



State of Mind

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

I am angry. I have been for a little while. The stories that circulate are causing these feelings. They have really been more pronounced this week after the Oscars. Now, in all fairness, I didn't watch the Oscars. I am not a fan of awards shows. Actors and actresses, directors often receive a lot of praise and it is subjective who wins. Your favorite movie is different from mine ("Crossing Delancey," in case you were wondering) and who deserves best picture or best lead song is up to an elite group and a small number of people. But, I know many people love to watch the spectacle and this is America, so enjoy! Recently, these spectacles have taken on a life of their own. And this time it is no different.

Noa Tishby writes on Instagram "Tonight's Oscars was a subtle and overt display of Jew-hatred. Notably absent were the yellow pins representing the hostages kidnapped by Hamas on October 7. If you're calling for a ceasefire without calling for the release of the hostages, you are promoting Hamas's agenda by questioning Israel's right to self-defense." At the Oscars, many attendees were wearing red buttons. As noted in United with Israel, Malka Simkovich, chair of Jewish studies and director of the Catholic-Jewish studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, "Simkovich noted that many celebrities at the awards ceremony wore red stickers "in support of Gaza" and that "Jews are pointing out that it signifies the bloody hands that two Palestinian terrorists held up in that famous photo after they committed a murderous attack." (A man displaying bloody hands was photographed during the 2000 Ramallah lynching of two Israeli reservists.)"

So where is the fair and balanced outrage? Where is the fact-checking that is so prevalent in the world? You will see none of it when it comes to Israel. And that angers me. I support people's right to protest, to peacefully protest. Wear all the pins you want. But when you don't know the history or creation of the symbol you are sporting? When you don't read the facts behind the two sides? That is inexcusable.



And I will be completely honest; it bothers me to no end that many of these people at this award ceremony are Jewish and they still were wearing those pins. Where is their anger towards Hamas for deliberately taking hostages from the Nova Music Festival on October 7? Where is their anger towards Hamas for not protecting the citizens of Gaza by allowing them to hide in the miles and miles of tunnels under Gaza so they aren't hurt during this war?

You better believe that if there were any tunnels under Israel, that is where the IDF would have the citizens of Israel, Jewish, Arab, Christian, go so there were no civilian casualties. Israelis go to shelters and safe rooms when sirens sound because of incoming missiles. Is Hamas protecting the citizens of Gaza like this?

The answer is a resounding NO! What about the facts that the IDF announces when they are going to strike and tell the residents of Gaza to leave their homes and go south to keep them out of harm's way? Does Hamas allow for this? Are the neighboring Arab countries welcoming these innocent people across the borders? Again, the answer is a resounding NO!

So you're darn right, I am angry. You should be too!

Shabbat Shalom.