



Dear members, friends and supporters,

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year 5777. 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

As one stands outside our beautiful synagogue and reflects, it moves one to realize what has been achieved in the years since our establishment in 1997 and since the dedication of our new building in 2011. It has become a house not only of worship but a house of Jewish life in Hamelin. *Beitenu*, Hebrew for “our house,” has seen Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations, Shabbat and holiday services, Torah study groups, youth group and senior’s group activities, concerts, birthday parties and now a Chuppah!



On Sunday, September 4th, everyone is decked out in their finest, welcoming guests under a beautiful floral garland doorway in hues of purple and green to a transformed sanctuary. Banners of cream-colored, flowing material have been draped from the center skylight Magen David to the side windows, falling gracefully to the floor. The floral garlands over the doorway are repeated on the poles that support the Chuppah, in the middle of over 100 chairs, right and left, each decorated with a satin bow holding a small sachet of lavender. Lavender blossoms can be seen through the ceiling banners and the sanctuary is filled with their sweet smell.

The ceremony begins with the flower children, leaving a blanket of white rose petals for the bride and groom. Groom Amitai Schleier, accompanied by his parents and sister, arrive under the Chuppah followed by Bride Rebekka Dohme on her father’s arm, followed by her mother and her brothers. Rabbi Irit Shillor greets the couple and family and everyone takes their place under the Chuppah.

Rabbi Shillor led the service in Hebrew, German and English. Being a liberal congregation it was fitting that both bride and groom stepped on the glass together. Shouts of “Mazel Tov” were heard as Mr. and Mrs. Schleier sealed the ceremony with a kiss and Ketubah. The celebration continued with a sumptuous buffet in and outside in the garden. The champagne flowed, the sparkling white wedding cake was cut and served and the afternoon was filled with laughter, love and happiness. Rebekka writes:

“Dear members, family and friends, Amitai and I thank everyone who made our wedding celebration so wonderful. We want to thank Rachel for giving us such a beautiful Chuppah. To us it was a symbol of the love, tolerance and progressivity which our community represents. We hope everyone shares this feeling.”

Enjoy the collage on page 2 and the new banner of pictures on our Web site at www.ighreform.org.

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

Our Israeli dance troupe represented our congregation at this year’s Cultural Festival in nearby Salzhemmendorf. The annual festival is a multi-cultural celebration, showcasing our county’s varied ethnic groups. Our thanks to our talented dancers!

We enjoyed a special concert in mid-September. Dr. Jean Goldenbaum, accompanied by Victor Santana, gave a lecture and concert of classical Jewish composers. Both musicians live and work in Berlin. Dr. Goldenbaum was born and raised in São Paulo and Victor Santana in Madrid. Not only did we enjoy the presentation but the following morning Dr. Goldenbaum and Mr. Santana taught a lesson in our neighboring Viktoria Luise Gymnasium for the music classes.

Here’s a thank you note from Music teacher, Mr. Melloh:

“The presentation was a huge success! Dr. Goldenbaum lecture and Mr. Santana’s excellent guitar accompaniment mesmerized the students. We thank the congregation for arranging this unforgettable lesson.”

Wedding of Rebekka Dohme and Amitai Yareev Schleier



On the same day, a multi-religious celebration, “Shalom-Peace-Salam,” was held in neighboring Bad Münders. The festival drew a crowd of 300, and we thank Dieter Vogelhuber for representing our congregation. At the festival’s conclusion everyone was given an olive branch—what a lovely gesture!

A traveling exhibit and intensive accompanying program held many Hameliner’s interest during the month of September. The exhibit, “Religram—Faces of Religion,” provided young and old an opportunity to become informed and familiar with religious practice in differing streams of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Of course, our congregation was involved, offering tours of the synagogue, a lecture from Dr. Ulrike Offenber and the music of Rebekka’s CD “Shabbat Melodies.”

The month ended with Rachel and Polina’s lecture at the House of World Religions. The annual theme was “Living in Germany with my religion.” The program was well attended, the audience asking many questions.



Jewish October

September means Rosh Hashana is right around the corner. First, we will offer congregational memorial services at both cemeteries.

On Sunday evening, October 3rd, we welcome Dr. Ulrike Offenber to the Bimah and begin our High Holy Days with Erev Rosh Hashanah services. We will also come together for the fifth time in our new and beautiful synagogue on the following morning for Rosh Hashanah morning prayers and Tashlich. We ask everyone to bring a vegetarian dish to share, and we look forward to wishing each other a happy and healthy 5777, 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 October 11th and 12th.

Dr. Offenber will lead Shabbat services between and after the High holidays and be with us for Sukkoth.

She will receive Smicha with honors at her ordination at HUC, Jerusalem on November 17th, and our Rabbi Shillor will induct her as our congregational rabbi on December 2nd. Invitations will go out in November. Members who need transportation assistance attending services should please contact the synagogue office.

Simchat Torah services will be led this year by Rachel. The following day, October 26th, we invite everyone to a concert to celebrate the holiday season with Trio Yas from Berlin. We thank the support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany who make such cultural events for small congregation possible.



Information from the Central Council of Jews in Germany

Please check the information table for the newest information about winter activities for seniors in Bad Sobernheim.

Winter Machene/Camp

The Union of Progressive Jews of Germany invites children and youth to participate in a winter vacation camp from December 23rd-30th. The program looks packed with fun. More information is available in the synagogue.



Hope and Return

Our congregation has been caring for a Jewish-Albanian family for the past year. The young father of the family has Jewish roots. Unfortunately this was not enough to qualify him or the family to stay in Germany. The young couple and their two children were quickly integrated in our community, began conversion class and found work, earning their own keep, learning German and the children attended public schools. The family had to return to Albania but with the help of our county commissioner and our congregation may have a real chance to return.

A strong and helpful article was written by Christine Schmitt about the family and our congregation in the German Jewish weekly newspaper, *Jüdische Allgemeine*. It is available on our Web site [in German](#).

We all are hoping for their return and to obtain their right to stay in Germany. If you’d like to help the family, contact Rachel Dohme (racheldohme@jghreform.org)

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 wish to thank Rebekka and Amitai Schleier who requested donations for the synagogue in lieu of flowers or gifts on their wedding. There were too many names to mention here but this generous gesture on the part of the newlyweds and the contributors raised a four-figure sum, earmarked for the building’s upkeep. Todah Rabah!

Thank you to Mrs. Aue and her 4th grade class, Rachel Dohme and always Mrs. Ute Gibas.

May you all be blessed for your generosity.



Baum des Lebens – Etz Chajim

Nun im Herbst sehen wir an allen Bäumen die farbenprächtigen Blätter, so ist es auch an unserem „Baum des Lebens“, in der Synagoge. Man kann mit der Beauftragung eines neuen Blattes besonderer Anlässe gedenken, z.B. Geburt, Bar oder Bat Mitzwa, Hochzeit, Dank, Jahrzeit, Erinnerungen oder Ehrungen, und so auch dem Synagogenbau eine Spende zukommen lassen. Formulare liegen im Büro aus. Vielen Dank!

Neue Blätter wurden bestellt von:

- Vorstand der Gemeinde: „Masel Tov Rebekka und Amitai“ und „Masel Tov an Rachel und Ferdinand Dohme und an Dianne und Uriel Schleier zur Hochzeit ihrer Kindern Rebekka und Amitai“.
- Familie Dohme: „Zur Hochzeit unserer Kinder Rebekka und Amitai“



Mazel Tov

Wir gratulieren nochmal Rebekka Dohme und Amitai Schleier und deren Familien zur Hochzeit. Mazel Tov!

Wir sagen auch Mazel Tov an Emma und Aron Kaplan zur Vermählung ihrer Enkeltochter Alina mit Stephan Eidt!

Danke – Toda Raba

Wir danken Frau Inna Lyubich für ihre wichtige Beschäftigung in unserer Gemeindebibliothek als BFD-Kraft. Wir wünschen ihr Alles Gute und weitere Erfolge

Wir danken allen, die immer wieder helfen, unsere Feste und vielen kulturellen Veranstaltungen so schön zu gestalten. Dank an alle. Sei es bei der Planung, Durchführung oder Organisation. Es gibt so viele regelmäßige Gruppen, ehrenamtlich von Mitgliedern für Mitglieder geleitet, von denen so viele profitieren. Wir danken allen und schätzen ihr Engagement sehr.

Jahrzeiten im Oktober

Oleksii Bogdanov – 10.10.2014 / 16. Tischri 5774

Möge die Erinnerung an unsere Verstorbenen ein Segen für uns sein. Kaddisch wird während der Gottesdienste mit den Familienangehörigen gesprochen. Jahrzeitkerzen sind im Büro erhältlich.



Schalom, ihr Vorstand

[Gemeindebrief Archiv](#)

Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln e.V.

Mitglied der Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland

Mitglied der Weltunion progressiver Juden

Mitglied des Zentralrates der Juden in Deutschland

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Program for October 2016 • Elul 5776–Tishrei 5777

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10.00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Dr. Ulrike Offenberg's Visit October 2–16

Sunday, October 2	4:00 p.m.	Monthly Board Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah services
Monday, October 3	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah services Luncheon followed by Tashlich
Friday, October 7	4:00 p.m.	Shiur
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, October 8	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study
Tuesday, October 11	5:30 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 12	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur services
	5:00 p.m.	Yiskor, Ne'ila
	After sundown	Break the Fast communal meal
Thursday, October 13	7:00 p.m.	In cooperation with the Society of Christians and Jews, Lecture: "Jerusalem—A Jewish Perspective"
Friday, October 14	4:00 p.m.	Shiur
	5:30 p.m.	Friday night services
Saturday, October 15	10:00 a.m.	Shacharit services and Torah study
Sunday, October 16	5:00 p.m.	Sukkot celebration
Tuesday, October 25	5:00 p.m.	Simchat Torah celebration
Wednesday, October 26	4:00 p.m.	Trio Yas, Berlin, Concert with the friendly support of the Central Council of Jews of Germany

Activities outside the community

Sunday, October 9	5:00 p.m.	House of World Religions in Steinhagen, Panel Discussion: "Living in Germany with My Religion"
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[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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