



SHABBOS MENU



PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYEISHEV SHABBOS CHANUKAH 5784 • ISSUE 368

NOT YOURS TO TELL

If someone tells us something in confidence and we repeat it to someone we trust completely to keep the secret, have we done any harm?

T H E

DILEMMA

After ten years on the job, Gershon is quietly making inquiries for a new position. His major reason for this is that he does not get along with his new boss. He confides this information to only one person, a work colleague who is also a neighbor.

"You must not breathe a word of this to anyone," Gershon tells his neighbor. "If it gets around and the boss finds out, I'm sure he won't hesitate to fire me."

"Of course, of course," says the friend. But he doesn't consider his wife part of "anyone," and when he gets home, he tells her, "Gershon's really had it. He's talking to people in other companies to see if he can get something better. I don't blame him at all. But listen, you absolutely cannot breathe a word of this to anyone."

Did the friend err in repeating Gershon's secret to his wife?



T H E

HALACHAH

Revealing confidential information is prohibited even if it doesn't involve *rechilus*. Gershon stands to be damaged by the leak, and the friend has betrayed his trust. Furthermore, now the friend's wife knows something about Gershon's personal life that he did not wish to reveal, which is an affront to his *tznius*.

*Sefer Chofetz
Chaim,
Hilchos Rechilus
8:5*

BE THE LIGHT

It's hard to imagine that one family could single-handedly raise the level of shmiras haloshon for an entire community. Yet just one family, the Chashmona'im, turned the Hellenist tide and brought about the miracles of Chanukah. And in our time, one family—maybe your family—can stimulate the growth of a whole community by taking on the Shabbos Table Machsom L'Fi. Soon you'll be encouraging your friends to see for themselves the beautiful, upbeat Shabbos table this tool inspires. Your guests will see it too, and will want to emulate you. Soon shmiras haloshon will have its place at the Shabbos table—and from there, in everyday life—among your neighbors and friends. You can make the difference.

Happy Chanukah!

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Don't let someone's

mistake
eclipse his
light."



sage advice

HALLEL: YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN

In Europe about 100 years ago, there was a family known for their wealth, generosity and beautiful *middos*. Their daughter emulated her parents in every way, endearing her to everyone who knew her. When she became old enough to get married, it wasn't long before she found her *chassan*. He, too, was from an illustrious family with a fine reputation.

The community greeted news of the girl's engagement with excitement. Everyone looked forward to the "royal wedding." However, two months after the engagement, the *chassan* wrote the *kallah's* family, calling off the wedding with no reason stated.

The *kallah* was heartbroken and everyone was confused. What could have happened? The only explanation her family could come up with was that someone had slandered their daughter out of jealousy.

A year later, the daughter became engaged once again, to another fine young man from a good family. From the moment the engagement was sealed, however, the girl and her parents were on high alert. What if the person who slandered her before did it again?

The weeks passed tensely, but at last, the wedding day arrived and the couple stood together under the *chuppah*. One day during the period of *sheva brachos*, the new husband and wife sat in a park talking. The husband reached into his pocket, pulled out a letter and handed it to the girl to read.

Her face went pale. The letter was a litany of lies about her, aimed at "warning" her *chassan* against going through with the marriage.

When she asked her *chassan* why he married her anyway, he answered, "It was obviously *loshon hora*." But then she

"WE'RE THAT KIND OF FAMILY."

wondered, why did he show it to her?

"Because now we both know what *loshon hora* can do," he said, "and I want us to both commit to never let

it into our home. I only want to focus on the positive, and I never want to have to worry about the results of *loshon hora* affecting our life."

The couple made this commitment to each other. It became a legacy for their children and grandchildren. And we can each pass this legacy on to our families, too, if we make the same commitment together with our spouses and children to build the kind of family we all truly want to have.

TALK ABOUT IT

How can a family make this commitment without it becoming a source of friction over who said what and whether it is *loshon hora*?

As a *zechut* for a *refuah sheleimah* for **Rivka bat Adel**, and as a *zechut* for a *shidduch* for **Nadia Ruth bat Rivka**

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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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