



## **Football: Will Sundays Ever Be the Same Again?**

**By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director**

Sunday in my home means football. It also means grocery shopping and laundry but that happens on the sidelines (see the pun?) From the early morning game until Sunday night football with Carrie Underwood singing the opening credits, football is the theme. And all of my family is involved. Three out of five of us are in fantasy football leagues, two of us get excited for the Taylor Swift sightings at the Kansas City Chief games and one of us likes watching this bring us together. Guess which one?

The family team is the Dallas Cowboys. You may wonder how a family with strong ties in New York chose the Cowboys. It's a long story, but suffice it to say, my husband and I passed this fan choice to our girls.

For many years, in the late 80's/early 90's, the Cowboys were on top. Possibly other times during my lifetime, but that is the most recent time to now. And watching a team lose, that you root for, can be very gut wrenching. But we try to remember it is just football. We try, although we are not always successful.

But the games are distractions from regular life. From the protests, the death, the war. So tonight, as the Cowboys lost to the Eagles, it gave me something else for my mind to focus on. And just as Dallas was losing, a message came in that the IDF found out where many of the hostages were being held. And the soldiers were going in. Of course, we won't know when the soldiers are actually en route; we won't know until afterwards but, Baruch HaShem, they will be successful.

Our prayers are needed for the safety of the Israeli soldiers and the hostages. As I write this, I don't know the outcome. I want to believe with every fiber of my being that there will be a low to zero casualty count overall, that the Israeli soldiers will be successful, they will bring home many of the hostages if not all. As I write this, it is the shloshim; the 30-day mark from 10/7 when the terrorists killed so many innocents in Israel.



By the time you hear this, I hope we will know. How many lives were saved; how many were lost. And now not just from the Gaza border but in the north as well. Again, the world is calling for a ceasefire. But it is heartbreaking to know that most that call for the ceasefire seem to have forgotten that there was a ceasefire on October 6.

On that day, Israel wasn't rooting out terrorists. The IDF wasn't fighting a war on two fronts. It is the others that needed to not start this. Where was the call for a ceasefire so the terrorists didn't attack Israel? Where was the call for the ceasefire so that the Gaza residents could still live peacefully on the border, crossing each day to make their living? Why are there only calls for a ceasefire when Israel is fighting for her life, for her citizens (Jewish Israelis, Arab Israelis, Christian Israelis, the list goes on).

And then this gets brought to the forefront of my mind. And Dallas's loss becomes trivial. And I wonder, will a Sunday ever be the same again?

Shabbat Shalom.