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THE

Hebrew

Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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# DeSoto County's Remarkable Holocaust Exhibit: the "Pennies Project"



Credit: "No Child's Play: Children in the Holocaust—Creativity and Play," exhibit created and developed by Yad Vashem and on loan from the American Society of Yad Vashem through April 2023 at the DeSoto County Museum.

By Shoshana Cencer

You might be surprised to learn that there's an incredible Holocaust memorial exhibit in DeSoto County. Yes, Mississippi. You might be even more surprised to know that the exhibition was created by a group of non-Jewish middle school and homeschool students. On a quaint street in Hernando, you'll find

the exhibit in the DeSoto County Museum, just 30 minutes from Memphis. The museum provides education about the history of DeSoto County with photos, documents, and artifacts from the time of Hernando DeSoto's exploration in 1541 to modern days. And, it's currently home to not one but two Holo-

caust exhibits: the "Unknown Child Holocaust Exhibit" and "No Child's Play: Children in the Holocaust – Creativity and Play."

"No Child's Play" is a traveling exhibit created and developed by Yad Vashem and on loan from the American Society of Yad Vashem (ASYV) through April 2023. It focuses on toys, games, art, diaries, and poems, highlighting personal stories of Jewish children with a glimpse into their lives before, during, and after the Holocaust. "This exhibit reinforces the importance of never letting anyone forget the 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered during the Holocaust and those victims who survived and prevailed. For humanity's sake, we can never forget," said Robert Long, DeSoto County Museum's director. "It's just as important to our time now as it was during the time when this terrible episode occurred – it's not just the past, there's evil in the world today."

The exhibit also touches on extermination camps, partisans, liberation, and survival. Through the lessons from the exhibit, we can explore a connection to early Jewish settlers in DeSoto County – the Goodman Family, who rescued 1,200 Jewish families. "The art of survival is beauty in the face of pain. And we're honored to have these fine pieces of art. People are really appreciating this exhibit, and we even have survivors come speak here," added Robert. "And,

we get to tell these children's stories – we're truth tellers. We're now well-versed in this history to pay respect to their stories. We must learn from history, if we don't, we're doomed to repeat it."

The "Unknown Child Holocaust Exhibit" began with a single penny. As teachers Susan Powell and Melissa Swartz taught their students at Horn Lake Middle School about the Holocaust, the students expressed the need to make the huge 1.5 million number tangible. They didn't have a strong concept of the Holocaust, much less a perception from a child's perspective. So, along with Gen SC homeschool students, they decided to collect 1.5 million pennies, each representing a precious child's life lost in the terror. Three and a half years later, the students' penny collection was complete, weighing 8,000 pounds.

But what should the students do with all the pennies? They didn't want to donate them because they felt that "each penny represented a life; it could have been me," a student noted. Taking even more ownership of this massive undertaking, they formed the Unknown Child Foundation (UCF) to build an incredible exhibit. "The children's worth was taken away, and through this project and exhibit, these students are giving a voice to those who were silenced," noted Robert. "The kids' voices who were never heard, their stories need to be told."

(See **Exhibit** Page 4)

# Hillels of Memphis Annual Yiddishe Cup Fundraiser Returns April 23



Happy participants of 2022 Yiddishe Cup

It's finally time to polish up on your putt-putt skills for Hillels of Memphis 15th Annual Yiddishe Cup Mini - Golf Tournament! A fixture on the Memphis Jewish calendar for over a decade, the fun, community-wide event for Mem-

phians of all ages returns in-person on Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m. at Golf & Games. The mini-golf format of the tournament makes this event accessible to people of all ages and all levels of golf

experience – which emulates the role Hillel plays on campus as an inclusive and inviting community.

"Hillel at Rhodes has allowed me to feel and learn about my Jewish identity and has enabled it to flourish," said Rhodes College Hillel Student President Samuel Cross. "Through Rhodes Hillel, I have been given numerous opportunities to experiment with my role in my community, my culture, and my religion allowing me to grow as a young Jewish adult."

University of Memphis Hillel Student President Aaron Bardos adds, "Supporting and being in Hillel is amazing! Every event is fun, the food is great, and most importantly the people and conversations are amazing. I found that the Yiddishe Cup last year was an amazing way to bring people together around our common love of Hillel."

At Yiddishe Cup, both mini-golf devotees and amateurs will have their turn on the green while competing for the

highly coveted first-place finish. Anyone can form a team of four for \$36 and sponsorship opportunities begin at \$118. Teams will have the opportunity to win special prizes for a hole-in-one and other categories.

"Year after year, Yiddishe Cup has served as the primary fundraiser for Hillels of Memphis, a program of Memphis Jewish Federation," said Hillels of Memphis Director Sophie Bloch. "Funds raised from Yiddishe Cup directly support vital and impactful programming like Shabbat and holiday celebrations, Israel programming and interfaith events at University of Memphis and Rhodes College. Without this critical funding, many of Hillel's programs could no longer happen. Last year we raised \$18,000, which is the largest amount to date, and I'm confident that we can meet – if not exceed – that number this year!"

Hillels of Memphis boasts an active

(See **Hillel** Page 3)



My Teen Israel Experience



Emmie Infeld (left) at Masada with BB Rubin of Alexandria, La.

Emmie Infeld, daughter of Dr. Jason and Stephani Infeld, is a junior at St. Mary's Episcopal School. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided her with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of her NFTY Jacob's Camp Israel trip last summer. All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2023 are now available online. To learn more and apply, please go to: [www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund](http://www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund).

By Emmie Infeld

This past summer I spent four weeks in Israel. This NFTY Jacobs Camp trip was the most memorable summer I have ever had. Spending the summer with my best friends that I met years ago at Jacobs camp, mixed with a new place that most of us had never visited, made for the most incredible trip.

When we first got there, I was a little skeptical as literally everything was different from what I grew up with. As one day passed, I knew the trip was going to be amazing. On the first day, we all reconnected with each other after not having seen each other for an entire year. As a group of 35 teenagers, we got along perfectly. The first place we went to in Israel was Jerusalem. We started off the trip with a highpoint view of Jerusalem to see the city from above. The view was gorgeous.

While in Jerusalem we also stopped at multiple markets. The markets are not comparable to anything in the United States. This was a whole new experience, but the ability to roam around with friends made the experience a lot less stressful. My favorite things we did in Jerusalem were an archaeological dig and climbing through caves. Climbing through the caves was such a fun experience. We then spent our first Shabbat in Israel at the Western Wall, which was special for everyone. Growing up I always heard about the Western Wall in Sunday school, so actually seeing it was surreal.

We then traveled to the Dead Sea to start our three nights under the stars in the desert. The Dead Sea was much different than I had expected, but an experience that was so memorable. Our first night under the stars was at the Bedouin tents, where we were able to ride camels, hear stories, try new food, and meet new people. Ironically, the night at the Bedouin tents was the best night of sleep I had during the entire trip. We then woke up before sunset to climb Masada and to see the amazing view and witness the sunrise. Even though I am not a morning person, Masada was my favorite part of the whole trip. The view was gorgeous, and the climb was surprisingly relaxing. We spent the next three days hiking through the desert and sleeping under the stars. I definitely felt at one with nature while sleeping under the stars in the desert.

Next, we moved to Zikhron Ya'akov, which had a completely different feel

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. March 17, 2023 / 24 Adar, 5783 .....6:51 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. March 18, 2023 / 25 Adar, 5783 ..... 7:47 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayakhel-Pekudel

from Jerusalem and the desert. It was less of a city than Jerusalem and had much more greenery than the desert.

After that, we completed Sea to Sea. We successfully hiked and biked from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean Sea. In the next part of our trip, we had some Israelis our age join us from Shoham, Israel. They were so fun to meet, and I still try to keep up with them. In the last segment of our trip, we stayed

outside of Tel Aviv and were able to explore some areas of the city that I loved.

On our last Shabbat, we went to services in Tel Aviv at an area that overlooked the water. That was my last super-memorable night in Israel, and overall, the trip was the best experience.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip possible. HW



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**Hillel...**  
(Continued From Page 1)

and engaged lay advisory council whose members appreciate the significance of Hillel on college campus.

“Hillel is so important because it provides young people with a place to share, learn, and grow as their Jewish identity continues to develop during the formative years of the college experience,” said Hal Fogelman, co-chair of University of Memphis’ Hillel Advisory Council. “The Yiddishe Cup event is a lot of fun, and it’s always great to see young people come together, develop friendships, and participate in various Jewish celebrations and activities.”

This year’s event is co-chaired by Audrey Siskind and Bradley Karasik, both of whom are champions of the Hillel cause and parents of children who have been involved at Hillel at their respective schools.

For Rhodes College and University

of Memphis students, Hillels of Memphis serves as a Jewish home away from home. All proceeds from the event benefit students on both campuses through educational programming, social events Shabbat meals and communal programming and other events throughout the year. While 85% of the budget of Hillels of Memphis is funded through a generous endowment, the remaining 15% comes primarily from funds raised through Yiddishe Cup.

The event will take place rain or shine with indoor activities at the facility, located at 5484 Summer Avenue, available. Registration, sponsorships and detailed information about the event may be found at [www.hillelsofmemphis.org/yiddishecup](http://www.hillelsofmemphis.org/yiddishecup). You may also contact Hillels of Memphis Director Sophie Bloch at 901.452.2453 or email [sophiebloch@hillelsofmemphis.org](mailto:sophiebloch@hillelsofmemphis.org). **HW**

# The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

**Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.**

**Monday, March 20**  
**Seniors will be treated to videos from many of the Famous “Bor-sht Belt” Comedians!** Jackie Mason, George Burns, Mel Brooks, Buddy Hackett, Don Rickles and Henny Youngman just to name a few. Several videos from different venues. Clips from “The Tonight Show” with Johnny Carson, Ed Sullivan, and many others will be shown. This will be a fun-packed remembrance for most seniors. Free and open to the public. Reservations are requested. Please call 901-761-0810 and put your name on the list.

**Wednesday, March 22**  
**Another exciting game of Team Trivial Pursuit!** Last time we played, we had a really exciting game that challenged both teams. Most of the questions are from the 50s and 60s and everyone had a blast. Come join us and test your memory.

**Monday, March 27**  
**A special program in honor of Israel’s 75th Anniversary.** We will have two speakers who recently traveled to Israel. They will tell of us of their trip and observations of the country now. Please come join us for this special occasion.

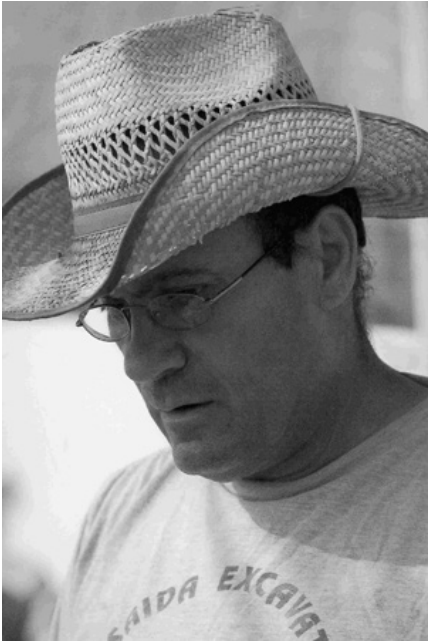
**Wednesday, March 29**  
**Rabbi Joel Finkelstein will speak about “The Centrality of Education.”** Rabbi Finkelstein always entertains as well as educates. Come join us for this wonderful talk.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220, [stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org), or calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

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**Bornblum Judaic Studies at The University of Memphis Presents “Ancient Israel in Light of Archaeology”**

Bornblum Judaic Studies at The University of Memphis invites you to a talk by Dr. Rami Arav on Ancient Israel in Light of Archaeology, Wednesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. in the University Center Fountain View Suite 350. There will be a pre-talk reception at 6:30.



Dr. Rami Arav

Dr. Arav was born and raised in Galilee in Israel. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Tel Aviv University and his Ph.D. from New York University. He is currently a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His main research field is Biblical Archaeology. Dr. Arav has directed a number of archaeological excavations in Jerusalem, Dead Sea and Galilee. He has also directed the Bethsaida Excavation Project for more than 35 years. He has authored and edited “Bethsaida, A City by the North Shore of The Sea of Galilee: Volumes I – IV” and “Cities through the Looking Glass.” In addition, he has co-authored “Jesus and his World” with J.J. Rousseau and authored numerous articles on archaeology.

For more information, contact Dr. Shaul Bar or Vivian Arendall, Bornblum Judaic Studies 901-678-2919. Attendees may park for a fee in the Zach Curlin Garage; there is also free parking along Walker Avenue. **HW**

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## Exhibit...

(Continued From Page 1)

## “NO CHILD’S PLAY”

## CHILDREN IN THE HOLOCAUST - CREATIVITY AND PLAY

Approximately one and a half million of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust were children. The number of children who survived is estimated in the mere thousands.

The Holocaust brought the childhood of these youngsters to an untimely end. Nevertheless, even those murdered in the Holocaust and the few who survived continued to be children, although they took on additional functions. In many cases, they became breadwinners and gave their parents the encouragement and hope to continue their desperate daily struggle for survival. However, whenever they could be children like others, they played, laughed, were creative, and expressed their fears and hopes.

We shall remember them forever.



א קינד פון לאדזשער געטא. די 3 יאריקע  
חייה'לע זיגעלמאן, וועלכע איז אומגע-  
קומען אין אוישוויצער גאז-אויפן צוואמען  
מיט איר יונגע מוטער חנה זיגעלמאן.

**Yad Vashem, Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, Jerusalem, Israel**

***Credit: "No Child's Play" exhibit by The American Society of Yad Vashem***

Many people outside the Jewish community don't know about the Holocaust, and it needs to be known to everyone."

The goal of the Unknown Child Holocaust Exhibit is to look at the Holocaust through the eyes of children: what they saw; their innocence; being thrown onto train cars; separation from their family; devastation.

The exhibit is simply breathtaking and heartbreaking all at once. And to think it was created by students, most of whom have no connections to Jews, is nothing short of amazing. As you enter, you immediately hear the names, ages and countries of children who were murdered being recited. Then you come to a terrifying map of all the major concentration camps throughout Eastern Europe. As you wind around, there are pennies together with ghost-like faces of French children who were murdered – in the beginning, the pennies and faces are spaced out, but as you move along, they become closer and closer together, depicting the escalation in persecution. There are details, documents, posters, and photos about the Nuremburg Laws, Kristallnacht, the Killing Fields, and sadly, more. When you feel the need to perhaps look away from the horror, you'd notice eerie railway lines along the floor. At the end of the exhibit is a stunning yet heart-wrenching bronze sculpture by Israeli artist Rick Wiener. It depicts a child on one side of a death camp oven, stretching his little arm through the door to safety in Israel, with olive branches and butterflies. It's surrounded by a wall of pennies. The exhibit is powerfully moving.

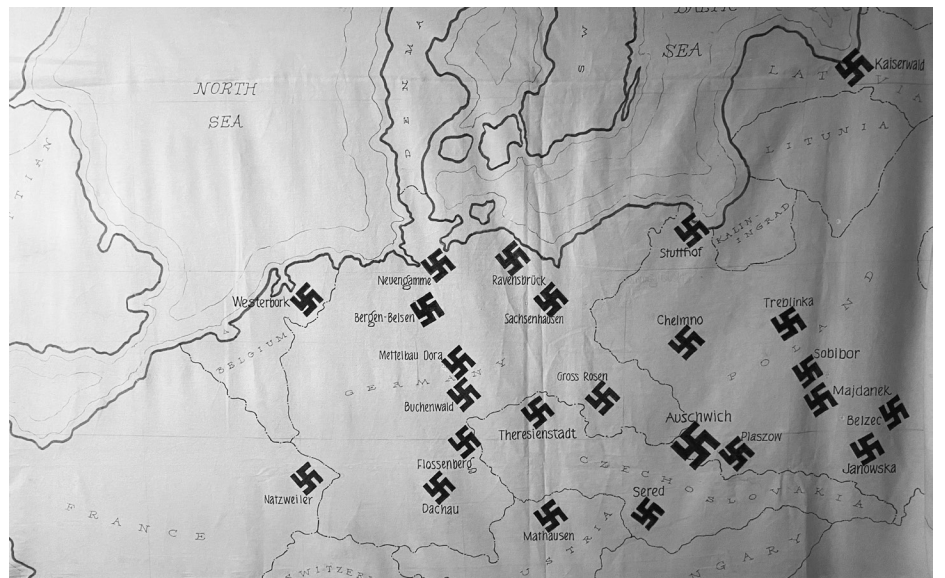
That's not the end, though. The feedback has been tremendously positive, and those in the area have decided to take this important project even further. Much further. The Unknown Child Foundation

is embarking on a fundraiser to build a grand memorial park as a tribute to the children and families of the Holocaust. In fact, the 1.5 million pennies the students collected are currently stored in a secure location until the memorial is built. Any donation amount is welcome, and for multiples of \$18, you can sponsor a penny, representing a child.

The memorial park plans are striking. Every detail well thought out by brilliant architect Doug Thornton of AERC, PLLC. Doug's sketch and memorial plans are the last pieces you see before exiting the exhibit. The park includes a walkway with lush landscaping, both of which become smaller and scarcer – illustrating the dwindling number of Jews – as you approach the Star of David-shaped memorial that will house the “Unknown Child in Ovens” sculpture and the 1.5 million pennies. Each penny representing the enormity of the tragedy as well as the individuality of those who perished. Along the way are rail crossings, narratives of the tragic history, viewing and educational areas, meditating nooks, and more beautifully planned details.

Before leaving, we watched a bit of a powerful documentary about the Unknown Child Exhibit and Foundation, featuring students, teachers Susan Powell and Melissa Swartz, Memphis survivor Jack Cohen, memorial park architect Doug Thornton, and others. This exhibit “represents so much ... a life that should have lived,” said Susan on the video. “We were not deterred in our quest to tell the world about the children who perished,” added Melissa.

My kids and I were given a tour of the Unknown Child Exhibit by Michelle Thornton, a charter board member of the Unknown Child Foundation and Doug's wife. "These children didn't have the



**Credit: Unknown Child Holocaust Exhibit / Unknown Child Foundation**

opportunity for their voices to be heard – this exhibit and memorial park is in honor of those children,” said Michelle in her kind, empathetic, soft voice. “We’re speaking in remembrance of those who were lost and to make sure this never happens again.”

“It’s an honor to host ‘No Child’s Play: Children in the Holocaust – Creativity and Play,’ exhibit created and developed by Yad Vashem and on loan from the American Society of Yad Vashem, and for Unknown Child to be the recipient of ongoing Holocaust education through professional development support from the American Society for Yad Vashem,” said Unknown Child Foundation’s President Diane McNeil. “ASYV’s Director

of Education Marlene W. Yahalom, PhD recently spent four days on-site with UCF directors, resulting in a collaborative relationship through education between the two organizations in support of their joint missions of Holocaust remembrance through education.”

The short drive from Memphis to DeSoto County is certainly worth it. The care the students, teachers, and volunteers took in creating this special exhibit is felt in every detail. School groups are always welcome: DeSoto County Museum, 111 E Commerce St, Hernando, MS 38632.

To learn more or donate to the Unknown Child Foundation's memorial park fundraiser: [www.unknownchild.org](http://www.unknownchild.org) **HW**



# ADL Records All-Time High in Propaganda Incidents by White Supremacists



A sampling of propaganda distributed by Patriot Front in 2022. Source: ADL report.

(JNS) – A new report by the Anti-Defamation League recorded more than 6,750 incidents of white supremacists distributing propaganda in 2022 – up 38% from the year before and an all-time high.

The acts included the dissemination of antisemitic, racist and anti-LGBTQ materials, such as fliers placed in yards and driveways; banners hung from overpasses; stickers and posters on stores; and laser projections on buildings and stadiums.

The number of white supremacist events increased from 108 in 2021 to 170 in 2022, per the ADL.

According to the report, the number of times that antisemitic materials were distributed increased from 352 in 2021 to 852 in 2022. “If one person distributes 50 fliers in driveways, that only counts as one incident. But if he or she does the same thing a week later that is counted as a second incident,” Todd Gutnick, the ADL’s senior director of communications, told JNS.

The distribution of white supremacist propaganda turned out to be geographically concentrated in both blue and red states. The ADL recorded the highest levels of such materials in Texas, Massachusetts, Virginia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, California, Utah, Florida, Connecticut and Georgia in 2022. Hawaii was the only state where the ADL recorded no similar activity last year, though the organization did track antisemitic incidents there.

Some 80% of the hate propaganda the ADL tracked came from the Texas-based group Patriot Front, which underwent a “rebranding” in 2018 that used a “cynical iteration of ‘patriotism’ to promote its white supremacist and neo-fascist ideology.”

The group avoids using traditional white supremacist tropes, instead employing red-white-and-blue banners and lawn signs with messages like “Reclaim America,” “For the Nation Against the State” and “Revolution Is Tradition.”

Of the materials produced by known white supremacist groups, Gutnick said that the ADL addresses them on a case-by-case basis. “Generally, the message has to be racist or antisemitic in intent for inclusion,” he told JNS.

The Goyim Defense League, which has been disseminating hate fliers across the country this past year, is another key player in spreading white supremacist hate, according to the ADL. Those materials blame Jews “for a variety of perceived social grievances, including immigration, pornography and abortion,” according to the ADL report. Hate activity attributed to this group rose 58% from 2021 to 2022, and the Goyim Defense League’s “overarching goal is to expel Jews from America,” it stated.

“There’s no question that white supremacists and antisemites are trying to terrorize and harass Americans and have significantly stepped up their use of propaganda as a tactic to make their presence known in communities nation-


wide,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, the ADL’s national director and CEO. “In response to this threat, we must recommit ourselves to fight against hate and say, ‘Enough is enough.’” **HW**


# Baron Hirsch Preparing for Pesach Classes



Rabbi Ian Lichter

Rabbi Ian Lichter of Baron Hirsch Congregation will be giving a two-class series on “Preparing for Pesach.” The first class will be Tuesday evening, March 21 at 7:45 p.m. and is entitled “What’s New in Pesach Prep.” It will focus on frequently asked questions regarding kashering our homes for Pesach and new food items available this year. Tuesday evening, March 28 at 7:45 p.m. will be a class entitled “Insights to Your Seder,” focused on making a Seder a fun and interactive night. All community members are welcome to join. Chag Kasher v’Sameach! **HW**





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# Three People Wounded, One Critically, in Terror Shooting in Tel Aviv



**The scene of a shooting attack on Dizengoff Street in central Tel Aviv, March 9, 2023. Credit: United Hatzalah.**

(JNS) – Three people were wounded in a terrorist shooting in the heart of Tel Aviv last Thursday night. According to the Magen David Adom emergency medical service, three men in their 20s were shot next to a cafe

on the corner of Dizengoff Street and Ben-Gurion Street in the center of the Israeli coastal city.

Police said that the terrorist was neutralized.

Israeli media reported that an off-duty special forces police officer, who was at the scene, shot and killed the terrorist.

The victims were rushed to the nearby Ichilov Hospital, with one in critical condition. The other two were listed in serious and moderate condition, respectively.

United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Jamal Varaki, one of the first responders at the scene on Dizengoff Street, recounted: “Together with other first responders and ambulance teams from United Hatzalah, I treated three people who were transported from the scene of the incident to Ichilov Hospital – one in critical condition having suffered gunshot wounds, one in moderate condition from shrapnel wounds, and a third individual also lightly injured by shrapnel.”

Varaki added that members of the organization’s Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit treated numerous people for emotional shock and psychological stress.

“There has been another terror attack in the heart of Tel Aviv tonight. We send our hopes and our wishes for the speedy recovery of the wounded, and we strengthen the security forces who are fighting terrorists this night and every night,” said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Thursday.

“We will continue to build our nation and deepen our roots, and to build our common future as brothers and sisters,” he added.

Last April, three Israelis were killed in a terror attack on Dizengoff Street, a popular thoroughfare full of shops, restaurants and bars.

The attack last Thursday night is the latest in a wave of deadly terrorism to strike Israel.

On Feb. 26, a Palestinian attacker gunned down brothers Hallel Menachem and Yagel Yaakov Yaniv while they were driving near the village of Huwara in Samaria.

The next day, Palestinian terrorists killed Israeli-American Elan Ganeles near the Beit Ha’arava Junction close to Jericho in the Jordan Valley.

Earlier in February, a terrorist attack in Jerusalem’s Ramot neighborhood claimed the lives of Yaakov Israel Paley, 6; his brother, Asher Menachem Paley, 8; and 20-year-old Alter Shlomo Lederman. Three days later, Israeli soldier Staff Sgt. Asil Sawaed, 22, died from wounds sustained in a terrorist attack at a checkpoint to Shuafat in Jerusalem.

On Jan. 27, seven people were killed and several others were wounded in a terrorist shooting rampage at a synagogue in Jerusalem’s Neve Yaakov neighborhood. [HW](#)




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# IAF Colonel Sacked for Telling Pilots Not to Report to Duty



Two Israeli Air Force F-15 Ra'ams practice air maneuvers. Credit: TSGT Kevin J. Gruenwald, USAF/Wikipedia

(JNS) – A commander in an elite Israel Air Forces reserves unit whose members threatened to skip combat training over the government’s judicial reforms plan has been relieved of his duties.

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi approved the decision to dismiss Col. Gilad Peled, citing a “crisis of trust.”

The move came after it was revealed that the officer was not only participating in the anti-reform protests but was actively encouraging other reserve pilots not to report for duty. The IAF’s 69th Fighter Squadron of which he is a member made headlines last Sunday when 37 out of the unit’s 40 fighter pilots announced that they would be boycotting combat training.

These elite reserve pilots fly F-15I Ra’am (“Thunder” in Hebrew) fighter jets on important missions for the Jewish state out of Hatzirim Air Base, near Be’er Sheva.

The 37 pilots were to hold their protest last Wednesday. However last Tuesday, following intensive efforts behind the scenes, they announced that they would be showing up for work last Wednesday, for discussions.

“We are responding to the call of our commanders and will report to the unit tomorrow to talk to the soldiers,” the pilots said, “We have full confidence in the commanders and will continue to serve the Jewish and democratic State of Israel as long as necessary.”

Meetings were set up for the pilots with Halevi, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar. The pilots asked that Gallant urge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Yariv Levin to stop pushing forward the legal overhaul bills and begin negotiations with the opposition over a compromise.

Netanyahu last Monday night described as an existential threat the refusal by reserve soldiers to show up for duty in protest of the government’s judicial reform program.

“Refusal to serve threatens the foundation of our existence, and it must have no place in our ranks,” the prime minister said after attending a Purim megillah reading at a Border Police base in the Jewish community of Beit Horon. “Israeli society has always condemned those refusing to serve. This will not be allowed to gain a foothold,” he added. [HW](#)



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Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com • fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

**Make Saving Automatic**  
Saving for a goal is simpler when money is set aside automatically. For example, you may be able to regularly and automatically deposit a portion of your paycheck into a retirement account through your employer. Your contribution level may also increase automatically each year, if your plan offers this feature. Employers may also allow you to split your direct deposit into multiple accounts, enabling you to build up a college fund or an emergency fund, or direct money to an investment account.

Another way to make saving for multiple goals easier is to set up recurring transfers between your savings, checking, or other financial accounts. You decide on the frequency and timing of those transfers, and you can quickly make necessary adjustments.

**Consolidate Retirement Funds**  
If you’ve had a few jobs, you might have several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k) or 403(b) plans, with current and past employers. Consolidating them in one place may help make it easier to monitor and manage your retirement savings and distributions, and prevent you (or your beneficiaries) from forgetting about older or lower-balance accounts. Not all accounts can be combined, and there may be tax consequences, so discuss your options with your financial and/or tax professionals.

**Take a Credit-Card Inventory**  
Credit cards are convenient, but managing multiple credit-card accounts can be time-consuming and costly. Losing track of balances and due dates may lead to increased interest charges or late payments. You could also miss

out on some of the rewards and benefits your cards offer. If you’ve accumulated a few credit cards, review interest rates, terms, credit limits, and benefits that may have changed since you got the cards. Ordering a copy of your credit report can help you quickly see all of your open credit-card accounts – there may be some you’ve forgotten about. Visit [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) to get a free credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion).

Once you know what you have, you can decide which cards to use and put the rest aside. Because it’s possible that your credit score might take a temporary hit, it may not always be a good idea to close accounts you’re not using unless you have a compelling reason, such as a high annual fee or exposure to fraud.

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# Israeli Forces Detonate Explosive Device on Bus Near Beitar Illit, Search for Suspect

(JNS) – The Israeli Defense Forces Home Front Command urged residents of Beitar Illit to remain inside and lock their doors as police hunt for a terrorist who planted a suspected device that failed to detonate on a bus last Thursday night.

After smoke billowed from a black bag on a bus nearby, officials neutralized the device, per reports. The man who placed the bag on the bus had already exited the vehicle, according to media reports.

Israeli security officials issued a Red Alert warning of an infiltration at 10:20 p.m. local time as they began a massive search for the terrorist. Beitar Illit is a haredi enclave of more than 9,000 families about 12 miles southwest of Jerusalem in the Gush Etzion bloc.

The ongoing security situation and intermittent warning sirens resulted in “numerous” emergency calls to the United Hatzalah dispatch center from those “suffering emotional shock and psychological stress reactions,” the organization stated.

The attempted attack came shortly after a terrorist shooting on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, where three people were wounded by a Palestinian gunman who was shot and killed at the scene in an exchange of fire with Israeli forces.**HW**

# Chaim Topol, Israeli Actor Who Played Tevye In 1971 ‘Fiddler on The Roof’ Film, Dies at 87

(JTA) – Chaim Topol won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of an immigrant to Israel, stepped off the stage in London to fight for his country and had his sketches of Israeli presidents turned into postage stamps.

But the actor was, by far, best known for his embodiment of Tevye the Dairyman in “Fiddler on the Roof,” first in the Israeli and London stagings and then in the 1971 movie that brought the musical about poor shtetl Jews to the masses.

Topol died [last] Thursday in Tel Aviv at 87, a day after his family announced that he was near death. He had suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for some time.

Born in 1935 in Tel Aviv, Topol served in the Israel Defense Forces entertainment unit before embarking on a career on stage and screen that took him around the world. In 1967, he appeared as the lead character in London’s staging of “Fiddler on the Roof,” which had been a breakout hit on Broadway three years before. In his early 30s at the time, he wowed audiences and critics with his portrayal of an older character.

But it was when he turned his character over to an understudy that his profile truly exploded. It was June 1967 and Israel was locked in a war with several Arab states; Topol was called up as a soldier and returned to Israel to serve in what would ultimately be known as the Six-Day War. Israel’s swift defeat of an

alliance of enemies caused the world to notice the young country and the actor who took part in its victory.

“He had left London as a star; he returned as a hero,” Alisa Solomon wrote in her 2013 book “Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof.” “‘Fiddler’ became a site for celebration, drawing Jews as well as gentiles to the theater – some for repeat viewings – to bask in Jewish perseverance and to pay homage to Jewish survival. The show didn’t change, but the atmosphere around it did.”

In one sign of Topol’s breakout moment, his recording of “If I Were a Rich Man” hit No. 9 on the British charts – besting Aretha Franklin’s “Respect” in July 1967.

From there, Topol was cast in the film production of the musical, beating out Zero Mostel – who put an indelible stamp on Tevye as the star of the original Broadway production – as well as a host of Jewish and non-Jewish movie stars. Using only his last name – purportedly because his first name was easily mispronounced by non-Hebrew speakers – he ultimately starred in more than 30 films in both English and Hebrew, published two books and released multiple albums.

In Israel, Topol was perhaps best known for his breakout role as the lead character in the 1964 film “Sallah Shabati,” about the difficulties faced

by a Mizrahi immigrant family. The Ephraim Kishon film was Israel’s first Academy Award nominee in the foreign language film category and earned Topol a Golden Globe for best new actor. The casting of an Ashkenazi actor as a Mizrahi character – and one who embodied many of the stereotypes held at the time by Israel’s Ashkenazi elite – would prove controversial, although the film is still regarded as a touchstone.

Topol won Israel’s most prestigious award, the Israel Prize, for his lifetime of achievement in 2013.

“From Fiddler on the Roof to the roof of the world, Haim [sic] Topol, who has passed away from us, was one of the most outstanding Israeli stage artists, a gifted actor who conquered many stages in Israel and overseas, filled the cinema screens with his presence and above all entered deep into our hearts,” Israeli President Isaac Herzog said on Twitter.

Herzog noted Topol’s contributions to Israel not just through the arts but through his service in the army and his dedication to a nonprofit camp for children with medical needs in Israel’s north. Topol was board chair of the Jordan Youth Village, modeled after Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Camp in the United States, until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Galia, an actor whom he married in 1956; three children and their children. **HW**

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# This Unusual Israeli Podcast Covers Everything from Sentient AI to Extending the Human Lifespan



**Avi Loeb, an Israeli-American astrophysicist at Harvard University, talks about artificial intelligence, extraterrestrial life and technology as the featured guest on a recent podcast episode of “A Matter of Life and Death.” Credit: Courtesy of KSM**

**By Renee Ghert-Zand**

If an alien spacecraft landed in Dr. Avi Loeb’s backyard tomorrow, he would readily step on, leave his family behind and take off to discover the great beyond.

Obviously, he’d be giving up a lot, but it’s for an essential cause, he says: Humans need to explore the possibilities for human life beyond earth.

“We know the sun will burn up the surface of the earth within a billion years,” he says. “We won’t be able to stay here.”

Loeb, an Israeli-American astrophysicist at Harvard University, shared these thoughts recently in a podcast conversation with Dr. Tal Patalon, head of Kahn Sagol Maccabi (KSM), the Research and Innovation Center of Israel’s Maccabi Healthcare Services. Loeb was Patalon’s guest on an episode of KSM’s popular English-language podcast, “A Matter of Life and Death.”

Now in its third season (and first in English), the podcast features physi-

cian-researcher Patalon in wide-ranging conversations about life, the future and the human experience with leaders and innovative thinkers from a broad variety of disciplines and fields of knowledge – from the former head of the Mossad to musicians and professors. Patalon elicits insights and showcases her multidisciplinary approach to her work at KSM, and she also has a way of getting at the core of her guests’ personalities and belief systems.

“These are open conversations, not interviews,” Patalon said. “It’s all about relationships and learning from these people. These are really special individuals who help broaden your perspective and serve as inspiration for innovation.”

KSM itself conducts various types of health research, helping researchers and entrepreneurs with its massive clinical and medical data as well as deep understanding of technology and artificial intelligence. KSM also operates the largest biobank in Israel, with over 900,000 biological samples, enabling partnerships with companies in genetic research and support for a range of Big Data projects.

Patalon’s podcast embodies the out-of-the-box thinking that guides KSM’s approach to research and innovation. Her recent conversation with Loeb covered the AI revolution, extending human longevity, and Loeb’s work at The Galileo Project for the Systematic Search for Evidence of Extraterrestrial Technological Artifacts.

Loeb leads the Galileo Project’s search for physical objects associated with extraterrestrial technological equipment. He and his team use sophisticated instruments to image and collect data on objects in the sky that the government and astronomers have deemed outliers. The goal is to determine whether they are natural phenomena or technological in origin and from other planets.

“I am looking for relics of [extraterrestrial] civilizations that have perhaps predated us and sent out gadgets and probes to explore space,” Loeb said. “They would have had enough to have filled up the solar system with a million probes. Tech gadgets can survive the harsh environments of space.”

Loeb and his team identified an interstellar meteorite that collided with Earth off Papua New Guinea in 2014. Based on the speed of the object, Loeb determined that it came from outside the solar system, and the Department of Defense supported his assertion.

“It exploded. We are planning an expedition to scoop the ocean floor to collect the fragments,” Loeb said. “We know it was tougher than iron, so we will examine the fragments to see if the object was natural or an artificial alloy that could be a fragment of a spacecraft.”

Loeb told Patalon how his work has made him think that humans are not necessarily that smartest and most accomplished species in the universe, and that modesty is in order.

“We are no smarter than the mean of the universe, no matter what we have accomplished. We have nothing to brag about,” he said.

Patalon agreed: “We are arrogant. Our world is tiny and fragile and we are destroying it. We should cherish what we have.”

However, Patalon disagreed with Loeb when it comes to how far the AI revolution should go. Loeb believes we are close to the point where AI will take over many roles in human life.

“There will be sentient AI systems. They will converse among themselves and create their own communities. A new consciousness will emerge. Death will be like unplugging a computer from a wall, so in the future it will be illegal to do so,” he said.

From Patalon’s perspective as an

active clinician specializing in family and emergency medicine, she is certain that AI will become integrated into the human body within five to 10 years. She expects to see augmented humans with constant glucose monitors and vitals-monitoring chips implanted under the skin.

“And 3-D printing of organs is developing fast,” she observed.

But unlike Loeb, Patalon believes that extending human longevity to an extreme degree is not the goal of AI. Rather, there is a consciousness above material reality, and a spirituality and soul beyond technology. She worries about the separation, depression and addiction associated with technology and wants to see more efforts put into helping people learn how to handle technological evolution. We can’t let AI run away with things and negate human consciousness and positive relationships, she said.

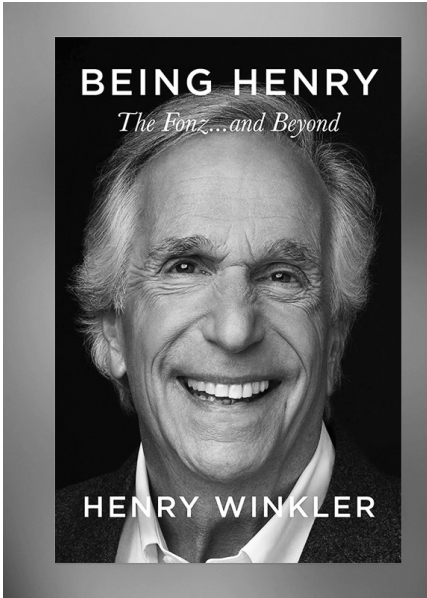
“A high-quality life means learning how to love unconditionally. That is the human future,” Patalon said. “Otherwise we are like animals.”

At the end of each episode of “A Matter of Life and Death,” Patalon asks her guest whether they think about death and what they would like their epitaph to be. Loeb thinks that people waste time and resources memorializing themselves by building monuments on Earth. Not particularly attached to his body, he said, he’d be eager to download his consciousness to an avatar astronaut.

“I hope we will figure out how to live forever, but if I have to die, I would be happy for it to happen somewhere other than Earth,” he said. “On Mars there is no bureaucracy to suppress innovation.”

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with Kahn-Sagol-Maccabi (KSM), the research and innovation center of Israel’s Maccabi Healthcare Services. This story was produced by JTA’s native content team. **HW**

## America’s Zayde Henry Winkler Has an Autobiography Coming!



**By Lior Zaltzman**

*This first appeared on Kveller, reprinted with permission.*

Get those pre-ordering fingers ready because a Henry Winkler biography is

finally coming, and we can’t wait to devour it all.

The Jewish actor known as the Fonz, Dr. Saperstein, Gene Cousineau, the cutest dancing grandpa on TikTok and an overall mensch is releasing his first official autobiography this coming October. The 320-page book will be titled “Being Henry: The Fonz... and Beyond.”

The hardcover version of this book will come out on October 31 from Celadon Books.

Winkler, who most recently starred in the hilarious Israeli show “Chanshi,” announced the book’s release and shared its cover this morning on social media. He tweeted that “our youngest son, Max, for years, has said, ‘Dad, you should write an autobiography.’ And here it is.”

Thanks for putting that pressure on, Max! We’re definitely grateful for that.

Winkler has a complex and wonderful relationship with the written word. Growing up, the actor didn’t know he was dyslexic and said the undiagnosed

condition made him feel “stupid” and filled him with anger and frustration – he was constantly punished for his academic failings. Winkler discovered he had the learning challenge in his 30s when his stepson, Jed, was tested for it. As an adult, he struggled with it during his studies at Yale School of Drama and while preparing for roles.

He used that lived experience and knowledge to create a series of books that make kids like him feel represented: “Here’s Hank,” which revolves around Hank Zipser, a wonderful dyslexic protagonist. There are 29 books in the series. He’s also the writer of the “Alien Superstar” trilogy, both with co-writer Lin Oliver.

This isn’t Winkler’s first autobiographical work – he’s also written “I’ve Never Met an Idiot on the River: Reflections on Family, Photography, and Fly-Fishing” (how great is that title??), a series of essays about his fly-fishing experience. Yet this upcoming book is his first compre-

hensive official autobiography.

“Being Henry” will delve into the way dyslexia impacted the adolescence of the “Happy Days” star, as well as what it was like for the celebrated actor to deal with the pressures of a role that takes on a life of its own. It will delve into how Winkler struggled to find his footing as an actor after that iconic role – only to become an icon for a younger generations thanks to his roles in shows like “Arrested Development,” “Parks and Recreation” and, of course, “Barry,” for which he won his first Primetime Emmy in 2018.

The blurb, which says Winkler is “widely regarded as the nicest man in Hollywood” (all the evidence we have also seems to point to that!), describes it as “a meaningful testament to the power of sharing truth and kindness and of finding fulfillment within yourself.”

We can’t wait to delve into the life story of this funny, enchanting Jewish icon. **HW**

## At 25, ‘The Prince of Egypt’ Still ‘Delivers Us to the Promised Land,’ Rabbi who Consulted on it Says

(JNS) – The musical film “The Prince of Egypt” turns 25 this year, and as it celebrates no longer having to pay extra fees to rent cars, it remains timely.

“The ancient rabbis taught that we are commanded to see ourselves in every generation as though we personally had left Egypt as part of the Exodus,” Burton Visotzky, a rabbi and professor, told JNS.

“For this past generation, tens of thou-

sands were able to do this thanks to the artistry of the DreamWorks animated feature “The Prince of Egypt,”” added Visotzky, professor emeritus of midrash and interreligious studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary and a consultant to the 1998 production. “I have visited communities across America where families have the custom to watch the film every Passover. ‘Prince of Egypt’

delivers us to the promised land.”

On March 26, the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, a Smithsonian-affiliated institution in Philadelphia, will screen the movie as part of Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media’s annual Lindy SpringFest, which runs from March 25 to April 1.

“The Oscar-winning, box-office hit of the late 1990s, the kids’ movie musical that

moved audiences around the world, the ‘Passover movie’ of all Passover movies ... is coming back to the big screen,” Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media states.

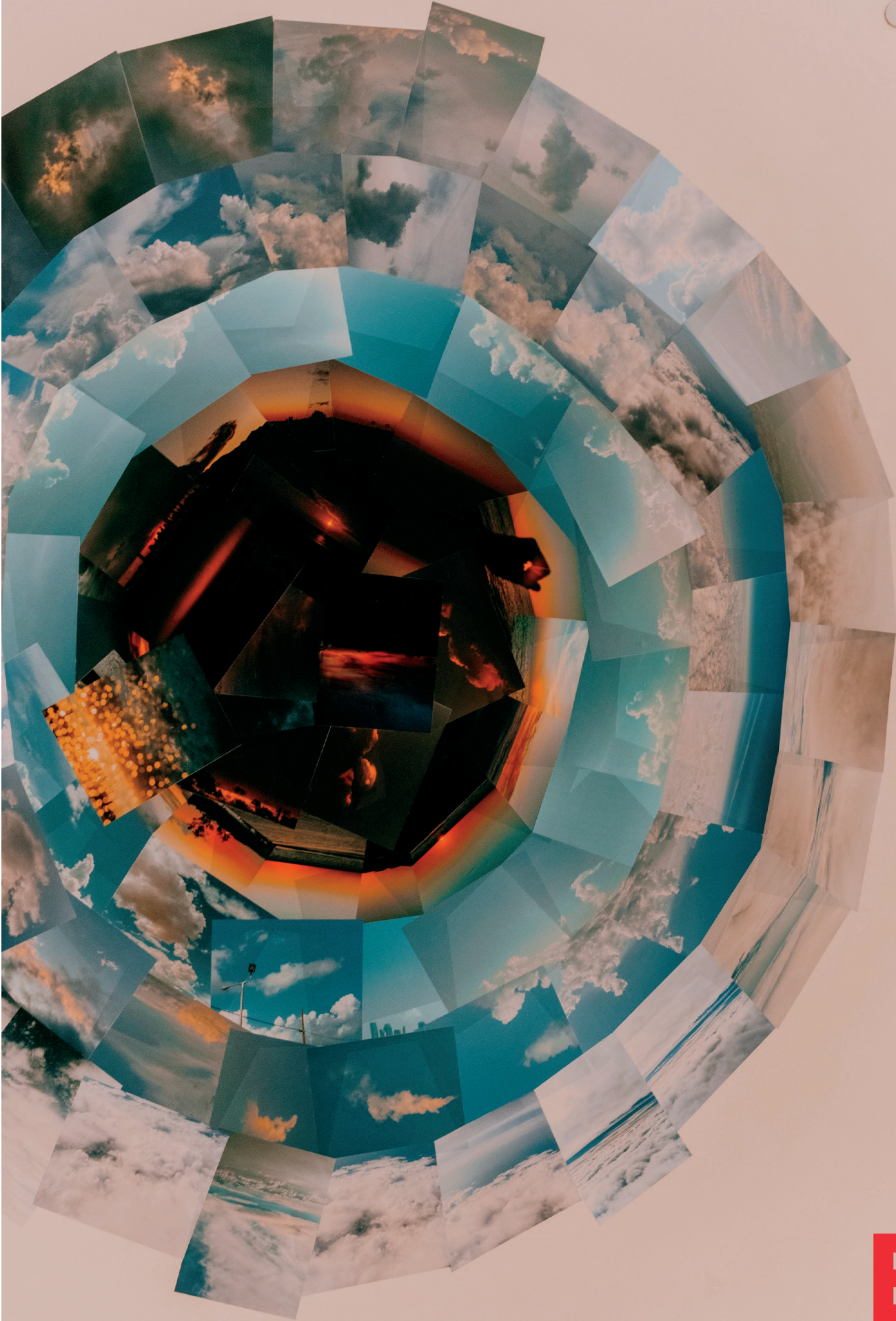
It adds that there will be arts and crafts, food and storytime before the screening, and “Singing is encouraged, but not required.”

DreamWorks released a new 4K Blu-Ray edition of the film on March 14. **HW**



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Mike has been with Wells Fargo Advisors for 25 years and has over 40 years of experience in the financial services industry.

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