



Golda Meir Was Right

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

On Friday, the ceasefire that Israel negotiated with Hamas, ended. It ended when three missiles were fired into Israel, by Hamas. Hamas ended the release of hostages as they violated the ceasefire. Let that sink in.

Do you remember the many, so many people asking for, demanding, a ceasefire? Even as the terrorists continued to hold hostages? They still demanded a ceasefire. Now whatever you think about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu negotiating with terrorists, he did. He did it to secure the safety of those taken by Hamas. During this ceasefire, Israel supplied humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza. Even before the ceasefire, Israel guarded the residents of Gaza as they fled to Israel or relocated south, away from the upcoming ground offensive. And have you seen any protests about Hamas breaking the ceasefire? I haven't.

So, on Friday, those famous words spoken by Golda Meir, prime minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974, decades ago, again rang true. "If (they) put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Israelis put down their weapons, there would be no more Israel."

To date, there are 136 people of the 249 that are still being held. 136 people who still haven't seen their families for 60 days and counting. 136 people who are living a daily nightmare. But 136 families are holding strong. 136 families are trying to prop each other up as they share this collective nightmare. 136 families are still holding onto hope. Because, in all honesty, we don't actually know that these 136 people are still alive.

And the families of the 116 people that have been released are living a similar nightmare. While there is gratitude for the return of their loved ones, now they need to learn to live again; to trust again; to heal from the physical wounds that were inflicted; to heal from the emotional scars.



I repeat this number, because in all honesty, this isn't about the number. It is about baby Kfir and his brother, Ariel, 4 years old. It is about the individuals contained within that number, 136. It is about the anniversary we celebrated last Wednesday. Do you not remember?

A View from Jerusalem, by Leah Garber, JCCA illustrates it perfectly. “Seventy-six years ago, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations recommended a partition of Mandatory Palestine — known as the Partition Plan or Resolution 181 — at the end of the British Mandate.

The resolution recommended the creation of independent Arab and Jewish states and a special international regime for the city of Jerusalem. The plan sought to address the conflicting objectives and claims of Palestinians and Jews. It also called for economic union between the proposed states and for the protection of religious and minority rights.

While the Jews accepted the plan, the Arab Higher Committee, the Arab League, and other Arab leaders rejected it, indicating an unwillingness to accept any form of territorial division and therefore aren't bound by the decision. They refused as they didn't want the Jews to have their own state.”

According to Wikipedia, “When the [British Mandate of Palestine](#) expired on 14 May 1948, and with the [Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel](#), the surrounding Arab states—[Egypt](#), [Transjordan](#), [Iraq](#) and [Syria](#)—invaded what had just ceased to be Mandatory Palestine,^[8] and immediately attacked Israeli forces and several Jewish settlements.”

At synagogue over the last few weeks, the Torah portions have been about the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, the *avot* and *imahot*: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. And as I read these chapters, all of the places that are mentioned, all continue to exist today, in Israel.



And what is Israel's biggest regret? What destroys them morally? Also words by Golda Meir, "“When peace comes we will perhaps in time be able to forgive the Arabs for killing our sons, but it will be harder for us to forgive them for having forced us to kill their sons. Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.”

— **Golda Meir, A Land of Our Own: An Oral Autobiography**

Shabbat Shalom.