

FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT  
TO SPARK  
CONVERSATION

# SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS BESHALACH 5781 • ISSUE 227

## THE WEAK MOMENT

*Sometimes it happens. A talmid chacham has a weak moment and stumbles into a sin. If you witness such an event, may you tell someone what you've seen?*

### THE DILEMMA

**Y**ou travel out of town for a wedding. Little did you know that the *chassan* is related a prominent *talmid chacham* and well-known inspirational speaker. You're happy to see that he is a warm, gregarious person who enjoys speaking with the many people who approach him. They are all eager to make his acquaintance and shower him with praises. Many of these encounters also involve drinking a *l'chaim*. By the time the dancing begins, the *talmid chacham* appears to be unsteady on his feet. Is he drunk? You're pretty sure he is. What a story! Even someone who learns and teaches Torah all day isn't perfect.

On one hand, you're comforted by this little show of human frailty. On the other hand, how can you trust the *chochmah* of someone who loses control of himself at a wedding? May you tell others what you saw?



### THE HALACHAH

**W**hen someone known as a *talmid chacham* and G-d-fearing person has one isolated moment of weakness, it is forbidden to spread the story. We assume that he is upset over what he did and fearful of Hashem's judgment.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim,  
Hilchos Loshon Hora 4:4

*This Thursday, 22 Shevat, marks the yahrtzeit of the Manchester Rosh Yeshivah, Rav Yehudah Zev Segal, zt"l, the founder of Shmiras Haloshon Yomi. It's no coincidence that his remarkable life is remembered in the month of Shevat, a time of renewal. We mark this rebirth on Tu b'Shevat at a time when the days are still dark and cold, and the trees have yet to bear fruit. Yet we celebrate because of the potential that's beginning to stir to life.*

*In the same way, Rav Segal planted the seeds of Shmiras Haloshon Yomi all those years ago, before anyone could imagine what would spring forth.*

*Fittingly, Shevat is also the beginning of a new cycle of Shmiras Haloshon Yomi. It's a month in which we celebrate the potential contained within the seed of the tree.*

*May we continue to nurture those seeds by joining the new cycle of Shmiras Haloshon Yomi, so that the seeds Rav Segal planted will continue to bear fruit, and we will see the fruits of all our labor with the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days.*

"There is no family in the world who

*studies*

the laws of Shmiras Halashon daily  
who has not seen some form of

*salvation*

in their lives."

-Rabbi Yehudah Zev Segal, Manchester Rosh  
Yeshivah, founder of Shmiras Halashon Yomi

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy. For discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

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MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky often said that a person should never underestimate the value of a small act. This concept came to life in a particular incident experienced by his grandson, Rav Yitzchak Shurin, the dean of a seminary in Eretz Yisrael.

One day, Rabbi Shurin received a call from the director of another seminary. The woman told him that she had made a mistake. In an effort to weed out students who were "not a good fit" and would be likely to spread their cynicism to other students, they had expelled a girl who should not have been expelled. "We try to focus on the ringleader," she said, "but we discovered that this girl was only a follower."

Now, the dean needed a way to influence this girl in a positive direction and then bring her back. The plan she settled on was to place the girl, named Esti, in a warm, uplifting home for three weeks, after which she would return to seminary. "Can she stay with your family?" the woman asked Rabbi Shurin. He checked with his wife, who assured him that one more child in their already bustling home would be no problem.

Esti arrived at the Shurins' home and became the roommate of their 10-year-old daughter Chani. Chani and Esti became fast friends, talking late into the night. Three weeks later, Esti returned to seminary and Rabbi Shurin didn't hear any more about her.

A few years later, he was in America on a fundraising trip. While there, he attended the *chuppah* of a former student. On his way out, a young woman approached him with a warm, "Hi, Rabbi Shurin, how are you!"

He apologized that he didn't recall who she was, but she wasn't insulted. "You may not remember me, but I remember you because you saved my life! I'm Esti, the girl who stayed in your house for three weeks."

She went

## WHEN YOU DIDN'T REALLY DO MUCH

AS HEARD FROM RABBI NACHMAN SELTZER

on to explain that in her conversation with Chani one night, the topic of *tznius* came up. Esti observed that people dressed as they did because they were worried about what others would think of them.

To that Chani replied, "You don't have to worry about what anyone thinks of you. You only have

appealing color.

"You were kind enough to let me stay in your house," Esti told the Rabbi, "and that enabled me to meet Chani, and she told me something that changed my life."

### TALK ABOUT IT

If we don't know what impact our small acts might have, how do we know which small acts we should make the effort to perform?

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## sage advice

# IF YOU COULD TAKE JUST ONE THING WITH YOU

People sometimes pose this thought-provoking hypothetical question: If you had just five minutes to pack and leave your house, what would you take with you? Obviously, the answer reveals what each person considers to be his most precious possessions.

For someone like **Rav Yehudah Zev Segal**, *zt"l*, the Manchester Rosh Yeshiva, precious possessions are spiritual: his lifetime of immersion in Torah, his renowned power of *tefillah*, and his overflowing love and unstinting efforts on behalf of every Jew in need. What spiritual possession would he choose?

He answered that question during his lifetime, and his answer provides guidance for every generation that follows. It was his *Shmiras Haloshon Yomi* calendar, which he developed for the sole purpose of prodding *Klal Yisrael* to firmly grasp this *mitzvah* and thereby reap its blessings. When he asked that his calendar be buried with him when his time came to leave the world, he conveyed to us the preciousness of this *mitzvah*.

On the week of Rav Segal's *yahrtzeit*, you earn your own share of his most precious merit by inviting others to bring the Shabbos Table Machsom L'Fi into their homes. What greater expression of *ahavas Yisrael* is there than to spread the blessings!

### TALK ABOUT IT

What would you tell someone to interest him or her in joining the Shabbos Table Machsom L'fi?

"We're keeping our hour as a *z'chus* for our cousin who needs a *refuah*"



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