



## Smart Ways to Live

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

In 2013, a song was released, “Dumb Ways to Die.” This sparked a parody by the Maccabeats, “Smart Ways to Live.” It’s funny since usually the second would have been the original and the first would have been the parody; think Weird Al Yankovic. More info here: [weirdal.com/](http://weirdal.com/)

The song sung by the Maccabeats lists many ways to do a mitzvah and lead a positive life. “Leaving your waiter a nice big tip”; “helping an old lady cross the street”; “Turning your phone off when you are at the table”; “Thanking G-d you are healthy and able.” It is a fun song that gives a hopeful outlook on life, at least if you can imagine that the majority of people will embrace these lyrics as opposed to the original inspiration.

And as we near the six-month anniversary of Oct. 7 and think about all that has transpired, all that the hostages have suffered, all the families have suffered it is unimaginable. Unimaginable that we are here still fighting to have the hostages released and Hamas destroyed. Because as much as we want them home, we can’t allow this to happen again.

I want you to think about the atrocities that Hamas inflicted on the attendants at the Nova Music Festival on Oct. 7, killing, raping, kidnapping. Most of them were not in the IDF. They were non-military people. No apologies by Hamas. No press conferences. No investigation of these incidents. No, “We really should have only targeted military personnel.”

Juxtapose that with this:

“And so, with sincere sorrow, IDF spokesman Rear Admiral Hagari [stood in front of the cameras](#) in the middle of the night to acknowledge the tragic deaths of World Central Kitchen employees and the organization’s vital mission to supply meals to people in need. He announced that Israel has begun an in-depth investigation of the



incident to be conducted by those of the highest ranks.” This is from “*A View from Jerusalem*” by Leah Garber, JCC Association Center for Israel Engagement .

NO other country plans so carefully to ONLY plan to hit military targets. NO other country plans so carefully to ONLY hit terrorist targets. NO other country does their due diligence to make sure that the residents of Gaza are warned ahead of time before an airstrike so they can leave (if Hamas lets them).

It is the Israeli government that takes these precautions. It is the Israeli Defense Forces that carefully plans to NOT hit civilian targets.

But no one acknowledges their care, their attention to detail so that minimum civilian casualties occur. This is even when Hamas uses hospitals and schools to hide their ammunition, their bombs, their high-ranking personnel.

*“Treat others like you’d want them to treat you...  
Always try your best at everything you do  
Be the change you wanna see in the world  
They may not rhyme but they’re quite possibly  
The smartest ways to live  
The smartest ways to live  
So many smart ways to live!”  
(The Maccabeats)*

Shabbat Shalom.