



Small and Resilient

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

Just about one week ago, I heard a story that was an amazing example of courage, independence, caring and feistiness. As reported in USA Today, on July 18, 2024: *Three Washington girls are being hailed as heroes after they stopped the attempted kidnapping of a 6-year-old girl. Police got a 911 call about a man abducting a young girl at an apartment complex in the Seattle suburb of Kent just after 8 p.m. Tuesday, according to the Kent Police Department.*

What goes through your mind when you hear this? I was filled with awe. People often discount children's abilities to observe, be responsible, be off their phones. This story gave me hope for the future of youth in general.

I look at the courage of these young girls, these children, who stood up in a dangerous situation to fight for someone so small. Someone who was left alone without adult supervision, who didn't have the support around that she needed at that time.

Then, I think about Israel. A tiny country, around the size of Rhode Island. A country that is **SURROUNDED** by countries that wish for her destruction. They shout "From the river to the sea." Do you know what this means? This is a call for the destruction of Israel, the destruction of the Jewish people.

The country of Israel has a large Christian, Arab, Muslim, Bedouin and Jewish (among others) population.

And yet, there are so many who are shunning Israel and Jewish people in general.

80 years since Hitler and the Nazi party and the Holocaust and here we are with many still hating. I don't need everyone to love us however when I look at the makeup of the haters, that is where my sadness ramps up. There is ONE Jewish nation. How many Arab countries? Israelis didn't parachute into Gaza and kidnap people. Jews didn't go into Gaza and take children, take babies from their parents. IDF soldiers didn't attack



women from Gaza and violate them. The Israelis aren't withholding food or aid from the citizens of Gaza.

These horrific acts were committed by Hamas, the terrorists in Gaza. Today, the IDF rescued bodies from Gaza. Is this a sign as to why Hamas still won't release the hostages? Is it because so many of them are no longer alive?

Small but mighty, small and fierce, these words describe those brave 11-year-old girls. These sayings also describe Israel. She is small. She has very few who are rooting for her survival. But her citizens overcame the Holocaust. They thumbed their noses at Hitler and the Third Reich. And our resiliency and courage will help us to survive now.

#Shabbat Shalom