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

Shalom!

—The Congregation Board

[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 September 2014 • Elul–Tishri 5774–5775

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

Monday, Sept.1	12:00 noon	“Judaism” — a course in Russian with W. Pesok Topic: The High Holy Days
Tuesday, Sept. 2	10:00 a.m.	Monthly synagogue board meeting (for board members only)
Rabbi Irit Shillor’s monthly visit		
Friday, Sept. 5	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Religious class Friday night services with Rabbi Irit Our guest: rabbinical student Dr. Ulrike Offenberg
Saturday, Sept.6	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with Rabbi Irit
Monday, Sept. 8	11:00 a.m.	Informational meeting: “New rules for immigration from Ukraine” Margarita Souslovic, Hannover
Saturday, Sept.13	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Sunday, Sept.14	5:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, “Walk of the Religions” — We begin in our synagogue!
Wednesday,Sept. 17	10–12 noon	Annual congregation cemetery visit with R. Dohme
Saturday, Sept. 20	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts
Monday, Sept. 22	11:00 a.m.	Senior’s Breakfast Club with P. Pelts & A. Lybych Sponsored by Aktion Mensch
High Holy Day services will be led by Dr. Ulrike Offenberg		
Wednesday,Sept. 24	6:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah services Festive buffet: Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.
Thursday, Sept.25	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah services Communal luncheon and Tashlich ceremony at the river
Friday, Sept. 26	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, Sept. 27	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study Netzer Youth group services with Patrizia
Friday, October 3	6:00 p.m	KOL NIDRE Service
Saturday, October 4	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	YOM KIPPUR Service YISKOR NE’ILA — Congregational Break the Fast
Activities outside the community		
Sunday, Sept. 7	5:00 p.m.	House of World Religions, Bückeberg Lecture: “Tell me about your religion” with Rabbi Irit Shillor
Monday, Sept. 22	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture with Dr. Stefan Hagemann: “Israel-Palastine, Political Perspectives for a Peace Agreement,” St. Augustinus Church, Lohstrasse
Saturday, Sept. 27	10:00 a.m.	Culture Festival in Cöppenbrügge