

Everything is Broken

By Stanley Fischman
Core Values Integrity and
Jewish Values Enrichment Specialist

All of us have been following the painful news emerging daily from *Eretz Yisrael*. Our hearts ache for the innocent victims. We are enraged by the silence of the world and its political leaders in the face of such barbaric behavior and the uncivilized belief system that spawns it. We are perplexed about the moral blindness that prevents others from recognizing that Israel faces the very same threat from terrorists that is seen elsewhere around the world.

One of the most heart-rending crimes committed recently was the brutal murder of a father and son in the city of Chevron. The anguish was multiplied as we learned the victims' daughter and sister was scheduled to be married just days later. Yet in the midst of their incredible grief, the soon-to-be *chatan* and *kallah* decided to move ahead with their wedding plans. In a move that can only happen in Israel, and in a display of unimagined faith and confidence, the couple invited the entire country of six million to join them at their celebration. Their invitation began with a quote from the beautiful prayer of *Lecha Dodi* recited on Friday nights:

הַתְּנַעֲרִי מֵעֲפָר קוֹמִי לְבָשִׁי בְּגָדֵי תְּפָאֲרֶתְךָ
“Shake off the dirt – arise! Don your splendid clothes...”

In the midst of their grief, Sarah and Ariel were offering comfort and strength to the rest of the country. Having seen the ceremony on live-stream last Thursday, it was a truly bittersweet, yet joyful *simcha*.

There is a line from “Anthem,” a popular song by Leonard Cohen:
*There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*

When it seems that everything is broken in the world, our brethren never fail to raise our spirits with their light of faith and determination. We have been summoned throughout our history to be the “light unto the nations.” Nowhere does that light shine brighter than in the spirit of
אָחִינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, our brothers and sisters - in our holy land.