



## Hopping on the Bandwagon

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

I took a break last week and I focused on the happiness of graduation. I kvelled over my daughter's accomplishments and celebrated with my family. How foolish I was to think that everyone else took a break as well.

The US at large continued on with their Memorial Day commemorations, honoring those who sacrificed and gave their lives for our freedom. I honor our fallen soldiers who left their families and fought to keep us safe. So many times since America's inception and our eventual fight for independence in 1776, we have been integral in countless wars both for our freedom and fighting with other countries. And while many might disagree about how "right" America was, there has never been a global condemnation of our actions.

Which leads me to how quick the world is to condemn Israel over the fire in Rafah. It wasn't so long ago that the world assumed the worst of Israel over an explosion near a hospital in Gaza. Within 48 hours of the first, the investigation found that the destruction wasn't carried out by Israel. It was the other side.

So, what happened in Rafah? There was a terrible fire that took the lives of many Gaza residents that were displaced because of an attack by Hamas, the ruling group in Gaza (remember Oct. 7?). Immediately the world, without investigation, condemned Israel and the IDF. Because, why not? But as happened with the explosion near the hospital, this fire occurred because of weapons and artillery that Hamas hid underground, where the people of Gaza went.

Did Israel move their operation south into Rafah so they could root out more of the terrorists that raped, beheaded, mutilated, killed citizens on Oct. 7? Yes they did. Did Israel target those individuals that were the masterminds behind the Oct. 7 atrocities? Yes they did. Has Israel and the IDF continued to plan and only target the Hamas terrorists whenever possible? Yes they have.



I feel like so many aren't listening. It is easier to jump on the bandwagon, to jump to conclusions, of the bad without giving grace, without taking a breath and waiting for a verdict. Without waiting for the truth. It is to the detriment of our society that there is a need for constant, and immediate information, even if it is wrong.

And when the truth comes out? Does anyone go back and apologize? Does the media go back and apologize? The sad, disappointing answer is no. And who suffers? Israel, the Jewish community, the hostages, their families.

Be careful when you jump. You want the right people to be waiting.

Shabbat Shalom.