

PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (January-June, 2011)

Episode #320 (June 25-27)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 22: Did you know that Israel takes the Palestinian water and re-sells it to them? Join Ashira today at International Water Day and listen to her friend Nevine sing a song for water. Did you know that some people in Gaza live in mud houses built for them by UNRWA, the UN refugee agency? Go visit a family in a mud house with Nagham.

"Segment 2 -- "Living In Palestine: Witness to Occupation"

Sacramento activists Patricia Daugherty and Maggie Coulter share their experiences and photographs from eight months in the Middle East, including six months in the West Bank and visits to Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Recorded at the Newman Center in Sacramento by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 3 -- "Let the Show Begin"

This film documents a 5 day international short film festival held in Baghdad in extremely difficult circumstances in September 2005. The young organizers of the event are determined to do something constructive and to assert a sense of creativity in a situation where daily violence traumatizes and paralyzes people.

Episode #319 (June 18-20)

Segment 1 -- "From a Silk Cocoon"

This film tells Dr. Satsuki Ina's family's story of the tragic outcome resulting from the wartime hysteria and racial profiling that occurred during WW II in the name of "military necessity." The film is followed by a panel and Q & A that includes Dr. Ina, Harry Wang, MD (President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento Chapter) and Basim Elkarra, Executive Director of the Council on Islamic Relations. "From a Silk Cocoon" received a Northern California Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Historical/Cultural Programming.

Segment 2 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.

Episode #318 (June 11-13)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 20: Join Ashira at Al Quds University of 12,000 students and which sits right outside the wall surrounding Jerusalem. Ashira and Jalal take us to the Prisoners' Museum at the university which brings memories of her own experience with detention. Nagham spends the day with the children of Beit Hanoun in an area sandwiched between Majdal and Sdeiroth. Meet 7-year-old Ahlam who is walking with a shrapnel that cannot be removed from her back and listen to the story of her family about what happened to them during the Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Day 21: On Mothers' Day Ala' goes to the school where her mom teaches, walks through old Jerusalem where they meet a drunk who sings for his mom. Gaza: Nagham goes to visit a mother who will get no gifts: All her children were killed by Israel's attacks. Join her in her home that is still damaged by white phosphorous bombs.

Segment 2 -- "Death and Taxes"

Twenty-eight people offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money. This tightly paced film introduces viewers to war tax refusal and redirecting tax dollars to peace, with music by Sharon Jones and the DapKings, Antibalas, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, and First Strike Theatre's version of "Don't Pay Taxes" by Charlie King.

Segment 3 -- "I Won't Drown on that Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back"

After Hurricane Katrina, there was a botched evacuation of the Orleans Parish Prison, and racial tension and brutality that divided the population into survivors and looters along lines of race and class.

Episode #317 (June 4-6)

Segment 1 -- "PSR 2011 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"

This year's Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew on May 1 at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from entries submitted by greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, based on a quote from President Dwight Eisenhower: "very gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." After the finalists read their essays, the authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other six each earned a \$750 scholarship.

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

"There are no real solutions, there are only responses." So say the expert contributors in The Post Carbon Reader, pointing to society's complex, interdependent systems squeezed by growing demand and declining resources. Co-editor Daniel Lerch tells us renewable energy will never be able to replace fossil fuels. Thus resilience - the capacity of a system to withstand disturbance while retaining its fundamental integrity - needs to replace sustainability as a guide to action.

Segment 3 -- "Hands in Peace"

Hands in Peace builds peace among diverse communities by adapting the ancient Greek Olympics for children. The children celebrate our common humanity and cultural diversity through non-competitive festivals like this one held in Sacramento.

Episode #316 (May 28-30)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 18: Ashira had heard a lot about Colonel Bahieh, a military physiotherapist, so she used the excuse of Diana's knee troubles to chat up the veteran survivor of Sabra and Chatilla camps massacre. Ashira badly wanted to meet the doctor to discuss her hair. In Gaza, Nagham goes to visit people in desperation after their homes were destroyed.

Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 19: Join Salam, the 18 year old girl from Ni'lin who had filmed an Israeli military commander shoot a detainee at close range and her 16 year old brother Arafat who was arrested in revenge for making Salam's footage public. Ashira visits them at their home and joins on the stone throwing round near the Wall which was declared a closed military zone for the next 3 months.

Segment 3 -- "The July War"

A powerful look at the 2006 Lebanon War (the July War) and its devastating impact on Lebanon's people, economy, and environment. This film, by Brandon Jourdan and Francesca Caporali, examines the reasons behind the war and its impact on all parties involved.

Episode #315 (May 21-23)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

What we eat is destroying both our bodies and the planet, according to author Lierre Keith, a recovering twenty-year vegan. While she passionately opposes factory farming of animals, she maintains that humans require nutrient-dense animal foods for good health. A grain-based diet is the basis for degenerative diseases we take for granted (diabetes, cancer, heart disease) - diseases of civilization. Annual grain production is destroying topsoil and creating deserts on a planetary scale. Lierre urges the restoration of perennial polycultures for long term sustainability.

Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 16: Ashira tries to cover clashes in Jerusalem, but soldiers refuse to let her pass. She goes through the mountain to the other side of the clashes and talks to the Palestinians throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers. She gets a dose of tear gas thrown at Palestinians. In Gaza, Nagham goes to the 7th anniversary of American activist Rachel Cori's death, killed by an Israeli Bulldozer, then listens to a poem about Rachel written by a girl in Gaza.

Segment 3 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 17: Ashira joins Jalal outside Al Maskoobieh, the holding prison where Jerusalemites are kept until their trial. Jalal's best friend was wrongfully arrested the day before. Meet parents of detainees, including a father of a detainee arrested previously and those released. In Gaza, Betty joins a demonstration demanding unity of Gaza and the West Bank and supporting Jerusalem.

Segment 4 -- "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

Segment 5 -- "Legacy of Torture: The War Against The Black Liberation Movement"

This video documents the torture of activists John Bowman, Hank Jones and Harold Taylor by New Orleans police in 1973, and the assassinations, policebrutality, and abuse suffered by the Black community during the 1960s and 1970s.

Episode #314 (May 14-16)

Segment 1 -- "This Land Is Our Land"

For more than three decades, transnational corporations have been busy buying up what used to be known as the commons -- everything from our forests and our oceans to our broadcast airwaves and our most important intellectual and cultural works. In "This Land is Our Land," acclaimed author David Bollier, a leading figure in the global movement to reclaim the commons, bucks the rising tide of anti-government extremism and free market ideology to show how commercial interests are undermining our collective interests. Placing the commons squarely within the American tradition of community engagement and the free exchange of ideas and information, Bollier shows how a bold new international movement steeped in democratic principles is trying to reclaim our common wealth by modeling practical alternatives to the restrictive monopoly powers of corporate elites.

Segment 2 -- "Not Just a Game"

We've been told again and again that sports and politics don't mix, that games are just games and athletes should just "shut up and play." But according to Nation magazine sports editor Dave Zirin, this notion is just flat-out wrong. In Not Just a Game, the powerful new documentary based on his bestselling book The People's History of Sports in the United States, Zirin argues that far from providing merely escapist entertainment, American sports have long been at the center of some of the major political debates and struggles of our time. In a fascinating tour of the good, the bad, and the ugly of American sports culture, Zirin first traces how American sports have glamorized militarism, racism, sexism, and homophobia, then excavates a largely forgotten history of rebel athletes who stood up to power and fought for social justice beyond the field of play. The result is as deeply moving as it is exhilarating: nothing less than an alternative history of political struggle in the United States as seen through the games its people have played.

Segment 3 -- "Media as Storytellers"

Media scholar George Gerbner explores the significance of commercial media eclipsing religion and art as the great storyteller of our time.

Episode #313 (May 7-9)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Reclaiming Childbirth: Why does industrial culture consider this natural event a medical problem? People in the radical birth movement want to broaden the conversation about options for families giving birth. Squat Birth Journal co-editors Jaydee Sperry, Meghan Guthrie, and Danny Scar want families to know they can choose birth processes in which they develop ongoing relationships with midwives and doulas. They also discuss medical costs, safety, health insurance, legal hurdles, and educational challenges.

Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 14: Ala' goes to Ramallah to meet up with a friend Bisam in Che Vatche where Mahmoud used to go out with his friends. The girls talk about the Mahmoud Darwish birthday celebration that Ala' missed and about his life in general, then go to Mahmoud Darwish's tomb next to the Cultural Palace in Ramallah. In Gaza, Nagham attends a demonstration in Beit Hanoun against the Wall Israel is building in the area, talks to some of the protesters, but can't reach the Wall area because it's too dangerous.

Day 15: Ashira goes to Bireh to the Palestinian Consumer Rights day, then watches Palestinian folk dancers perform for the audience. In Gaza, Nagham visits a pottery factory and talks to workers about the process of turning clay into pottery.

Segment 3 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad, was a cultural landmark, where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Director Emad Ali had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shabandar Cafe, all the bookshops on Al Mutanabbi Street and killed and wounded scores of people. Days later, Baghdad's poets and artists held a wake in the ruins of the street they loved so much and Emad took a small camera and went back to film. As he was leaving he was attacked, his camera stolen and he was shot in the legs and chest, and his own story is an epilogue to his film about the Shabandar Cafe and Mutanabbi Street - before and after they were destroyed.

Segment 4 -- "Hiwar"

Iraqi artists and writers wanted a cultural centre in Baghdad for years. After the war with Iran, the 1991 Gulf War and ongoing sanctions, they could not wait for peace. So the Hiwar Centre was opened in 1992 and is being rebuilt.

Episode #312 (April 30 - May 2)

Segment 1 -- "A Community Debate -- Achieving a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine: Is the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Campaign a Help or Hindrance?"

Recorded last year in Davis, California by a Media Edge crew, this debate was sponsored by the Davis Peace Coalition and features:

- (1) Omar Barghouti, an independent Palestinian researcher, commentator, human rights activist, founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and of the Palestinian Civil Society Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. Barghouti holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University, NY.
- (2) Zeev Maoz, a UC Davis professor of political science, and director of the International Relations Program. Maoz is a scholar of Middle East politics and an expert on the Israeli security establishment. He serves as a distinguished fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, and is a past director of academic programs at Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa and the Israeli Defense Forces' National Defense College.

Segment 2 -- "Entering the Booth"

From Access Sacramento's "A Place Called Sacramento" Film Festival: Walk in Midtown and you are surrounded by stories in need of telling -- let's listen. The spirit of neighborhood camaraderie is captured in this film, a project of Sacramento City College faculty member Travis Silcox and students.

Episode #311 (April 23-25)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 12: Nagham and Berlanty join the crowds in lighting 1000 candles symbolizing 1000 days on Gaza under siege. Meet Jamal Khudari of the Committee against the siege as well as Italian hospital worker Vittorio Arrigoni who tells his perspective on what it was like during Israel's war on Gaza. Lana Shahin, a well-known TV journalist based in Gaza tells her frank opinion on how useful such activities are.

Segment 2 -- " Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 13: Ashira goes to Beit Jala to meet with Aliza Hava from USA. The crew could not enter Jerusalem that day because there was a full closure, including the people who are carrying permits. A peace workshop for IPCRI was taking place at Talita Koomi school, where they discussed how to improve a non-violent curriculum using Music and Physio-drama. In Gaza, Nagham visits a vegetable market, talks to the shopkeepers, then goes to the Yarmuk area next to the garbage dump where Hamas forced shopkeepers to move to.

Segment 3 -- "Letters from Beirut"

An intimate, personal and powerful telling of the story of the 2006 war in Lebanon. A series of letters written by Hanady Salman - a mother living through the war in Beirut - carve a narrative arc through the intense and haunting images of conflict.

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

What happens if you create 25 small groups to discuss food values and issues, and include a local farmer or food producer in each one? Innovative organizers Judy Alexander, Dick Bergeron and Peter Bates facilitated the "Menu for the Future" groups to support local farmers and educate eaters. Results: Eaters changed their food choices, and the market for local food products expanded.

Episode #310 (April 16-18)

Segment 1 -- "Never Again for Anyone"

Speaking to a capacity crowd during his visit to Sacramento on February 16, Dr. Hajo Meyer shared the lesson of his experience in Auschwitz. Dr. Meyer was joined by UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Hatem Bazian, chairman of the American Muslims for Palestine. In the face of the on-going ethnic cleansing of Palestine, attacks and persecution of Muslim and Arab communities in the U.S., and on-going attacks against the rights of other communities and immigrants, they asserted a commitment to collective humanity.

Segment 2 -- "The Story of Stuff"

With over 12 million on-line views, "The Story of Stuff" -- an animated documentary about the lifecycle of material goods -- is one of the most widely viewed environmental-themed short films of all time. Since its release in December 2007, The Story of Stuff has been shown in thousands of schools, houses of worship, community events and businesses around the world.

Episode #309 (April 9-11)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 10: Ashira covers a press conference by the Palestinian Opposition, demanding that President Mahmoud Abbas does not go back to negotiations with Israel unless Israel stops building of settlements in Jerusalem. Ashira meets with Bassam Salhi, Secretary General of the People's Party and Abdel Rahim Malouh, Deputy Secretary General of the PFLP. In Gaza, Nagham goes to Gallery Al Balad where artists of all colors conglomerate to see an exhibition of paintings on Jerusalem. After seeing some of the paintings, Nagham visits the garden for a session of Oud, the Arab musical instrument, played by Imad. Meet Jamal, the owner of Al Balad who made the dream a reality.

Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 11: Ashira goes to La Vie Café in Ramallah to pick up her mom, who is spending the evening with friends. Ashira visits Manar, her friend since school who hasn't been able to visit Ashira at her house for ages because she has no permit to go to Jerusalem. In Gaza, Berlanty goes to the Zoo, and sees the owner's son stick a stick in the lion's mouth, and the strangest zebra on earth! Will the donkey actor get an Oscar or will he get UNESCO's World Freedom Prize for unlawful imprisonment while in the line of duty?

Segment 3 -- "Death & Taxes"

Twenty-eight people offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money. This tightly paced film introduces viewers to war tax refusal and redirecting tax dollars to peace, with music by Sharon Jones and the DapKings, Antibalas, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, and First Strike Theatre's version of "Don't Pay Taxes" by Charlie King.

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

Watch baker Jen Ownbey whip up a batch of zucchini bread while she talks with Janaia about doing what she loves. Every week, members of her bakery CSA (community supported agriculture) get a handmade, local, mostly organic, and even personalized box of breads and bakery desserts. Jen talks about getting started, selling wholesale and at growers markets, plus the joys, lessons, and challenges of running a solo business.

Segment 5 -- "Make a Better World"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blended with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Episode #308 (April 2-4)

Segment 1 -- "Lies, Misreporting and Catastrophes in the Middle East"

Robert Fisk, the best-selling author and provocative journalist, spoke to a packed auditorium on the campus of Sacramento State University on September 20, 2010. His presentation, followed by a questions-and-answers period with the audience, was recorded by a Media Edge crew. This event was sponsored by the CSUS Middle East Cultural Association, Focus on the Middle East, and Sacramento Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Segment 2 -- "The Poetry of Listening"

A short documentary featuring Israeli and Palestinian poets and storytellers from Gaza to Tel Aviv.

Segment 3 -- "Guerrilla Warfare in the Information Age"

Robert Sterling breaks down the nature of info-war.

Episode #307 (March 26-28)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 8: Ala' goes to Ramallah, the most lively city in Palestine, for "grocery" shopping. Goods are cheaper and the city is enjoyable. Go buy fresh bread from the bakery and check out the vegetables. Nagham heads to the French Cultural Center's art gallery to see an exhibition for Gazan artist Mohamad Harb. She also meets with Jean Mathiot, the Director of the French Cultural center. Can you understand Mohamad's paintings?

Segment 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Erica Anderson from New York visits Ashira. They start their journey at Qalandya checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah, which looks like an official border crossing. Check out the Qalandya "cages" through which Palestinian have to pass. Ashira tries to explain to her American friend what it means to be a Jerusalemite with a special ID when a very frustrated woman jumps in front of the camera and starts off at the way she was treated at the checkpoint. Check out the graffiti on the Wall of Separation before heading to Al Amari refugee camp where you will meet Adam who Ashira calls her "brother." Adam used to be "wanted" by Israel, so he is lucky to be alive and free. In Gaza join Berlanty Azam at an event held in commemoration of International Woman's Day where Berlanty checks out the hand-made products on sale. Meet Ghada Al Jathba, Chairperson of the UNRWA Gaza Women Committee.

Segment 3 -- "The Children of Ibdaa"

The lives of several adolescents in a Palestinian children's dance troupe from a West Bank refugee camp. They use their performance to express the history, struggle, and aspirations of their people.

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

Filmmaker Jon Cooksey ("How to Boil a Frog") is one funny guy, even while presenting the most serious problems facing humanity. In this fast-paced conversation, he gallops all over the map with five big problems, five big solutions, and a playful and heartfelt approach. Wacky, sobering, full of animations, with Jon in dozens of personnas, "How to Boil a Frog" is a film to view and discuss with friends.

Segment 5 -- "The School of the Americas"

A "music video" by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, about the notorious US military academy at Fort Benning, Georgia and a major protest there in 2005. Graduates of this school have perpetrated many of the worst human rights violations in recent Latin American history.

Episode #306 (March 19-21)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 7: Ashira covers a non-violent protest in Sheikh Jarrah's district of Jerusalem with Palestinians, peace activists and Israelis in the march. Nagham looks for people collecting pebbles and stones to build their destroyed homes after construction material became expensive. Meet "General," the working Horse who was smuggled through a tunnel from Egypt!

Segment 2 -- "Steadfastness"

Democracy Now! reporter Ana Nogueira traveled to Lebanon during and after the 2006 war. Her reports document Israeli's massive use of cluster bombs, the immense ecological destruction and the war's toll of civilian casualties.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

Published 20 years ago, Your Money or Your Life was written for these times, asserts co-author Vicki Robin. Following its nine steps has transformed our own lives and those of some of our Peak Moment guests, just like the subtitle says: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence. People examine their assumptions about money, decide what is "Enough," get out of debt, and free up life energy to invest in what matters most to them. Vicki discusses applying these same tools to relationships with our time, opportunities for creativity and exchange, building community, and her ten-mile food diet.

Segment 4 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

This Sierra Club border film details the unique and diverse natural areas along the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and explains how they have been and will be affected by current and planned federal border policy and infrastructure, as well as the danger to our rights and safety imposed by sweeping new powers granted to the Department of Homeland Security.

Episode #305 (March 12-14)

Segment 1 -- "Never Again for Anyone"

Speaking to a capacity crowd during his visit to Sacramento on February 16, Dr. Hajo Meyer shared the lesson of his experience in Auschwitz. Dr. Meyer was joined by UC Berkeley professor, Dr. Hatem Bazian, chairman of the American Muslims for Palestine. In the face of the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestine, attacks and persecution of Muslim and Arab communities in the U.S., and on-going attacks against the rights of other communities and immigrants, they asserted a commitment to collective humanity.

Segment 2 -- "Demonstration Supporting the People of Libya"

On February 22, many Sacramento residents gathered to speak out in support of anti-government protesters and against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, and his regime's violent reaction to their demonstrations

Segment 3 -- "Yes We Can, Can"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blending inspirational images with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Episode #304 (March 5-7)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem -- Episode 6"

Day 6: Ala' attends a lecture on gender issues in Bethlehem University, where she is going for a Masters Degree. Nagham waits for her brother and his family who were on a trip to Dubai to cross from Egypt into Gaza. The wait is long at the border.

Segment 2 -- "PSR 2010 Scholarship Essay Contest Finals"

The 2010 Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was recorded by a Media Edge crew at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The winning essays were chosen from a field of 148 entries from greater Sacramento area high school students that reacted to this year's prompt, based on a Native American saying: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." At this event, nine finalists read their essays. The authors of the top three essays earned \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, and the other six each earned a \$750 scholarship.

Episode #303 (February 26-28)

Segment 1 -- "Celebration with the Egyptian People and Vigil for the Martyrs of the Revolution"

As Tahrir Square exploded into a celebration of the amazing success of the Egyptian Revolution, a group gathered in Sacramento to express both their delight with the successful protests and their respect for the martyrs of the revolution.

Segment 2 -- "Focus on the Middle East"

CSU-Sacramento Sociology professor Ayad Al Qazazz talks with Hatem Abudayyeh, an anti-war and international solidarity activist whose home was raided by the FBI on Sept. 24. 14 people were subpoenaed to appear before a Grand Jury investigating "material support of terrorism." Since then, 9 other activists have been subpoenaed, 6 of them Palestinian activists. This type of repression is a tool to silence dissent and to repress movements for social justice. The 23 activists have refused to testify in this Grand Jury investigation. On February 11, Hatem Abudayyeh was in Sacramento to explain the seriousness of targeting activists and to raise money for the \$500,000 bail he and fellow activists could face if held in contempt. He is the Executive Director of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN), a community based organization that helps empower Arab Americans and Arab immigrants across Chicago and through organizing, advocacy, social services, youth development programming, and arts and culture.

Segment 3 -- "Notes on the War"

This film, by Rosie Bsheer and Maya Mikdashi for the Deep Dish TV "Nothing is Safe" series, highlights the voices of citizens who were displaced during the 2006 war in Lebanon. It addresses the debates within Lebanese society that were sparked by the conflict, the Lebanese government response to the crisis, the role of Hizbollah and how the U.S. attempted to define the Israeli attack as part of the "war on terrorism."

Segment 4 -- "Peak Moment"

Food For All on Haultain Boulevard: Rainey Hopewell's crazy idea has ended up feeding a neighborhood and creating community. She and Margot Johnston planted vegetables in the parking strip in front of their house. They offer them free for the taking -- to anyone, anytime -- with messages chalked on the sidewalk noting when particular veggies are ready to pick. Neighboring children and adults are joining in to work on the garden, harvesting fun along with food, and even handing fresh-picked veggies to passers-by.

Episode #302 (February 19-21)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem -- Episode 5"

Day 5: Special Edition: Join Ashira as she tries to enter Jerusalem with a group of journalists who want to cover the clashes between the people praying at Al Aqsa Mosque and Israeli troops. Watch a Palestinian kid climb high to destroy an Israeli security camera, and a brave woman who curses the Israeli soldiers who locked the door leading to Al Aqsa and won't open it! After a day full of action, Ashira goes to Maqased hospital where the injured were taken and checks on them. See the effect of rubber coated steel bullets on the injured.

Segment 2 -- "Baghdad Days"

Hiba Basseem, a young woman from Kirkuk, returns to Baghdad after the war, to finish her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. The film is a diary of her year as she tries to find a place to live, looks for work, graduates from college, deals with family problems and struggles to come to terms with her position as a woman on her own. This film won a New Horizon silver award at the Al Jazeera International Film Festival in Doha (2006) and a golden award at the Rotterdam Arab Film Festival (2006).

Segment 3 -- "Other Voices"

Alternative voices emerge in Israel and Palestine that bypass hatred and engage in direct peace-making activities -- like rebuilding a demolished Palestinian home in a refugee camp.

Segment 4 -- "PSR 7th Annual Dinner: Norman Solomon"

Norman Solomon was the keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Dinner of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility on November 7, 2010. The title of his presentation was "The Cost of War and the Potential for Peace." An independent journalist, Mr. Solomon has spent much of his life working for peace and social justice and has been described by the Los Angeles Times as "a formidable thinker and activist." He has published extensively in prestigious newspapers and journals in the U.S. and abroad as well as on the internet. His most recent books are "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning us to Death," and "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State". Mr. Solomon is the founder and president of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a national consortium of policy researchers and analysts.

Episode #301 (February 12-14)

Segment 1 -- "Not Just a Game"

We've been told again and again that sports and politics don't mix, that games are just games and athletes should just "shut up and play." But according to Nation magazine sports editor Dave Zirin, this notion is just flat-out wrong. In *Not Just a Game*, the powerful new documentary based on his bestselling book *The People's History of Sports in the United States*, Zirin argues that far from providing merely escapist entertainment, American sports have long been at the center of some of the major political debates and struggles of our time. In a fascinating tour of the good, the bad, and the ugly of American sports culture, Zirin first traces how American sports have glamorized militarism, racism, sexism, and homophobia, then excavates a largely forgotten history of rebel athletes who stood up to power and fought for social justice beyond the field of play. The result is as deeply moving as it is exhilarating: nothing less than an alternative history of political struggle in the United States as seen through the games its people have played.

Segment 2 -- "Live From Tent City: The Last 21 Days"

On April 1, 2009, Emmy award-winning filmmaker Costa Mantis moved into Sacramento's "tent city" to live with homeless people there. Now you can hear their stories.

Episode #300 (February 5-7)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem -- Episode 4"

Day 4: At his request Ashira takes Mohamed Diab, the lead singer in Al Ashekeen Group, on a visit to late President Yasser Arafat's Mausoleum. On the way he sings the famous song "From Acre Prison, there came out a funeral." At the Mausoleum it was a very emotional time for Mohamed, born in Syria, and who had never been to Palestine in his life. He knew Yasser Arafat in person. Nagham takes us on a tour to the markets in Gaza to check which goods are imported and which are smuggled through tunnels that run under the borders between Gaza and Egypt! Nagham then goes to one of the tunnels for a real investigative report! Watch her being lowered into the deep tunnel on a rope and interview smugglers inside the tunnel!

Segment 2 -- "Peak Moment"

An awful lot of what we've taken for granted about the future can't continue," says executive editor Sarah van Gelder of YES! Magazine. Publisher Fran Korten describes local food as an important avenue into a much larger vision of what we can become. Fran and Sarah discuss sources of real happiness that don't destroy the planet, an upcoming issue of YES! Magazine on families, their weekly "YES! This Week" e-newsletter, and the YES! emphasis on helping people see possibilities and take action on positive initiatives.

Segment 3 -- "Getting Out"

This documentary shows the impact that the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program has had on former prisoners trying to reestablish their lives. Filmed inside the walls of the notorious "Sing Sing" prison in New York, this video documents the 15-year incarceration and subsequent release of two inmates. It also highlights the difficulties many former prisoners experience trying to reestablish life outside of prison walls. This documentary was created by David Bagnall and George Stoney. Known as "the father of public access" by video activists across the US, the 93-year-old Stoney is also known for his other documentaries, including "All My Babies" in 1953 (which was recently inducted into the National Film Registry) and "The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time."

Episode #299 (January 29-31)

Segment 1 -- "This Land is Our Land"

For more than three decades, transnational corporations have been busy buying up what used to be known as the commons -- everything from our forests and our oceans to our broadcast airwaves and our most important intellectual and cultural works. In "This Land is Our Land," acclaimed author David Bollier, a leading figure in the global movement to reclaim the commons, bucks the rising tide of anti-government extremism and free market ideology to show how commercial interests are undermining our collective interests. Placing the commons squarely within the American tradition of community engagement and the free exchange of ideas and information, Bollier shows how a bold new international movement steeped in democratic principles is trying to reclaim our common wealth by modeling practical alternatives to the restrictive monopoly powers of corporate elites.

Segment 2 -- "Generation M"

Despite the achievements of the women's movement over the past four decades, misogyny remains a persistent force in American culture. In this important documentary, Thomas Keith, professor of philosophy at California State University-Long Beach, looks specifically at misogyny and sexism in mainstream American media exploring how negative definitions of femininity and hateful attitudes toward women get constructed and perpetuated at the very heart of our popular culture.

Segment 3 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.

Episode #298 (January 22-24)

Segment 1 -- "Lies, Misreporting and Catastrophes in the Middle East"

Robert Fisk, the best-selling author and provocative journalist, spoke to a packed auditorium on the campus of Sacramento State University on September 20, 2010. His presentation, followed by an extensive questions-and-answers period with the audience, was recorded in full by a Media Edge crew. This event was sponsored by the CSUS Middle East Cultural Association, Focus on the Middle East, and Sacramento Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Segment 2 -- "HAITI: The Untold Story"

Since the Haitian earthquake, much attention has been given to humanitarian relief efforts, however, nobody seems to want to talk about Haiti's history and how it became the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Media Edge producer, Michael Stavros tells the Untold Story.

Segment 3 -- "SHADA"

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner.

Episode #297 (January 15-17)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem -- Episode 3"

Day 3: Ashira is working with her client Diana Alzeer of The Palestine Network on videos taken during the network's founding conference in Bethlehem. Watch Ramzi Khoury speak about the network at the opening session and Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna whose address on Jerusalem brought tears to the eyes of the conference! March 3, 2010: At the end Ashira discovers from Diana that Mohamad Diab of the famous Al Ashekeen Group is still in town and makes Diana call him and arrange a get-together tomorrow. In Gaza, Donna Maria goes down to write a report on those who lost their homes in the Israeli war on Gaza and now live in tents. Enter the tents and see the living conditions of those devastated people, and see the kids walk through the ponds of murky waters surrounding the tents.

Segment 2 -- "Jerusalem...The East Side Story"

A feature-length documentary about Israel's policy to gain supremacy over the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace.

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

In this interview by Jim Fritz on Port Townsend Television, Peak Moment host Janaia Donaldson tackles corporate control and a dysfunctional system that profits from increasing unhealthiness and consuming the planet. She points to Peak Moment guests as models for the average family to gain genuine security. They're withdrawing from the money system, growing food, and joining neighbors to prepare for emergencies.

Segment 4 -- "Make A Better World"

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blended with the music of Maria Muldaur.

Episode #296 (January 8-10)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem -- Episode 2"

Day 2: Ashira goes to Hakawati Theatre in Jerusalem where actors are training for the next play: From Jerusalem with Love, Najil Ashira & Ala' then visit the photo exhibition of Mia Gondahl on photos from Gaza! Watch her great photos! Nagham in Gaza is the translator at a workshop by Director Mauric Jackebson training Palestinians on how to film for television.

Segment 2 -- "The Gaza Freedom Flotilla: Eyewitness Reports and Smuggled Footage"

On the night of May 30, 2010, the Mavi Marmara, one of the seven ships in a Gaza bound humanitarian aid convoy, was attacked and boarded by the Israeli military. The attack by 4 warships, 2 submarines, 3 helicopters and 30 zodiacs took place on international waters in violation of international law. Eleven passengers from the Mavi Marmara were killed, dozens were wounded, and six hundred were forced to go to Israel where they were jailed. All media equipment was confiscated or destroyed. For days Israel told its version of the event. As flotilla members returned home, eyewitness accounts emerged and Lara Lee from Cultures of Resistance presented her smuggled raw footage to the UN Press Club and later online. These resources contradicted Israeli press releases. Israel then broadcast doctored footage it took from passengers' cameras to fend off an outpouring of criticism from the world community. Clearly an impartial investigation needed to be made, but Israel and the US blocked this. (Media Edge producer Mary Brassell compiled footage from online sources to create this video.)

Segment 3 -- "Peak Moment"

A weekly free bike coop where you can use mechanics' tools and expertise to fix your bike? Free clinics where schoolkids or neighbors learn to maintain or build their own bikes from used parts? Chauncey and Dash Tudhope-Locklear make a living repairing bicycles, but volunteer projects support their mission of empowering "social change through bicycles." With an eye to local food self-reliance, they even repair farmers' bicycles for free.

Episode #295 (January 1-3)

Segment 1 -- "Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem -- Episode 1"

"Sleepless in Gaza... and Jerusalem" is a video diary of young Palestinian women, Muslim and Christian, living in Gaza, Jerusalem and the rest of The West Bank. These videos show the real life of Palestinians living under occupation. This series covers a three month segment of life and its diverse reality in this troubled area. In this initial episode, Ashira takes us to downtown Jerusalem where we meet a leather bag maker who explains the heavy burden of Israeli taxes. In Gaza, Nagham launches her documentary film, "In the Tax".

Segment 2 -- "Occupation 101"

An award-winning, thought-provoking and powerful documentary film on the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The film presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions. It also details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the major obstacles that stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace. The roots of the conflict are explained through first-hand on-the-ground experiences from leading Middle East scholars, peace activists, journalists, religious leaders and humanitarian workers.