Michael Rosbash, a professor at Brandeis, was one of three co-winners of the 2017 Nobel Prize for medicine/physiology. The award is for discoveries about “circadian rhythms” explaining how living things adapt their biological rhythms to synchronize with the Earth’s revolution. Rosbash was born in America to German-Jewish refugees; his father was a cantor. The Physics Nobel was also shared three ways, by Barry Barish, Rainer Weiss (both Jewish), and Kip Thorne. They made major contributions to the LIGO detector and its observation of gravitational waves in outer space. Weiss was born in Germany and came to the US in 1938. Barish was born in Omaha and grew up in Los Angeles. All of his grandparents were from Poland; his grandfather and great-uncle founded a Ford dealership that refused to distribute Henry Ford’s anti-Semitic publications.

—Nate Teible

Naperville native Max Sterling is the assistant director of the new theatrical adaptation of Chaim Potok’s classic novel The Chosen, playing in Connecticut.

A rapidly expanding student group on college campuses offers college students experiential learning through business in Israel. Founded in 2008 at the University of Michigan, TA-MID Group is now on 46 college campuses, offering more than 2,200 student members numerous ways to combine their passion for business with the dynamic Israeli landscape in this arena—from experiential business learning through interactive classes, to consulting with Israeli companies, to internship experiences in Israel, to managing investment portfolios with Israeli companies, and more. The University of Chicago started its chapter earlier in the fall. TAMID now has chapters at all eight Ivy League schools (with the addition of Brown) and is at 16 schools that are in the top 20 of rankings for U.S. News and World report.

A House Committee recently unanimously passed the Taylor Force Act, which would cut funding to the P.A. unless it stops paying monthly stipends to the families of Palestinians who have killed Israelis.

Barry Barish

More than 350 Jewish teens and young adult leaders from the former Soviet Union celebrated their role in strengthening Jewish life at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s Active Jewish Teens (AJT) Conference in Kharkov, Ukraine in November. The gathering, created and run with the AJT teens, included participants from JDC and BBYO networks in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Estonia, Israel, and for the first time, America. Pictured: The opening ceremony of the Active Jewish Teens (AJT) Conference, which welcomed hundreds of Jewish teens from 10 countries. Photo credit: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Alyza Goodman, director of professional development at Chicago’s iCenter, was one of five emerging Jewish educators awarded the 2017 Covenant Foundation Pomegranate Prize. The Pomegranate Prize, inaugurated in 2011, is designed to honor rising leaders who have been in the field of Jewish education for up to 10 years.

The Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago recently recognized top educators at its 88th Annual Banquet in November. Susan Feuer was presented with the Barney Goldberg Paragon of Education Award for her many decades of work in special education, while the Hartman Family Foundation Educator of the Year Awards were presented to Stacy Daybook, of Arie Crown Hebrew Day School, Alise Gold, of Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School, and Rabbi Yoel Rosenberg, of Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi.

BY THE NUMBERS:

6,000

In 2017, JUF’s Chanukah Coat Club gave more than 6,000 articles of winter gear to people in need in the Chicago area, with more than $100,000 raised. Participants each gave $18 to the Chanukah Coat Club, and their loved one received a card saying that the winter clothes had been donated in their name.

For more information, visit juf.org/Chanukah or call (312) 357-4835. JUF’s Chanukah Coat Club is conducted in partnership with Jewish Child & Family Services and the Chicago Chessed Fund.
An inaugural cohort of 28 have been selected for the Board Member Institute for Jewish Nonprofits. Launched in partnership with the Kellogg School’s Center for Nonprofit Management, the Institute will prepare participants for the wide scope of responsibilities board members face in guiding, governing, and stewarding Jewish nonprofit organizations. All of those accepted have demonstrated a passion to strive for excellence in volunteer leadership and a strong desire to make lasting social impact in the Jewish sector. An emphasis of the curriculum is to both enhance the knowledge and volunteer leadership skills of the cohort, as well as to give them the ability to transfer key learnings to all of the 35 diverse organizations they represent.

To help more Jewish day schools infuse Israel into all aspects of school life and learning, The iCenter, a national Israel education organization, welcomed nine new day schools across North America—including Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago—into its initiative, iNfuse: Israel in Jewish Day Schools. Each school now is creating a plan to make Israel education and experiences a deeper part of all aspects of school life, including classes such as science, the arts, Jewish studies, Hebrew language, all-school Israel engagement, and Israel travel. The initiative, currently with its second cohort, is funded in part by The AVI CHAI Foundation and through matching funds raised in the schools’ community. Applications for Cohort 3 of this exclusive program will open in the summer of 2018. For more information on becoming part of iNfuse, visit www.thecenter.org/initiative/day-schools.

**THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY: JANUARY**

**1654**—Brazil, conquered by the Portuguese from the Dutch, passes edict expelling Jews. Some go into hiding in Brazil, finding jobs on ranches in the country’s remote interior. Some Jews return to Europe, some move to Caribbean islands like Curacao—and 23 move to New York (then called New Amsterdam) to become the first Jewish settlers in America.

**1919**—J.D. Salinger is born, son of a kosher-cheese merchant. He publishes a story in The New Yorker about a disaffected youth named Holden Caulfield, and later bases his novel A Catcher in the Rye around him. Salinger serves in World War II, seeing combat on D-Day, meeting Hemingway, and visiting a liberated concentration camp. His other works are mainly short stories, compiled in Nine Stories, Franny and Zooey, and other anthologies.

**1974**—Shuttle diplomacy by Secretary of State Kissinger leads to an initial military disengagement of forces agreement between the Israeli and Egyptian governments, ending conflict on the Egyptian front of the Yom Kippur War. Signed by Israel and Egypt on January 18, the Sinai Separation of Forces Agreement came to be known as “Sinai I.” In it, Israel gave up its advances reaching beyond the Suez Canal, while still holding nearly all of Sinai. Thus, Sinai I became the first “land for peace” agreement.

**1991**—Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, fires eight Scud missiles into Israel during Operation Desert Storm (a.k.a. The Gulf War), but fails to provoke a retaliation by Yitzhak Shamir’s Israel, per the request of George H.W. Bush. Tel Aviv, and Haifa are hit, starting at 3:00 a.m. Despite fears, the missiles are not armed with chemical weapons; there was one death and 46 were injured.

In November, over 300 alumni gathered to celebrate Ida Crown Jewish Academy’s (ICJA) 75th anniversary. Today, ICJA has educated nearly 5,000 alumni around the world who are leaders in their fields and in Jewish communal life. Pictured: Anniversary year co-chair Eric Rothner spoke at the celebration.

Nicole Reich, of Chicago, recently participated on the Israel Bonds National Women’s Division 2017 Israel Delegation. Reich, a business development manager at Groupon, serves on the Israel Bonds Chicago New Leadership Council. Nicole Reich (left), and Carolina Gartenberg (right), of Washington, D.C., met with MK Sharren Haskel during a visit to the Knesset in November. Photo credit: Yossi Zamir.

The Solomon and Dora Einhorn Glenbrook Mikvah celebrated its grand opening in November. The mikvah—or ritual bath—located in Northbrook, has a keilim mikvah for tovelling dishes, as well as a women’s mikvah and two preparation rooms.

An Israeli startup, Sirin Labs, has hired Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi as its brand ambassador. The company has developed what is says is an ultra-secure mobile phone using blockchain technology, which is a continuous growing list of computer records linked and secured using cryptography. In 2013, Messi visited the Western Wall and sent a message to the Argentine Maccabiah team, the next year, he supported a soccer match organized by Pope Francis between Israelis and Palestinians. ~JTA

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, one of the most thoroughly Jewish shows on television, capitalized on its strong reviews by earning a Golden Globe nomination for best television series, musical, or comedy. The Amazon Studios sitcom created by Amy Sherman-Palladino, the Jewish writer who is best known for the early 2000s hit Gilmore Girls, follows a 1950s Jewish housewife who becomes a standup comedian. The Golden Globes will be awarded on Jan. 7 on NBC.

Three people were arrested for firebombing a synagogue in Gothenburg, Sweden; the attack happened hours after hundreds marched through the city in protest of the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Reporting on that statement, the broadcaster of state-run SVT added that the “Jewish lobby in the US is incredibly strong.” Also in December, demonstrators in Malmo, Sweden called for their own “intifada” and threatened to shoot Jews; police in that city found flammable fluid near a Jewish cemetery. ~David Stavrou, Ha’aretz; JTA

In December, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill to help Holocaust survivors and the families of victims obtain restitution or the return of Holocaust-era assets. The Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today, or JUST Act, which was introduced in February by Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., received unanimous approval on Dec. 12. The measure requires The State Department to report on the progress of certain European countries toward the return of or restitution for wrongfully confiscated or transferred Holocaust-era assets, including property, art, and other movable property. It also requires a report specifically on progress in the resolution of claims for U.S. citizen Holocaust survivors and family members. ~JTA

In Chicago in December. Pictured: Teens from BJUSY chapter and the organization’s Chapter of the Year Award at USY’s International Convention in December. Pictured: Teens from BJUSY chapter and Youth Director Marc Sender (center) receiving the award for USY’s Chapter of the Year at CHUSYFest in Camp Chi’s Perlstein Resort in Lake Delton, Wisc.