Andi Baroff, a member of the Thomases Family Endowment distribution committee, and Deborah Grinstein, endowment director, present Maraline Kubik, director of Sister Jerome’s Mission, with $7,500 to benefit Sister Jerome’s Mission College program. The grant will enable the program to admit another student for spring semester. See story on p. 21.

The JCC’s Schwartz Judaica Library is now the Schwartz Holocaust, Media and Library Resource Center, under the direction of Federation Holocaust Educator Jesse McClain. The Center will be open M, W, and F from noon until 2 p.m., with more hours possible thanks to volunteer help. See story on page 24.
Jerusalem institutions could close if U.N. resolution is implemented

By Rafael Medoff/JNS.org

WASHINGTON—The human consequences of implementing the recent United Nations resolution about Jerusalem would be devastating, say American representatives of Israeli schools, synagogues and other institutions in parts of Jerusalem that Israel captured in 1967.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334, adopted Dec. 23 with the U.S. abstaining, asserted that all “Israeli settlements” in the “occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem” are “a flagrant violation of international law.” It stated that Israel must “immediately and completely cease” such activities and also take action to “reverse negative trends on the ground.”

A number of major Jerusalem neighborhoods are situated in what the U.N. calls “East Jerusalem,” which is the area that Jordan occupied following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Nineteen years later, those sections of the city were reunited with the rest of Jerusalem as a result of the 1967 Six-Day War.

One of those neighborhoods is French Hill, a major urban area located in the northeastern part of the city. “I live in French Hill,” award-winning Israeli author Yossi Klein Halevi told JNS.org. “So the recent U.N. resolution has criminalized me and my family as occupiers.”

“I’m not illegal, and I’m not a settler,” said historian Maurice Roumani, a professor emeritus at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev who resides in Armon Hanatziv (East Talpiot), a neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem with a population of 14,000. “These artificial definitions by the U.N. do not reflect reality.”

Teenage ‘settlers’ with disabilities

The institutions that could be adversely affected if the U.N. resolution leads to international boycotts or other actions include the Ilan Residential Home for Handicapped Young Adults and the Beit Or Home for Young Autistic Adults, both of which are located in the Gilo neighborhood; forests and housing projects sponsored in and around Jerusalem by the Jewish National Fund (JNF); and portions of the Hebrew University campus. Even the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives might be affected.

“My grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents, going back seven generations, are buried on the Mount of Olives,” Washington, D.C.-based attorney Alyza Lewin told JNS.org. “Does the U.N. propose to ban Jews from using the oldest and largest Jewish cemetery in the world? The notion that Israel is violating international law by burying its dead on this sacred spot is unthinkable.”

Could members of the British family find themselves accused of fostering the “illegal occupation” of eastern Jerusalem? Princess Alice of Battenberg, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, is buried in a small Christian cemetery at the foot of the Mount of Olives. A number of British royals have visited her gravesite over the years, including Prince Charles during his trip to Israel last October.

There also are Arab residents in a number of across-the-line Jerusalem neighborhoods, including Givat HaMatos, Gilo and Neve Yaakov. “Some of my neighbors [in French Hill] are Arab Israelis,” Halevi noted. “Are they occupiers too, or is it only the Jewish Israelis? Now that I am officially outside of the law according to the U.N., I imagine that anything can happen.”

Denominational lines

Possible international action against those sections of Jerusalem would cut across Jewish denominational lines, affecting Orthodox and non-Orthodox institutions alike.

The Masorti movement — the Israeli branch of Conservative Judaism — sponsors a school and synagogue in French Hill, a school in Gilo, and synagogues in the Ramot neighborhood and the Jerusalem satellite community of Ma’ale Adumim. “The U.N. resolution is indiscriminate and historically obtuse,” said Rabbi David Wolpe of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, who is one of the most prominent Conservative rabbis in the U.S.

Wolpe told JNS.org, “Many of the areas the U.N. purports to ‘return’ are historically and by rights Jewish territory recognized de facto by the parties themselves. For the Masorti movement in Israel, enacting such a resolution would have terrible consequences religiously, economically and to the spirit of religious pluralism in Israel.”

The Women of the Wall group, which demonstrates for egalitarian prayer rights at the Western Wall, is operating in an area that the U.N. has designated as “occupied territory,” the Old City section of Jerusalem. Hypothetically, even

(Continued on page 11)

For Jewish groups in Women’s March, many causes to fight for

By Ben Sales

(JTA) — One Jewish group that joined the Women’s March on Washington has seen its online donations double since the election of Donald Trump as president. Another has twice as many guests as usual attending its annual conference. A third has seen its social media engagement skyrocket.

And after bringing thousands of Jews to the streets on Saturday, they’re all asking the same question: What now?

A range of liberal Jewish groups took part in the Women’s March, which drew more than 3 million people to streets across the country to protest Trump’s policies and advocate for women’s rights and civil rights. And like the organizers of the march, Jewish groups who shared its agenda face the challenge of making sure the demonstration wasn’t a one-off venting of frustration, but a catalyst for sustained political activism.

“There’s so many things to fight for and there are so many things to fight against right now,” said Lori Weinstein, CEO of Jewish Women’s International, part of a coalition of Jewish groups that took part in the protest. “The Women’s March was a place for everyone to gather. It was a place for everyone to be lifted up and catapulted forward.”

Groups like Weinstein’s have spent decades advocating for causes like health care or immigrant rights. They see the march not as a starting point but as a validation of the goals they have long pursued. For them, the question isn’t what to do. It’s how to get people to keep supporting what they are already doing.

“This isn’t new,” said Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center, the Reform movement’s legislative advocacy arm, which hosted a day of programming around the march. “We’re building on growing competency we have. What we’re trying to do is build these movements of justice that will live on after these peak moments.”

With the march acting as a clearinghouse for liberal activists of many stripes, covering everything from reproductive rights to environmentalist activism, its momentum could spread thin over a variety of campaigns. Jewish organizations, hoping to capitalize on the rally’s energy, mentioned fighting the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, protecting voter rights, advocating for immigrants, opposing gun violence, pushing for paid family leave and other progressive causes.

But Rabbi Jill Jacobs, executive director of T’ruah, a rabbis’ human rights group, said working on a range of issues isn’t a problem because so many people came to the protest.

“All the people mobilized for the Women’s March, they’re not all going to be focused on one issue,” she said. “They’re not all going to be working on health care, they’re not all going to be working on immigration. But if there’s a big chunk of people that are going to be working on health care, on immigration, that’s going to be huge.”

Some organizations, while pursuing several disparate goals, are concentrating their energies on the local scene rather than the national government. Jews United for Justice, a social justice advocacy group in Washington, D.C., will be centered on ensuring funding in the district’s budget for paid family leave, as well as building a network of

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February 3  5:24 p.m.
February 10  5:33 p.m.
February 17  5:42 p.m.
February 24  5:50 p.m.
March 3  5:58 p.m.

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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JJMM Mission Statement

The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —

Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;

Present current local, national and world news of Jewish interest;

Offer timely commentary, interpretation, analysis and authentic background on events of the day for the purpose of encouraging the concern and response vital to our responsibilities as Americans and Jews;

Enrich the cultural interest of individuals and the community through articles, features, reviews and other material of both local and national Jewish content and interest;

Provide a communication tool to enable all members of the Jewish community to express their viewpoints on issues of Jewish importance and interest;

Demonstrate commitment to the progress and continuity of Jewish life in the U.S., especially our local area, Israel and around the world.

The JJMM does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

Feb. 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the March 2017 issue.
YSU’s Dr. Wagner honored for major grant for nursing expansion

Dr. Nancy Wagner, professor and chair, Department of Nursing at Youngstown State University, was honored at the Research Recognition Luncheon, held on YSU’s campus in early December.

Dr. Wagner was selected as an honoree after being awarded a $182,984 grant from the Ohio Board of Nursing for the expansion of the online RN-BSN Completion program. The two-year grant will aid in increasing enrollment and diversity in the completion program with a goal of boosting the number of RNs with bachelor’s degrees in the workforce. Most hospitals and health care facilities, locally and nationally, are pursuing an all BSN workforce as a requirement for high-quality or Magnet status.

Dr. Wagner has been awarded additional funding for other projects in the Department of Nursing. She received a program/research grant from the Eastern Ohio Area Health Education Center for “Nursing Success”, a program to recruit underserved student populations, including minorities, to nursing and other health professions. Students from the Youngstown Early College were selected for this program and participated in activities and early career planning. Additional funds were acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for nurse anesthesia students who promise to seek employment in health professional shortage areas upon graduation.

Dr. Wagner also led a faculty research group acquiring funding from the James and Coralie Centofanti Center for Health and Welfare of Vulnerable Populations to perform a pilot study, “Social Support of Pregnant and Parenting Women.” The study measured satisfaction with available support programs in the Youngstown area to help ensure successful pregnancy outcomes for high-risk mothers and to ultimately decrease infant mortality in Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

New Israel program for teachers addresses ‘remoteness’ in diaspora Jewish education

By Deborah Fineblum/JNS.org

For Shani Tauber, it all came together when her group left the house of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the religious Zionism pioneer known as “Rav Kook.” “We were coming back through the streets of Jerusalem when all of a sudden it hit me: We are walking the land where everything we've been learning happened,” says Ms. Tauber. “And I realized it’s not theoretical here. You can feel how real it is.”

Ms. Tauber, who lives in New Jersey, is one of 15 women spending the year in Jerusalem in a new program that immerses educators in Jewish texts and history in the very land where the events transpired.

The seeds of the Eshkolot program were planted several years ago when Malke Bina, founder of the Jewish education organization Matan, was visiting the U.S. to meet with day school leaders for what she calls “brainstorming how to revolutionize Jewish education in the diaspora.”

The topic was a natural fit for Ms. Bina, who in 1988 opened Jerusalem-based Matan as one of the first schools offering women a challenging curriculum in Torah, Talmud and Jewish law. During nearly three decades, thousands of women have learned with Matan in Israel and around the world.

But when it came to inspiring Jewish educators from the diaspora, the challenge was how to give educators the skills needed to make this ancient wisdom come alive for students 6,000 miles away.

After assembling a faculty of scholars, Matan opened registration last year for Eshkolot (the Hebrew word describing the finest grapes). Fifteen educators were chosen to take part in the yearlong program. Bina calls the participants “the cream of the crop, with the commitment and passion needed to take their year spent here in the heart of the Jewish world back home to their classroom.

(Continued on p. 11)
Enjoy the cultural event of the season, an evening of contemporary art, music, wine tasting and food sampling, at the John J McDonough Museum of Art.

MAD benefits the McDonough Museum of Art and 88.5 WYSU

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TICKETS $80 or $65 for WYSU & McDonough Members
YSU/Faculty/Staff/Students | Fine Arts Alumni

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA) — Last year UCLA launched a Jewish history archive with an ambitious goal — to be "one of the world's largest collections of Sephardi Jewish life."

Now, the UCLA Sephardic Archive has made its first major acquisition, obtaining what it says is "one of the most significant collections ever assembled" telling the history of Sephardi Jews in Los Angeles, according to a Tuesday statement.

The materials acquired from the archive of a local synagogue, Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel, tell the stories of Jews from the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa who immigrated to California at the turn of the 20th century. They also show the shaping of Sephardi culture in Los Angeles and how Sephardi Jews contributed to the Jewish and urban fabric of the city.

Among the new additions to the collection are photographs, papers, audio-visual materials and rare books dating to the mid-19th century. Many of the materials are written in Ladino, the almost-extinct language spoken by Sephardi Jews.

The initial focus of the archive is on the local Ladino-speaking community, which traces its roots to Turkey and the Balkans. Later, the collection will expand to include those who came from North Africa, Iran and other Middle Eastern countries.

The archive's director, Sarah Abrevaya Stein, said it is important to acquire materials for the collection sooner rather than later since they "can be acutely vulnerable and at risk of being lost forever — often languishing in garages and other facilities ill-equipped for preservation."

"It is imperative to collect, preserve and make them available for scholars and members of the community," Stein said in the statement.

(Above) The Jerusalem rabbinate’s 1912 recognition of the Los Angeles Sephardi Jewish community, left, and a 19th-century Ottoman birth certificate were part of a recent acquisition by UCLA’s Sephardic Archive. (Courtesy of UCLA)
Remembering the good ‘old’ days

By Mary Lou Finesilver

I look at these new young mothers with awe. How do they do it? They have their babies and within 24 to 36 hours they are out of the hospital and home with that tiny newborn.

Things sure have changed, I tell you. When I had my first, I was in the hospital for a week and didn’t go home until after the bris. In those days, we not only had one rabbi to officiate at the Bris, but we also had a rabbi who was a mohel. Now both rabbis were very observant, which presented a problem because the bris was on a Saturday, and we were on the 5th or 6th floor. I no longer remember which. Anyway, since we are not permitted to do any work on Saturday, how were they going to get upstairs? Their solution; the mohel walked, and complained bitterly about the climb and the other rabbi got on the elevator and waited for someone else to get on and push the button. Now that’s what I call using your Kop.

I was extremely fortunate with my children because their births were uneventful, or at least until with the third one. The doctor was sure I was having twins. I guess that comes with gaining too much weight. I did have a little scare with the first one, when I finally went into hard labor, they took me out of the hospital and I was not allowed to return until 36 hours they are out. But can you imagine, in the course at my great age there is no one to work; the flooring at the place where the other rabbi got on the elevator and complained bitterly about the climb and the other rabbi got on the elevator and waited for someone else to get on and push the button. Now that’s what I call using your Kop.

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February at El Emeth

Jewish Christian Dialogue

Wednesday, Feb. 1 at the Synagogue.

Coffee and cake are served at 12:30 p.m. with the session beginning at 1 p.m. The Rev. Nick Mager will present the Protestant perspective on this year’s theme, “Our Most Important Values and Connection to Sinai.” All are welcome to attend.

PJ Library

Get together at El Emeth on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 6 until 7:30 pm. Children 8 and under and their parents are invited to attend the Tu B’Shevat celebration with crafts, stories and other fun activities. R.S.V.P. to Emily Collins at the JCC at 330-746-3250, ext. 152.

Board of Directors

El Emeth’s executive committee of will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 a.m. The board will not meet in February but will have its next meeting on March 7.

Congregational Tu B’Shevat seder and dinner

A the Temple on Saturday, Feb. 11. Minyan begins at 5:45 p.m. followed by the seder and catered dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, Tu B’Shevat crafts for the children will be available. Reservation forms can be found in the Temple bulletin or office. Paid R.S.V.P.s are due by Feb. 7.

February Birthdays

Saturday, Feb. 18 beginning at 9:30 a.m. A Shabbat service and luncheon celebrating will take place on. Members with February birthdays or celebrations are invited to have an Aliyah that morning. R.S.V.P. to the office for lunch or to request an Aliyah.

Akiva Service

Students from Akiva Academy will conduct the Shabbat evening service on Friday evening, Feb. 24 at El Emeth with a Shabbat dinner to follow. Call Akiva for more information.

Shmoozing with Shmulik

Monday, Feb. 27 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Mr. Kooperman leads the group with stories, jokes, and conversation in Yiddish. Bagels and coffee provided.

Women’s Rosh Chodesh

Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Tirtza Kohan will lead the learning session at 10:30 and brunch will follow. All women are invited to attend. Please call the El Emeth office to respond.

Services

Daily Minyans are held at 5:45 p.m. including Saturdays. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m. and Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m.
A short month that is long on significance

By Rabbi Saul Oresky

Ohev Tzedek – Shaarei Torah

In the cold grayness of an Ohio February, we might find glimpses of sun and warmth in both our Jewish and American holidays as well as in our Torah. We can also find in them spiritual awakening and sources of positive action.

The Jewish year cycle gives us Tu B’Shevat, the 15th of the month of Shevat, when we commemorate our ecological blessings, particularly those we derive from trees – it is, after all, the logical blessings, particularly those we derive from trees. It affords us the opportunity to reaffirm our deep and life-sustaining roots in Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel, by sampling her produce and by contemplating the changing seasons there and here. We will also hold a Tu B’Shevat seder at Ohev Tzedek, where we will use the kabbalistic symbolism of the four worlds and the ten sefirot to more fully appreciate the our place on Earth and in the cosmos.

In a beautiful confluence of themes and celebration, on February 11, the same day that Tu B’Shevat falls on the Jewish calendar, we read parashat Be-shalach, the Torah portion that gifts us with Shirat HaYam, the Song at the Sea, where we again remember the splitting of the Sea of Reeds, allowing our escape from the Egyptians.

We read of a miraculous rescue and we join in the song of praise to G-d. Although the story is problematic in some ways, a fable whose historicity we might doubt, it is nevertheless one that is foundational to our identity as a people.

On Shabbat Shekalim, two weeks later, we add a Torah portion from later in Shemot (Exodus) that levies a half-shekel tax on each fighting man – these coins were used as both a census and to fund the mishkan (the traveling tabernacle). Although neither the mishkan nor the batei hamikdash (the holy Temples) remain, we can certainly, during the time leading up to Passover, use Shekalim as a reminder to support our local, also holy, temples, and to be sure that the poor have sustenance. Through giving tzedakah, we add light and dispel darkness.

And we cannot ignore Washington-Lincoln Day, known elsewhere as Presidents Day, initially formed from the merging of the celebration of the separate birthdays of our country’s two greatest presidents.

For many, this has become a day to honor all of our U.S. presidents. The holiday is a reminder that we can honor the office, although admiring every holder of that office might be impossible. We continue to pray that the current President might be guided by the highest values, including Jewish values that our community must represent and model for him and for all of our leaders.

Early February may be marked by a prognosticating groundhog, but by the end of the secular month, the Hebrew month of Adar begins, when we are told that happiness increases as we anticipate Purim in mid-month. However you look at it, we await the hope that we pray will come with spring, having faith that joy is right around the corner.

Tu B’Shevat

Our services on Feb. 11 will celebrate the Song of the Sea and will be followed by a Tu B’Shevat Seder.

Torah Study for Christians

Rabbi Oresky and Father Balasko will continue to lead their monthly “Torah Studies for Christians” program Wednesday, Feb. 15 at Villa Maria from 1-2:30 p.m. This month’s topic is The Ten Commandments.

Rosh Chodesh

Ladies, keep your calendars open! The women’s monthly Rosh Chodesh group will meet at Phyllis Oresky’s house on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. R.S.V.P. to 732-861-3652.

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Ohev Tzedek Services

Morning Minyan services are held each Thursday at 7:30 am.
Shabbat services are held every Saturday at 9:45 a.m. Rabbi Saul leads a Torah study session after each service.

What’s happening at Ohev Tzedek in February


She was raised in a musical household in Bosnia, and her family roots go back centuries before the Jewish expulsion from Spain in 1492.

As the sole surviving family member after World War II, Flory’s mission has been to continue her family’s cultural legacy through their music. Her strength of spirit shines through her challenging but ultimately triumphant story.

The movie will begin at 1:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served.

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Rosh Chodesh

Ladies, keep your calendars open! The women’s monthly Rosh Chodesh group will meet at Phyllis Oresky’s house on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office by Thursday, Feb. 23.
On an unseasonably warm Friday in early January, the tune of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” drew more than a hundred baseball fans to an empty lot in the center of Beit Shemesh, a small town nestled in the hills outside Jerusalem. In a country where Little League Baseball is unheard of and Cracker Jack snacks are nonexistent, this was no typical weekend in the Jewish state. Jan. 6 marked the groundbreaking for the new Beit Shemesh Baseball Complex, which will be Israel’s fourth major baseball field.

The excitement was palpable. Many in the crowd were recent immigrants to Israel, a significant portion of whom had arrived in July and August on Nefesh by Josefin Dolsten JTA) — Six-time NBA All-Star Amar’e Stoudemire made an unlikely move in August, when he retired from the NBA and signed a two-year deal with the Israeli basketball team Hapoel Jerusalem.

But it seems the choice was the right one for the 34-year old basketball player, who raves about his “adopted homeland” in a recent interview with Sports Illustrated’s Jon Wertheim.

“I’ve never felt more at home, more tied to a place where I’m playing,” Stoudemire told Wertheim over a Shabbat meal during Hanukkah in his Jerusalem home, featuring chicken, lamb, fish — and dreidel spinning.

Stoudemire isn’t Jewish but identifies with the Hebrew Israelites, African-Americans who believe they are connected to the biblical Israelites. He doesn’t eat pork or shellfish — he has even searched Jerusalem for a kosher butcher selling turkey bacon — but the Sports Illustrated writer also noted that Stoudemire thanked Jesus in a blessing said before the meal.

The 6-foot-10-inch athlete, who lives in a four-story house just blocks away from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s residence, is helping to break down stereotypes about Israel.

“People say ‘Is it a war zone?’ and I tell them that couldn’t be further from the truth,” Stoudemire said in the article. “Beautiful country. Beaches. Desert. Great restaurants. Great people. On the Sabbath it’s so quiet. Everything shuts down for rest, for family time. How nice is that?”

One thing Stoudemire was a little less enthusiastic about? The skills of his Hapoel Jerusalem teammates. The team’s record is just above .500 in the Israeli Basketball Premier League, although it had a good start in the Eurocup tournament with a win Wednesday over the Russian Nizhny Novgorod squad.

“Let’s put it this way,” he said, “it’s more of a teaching situation. Like, here’s where you go on a pick-and-roll.”
In a lot of kindergartens and schools throughout Israel it's common to ask the pupils to bring with them citrus fruit, dried fruits and – toilet paper (for any recycling art project they’ll make out of it).

When you think about it, this request sums up well the changes this holiday went through over the years.

Tu Bishvat has undergone many changes throughout the years. From a Mishnah holiday that was set in order to calculate the annual agricultural harvest, to a "green" holiday whose main topics are environment and recycling. What's unique is that those layers still exist, and together represent the different aspects of the holiday.

In kindergartens in Israel, we always sing “Tu Bishvat is here, holiday for the trees,” and we celebrate the birthday of the trees. However, at first, Tu Bishvat was not celebrated as a holiday or as a birthday, but as a date in the calendar from which we calculate the amount of harvest to take off the Maasar, that tenth of the harvest that is given to those in need.

Afterwards, this agriculture date became a holiday and people started adding a custom of eating the fruits of Eretz Israel. In the 16th century, the Kabbalists in Safed started having Tu Bishvat Seder, adding the drinking of the four cups of wine (Sound familiar?) to the eating of the fruit and also learning together (Limud).

Why do we eat dried fruits? That's because there weren't any transportation routes to preserve fresh fruit for the Jewish diaspora, and the only way Jewish people all over the world could have eaten fruits from the holy land was by drying them.

Today, there are people who think that there is no need to continue the custom of eating dried fruits, as there is a vast amount of fresh, vegetables and fruits from Israel. Still, if you think about it, it's a beautiful tradition that preserves the history and the memory of this holiday.

Planting trees was added to the customs of the holiday hundreds of years later. The first planting ceremony (Neti’ot) took place in 1884, in north Israel, in a beautiful place named: Yesod Ha’Ma’ale. Ever since 1908, the name of Tu Bishvat is also the holiday of planting trees.

In the last few decades, Tu Bishvat has become a "green" holiday – when we celebrate the connection between people and nature. Therefore, together with planting trees and eating fruits, today all over Israel the pupils speak about the importance of recycling and saving the environment, as well.

Just recently, maybe in the spirit of Tu Bishvat, the ministry of Environment in Israel decided to make a law to eliminate the use of plastic bags in supermarkets. As of 2017, Israel’s new Plastic Bag Law took effect. Plastic bags will no longer be given for free in Israeli supermarkets. To encourage members of the public to refrain from spending on plastic bags, the Environment Ministry is subsidizing the provision of multi-use “baskets” – large tote bag.

See the details of an exciting Shlichim program on page 1.

Ottavio Musumeci
Chef

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Nominations invited for Esther Marks Volunteer Service Award

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the Marks/Davis Families created the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award to recognize her life-long service to the Jewish and greater Youngstown community.

Esther was a prodigious volunteer within the Federation and all its agencies, at her synagogue and throughout the general community. She served as chairman of United Way from 1995 to 1998. Esther worked the inside of the organization to insure projects were completed and commitments were fulfilled.

This award will be used to encourage volunteerism at all levels and to honor Esther’s memory by acknowledging an individual who emulates her pattern of service.

The Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award will be awarded at the Federation annual meeting.

The guidelines and criteria for nominations to the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Award are as follows:

- An individual may be nominated by any individual or organization of the Jewish Community.
- There are no age limitations.
- Nominees may be a volunteer for direct services to people or agencies. A description of activities includes but is not limited to:
  - Direct volunteer activities
  - Membership on boards or committees
  - Leadership positions
  - Length of time of service
  - Quality of volunteerism

The nomination deadline is March 15, 2017.

Volunteer Service defined

The nominee need not be a volunteer in a purely leadership role. Rather, this award will give priority to those who volunteer for direct services to people or agencies. A description of activities includes but is not limited to:

- Direct volunteer activities
- Membership on boards or committees
- Leadership positions
- Length of time of service
- Quality of volunteerism

An individual may be nominated by any individual or organization of the Jewish Community.

Nominee Qualifications

Organization Involvement
- An individual may be nominated by any individual or organization of the Jewish Community.
- There are no age limitations.
- Nominees may be a volunteer for direct services to people or agencies. A description of activities includes but is not limited to:
  - Direct volunteer activities
  - Membership on boards or committees
  - Leadership positions
  - Length of time of service
  - Quality of volunteerism

The nomination deadline is March 15, 2017.

Applicants sought for Sam Kooperman endowment

Friends, family, and longtime colleagues honored the longtime executive vice-president of the federation at his retirement by funding of the “Sam Kooperman Endowment.” With input from Sam, the Federation board of directors established the fund which has two purposes:

- To provide scholarships for Jewish young adults to study in Israel.
- Competitive grant awards are available to applicants who reside in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys.

Consideration may be made for an applicant whose family resides in the region, but is not guaranteed.

Applications are available at the Federation offices. The submission deadline is March 15, 2017.

Area teens encouraged to apply for Sandra Lippy Israel scholarship

The Sandra L. Lippy Endowment Fund of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation announced that funds are available to eligible teenagers who are participating in March of the Living, a Jewish summer leadership camp or Israel summer experience.

The endowment established in 1994 commemorated Sandra Lippy’s Bat Mitzvah. Jewish continuity and the communal experience is very important to Mrs. Lippy who herself has studied at an ulpan in Israel.

Having spent a great deal of time in Israel, she knows the importance of experiencing the country’s vitality and feeling the pulse of the people; who live, work and raise their families there. She hopes that in some small way, through the wonderful generosity of her friends, this endowment will help open the eyes and hearts of young people in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys. It is her further wish that this generation of youth will step up to the plate as it becomes their privilege to provide leadership necessary to maintain a vital Jewish community.

Teenagers who are eligible may complete an application to the Scholarship Committee explaining why they would like to participate in this Jewish experience. The committee will review the applications and may have personal interviews with applicants to determine who will receive the subsidies.

Information and applications are available at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio, 44504 or contact Emily Collins, Youth Director, at youth@jccyoungstown.org or Debbi Grinstein, Endowment Director at dgrinstein@jewishyoungstown.org or phone at 330-746-3250, Ext. 175.
their school and by extension the whole community.”

To provide more incentive, Eshkolot participants who commit to teaching at least two years in North America qualify for a scholarship and stipend to help cover the expenses of taking a year off and living in Israel for the program. They also have the option to earn a master's degree from Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Last September, this pioneering group of Eshkolot scholars embarked on a rigorous schedule of coursework in Bible, with Talmud and Jewish law in the mix, along with an immersion in educational strategies designed to transmit the power of this material to their students back home in the diaspora.

It’s a process that Jonathan Sarna, a professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, describes as “part of a movement toward reinvigorating the study of Tanakh (Torah, Prophets and Writings).”

“Jewish education in the diaspora suffers from a remoteness from our story, so this program exports some of its excitement to help transform Jewish education there,” says Prof. Sarna, who is currently spending the year in Jerusalem doing research at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies. “It goes beyond knowing the words and the storyline to a deeper appreciation of why the Bible is so important to Jews, something you can truly feel when you’re learning it here.”

“There’s nothing like learning Torah in Israel,” says Eshkolot participant Miriam Borenstein. “You go on a tiyul (field trip) and see the place where [the prophet] Joshua led the Jews across the Jordan and you think, ‘We just learned about that in class.’ You see street signs with the names of rabbis we’re studying. You hear snatches of Hebrew in the stores. You’re immersed.”

Ms. Borenstein, 29, this week met with her supervisor, Chaya Batya Neugroschl, head of school at Central-Yachad program (cont’d from p. 4)

the Orthodox Union’s Yachad program of sending pizza to Israeli soldiers could be jeopardized, since some of those soldiers are stationed in post-1967 sections of the capital.

The religious Zionist social service organization AMIT is planning a “Yom Yerushalayim Mission” to Israel in May, which will include a number of events and activities in post-1967 parts of Jerusalem, including the Old City area. AMIT Executive Vice President Andrew Goldsmith told JNS.org the U.N.’s action will not interfere with his organization’s work. During the past century, “we have witnessed many different political statements and efforts, none of which have had an impact” on AMIT’s work, he said, adding that the U.N. resolution “will not have an impact on our ability to serve our students.”

‘Oom-Shmoom’

Venerable Zionist institutions could also be affected. There are JNF-sponsored forests or housing projects in various Jerusalem neighborhoods beyond the 1967 lines, such as Neve Yaakov, Givat HaMatos and Ammunition Hill, as well as in nearby Ma’ale Adumim. Portions of Hebrew University’s Mount Scopus campus, including one of its dormitories, likewise are located in the post-1967 areas of the city. Spokespeople for JNF and Hebrew University declined to comment on the matter.

“David Ben-Gurion (Israel’s first prime minister) coined a phrase which accurately sums up how most Israelis feel about the United Nations,” said Mordechai Nisan, a professor of Middle East studies at Hebrew University. “The phrase was ‘Oom-Shmoom’—‘Oom’ is how the abbreviation for the U.N. is pronounced in Hebrew, and ‘Shmoom’ was Ben-Gurion’s way of dismissing its relevance.”

Nisan, who resides in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramot Bet, parts of which are beyond the 1967 lines, told JNS.org, “Nobody is going to chop apartment buildings or streets in half in Ramot Bet or any other Jerusalem neighborhood. More than 250,000 Jews reside in parts of Jerusalem past the 1967 lines, and they are here to stay. The supporters of the recent U.N. resolution are delusional—they are living in their own little echo chamber, with no connection to reality.”

Hoping for a new position

Under the Obama administration, the U.S. took a position similar to that of the U.N., branding the post-1967 parts of Jerusalem as “occupied territory.” Many observers are hopeful that U.S. policy will change under President Donald Trump. “It’s hard to imagine any American government being less favorable to Israel on Jerusalem-related issues than the Obama administration,” Yossi Klein Halevi said. “I expect the new administration to be better—perhaps significantly better.”

Alyza Lewin said it is “imperative” for the Trump administration to “promptly recognize Israel’s sovereignty over Jerusalem.” Lewin and her father, Nathan Lewin, were the attorneys in a recent suit by a Jerusalem-born American citizen concerning his request to have his passport state “Israel” as his place of birth, instead of “Jerusalem,” which has been the State Department’s practice because the U.S. does not recognize any part of Jerusalem as being in Israel.

The Supreme Court turned down that request in 2015, on the grounds that the American president has the exclusive authority to recognize foreign sovereigns.


**Movie and Lunch Bunch**

**Gentleman’s Agreement**

Gentleman’s Agreement won three Academy Awards including Best Picture. One of the first films to directly tackle racial prejudice, this acclaimed adaptation of Laura Hobson’s bestseller stars Gregory Peck in an Oscar nominated role as a journalist assigned to write a series of articles on anti-Semitism. Searching for an angle, he decides to pose as a Jew and soon discovers what it is to be a victim of religious intolerance. A light lunch will be served.

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 16  
**Time:** 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room  
**Register online at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar’s: 330.746.3250 Ext. 195**

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**Purim Fun with PJ Library**

Date: Wednesday, March 1  
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Congregation Rodef Sholom  
1119 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505

**Phantoms Hockey After-School**

Learn the basics of roller hockey from the staff of the Phantoms hockey team! Don’t miss this fun and exciting program!  
**Date:** Feb. 21, 22, 23  
**Time:** 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC Gymnasium  
**Register online at jccyoungstown.org**

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**GLEE: After School Edition!**

Join LRS at the JCC for Glee: After-School Edition! Students will sing, dance and act to develop a mini performance with instructors. No experience necessary.  
**Date:** Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29  
**Time:** 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC  
**Register online at jccyoungstown.org**

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**Camp Registration Now Open!**

To learn more about Camp JCC 2017 or to register visit Jccyoungstown.org.

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**YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

For more on Youth Programming, contact — Emily Collins 330-746-3250 Ext. 152 or Ecollins@jewishyoungstown.org

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**PJ Library**

This Jewish engagement program is implemented on a local level throughout North America. Through the program, we mail free, high quality Jewish children’s literature and music to families every month.

**Tu B’Shevat Celebration**

**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 1  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Temple El Emeth  
3970 Logan Way  
Youngstown, OH 44505

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**PERFORMING ARTS**

**JCC School of Dance**

EriAnne Raib-Ptichkin is a well-trained and experienced local dance teacher collaborating with the JCC as the artistic director of the School of Dance. This new program teaches children the technique, artistry and discipline of dance in a cheerful and positive learning environment. Children develop a
variety of transferable listening and learning skills in a classroom setting, while being physically healthy and having fun! To learn more about our new dance program go to jccyoungstown.org.

**JCC School of Music**

Introducing the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown School of Music! This exciting program will feature piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more and to register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

**Liz Rubino Studios**

For more information on the studio offerings contact Liz Rubino at 330.509.0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com

**Private Sessions**

Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. All sessions are 55 minutes long with the exception of junior lessons which are 30 minutes long.

**Triple Threat**

An elite training and national performance troupe for ages 10-21. Studio students study voice, drama and dance both privately and in a group atmosphere over two semesters with opportunities for local as well as nationwide performances in NYC, Walt Disney World and more.

**Health and Wellness Program**

**Get Fit With the Phantoms**

Join us for a fun program where the Phantoms Hockey coaches will explain the training the players go through to stay in shape for the hockey season. This event is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be served.

**Date:** Friday, Feb. 24,  
**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room  
R.S.V.P. required to Shelia Cornell by Feb. 22

**Mindfulness Yoga**

A gentle yoga practice paired with mindfulness and meditation. This class is great for beginners or those who want to move in a slower, more meditative way. Classes will emphasize relaxation, exploring yoga postures with stretching and release.

**Date:** Wednesdays  
**Time:** 2:30-3:25 p.m.

**Stress Relief Meditation**

This class will focus on stress relief and reduction. Each week you will explore sitting meditation as well as other modalities of meditating so you will feel more comfortable practicing on your own.

**Date:** Wednesdays  
**Time:** 3:30 – 4:25 p.m.

**JCC Winter Pickleball Tournament**

Feb. 25 – Men’s & Women’s Doubles  
Feb. 26 – Mixed Doubles  
Register online at jccyoungstown.org

**Get Fit With the Phantoms**

Join us for a fun program where the Phantoms Hockey coaches will explain the training the players go through to stay in shape for the hockey season. This event is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be served.

**Date:** Saturday, Feb. 24,  
**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room  
R.S.V.P. required to Shelia Cornell by Feb. 22

**Mindfulness Yoga**

A gentle yoga practice paired with mindfulness and meditation. This class is great for beginners or those who want to move in a slower, more meditative way. Classes will emphasize relaxation, exploring yoga postures with stretching and release.

**Date:** Wednesdays  
**Time:** 2:30-3:25 p.m.

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**Date:** Wednesdays  
**Time:** 3:30 – 4:25 p.m.

**P.A.L.S. – Persons with Autism who Love to Swim**

The JCC offers free swim lessons especially geared towards persons on the autism spectrum. Our instructors have gone through special training and will be using advanced techniques to connect with and aid autistic children during lessons. Those wishing to enroll in the JCC P.A.L.S. program must apply to be on the waiting list by visiting our website at www.jccyoungstown.org and finding the PALS program under the aquatics tab.

**Water In Motion**

This lighter version of water aerobics will condition the cardiovascular system and muscles. The routines are designed to be low impact yet stimulating. No swimming ability required.

**Date:** Mondays/Wednesdays  
**Time:** 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Dive-In Movie: Finding Dory**

Friday, Feb. 24  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

(Continued on page 15)
Take me out to the ball game – in Israel (continued from p. 8)

B’Nefesh aliya agency charter flights. The groundbreaking ceremony featured a mix of Israeli and American culture. Like all baseball events, this one started with the singing of the national anthem—but this time it was “Hatikvah,” the Israeli national anthem, instead of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Many of the speakers addressed the audience in English, and those who spoke in Hebrew had a translator on hand. Children sported baseball caps and t-shirts featuring American teams as well as local Israeli teams.

Beit Shemesh Mayor Moshe Abutbol spoke about the importance of how baseball instills values of teamwork, sportsmanship and unity in youths. “Until now, this was a game I didn’t really understand,” he admitted, “but baseball teaches us that we need to work together. It’s a game for all ages, and it brings the whole family together.”

Peter Kurz, manager of Jewish National Fund’s Project Baseball initiative and president of the Israel Association of Baseball (IAB), also emphasized baseball’s ability to unite. The sport brings together old and new immigrants as well as secular and observant Israeli Jews. “I really want to thank JNF, who has supported us by collecting donations to build this field and other fields around Israel,” Kurz told the audience.

Project Baseball focuses on building state-of-the-art baseball and softball fields across Israel. The project also supports teaching baseball to Israeli youths through little leagues, summer camps and clinics. The Beit Shemesh baseball complex will encompass 5 acres of land and will include a full-size baseball field, in addition to two smaller fields for youth games, enabling 60-70 children to play at the same time. The complex will also feature dugouts, batting cages and a bike path. The complex is expected to be completed by this fall.

Eric Michaelson, JNF’s chief Israel officer, said Project Baseball helps the children of recent immigrants acclimate to life in Israel. “This initiative gives children who have made aliya a taste of home and an opportunity to get close to their Israeli peers,” he said. “Children and their families who make aliya will have the opportunity to sign up for JNF’s Project Baseball before they arrive.”

When shovels were raised for the groundbreaking, Mayor Abutbol shared a metaphor that fit JNF’s well-known reputation as a tree-planting organization. “Just as when you plant a tiny seed and a great tree grows from it, here we are planting this small ball,” he said while raising a baseball in his hand, “and a great field will grow.”

Ten current and former American-Jewish Major League Baseball players will represent Team Israel at the World Baseball Classic international tournament in Seoul, South Korea, in March.

The players, who were making a weeklong visit to Israel, are eligible to represent the Jewish state at the WBC because the competition allows players who are eligible for citizenship of any particular country to play on that country’s team. When Team Israel player Ty Kelly was introduced, the audience broke out in cheers of “Let’s Go Mets!”

Cody Decker of the Milwaukee Brewers organization joked with the crowd through his introduction as “the mensch on the bench,” saying, “That implies that I’m on the bench, and I’m not. We can’t wait to play this March and make you proud!”

“I just want everyone to know, it’s such an honor to be here,” added Josh Zeid, formerly of the Houston Astros.

According to the IAB’s Peter Kurz, the dream of building a baseball field in Beit Shemesh began 11 years ago, but only gained traction in the last year and a half amid the efforts of JNF to raise funds for the field and awareness for the sport in Israel. Kurz described Beit Shemesh as the perfect place to build a baseball field because it is home to many American immigrants who love the sport.

Haim Katz, Kurz’s predecessor as president of the IAB, can’t wait for the new field to be built.

“The first time we played a baseball game in Israel was at Amphi Field in Modi’in,” he said. “The field was on a 40-degree slant, so one time my son hit the ball straight over the center fielder’s head and it rolled down past the foul line.”

Jewish Oscar nominations

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — “La La Land” received a record-tying 14 Academy Award nominations, including for its music written by a Jewish composer, and Jewish actors including Natalie Portman and Andrew Garfield also were nominated.

The Oscar nominations were announced Tuesday morning. “La La Land,” which is up for best picture, director, actor and actress, ties the mark set by “Titanic” and “All About Eve,” thanks mainly to two former Harvard roommates, Justin Hurwitz, 31, and Damien Chazelle, 32.

Jewish composer Justin Hurwitz wrote the songs for the musical film, including “City of Stars,” which was nominated for the Oscar for best original song. Benj Pasek, who is Jewish, and Justin Paul wrote the lyrics.

Director Damien Chazelle, who was a roommate with Hurwitz at Harvard, told the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles Tuesday that the film’s music was “an act of love” and a thank-you to the late composer Marvin Hamlisch.

“La La Land” received a record-tying 14 Academy Award nominations, including for best picture, director, actor and actress. The film is up for best picture, best director, best actor and actress, as well as best original song, best original score and best screenplay.

The film’s music was an act of love, a thank-you to the late composer Marvin Hamlisch. Hurwitz’s music, which includes “City of Stars,” was nominated for best original song.

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(Continued on p. 24)
JCC (continued from page 13)

SHLICHIM

For more on Shlichim programming, or to make reservations for any of the programs, contact Gon Erez: 330-746-3250 ext. 159 or gerez@jewishyoungstown.org

Concept Night: A Taste of Yemen
You are invited to enter the world of the Jewish-Yemen tradition. Learn about the fascinating history of Yemenite Jews including their immigration to Israel and the difficulties of assimilation. A traditional Yemenite dinner will be served.
Date: Wednesday, Feb. 22
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
$10/Member $15/Non Member
Space is limited for this event.
R.S.V.P. online at jccyoungstown.org or to Gon Erez at 330.746.3250 Ext. 159 by Feb. 15.

Rentals
The JCC is now booking Graduation Parties in our beautiful Multi-Purpose Room. We can accommodate up to 250 people. Dates are filling up fast! Contact Kelli McCormick to book your party today. 330-746-3250 ext. 284.

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First synagogue to open in Palermo in more than 500 years

PALERMO, Italy, Jan. 9 – More than 500 years after the Jews were expelled from Sicily, the nascent Jewish community of Palermo will celebrate its rebirth this week with the formal transfer of ownership of a facility owned by the church and monastery of St. Nicolò Tolentino, which sits atop the ruins of the Great Synagogue of Palermo.

The transfer results from a request by the Jerusalem-based nonprofit Shavei Israel and the Istituto Siciliano di Studi Ebraici (ISSE, or Sicilian Institute of Jewish Studies).

The handover, which marked the anniversary of the Jan. 12, 1493, expulsion of the island’s Jews, ushered in the opening of the first local synagogue in Palermo, Sicily’s capital, since the 15th century. The move comes as growing numbers of people throughout Sicily are rediscovering their Jewish roots.

In a VIP ceremony that was expected to draw hundreds of dignitaries and local residents, the archbishop of Palermo, Corrado Lorefice, officially delivered part of the complex to the local Jewish community, which numbers some 60-70 people, represented by the ISSE, which is affiliated with Shavei Israel.

“It is with great joy that we have responded to this request to have a place of study and worship for the Palermo Jewish community,” said Lorefice. “The new synagogue’s location atop the ancient ruins of Palermo’s Great Synagogue makes this historic moment all the more exciting. This transfer is the product of a genuine friendship and ongoing dialogue between the church and Palermo’s Jewish community.”

The church’s historic decision to help revive the Palermo Jewish community comes after more than five years of tireless lobbying by Shavei Israel’s founder and chairman, Michael Freund. Freund’s ultimate vision – to revitalize Palermo’s once-vibrant Jewish community for the first time since 1493 – is now finally being realized.

“Ever since I learned about Sicily’s history, my goal has been to lay
A taste of Yemen in flavorful hot cocoa

By Shannon Sarna and Aly Miller*

(The Nosher via JTA) — Brrrr, it’s cold outside. But we know exactly what you need to warm up: some spicy, hawaij hot cocoa.

Hawaij is an important, if not nearly sacred, Yemenite spice blend. It’s one of the most important ingredients in Yemenite cooking, with both savory blends using coriander, turmeric, pepper, and cumin for soups, or ginger, cardamom and cinnamon for coffee.

You can make your own blends or buy hawaij in specialty spice stores or online.

This hot cocoa was so delicious with cinnamon whipped cream, and it had the perfect amount of spice to warm up on even the coldest days.

Hawaij Hot Cocoa with Cinnamon Whipped Cream

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

For the hot cocoa
- 2 cups milk
- 1 ounce dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips or chunks (can also use leftover Hanukkah gelt)
- 1 scant tablespoon cocoa powder
- 1-2 teaspoons hawaij spice blend (see below)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- pinch of salt
- cinnamon sticks for garnish (optional)

For the hawaij spice blend
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/2 tablespoon ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- pinch nutmeg

For the whipped cream:
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Directions:

To make the hawaij mix, combine all ingredients in a small bowl. It can be stored in an airtight container.

To make cinnamon whipped cream, combine all ingredients in a stand mixer fitted with whisk attachment. You can also place ingredients in large bowl and use a hand mixer. Place mixer on low setting for 1 minute, then increase to high for 2-3 minutes until whipped cream begins to form stiff peaks.

To make hot cocoa, place milk, sugar and chocolate chips/pieces in a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Whisk until chocolate begins to melt. Add cocoa powder, 1-2 teaspoons hawaij spice mix and pinch of salt. Continue to whisk until all chocolate is melted, spices are incorporated and milk just begins to simmer.

Remove from heat. Add hot cocoa to mugs. Top with whipped cream and garnish with cinnamon sticks if desired.

*Shannon Sarna is the editor and Aly Miller the editorial assistant of The Nosher, a food blog that offers a wide array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.thenosher.com.

Editor’s note: With no chocolate in the house, I made this with only cocoa powder. It was still delicious. I’d suggest cutting back on the whipping cream. Whipping two cups yields nearly a cup of cream per cup of cocoa.

Palermo synagogue established (cont’d from p. 15)

The groundwork for the establishment of the first Jewish community in Palermo in more than five centuries,” said Freund. “That is what makes this week’s ceremony so important: we will be establishing together with the ISSE the first synagogue and Jewish house of study in Palermo since the expulsion. I am very moved that it will be located adjacent to where the Great Synagogue of Palermo once stood and I am grateful to the Archbishop of Palermo for having the vision and courage to make such a grand gesture of reconciliation towards the Jewish people.”

Freund added, “It is a miracle that after more than 500 years there are still people in Sicily who proudly cling to their Jewish roots, and it is testimony to the fact that neither the expulsion nor the Inquisition was able to extinguish the eternal Jewish spark in their hearts. With G-d’s help, the sounds of Sabbath hymns and Jewish prayers will once again be heard in the streets of Palermo.”

The synagogue, which will include a study center and a Jewish heritage center, will be operated primarily by Shavei Israel, which strengthens ties between the Jewish people, the State of Israel and the descendants of Jews around the world. It will be overseen by Shavei’s emissary to Sicily, Rabbi Pinhas Punturello, who serves as the rabbi to the local Jewish community. Punturello also serves as a board member of the ISSE.

Shavei Israel has been working closely with a growing number of Sicilians descended from Iberians whose forefathers were forced to convert to Catholicism in the 14th and 15th centuries yet secretly preserved Jewish traditions and are now rediscovering their Jewish roots. There are believed to be thousands of such crypto-Jews, called “Bnei Anousim” or “the forced ones,” across Sicily.

The history of Jews in Sicily dates back more than two millennia, to the Second Temple period. According to some scholars, the first Jews in Sicily were slaves brought to the island by the Roman legion after the capture of Jerusalem. Despite enduring various periods of legal restrictions and persecutions over the ensuing centuries, the Jews of Sicily flourished and produced many great scholars and rabbis.

In the late 14th century, Sicily’s Jews were confined to ghettos and faced increasingly harsh decrees as well as massacres and forced conversions to Catholicism. These measures culminated in 1492 with the Edict of Expulsion, which ordered the remaining Jews to leave. At the time, Sicily was under the control of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. There were at least 52 Jewish communities spread out across Sicily, numbering more than 37,000 people. After a series of delays, the deadline for their expulsion was set at January 12, 1493. But large numbers of forcibly converted Jews were compelled to remain behind, where they suffered under the heavy hand of the Inquisition.

About Shavei Israel

Shavei Israel is a non-profit organization founded by Michael Freund, who immigrated to Israel from the United States with the aim of strengthening the ties between the Jewish people, the State of Israel and the descendants of Jews around the world. The organization is currently active in more than a dozen countries and provides assistance to a variety of communities such as the Bnei Menashe of India, the Bnei Anousim in Spain, Portugal and South America, the Subbotnik Jews of Russia, the Jewish community of Kaifeng in China, descendants of Jews living in Poland, and others. For more information visit: www.shavei.org
On behalf of the
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign,

THANK YOU

to everyone who participated and donated to the 2016 Combined Jewish Appeal/ Annual Campaign of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

We rely on the community to make a positive difference to Jews in need in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys, around the world, and in Israel.

Our donors continue to make us the best Jewish community in North America!

We look forward to another successful year of enriching events and programs.

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Sisterhood leaders meet in Hudson

Women of Reform Judaism gather for sisterhood and education. (From left) Rodef Sisterhood Membership Chair Milana Dimenstein; Pamela Feldman-Hill, member of the Women of Reform Judaism national board; Laurel Chevlen, Rodef Donor chair; Robin Rosen-Sharp, DMV, president of Beth Shalom sisterhood; Sally Blau, Rodef Sholom Sisterhood president; and Lisa D. Singer, WRJ treasurer.

By Laurel Chevlen

Sally Blau, president of Congregation Rodef Sholom Temple's Sisterhood, Milana Dimenstein, the Sisterhood's membership chair, and Laurel Chevlen, Donor event chair, attended a Women of Reform Judaism Central District Area Event at Temple Beth Shalom in Hudson, OH, last month.

Pamela Feldman-Hill, a member of WRJ Board of Directors, and the YES Fund Coordinator for the Central District and Lisa D. Singer, WRJ Treasurer, spoke to the group about the YES Fund and the Chai Mitzvah Program.

The YES Fund, which is the acronym of the Youth, Education, and Special Projects Fund was begun in 1913 when WRJ was itself first created. The elements in this fund were important and to Reform Jewish women, and they made great efforts to support them financially.

Temple Beth Shalom and Congregation Rodef Sholom each had charter Sisterhoods in WRJ that same year.

Ms. Feldman-Hill said, “What we care about today, we fund today.” And indeed, the 2016 - 2017 grants totaled in excess of $300,000.

Definitely, WRJ through the YES Fund has helped to ensure the future of the Reform movement.

A short film demonstrated that the YES Fund is more than a charity. In partnership with URJ it provides funds for the PJ library, it provides scholarships for girls to attend a Sci-Tech Academy camp, and it helps to support NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth), with programs designed for both high school and middle school aged children.

In addition, it provides monies for scholarships to rabbinic and cantorial students both here and abroad.

Special projects include a Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah program, funds to provide annual support for lobbying activities in Washington, DC on issues important to women, and that advocate Jewish values and social justice, and funds to support global efforts for the World Union for Progressive Judaism and its many programs around the world. Furthermore, funds are available through the Fund to provide program support for local sisterhoods and to cultivate women's leadership.

(Continued on next page)

Enjoy the benefits of Judaism

By Arthur Greenbaum, M.D.
President, Rodef Sholom

Welcome to winter. It was eight degrees last night, fairly bracing but invigorating if you were adequately dressed. Which brings me to what I want to discuss.

Existence, with all of its wonder and beauty, presents an ever-present challenge, at times daunting, and even frightening. How we respond to this daily challenge conditions the quality of our life.

In 1981, as a medical student in a pediatric clerkship at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in south Bronx, I was standing in a hallway outside the main operating room in the early morning, copying my lab results from the prior evening when shots rang out in the adjacent operating room.

A street gang had invaded to polish off a victim who was being repaired, whom they had shot the previous evening.

Quickly, I climbed into a closet to avoid also being shot as a witness as the gang escaped into the hallway. The maneuver worked. You may attribute my response to quick thinking. For myself, I thank God.

My attachment to Judaism is not simply a matter of birth. My attending services is not simply a matter of obligation as an officer. Judaism for me has provided a source of preparation for dealing with lives with many vicissitudes, as well as enjoyment.

For example, had you attended the last Shabbat service, you would have enjoyed a brilliant discussion by Nancy Burnett on the matter of Joseph, 20 years after being sold into slavery to passing nomadic traders by his jealous brothers, and subsequently arising to power and wealth as a “prime minister” to the pharaoh in Egypt. In an act of compassion, Joseph forgave his brothers, offering them shelter and comfort at a time of famine and hardship in ancient Israel.

Don’t allow yourself to miss out on the many benefits of being Jewish. Please attend services, and let’s talk about the nature of our beliefs. After all, you may have a different point of view.

L’Chaim.
Feldman-Hill discussed the power of WRJ on its initiative in creating the Chai Mitzvah program, which is part adult education and part adult initiative. It challenges individuals to deepen their engagement in Jewish tradition and knowledge within a framework of nine group meetings where each subscribing congregation would be studying the same topic at the same time.

The program helps to create an experiential approach to Jewish life through readings with educational components, spiritual readings with Torah and Biblical citations and commentary, discussion questions and topics, and activities.

WRJ attempts to make real the vision of a better world by engaging women through a global network of its hundreds of sisterhoods. Truly, Women of Reform Judaism lives up to its slogan “stronger together” by all it has already accomplished and its efforts to positively effect change in the present and future.

Save the Date: Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood Annual Donor Brunch and Fashion Show featuring Fashions from Suzanne’s
Sunday, April 23 from 10:30 a.m – 12:30 p.m.
Congregation Rodef Sholom – Strouss Hall
Charge of $18 for Sisterhood Members and $25 for Guests.
Sisterhood raffle and auction
Please make your reservation by Tuesday, April 18, by calling the temple office at 330.744.5001. Payment may be made at the door.

Jewish Family Services is a non profit social service agency which is now in its second century of service to the community.
• An agency of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.
• JFS programs are provided to strengthen the individual and family.
• Our offices are both easily and handicapped accessible.

• Individual, marital, and family counseling
  • Anxiety & Depression
  • Loss & Grief
  • Family Members with Special Needs
• Protective services, including case management and guardianship services for people with limited decision making capacity
• Provide support and counseling as families make decisions about special problems that can accompany the later years
• Exploring long term care options
• Information and referral services
• Emergency financial assistance

517 Gypsy Lane
Youngstown, OH 44504
(330) 746-7929
jfs@jfsyoungstown.org
‘Jewish Americana’ music gets its moment in the spotlight

By Gabe Friedman

NEW YORK (JTA) — Saul Kaye never wanted to be a “Jewish blues” player. In his opinion, the Jewish music he had heard growing up in Northern California’s Bay Area ranged from “really bad to horrible.”

In 2009, he was touring as a rock musician, playing hundreds of shows a year with various bands at bars and clubs. And though he had never been very religious, he experienced a bad breakup and felt the need to do something spiritually “radical.”

So Kaye decided to take a Talmud course at the Mayanot Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel. One morning, a fellow student approached him and left him with an intriguing prophecy.

“He says, ‘Saul, there’s a reason you’re at a yeshiva and you know who Muddy Waters is — you have to figure it out,’” Kaye said. “I let that marinate for a while and I thought: Why is there no Jewish blues music? It doesn’t make sense. Our people have suffered forever, and blues is about suffering, blues comes out of the slavery experience. How come no one has put this together yet?”

Eight years later, Kaye is now seen by many as the “king” of Jewish blues, having released four albums in the genre that range from twangy fingerpicking to more uptempo electric rock in the vein of B.B. King. He plays over 100 shows a year at synagogues, Jewish conferences and festivals across the country — that’s down from the more than 200 shows he was playing a few years ago, but that’s because Kaye is now a father of two.

Kaye is part of a growing trend of Jewish musicians who combine Jewish spiritual or religious lyrics with Americana music — an umbrella term that encompasses genres such as blues, bluegrass, folk and country, as well as a distinctly homegrown, old-fashioned American sensibility.

But in addition to Kaye, artists such as Nefesh Mountain, a husband-and-wife bluegrass duo from New Jersey, and Joe Buchanan, a convert to Judaism from Houston who plays James Taylor-esque country, are gaining in popularity on the national Jewish music circuit.

But in addition to Kaye, artists such as Nefesh Mountain, a husband-and-wife bluegrass duo from New Jersey, and Joe Buchanan, a convert to Judaism from Houston who plays James Taylor-esque country, are gaining in popularity on the national Jewish music circuit.

Joey Weisenberg, a Brooklyn-based prayer leader and music teacher, has garnered praise for his modern bluesy, indie rock-inspired takes on “niggunim,” or traditional Jewish melodies.

These musicians are building upon the foundation laid by other artists such as Andy Statman (an Orthodox, Grammy-winning multi-instrumentalist who plays bluegrass with his eponymous trio), Jeremiah Lockwood (leader of the band The Sway Machinery who is also known for his virtuosic blues guitar playing) and Klezmatics co-founder Margot Leverett (whose group, Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, combines klezmer and bluegrass.)

Of course, American Jews have long incorporated spiritual music with the popular: In the 1960s and ’70s, for example, Jewish music icons Shlomo Carlebach and Debbie Friedman turned prayers and Jewish melodies into folk songs that are still sung today.

But the signs are indicating that Americana could be having its biggest moment in the Jewish community right now. The trend follows a train of greater experimentation throughout the Jewish music world.

“For a long time, it felt like the only artists that we were representing or were out there in congregations were a guy or girl with an acoustic guitar, singing acoustic music, singing Debbie Friedman kind of music,” said Mark Pelavin, the chief programming officer for the Union for Reform Judaism, which invites groups at the top of the Jewish music scene to play for the 5,000 attendees at its biennial.

“I think now there’s an interest in a greater diversity of musical styles across the board,” he said. “Some of it’s funkier — more drums, bass and loops — and some of it’s twangier. There’s a lot of experimentation going on right now.”

Over the past decade, Americana has seen a comeback in the broader pop music world. The British band Mumford & Sons, which plays a combination of bluegrass, folk and indie rock, has sold millions of albums worldwide since 2009. In 2010, the Grammys instituted a Best Americana Album award. And last May, Billboard began devoting an album chart to Americana and folk records.

Many of Joe Buchanan’s songs are inspired by his conversion to Judaism. (Zach Dalin/Jewish Rock Radio)

“Jews have always taken popular music and brought it into shul because that brings people into shul,” said Kaye, who has also begun leading Shabbat services on his tours. “There’s been a resurgence in coming back to more organic music because it just resonates — wood and strings in a room is a physical feeling that you aren’t going to get from techno, dubstep, house, trance or whatever other million genres.”

In the end, American Jewish music and Americana music might actually be two sides of the same coin. While Jewish musicians brought their European influences with them when they immigrated to the U.S., they’ve been forging their own American musical style for nearly half a century, according to Mark Kligman, an ethnomusicologist at UCLA.

“In the ’50s and ’60s, most of American Judaism was leaning towards trying to find its Americanness,” he said. “[Jews] took European elements — cantorial klezmer and other things — and started adapting those. By the time you have an American-born generation in the 1970s, around [the time of] Debbie Friedman … they wanted to have an American-born tradition.”

Still, for many, the juxtaposition is a bit unusual. According to Nefesh Moun-
tain's Eric Lindberg and Doni Zasloff, even after two years of using the term “Jewish bluegrass,” some people still laugh at it at first.

“But what we're doing is not goofy at all, it's very soulful and very honest,” Ms. Zasloff said.

The group has found serious success, touring the country constantly. Nefesh Mountain is in the midst of recording its second album with some of the world's most respected bluegrass artists, such as mandolin player Sam Bush, guitarists David Grier and Tony Trishka.

Joe Buchanan, a 40-year-old former human resources manager who grew up Christian in Houston, often recounts to his concert audiences how converting to Judaism resolved his self-esteem issues. Like Kaye, who produced Buchanan's debut album a couple of years ago, he thinks that the country music he was raised on, along with other Americana genres, go well with Jewish culture.

“Americana is strong in storytelling, which is something that we've always been really good at as a people,” he said.

Federation award to Sister Jerome's Mission

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation awarded Sister Jerome's Mission College program, a program of the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, a $7,500 grant during a check presentation ceremony this morning.

The grant will help first-generation college students served by Sister Jerome's Mission College program to make steady progress toward earning their degrees and will enable the program to admit another student for spring semester.

“The Thomases Family Endowment is honored to have the opportunity to make the lives of these hard-working students easier. We look forward to their successful futures as we further our mission of making the world a better place,” says Deborah L. Grinstein, endowment director.

Sister Jerome's Mission College program helps students from low-income families to succeed in college by providing them with quality mentors who help them navigate the higher education system, and by providing financial assistance for college-related living expenses and emergencies - primarily food, clothing and transportation.

“Helping students with these basic necessities is crucial because they are the things they need to get to class, focus on their studies, earn good grades and graduate well-prepared for jobs that will enable them to support themselves,” says Maraline Kubik, director of Sister Jerome’s Mission. “This grant will go a long way in helping these students who have so much potential but lack the financial support and guidance students from middle-class families usually take for granted.”

Sister Jerome's Mission is funded entirely by donations and is always in need of educators and retired educators willing to serve as volunteer mentors. For information, call 330-259-8765.
Bess Claire Langerman

Bess Claire Langerman, 97, died January 12, 2017 at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

She was born December 15, 1919, in Farrell, PA, a daughter of the late Leon and Ella Primack Gelfand. She graduated from Indiana Teachers College, Indiana, PA and taught fourth grade for six years. She married High Langerman in January 1948 and they were married for 46 years when he passed away.

Bess was a homemaker, member of Beth Israel Temple Center, Warren, OH, Beth Israel Sisterhood, and Hadassah. Bess was known for her creative cooking and baking skills. She made the challahs for her granddaughters’ weddings imprinted with their names. She was an expert seamstress as well. “Grandma Bashe” enjoyed playing games such as bingo and doing sudoku puzzles.

In 1998 she went to Israel with her family for her granddaughter’s bat mitzvah. That was a time she most treasured.

Bess is survived by her children, Gary Langerman of Cleveland, Rita Gay Langerman of Marietta, Ga., Jill Langerman of Las Vegas, and Libby Rosenstein of Chicago: three grand-children and two great-grand-children. She was preceded in death by her husband High Langerman, three brothers and one sister.

The family requested donations to be made for macular degeneration.

Challenges from the March (cont’d from p. 2)

synagogues willing to offer sanctuary to undocumented immigrants.

“We know one of the most productive things we can do is advocacy around the D.C. budget,” said Rabbi Elizabeth Richman, deputy director of Jews United for Justice. “It centers on the people who are going to be most vulnerable under the Trump administration — low-income employees and people of color.”

Jewish organizations have seen gains since Trump’s election. Jewish Women’s International’s online donations have doubled, and an April conference hosted by the Religious Action Center, which drew a crowd of 400 last year, is on track to register at least 700 this year. But in a political environment where major policies are announced via Twitter, it’s unclear whether the Women’s March or its Jewish contingent will be able to claim people’s attention and energy in the weeks and months to come.

“There’s something about the public quality of the social media we use to coordinate protests that does a really good job getting people out into the street and feeling united on a mass level,” said Gal Beckerman, author of "When They Come for Us, We’ll Be Gone," a book on the movement to free Soviet Jewry. “But [it] does a poor job helping people figure out the kind of organizing, building unified ideologies, sets of demands -- all these things that movements need to move to the next level in terms of effectiveness.”

Beckerman said that staying focused might be especially tough for the Jewish community, which was divided over Trump. While most Jews voted for the Democrat Hillary Clinton, a few Jewish organizations, representing a vocal but now ascendant minority of American Jewry, have thrown their support behind the newly inaugurated president.

“There’s a lot of division right now in the American Jewish world over Trump,” he said. “What was different in the Soviet Jewry movement, what made that movement so effective, is that it did bring together all the different sides of the Jewish community -- particularly the side that thinks in terms of universal rights and the side that’s more particularist.”

For Nancy Kaufman, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women, which fought for voting rights in the 1910s and civil rights in the 1960s, the march was one more protest in a long line of activism. To make it effective, she said, the participants must understand that no one demonstration will create change — no matter how many people it mobilized.

“The most important thing is to understand that despair is not a strategy, and we can’t stop,” Ms. Kaufman said. “The most important thing is we coordinate, collaborate, not spin our wheels and figure out where we can have some wins because it’s going to be a tough road.”

Thelma Hoffman Wolf

Thelma Hoffman Wolf, who was born on November 30, 1925 in Youngstown, Ohio, passed away January 8, 2017 in West Palm Beach, Florida at the age of 91 years. She was the daughter of Morris and Rebecca Hoffman.

Thelma was a business woman working in the family business United Salvage in Youngstown. She was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and she went on to her second career as a high school English and social studies teacher at the Trumbull County Joint Vocational School.

Active in both the Jewish community and the Youngstown community, Thelma was the president of the Hadassah Chapter, B’nai B’rith Women and the American Business Women’s Association. Thelma was a member of Temple Emanuel, Youngstown, Ohev Tzedek, Boardman and Beth Israel Temple Center, Warren, where she served as a head of the Hevra Kadisha with her husband Melvin.

Thelma lived on her family farm for many years. Each year she entertained the community at barbecue events at the farm, where she loved to give parties.

As an adventurer, she traveled to the Philippines, West Africa, Hawaii and the Panama Canal. Her favorite foods were Japanese, Chinese and Italian.

Thelma was predeceased by her parents, sister Minnie, husband Melvin and grandson Adam. She is survived by her children Elliott Wolf, Kenneth Wolf and Sherry Abril, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.
Barbara Klivans Brooks

Barbara Klivans Brooks of Dousman, WI, formerly of Cleveland, OH died peacefully Wed., Jan. 4, 2017 at age 78. She was born June 15, 1938 the daughter of Milton and Beatrice (née Erlich) Klivans.

She grew up in Youngstown and graduated from the Rayen School. Her family were members of Rodef Shalom temple. She went to the University of Michigan. She was active in Jewish youth groups and NFTY (the organized youth movement of Reform Judaism in North America.) Barbara was a social worker at University Hospital in Cleveland for more than 30 years. For the past few years, she lived at Three Pillars Senior Living Community Riverside Lodge Memory Care Unit, 400 N. Main St. Dousman, WI 53118 or to Seasons Hospice Foundation, 6400 Shafer Ct. Suite 700 Rosemont, IL 60018.

Maryn Schwebel Been

Maryn Schwebel Been, age 37, passed away on December 27, 2016. Preceded in death by her grandparents, Dorothy (Ungar) and Irving Schwebel and Ita and Abraham Lichtenstein. She is survived by her husband, Paul Been; sons, Ryan and Izaak; parents, Paul and Dorothy Schwebel; sister, Jana (Joe) Leenheer; brother, Adam Schwebel; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ken and Claudia Been; sister-in-law, Laura Been (Andrew Golaszewski); nieces, Ilyana and Juliet Leenheer; nephew, Owen Golaszewski. Devoted mother, wife, daughter, sister and aunt.

Maryn graduated from Liberty High School in 1998 and Syracuse University with a dual degree in Accounting and Information Technology.

She went to work for IBM and later the family business. Her greatest joys in life were being a mother, her family and gardening.

Funeral services were held in Columbus and Youngstown. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Kobacker House, 800 McConnell Dr., Columbus, OH 43214

Palm Beach, FLA. – Nathan H. Monus, passed away peacefully at home, with his family around him on Dec. 19, 2016.

He was born in Youngstown, on Oct. 14, 1921, to Sarah and Frank Monus, the youngest of three brothers.

He attended The Rayen School, Virginia Military Academy and The Ohio State University. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in World War II, stationed in Europe and fought in the Battle of Normandy. He returned from the war and soon after married Frances Tamarkin on June 16, 1946. They were married 54 years until Frances passed away in 2001. They lived their life in Youngstown, and in later years in Palm Beach.

He was vice president of finance and administration at the Tamarkin Co. in Youngstown, until he retired.

His volunteer work and dedication to the Mahoning Valley garnered him many awards and rewarding times in his life.

Some of his achievements and awards included Youngstown State University Alumni Association 1991 Distinguished Citizen Award, in recognition of his outstanding business and community leadership, presented on June 20, 1991; second chairman of the board of directors, and one of the founders of the Morse Geriatric Center in Palm Beach; honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, conferred on June 22, 1991, by the board of trustees and president of Youngstown State University.

He was the first president of Leadership Youngstown. He was honored as the Mahoning Valley Man of the Year Award in recognition of and in grateful appreciation for the many extraordinary contributions he has made through his outstanding dedication and leadership toward the civic and economic well-being of the Mahoning Valley, presented by the Board of Trustees of the Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation on October 21, 1988; past member of the board of trustees of Hebrew Union College; former board member and president of Squaw Creek Country Club; former board member of Palm Beach Country Club; National Board of United Jewish Federations; past president of Rodef Shalom Temple; and past president of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

Nathan is survived by his children, Michael Monus and his wife, Mary; and Susan Monus and her husband, Fred Kalmar; his grandchildren, Jason Monus and his wife, Jill, and Brett Monus; and his two great-grandchildren, Jackson and Juliette, who loved him very much.

“The family wishes to acknowledge Shirley Landwirth and Susan Wright, who have been integral members of our family unit in recent years.”

The family requests that donations be made to the Monus Fellows for Entrepreneurship Studies and Programs at the Youngstown State University and sent to the YSU Foundation, 655 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502.
For Jesse McClain, Holocaust education is an obligation and a ‘calling’

Oscar nominations (from p. 14)

Angeles last year that his parents, although Catholic, were dissatisfied with their son’s education at a church Sunday school and enrolled him in the Hebrew school of a liberal synagogue.

Over the next four years, Chazelle recalled, “I had that period of my life where I was very, very into Hebrew and the Old Testament, and then I went with my class to Israel when we were in the sixth grade. I don’t think they even knew I wasn’t Jewish; I was, like, ‘passing.’”

“La La Land” won seven Golden Globes, including best original song for “City of Stars, earlier this month. Two noted thespians were nominated in the best actress race, Jerusalem native Natalie Portman for her portrayal of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in the film “Jackie,” and veteran French star Isabelle Huppert in the French film “Elle.”

Huppert, who plays the role of a successful businesswoman who plots an elaborate revenge on the home intruder who raped her, is the daughter of a Jewish father and a Catholic mother. Her parents were married while France was under Nazi occupation, with her father hiding his Jewish roots.

In the best actor category, a nomination went to American-British actor Andrew Garfield, whose paternal grandparents were Jewish emigrants from Eastern Europe to London. He stars in “Hacksaw Ridge,” the story of the only conscientious objector ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Somewhat ironically, the movie also won a best director nomination for Mel Gibson, still living down his anti-Semitic outbursts of past years. However, actor and director got along well, with Garfield declaring in a TV interview, “I am proud to be Jewish.”

Also in the running for best director is Kenneth Lonergan for the critically acclaimed “Manchester By The Sea.” Lonergan’s mother and stepfather are Jewish.

The Danish movie “Land of Mine” won a best foreign-language film nomination. Set at the end of World War II in Europe, “Land of Mine” focuses on a group of teenage German prisoners of war who are assigned by the Danish military to clear the country’s beaches of land mines, frequently at the loss of their lives.

“Joe’s Violin” by Kahane Cooperman and Raphaela Neihausen made the cut in the short documentary category. It explores the friendship between a 91-year-old Holocaust survivor and a 12-year-old Bronx schoolgirl and how the power of music can brighten the darkest of times.

The first spinoff from the Harry Potter film series, “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” which features two Jewish characters, received nominations in costume design and production design.

The Israeli film “Sand Storm” failed to make the cut last month to the nine semifinalists out of 85 in the best foreign language film category.

The Academy Awards ceremony will take place Feb. 26 at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles.