

Woman, 29, convicted for having sex with boy, 15
Toledo Blade - September 10, 2003



A 29-year-old woman was convicted yesterday in Lucas County Common Pleas Court for having sex with a 15-year-old Toledo boy receiving religious instructions in the Jewish faith from the woman's husband.

Marni Nasia-Rubin pleaded no contest to one count of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. She was charged with the felony offense Sept 2 in a bill of information filed with the court by the county prosecutor's office.

Judge Ronald Bowman found her guilty and scheduled sentencing for Oct. 8. She could be sentenced to up to five years in prison. A hearing will be held before she is sentenced to determine a sexual offender classification for her.

Lori Olender, an assistant county prosecutor, said Nasia-Rubin became acquainted with the boy while he was receiving instructions in Judaism from her husband, Evan Rubin, who is a cantor at the Congregation Etz Chayim, 3853 Woodley Rd.

Nasia-Rubin is now living in Southfield, Mich.

Ms. Olender said the defendant had sexual relations with the victim from May 24 through July 21 at her apartment in the 3000 block of Sylvania Avenue. She said the boy's mother became suspicious that her son was having a sexual relationship with the woman and confirmed it by going through information on his computer.

The incident was reported to police in July as a referral by Lucas County Children Services. Ms. Olender said the sexual contact did not occur at the synagogue.

Rabbi Edward Garsek of the synagogue could not be reached for comment.

Woman Found Guilty of Sex with Teen

Wednesday, September 10, 2003
WTOL TV - Toledo News Station

TOLEDO -- A Toledo woman could go to prison for having sex with a 15-year-old boy. Wednesday a judge found 29-year-old Marni Rubin guilty of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. For now, she's out on bond until a judge sentences her next month.

Marni Rubin could be looking at up to 5 years behind bars and a \$10,000 dollar fine for having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old boy. Today, she pleaded "no contest" and was found guilty. Coming out of court, Rubin said she had no comment. "I'm distraught," Rubin said.

Prosecutors say the victim is a member of Etz Chahim Synagogue, where Marni Rubin is the wife of the cantor. Prosecutors say the boy routinely stayed at the Rubin's apartment for "religious guidance," but what happened between the boy and Mrs. Rubin in the home was criminal.

Prosecutor Lori Olender tells us the cantor never knew about the relationship. In fact, police were not tipped about the sexual encounters until the boy's mother became suspicious that something was going on. "Obviously displeased that in a situation where they put trust in somebody, they violated that trust and that's the way they feel, they feel violated by it," said Olender.

Prosecutors say it's unusual for a woman to be convicted of this type of crime. "I think it needs to be prosecuted both ways," Olender said, "Most of the time I'm prosecuting a man that's 29 and with a young girl who's 15, but I think it needs to go both ways."

We spoke with the victim's mother about what happened. She said it's very devastating for everyone in the family, and she hoped that Rubin is punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Judge Ronald Bowman will have to decide between jail time or probation. Rubin will be sentenced on October 8th.

Woman Sentenced for Sex with a Minor

ABC News: Channel 13 (Toledo) - October 8, 2003

She's guilty and she's going to do hard time for having sexual relations with a teenage boy. The prosecutor wants this case to set a precedent. It's already sending some strong messages. Outside of court this morning. Marni Rubin, 29, was led away in handcuffs and in tears. That's after the judge sentenced her to three years in prison. After that, she has to register as a sex offender. Rubin pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual conduct with a minor.

The victim and Rubin had both attended a local synagogue where Rubin's former husband was the cantor. Prosecutors say the boy frequently stayed at her apartment for religious guidance. They also say today at her sentencing, she seemed to feel sorry for herself. "I moved away because of the shame that I have brought to the community and my family. I can only ask in time that the community forgive me for what I have done."

Prosecutor Lori Olender said, "I thought there was a lot of focus on what she was going to lose, and that's not really what we're here about today." The mother of the victim spoke after the sentencing, saying, "She made those choices when she made her decisions. She knew exactly what she was doing." Both the prosecutor and the teen's mother say they want this unusually harsh sentence to send a stern message.

Crackdown On Crime: Female Sex Offender Sentenced To Prison

CBS News: Channel 11 Toledo - October 8, 2003

A lot of people were surprised by the heavy sentence handed down by the judge today for first-time offender Marni Rubin. She is going to prison for 3 years for having sex with a 15 year old boy.

Twenty-nine year old Rubin wiped away tears as she read a statement to Judge Bowman asking for mercy. "Please Judge Bowman, I beg you today to be please be lenient on me and my family. Thank you for allowing me to speak."

For about a month, Rubin had a sexual relationship with a 15 year-old boy. Rubin's husband is the cantor at Etz Chamin synagogue. The boy routinely stayed at the Rubin's west Toledo apartment for "religious guidance."

Prosecutors say the cantor never knew Marni was having sex with the teen. Today, she apologized to the victim's family. "I am sorry for the pain that I caused them. I can only hope in time that they will forgive me for what has happened. As Jews, we are supposed to forgive and I hope they find it in their hearts to do so."

The victim's mother says her son has been devastated by all of this. "My son, it's hard to tell, in the future, how he is going to be able to deal with relationships."

Marni Rubin could have received probation, but the boy's mother believes the 3 years in prison is fair. "I hope everybody that saw the sentencing today, any child molestor, any person who wants to take advantage of a child, gets the message that the courts are serious."

Assistant Prosecutor Lori Olender says it's one of the harshest sentences she has seen for this type of crime and believes the judge was affected by letters written by the boy's family. "Although this is a young boy and I think a lot of people will say, 'Oh, This hasn't really impacted this person because

it's a male, that the letters that this family wrote show that it has just as much impact."

Marni Rubin has moved from Toledo to Detroit because of the shame of this case. Her husband is divorcing her.

Marni Rubin could be eligible for for early release from prison. After serving six months, the judge could decide to grant parole. Rubin and her attorney declined requests for an on-camera interview.

Woman gets prison for sex with boy, 15 Spouse gave teen religious instruction

By MARK REITER - BLADE STAFF WRITER

Toledo Blade - October 9, 2003

A 29-year-old woman who had sex with a teenage boy receiving religious instructions in the Jewish faith from her husband was sentenced to three years in prison yesterday in Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

Marni Nasia-Rubin, the estranged wife of the cantor at Congregation Etz Chayim, 3853 Woodley Rd., was sentenced by Judge Ronald Bowman. She was convicted Sept. 10 of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor.

Nasia-Rubin, who had no prior criminal history, could have been placed on community control. The maximum sentence for unlawful sexual conduct with a minor is five years.

Nasia-Rubin seemed stunned as Judge Bowman told her the sentence. She sobbed throughout the hearing, and looked tearfully at her mother and other family members as deputies placed her in handcuffs.

In apologizing before sentencing, she said her actions caused her to lose her husband of eight years and custody of their daughter. She said she was shunned by the congregation, which was an important part of her life during her marriage to the cantor.

"Our door was open to many kids to come to stay with us over the years. Nothing like this happened to me before. I was emotionally divorced from my husband. [The victim] was someone to listen to me, and I was willing to listen to him. Who made the first move, I am not sure," Nasia-Rubin said.

"I take full responsibility for my actions, and ask the court to have mercy on me," said Nasia-Rubin, who moved to Southfield, Mich., where her family lives, after the incident was reported to police.

The boy's mother and stepfather were in the courtroom. After sentencing, the boy's mother said she doubted Nasia-Rubin was remorseful.

"She knew exactly what she was doing. I feel she was sorry that she got caught," the mother said.

She said she hoped the long sentence would send a message to others who might prey on teenage children for sex.

Authorities said Nasia-Rubin initiated a sexual relationship with the 15-year-old boy while he was receiving instructions in Judaism from her husband, Evan Rubin.

The couple is now separated.

Judge Bowman said the case generated more letters than any other during his 16 years on the bench. He said as the wife of the cantor, she must be held to a higher standard. A jail sentence was appropriate because of the victim's age, the psychological harm it caused, and the use of her position within the congregation to facilitate the crime, the judge said.

The relationship, which was consensual, began about May 24 and continued through mid-July, when the victim's mother confronted the defendant. Authorities said Nasia-Rubin had sex with the victim at her apartment on Sylvania Avenue in West Toledo and in her vehicle.

The sexual contact did not occur at the synagogue.

Prosecutors said the boy's mother became suspicious of the relationship and confirmed it by going into her son's computer and reading his e-mails.

The incident was reported to police in July as a referral by Lucas County Children Services.

An appropriate sentence

Toledo Blade - October 12, 2003

Her courtroom show of remorse notwithstanding, a prison sentence was appropriate for Marni Nasia-Rubin, 29, the wife of a cantor at a Toledo-area synagogue, who was convicted of having sex with a 15-year-old boy in their congregation.

The three-year prison term should help this maladjusted young matron - what normal adult would tell her troubles to a 15-year-old? - get herself centered. It was appropriate, too, given the iffy quality of her contrition and the level of outrage in the conservative Jewish community of which she was a part. With luck and work, she should emerge chastened and a better person.

Her sentence of incarceration should also warn other sexual predators, male or female, who eye young people that they can expect no mercy.

This woman took advantage of the boy in a period when her husband was training him in the beliefs and practices of Judaism.

She was thus in a position of authority for the young man, to whom she wrote indiscreetly graphic e-mails that the youth's mother later discovered on his computer.

Judge Ronald Bowman, generally regarded as a good and fair judge, no doubt labored over his sentencing decision. But he did the right thing, recognizing that the defendant needed to be held to a high standard of conduct.

The e-mails and a flood of letters from her community helped determine Nasia-Rubin's fate. The congregation in which she, too, was active, shuns her. She has lost her husband, perhaps a lesser blow given her claim that they were already emotionally divorced, and she has forfeited custody of their daughter.

That's a high price for about two months of illicit pleasure. But it is one which other misguided women have paid before her - Mary Kay LeTourneau, a teacher in Washington state who had sex with a 12-year-old student, comes to mind.

Though Nasia-Rubin was not clergy, her position of trust was not unlike the wayward priests of the Roman Catholic Church who abused children. Many of those who were outed received stern punishment and continue to endure daily disgrace for their crimes.

Had the boy been under 13, Nasia-Rubin could have been charged with statutory rape, a more serious felony with a longer sentence. The unlawful sexual conduct with a minor charge of which she was found guilty covers children 13, 14, and 15. Its penalty is less harsh, an acknowledgement of the fact that in today's world youngsters have sexual encounters at younger ages.

Society has rules governing adult treatment of children. Nasia-Rubin violated those rules and will have plenty of time in prison to contemplate her mistake.

Judge frees woman, 30, sentenced for teen sex

The Blade - May 20, 2004



Marni Nasia-Rubin agreed to live with her parents in Southfield, Mich., and have no contact with the boy as part of her judicial release.

A 30-year-old woman sentenced in October to three years in prison for having sex with a 15-year-old boy who was receiving religious instructions from her estranged husband was given judicial release by Lucas County Common Pleas Judge J. Ronald Bowman.

Marni Nasia-Rubin, the estranged wife of the cantor at Congregation Etz Chayim, 3853 Woodley Rd., agreed to live with her parents in Southfield, Mich., and not make contact with the victim and not to re-establish contact with the synagogue.

In a brief statement, Nasia-Rubin said she takes full responsibility for her actions, and it was her actions that caused harm to the victim and led her to prison.

Judge Bowman said Nasia-Rubin has had a perfect record in prison and has never been involved in the judicial system before, making her eligible for judicial release. He said he received letters in favor and against Nasia-

Rubin's release.

The judge said he believed Nasia-Rubin is remorseful for the crime. He said he reviewed all the letters carefully, including one from the boy's mother, who did not want Nasia-Rubin released. Judge Bowman placed 11 conditions on Nasia-Rubin's judicial release, the most, he said, he has ever written.

The boy's mother said after the hearing she had suspicions about Nasia-Rubin.

"I don't believe anything she says," the boy's mother said afterward. "I believe she can tell anybody whatever she wants them to believe. I disagree that she is remorseful. I just hope she doesn't hurt another child."

Nasia-Rubin was convicted Sept. 10, 2003, for unlawful sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced Oct. 8, 2003, to three years in prison. She could have received as many as five years.

Authorities said Nasia-Rubin initiated a sexual relationship with the 15-year-old boy while he was receiving religious instructions in Judaism from her husband, Evan Rubin. The couple is now separated.

The relationship, which was consensual, began about May 24, 2003, and continued through mid-July, 2003, when the boy's mother confronted the defendant after reviewing her son's e-mails.

Judge Bowman said he realized the incident has brought a great deal of embarrassment to the synagogue, which is the reason he agreed to the judicial release stipulation that Nasia-Rubin would not make contact or be involved with Congregation Etz Chayim.

He said, though, that he would not deny Nasia-Rubin judicial release because of the embarrassment and noted that she met the guidelines for the consideration.

Judge Bowman said even though Nasia-Rubin would move to Michigan, Lucas County Adult Probation would maintain supervision of her probation for the time being. He said Nasia-Rubin would have to register as a sex offender and enroll in the county's sex offenders program.