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CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS KI SISA 5782 • ISSUE 280

MY FIRST BIG CLIENT!

What happens when a husband knows negative information that could save his wife from damage or loss? Naturally he wants to help her, but what is he permitted to say?

T H E

DILEMMA

Dassi graduates from her interior design course, gets a little experience under her belt, and opens a business. At first she gets small jobs. Then one day, Elana Holtz, wife of a wealthy real estate developer, contacts her about renovating the entire first floor of her huge home.

Dassi can't believe her good fortune. She calls her husband Eliezer to share the great news.

"Wow! That's amazing!" he enthuses. "Are you getting a deposit before you start?"

"Why?" Dassi asks. "The Holtzes are gazillionaires. I'm sure they'll pay."

Eliezer wants to tell his wife that Mr. Holtz has a bad record of stalling his payment for the services his company uses. He has money, but apparently can't let go of it. This would have a terrible impact on his wife's fledgling business. May he share this information with his wife?



T H E

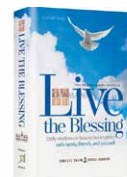
HALACHAH

He is permitted to share this information because it will prevent her from incurring a loss at the hands of an untrustworthy person. If he does not have firsthand knowledge, he may still share it, but must specify that "I don't know this firsthand, but I've heard..."

Sefer Chofetz
Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora
8:10

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

After the Meron tragedy, my family decided to start a daily conference call together reading the *Live the Blessing* book. It has had a major impact on all of us, and it compelled us to stay on the line and catch up on each other's lives.



We are so much closer than we used to be!
Thank you for this wonderful book and for all you do!

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"When someone
speak's
loshon hora he becomes
contemptible
even to his listeners."

- Sefer Smhiras Haloshon,
Shaar HaZechirah ch. 11

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.

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS
MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

Like most young women, Claire Scheiner saw herself becoming a wife and mother. When she turned 50 and was still unmarried, she faced the fact that she would not have children.

However, with so much love to give, she decided to bring a foster child into her home. Specifically, she wanted to foster a disabled child, since she had the necessary time and resources.

Eventually she heard about Rafael Freund, a newborn baby with spina bifida. In those times, it was not unusual for parents to give up disabled children for foster care. There was a great deal of stigma attached to having such a child, and few resources to help the parents.

Claire took Rafael home straight from the hospital. For years, she cared for him like her own child and took him proudly with her wherever she went.

When Rafael was seven, his parents had a change of heart. If Claire wasn't ashamed to be seen with a disabled child, how could they, the child's parents, turn away from him? They told Claire that they wanted to raise Rafael, and though it was painful for her to let him go, she graciously agreed.

On Rafael's first Shabbos with his parents, his father decided to bring him to shul. He purposely came late, and walked through the full shul carrying his son. Heads turned. Eyes stared. But he made his statement – this is my son and I love him.

Soon thereafter, more disabled children began appearing in shul. Then they began appearing at the playground, in the stores and at *simchos*. Mr. Freund had broken the stigma.

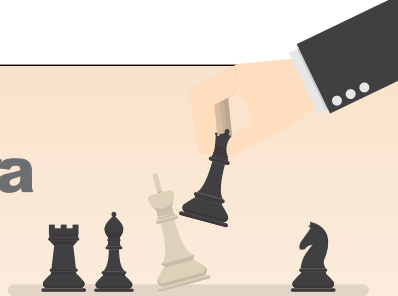
Next, he realized that all these children needed a Jewish education. He opened a school for them called Shaarei Chemlah, which now serves 250 students a year.

When Claire Scheiner passed away, Rabbi Freund delivered a eulogy. "You may think that she was alone in the world," he said. "But when she gets to Heaven, she will see that she has the merit of thousands of children – all the children who all

Strategies to Conquer Loshon Hora

THIS IS FOR YOU

PART 2 OF 4



A young man gets married, and over the course of the next 20 years he puts on weight. Through the years, his wife, and eventually his children, urge him to lose weight, but he can't stick to a diet.

On their 20th wedding anniversary, his wife pulls out their wedding video. He sees himself as a young man – trim, vibrant, dancing with unflagging energy. What happened to that man? He broods for weeks.

A friend notes his low mood and asks him what's wrong. He confides in the friend, and in the course of the conversation, he realizes that more than anything else, he wants to feel good again.

This true story proceeds into a trial and error period until the man finally finds a strategy that works. We might wonder why, after all the years of failure, he finally reclaimed his health. The turning point was when he decided that this was for his own good, rather than for his wife and children.

Shmiras haloshon, for many people, is like dieting was for this man. We believe we are holding ourselves back for Hashem's sake. However, deep inside, we recognize that using loshon hora to boost our ego leaves us feeling ugly and low.

Rav Shimshon Raphael Hirsch explains that the urge to nourish our spiritual growth is in our DNA. Loshon hora is the "junk food" that fills us up and leaves no room for real nutrition. When we remove loshon hora from our lives, we find the appetite for true spiritual satisfaction. Shmiras haloshon is for our benefit. Once we absorb that fact, we can succeed.

TALK ABOUT IT

What causes people to do things they know are not good for them? How can we counter this?

MAKING A LIFE THAT COUNTS

have her to thank for the quality of their lives."

In telling this inspiring story, R' Yaakov Haber

observed that when someone lives with a purpose, he lives a life worth celebrating.

TALK ABOUT IT

What told Claire Scheiner that this was her purpose? How do we know ours?

Sibling One

"I'm the one
who came for Thursday so far. I'm not asking for a thank-you – just don't criticize."

Sibling Two

"If you
would have done things differently, Abbe and Ima wouldn't be in this situation."

Get simple techniques to keep the peace with others. (Even when you're right)

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" אלול תשע"ז
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

לע"נ
שמואל חיים בן אברהם יוסף ז"ל
דבורה בת ישראל ע"ה
Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

לעילוי נשמת
מרת אסתר בת
ר' אהרן מיכלי ע"ה



OUR MISSION

at the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation is to inspire Jews around the world to grasp the life-enhancing gift of shmiras haloshon, *ahavas Yisrael*, and *shalom*, and to provide easy access to a wide array of options designed to spark personal growth.

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