



The Inwood Kollel at YKLI.

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“Unity For Justice”—The Video

By Shloime Dachs

R’ Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin was recently sentenced to 27 years in jail after being found guilty of defrauding a bank and producing false invoices in order to keep the business going. There is no insinuation that he did any of this for personal profit or gain. Unlike many others, he had no Hamptons estate, no fancy yacht, and no Manhattan penthouse. By all accounts he and his family lived in incredibly modest circumstances.

Unlike Wall Street bankers, he did not use other people’s money, life savings, or other people’s deposits in order

to buy himself a Ferrari. Unlike AIG executives, he did not cost the government billions of dollars in bailouts and then get a bonus.

The 27-year sentence for a crime of this nature gives the false impression that the American justice system is prejudicial and untrustworthy.

All we ask is for Rubashkin to be treated fairly. That it be taken into consideration that he has no prior offenses and that his company provided kosher meat to hundreds of thousands of people at affordable prices so that more Jews could observe their faith. The fact is, he and his family are legendary in the *Chassidische* community for their charitable giving, their hospitality, and their communal involvement. Rubashkin himself devoted a substantial portion of his profits to

funding a soup kitchen and supporting organizations like Collel Chabad that feed the hungry and the poor. To disregard all these considerations when it comes to sentencing just compounds this blatant miscarriage of justice.

Across the world, Jewish communities have united to protest the injustice and support the legal battle for R’ Sholom Mordechai’s freedom. Thousands of Jews have joined in unity to say *Tehillim* and gather strength for a family being lynched by our American justice system. *Mee k’amcha Yisrael*. Rubashkin is actually a metaphor for us as a nation being imprisoned behind the bars of *golus*, and once we unite *k’ish echod b’leiv echod* for his release, we will ultimately merit the true freedom we so desire.

Twenty five Jewish artists have teamed up with a unique “Unity” musical production to raise the public’s awareness of the Rubashkin case, resulting in more resources for the fund that was created by the family to pay for the high legal bills. In just a few days, over 100,000 people across the world have already viewed this truly unique and moving video presentation.

Participating artists are: Mordechai Ben David, Avrohom Fried, Lipa Shmeltzer, Yaakov Shwekey, Itche Meir Helfgot, Shloime and Dovid Dachs, Boruch Levine, Shlome Gertner, Mendy Werdyger, Yeedle Werdyger, Gad Elbaz, Benny Friedman, Yehuda Green, Beri Weber, Michael Schnitzler, Dovid Gabay, Yossi Goldstein, Avi and Yossi Piamenta, Bentzi Markus, Yossi Green, Ohad Moshkovitch, Ken Burges, Aaron Razel, and Mendy Wertzerberger.

The song was originally performed by

Mordechai Ben David and written by MBD and Sheya Mendlowitz. The video was produced and directed by Danny Finkelman and filmed by Maurico Arenas. Musical production is by Ilya Lishinsky and was mixed and mastered by Yitzchak Shem Tov with additional lyrics by Moshe Kravitsky.

Special thank you to Eli Finkelman and Meyer Cohen of Teltech, who sponsored this incredible production and all the websites who hosted it. Thank you to the *Yeshiva World News* for not only hosting the Unity Video but for always leading the way and setting the standards for online Jewish news and interests. On a personal level, I’d like to thank Daniel Finkelman for inviting me to participate in this historic unprecedented production, uniting Jews from all walks of life. My son, Dovid, and I are truly humbled and honored to have been given the opportunity to sing on Reb Sholom Mordechai’s behalf. When I met Mrs. Rubashkin and her family for the first time at the studio, I received far more *chizuk* than I gave them. May Hashem continue to give her the *koach* and *simchas hachaim* to endure all the challenges that lie ahead. To view the video go to theyeshivaworld.com, and to donate much-needed funds to save Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin please visit Unityforjustice.com. ❖

Rambam Shabbaton Retreat

Over the Shabbos of *Parashas Noach*, the boys at Rambam attended the school’s annual *Shabbaton* at Camp

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AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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Seneca Lake for a weekend that was filled with learning, *ruach*, and fun.

As is Rambam's custom, the freshmen were sent up a day early with senior advisors and had the entire camp to themselves. Following a scrumptious lunch, the boys were free to take advantage of the camp's facilities and promptly dove into the swimming pool and hot tub, basketball and tennis courts, roller-hockey rinks, soccer, football, and softball fields. They then attended a seminar on the dangers of peer pressure, led by assistant principal Hillel Goldman. Following a viewing of scenes from a trigger film, the boys went into groups with their senior advisors and had a discussion about how to best maintain one's character and conduct when faced with a situation that is antithetical to the moral and ethical code of the Torah. The night was topped off by having the freshmen vs. the seniors in a night of "Crazy Dodgeball."

On Friday, the freshmen were joined by the rest of the school, and suddenly there were freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, *rebbeim*, and alumni playing together in the spirit of *achdus*. After an inspiring *Kabbalat Shabbos*, the first *seudah* was delicious with gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, chicken, *chulent*, assorted desserts, and food for thought provided by Rabbi Yotav Eliach, the school's principal. The beautiful singing continued throughout the night as the dining room was filled with the sounds of *zemirot*. Following the meal, Rabbi Yosef Ziskind and Rabbi Asher Stern conducted a spe-



The Rambam High School annual Shabbaton at Camp Seneca Lake.

cial *tish* filled with even more *zemirot* and *divrei Torah*.

Shabbos *menuchah* was followed by an interesting *shiur* delivered by Rabbi Avi Haar and *beis midrash* preparation for *rosh mesivta* Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman's *shiur* on "Lo Tisnah Acheecha and the Obligation of Loving Your Fellow Man." *Seudah Shelishit* was culminated with even more singing and a thought-provoking *dvar Torah* from Rabbi Noam Horowitz. Alumni advisor Elliot Tanzman made *havdalah* and then the entire school broke out in dancing as they were still clinging to the spirit of Shabbos.

Motzei Shabbos continued with the *talmidim* once again hitting the courts and rolling in the rinks. The Yankee

playoff game was made available for them too. After an exhausting night of basketball, hockey, and swimming, the boys streamed toward the dining room for a *melavah malkah* with pizza, ice cream, and *ruach*, provided by world-class guitarist, and 9th grade *rebbe*, Rabbi Ari Boiangiu.

At breakfast the next morning, special birthday doughnuts were given to Tzvi Strauss and Eli Chesner as the entire dining room sang them a happy birthday. Most of the seniors, however, did not eat breakfast for some reason. Perhaps it was because they were *fleishig* following their 4:00 a.m. BBQ and bonfire that the school provided for them as a token of thanks for their *ruach*. Yosef Roth and his ukulele filled the early morning air with song as

Aaron Kattan and Evan Lerner shared thoughts on the Torah and reflected on the *Shabbaton*.

The Rambam *Shabbaton* was a weekend that will never end. The lessons learned, the friendships made, and the Torah discussed will live on as the boys grow into men, and the men grow into leaders. ❖

Croton Softball League Standings

Team Name	W	L	PCT
Protégé	5	2	.714
Justice League	4	2	.666
Smackin Pitches	4	3	.571
Banjo Momasitas	4	3	.571
Mad Dawgs	3	4	.428
5TLobos	2	3	.400
Weissman Warriors	2	3	.400
Sunday Crew	2	5	.285

October Scores

Sunday Crew 0, Protege 0
Banjo Momasitas 0, 5TLobos 0

Smackin Pitches 0, Weissman Warriors 0
Justice League 0, Mad Dawgs 0

Playoffs start October 19.

David's Famous Pizza MVPs:

Ari Ellenberg
Avram Schreiber
George Rafferty
Heshy Walfish
Yehuda Konig

For more information, visit www.crotonsoftball.com or contact Commish@crotonsoftball.com. ❖

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