

Parshat Ki Tetzei

9/11 Remembered at Rambam: Teaching the Past to Those in the Present

"When the tragedy of 9/11 struck, most of you weren't born or were perhaps two or three years old," remarked Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, Rosh Mesivta of Rambam Mesivta, as he introduced the school's 14th annual commemoration of the 9/11 Tragedy. He continued by telling the talmidim that "Despite the fact that for you this may be no different than ancient history like World War II or the Civil War there are many important lessons to learn from this tragic event."

He emphasized the Halachic ramifications of the event and the sacrifice of firefighters and first responders who lost their lives saving others, and the sense of unity and resolve that existed after the attack.

Rabbi Yotav Eliach, Rambam's Principal, then showed a brief video clip of news reports from 9/11 that explored how the event unfolded and explained to everyone that 9/11 was part of a premeditated, well-planned out attempt by radical Islamists to attack the United States and Western world values.

Rabbi Eliach also introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Edwin Black, an internationally acclaimed expert on Islam, terrorism and history of the Middle East. Mr. Black who has authored 13 books, many of them bestsellers, paid his third visit to Rambam in as many years and provided an interactive lesson on the history of Islam, Arab anti-Semitism and causes of the 9/11 attacks. He spoke passionately about the need for everyone to be vigilant and well aware of who the enemy is. "One of the reasons that America is considered to be the great Satan, is because of this country's support of a Jewish state in the Middle East," said Black.

He also cautioned those assembled not to be fooled by the insidious spread of anti-Israel sentiment in colleges and in the media saying that "When they talk against Israel they are talking against Jews: it is nothing more than anti-Semitism in a disguised form."

Mr. Black explained to students a new phenomenon called "Intersectionality." He explained that this relatively new approach involved people with one agenda expanding their base of support by drafting members of other groups to join their cause. As an example he mentioned that in the attempt to speak out for African-American human rights, the Black Lives Matter movement has incorporated anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian policies into their mission statement.

"You need to be educated about the facts," challenged Black.

Black expressed surprise and dismay that, the Jewish community which had been so supportive of equal rights for African-Americans, would now become the target of their disdain. He noted that the Muslim international community continues to engage in the slave trade of Africans while Israel has come to the aid of many African countries.

Mr. Black noted Rambam's long-standing history of political activism and speaking

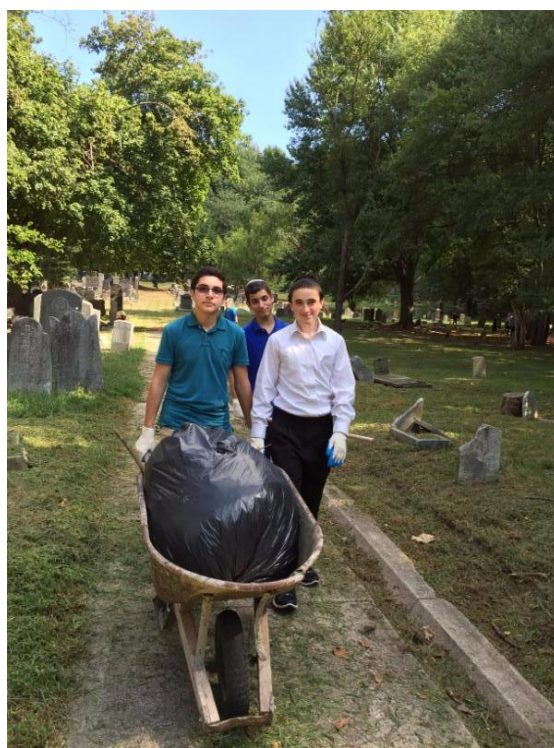
out against anti-Semitism and charged the students with the responsibility of continuing to remember the causes of 9/11, its impact on our generation, and the responsibility to hopefully prevent another similar attack.



Freshman Chesed Trip: Cemetery Clean-up

This past week the Rambam freshmen went on a trip to clean a cemetery on Staten Island. This trip was a big Chesed because many people don't have family members to pay money to clean the cemetery. Cleaning the cemetery was a way of honoring the deceased. The process of cleaning was divided into three jobs. The three jobs were raking the leaves and debris, scooping it up, and collecting it in garbage bags. After the freshmen were done cleaning, the cemetery grounds looked much nicer and created a more respectful atmosphere for the deceased. These freshmen all did a very big kindness, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. This trip was a very spiritual experience as they recognized that to engage in Chesed Shel Emet is one of the purest forms of Chesed. Thank you freshmen!

By: Andrew Speiser (9th Grade)



Freshman Kohanim Chesed Trip: Olam Chesed

Just off the 878, near Season's Express, there is almost a full block worth of a building that is dedicated to Chesed. Olam Chesed, as it is known, is an organization that gives all the necessities of life to those in need. Housed in an abandoned factory, they distribute household goods, toasters, coffee makers; clothes; toiletries; furniture; and culinary items to aid those who are currently down and out.

The Freshman Kohanim, unable to participate in the Freshman Cemetery Clean-up Mission, instead spent the day at Olam Chesed, organizing inventory and schlepping supplies.

While the Kohanim went on this separate Chesed Mission, they nonetheless shared in the bond of the value of Chesed that unites the grade.



Tisch Launches the 2016-2017 School Year

Tons of ruach, singing voices, and delicious food: three ways to describe last week's first Rambam tisch of the year. As we entered the Shul towards the end of the school day, the room progressively increased in levels of ruach as each grade began to file in one by one. After all this amazing pre-Shabbat singing, we were treated to some very delicious chulent and potato kugel generously sponsored by the school. The tisch was a huge success and we all hope we will partake in many more of these pre-Shabbat events over the course of the rest of the school year!

By: Nachum Liebman (11th Grade)





Have a Good Shabbat!