



## Decisions

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

I sit down each week, ready to share my thoughts, frustrations, opinions and some facts along the way. Today I am a bit stumped. How do I convey to you the depth of my sadness, frustration, anger about using the number #366. On Oct. 7, 2023, did anyone think that more than a year would pass and hostages would still be held by Hamas?

We have a Smart TV in our home. Such a humorous way of referring to a television that can access the internet, but that is what it is. And last night, I was sucked into the loop of videos to watch on YouTube. One particular video caught my eye. I listened to Benjamin Netanyahu's impassioned talk about Oct. 7. In beautiful, strong, intense Hebrew, with much appreciated subtitles (for me!), he spoke about the seven-fronted war being fought by Israel to secure the release of the hostages, those alive and those whose bodies remain in captivity.

He spoke about the **targeted** attacks that the IDF is carrying out to destabilize the Hamas infrastructure, the Hezbollah infrastructure, Iran's infrastructure, shall I go on?

He didn't need to mention the Iranian civilians and their death toll. He didn't need to mention the Gaza civilians and their death toll. He also didn't need to mention the Lebanese civilians and their death toll. Was that because he was heartless? Cruel? Unfeeling? No. He didn't need to mention them because that isn't where the targets from Israel have been.

Have civilians been harmed in these areas? Yes. However, when you read more about the targeted attacks by Israel, the civilian population is only affected by Hamas's decision to store weapons in civilian neighborhoods. Or Iran's decision to store weapons in a family-visited mosque. Or Hezbollah's to do the same.

Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership of the IDF soldiers, Israeli Air Force, Israeli Navy, Mossad, and the thousands of reservists who have jumped in with both feet during this war, has kept the civilian death toll to a minimum, even in the enemy countries. At least from Israeli strikes.



What decisions are made out in public and behind closed doors that make this so? I can't even imagine. Israel fights on a regular day, on chag, on joyous holidays, on fast days. And yet, one can see the miracles that occur in conjunction with the IDF and supporting agencies.

Hundreds of missiles fired from Iran and minimal injuries in Israel. The Iron Dome, the David's Sling, All being used to deflect the barrage of rockets and other weapons of war being directed at the **civilians of Israel**. Not the air bases. Not the army bases. Not the naval bases. While recently, these bases have been targets, my frustrations come when it is the civilian population that is targeted.

Decisions. For me, I have an easy decision. I will support Israel today, yesterday and tomorrow. I know that Israel is a precious gift for the Jewish people. The Holocaust was less than 80 years ago. Oct. 7, which, while not as devastating as the Holocaust, has sparked many specifics, reminiscent of the Holocaust. The Anti-Semitism on college campuses, the Anti-Semitism in the streets of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, need I go on? I wasn't alive during the Holocaust. I wasn't even a glimmer in my parent's eyes when Israel became a state. My mom was actually born that year. But we can't go back to when Jewish people didn't have their own homeland recognized by the world.

So my decision? Israel all the way!

Shabbat Shalom.