

OLD AGED YOUNG

By Yvette Nahmia.

Summer U is about to end and the same Question keeps coming back to my mind, and the Question is who will take action? Who will put all these wonderful words into practise? Who will render the vision a reality? The natural answer would be us. You, me, and all of us who care about our family not just verbally but in reality, through our action.

However, when I look at us, I don't get the impression that our commitment is authentic, that our commitment will guide our lives , that our lives will mirror our ideology, that our lives will be lives of activists.

It is as if our generation has become old very quickly. We are not young in spirit. We are not prepared to risk, to give up our comforts, and stand by our ideas. We are not prepared to leave the warmth of our living room with all that comes with it: friends, TV set, food or what ever have you.

We are spectators of life.

Life has become a TV screen for us. We sit on our comfortable couch and watch from a distance - physical as well as psychological - the events that take place around us, events that we feel we have no control over. We wrongly have the impression that the only power we possess is the remote control. Our only choice, we believe, is whether we will watch a soap opera, a soccer match or the news. But, in fact, our choice is not restricted between watching a sports programme or a soap opera. Rather, our choice lies on whether we will remain spectators of life or become ourselves the actors. We can choose between making the news ourselves, being creators of events, being participants and not bystanders.

I am suggesting that we should be in charge of our lives, in charge of not only ourselves but our respective communities and even more. We have to take on the responsibility of our future. We can't just let anyone be in charge. Our Judaism is too precious to allow just anybody lead the way.