

## **THE AVI SCHAEFER FUND**

Avi's desire for harmony, fairness and equality were essential parts of his personal mission. His passion stemmed from a deep abiding love for the Jewish people and his commitment to the safety and security of the state of Israel. With a huge, genuine and dear heart, layered with expression and yearning, Avi wanted all people, their commonalities and their differences to be understood and cherished.



Avi was deeply committed to the idea that true, lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians is a critically important building block toward ensuring the safety and security of Israel and Jews around the world. The Avi Schaefer Fund has been created to ensure Avi's legacy by continuing the work that was so important to him.

Avi lived his life as a "soldier for peace," and was involved in an incredible variety of projects aimed at working toward peace between Israelis and Palestinians. This vision was built in partnership with his identical twin brother, Yoav, who stood side-by-side with Avi through most experiences including serving in the IDF. The Fund will develop and support these projects and build upon them as we work toward the fulfillment of Avi's dream of peace.

The initial projects supported by the Fund may focus on the following areas:

### **Changing the climate of Israeli-Palestinian debate on college campuses:**

- Creating new models for courses and programs at universities based in sharing both the Israeli and Palestinian narratives; this to be aimed at furthering dialogue to encourage listening and understanding on campuses

### **Supporting Lone Soldiers in the Israeli Army**

(soldiers like Avi and Yoav, who serve in the army and, while serving, do not have family in Israel to go home to when they return from the base):

- Developing programs to motivate and support Lone Soldiers during and after their army service, including a scholarship program to bring former Israeli soldiers to study at American universities and train them to create dialogue about Israel on campus

### **Solidifying the American Jewish community's identification with Israel:**

- Supporting education and other efforts to recast the relationship between American Jews and Israel as one of unconditional love, and to reinforce the idea that Jews in America and Israel are inextricably, symbiotically intertwined.

Please join with Avi's family, his brothers Elisha, Yoav and Noah along with his parents, artist Laurie Gross and Rabbi/Professor Arthur Gross-Schaefer, in supporting this important work.

**Checks may be sent to:  
Community Shul**

**PO BOX 994 Santa Barbara, CA 93116**

Please write "Avi Schaefer Fund" in the memo area or include it in a note.