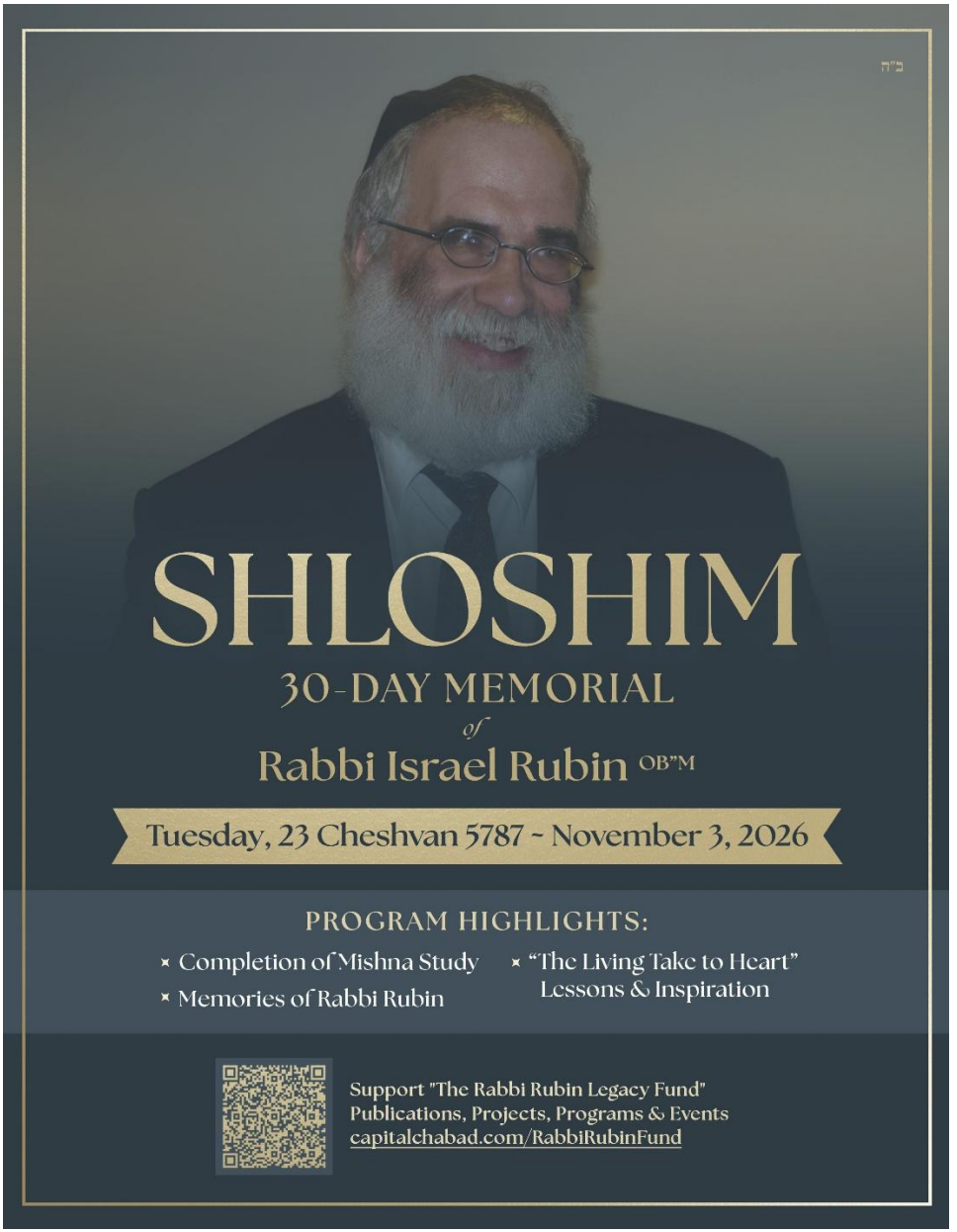

ב"ה
SHLOSHIM
30-DAY MEMORIAL
of
Rabbi Israel Rubin OB"M
Tuesday, 23 Cheshvan 5787 ~ November 3, 2026
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:
Completion of Mishna Study
Memories of Rabbi Rubin
"The Living Take to Heart" Lessons & Inspiration
Support "The Rabbi Rubin Legacy Fund"
Publications, Projects, Programs & Events
capitalchabad.com/RabbiRubinFund

BH. 30-Day Shloshim of Rabbi Yisroel Rubin, of blessed memory.
Tuesday, Cheshvan 23, 5787 / November 3, 2026

Dear friends,

As we commemorate the Shloshim (30-Day) Memorial of Rabbi Israel Rubin, of blessed memory, we are grateful for the many kind, thoughtful and meaningful in-person Shiva visits, phone-calls, emails and messages from people far and near throughout this month since his passing.

For this Shloshim Booklet we've included many of the written messages we received this month. (Our apologies for any inadvertent omissions or selections for brevity). This does not include all the great many warm words, anecdotes, stories and memories shared verbally during this time. But most certainly, they too, are very much felt and deeply appreciated, uplifting and inspiring all the same.

In addition to this booklet, there were many memories and sentiments shared in prior publications, including the recent "Capital Chabad 50 Years Journal – 1974-2024" and also earlier, the booklet made for "Israel at 60" (when Rabbi Rubin turned 60). Perhaps at some point, a more complete compilation can be made to better remember and learn from the life Rabbi Rubin led, the work he did, and all the many interactions over the years.

והחי יתן אל לבו "The Living should take to Heart" reminds us that the purpose of these stories and memories is not only to remember the past but also to serve as a lessons and inspiration, takeaways for each of us to live and learn from in our own way.

Together, as a family and as a community, as his students and as local Shluchim, we look forward to continuing (and furthering!) Rabbi Rubin's vision, efforts and legacy. First and foremost, to support, strengthen and expand the institutions he built, nurtured and invested in: The Maimonides School, Cong. Shomray Torah, and the local Capital Region and regional Northeastern NY Chabad network of organizations.

More specifically, we set up "The Rabbi Rubin Legacy Fund" online at: capitalchabad.org/rabbirubinfund with the following goals:

- Publish and print his 600+ page "Hirhurei Torah" scholarly Hebrew work, in large part on Pirkei Avot and Jewish holidays.
- Republish existing "Torah Times" and work towards upgrading not-yet-designed originals (on other Torah portions) still in manuscript.
- Collect and publish his extensive relevant collection of creative engaging articles, many originally published in "The Holiday Guide", "Lubavitcher Digest", "The Jewish World" etc.
- Reprint some of his classic Mitzvah promotionals and create new ideas & relevant current concepts and applications going forward.
- A fund supporting Chabad activities throughout the region, including local educational, holiday, outreach, and community wide programs and events.

Thank you for being Rabbi Rubin's community, whether for part or all of his 52 years of the Rebbe's Shlichus here. Everyone who played a role in engaging in, supporting, and furthering that mission:

From Maimonides School and Shomray Torah Shul, to Akiva Day Camp and Gan Israel; from KosherKart and Mitzvah-Mobile, to Noah's Ark and the Kosher Pizza & Falafel; from communal high Yiddish classes to a festival at the South Mall; from a remote commune to the NYS Assembly.

From Moshe Sinai as Inspector Clouseau, searching for Chametz, to Moshe Losice as a friend and partner in communal affairs.

All the Shluchim families and school families; friends and supporters throughout the years; from Saratoga Aronsons to Bruce Lorence's Torahs; lay leaders and board members; the children he taught, and the children he listened to and learned from.

All who published his writing: from Rivka Goldstein and The Holiday Guide family of syndicated newspapers, to the Clevensons at The Jewish World, and Michael and Leah Caras with The Torah Times upgrade.

All the characters in his Simchas Torah speeches; the ancient rabbis of the texts he studied, who came alive for him; and all who appreciated his original insights. Those who sparred with him and challenged him, and those who were there for him in more difficult times.

From young to old, individuals and families, beginner or advanced, whether for just a brief encounter or building long-term relationship, one-on-one to larger crowds, every action large and small.

The bochurim at the Troy Yeshiva; the travelers who came through along the 87; the dedicated Albany young men who brought him here; and all who kept the vision going throughout the years.

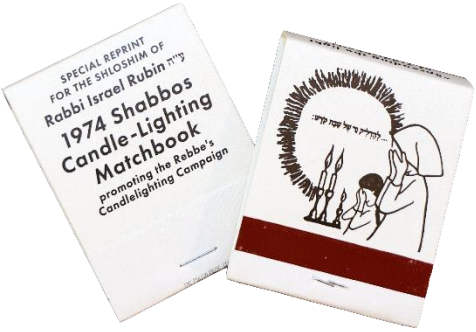
Everyone from his first Sukkot here in 5735/1974 through his last night of Shemini Atzeret Hakafot 5787/2026.

All those he loved and who loved him. Everyone he taught and inspired. We are all part of his and our story.

May his memory be a blessing, may his good works continue here on earth, may he be good heavenly advocate for all of us!

With much gratitude, and looking forward!
The Rubin Family

Early Rabbi Rubin Creative Mitzvah Promotions Reprinted for Shloshim:



The Rebbe launched the Shabbos Candle-Lighting Campaign for women and girls before Rosh Hashanah 5735/1974. Rabbi & Mrs. Rubin moved to Albany on Sukkos that year. Noticing ubiquitous free matchbooks with advertising as giveaways, he reached out to Leo Phaff at National Business Promotions to print Shabbos Candle-Lighting Matchbooks. Sarah Miriam Levinson was a local artist living in Albany at the time and she did the artwork. This is one of Rabbi Rubin's very first creative Mitzvah promotions and it is now reproduced for his Shloshim. (The original also had text and candle-lighting instructions on the inside flap that is not present in this edition).



Enjoy Torah! in iconic and familiar Coca-Cola font and red coloring was one of Rabbi Rubin's first stickers, among the first of many that he printed in downtown Albany with Greenbush Tape and Label.

These Enjoy Torah stickers were printed courtesy of Greenbush Label for the Shloshim in Albany and the Chabad Kinus in tribute and appreciation of the 50 years of their sticker-making partnership with Rabbi Rubin.

"Enjoy Torah" is also autobiographical about Rabbi Rubin, who truly enjoyed studying Torah and sharing (as Coke also likes to encourage!) Torah with others, in ways that are most refreshing!

STATE OF NEW YORK EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

October 22, 2026

Rubin Family
c/o Rochel Rubin
122 S. Main Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Dear Rubin Family:

I am writing to extend my deepest condolences to you on the loss of Rabbi Yisroel Rubin.

I hope that you are able to find comfort in your memories of Yisroel and the tremendous impact he had on so many lives. Not only as regional director of Chabad of the Capital Region, but also the longtime shliach to the city of Albany, Yisroel distinguished himself as a dedicated spiritual leader in his beloved community. His work to establish Chabad centers across Northeastern New York and promote Jewish education has shaped his community for years to come. I had the honor of hosting Yisroel earlier this year in my office during the celebration of 124 Days of Education in honor of the Rebbe's birthday as well as my annual Hanukkah reception, and I join you in commemorating his outstanding legacy.

My heartfelt condolences. May his memory forever be a blessing.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hochul
Governor

--

Dear Mrs. Rubin and family,
Please accept my deepest sympathies over the loss of your beloved Rabbi Rubin. He has left such a legacy and will be missed on so many levels. I have so appreciated the continued warmth and kindness he has personally shown me throughout the years and will never forget it. He was a true role

model who led by example. The poem above (in the card) was found in my mom's belongings and provided me comfort. I hope it does the same for you and your family.

Sincerely,
Pat Fahy

--

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York
Office of the President

Dear Mendel,

I was very sorry to learn of your father's passing. On behalf of Rosy and me, and the entire University at Albany community, please accept my deepest condolences.

The loss of a beloved parent is always especially hard. Your father leaves an incredible legacy as an educator, community leader, and man of faith. His contributions to our community will continue to reverberate for generations.

May your memories of your father be a source of comfort to you and your family at this difficult time. Please know that you, Raizy, and all your loved ones are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Havidán Rodríguez
President

--

SIENA UNIVERSITY

Dear Rabbi Mordechai, Chana, and the Rubin Family,

On behalf of the entire Siena University community, I offer our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved father and patriarch, Rabbi Israel Rubin.

While we join you in mourning his loss, we also join you in celebrating a life defined by extraordinary faith, dedicated scholarship, and an unwavering commitment to bringing people closer to God and community. Rabbi Israel Rubin's legacy as a pillar of spiritual leadership and teaching in our region leaves an indelible mark on countless lives.

Here at Siena, we are deeply grateful for the warmth, dedication, and guidance that Rabbi Mordechai brings to our campus. Through your faithful outreach, approachable spirit, and presence among our students, you embody the very values of community, kindness, and spiritual accompaniment that your father nurtured throughout his life. Please know that as you gather today to honor his memory, your Siena family stands beside you in solidarity, prayer, and comfort.

May Rabbi Israel Rubin's memory continue to be a source of strength, inspiration, and light to your family and to all who were blessed to know him. May his memory be forever a blessing.

With sincere sympathy, peace and all good,
Chuck Seifert, Ph.D.
President, Siena University

--

R' Yisrael Eliezer Rubin, Alav Hashalom, was a very close and dear friend of my father, R' Moshe Kotlarsky. Reb Yisrael served for over 50 years on Shlichus. He was a role model of a Chasid, of a Shliach, a Talmid Chacham, across the board. Shluchim from all around the the world would look up to him as a living role model what it means to represent the Rebbe, to have impact on so many lives in such a real authentic way.

I remember, especially in the last few years even when it was difficult, he made such an effort to join every Kinus HaShluchim, every regional Kinus, together with amazing family, Shluchim in the area, because anything that was dear and important to the Rebbe was something that he went the extra mile to do.

So I take this moment for "Hachai Yitein El Liboy" (the Living shall take to heart) for each and every one of us to reflect on his life and to incorporate one more thing that we can do to give the Rebbe nachas, to represent the

Rebbe in a way that he would want to be represented, to inspire and be there for another Yid, the way Rabbi Rubin was day in and day out. We wish the family tremendous hatzlacha in continuing his legacy forward, until we are reunited with the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days.

Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky
Executive Director of Merkos 302
and the International Kinus HaShluchim

--

The loss of R' Yisroel Rubin leaves a gaping hole. Creative Jewish leadership for over 50 years- לעולם ועד.

R' Rubin redrew the Jewish map in Albany. From being a fresh source of Torah at Shomray Torah, to educating generations of children at Maimonides, to injecting Yiddishkeit throughout Albany and the surrounding communities, Rabbi Rubin strengthened all the Jewish institutions.

As a good friend and colleague with my parents, I will always remember the scene of them working together on community matters. What a tremendous legacy.

I have wishes of nechama to you, your mother, and your siblings. I know that you have each been carrying a portion of the responsibilities and will now move forward with the memory of your father's central leadership. I also have wishes of Achdut as you jointly continue your mission of shlichut.

Avi Losice

--

Jewish life in Albany was enriched and enlivened when Rabbi Rubin moved in! He made Judaism relevant and exciting with his newspaper-like holiday bulletins, which captured our ancient history through the lens of current events! He was forever "with it", using the latest technology to teach Torah and create meaningful and fun Jewish experiences!

May his legacy continue through his wonderful children and the entire family. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion. May his memory be for a blessing.

Sincerely,
Jana and Errol Krupman

--

In 1974 the Rubin family moved to Albany and I met Rabbi Rubin in January of 1975 when I had him as a teacher in the communal high school. He introduced me to so many new and interesting things such as kosher pizza, hot dog rolls that he sold from a push cart by the state offices and a song I still sing to myself every time I shake the lulav and esrog (up up, down down here there and every where that's where Hashem is found).

I started going to the Shtiebel in 12th grade and Rabbi Rubin always made me feel so welcome. Through the years when I came back to Albany, I would stop by to see him. The last time he was excited to tell me that Maimonides was buying the original Temple Israel shul building on Partridge Street that had been a church for decades. Finally, it was returning to Jewish hands.

Over the past 50 years the community has grown from a single house on New Scotland Ave to a Shabbos House by the SUNY campus and now spread throughout the capital district and beyond. His positive influence will continue to be felt for decades to come through his children and grandchildren and through every person he touched through the years.

Malka Silberman nee Marcia Colmar

--

Rochel was my Talmud Torah teacher. I was invited to her and Rabbi Yisroel's wedding. My parents gave them a set of 3 candy dishes as a wedding present. After they were married, I spent several shabbats with them in Crown Heights until they moved to Albany. I remember when Mendel was born. We reconnected in 2003 and stayed in touch since then. When I would go upstate to visit family, I would visit them in Albany. Every time I came over, Rochel would tell the story of the candy dishes and how she only had one of them left. Every time Rabbi Yisroel heard her start to tell the story again, he would smile.
May his memory be a blessing. Sincerely,
Loraine Alderman, Psy.D

--

I was born in Albany in the mid-1960s and lived there until I left for college in the 1980s. In fifth grade, I started at Doane Stuart, a Christian school in Albany. A lot of Jewish families sent their kids there. It was a college-prep school with excellent academics and a strong record of getting students into good colleges, and there weren't many other private options unless you wanted a military academy. Quite a few Jewish students attended.

Every student at Doane Stuart had a weekly hour of religion class, and the religion taught was Christianity. I attended for a while. Then one day, the Jewish students were taken aside and told there was another option. During that weekly hour, a rabbi would be coming to the school, and we could learn with him instead. That rabbi was Rabbi Rubin.

I remember the class had both boys and girls. One moment stands out: he brought in tefillin and passed them around, and everyone was fascinated to handle them. That was probably one of my earliest exposures to Torah, and it happened in a Christian school, of all places.

Years later, when I spoke with Rabbi Rubin and with others who had talked to him about this period, I learned how strange the environment had felt to him. The school was full of statues and ornate Christian imagery, and he had never been in a place like it. He came anyway, for our sake.

There is no doubt that his teaching, and my exposure to him, helped me realize I was Jewish. But even apart from what he taught, his presence did something. By causing the Jewish students to be set apart, he woke us up. We weren't like everyone else, and we went to a different place to learn different things. That was an important part and start of my journey.

I saw Rabbi Rubin several times over the years. After I married in Israel and was living a religious life, I introduced him to my children, we crossed paths off and on after that. I last saw him just a few months ago. May his neshamah have an aliyah.

Tzadik Vanderhoof

--

I was saddened to learn of Rav Yisroel Rubin's illness and פטירה. He was a link to a rich spiritual inheritance. I remember being at his parents' home in

Montreal. On Shabbos night, the room was warm from the many Shabbos candles his mother lit for each of her children and grandchildren. I can still hear Rav Moshe Rubin sing פדה בשלום נפשי. The ניגון remains with me as an expression of a Jew's yearning for a deep connection to the רבונו של עולם. The depth of that ניגון is a reflection of the spiritual greatness from which Rav Yisroel Rubin hailed. My stepfather had an expression about certain European Jews: "the factory that made those Jews is closed."

My relationship with Rabbi Rubin's parents attests to the care and commitment Rabbi Yisroel showed me. He drew our family close, and we always had a place in his home. The only reason our family is שומר תורה ומצוות today is because of the Yiddishkeit the Rubins brought to Albany. The light they brought to Albany enabled us to remain connected to תורה.

My sisters and I have built Torah families with children and grandchildren. My mother's descendants would not have the identity they have today had it not been for Rabbi Rubin's decision to come to Albany.

When my mother remarried, she wanted the Rubins to walk her to the חופה. That expressed the love she had for the Rubins. I remember how much she cherished being with the Rubins. The impact Rabbi Rubin had on our family will live on through my mother's many observant descendants.
יהיה זכרו ברוך
Raphael Cohen

--

Dear Morah Rochel,
I was so terribly sorry to hear of Rabbi Rubin's passing. He was a tremendous Talmud Chacham and leader in the Albany area. My children will always remember the creative teachings at Maimonides.
May you and entire family be comforted. Hamakom Yenachem Eschem Bsoch Shaar Avlei Tzion VeYerushalayim.
Sincerely,
Brocha Bendelstein

--

We were sorry to hear of the passing of a wonderful person and Torah scholar. He will be sorely missed.
The Silverstein family

--

Rabbi Yisroel Rubin a”h loved and supported the Albany community. He was the “light”! His loss is tragic for all of us. We remember our first visit to Albany. Rochel and Rabbi Rubin opened their home. They made a special effort to help Abe get a minyan since he was an Avel and needed to say Kaddish for his father. This goes back to early 1980’s. We really appreciate his brilliant mind and scholarly writings as well as his warmth and caring along with his dear wife Rochel. He will be sorely missed! BDE. May his neshama have an Aliyah.

Abe & Miriam Auerbach

--

It was a shock to read that Rabbi Rubin was niftar over the Chag. Yet how meaningful that it happened on Shemini Atzeres and on Shabbos, a supremely holy day -- it also happened on Parashas V'Zos HaBracha which tells about the passing of Moshe Rabbeinu ...

And as I type these words I realize that one of the main reasons I know anything at all about Yiddishkeit is thanks to Rabbi Rubin and Chabad and to the Rebbe's commitment to Jewish outreach.

I remember the first time I saw Rabbi Rubin, during my senior year at college. It was in the lobby of the campus center. That's where all the "spiritual" tables were. Meaningless stuff. It was the era of cults, real cults like the Moonies. It was a dangerous time to be on a spiritual search if there was no real anchor to hold onto.

I was standing near one of those tables when I glanced over and saw -- a Jewish Man. Long Black Coat. Black Hat. Black Beard. A real Jew. I was drawn to him like a magnet and we spoke a bit. No, I have no idea what about, but I remember that he invited me to a Friday night meal at the Rubin home on New Scotland Avenue. I also remember being invited to help bake hamentaschen with the Rebbetzin, going to their apartment and meeting their three-year-old son Mendel, who had a towel draped over his shoulders and was playing at davening.

I remember only a few specific interactions, but mainly I remember the FACT that there was a "real Jew" on the Albany campus now and what a relief that was.

I'm grateful that the Rebbe saw fit to send the Rubins to such a danger zone for Jews, and I am sure that the many many many neshamos he uplifted and the Jewish infrastructure that he helped to build are a great zechus for him in the World to Come.

I'm writing this from an Orthodox neighborhood in Brooklyn, namely Midwood. I've been Shomer Shabbos since 1981, with three grown, married kids who all have kids of their own and who are all frum. Rabbi Rubin surely played a role in this, and may it stand in his merit. May Hashem comfort you among the other mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.

Ellen Rubin Appelbaum, Class of 1975

--

Rabbi Rubin was a wonderful leader and role model in Albany. He went to shul every day even when it was difficult for him. He had a wonderful Sukkot at Shabbos House and Shteibl. He had a big smile every time I spoke to him. Surrounded by his family and congregation the whole holiday of Sukkot. He got to participate in the joyous hakafot just before he passed. I feel this was a kindness to die this way, doing the things he loved, with the people he loved. He has a wonderful family who will always treasure his memory as will our Albany community. He led an exemplary life.
We will love and miss him always!
Vicky O'Brien

--

Fond thoughts of my interactions with Rabbi Rubin during my time in Albany. I deeply respected how he dedicated himself to the Albany community, and that one could benefit from vibrant religious experiences, even if they don't live in a large city. This is all the more relevant today, when many are exploring smaller further out communities due to high costs in larger concentrated communities with greater resources. His memory deserves to be a blessing to the entire family and community.

Joel Feuer

--

He was an original, unique, very unusual. I was speaking to someone about Reb Yisroel's passing and he quoted the Talmud, "it's an irreplaceable loss".

Itchie Piekarski

--

Reb Yisroel – a yid שכולו תורה! He was all Torah! He authored special geshmake Seforim, all the while being a Shliach who founded and operated many Mosdos. !ר' ישראל מחייב שלוחים

Eli Silberstein

--

I want to just express how sorry I am to hear about the loss of Rabbi Rubin. To me, he is such an Albany legend, it's hard to fathom that he's no longer around.

I went to Maimonides, of course, until 4th grade. But my primary memories of Rabbi Rubin was when he would learn with me, chavruta, after I would come back from Albany High one night a week. He always treated me with such warmth. We learned chumash, but I remember he would also take out passages from a book he would call "the Kook book" (I guess it was Rav Kook), that we would learn from.

It's hard to remember specific things I learned when I was 14. But I think Rabbi Rubin was a really important part of my Jewish journey, and of my connection to religious Judaism that I still have today, both through Maimonides and through the man, himself. He is forever a part of who I am, and I appreciate him so much for that.

May his memory be a blessing,
Misha

--

We were so saddened to learn of the death of Rabbi Rubin, of blessed memory. David and I met at Shabbos House back in 1977; we're now married for 43 years. We would never have met if not for Shabbos House. The wonderful memories are too numerous to set forth, but here are a few:

Rabbi Rubin always got an onion in his chicken soup;
Rabbi Rubin gave a drash one Shabbat during which he exclaimed "We have to get rid of mental blocks!" Little Mendel, then 5 years old, cried "No-!" We had to explain that his Tatie was not going to get rid of his blocks;
Rabbi Rubin's deep enjoyment of a class he taught Jewish kids who were attending a local Catholic School. His description of the kids' enthusiasm made a deep impression;
Rabbi Rubin's bold Torah. He was not afraid to draw new meanings from text and from tradition.
I could go on and on.

One last note: Rabbi and Ruchel Rubin's dedication extended to their staying in the basement of the Shabbos House building when it was in its infancy and when that basement would regularly flood. The family would get from the stairs to the single bedroom by walking across the puddles on boards. They never complained.
His memory will always be a blessing.

Phyllis and David Schacht

--

Please know how very saddened I was to hear about the death of Rabbi Rubin. When Beth Emeth hosted Maimonides in our building for many years, that enabled us on a nearly daily basis to interact and establish a wonderful sense of collegiality…

In the years after, Rabbi Rubin ALWAYS would see me and reinforce how wonderful those years at Beth Emeth were and in particular the programs we shared and the relationship we created. I always took those comments as the highest compliment especially knowing that in many other communities the Chabad Rabbis and the Reform Rabbis often do not share a relationship as we did. For that, I always felt blessed and honored.

It is my hope and prayer that you all will find comfort and strength in the knowledge that Rabbi Rubin left an indelible imprint in the Capital Region

that transcended all denominations as was ALWAYS a “mensch” in every sense of the word. I have always felt in my own losses, as Judaism teaches us, “death might end a life, but it never ends a relationship”. I know that the relationship all of you shared together will forever remain in your hearts to guide your lives in the years ahead. May his memory be a blessing and may you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.
With heartfelt sympathy,
Rabbi Scott Shpeen

--

I was saddened to hear of the loss of our dear Rabbi Rubin today. Auspicious that he is bound in the bonds of life on Isru hag. May his neshama have an Aliya.

I credit him for modeling kindness and sweetness as principles of the mesorah. I am grateful for his welcoming and nonjudgmental manner. Rarely did he ever raise his voice. My dad z’l was quite fond of him.

To my heart perhaps his most enduring legacy is the salutation of “be well” which I continue to utter as second nature. He taught me Yiddish idioms at Jewish Communal High, and called me Chaimel. A dear man. יהי זכרו ברוך
Rabbi Chaim Singer-Frankes

--

We moved to Albany in January of 1995. If you remember those times, there was no Internet, no cell phones, and no GPS. So, when it was time to go to Shabbos services, my dad decided that if Hashem wants us to pray, then he will lead us to a temple, walked out the door with me, and went right. Less than a mile from our apartment, we encountered the Shtibul, and met Rabbi Rubin. From that point on, he became our Rabbi. When my parents were deciding of what school we should go to, my dad went to the Rabbi, and was told that Maimonides is where we should go. When we needed to get a Bris, the Rabbi personally drove us down to NYC, with Nascar style speed and precision, and we got our Bris. When we needed a camp, sure enough, there was a camp at Maimonides. He was my teacher and he spoke at my father's funeral. It was very touching to see the community gather at his funeral. May his memory be a tremendous blessing.

Yakov Yankulin

--

My memories of Rabbi Rubin will always be of the highest regard. In the past many years I enjoyed seeing Rabbi Rubin at community events as well as at the Shtiebel. It was an honor to provide balloons at Maimonides Jewish Day School as well as providing props for Purim. His sense of humor and creativity was something I experienced and appreciated greatly.
My warmest thoughts are with the entire Rubin family. May Rabbi Rubin's neshama receive the very highest Aliyah.

All the best,
Sarah Rivka / Cynthia R. Werner

--

I think I first met Yisroel in Camp Gan Yisroel in Montreal. I think it was maybe around 5727. I was about 14, and he made a huge impression on me. He was very warm and encouraging.

I remember him sitting at the table in camp, tapping and swaying to a song that the camp was singing.
פתחו לי שערי צדק אבוא בם אודיך
זה השער לה׳ צדיקים יבואו בו
He was deeply into the song. I saw a Chosid emotionally attached to Hashem. It impressed me a lot.
Afterwards I went to Yeshiva Ner Yisroel in Toronto, and Yisroel used to write to me, and I wrote back. His writing influenced me a lot. It gave me a lot of support and insight.
Later, I went to Tomchei Temimim in Montreal and then New York. One summer I went on Merkaz shlichus to upstate New York, including Albany. It might have been 5736 or 5737. He was out of town for Shabbos, so he set us up at the house of a math professor and her son.
Afterwards Yisroel came back to Albany, we stayed with him and his wife. He gave us places where to go, to talk to people about Yiddishkeit.
Over the years I would connect with him, from time to time, and he was very warm. I remember Moshe Rubin in Montreal, a vibrant Chosid. He was very impressive, energetic and wise. I remember when he farbrenged with us. When I think of Yisroel, I remember his smile and his warmth.

Yoseph Janowski

--

From the early years when our son, Rabbi Avraham and Nechama Dina became a part of the Albany Shluchim 30 years ago, we met Rabbi Rubin when we visited for Simchas. He and Rochel always greeted and treated us with warmth even before we became actual members of our beautiful Albany community. The warmth only increased since our move here almost 12 years ago. May his memory be for a blessing.

Gittel and Shmuel Laber

--

To the Rubin family,
I was at the house last night and enjoyed speaking to many people.
I don't know if anyone's mentioned this, but what a bracha to see a family of Shluchim who speak to each other, support each other, share in each other's successes. There is no greater tribute to your parents!
P.S. Rabbi Rubin told me a few years ago that he had a distant cousin in Chicago Rabbi Brief. My aunt married a Brief, she is 91 now. I asked her about it, she said her husbands brother knew the rabbi and they looked to see if they were related, but couldn't find relation, but they became friends.

Rabbi Chaim Kosofsky

--

We are so sorry to hear that Rabbi Rubin passed away, at such a young age.
A memory: When I was a first-year out-of-towner in Bais Rivkah High School, around 1972 or so, newlywed Mrs. Rubin was my Morah for 9th grade Mishlei.
I was quiet and did not call attention to myself. Morah Rubin was the one and only teacher that took a personal interest in me and invited me for a shabbos meal. So I had the honor of meeting Rabbi Rubin then.

That shabbos meal gave me a wonderful feeling that I still feel to this day.
Hamakom Yinachem Eschem B'soch Shaar Aveilei Tzion V'Yersushalayim.

YY and Zeesy (Gordon) Posner

--

Over 50 years it's hard to only recall a few memories!

Every Tuesday evening 4 of us single guys from Saratoga would pile into a car and go to the pizza shop. Where else could you fill up with pizza and Yiddishkeit at the same time and place.

A few years later (45 years ago) Debbie and I were heading home from our wedding in Toronto and the Rabbi invited people to the pizza shop for our Sheva brochas. Unfortunately, the officer at the border would not allow Debbie's car across the border (some immigration issue), but Rabbi had the party with us in absentia (sure it was great fun even without us and Zoom).

When we (in Saratoga) were short on Shabbos minyan he would always help us by sending us boys and Bruce. He helped us in so many ways I can't go into all of them like Succot and the succah we built between the shul and the motel he and family stayed in or the incredible Shabbat weekends at the motel on Lake George in the spring...

Sid Stark

--

משפחת רובין שלא תדעו מצער, זכינו להכיר את רבי רובין איש נדיר שאיחד את כל קהילת היהודים דתיים וחילוניים כאחד מי יתן ולא תדעו מצער

Haim & Dalia Ben-Eliezer

--

Dear Morah Rochel, Mendel, Abba, Yossi, Shmuly, Devorah Leah, Rivky, Ephraim, Simmy, Mushky, Motti, and the entire Rubin family,

I was so deeply saddened to hear the terrible news that Rabbi Rubin was Niftar. I honestly don't even know where to begin. I owe Rabbi Rubin Z"L - and your entire family -so much Hakaras Hatov for everything you did for me and my family and for the tremendous impact you had on my life.

Here are just a few memories that I would like to share:

Growing up, I didn't fully understand how unusual and special my childhood was. I thought this was simply what going to school was like and what good neighbors were like. Looking back, I realize that it was so special -it was on a completely different level and not to be taken for granted. I feel so privileged to not only have known Rabbi Rubin as a teacher at school but also as a neighbor.

I have so many wonderful Maimonides school memories and it was Rabbi Rubin who was behind all of these memories- the Chanukah and Purim plays, Rosh Chodesh assemblies, trips, Chol Hamoed outings, Lag B'Omer BBQ's, prizes, Camp Akiva in the summer, Mishloach Manos packing, Kosher Pizza!!!, "Torah -the real thing" stickers and other fun give aways - and so many other fun events and activities. Rabbi Rubin had such a unique, creative and fun way of giving over Torah.

I always enjoy reading Rabbi Rubin's Seforim and writings -so original, interesting, entertaining and just so good! -Gold! All of this made a very big impression and taught me that Torah and Mitzvos can be fun and enjoyable -Geshmak and have Simchas HaTorah and Mitzvos. Rabbi Rubins influence on me went beyond the classroom and school. My family had the enormous privilege of living right next door to the Rubin family. I got to know Rabbi Rubin as a neighbor, as a father, and simply as a wonderful person.

There was always something happening and exciting going on at the Rubin's house. Whenever I came over to play with Shmuly, I would see Rabbi Rubin always working and doing something - sitting at the computer writing newsletters, on the phone, preparing a mailing, running errands and doing something for the community. At Pesach time, you would pick up your hand made matza order at the Rubins -I remember making walls and tunnels with the boxes that filled the entire living room. Those everyday moments gave me the privilege of seeing the person behind all of these accomplishments.

Rabbi Rubin was always doing, doing, doing. He truly loved spreading Torah and Yiddishkeit and helping others. Rabbi Yisroel Rubin dedicated his entire life -nearly 80 years, to Klal (80 gematria) Yisroel. Some of the memories almost sound unreal when I tell them over :). On Tu B'Shevat, we dressed up in these really cool raisin character costumes and went to the Albany mayor's office to perform a wild raisin dance to a Jewish "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." This was an unforgettable experience, very entertaining and a huge Kiddish Hashem that made a huge impression on me.

Shlomo Carlebach visited Maimonides many times. At one Rosh Chodesh assembly, Shlomo Carlebach was introduced, and Rabbi Rubin came walking in dressed as Shlomo Carlbach, with baby powder in his beard to look like Shlomo Carlebach!

The Chanuka and Purim plays were so entertaining and done so beautifully with handmade props that we made. That was Rabbi Rubin. He knew how to make Yiddishkeit come alive in a way that children would never forget and that Torah and Mitzvos can be fun and enjoyable.

Rabbi Rubin taught me how to tie Tzitzis. Years later, I designed a colorful pair of Tzitzis for Purim using colorful strings, which I still wear every Purim - its not just the father blue Techeiles, but the entire family of colors!:) I even made giant Tzitzis from very thick rope -Uri-Isem Oh-So, to be seen from a mile away! The Tzitzis tying skill came from Rabbi Rubin, but so did the twist (pun intended:), the shtick, and the creativity. There is no doubt in my mind that I picked up that approach from Rabbi Rubin.

The same is true of the work I have done for so many years as a performer. I love bringing happiness to people through my juggling and magic childrens shows and putting Jewish themes and ideas into my shows around the holidays. Looking back, I see clearly that Rabbi Rubin's example had a huge part in that and that I absorbed so much from Rabbi Rubin.

One memory that my wife Penina and I will always have happened shortly after we were married. We took the train to Albany, and Rabbi Rubin came to pick us up. He came out to the tracks to greet us. The moment he saw us, he was so happy and raised his hands and waved them back and forth in the air and began singing, "Yasis Alayich Elokayich...", as he crossed over the tracks to greet us. In those days, you could still cross directly over the tracks at the station -something you certainly cannot do today. Just as we all crossed back over the tracks towards the parking lot -a train zoomed by honking its loud horn -we got off just in time!

On the drive back, Rabbi Rubin deliberately drove down Pearl Street. He told us, "In honor of your wife, Penina, we are driving on Pearl Street." That was so typical of Rabbi Rubin. He was always alert and observant, looking for a little connection, a play on words, or some fun thought that would make the moment special.

There is a tremendous Bracha of having a Shachen Tov, a good neighbor. Our family was truly blessed with the very best possible neighbors. Rabbi Rubin and the entire Rubin family had such a positive influence on our whole family, and especially on me. That is why my mother says that Rabbi Rubin and the Rubins saved my life :).

I feel incredibly fortunate and honored that Rabbi Rubin was part of my childhood and continued to be part of my life. His unique, creative, and fun way he taught Torah and spread Yiddishkeit and genuine love for every fellow Jew, left a permanent impression on me. I will always be grateful to Rabbi Rubin and to the Rubin family.

Mazel Tov to Simmy and his family on the birth and bris of Yisroel Eliezer Rubin. The timing of this Simcha was incredibly moving and so very special. What a beautiful reminder that Rabbi Rubin's light and legacy will continue through Yisroel Eliezer Rubin and through all his children and through every person whose life he touched.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
With deep sadness, love, and endless gratitude,
Your forever neighbors,
Josh and Penina Phaff & Family

--

Just writing briefly about my good memories of your father zl. I don't want to burden you too much, as I'm sure that you are getting untold numbers of memories of his many accomplishments.

30 years ago, I was in a difficult personal situation. I took a job in Albany while I lived in Brooklyn. It wasn't a full time job, and didn't pay enough for me to rent an apartment. Your father let me stay in the basement for minimum rent.

Being the organizer type, I found his treasure trove of newspaper articles about his 23 years of activities. I spent many hours of my spare time organizing and filing. Sometimes he helped me with it.

We talked a lot and got to know him. I understood that he didn't have an easy time especially in the early years, there was a lot of opposition. At the same time he was always a good listener to my difficulties, and he and your

mother tried to help me the best way that they could. (BH my situation has improved over the years) Hamakom yenachem eschem, and you should have have much hatzlacha in continuing his amazing legacy.

Dovid

--

My parents Drs. Abraham and Edith Luchins a"h were zoche to work closely with Rabbi Rubin z"l through the years. My father was proud of the role he played in petitioning the Rebbe to assign a shaliach to the Capital District.

My mother had enormous satisfaction in working with Rabbi Rubin on so many projects, particularly involving the creating and nurturing of Maimonides School. I have warm memories of a wonderfully creative and vibrant individual that was Rabbi Rubin.

I was particularly impressed by the sophisticated interpersonal skills that allowed Rabbi Rubin to be on such good terms with so many varied segments of the Albany community. I once teased him that he was a better Political Scientist than I was, and he replied: "That's because I'm on the field and you're in the audience watching".

I watched. I enjoyed. I was impressed.
David Luchins

--

Tayere Mishpachas Rubin, I was very saddened to learn of Reb Yisroel's ptirah. May you all be comforted by his life and legacy filled with so many achievements and exceptional innovation.

We worked together in Camp Gan Yisroel Montreal. How well I remember the very first edition of The Torah Times which was initially called The Daily Chitas. In those olden pre-digital days I had the zchus of writing BY HAND the very first edition!
Over the years we had many conversations, particularly about his different creative ideas of spreading Yiddishkeit.

I pay tribute to the brilliant but still very humble Chosid and Shliach.
יהא זכרו ברוך! *Yossy Goldman*

--

Dear Rochel, Rabbi Rubin was so kind. He accepted all Jews regardless of how they kept their Jewish practices. Thank you all for your contribution to our community!

Marsha Halpert

--

I was overwhelmingly saddened with the news of the passing of Rabbi Rubin. I have such wonderful memories of him from the years we lived in Albany. He was always involved in activities to benefit the Jewish community and to get people involved in Judaism. The community has come a long way since the 70's when he and Rochel arrived in Albany.
My heartfelt condolences to Rochel and the entire family.
Sincerely,
Mindy Reznik

--

My earliest memory of Rabbi Rubin is from a Purim Seudah, I imagine in Shabbos House. He was singing "If I were a rich man" from Fiddler on the Roof. My next memories are of his Simchas Torah Drashas, which were more light-hearted than the regular Shabbos drashas, usually very humorous, Purimdike almost. There was the one when he threw his shoe, or the time when he asked someone to check the degrees of how much the sukka was leaning. When he explained the symbolism of the Paroches that Nathan Rosenstein, a"h, donated posthumously (one detail was that the 10 flowers on the paroches were like the 10 raised fingers during birkas kohanim). There was also the time he connected 3 upgrades in shul to Torah (new bookshelves), Avodah (the benches in the back of the shul that came from the old Temple Israel, now home to Maimonides), and Gemilus Chasadim (the kitchenette area in the hallway).

In school, I have many good memories of the Open Windows assemblies in Beth Emeth, where he invited different people from the wider Jewish community to speak to the students. He always introduced the presenter of that week with enthusiasm and excitement. My most memorable were the

soldier who stomped on Hitler, ym"sh's hat, and the blind state worker whose wife color-coded his clothes.

My first school memory of Rabbi Rubin is when we were first learning Chumash. When we got to the first time the four-letter name of Hashem is mentioned in Chumash, Morah Devorah sent a student to ask Rabbi Rubin to come and explain it. I don't remember what was said, but I remember feeling very special that "Rabbi Rubin" came for a special visit to our class to answer a question asked by one child.

The most unexpected but typical Rabbi Rubin gesture was the labels he placed on the cups at our Albany 15 Shevat Sheva Brachos, recognizing the roots that both my wife Chana and I had in Albany (her grandparents, Drs. Abraham and Edith Luchins, lived in Albany for 40+ years).

May we be reunited with Rabbi Rubin and all our loved ones with the coming of Moshiach, now!

Sholom Ber Kudan

--

Rabbi Rubin and Rebbetzen Rubin
helped to light the way for our family.
Always grateful—-*Elisheva Okrent*

--

I was in the first group, the initial 23 bochurim, who went to Tomchei Tmimim of the Capital District in Troy, NY. The idea of the Yeshiva was amazing, respected talented older bochurim as the faculty mentoring us.

One Shabbos, we were all in Albany for a group shabbos at Rabbi Rubin's shul. After davening he taught a Sicha of the Rebbe that had to do with the different Nusach's of daavening. I believe that the shul we were davening might have been other than Nusach Ari, but I cannot completely recall. The point was, however, that one should not look down on someone because he is davening a different Nusach. They are all words of Hashem and to Hashem and one is not more legitimate than the other. Rabbi Rubin's point was to understand that every Jew is special, everything they do is important

and to look at everyone in a positive light. I remember this 38 years later and I tell my children this episode.

The foresight that Rabbi Rubin had to open that Yeshiva, for boys that didn't necessarily want the system that was current at the time, was amazing. I can say that it helped me more than he will ever know, and for that I will remember Rabbi Rubin, May his memory be a blessing.

With warm regards,
Eli Herman,

--

כ"ה בתשרי תשפ"ז

יום הסתלקות רבי לוי יצחק מברדיצ'וב, סנגורם של ישראל, ויום היארצייט של מרת אסתר ע"ה כהן

לכבוד מרת שיינא רחל רובין תחי',

ולכל הבנים והבנות היקרים למשפחת רובין, ה' עליהם יחיו,

בצער עמוק ובלב כואב קיבלנו את הבשורה המרה על פטירתו של בעלך ואביכם היקר, גיסנו ודודנו האהוב, הרב החסיד ר' ישראל אליעזר ע"ה. אנו משתתפים באבלכם הכבד ובכאב הפרידה.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

ומכאן ואילך תזכו לבשר ולהתבשר אך בבשורות טובות ומשמחות.

ר' ישראל אליעזר ע"ה נפטר בשבת קודש, שמיני עצרת, כאשר קוראים בשיעור החת"ת את המילים החותמות את התורה: "לעיני כל ישראל". סמיכות זו נוגעת ללב: נשמתו של ר' ישראל עלתה למרומים ועיניו נעצמו דווקא בחג שבו פותחים בהקפות ובשמחת התורה, והוא עצמו, כפי שנודע לכל מכיריו, כל חיותו ונשמתו היו בתורה.

ומאירים בהקשר זה דברי אדמו"ר הזקן בשיעור התניא של ערב שמחת תורה, המבאר ששכר המצווה אינו יכול להיות מושג בעולם הזה, אלא בהתפשטות הנפש מן הגוף.

ביום שני, כ"ד בתשרי, אסרו חג, הובא למנוחת עולמים. בשיעור החומש של אותו יום, בפרשת בראשית, קוראים: "ויצר ה' אלוקים את האדם עפר מן האדמה ויפח באפיו נשמת חיים". על המילה "ויצר" מפרש רש"י: "שתי יצירות, יצירה לעולם הזה ויצירה לתחיית המתים".

ועל המילים "עפר מן האדמה" מבאר רש"י שהקב"ה צבר את עפרו של האדם מארבע רוחות הארץ, כדי שבכל מקום שימות תהא האדמה קולטתו לקבורה. בפירוש נוסף מבאר רש"י שעפרו נלקח ממקום המזבח, שיהיה לו לכפרה ויוכל לעמוד.

ר' ישראל אליעזר ע"ה זכה וזיכה שלוחים רבים מכל ארבע כנפות הארץ. בנדיבות העניק להם מפרי רעיונותיו ויצירותיו, וסייע להם בקיום מבצעי הרבי ובמילוי שליחותם. החיות שמילאה אותו הפכה לכוח של עשייה והשפעה גם אצל אחיו השלוחים, בכל אתר ואתר.

ומנוחתו כבוד במקום שליחותו, בעיר הבירה אולבני, השוכנת בין מונטריאול, מקום גידולו, לבין ניו יורק, המקום שבו התחנך לשליחות אצל נשיאנו, המשלח. במקום שבו חי ופעל בשליחותו של הרבי, שם נטמן ושם מקום כפרתו.

יהי רצון שתיכף ומיד נזכה לתחיית המתים, ויתקיים הייעוד "ומחה ה' דמעה מעל כל פנים". נזכה לשוב ולהיפגש עם בעלך ואביכם, גיסנו ודודנו היקר, כשמשיח צדקנו בראשנו, במהרה בימינו, אמן.

ואז נאמר בשמחה את המילים שקראנו בשמחת תורה: "אשריך ישראל מי כמוך". שמו, ישראל, נושא את ראשי התיבות "יש שישים ריבוא אותיות לתורה", ומבטא את הקשר העמוק שבין התורה לנשמות ישראל. קשר זה האיר בחייו, בחיותו בתורה ובכוחו לחבר ולהלהיב גם את אחיו השלוחים בכל מקום.

"בך יברך ישראל", "ישראל אשר בך אתפאר".

החותמים בכאב, באהבה ובתפילה לנחמה קרובה,

גבריאל ושרה מרזל וכל המשפחה

--

I am so sorry to hear that Fetter (Uncle) Yisroel has passed away.

He was so creative in writing and expressing ideas lightheartedly in a way that would reach anyone. I remember reading the Torah Times over and looking for a new detail or code that I missed.

You have always been so eager to share his work, from his witty cards, to his Torah Times and translation of songs, bringing humor and connection where it was most needed. He has truly made such a positive mark on this world and I hope you can find comfort through this.

Sussie Rosenberg

--

So sorry to hear this sad news. Your father has truly left his mark on the Capital Region in such a kind and righteous way. His teachings will live on through the wonderful children that he raised and mentored with your dear mother. Baruch Dayan Haemet.

Ronda Ross

--

Baruch Dayan HaEmet. This one really hits me personally. I knew him very well, since my sister lives in Albany, and I always had such tremendous respect and admiration for him. He was truly a very special person, a great Rabbi, and a true Chassid of the Rebbe. May his neshama have an aliyah, and may his family know of no more sorrow.

S.C. Rosenfeld

--

Your dear father was the epitome of a Shliach and Chossid, so humble, so genuine, didn't speak loudly just acted and led by example .... I remember the impression we had as young Bochurim in Albany and later working in the Shluchim Office (back in the 715 days) .... He was so Aidel, Chassidish, Brilliant and Creative and funny... the capacity and vision he had in those days, long before AI ....many special encounters with him then and some after we went on Shlichus. I am certain there are hundreds if not thousands of Chassidim that were impacted and influenced by your father.
Hugs and love from here and everywhere!

Berl Goldman

--

Your father was a giant whose איבערגעגענקייט and חכמה were only exceeded by his ענווה. I remember him as a שליח who cared about the שליחות and the שלוחים. While I admire his חכמה and his wit, I remember him also as a חבר.

Rabbi Arye Leib Heinz

I officially became a member of the Piekarski family about 55 years ago at Yisroel and Rochel's wedding.
Did I "know" Yisroel? Just looking at him gave you a peek into his "essence".
באתי לגני- גן עדן
In מסכת שבת לא,א, the Gemara states as follows :
יראת ה׳ אוצרו
אמר רבא: בשעה שמכניסין …אומרים לו
נשאת ונתת באמונה?
קבעת עתים לתורה?
עסקת בפו״ר, צפית לישועה?
To each of these questions Yisroel could answer with a resounding YES!
He was honest, genuine, and sincere in his "business". His humility, his quiet and unassuming persona, his Derech Eretz ,his straightforwardness, his caring, his going beyond the call of duty, his Ahavas Yisroel etc. etc.
This was Yisroel as attested to by all those who know him both Jew and non Jew alike.
He was מקדש שם שמים Wherever he went and with his every action.
Yisroel was a walking and living Sefer Torah .
יש ששים רבבות אותיות לתורה. Surely Torah would flow from his veins.He was one with the Torah in his thoughts, his actions, and his speech. He lived with the dictum
והגית בו יומם ולילה
תורה צוה לנו משה
He was indeed, בן משה.
Yisroel and Rochel raised a family, לתפארת.
A true דור ישרים יבורך.
משיח =שליח. As a שליח of our Rebbe, his only mission in life was to bring Moshiach and reveal Moshiach in the world and within himself at every given moment and at every opportunity.
He dedicated his life living Moshiachdik and working towards bringing the Geula closer each day.
He is basking in the light of the שכינה.
He will be sorely missed.
חבל על דאבדין…
מה זרעו בחיים אף הוא בחיים
He will live on in his children and in all the seeds he planted, both physically and spiritually.
(P.S. Yisroel , with his gifted writing would have written this script a lot better than me. But he did it with his life's own script) Moshiach NOW!
המקום ינחם אתכם…
Heartfelt
Rivkie Piekarski

Thank you for being a truly Revolutionary, guiding light. Your faith brought so much to so many. And will continue to do so. Ein Sof.

Sanda Ray Bailund-Vana Wolk

--

A terrible Loss!
The whole family is incredible. His creativity and intelligence and non-judgemental caring for all Yidden !
They should all be comforted by the good memories and all the impact they all have on so many people in so many ways.

Chune Boss

--

He was always very proud of us - he would ask if anyone knows what this halachic concept in the gemara means- and I would say ah I just learnt it in rambam.... he beamed with pride every time! Very, very special. One of my favorite memories is when he announced in school it's a special segula from the Maharal to learn Haazinu baal peh - it was the year of his 400th yartzeit. He offered 50 cents per pasuk for whoever memorizes it. Of course I did it. He sat with me and tested me and said he was impressed. He paid me and I felt like a million bucks!!! I was probably like 9. Good times!

Azriel Laber

--

I remember him being very passionate about the Torah Times which we used to read with him in 6th grade every week. He told us (I think it was during a Lag Baomer parade) he made a clock with the Torah Times logo (or maybe it just said the Torah Times). Like the time is really Torah Times.
He seemed to be calm and relaxed, and did his own thing, not bothered about what was going on around him.

Mendel Hecht

--

This essay (“What do Artificial Intelligence, Super Intelligence, and Adam and Chava have in common?” for a communal bulletin) is dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Yisroel Rubin A"H, shliach to Albany who passed away last week. I was fortunate to learn from Rabbi Rubin in 10th grade, where he instilled in us the importance of "living with the Parsha," including exploring the halachic questions raised by the technological developments of the time. At the school he founded, I also met my wife.

Shmuly Lieberman

--

Rabbi Israel Rubin z"l inspired me to start my own Pesach Haggadah collection. Shabbos House was my home away from home (and dorm) on campus for 5.5 years. Rabbi Mendel and Raizy became family, and by extension, their families. I will be forever grateful for the time I spent with Mendel's father, and of course with the entire Rubin family.

Justin Hirsch

--

I am sorry to hear about your loss. I was one of the first at Shabbos House from 1977-1981. Your father and mother made living an observant life on campus so much easier and created an atmosphere of warmth and caring that I so needed at that time. May his memory be a blessing.

Amy Kirshblum

--

I wanted to express our deepest condolences on the loss of your father, Rabbi Rubin. Your parents vision, mission and hard work have inspired and created countless Jewish families for generations to come- including our own- and for that we are incredibly grateful and proud- may your father’s memory be a blessing to all.

Amy and Ron Sohn

--

I'm so sorry for the loss of your father, Rabbi Rubin. There really aren't enough words to describe what a special person he was.

On this rainy Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan morning, I wanted to share a memory that came to mind. I was about seven or eight, sitting in class, when we suddenly heard a commotion outside: "Everyone get ready for the rain! The Mable is coming!" The older boys were dressed in raincoats, spraying giant water guns into the air. It was so much fun to watch, and such a unique way your father brought Parshas Noach to life!

I've never forgotten that moment, along with so many other memories of your father. I hope to share more with you another time, but with Rosh Chodesh today, I found myself remembering this one and wanted to share it with you.

May you and your family be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

Sarah Calvo

--

Your father was there for me at every point of my life. I honestly feel a void in my heart with him gone. No one can replace him for me. He sat down next to me in shul in 1985 to see how I was doing with difficulties becoming frum and dealing with family and friends. He counseled me when I came back from yeshiva in 1993 and came over to my parents house and when I went back CH in 1995 Hadar Hatorah and marriage in 1996. He always supported me and my family through some hard times. Most of all, it meant the world to me that he came to CH for my daughter's wedding even after his stroke. These are only a few things of many.
Sincerely,

Yitzchok

--

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your father. I was deeply saddened to learn of it. To me, your father was the pinnacle of warmth, kindness, and devotion to his family, the many whose lives he touched, and his lifelong endeavors, particularly in founding Maimonides

and Shabbos House as well as engaging people with Judaism through creative and accessible means. He was a truly humble man who achieved far more than I will ever know, and you could see how important you were to him. I hope that you are able to find peace in this difficult time, and may you experience only goodness in the future.

Bernie

--

בד"ה I have so many joyful and inspiring memories of Rabbi Rubin from my years at SUNYA, and even after I left any time, I would contact him. My heart is sad to lose a Tzaddik, but what a joyful end (Hakafos Shmini Atzeres) to a life that brought joy to so many people. I remember hakafos with Chabad in Albany. So many wonderful memories... I still hear his wisdom. What a blessing to have so many memories of him. May his family find comfort...

Jana L. De Benedetti

--

I grew up in Montreal and knew Rabbi Rubin z'tl as a youngster and knew his wonderful parents. He was steeped in all facets of Torah and an extremely kind and generous person. Albany was fortune to have someone of his stature in their midst and will be difficult to replace. יהי זכרו ברוך

Mo Stern

--

It's been more than two decades since we left Albany, but I have not forgotten the wonderful life we had, and the central role Rabbi Rubin played in building the Jewish community. It's hard to think of Albany without him. May his memory be for a blessing. תנצב"ה Thinking of you, hoping that these memories will bring you peace and comfort. With Sympathy,
Sara

--

Ruvain and I moved to Albany in February 1981, when our son Zalmy was one year old. When we told our friends in Buffalo that we were moving, they

said, "There's a pizza store there!" It was certainly a treat to be able to go out for pizza.

Whenever I would call Rabbi Rubin, he always gave me an exuberant greeting: "Hi Shayna, how are you???" I felt like a million dollars.
It was never a burden for Rabbi Rubin to drive our kids places. He always took them to fun and educational places, introducing them to people they could learn from.

In 2007, when there was a racehorse in Saratoga named Maimonides, Rabbi Rubin took the boys up there to see it. Other people in the frum world questioned whether this was a proper place for yeshiva boys, but Rabbi Rubin was able to teach a valuable Torah lesson, even in unique situations.

Rabbi Rubin also included his students in his creative projects, such as The Albany Haggadah and the Torah Times. The kids were always so excited to participate.

He took full advantage of visitors to morning minyan at the shteebel, often asking them to say a few words, no matter who they were. Rabbi Rubin taught all of us how special every Jew is, he always saw the best in people.

Whatever Gemara he taught, Rabbi Rubin made sure it was practical and relevant. He brought in props and real-world examples to bring the learning to life. He was incredibly creative, and also brilliant—he could teach without an open book in front of him and still correct the kids when needed. What struck me most was that all of this wisdom and creativity belonged to such a truly humble person.

It was a real pleasure to live in Albany and to be a part of the Chabad community under Rabbi Rubin and Rochel. The tireless work they both did in keeping Maimonides school running enabled us to send 9 of our children there and to stay here for almost 46 years. Thank you Rabbi Rubin and Rochel!!

Shayna Kudan

--

Torah Scholar Yet Humble

I had the zechus to learn Torah from Rabbi Rubin for over 45 years, most often during his weekly Shabbos drushes at Congregation Shomray Torah. His vast Torah knowledge was evident as he shared new and original insights across all areas of Torah. Pirkei Avos was his personal favorite, and he demonstrated to us that Avos was not just to be recited but studied and appreciated like any other Talmudic tractate. What I will remember most, however, was his enthusiasm and joy when learning and teaching Torah. The joy was infectious, as I recall smiling broadly and feeling genuinely happy many times as Rabbi Rubin resolved the questions he had raised. Another remarkable aspect of Rabbi Rubin was his extreme humility. He never flaunted his Torah knowledge or pointed to himself as the eminent scholar that he was.

Maimonides Hebrew Day School – Rabbi Rubin's Crown Jewel

I remember at one Hey Teves farbrengen at his house, Rabbi Rubin learned with us—perhaps from a Kfar Chabad magazine article—that the Rebbe Rayatz was once given a deal by the communist authorities: if he agreed to close down his network of underground cheders and stop teaching young Jewish children, he would be allowed to continue his other activities spreading Yiddishkeit in the Soviet Union. The Rebbe Rayatz refused, knowing that chinuch al taharas hakodesh—imparting Torah-true education to the youth at the highest possible standard—was precisely what would ensure the continuity of Yiddishkeit.

Maimonides Hebrew Day School was the primary focal point of Rabbi Rubin's life—his crown jewel. My enduring memory of Rabbi Rubin is how he exemplified the Rebbe Rayatz's dedication to the mission of ensuring chinuch al taharas hakodesh. Beyond having my children attend Maimonides from nursery through high school graduation, I also have had the zechus to serve for many years as a lay leader at the school. From those vantage points, I observed up close Rabbi Rubin's utter dedication and mesirus nefesh to ensure that Maimonides would survive and thrive despite many challenges, including threats to its very existence. Just like the Rebbe Rayatz, Rabbi Rubin's mesirus nefesh in the Capital District has resulted in generations of Jewish children who will ensure Jewish continuity.

Ruvain Kudan

--

BDE. Devastating. Rabbi Rubin WAS Torah. His Shiurim were amazing. He could quote a huge spectrum of sources from the Rebbe to the Rambam, even the Vilna Gaon. As Klal Yisroel danced with the Torah on Simchas Torah, Hashem called up his own Torah to dance with him. May his memory be a blessing.

Lew Gray

--

Ì was so affected by the news that I could not write and did not call. Rabbi Rubin was "My Rabbi", and Rochel "My Rebbetzin". No words could nor can adequately express to Rochel & family and our precious Capital District community what Rabbi Rubìn and Rochel have meant to me and my family. Your Torah, chesed, teaching & inspiration have been a guiding foundation in our lives. Your framed picture is on the wall in our home here in Israel where it had been for many years. People ask: "Who is that person in the picture?" I say that is my Rebbe when we lived in America. We are all so grateful for all you have given. Thank you for Chassidus. We send our love.

Stephen and Etti Silverstein

--

BDE. Rabbi Rubin taught a gemarah class to a few of us students in the early eighties. He was such a talmid chacham and it was a great privilege to learn from him. He was a man of great chesed and will be missed by those who were zoche to have crossed his path.

Keith Sherrow

--
Rabbi Rubin always seemed to carry a sparkle in his eye—a fascination for everyone and everything around him. You knew that when he was looking at or examining a situation, or at how an object may be purposefully used, he saw and understood something that was beyond what was physically there-some meaning that may elude most.

I believe that with his combination of being a Torah scholar, his spiritual understanding of each person, care, and his connection with Hashem, Rabbi Israel Rubin gave the best Halachic and spiritual advice!

His words truly came from the heart, much like the heart he wore proudly and with overflowing joy while leading his school's children and teachers in the famous Lag B'Omer parade each year.

About 15 years ago that I dropped my Women's ArtScroll Siddur in the Guilderland Library parking lot. I searched frantically and backtracked, then drove back and found it sitting on the grass near where I parked.

It was raining heavily on the day that I dropped it. Waterlogged with its cover frayed, eaten away, and falling apart, I brought it home to dry. I was not sure if it was even Kosher anymore and doubted I could ever use it to continue my Tefillah. What to do!? As with many other troubling, unexpected, and unique circumstances, I asked Rabbi Rubin if I could still use it.

He told me, Aviva, on the contrary! Your siddur has gone through a journey, experienced a hardship and survived. This makes it now carry an even higher level of strength and holiness. On the contrary, it is even greater!

Aviva Rossman

--

So saddened by this news. Besides being an amazing teacher, and a creative and innovative genius, his down-to-earth buddiness and presence in a very personal way that made him unique. He was a genuine neighborhood rabbi in personality and his influence reached from the nursery school to the state assembly and delegations to Washington DC. My heart goes out to his family and community. Deepest condolences. May his memory be for a blessing and inspiration.

Yoel Seliger

ברוך דיין האמת. I was privileged to start learning with him not long after he came to Albany and to continue learning with him through high school. I always looked forward to seeing him at the shtiebel when coming back to Albany. יהי זכרו ברוך.

Malcolm Ainspan

--

We lived in Albany in the late 70s. I have fond memories of your father davening at the Shtibble; Shabbos meals at your home; pizza at the shop and Simchat Torah at SUNYA. He was a friend, family and an inspiration.

Murray Kaiserman

--

Rabbi Rubin a"h was the epitome of Hakaras Hatov. Every single time I had the Zechus to see him at Maimonides school he thanked me. It didn't matter that I was just relaxing in the office on a break, he still would say, "Thank you Devorah Leah for all that you do for our school." These were also the last words that Rabbi Rubin said to me a few weeks ago.

DL Kaufmann

--

When I think of Rabbi Yisroel Rubin, one personal memory immediately comes to mind. Shortly after my wife and I moved into our first home, Rabbi Rubin came to help us place mezuzot throughout the house and kasher the oven. Before we even got started, he noticed our house number, 180, and pointed out that it was ten times chai. He spoke about the blessings associated with chai and what a beautiful sign it was for a young couple building a Jewish home. What seemed like an ordinary detail immediately became something meaningful.

But what stayed with me even more happened a few minutes later. My wife was a young bride, eager to do things properly, and Rabbi Rubin took a look at the oven she had thoroughly cleaned in preparation for kashering. Rather than simply proceeding with the task, he paused to tell her what an outstanding job she had done and how easy the kashering would be because of her efforts.

Looking back, that was Rabbi Rubin. He had a gift for seeing what others might overlook. He saw meaning in a number, dedication in a young couple's preparations, and holiness in the work of building a Jewish home.

The same rabbi who took the time to encourage a young bride in her kitchen spent decades encouraging an entire community. Together, Rabbi and Rochel Rubin built far more than an institution. They strengthened Jewish

homes, inspired Jewish pride, and welcomed countless people into a deeper connection with Jewish life. My family was just one of the many families touched by their remarkable work.

As we mark his shloshim, may Rabbi Rubin's memory continue to be a blessing, and may the legacy that he and Rochel built continue to inspire our community for generations to come.

Rob Kovach

--

We were deeply saddened by the news of your dear husband Yisroel's passing. He was a powerhouse of a man, a true soldier of the Rebbe, a real example of one who said little but did much. His accomplishment in bringing Jews closer to Hashem and His Torah were well-known, not only in your area but all over by many of our brethren. He will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered by all who were privileged to know him.

Malka and Mordechai Litzman

--

I remember taking a Talmud class with him in the 1970's while I was at Albany Medical College. He would come to the dormitory across from the medical center, and teach Torah to the students. I remember it as a valued and meaningful break from my medical studies. Your Dad was an inspiring teacher. My classmate Todd, later Rabbi Dr. Tuvia Meister, was also an attendee of that class. My daughter Jackie (class of '09) attended your Chabad at Union. I wish Chabad was at Union when I was there! Keep up the good work keeping Jewish students involved.

Jeffrey Blonstein, MD '73

HONORING RABBI ISRAEL RUBIN @ 60
(originally published for his 60th, now sent as a condolence memory)

We are gathered here today,
To honor a man,
Who brought Kosher Pizza to Albany,
And a kosher hot dog stand.

With his beautiful wife Rochel,
A wonderful family he did raise,
Rabbi Israel Rubin,
Deserves all our praise.

Divrei Torah at the Shteibel,
Shiurim and Daf Yomi he does prepare,
A founder of the Shabbos House,
Everything is done with so much care.

A soft spoken man,
Only a shofar will he blast,
His knowledge of Torah,
Is incredibly vast.

Even if something is mundane,
Just a part of every day,
Rabbi Rubin adds a Jewish spin,
And it becomes holy right away.

At Chabad in Albany,
And throughout any state,
He is famous for his holiday newspapers,
And known as top rate.

As Rosh Yeshiva,
His positive impact is large,
At Maimonides Hebrew Day School,
Rabbi Rubin takes charge.

His insights on halacha,
Rank among the very best,
Teaching in such clever ways,
He shares his wisdom with the rest.

A commentary on Pirkei Avot,
He authored a true masterpiece,
Albany Haggadah also amazing,
To say the very least.

Rabbi Rubin's age of 60,
We celebrate today,
May he be blessed with at least 60 more years,
Please let us hope and pray.

So let us hold up our glass,
And say hooray,
For this is Rabbi Israel Rubin's,
Special Birthday!

With respect, admiration, and affection,
Joyce Teitelman
Larry & Nehama Teitelman and family
Elana & Zvi Lew and family
Howie & Meital Teitelman and family

--

Rabbi Rubin was the type of teacher who engaged the student on their level, almost as a friend or peer, and shared his Eureka! moments with us, and making us feel as if we thought of it all on our own!

Sara G.

--

In memory and with much gratitude to Rabbi Yisroel Eliezer Rubin. His loss to everyone is irreplaceable.

Sylvia Solomon

--

We feel the loss and share the sorrow of losing a very good friend, the best of friends. His memory is a blessing to all.

Dan, Jessica, Danny and Juliana McKittrick

--

Ruth and I were so very saddened to learn of Rabbi Rubin's passing. We had a long history together and cherished him as a friend, mentor, and role model. His insights in Torah were unparalleled. I learned so much from him. He will be remembered with reverence and joy.

Barry and Ruth

--

We were truly saddened to learn of the passing of Rav Yisrael Rubin. To say Rav Rubin was the fabric of Jewish Albany is a major understatement. His ideal for Torah and Chesed were matched by his actions, while at the same time his devotion and dedication to the community were exemplary.

My friend Reb Pinchas Gershon Waxman z"l of Lakewood NJ, himself a prolific author on Torah topics used to tell me that whenever he needed clarification, a source, or understanding in Torah, he used to call Rav Rubin – and it was answered immediately. From his Torah knowledge it was evident that he was a true Talmid Chochom.

May his memory continue to inspire his wife, his faithful partner, the family and the entire community.

Sincerely,
Mordechai Gottlieb (Bernie and Ella Saul's nephew)

--

Rabbi Rubin, of blessed memory, was a man full of Torah, a true legend in my time!

Maria Englert-Rodden

--

Rabbi Rubin was one of my best teachers in Torah. In 1993 while I was engaged to be married and living in Boston, I bought a copy of "Blossoms", his bilingual first booklet on Pirke Avos in the local bookshop. I had questions but found his style a fit so I called him by phone and what followed was many email threads. He started mailing me his summer weekly Pirke Avos pamphlets, yom tov kuntressim, Shem Avosai etc. even

the Torah Times! culminating with his magnus opus Hirhurei Torah some 30 years later. He answered my personal shailos on nigle, chassidus, kabbalah, Likutei Levi Yitzchak, that I encountered in my learning as well as was the lead in introducing me to the Rogatchover and Yosef Engel.

Midway maybe, he started asking me to proofread and comment on some of writings and Haaros Ubiurim. By then Rabbi Rubin helped me get started with gaining skills to have students of my own.

My wife and I saw him and his wife at several simchas. Once during a chasana we were both at, I stopped to sit with him and elaborated on a sheva brachos idea that I came up with and shared at meals we hosted involving a 3-fold analogy but was missing one of the parables to complete a final triplet. On the spot, Rabbi Rubin gave me the missing word!

Chaim Schild

--

Rabbi Yisrael Rubin was one of a kind Tzadik who had a tremendous impact on our lives!! Going back 40 years! He always got back to us when we called (even after we moved away) with all types of questions, too! He's for sure up in heaven and working hard for us in this Lower world!

Bentzion and Ruthie Saloff

--

Rabbi Rubin took us into school with open arms when we had nothing, and treated us with such warmth, love and understanding all our years.
S.

--

We've been blessed to have had the magnificent teaching, guidance, influence and friendship of Rabbi Israel Rubin in our lives for 25 years!

Just watching this elegant, modest, yet tremendously effective Rabbi and mentor walk past our front window when we lived on Oakwood Street effected our lives: Rabbi Rubin making his way to daily minyanim or

Shabbat Services was a reminder of our ongoing and joyous duty as Jewish individuals.

The blessing of knowing Rabbi Rubin has had an indescribable and ongoing impact on us. We love and miss him; his pure and generous spirit will remain in our hearts and minds forever as an ongoing blessing.

Ellen and Jack Kaplowitz

--

I will always hold Rabbi Rubin close to my heart, for he was a man of great dedication who set an example showing there is no excuse for missing synagogue.

Abraham Forero

--

Rabbi Rubin passed away on the weekend of Simchas Torah and he truly embodied the Simcha of the Torah.
Yehoshua Rubin

--

I have the fondest memories of Rabbi Rubin z"l, his inspiring, unique drashas, his innovative spirit and endless creativity, his strong yet gentle manner of speaking...he always came to our simchas with a smile, a vort and a helping hand. The world has lost such a special Rabbi and leader. His dedication to the Albany community, to the Capital Region, to the Shteeble, and to Maimonides Hebrew Day School was felt at all times. He was always ready to do, to help and to teach. Morah Rochel and family, our hearts are with you... May his memory be an eternal blessing.

Chaya-Bracha
Rabbi Rubin has always been an inspiration to our whole family and we will always honor his beautiful legacy!

Alyssa Kahn Ehrlich

--

A brilliant Gaon with the simplicity of a yid that was a beacon of Emes truth. A privilege to have worked under his leadership.

Ruth Seliger

--

My wife and I moved our family to Albany, NY in 2022 and were immediately welcomed by Rabbi Yisroel (z"l) and Morah Rochel Rubin. Our girls go to Maimonides and absolutely love the school. The warmth the Rubins emanate cannot be described.

One of the first things Rabbi Rubin gave our family was a Tanya printed in Albany. It is, and always will be, treasured by my family.

I am currently deployed to the Middle East in support of the war with Iran, and the community, especially the Rubin family, have rallied around my wife and girls to support them in every way possible while I'm gone. The world has truly lost a great man. May his memory always be a blessing.

Tzvi Holt

--

Coming to SUNY in the 80's (after having come back from 1st yeshiva experience in Israel), Rabbi Rubin zt'l was always a beacon of love, warmth, counsel, anivus, a Talmid Chachom of epic proportions.

His gentleness of spirit, I looked forward to being at the Shteeble on Shabbos mornings, soaking in his messages and his gentle demeanor. I so loved spending Shabbos meals at the Rubin home; this is a family of giants.

Rabbi Rubin ztl was a gentle giant, unassuming, who built the Albany Jewish community and beyond. I will always cherish the memories of a true eved Hashem, who somehow had time for everyone who sought his counsel. Yehi Zichron Baruch.

Akiva & Dianne Steinberg

--

When your Mom and Dad first came to Albany, and he purchased the Main Avenue home, our paths crossed right away. I was in my 20's, and single. My grandmother had lived just two homes away from your home, so I knew that block and its charming Spanish influenced architecture.

From my first meeting with him, he shared the charm, kindness, and openness to the other that your family exudes. Early on, I asked him if he would share his experience in traditional Judaism with my students, 7th graders, who met on Shabbos at Beth Emeth on Academy Road.

He said yes. Would I just ask the students to not use their pencils while he was our guest. Such a simple request. So, on that precious and holy day, he interrupted his usual routine and walked from your home over to Beth Emeth. As if it wasn't a problem at all.

Wendy had the most incredible experience with your Mom and Dad when Maimonides shared space at Beth Emeth with the religious school that Wendy creatively led. Every opportunity to collaborate, Wendy and they used with enthusiasm. Shofar making, an assembly with Schlomo Carlbach.... Much, much more. The attitude by all was to focus on what we can we do together, and if we can, we'll figure out how.

There are kind people of all kinds who make life worthwhile. We meet a few from time to time. Your dad, indeed, your family, stands out in our hearts.

Larry and Wendy Barnet

--

I am saddened to hear that we have lost beloved Rabbi Israel Rubin z"l, and I extend my condolences to his extraordinary wife and partner Rochel and to his remarkable family of schlichim and shclichot who are following in his footsteps. Although I pretty much lost touch with Albany after my mother Florence Saidel z"l died ten years ago, I have always had a place in my heart for Rabbi Rubin.

I suppose I first met him soon after his arrival in Albany in 1974. My first memory is of helping him to decorate his pizza restaurant for Hanukkah. I do know that creating this pizza place was a brilliant idea. I had two little kids who loved pizza, and there was no kosher restaurant of any kind, let

alone pizza, in Albany. It was not only a place to enjoy kosher pizza, but also a way to promote the joy of Judaism – Rabbi Rubin's forte. I remember having my son's birthday party there. Pizza and Judaism, just one example of how Rabbi Rubin so creatively made children and adults love Judaism. Both Daniel and my daughter Esther have fond memories of him from their childhood. He was so ingenious in promoting the love Judaism that I once told him that if he had been working in advertising on Madison Avenue, instead of devoting himself to Chabad, he would be a millionaire.

My father Joseph Saidel z"l, who died in 1997, loved Rabbi Rubin, and I believe that the feeling was mutual. My father prayed regularly at Shomrei Torah, the shtibel, and he helped Rabbi Rubin in numerous ways. (The most outstanding had something to do with rescuing the Rebbe's library.) I sometimes found myself at the shtibel to be with my father, although I myself am an egalitarian Conservative Jew. While Rabbi Rubin could not and did not indulge my egalitarian ideas and suggestions, he was always kind and accepting to me. This openness to others, as long as they loved Judaism in their own way, was a beautiful part of his character. When my father died, Rabbi Rubin was in charge of the funeral. In addition to his own perfect words, he permitted our dear friend Hazzan Rogerio Marx, ordained by Hebrew Union College, to participate as the cantor. And he encouraged me to deliver a eulogy, which I did.

I am most grateful for two discussions I had with Rabbi Rubin right after my father died. The first was brief but important. He advised my siblings and me that even though we were sad, we should also be happy because we had the opportunity during shiva to be together. This was a wise observation. However, a longer discussion showed his compassion and his tolerance. While never deviating from his own strict observance of Judaism, he was able to accept mine. I told him that I wanted to say kaddish for my father daily for the requisite eleven months. He knew and agreed that there was no halachic reason that I should or could not, and he encouraged me (of course, for him, with a minyan of ten men).

I am most grateful to Rabbi Rubin for this commitment that I took on. With Rabbi Rubin's encouragement, I said kaddish for my father for eleven months, once a day. I hardly missed a day, and it was a beautiful experience. My father deserved this as he had never missed a day, three times a day, himself. It was an international affair, because I was living part-time in New York, São Paulo, and Jerusalem. In Israel I said kaddish in my Masorti synagogue and in some unusual places; in the United States, in my

Manhattan Conservative synagogue and finding synagogues on trips to Albany, Chicago, New Orleans, and I don't remember where else. Once I was in a hotel at a Holocaust studies conference and we rounded up a morning minyan with one of the scholars coming fresh from his morning swim. Thank you, Rabbi Rubin, for giving me this special gift.

I suppose I last saw Rabbi Rubin when my mother died. But my memory of him is clearer at my grandson Yedidyah's brit milah 13 years ago, which took place at the shtibel. That year my son Daniel, his wife Sanda, and their then four children came from their home in Israel to spend a year in the Albany area. Our beloved granddaughter Emmunah, who we lost four years ago at age twenty, was a student at Maimonides. And this year, on this coming Shabbat Hanukkah, Yedidyah, Daniel's younger son, will have his bar mitzvah in Zichron Yaakov, Israel. As I write this, I realize that Rabbi Rubin has been involved with my family for four generations – my parents, myself, my children, and grandchildren. Even though I hadn't seen Rabbi Rubin for at least a decade, I have thought of him often and always will.

Rochelle Saidel

--

I heard with great sadness of the passing of Rabbi Rubin ZTL.

I attended Albany Law School from 1982-1985 and was very pleased to have considered Rabbi Rubin a friend and advisor. I loved joining him and his family for Shabbos lunches. I respected him very much.

I won't sugar coat my time in Albany. I was lonely and unhappy there. However, one of the bright lights of my time there was knowing Rabbi Rubin and his family. I recently ran into Rabbi Mendel at a simcha and I was happy that he remembered me and so I in particular send my best wishes to him.

I wish you all only simchos and only the best. Keep up the good work! Your shlichus makes a difference in ways that you may not realize!

Pesach Sod

--

We have very fond memories of our years in Albany 1986-1989 including R. Rubin coming over to our home to show us his latest creation. R. Rubin was an innovator extraordinaire. Surely he will be missed.

It was an unexpected pleasure to see Rabbi and Rochel in Burlington, VT a number of years back. It was so nice to be able to catch up with each other.

Wishing you only simchas going forward.

Linda & Reuven Sugarman

--

I've always had a soft spot for creativity. Lately, though, it's been on my mind for a different reason: the passing of a man I never met, yet whose life made an impact on mine. His name is Rabbi Yisroel Rubin, and he was the Rebbe's Shliach (emissary) to Albany, NY. To me, he was the symbol of a creative Chabad rabbi, all because of one article I read about him.

The article was published in Kfar Chabad magazine. I must have been less than ten years old when I read it. It told the story of Chabad of Albany, but what jumped out at me were the creative ways Rabbi Rubin found to reach more people. I vividly remember it describing the young Chabad rabbi arriving in town and wondering how to engage more people. Seeing the hot dog carts downtown, he came up with an idea: he bought his own hot dog cart. Of course, it was kosher, with signs inviting people to eat kosher and do Mitzvos. One day his eyes fell on one of those little matchbooks covered with ads, he thought to himself: hey, let's use this to tell people about Shabbos candles!

The article went on to describe more and more creative ideas. I was hooked. It felt like a new world had opened up to me.

Mendy Kaminker

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
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Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
770 איסטערן פארקווי
ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
Rosh Chodesh Kislev, 5740
Brooklyn, N. Y.

To All Participants in the
FIFTH YEAR CELEBRATION of
Chabad Lubavitch-Capital District
Albany, New York

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming Celebration, and may it be with Hatzlocho in every respect.

In keeping with the time-honored custom to draw a timely lesson from the reading of the weekly Torah portion, it is well to reflect on the story of our Father Jacob which is related in the Sedra Vayetze of the Shabbos immediately preceding the event and continued in the following Sedra Vayishlach.

The Sedra Vayetze begins with the Patriarch's leaving his parental home in Be'er Sheva and going into "exile." Understandably, his heart is filled with apprehension as to what the future holds for him and for the family he intended to raise. But, reassured by G-d's promise of protection and help, he proceeds on his way in the fullest confidence that he will succeed in his life's purpose to carry on and transmit the traditions of his ancestors, Abraham and Isaac, and return home safe and sound. Indeed, as we read on, Jacob succeeded beyond expectation, and,despite the adverse and alien surroundings, he was able to raise his children in the finest tradition of his ancestors, to become the Divine Tribes of Israel, the progenitors of our people Israel.

In the following Sedra, Vayishlach, we read about Jacob's return with his blessed family, blessed not only spiritually but also with worldly goods. Confronted by his sworn enemy, his prayers were answered again. Foe turn friend, and Father Jacob brings his family home - "complete, whole, and perfect" in every respect, spiritually, physically and materially.

"The experiences of the Patriarchs are a 'sign' for the children," our Sages declare. The story of our Father Jacob is an everlasting source of guidance and inspiration for every Jew, not to be disheartened by the fact that Jews are a small minority among the nations of the world, facing seemingly overwhelming difficulties and challenges. For, with an unshakable will and determination to carry on the traditions of our ancestors and to raise our children in the way of the Torah and Mitzvos without compromise, we are assured of G-d's blessings, not only to overcome all adversity, but come out of it all the stronger and more complete in every respect.

The spirit of our Father Jacob is very much alive in the Chabad-Lubavitch institutions and animates the Lubavitch activists with exemplary dedication to the cause of spreading and strengthening Yiddishkeit. They surely deserve not only the fullest support, but also personal involvement.

I extend to each and all of you prayerful wishes to go from strength to strength in your continued endeavors in behalf of this vital cause, which is also bound to widen the channels and vessels to receive G-d's blessings in all your personal needs, materially and spiritually.

With esteem and blessing,



Rabbi Rubin hand-illustrated these 10 Mitzvah Campaigns “Mivtzoyim” of the Rebbe in a whimsical come-to-life style as a creative mitzvah promotional. It was published as a sticker.

We close this Shloshim booklet on this note, for the greatest memorial and merit is our continued and increased efforts to deepen, strengthen, further these and other mitzvot, for ourselves and others!

May his memory continue to be a blessing and inspiration!