

PREVIOUSLY ON “MEDIA EDGE” (July-December, 2011)

Episode 346 (December 24-26)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Learn from the Soviets -- personal relationships are the best currency, says Russian-born author Dmitry Orlov. The American empire is following the USSR into collapse, he asserts, with financial collapse happening first, followed by commercial and then political collapse. Dmitry, an America resident for several decades, suggests lowering our needs and expectations and replacing money transactions with barter and exchanges.

"Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 48: Palestine marks Prisoners Day with events and activities all over The West Bank & Gaza. Join Diana at the Rally in downtown Ramallah, where she meets Nadia Khayyat, who spent 5 years in Israeli prisons, who tells her about life for Palestinian political prisoners. How do prison authorities treat all medical problems? See people raise the photos of their loved ones still behind bars. She gets Deputy Minister of Prisoners in the Palestinian Authority Ziad Abu Ain to give the latest update on number of Freedom Prisoners that remain to be freed and he explains why it is so easy to find a Palestinian who has been a prisoner. He had spent 13 years of his life behind bars. But the talk of town on this Prisoners Day is Raed Abu Hamad whose family was informed he died yesterday while in solitary confinement. Diana goes to his home to find the family in shock. Their son, a healthy 31-year-old sportsman, couldn't have died "just like that!" So what are they going to do about it? In Gaza, Farah goes to the unified rally of all political parties and pulls out Majed Shaheen from amongst the crowds. Majed had spent 23 years behind bars and Farah wants to know what it was like.

"Big Bucks, Big Pharma"

This video pulls back the curtain on the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry to expose the insidious ways that illness is used, manipulated, and in some instances created, for capital gain. Focusing on the industry's marketing practices, media scholars and health professionals help viewers understand the ways in which direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertising glamorizes and normalizes the use of prescription medication, and works in tandem with promotion to doctors. Combined, these industry practices shape how both patients and doctors understand and relate to disease and treatment. Ultimately, "Big Bucks, Big Pharma" challenges us to ask important questions about the consequences of relying on a for-profit industry for our health and well-being.

"The Poetry of Listening"

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

Episode 345 (December 17-19)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Local Investing Made Easy -- We're "keeping money flowing locally so we're more prosperous as a community," says James Frazier, co-founder of the Local Investment Opportunities Network (LION) in Port Townsend, Washington. LION is a clearinghouse between business owners like Matthew Day and potential investors like Kees Kolff. A business owner presents an investment opportunity to LION members. It's all based on one-to-one personal relationships, so support can be more than monetary, says Kees — such as interest paid in locally-produced cheese and cider!

"Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 47: A hot day in Bil'in, the symbol of non-violent resistance against occupation, where it is non-stop protesting the Separation Wall that steals the village's lands. A year ago, today, Bel'in's Bassem Abu Rahmeh was asking the Israeli soldiers to stop shooting to save a French protester who had been shot by a rubber bullet in her head. Instead they shot a teargas canister from short distant to his chest and killed him. Ashira takes us into his family's home. Meet his mother and brothers. Ashraf then takes her to the spot where Bassem was killed. Fateh is holding a rally in town to commemorate both the anniversary of Bassem's murder and the 22nd

anniversary of the assassination of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) who was one of the greatest leaders of the PLO and God father of the First Intifada. Meet his wife Intissar, a senior in Fateh who says they tried to kill resistance, but here we are 22 years later and resistance goes on. Then the protest starts.

Palestinians and foreigners head to the spot where Bassem was killed and you are welcome to join the action. Pardon us for the shaky camera action, it is difficult to keep shoulder-cams stable in the midst tear gas. She and the crew got an overdose of that teargas. Listen to Kobi Snitz, the Israeli protester, who wonders what Israelis are doing in Tel Aviv, they should all be here in Bel'in! Meet International Solidarity Campaign's Rocky from Australia and Red, the Jewish American who says Israel is against what Judaism stands for. Why is she ashamed of the American flag?

"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 95-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 344 (December 10-12)

Segment 1 -- "Militainment, Inc." (Part 2)

Militainment, Inc. offers a fascinating, disturbing, and timely glimpse into the militarization of American popular culture, examining how U.S. news coverage has come to resemble Hollywood film, video games, and "reality television" in its glamorization of war. Mobilizing an astonishing range of media examples - from news anchors' idolatry of military machinery to the impact of government propaganda on war reporting - the film asks: How has war taken its place in the culture as an entertainment spectacle? And how does presenting war as entertainment affect the ability of citizens to evaluate the necessity and real human costs of military action?

"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.

"Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 46: Ashira goes to an area in Anata where homes and lands of Palestinians are "horseshoe" surrounded by Israeli military basis and settlements. The Israeli military commander visits the families often with one message: sell your home or land because we are throwing you out of them anyway. The families living there for hundreds of years are not allowed to build, expand or even renovate their homes. They have been issued home demolition warrants and one woman is summoned at a military court. The Palestinians have one answer to the message: We are not leaving. In Gaza, Nagham visits the ex-settlement the Israelis abandoned when they pulled out of Gaza. It is now a public park for Gazans and Nagham doesn't miss out on whatever play she finds there.

Episode 343 (December 3-5)

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

Day 45: Join Diana on Mount Gerizim in Nablus on an enlightening visit with the Samaritans on their New Year Day. What is the difference between the biblical Mounts Gerizim and Ebal? What do Samaritans, who consider themselves the true ancient Israelites who crossed from Egypt, think of Jerusalem from the religious angle? What do they consider themselves, Palestinians or Israelis? Listen to the ancient Samaritan language in prayers and see what the script looks like. What is it that the Israelis and Palestinians should learn from the smallest community on earth that dwindled down from over 3 million to just around 700 today?

"The Children of Ibdaa - To Create Something Out of Nothing"

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.

"Militainment, Inc." (Part 1)

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Episode 342 (November 26-28)

Segment 1 -- "Daniel Ellsberg, PhD"

Daniel Ellsberg is a former United States military analyst who, while employed by the RAND Corporation, precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War, to The New York Times and other newspapers. Ellsberg spoke in Sacramento on September 9, 2011 about secrets, lies and ethics from the Viet Nam era through today's WikiLeaks publications. His presentation was recorded by Media Edge.

Segment 2 -- "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, police brutality, and abuse suffered by the Black community during the 1960s and 1970s.

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.

Episode 341 (November 19-21)

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

Day 44: Yara goes down to Al Manara in Ramallah where many foreigners and Palestinians are holding a vigil in protest of the Israeli military law. Meet them and hear what they have to say including Mustafa Barghouti. In Gaza Naghah heads early morning to meet the fishermen as they get to shore. Why is it easy to bring back shrimp but not large fish from the Gaza sea?

Segment 2 -- "A Really Inconvenient Truth"

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" woke the world up to the dangers of global warming. But, argues Joel Kovel, while we should be grateful to Gore for sounding the alarm, we also need to go far beyond his reading of the causes of this crisis and of what needs to be done about it.

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 340 (November 12-14)

Segment 1 -- "Returning Fire"

Video games like "Modern Warfare", "America's Army", "Medal of Honor" and "Battlefield" are part of an exploding market of war games whose revenues now far outpace even the biggest Hollywood blockbusters. The sophistication of these games is undeniable, offering users a stunningly realistic experience of ground combat and a glimpse into the increasingly virtual world of long-distance, push-button warfare. Far less clear, though, is what these games are doing to users, our political culture, and our capacity to empathize with people directly affected by the actual trauma of war. For the culture-jamming activists featured in this film, these uncertainties were a call to action. In three separate vignettes, we see how Anne-Marie Schleiner, Wafaa Bilal, and Joseph Delappe moved dissent from the streets to our screens, infiltrating war games in an attempt to break the hypnotic spell of "militainment." Their work forces all of us -- gamers and non-gamers alike -- to think critically about what it means when the clinical tools of real-world killing become forms of consumer play.

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 -- "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 339 (November 5-7)

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

Day 42: This film, by chance, is all about great fun in Ramallah and Gaza. Egyptian Singer Amr Mostafa is in Ramallah and Diana takes you to the concert but not before catching him for a fast chat in the lobby of the hotel. Diana makes it early to the concert and makes Nadine, who is presenting Amr at the concert, sing and when you hear her you will know why. Meet Hadil who met Amr at the hotel and asked him to make an announcement when he is back in Egypt to encourage other singers to come perform in Ramallah. Watch the concert's opening acts, Palestinian singers Sabreen and then Lian. Do Palestinians youths know how to have a break? Was it easy for Amr to come to Ramallah? Deema, the producer of the concert tells you and what was it that shocked Suma.

In Gaza, nothing is going to stop people watching the European Football Cup, not even electricity shut downs. Iman hops from one place to another to see fans supporting this team or that all dressed in their team colors and carrying the team's flags. So how many Gazans support Barcelona and how many are all for Real Madrid? Who does Iman support? Who wins?

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

Day 43: Ashira goes to visit In'am to check on her and her family in light of a new military law that can make their life even more miserable than it already is. This family has a permit to sleep at their home in Jerusalem and drive on the road from their home to the checkpoint with the West Bank, ONLY. So they can't visit the store next door -- they have to travel to the West Bank, buy their groceries, travel back into their Jerusalem home without getting out of the car. How long does it take In'am to visit her mother who lives 2 minutes away? Farah is

shocked at how there are two separate protests for prisoners in Gaza. Fateh was holding a protest inside of the Red Cross Headquarters, their weekly sit-in for prisoners, and Hamas called for a rally outside the same place. Meet families of prisoners on both sides, including Um Ahmad whose husband now has several grandchildren that he has never met. Families of Gazan Prisoners, around 11,000, have not been able to visit their loved ones for years.

Segment 3 -- "COINTELPRO 101"

This film exposes illegal surveillance, disruption, removal, and other extreme tactics used by the US government in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. COINTELPRO refers to the official FBI COunter INTELigence PROgram carried out to surveil, imprison, and eliminate leaders of social justice movements and to disrupt, divide, and destroy the movements as well. Through interviews with activists who experienced these abuses first-hand and with rare historical footage, the film provides an educational introduction to a period of intense repression and draws relevant lessons for the present and future.

Episode 338 (October 29-31)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Is the world a better place because you were born?" asks author Derrick Jensen. He contrasts sustainable indigenous cultures who enrich their habitat with the current "dominant culture destroying everything." He explores how industrial civilization is inherently violent, turning people into objects and the earth into stuff.

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

Day 41: Ashira is in Beer Al Sabe' (Beersheba) where her cousin, Rasheed Nashashibi, is Rally racing. She wanted to be his copilot, only she is dyslexic and her promises to learn her right from left real fast didn't work, but at the end she did get a spin! In Gaza, Farah goes to see her friend since childhood Yasmine Al Khodari at her father's beautiful museum. Before taking a tour of the hall full of ancient artifacts dating back thousands of years, the conversation sheds light on the gap between the poor and rich with a story Yasmine tells about what children from the refugee camps did when they were served food at the museum. Some of the artifacts you will see date back to the times of the Pharaohs, others to other eras including the Islamic and Christian empires.

Segment 3 -- "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 4 -- "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 337 (October 22-24)

Segment 1 -- "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.

Segment 2 -- "Wild Versus Wall"

The Sierra Club border film, *Wild Versus Wall*, 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.

Segment 3 -- "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors"

This film offers a sobering critique of our perceived recent history, of our present global circumstances, and our shared future in light of imminent, under-reported and mis-represented energy production constraints. Through a series of candid, informed and articulate interviews, "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors" argues that the bizarre events surrounding the 9/11 attacks, and the equally bizarre prosecution of the so-called "war on terror", can be more credibly understood in the wider context of an imminent and critical divergence between available global oil supply and global oil demand.

Episode 336 (October 15-17)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"My own reaction seemed so crazy to me," says psychologist Kathy McMahon of her response to Peak Oil. Wondering if she was the only "wacko", she started the Peak Oil Blues blog to explore her own and readers' responses. As the "Peak Shrink," Kathy formulated a delightfully tongue-in-cheek "Panglossian Disorder" — an unrealistic optimism about the future.

Segments 2 & 3 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 39: Ashira and Ozy go with her mom, grandma and grand uncle Nasri Nashashibi to Umm Safa village near Beir Zeit and when they get to Uncle Nasri's home which he hasn't visited in a while they are shocked to discover that the main political party Fateh is using it as an office! Have you heard of the great writer, journalist and friend of many leaders including the First King of Jordan, Abdullah I, Jamal Abdul Nasser, and the Shah of Iran? Listen to what he has to say about Pakistani President Ayoub Khan! Meet Nasri Nashashibi, born 1920, the great writer of 50 books, and see his village he is trying to protect from settlement expansion. In Gaza Nagham joins rapper Khaled Harara while he is recording his latest song! Khaled's rap is all about the reality of life for Gazans and he sings against the division between Hamas and Fateh. Even when Khaled invites Nagham for coffee at a cafe she makes him sing a song about corruption.

Day 40: What happened to the survivors of the bombing of the beach picnic of June 8, 2006? The Ghalia family were having a barbeque on the Gaza beach when an Israeli missile killed most of them. Adham, who used to like to play football (soccer) was thought to be dead, so much so that we learn in today's film that he had been placed in the fridge for half an hour before they discovered he was alive. An Israeli hospital was planning on cutting off his torn leg but his uncle refused. The Palestine Children's Relief Fund sent him to the US, where Dr. Andrew Elkwood conducted a difficult nerve transplant surgery and gave him back his ability to walk. Did Adham know that Elkwood is a Jew? How does he feel about that fact? Nagham and Adham have become football buddies and good friends, but can Nagham break through with Huda, now 16-years-old, who refuses to come close to the sea?

Segment 4 -- "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."

Episode 335 (October 8-10)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

As chair of the Local 2020 Food Resiliency Action Group in Port Townsend, WA, Judy Alexander helped initiate 25 community gardens in her county within four years. Sitting in her own neighborhood's garden, she talks about the power of cooperative gardens compared with individual plots. There's something for people of all ages and skills to do (even non-gardeners), while enjoying learning from one another, and building closer neighbors and a more secure community.

Segment 2 -- "Eating Mercifully"

This short film from the Humane Society of the United States explores Christian perspectives on factory farming. A growing number of Christians are changing their diet and consumer purchases because the way animals are treated in factory farms is inconsistent with their beliefs. Some are demanding better treatment of farm animals, while some are simply leaving animals off their plates altogether.

Segment 3 -- "The Mean World Syndrome"

For years, debates have raged among scholars, politicians, and concerned parents about the effects of media violence on viewers. Too often these debates have descended into simplistic battles between those who claim that media messages directly cause violence and those who argue that activists exaggerate the impact of media exposure altogether. The Mean World Syndrome, based on the groundbreaking work of media scholar George Gerbner, urges us to think about media effects in more nuanced ways. Ranging from Hollywood movies and prime-time dramas to reality programming and the local news, the film examines how media violence forms a pervasive cultural environment that cultivates in heavy viewers, especially, a heightened state of insecurity, exaggerated perceptions of risk and danger, and a fear-driven propensity for hard-line political solutions to social problems.

Episode 334 (October 1-3)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Embarrassed by her middle class affluence after a visit to Guatemala, Dee Williams grabbed her hammer, built a tiny house on wheels, downsized to less than 400 possessions, and parked her house in a friend's yard. Her living arrangement then blossomed into a multi-generational family / community. Dee shows us her warm and comfy 7x12 foot house, how she meets city codes, and some unusual ways this life has affected her.

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

Day 37: Palestine is one of 5 Arab countries that provide "hotline" services to children and women suffering from abuse, or other problems. Yara's mom is a volunteer with Sawa, the organization that provides the services. Join Yara on her visit. Have you heard about the conjoint twins in Gaza? The first case in Palestine. Nagham catches them before they head to Saudi Arabia for separation surgery.

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

Day 38: Ashira heads to Nazareth to check out the Christians' Annunciation celebrations, shedding light on how the Palestinian citizens of Israel feel about the symbols of Israel. Are the scouts proud to wear the Israeli flag on their uniforms and raise it high in their processions? What does the flag mean to them and why? Nazareth Roman Catholic Bishop Giacinto Marcuzzo complains that the church applied for more than 10,000 permits for West Bank Christians and how many did Israel issue? Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna says that true happiness for Christians can only come after the end of occupation. In Gaza, Iman takes us to work with her. She teaches English 101 At Al Azhar University; a curriculum requirement course and today she is giving a class at the School of Agriculture. This film raises a question in our minds: what is the standard of education in Gaza?

Segment 4 -- "Yeah, My Moms Wear Comfortable Shoes"

Four individuals describe what it was like to grow up in a home with a lesbian mom and her partner.

Segment 5 -- "Yes We Can, Can"

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

Episode 333 (September 24-26)

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

Day 36: Why would a Palestinian need a special permit to go from his home on the West Bank to adjacent land on the West Bank-- a trip that takes half an hour? How come a whole village can only come out and in on certain hours? If people and vehicles need special permits what about a donkey? Join Ashira, Susan and Aleix to the villages of Ras Atiah and Habla around Qalqilya to see with your own eyes what the occupation is all about. Listen to what the Israeli women have to say about occupation and its practices and why are they watching checkpoints and documenting abuse. Meet "Machsom Watch" and tell us: Do you think the checkpoint commander found Ashira cute or the most annoying person he had met on duty? In Gaza: Celebrate Child Day with Farah who has been working very hard to make this festival a great success for the children of Gaza. What is her purpose? To give children a day of play, music and joy.

Segment 2 -- "First Lesson in Peace"

The Jewish-Arab conflict through the eyes of a six-year-old girl.

Segment 3 -- "Fighting For Our Homes"

Millions of people are at risk of losing their homes because Wall Street abandoned responsible lending practices to gain short-term profits. As this Brave New Foundation documentary reveals, the housing crisis is not just a problem for families facing foreclosure - it's a problem for every homeowner in America. As long as foreclosures persist, home values will keep going down, and everyone loses.

Segment 4 -- "Make a Better World"

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

Episode 332 (September 17-19)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

"Petroleum Man is dead. Infinite Growth Man is dead. Post Petroleum Human is alive," announced Michael C. Ruppert on May 22, 2011. He discusses how members of this emerging "species" know they must live in balance with the Earth, while remembering the lessons of industrial civilization.

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

Day 35: Join Diana to the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem where we start at the Roman Catholic Chapel at the Church. The priests carry the Holy Fire into the dark chapel and then set the lights on declaring that Christ is Risen! Fireworks are fired. Diana then takes us into the Orthodox Chapel where the Orthodox Bishop of the Church of Nativity Theofilos carries the Holy Fire into the main hall of the dark church to declare that Christ is Risen. See the chandeliers of the church shaking to resemble the earthquake of over 2000 ago. Meet Arab Star Elham Madfai who Diana finds at the Church and others. Do you know why eggs are colored for Easter? Nagham watches Christ is Risen at the church in Gaza then goes to meet the Archbishop of Tiberias Alexiou who tells us the fascinating story. He also explains the meaning of Easter and the situation of Gazan Christians.

Segment 3 -- "Humanitarian Aid Under Attack"

In May 2010, human rights workers were passengers on an unarmed Freedom Flotilla that was attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. It was attacked by the Israeli Navy. San Francisco Bay Area activist Kathy Sheetz was among the over 600 passengers and crewmembers on six ships. Nine people were killed and over 50 wounded in the attack. She spoke to a Sacramento audience about her experiences, recorded by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 4 -- "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.

Episode 331 (September 10-12)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Turn a century-old Seattle house into an efficient, energy-producing home using repurposed materials. Owner-builder Jim Bristow's creativity extends to reclaiming dead spaces, jacketing his house with exterior insulation, and modernizing the kitchen with sleek previously used cabinetry and low-power LED lights. But he's not stopping there. Along with maintaining a prolific front yard veggie garden, this green-minded guy is working with neighbors and the city to construct a storm water drainage and traffic circle at the nearby street intersection.

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

Day 34: Ala' wants to be there when the Holy Fire emerges out of the Church of The Holy Sepulcher. How many routes does a Jerusalemite like Ala' have to take trying to get there? How does she make it close enough? The Holy Fire is a miracle that Christians cherish. Once it emerges it is taken to all Orthodox churches in the country and from there to the homes of believers. Join Ala' on this trip.

Segment 3 -- "Against the Wall"

Shachaf Polakow, an Israeli activist and member of Anarchists Against The Wall, has worked intensively for nearly five years demonstrating and preparing for direct actions in the West Bank against the occupation, the construction of The Wall, and the Israeli "apartheid" policy. Polakow narrated his multi-media presentation about the current situation to a Sacramento audience. Recorded by a Media Edge crew

Episode 330 (September 3-5)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Need a tool for a few days? Don't have it? Neighbor doesn't have it? Borrow it from your neighborhood tool library! No tool library? Check out Portland, where several neighborhoods have started successful tool libraries just in the last few years. Organizers Tom Thompson, Karen Tarnow and Stephen Couche discuss how they got started, stories of community generosity, and the enthusiastic response of all who stop by. In these neighborhoods, there's no reason not to grab the tools you need and do that project.

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

Day 33: SPECIAL EDITION: Easter in the Holy Land. Join Ala' at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem on Thursday Evening. The Catholic clergy depart the church before a member of the Muslim Nuseiba family locks the door of the Church and will not open it till the morning of Friday. The keys of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher have been in the hands of a Muslim family for hundreds of years as a show of brotherhood between Islam and Christianity in Palestine. Ala' joins the Greek Orthodox Mass commemorating the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ at Saint Jacob Church to the left of the Holy Sepulcher. We have translated the prayers and the ancient Byzantine hymns at the church. Later, Ala' joins the Catholic procession known as the Trail of Candles. Watch the tens of thousands of believers snake through from the Mount of Olives to Old Town Jerusalem at night. On Good Friday Ala' is back at the Holy Sepulcher after she joined a Catholic procession that walks the path Jesus took carrying his cross, the Via De Rosa. The tradition is that the guys carry the huge cross into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the girls then carry it out. This tradition was marred by a clash between Israeli soldiers & police and Palestinian Christian worshippers & the scouts of the church after the Israelis decided to lock the entrance that leads to the Church. The Israeli occupation forces keep the pathway clear for foreign tourists and shut them in the face of Palestinians. As the row grows and Israelis notice they are being filmed by the Sleepless crew, they open the doors. In the evening, Ala', disturbed by the row that ruined the spirit of Easter and expecting more of the same in the evening heads to Ramallah to join Good Friday prayers there. See the mock tomb of Christ packed with flowers, listen to the ancient Byzantine Hymns that glorify Jesus and watch as people try to walk under it to be blessed as the scouts beat their drums to a sad tune.

Segment 3 -- "It Takes a Village"

After being devastated by a cyclone in 1991, the community of Chakaria in Bangladesh tries a new approach to community health care.

Segment 4 -- "Leaving"

Threatened with kidnap and facing escalating and horrific violence in their neighborhood, a Mandaean family from Baghdad reaches the difficult decision to leave their home of more than 30 years and go to live in Damascus. The

film documents the painful process of selling all their goods and dividing up their house so it can be rented out and finally it records their dangerous road trip to the Syrian border and their arrival to their new, temporary home.

Segment 5 -- "Omar Is My Friend"

A student at Baghdad University works as a taxi driver to support his wife and four daughters. As he negotiates his clapped out taxi around checkpoints, tanks and traffic jams, he talks about work, lack of petrol, electricity, having daughters in a male-dominated society, his personal aspirations and those of his society.

Episode 329 (August 27-29)

Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

More than a community garden, this sharing garden provides fresh produce for all who've contributed to it, with surplus going to the local food bank. Coordinators Chris Burns and Llyn Peabody note that with one large plot rather than separate plots, Alpine Sharing Garden enables more efficient food production — from watering to optimizing for pollinators. They share tips for getting started, garden planning, communicating with volunteers, garden practices like deep mulch, and especially the joy of giving without expecting a return.

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

Day 31: THIS FILM CONTAINS SENSITIVE CONTENT OF PEOPLE UNDER SURGERY.

Do you know what a tumor looks like? Dr. Saad Saad, a pediatric surgeon Ashira met at the Palestine Network's Founding Conference in Bethlehem, is back in town along with fellow American OR Technician Britney Assal and Plastic Surgeon Andrew Elkwood. Ashira talks to the team as they work on the face of a teenage girl, Isra, who had been born with deformities. Good news: Isra will be able to smile and brush her teeth now! Next surgery is for 3 Year Old Mohamad whose parents were not issued a permit to accompany him to hospital, but his mother was smuggled in an ambulance to Maqased hospital in Jerusalem to be with her son. Mohamad has tumors in his neck and hand. If you have a strong heart, join Ashira and the surgeons while removing them. Do you remember the story of Adham Ghalia whose family was bombarded by the Israeli army on a Gaza beach and all but Adham and his sister survived? Dr. Elkwood is the surgeon who performed a nerve transplant on the paralyzed child and allowed him a new life. Mohamad is playing soccer again and Ashira wants Nagham to go see him in Gaza. Both Dr. Elkwood and Dr. Britney are American Jews. Hear Britney tell Ashira what politically bothered her on this trip. Nagham was supposed to attend a workshop in Ramallah to teach Palestinian film producers how to pitch their work to buyers, but Israel didn't issue her or several other a permit to cross from Gaza into the West Bank. So what do they do? Video-teleconferencing! Nagham's film she wants to pitch is about the question of Is there any romance left in Gaza? Are Gazans becoming more practical than passionate?! Meet Kostas Spiropoulos, President of Story Doc. that is doing the workshop, and Palestinian Film Maker George Khleifi through video-teleconferencing.

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

Day 32: Today your favorite Sleepless Girls for the past 30 films introduce you to the new girls that will open new doors for you in Palestine. Ala', the Caritas accountant, is the main Sleepless Girl of this week. She is a Christian who knows Catholic, Orthodox and other denominations well and is the master of ceremonies this season! You have met Diana, Ashira's client, in 3 films before. This girl from Salfit lives in Ramallah at her own place and has experience with the camera. She was the weather girl at Falastine Al Ghad tv! Yara, a new face to you, is a reporter and presenter at Radio Ajyal in Ramallah. She is specialized in local news, political and social, and she is very active in civil society. Because Diana and Yara have no permits, they get together at Diana's place in Ramallah. Nagham invites Farah who you met in one film before and Eman, a new face to you, for cake at her home in Gaza city. The liberal Farah is a student at University of Palestine and very active in NGOs and civil society. The conservative Eman teaches at Al Azhar University; only a year ago she was a student there.

Segment 4 -- "Baghdad Days"

Hiba Bassem, 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).

Episode 328 (August 20-22)

Segment 1 -- "Blood and Oil"

The notion that oil motivates America's military engagements in the Middle East has long been dismissed as nonsense or mere conspiracy theory. Blood and Oil, a documentary based on the critically-acclaimed work of Nation magazine defense correspondent Michael T. Klare, challenges this conventional wisdom to correct the historical record. The film unearths declassified documents and highlights forgotten passages in prominent presidential doctrines to show how concerns about oil have been at the core of American foreign policy for more than 60 years – rendering our contemporary energy and military policies virtually indistinguishable. In the end, Blood and Oil calls for a radical re-thinking of US energy policy, warning that unless we change direction, we stand to be drawn into one oil war after another as the global hunt for diminishing world petroleum supplies accelerates.

Segment 2 -- "Reel Bad Arabs"

This devastating tour of the American cinematic landscape reveals an astonishing and persistent pattern of slanderous Arab stereotyping. Reel Bad Arabs exposes a long love affair with Arab villainy and buffoonery in American films.

Segment 3 -- "Leaving Out the Inner City"

What different neighborhoods are like, how they got the way they are, and what we can do to create equality.

Episode 327 (August 13-15)

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

Day 30: Ashira drives to the village of Sakhnin, considered as the main venue for the commemoration of Land Day every year, today, as a protest against land confiscation by Israel. Palestinians mark Land Day worldwide. Meet Arab Knesset members Jamal Zahalka and Ahmed Teebi to find out what they have to say about the rights of non-Jewish citizens in the state of Israel.

Segment 2 -- "An Evening of Music and Comedy: Dave Lippman"

Last year, satirical songwriter and comedian Dave Lippman brought his "viciously funny" show to the California Stage in Sacramento. A Media Edge crew was there to record this hilarious performance of "Wild Bill Bailout, the Bard of the Bankers." Audiences have enjoyed the post-corporate comic stylings of Lippman, an anti-war troubadour who afflicts the complacent, takes the air out of the windbags of the week, de-distorts history, and updates worn-out songs with parody and thrust.

Segment 3 -- "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 326 (August 6-8)

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

Day 29: Abbas Zaki, a senior leader in Fateh, the largest Palestinian political movement, has been arrested by Israeli police while in a non-violent demonstration demanding freedom of worship and movement for Christian Palestinians who have been banned from entering Jerusalem to attend Easter prayers. Ashira joins a Fateh crowd in Ramallah protesting the arrest of the Palestinian leader and talks to other Fateh leaders including Nabil Shaath and Security Forces Spokesman Adnan Damiri. In Gaza, Nagham visits the home of Islam who makes satirical videos that highlight the troubles of Gazans and makes him and his kids sing the funny songs, including a song in which he demands national unity for the sake of Palestine.

Segment 2 -- "Break the Siege on Gaza"

Although the war on Gaza ended, its residents continue to suffer the aftermaths and ongoing siege. Member of the British Parliament George Galloway was in Gaza, and shared his experience and thoughts with a large Sacramento audience. Recorded last year by a Media Edge crew.

Segment 3 -- "Solving the Klamath Crisis; Keeping Farms and Fish Alive"

This film documents the struggle of Native Americans, fishermen and environmentalists to save the Klamath salmon.

(Episode 325 (July 30-August 1))

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

Day 28: Ashira joins Ala' in Palm Sunday celebrations. Craig & Cindy join them in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where the Greek Orthodox were celebrating and then the two girls go up the Mount of Olives where the Catholics are joined by all denominations for the parade of palm & olive branches. In Gaza, Nagham takes her mom to theatre & music. Watch a satirical sketch with them in which Gazans laugh at their own misery.

Segment 2 -- "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: "Every 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 3 -- "Documentary Film Course"

Ahmed Kamal documents the lives of his fellow students at the Independent Film & Television College in Baghdad as they try to get into classes, find the subjects for the films they want to make and deal with the difficulties of trying to film in Iraq at the moment. In the end the college has to close down when two people are abducted from the building and an explosion in the street below shatters all its windows.

Episode #324 (July 23-25)

Segments 1 & 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 26: Join Nagham at a Hamas demonstration packed with green flags, slogans and chanting. The demonstration held in support of Jerusalem was an only-Hamas event with no participation of other parties and movements. On the way back Nagham stops for a short visit with Farah at her home and the two sit to chat in the garden.

Day 27: Ashira joins Diana at her old workplace, the 1st private TV station Filistine Al Ghad (Palestine of Tomorrow) that hasn't gone on the air due to Israel not releasing their transmission gear for 7 months

Segment 3 -- "COINTELPRO 101"

This film exposes illegal surveillance, disruption, removal, and other extreme tactics used by the US government in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. Cointelpro refers to the official FBI COUNTER INTELIGENCE PROGRAM carried out to surveil, imprison, and eliminate leaders of social justice movements and to disrupt, divide, and destroy the movements as well. Through interviews with activists who experienced these abuses first-hand and with rare historical footage, the film provides an educational introduction to a period of intense repression and draws relevant lessons for the present and future.

Episode #323 (July 16-18)

Segments 1 & 2 -- "Sleepless in Gaza...and Jerusalem"

Day 24: Ashira meet a man who got shot by settlers in the thigh and knee after he asked them why they were beating on kids. Nagham gets a shock while working on a story on the effect of electricity cut-offs on Gaza hospitals when a woman dies before her own eyes.

Day 25: Did King David walk with his lover thousands of years ago in Al Bustan neighborhood? Does this justify the demolition of the homes of 1500 Palestinians? Walk with Ashira through the neighborhood and meet its worried people, including a 10-year-old Moslem who was arrested twice. After Israel started measures against fishermen in Gaza, Ziyad smuggled 100 fish bought from Norway and Turkey. Only 30 arrived alive, with which he started a fish farm that has produced and sold 35 tons in two years!

Segment 3 -- "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. Original Lara Lee footage can be found at <http://vimeo.com/12429821>.)

Episode #322 (July 9-11)

Segment 1 -- "The Angola 3: Black Panthers and the Last Slave Plantation"

The gripping story of Robert King, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, men who have endured solitary confinement longer than any known living prisoner in the United States. Politicized through contact with the Black Panther Party while inside Louisiana's prisons, they formed one of the only prison Panther chapters in history and worked to organize other prisoners into a movement for the right to live like human beings. This feature length movie explores their extraordinary struggle for justice while incarcerated in Angola, a former slave plantation.

Segment 2 -- "SHADA"

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

Episode #321 (July 2-4)

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

Day 23: Ashira has chores to do: renew car registration and at last go get a doctor's check. Nagham in Gaza shows us how what war broke, such as glass or olive trees, are used to make fantastic products! Check out the Gaza Industrial Exhibition.

Segment 2 -- "The 800-Mile Wall"

The 800 Mile Wall highlights the construction of the new border walls along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the effect on migrants trying to cross into the U.S. This powerful 90-minute film is an unflinching look at the failed U.S. border strategy that many believe has caused the death of thousands of migrants and violates fundamental human rights. Since border walls have been built, well over 5,000 migrant bodies have been recovered in U.S. deserts, mountains and canals. Some unofficial reports put the death toll as high as 10,000 men, women and children. As a direct result of U.S. border policy, migrants are forced to cross treacherous deserts and mountains in search of low skill and low paying jobs in the United States.