



The Jewish Community of Hamelin Newsletter



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October 2010 • Tishri–Heshvan 5771

[Program](#)

Dear members, friends and supporters,

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

It has become our tradition to offer members the opportunity to deliver a Drasha at Friday night services. Recently, Heidi Braun spoke the following words, and we felt they were so beautifully put that we would like to repeat them here. They speak well for us all for the New Year.

We, the members of the Jewish Congregation of Hamelin, call for a good New Year and speak with one voice when we say:

*May we learn to listen to each other enabling us to understand our cultural differences,
May we, despite our own problems, seek contact and dialogue with young and old,
May we, as men and women strive to understand one another better with mutual respect and trust,
May we make time to support, encourage and assist the elderly, ill and lonely in our community,
May we deal honestly and opening with each other and seek creative solutions to problems together,
May we show others respect even when their way is not our way.
May these thoughts succeed and become our deeds for the coming year!*

These thoughts framed our High Holy Day services this year. On Erev Rosh Hashanah almost every seat was taken, reminding us how necessary our new building is and that this will be the last Rosh Hashanah service in our rented rooms.

Rabbi Ilana Baird led services for the “Days of Awe.” Reverently we prayed in Hebrew, Russian and German. Wladimir Pesok blew the Shofar, as did Rabbi Baird, awakening our souls. Our choir led us in song, touching our hearts. After services we enjoyed a festive meal together. There were apples and honey for everyone as well as beautiful Challot baked in the shape of crowns. Luscious salads, gefillte fish, sweet pomegranates and other fruits and baked goods covered our tables. International dishes were prepared with love and shared with all. Food memories from home and old family recipes delighted every palate. As guests reiterate time after time, the familial feeling in our community is unique.



We are especially indebted to Rabbi Irit Shillor, Rabbi Ilana Baird and Debbie Tal-Reuttger for creating the first three of hopefully six booklets for a trilingual High Holy Day Machsor. Working together from Israel, Germany and England, they completed service booklets for Kol Nidre, Yiskor and Ne'ila. The booklets enabled us to literally be all on the same page instead of trying to coordinate between German-Hebrew and Russian-Hebrew prayer books.

After Rosh Hashanah services we walked to the Hamel River and held a Tashlich ceremony, throwing bread crumbs into the water, symbolically ridding ourselves of ballast from the old year. It's a beautiful tradition and the ducks look forward to it each year!

Yom Kippur services began with the moving prayer of Kol Nidre, sung soulfully by Faina Pelts. Deep in thought and prayer we retired to our homes, to return the next

morning as the services continued. Many members attended the Yiskor services in the late afternoon. Our tradition is to give each person a stone and allow each and every one a moment to come forward, laying their stone next to the Yahrzeit candle and to recite all the names of their beloved family members. This is not only a beautifully moving act, it also gives many members the only physical possibility to remember family members whose graves are too far away or who do not exist at all. As one woman said through tears, "I cannot say them all. There are just too many."

We thank Rabbi Arnold Zoref for sharing this form of worship with us many years ago.

The final shofar blast ended our services after Ne'ila, and after Havdallah we sat together, sipping warm cups of tea and eating sweet Challah before going home, we were exhausted but refreshed for the new Jewish year and all that it has in store for us.

The last warm sunbeams of summer kissed our Sukkah on September 23rd as we gathered with Rabbi Irit Shillor and several hundred guests for Sukkoth morning services. As we have done for the last ten years, we stood in and around our Sukkah, which the men had erected on our land. New this year, was that our newly constructed synagogue shell stood next to it. After everyone who wished to had shaken the Lulav, we crossed the street for the traditional "Richtfest" to begin. This roof raising ceremony is a time-honored German custom. Standing on the scaffold high above the large crowd, the master carpenter recited a poem in honor of the day, ending it with a drink and throwing the glass to the ground.



We commenced to the sanctuary where speeches were delivered by Rachel Dohme, Mayor Lippmann, County Commissioner Kellner, State Board of Jewish Congregations President Katarina Seidler and Rabbi Shillor. Among the more than two hundred members and guests were representatives from all the political parties as well as all the churches and mosques. Christian, Moslem and Jew stood shoulder to shoulder and celebrated the raising of the walls of the first newly constructed Reform synagogue in post-Shoah Germany.

It was no coincidence that we chose to celebrate this ceremony on Sukkoth. At Sukkoth, we remember our wanderings far from home and our provisional homes. Our Sukkah is not to have a solid roof. The Richtfest on the other hand marked the raising of our future synagogue's roof, signifying that our Jewish home was solid and permanent. One roof reminds us of our history and our connection to Nature, while the other signals our wish to live Jewish lives in Hamelin. Both testify to our covenant with God. It was truly an audacious moment.

After much applause, Rabbi Shillor recited the blessings for wine and bread, and the buffet was opened. There was ample opportunity for conversation. The members of the Foundation proudly showed guests around the building, answering questions and allowing for many inter-cultural and inter-religious encounters. It was apparent to all that the project's success is a collective result of much determined teamwork, shouldered by many.





Looking back, our congregation took part in a Jewish-Christian exhibit and ceremony on Sunday, September 12th, in the St. Petri-Pauli Lutheran Church in Bad Münden. Rabbi Ilana Baird, Rachel Dohme and our synagogue choir “Shalom” participated. The theme was “The Ten Commandments.” Ten beautiful glass windows from glass artist Werner Kothe were highlighted as Rabbi Baird read each of the Ten Commandments in Hebrew and Rachel Dohme read the German translation. Rabbi Baird concluded the ceremony with the reading of a Psalm. This is the first cooperation of this sort in Bad Münden, and we look forward to future projects together. We thank Pastor Adler and his congregation for generously contributing the day’s collection to our synagogue building fund.

Patrizia Berhowski’s Bat Mitzvah

We are pleased to announce and invite all our members, friends and supporters to Patrizia’s Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Shabbat Chaya Sarah, October 30th at 10:00 a.m. Patrizia and her family hope you will share in their joy on this very special day. Patrizia has worked very hard, studied and practiced. We look forward to celebrating with her.

Jewish October

We invite everyone to join us for the joyous festival of Simchat Torah on Friday, October 1st. We will read the last words in Devarim and the first in Bereshit. Reading from the last book, followed by words from the first book symbolizes that the Torah never ends, nor our learning from it. As is our Minhag, we will all hold the Torah as it is completely unrolled showing that as we hold the Torah, the Torah holds us.

We welcome our former rabbinical student, Adrian Shell, back to our congregation and look forward to spending Simchat Torah weekend with him. Adrian is in his fourth year at the Abraham Geiger College and has just returned from his year in Israel. He will lead services for us at Purim and Shavuot in addition to this visit.

Preceding the services, Shlichah Jehudith Weinberger invites all our youth to the first “Netzer Day” this year. She has many exciting activities planned, so don’t miss it! The fun begins at 4:00 p.m.

Toward the end of the month we will welcome Rabbi Gábor Lengyl from Hannover, who will speak at an evening program for the Society of Christians and Jews. His lecture is entitled “The different streams of Judaism and their differences.”

Jewish Culture in October

The Senior Club has planned an exciting outing on October 21st to Bielefeld. Among other program points, a visit to our sister congregation Beth Tikva has been organized. Sign up now.

Mazel Tov

We congratulate the Schurupov family on the birth of their third grandchild. Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Rebecca and Constantin Seidler on the birth of their second child and first son, Elias. We also congratulate the proud grandparents, our state board of Jewish Congregations President, Mrs. Katarina Seidler and her husband, Johannes.

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.



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. Thank you all!

We thank Dr. Oleg and Mrs. Anna Rubanov for their generous gift for our synagogue building fund.

Other contributors this month were: Rachel Dohme, Soya Varschavska, the Sheinberg family, Polina Pelts, Mr. Weltner, Mrs. Boettcher, Mrs. Wellner, Mrs. Albrecht, the Golberg-Pelts family, Mrs. Ursula Ryf, Mr. Dieter Schulz, Mrs. Ioulia Berhovski and Mr. Wessling and Pastor Adler and the members of the Petri-Pauli Church in Bad Münders who contributed their collection for our synagogue building fund.

Contributions from America came from Mrs. Gertrud Lind, Mrs. Connie Creshtool and Judy Khan.

May all donors be blessed for their generosity.



Friends

We are pleased to welcome five new members to our “Friends”: Mr. Hans Herbert Weltner, Mrs. Annette Wellner, Mrs. Susanne Boettcher, Mrs. Nicole Renkin and Mr. Wolfgang Fischer. We thank you for your interest and financial support.



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!

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 Rabbi Ilana Baird, Rachel Dohme and our synagogue choir “Shalom” for their participation in an inter-religious service in the Petri-Pauli Church in Bad Mündler.

An extra special thank you to Rabbi Irit Shillor, Rabbi Ilana Baird and Debbie Tal-Reuttger for their work on a trilingual Machsor for our High Holy Days services. The booklets made our services so much more accessible to so many.



We also thank Rabbi Ilana Baird for her gift of a three-volume Machsor from Vienna, copyrighted in 1929. She found the prayer book in a flea market in Israel and presented it to the congregation on Erev Rosh Hashanah. Todah Rabah!

We thank Rabbi Joel Oseran and the WUPJ for their financial assistance in obtaining Rabbi Baird’s services.

We thank Polina, Bettina, Dorit, Valerii, Elena, Liubov and Heinrich for their incredible work, preparing a beautiful buffet for more than 200 guests at our “Richtfest” on September 23rd. Everyone enjoyed the food and the beautiful presentation. We also thank the men who built and decorated the Sukkah this year: Dieter, Vladimir, Valerii, Boris, Heinrich and Arkadij.



Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to members of our “Friends,” Mrs. Lore Dorries on the death of her beloved husband, and to Mrs. Renate Cramer on the death of her beloved twin sister, Monika.

Unveiling

Rabbi Ilana Baird led the unveiling service for Ethel Lazer, of blessed memory, on September 13th.

**Once again we wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year 5771!
—Your Synagogue Board**

Program for October 2010 • Tishri–Heshvan 5771

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

Friday, October 1	4:00 p.m.	1 st Netzer Day with Jehudith Weinberger
	5:30 p.m.	SHABBAT & SIMCHAT TORAH with rabbinical student Adrian Schell
Saturday, October 2	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with rabbinical student Adrian Schell
Sunday, October 3	10:00 a.m.	Conflict management seminar with Heidi Braun
Monday, October 4	12:00 noon	“Judaism” a course in Russian with W. Pesok
Tuesday, October 5	3:00 p.m.	Monthly board meeting
Saturday, October 9	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with F. Pelts & D. Vogelhuber
Tuesday, October 12	10:00 a.m.	Informational meeting: Russian Embassy with G. Bachmatchnikova
Friday, October 15	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services with R. Dohme
Saturday, October 16	10.00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Tuesday, October 19	4:00 p.m.	“Russian Afternoon” with M. Olvovskaja Art History class
Wednesday, October 20	11:00 a.m.	Russian Book Club with A. Konstantinova
Thursday, October 21	8:30 a.m.	Senior Café, Outing to Bielefeld, Information: P. Pelts. 5 Euros
Saturday, October 23	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study with R. Dohme
Thursday, October 28		Rabbi Irit Shillor’s Visit
	3.00 p.m.	“Rabbi’s Table” Bat Mitzvah
	4:00 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah class
Friday, October 29	4:00 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah class
Saturday, October 30	10:00 a.m.	BAT MITZVAH PATRIZIA BERHOVSKI Festive Oneg Schabbat following the service
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Activities outside the community

Wednesday, October 27	7:00 p.m.	Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: “Streams of Judaism and their Differences”, Rabbi Gábor Lengyl, Hannover. St. Augustinus Church, Social Hall, Hamelin
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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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Archived Newsletters:

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