Services for December

*Under the Spiritual Leadership of Rabbi Karen Allen*

*Rabbi Karen Allen*

*See Shabbat at the Paprocki home*.

***President and Editor:***

***Mary Chang***

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***Steve Lande***

***Richard Lawrence***

***Elaine Morrison***

***Andrea Paprocki***

***Judi Siegal***

***Upcoming Holidays:***

***Hanukkah 12/23***

*Visit us online at*[***www.bethisraelofocala.com***](http://www.bethisraelofocala.com)

*and on Facebook: Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala*

**Beth Israel Connections**

***Sunday Matinee at the Movies***

“Everything Is Illuminated” is a great movie that several of us enjoyed after a wonderful meal of dim sum at the Yummy House.Sitting back on our recliners, delicious homemade biscotti and expresso coffee in hand, we watched a funny and yet poignant film about a young man searching for his grandfather’s history in the Ukraine. Much thanks goes to Judy Hague for supplying us with and recommending this movie.

***Shabbat at the Paprocki Home*** We are so delighted to be celebrating a Shabbat service and dinner at the Paprocki home on Friday, December 13th. This will be a ‘potluck’ meal with everyone contributing a dish. RSVP to Andee - chanamalkany@yahoo.com - by Monday, December 9th **at the latest. We will NOT take reservations after that date**. You must let Andee know what you will be bringing - it should be an amount that would serve 6-8 people. We will be having brisket and turkey for our main course.  Keep that in mind when deciding what to bring. After dinner we will be viewing the Friday night service from Central Synagogue starting at 6:00pm and hope to have dinner finished (and cleaned up, other than dessert) by then, so please be prompt.

# Jessica Meir

*Alex*

From the President, As of the General Meeting on December 22nd I will be passing over most of the responsibilities of president of this congregation to Fredda Goodstein. While I will still be caring for the newsletter, website, Facebook page and many of our emails, Fredda will be the real head of the congregation. I am delighted to know such a capable, compassionate, and hard working person will take over this position. I am sure she will lead us to do many wonderful things in the future. I ask that you give her not only your blessings but your cooperation in this undertaking. Congratulations, Fredda! B’Shalom, Mary



Another Holocaust ‘Hero ’Passes

Johan Van Hults who died on 22 March at age 107, was a key part of the network that helped at least 600 Dutch babies and children escape the Nazis. Those children survived thanks to carefully orchestrated operations that smuggled them away right in front of the Nazis seeking to send them to concentration camps.

Van Hults became the principal of a school and kept it going by working twice his previous hours on a minimum wage.

Next door to Van Hulst's school –was a facility that placed Jewish children before deporting them to concentration camps. By falsifying papers and numbers and risking his own life, Van Hults was able save several hundred Jewish children.

Pie-o--Mine and Greens

*Drop in for a lovely meal – soup, salad or pizza!*

GENERAL MEETING

On December we will hold a general meeting during which we will discuss further developments in our congregation. This meeting will take place at On Top of the World at the Arbor Conference Center Event Room (formerly room B) on Sunday, December 22nd at 1:00pm. We need to have your RSVP by Sunday December 15th at the latest so that a list can be generated to let you in the gate; call Elaine at ***This meeting is for paid up members only.***

****![C:\Users\mncam\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\493BBWLH\emptree[1].jpg]()Sisterhood**  **President: Judy Donnenberg 352-789-1270 Dues: $18 for the year**

***What fun! What lovely bracelets! What a great meal! All of us heading to the beading class in October stopped first at Pie-o-Mine for a great meal and great socializing. Afterwards at the Bead Strand with the assistance of two of their instructors, we all fashioned a lovely bracelet after choosing the bead kit with the colors and types of beads we preferred.***

Set aside Monday, December 9th at 1:00 to join Sisterhood in putting together our annual Hanukkah gift bags for Jewish residents of assisted living facilities in the area. This year aside from pens and socks we will be filling those bags with lovely 5x7 picture frames as well as our usual cards, gelt, and dreidels. We will have pens available for purchase at $1 each. **Contact me by email to confirm** **maryooch874@yahoo.com** **by December 5th**. Give my name and address at gate: 9800 SW 89th Loop

# *Spain gets 127,000 citizenship applications from Sephardic Jews*

*A deadline for Jews living outside Spain to request Spanish nationality has expired with 127,000 applications, most of them from Latin America.*

*Jews living in Mexico top the list, with about 20,000 requests, followed by Jews in Venezuela and Colombia.*

*In 2015, Spain passed a law to atone for the medieval expulsion of Sephardic Jews from the country.*

*In the 15th Century, Spain's Catholic monarchs, having defeated the Muslim Moors, forced Jews to convert or leave.*

*Applicants have had to prove a family connection with medieval Spain - and in many cases, that proved difficult. In addition, they had to get their Sephardi origis certified by a solicitor in Spain.*

*For great soup, salad and pizza!*

We will be presenting a Hanukkah program at Canterfield on Monday, December 23rd at 2:00

Your assistance at this event is most welcome. Please let Mary (reply to email or 3523626383) know if you are attending Canterfield.. This is a great way to give back to the community and have a rewarding fun time for yourself.

**Grant**

This month we will distribute our Hanukkah gift bags to Jewish residents at assisted living facilities in our area made possible through a grant from the Jewish Council of North has been amazing. Please remember that when they ask for our support. They fund many great programs in the area.

*“From the 8th to the 12th century, Jews, Muslims, and Christians lived in relative peace in Portugal. Sephardic Jews, who likely comprised around 20 percent of the population, were relatively well-respected and held positions in the high court. For this reason, the area became somewhat of a haven for those fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. However, in 1496, after the end of Moorish rule, King Manuel I mandated that all Jews be baptized, or otherwise expelled.*

*While many fled, some Jews stayed, and either converted to Christianity or pretended to do so while continuing to practice Judaism in secret.*

*As religious violence worsened, many fled Portugal and resettled in England, bringing with them culinary treasures founded in Sephardic cuisine—including fish.*

*Peshkado frito was one of them.* *It was a hit in England. Fish prepared “in the Jewish manner” was sold on the streets of London*

*This fried fish later became part of England’s most famous dish, “Fish and Chips.”*

****Chesed Program**

Our two co-chairs are **Janet Sadowsky (843-540-3648)** and **Fredda Goodstein (954-254-1880)**.

**We are delighted to welcome Sandra Wolf as a new member of our congregation!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Yahrzeits for December:** Elizabeth Holub mother of Edie Weinman

**There are many homeless in Ocala. Interfaith is desperately in need of jackets, socks, and blankets. Items need not be new but should of course be in decent condition and clean. We will collect at our Services, Sisterhood meetings and other events.**

Estelle Glass grandmother of Judy Lankes

Sadie Paymer mother of Ed Morrison

Bozena Teichner sister-in-law of Libby Teichner

**Birthdays for December:** Judi Siegal **Anniversary for December:** Briana and Steve Lande

**ShabbaTones Chorus**,

a 501(c)(3) organization, offers singers an opportunity to explore the rich repertoire of Jewish choral music. Singers of all religious denominations are welcome. Dr. Will Kessling, Director of Choral Activities at UF, will conduct the chorus. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 7 – 9pm, at UF Hillel.

Want to sing? We need to hear from you today! Please join us by signing up for an audition. Type <http://bit.ly/ShabbatonesSignup> and we will get back to you. Want to sing? We need to hear from you today!

*From the Book of Joel*

*by Joel Rosenblum*

There are two things weird about being the American Jew.  One is that every president and congress consistently approve providing the most foreign aid of all to the country of Israel.  The other thing is that the gentiles never object to this.  No one even speaks about it.  The entire matter is generously covered with statements about "the only democracy in the Middle East."  So.  Combine the delights of Jewish survival and we see how the Almighty has established for us  a promised land that still exists.

God is a library!  He provides all the resources for lending whatever knowledge and other assistance that constantly beckons toward education and, at the same time, embodies the beauty of concern for others.  Place upon this an egalitarian society with enforceable laws and you have something every Jew can be proud of whether he goes to synagogue or not.

The role of the Liberal Jew is encompassing the "Christian" Jews, those not of our faith but who are slowly waking up to their own Jewish heritage and their need to combine at least the hearts of the two Abrahamic religions.

I recently attended a Catholic funeral ceremony and the priest's entire sermon dealt with the Sadducees as he illustrated his point of view.  Afterwards, I introduced myself as Jewish to him and he warmed to me considering his subject matter.  Christians certainly accept their ancestry.  They're all still Jewish and don't realize it.  Our side just doesn't bother to proselytize.