



## May G-d Bless

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

This morning, after my walk, I came home and proceeded to get ready for the day. When I walked into the kitchen, there was my daughter making her avocado-egg toast sandwich. It struck me. This is a blessing. Maybe not in the conventional sense. No fanfare. No big celebration needed. Just the ordinary, my 15 ½ year old being self sufficient. And when I say it, I even realize that it probably isn't that great of an accomplishment. However, it speaks to something so much bigger.

I think about all of those memes that showcase the teenager huddled in their beds under their covers, while the mom or dad blare loud music, spray water, open the shades, making as much noise as possible to get their kid out of bed to take some responsibility. That has never been me. Oh sure, my daughters have their lazy moments and their rooms through the years are often the subject of heated (read screaming) discussions about how the room needs to be cleaned. But taking responsibility for their actions? Being proactive and independent? That just happened.

Well, I should say, it probably didn't just happen. It might have something to do with the responsibilities that each was given throughout their young lives. Perhaps it was the trust placed in their abilities to pick out the clothing or get dressed or do their hair - all at the stages when they were ready. Perhaps it was giving each the capability to figure out what the next step should be in order for her to be successful.

My youngest was telling me about her class discussion about Frankenstein. The monster becomes evil because that is how the townspeople treated him. The discussion centered around the question, 'Did Frankenstein become a monster because of the townspeople or was the townspeople's attitude towards Frankenstein warranted because he was a monster?' She suggested another thought to her class. Couldn't Frankenstein make his own decisions and take personal responsibility for his actions? Now I never read Frankenstein so I don't know if that line of analysis was



shown in the story. But I was intrigued and a bit proud that my daughter looked to place the responsibility on the shoulders of the character and how he chose to act.

The pieces in my life that I count as blessings, often center around my daughters. Each one is independent. Each one knows her place in the world and her worth. Each has taken charge of her future, as she knows it at this point, and has developed a plan to achieve her goals. But what truly amazes me, is how each has adapted to wrenches thrown in her plans. Dr. Seuss, in *Oh The Places You'll Go* says:

*“You can get so confused that you’ll start in to race down long wiggled roads at a break-necking pace... (to) The Waiting Place.”*

Because the forks in the road always happen. It is how one deals with them that can make or break someone. How do you foster resiliency in yourself and in those you love? How do you support the changes in plans or set your child up for success and independence? Because as I kvell and thank HaShem, EVERYDAY, for all that I have, it’s 410 days and counting; lest we forget that 101 individual people are still being held hostage by terrorists. I can only pray that each has been blessed with resiliency. Each has a place hidden deep inside of them where they can go to feel loved and cared for while they wait. Because they can’t “escape all that waiting and staying”.

(Numbers; 6:24–26): *“May G-d bless you and keep you. May [G-d](#) shine his countenance upon you and may he be gracious to you. May G-d lift his countenance upon you and may he give you peace.”*

Shabbat Shalom.