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SHABBOS MENU

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS LECH LECHA 5783 • ISSUE 315

PICKY, PICKY, PICKY

You hear something negative about someone. If you think that the subject of the comment should know what others are saying, may you tell him what was said and who said it?

T H E

DILEMMA

What do you think about the Rosenbergs' daughter for Alissa's son?" Leah asked Alissa's sister, Nechama. Leah was always busy trying to make *shidduchim*, and her friend Alissa's smart, talented, 27-year-old son was high on her list.

"Don't bother," said Nechama. "Alissa is too picky. She says 'no' to every suggestion."

Later that day, Leah decided to ignore Nechama's warning and speak to Alissa about her idea. After describing the girl in general terms, Alissa said, "Thanks, Leah, but I don't think she's for us."

"Maybe you could just look into her a little and get a better sense of what she's like," Leah said. But Alissa declined.

"You know," Leah said, "people are not going to want to make suggestions for your son if you say 'no' to everything. Even Nechama told me not to bother, and I'll bet there are others who think the same way. You need to open up a little."

Was Leah's comment helpful advice or *rechilus*?

T H E

HALACHAH

Leah spoke *rechilus* in its most basic form: She told one person what another person said about her, most likely causing animosity between the two parties.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Rechilus 1:2*

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.



PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

Por favor podieran enviarme semanalmente el folleto: "Menu De Shabat."

Muchas gracias.

Shabat shalom desde Cuba.

Daniel.

Daniel from Cuba asked to receive the Spanish Edition of Shabbos Menu weekly, which of course we are sending him. He told us that a friend sent him a copy and he loved it. Is there someone you know who might enjoy the newsletter? Why not email him a sample and spread the message?

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Those who

Teach
righteousness
to the multitudes
[will shine] like the
stars
forever and ever."

– Daniel 12:3

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OF SHMIRAS HALOSHON.

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CUBA



Mrs. Edith Rothschild, wife of Mr. Kurt Rothschild, zt"l, and mother of CCHF director Michael Rothschild, once shared a pleasant childhood memory with her son.

She was born in 1920 in Mannheim, Germany, where there were no Jewish schools for young children. Instead, they would attend public school and receive their Torah education from their parents and from afternoon classes at a Talmud Torah. Mrs. Rothschild was seven when she began her formal Jewish education.

One day, her mother came to pick her up from Talmud Torah. As they stood outside, her mother's friend walked by and stopped to say hello. Looking at little Edith, she commented, "What a pretty little girl you have!"

"I still remember those words," Mrs. Rothschild told her son.

When she shared the memory, she was already 93. Eighty-six years had passed since those words were spoken. She had lived through the anti-Semitic rage leading up to World War II, *Kristallnacht*, escaping to America and all the struggles of building a new life and a family as a penniless immigrant. No doubt, millions of words had passed into her ears in those eight decades.

Still, she remembered those six simple words: "What a pretty little girl you have!" Because they were spoken with warmth, the pleasure they gave her never dissipated.

This is the power

WARM WORDS DON'T GO COLD

we each have. When we see something to praise, why not praise it? When we pass by someone in need of a friendly

word, why not say it? When we notice someone looking our way, why not smile and give a greeting?

Simple as those words may seem, they are simply unforgettable.

As heard from Mr. Michael Rothschild at a CCHF Mishmeres Shabbaton

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you feel when someone notices something positive about you and gives you a compliment? What if the person would keep the thought to himself?

sage advice

SNAP JUDGMENT

A notorious mobster has finally been brought to trial. The first witness takes the stand. But the judge stops the proceedings. "This trial, with 75 witnesses slated to testify, could take months," he says. "I've been a judge for 35 years, and this guy looks guilty. He dresses like a mobster, he hangs out with other mobsters, he drives a mobster car—I'm sure he's guilty of something, so I sentence him to 25 years to life in federal prison. Case closed."

The first *Mishnah* in *Pirkei Avos* tells us that a judge must be patient, reserving judgment until all the facts are in. Why would *Pirkei Avos* begin with a piece of wisdom that applies only to the relatively few people who sit on a *beis din*? Obviously, the advice has far wider application.

Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz zt"l, explained that we are all judges. Every day we make judgments about other people's character, intelligence, talent, attractiveness, etc., etc., etc., because "we've seen enough to know."

But *Pirkei Avos* tell us that judging people is serious business, influencing our thinking, our actions, and ultimately the lives of others. For the impatient person, having an opinion is the most important thing. For the patient person, the priority is to have the truth. Patience is, indeed, the first piece of wisdom.

Adapted from "Patience" by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, with permission from the author.

TALK ABOUT IT

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דבורה בת ישראל ע"ה
Dedicated by Uri and Riki Sklar

לזכות
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ומרים יוטא בת רחל
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Dedicated
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