

LINA – Into The Wind

Lina Ejeilat is a recent JU graduate who majored in electrical engineering, but for whom writing has been an integral part of her existence since childhood. Since being able to write, she kept what she called “Notebooks of Secrets” and even organized a family magazine with her four younger sisters. This interest only intensified, and Lina would say she has had a passion for media and journalism since the tender age of 11.

Lina likes to be around things and people that are buzzing. She is currently a part of MERYAN, Middle Eastern Regional Youth Action Network, and it was from her former participation in “Taking it Global”, a movement of youth activists, that she learned about blogging. She discovered Natasha and Roba’s blogs and was hooked. Natasha recommended she start one, and the next day, she was on-line. Roba has become her dear friend through blogging.

At first she kept it light, a channel for free-flowing ideas and honing her writing skills. For her it was a way to provide readers a look into Uni life from the perspective of a twenty-something girl. But when covering the JU student council elections, and expressing her discomfort with the pressure on students to vote on the basis of tribal affiliation, she was contacted by a Fulbright Scholar who encouraged her that her voice needed to be heard on political issues as well.

Lina was ready to take on the challenge of talking to a wider audience, to write credible commentary and be accountable for it. The other jp bloggers were invaluable in contributing their input and encouragement to stretch her wings. While writing an article on Jordanian film makers for “On Campus” magazine, she got to know blogger/film maker Amin Matalqa, who then invited her to write a short script for him which he did indeed produce!

It was on the night of the Nov. 9th bombing that Lina found her ‘world voice’; when Jordanplanet hit the map as a source for news the mainstream media was just too slow in covering. Before sleeping, she poured out her shock and anger in a post, and woke to discover a surge in international traffic on her sight and an in-box filled with emails from around the world. “I realized my role in blogging had changed. I had an incredible responsibility for representing my country and my culture in a world forum as a serious citizen journalist.” The next day she and Roba went out to photograph the demonstrations, and they found themselves disseminating Jordan’s visual response to the tragedy to a waiting, listening world.

But being voice for Jordan is just one of her joys in life. Her dedicated parents were the subject of an inspiring post that will leave any mother in tears. One of her future dreams revolves around the fun her four younger sisters and a brother never cease to have around the house...and making it into a comedy series! Keep an eye out for Lina, she is one to watch.