

# SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS KI SEITZEI 5783 • ISSUE 355

## NO SUCH PERSON

*When it comes to trustworthy individuals whose word we can completely rely on, who would fit the bill better than our own family members, who love us and care about our wellbeing?*

### THE

## DILEMMA

One evening, Miriam and her younger brother Shmuel are discussing their families' plans for the upcoming summer vacation.

"Honestly, I don't think you should spend the week at Mommy and Daddy's summer house again," Miriam tells Shmuel. "Mommy told me that last year you left the place a wreck. I can't imagine why they would think that, but if they are so sensitive about the little smudges the kids leave behind, I think you should skip it and do something else."

Shmuel was hurt. Did his parents really complain to his sister about his family? He remembered how hard he and his wife had worked to leave everything clean and shiny. They even washed all the linen! He couldn't imagine why his parents would be so picky and inhospitable. But surely, Miriam wouldn't tell him this unless it were true.

Is Shmuel allowed to rely on his trusted and beloved sister's account?



### THE

## HALACHAH

The Chofetz Chaim tells us that in modern times, no one rises to the level of trustworthiness that equals two witnesses in *beis din*. Even a parent, spouse, or child who only has our best interests in mind cannot be believed completely. However, we are allowed to suspect that the report is true and protect ourselves.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,  
Hilchos Rechilus 6:7*

## PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*I have a hard time getting along with one of my married siblings. And it's too easy to just explode and get sympathy by telling everyone at home about the latest incident. After one really hard situation when I just wanted to vent, I specifically looked at the Hour of Caring and took on the machsom.*

*It's been almost a month and I'm still holding back from sharing specific stories that happened! Thank you so much, it's such a zechus!*

*Please don't share my name. Thank you!*

## FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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"If his

*Tendency*  
was to judge people favorably, (the  
*Heavenly*  
Tribunal) will judge him favorably."

*– Sefer Shmiras Haloshon,  
Shaar HaTevunah ch. 4,  
citing Shabbos 127b*

*As we enter Elul and get ready for the Yom HaDin, Hashem's role as Judge comes to the forefront. We hope He'll see our efforts, acknowledge our challenges, be patient with our errors, and view us as His beloved children. The best way to ensure all this is for us to do the same when we look upon our fellow Jew, because unlike Hashem, we can never know the whole story.*

**O**ne summer afternoon, Rabbi Jonathan Aryeh Seidemann, Rav of Kehillas Bnei Torah in Baltimore, went home for lunch. When he arrived, he was startled to find an army of police cars—U.S. Marshals, state troopers, city police—parked around his house. Dozens of armed officers stood ready for action.

What kind of drama was unfolding in his quiet neighborhood, right in front of his home? He soon found out.

The Rabbi's daughter and son-in-law had come for a visit from their home in Ohio. Apparently, the son's cell phone had previously belonged to a criminal who was the subject of a nationwide manhunt. Since the couple was visiting the Seidemanns, their cell phone number pinged at that location.

The Ohio fugitive task force was certain that they had their man. They contacted the local authorities and the Baltimore police followed up. When they saw an Ohio-licensed car in the Seidemann's driveway, it all added up.

Only it didn't. The incident ended quickly and quietly, with the police realizing their error. Rabbi Seidemann thanked them for protecting the

## WE'VE GOT HIM!

*#1 in a series on judging favorably*

community and they drove away.

In speaking to the *Baltimore Jewish Life* about the strange event, Rabbi Seidemann's daughter noted that it was a perfect illustration of why we must judge others favorably. The entire law enforcement team thought it had ironclad evidence that the fugitive was hiding at the Seidemann's home, but they had it all wrong. How often are we just as quick to jump to conclusions—and just as wrong?

Adapted from an article in Yated Ne'eman

### TALK ABOUT IT

We all make judgments all the time. How can we keep ourselves from falling into the trap of judging negatively?

*L'ilui nishmas*  
Malka Ettl bas Yitka Chaim a"h  
and as a zechus for  
Yonah Azriel ben Lieba Shoshana n"y  
Dedicated by Ari and Idy Friedman

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

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן  
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל  
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש י' אלול תשע"ז  
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

## sage advice

### A BLESSING ON YOUR HEAD

#### How to grow your ahavas Yisrael

As the young mother strolled past the high school, she noticed girls waiting outside, nervously discussing the admissions test that awaited them. She saw their eager young faces and, glancing in their direction, silently prayed, "Hashem should give you the right answers!" It was this woman's habit to bless everyone who came her way. If a mother was bringing her baby for a routine check-up, she would say to herself, "May he be in perfect health." If she spied a neighbor on the way to the mailbox, she'd think, "May it be only good news." In this way, she cultivated a constantly growing love for other people, and simultaneously, an imperviousness to people's sometimes annoying or insulting deeds. It's hard to be angry at someone you bless.

Rav Baruch Ber Leibowitz, the *Rosh Yeshiva* of Kaminetz, commented that the habit of blessing everyone was the key to his profound love for his fellow Jew. And, he contended, it was the only merit he felt he could rely upon when his time for judgment would come. "Do I learn enough? Do I have enough fear of Heaven?" The only merit he could count on was that of thinking, "A blessing on your head," for every Jew he encountered.

Adapted with permission from "Growth Through Torah" by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

### TALK ABOUT IT

When you bless someone, what positive ideas about that person have to enter your mind? What facts do you have to realize about him?



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