

# Let My People Shmooz

Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions



ISSUE 12

SHABBOS PARSHAS CHAYEI SARAH 5785

We'd love to hear your feedback, stories, and ideas. Email us at [aderaba@cchfglobal.org](mailto:aderaba@cchfglobal.org)

## Call Him—He's a Whiz!

**M**oishie, Eli, and I all live on the same street and go to the same shul. I was making a bar mitzvah, expecting 100 guests, when 20 minutes before Shabbos my freezer died.

Luckily, I happen to know that Moishie is great with his hands and a whiz with electronics. I called Moishie. "You've gotta save me! My freezer is broken. Can you take a look?" Moishie grabbed his toolbox and bolted to my house. He opened the backboard, replaced a wire, and put the whole thing back together. My freezer

worked better than ever and the bar mitzvah was saved.

A few days later in shul, Eli told me, "I don't know what to do. My freezer just stopped working. It's such a waste to call out a repairman just to find out that it's not worth fixing—but I'd like to avoid replacing it."

Can I tell Eli that Moishie helped me?

—Gavi



## What's the *Psak*? Can you guess the halachah?

- A **Yes**, but Gavi may only tell the story, without suggesting that Eli call Moishie.
- B **Yes**, Gavi can even tell Eli to call Moishie because he'll save Eli money, and anyway, it's a compliment to Moishie!
- C **No**, Moishie doesn't want to be known as the local repair guy.

1- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hichos Rechilus 8:3

## The Halachah



The answer is C.

No, because Moishie will resent Gavi for having put him in such a position.<sup>1</sup>

Helping people in areas where they are lacking is a part of *chesed*. Therefore, Gavi could call Moishie himself to see if he is willing to help Eli. If he is, then Moishie could suggest that Eli call him.

Reviewed by Rav Moshe Mordechai Lowy. Rav Avraham Yaakov Pam zt"l advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *she'eilah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis. The Shmiras Haloshon Shailah Hotline 718-951-3696 2-3PM / 9-10:30 PM

## When **Praise** is a **Problem**

**P**eople think that speaking loshon hora and *rechilus* always means saying negative words. But sometimes, praise is forbidden under the category known as *avak loshon hora* or *avak rechilus*, because it will cause someone harm or loss. An example is letting others know that someone lends money to many people. Even if this praise will save someone else from a monetary loss, as with Eli, it is not considered a *to'eles* if it will cause the subject to resent the praise.

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שוראה מעלת חברינו

## A Jew Is a Jew Is a Jew

“Oh, no, no, no, no!” said the cab driver. “Here comes the traffic cop!” The cab was parked illegally outside a toy store along one of Yerushalayim’s jammed streets. The cab was on an emergency mission, but there was no point expecting sympathy from the officer.

Just as the policeman slapped a 100-shekel fine on the cab, the passenger, Rabbi Efraim Holtzberg, came out of the toy store balancing a huge carton full of toys. A kid-sized car poked out of the top.

“Wait!” he called. “Do you know who these toys are for? They’re for Kim Levengrond Yechezkel’s little toddler!”

As reported  
in Hamodia



Mrs. Yechezkel, along with Ziv Hajbi, had been murdered that week by a Palestinian coworker at the Barkan industrial area.

Instantly, the officer’s hard expression collapsed and he burst into tears.

“Rabbi, I’m so sorry, but I can’t take back the

ticket. Look, I’ll pay it myself.” He drew a 100-shekel note from his pocket and handed it to the cab driver. Then he headed into the toy store himself, asking, “What else can I get them?”

“I was stunned,” Rabbi Holtzberg commented later. “You had to see the warm Jewish heart of this secular traffic officer!”

Later that day, Rabbi Holtzberg and Harav Mordechai David Levin arrived at the *shivah* house in Rosh Ha’ayin carrying an assortment of toys, each invested with the love of one Jew for another.

Take it to the **Table**

How can we avoid judging people  
by their appearance?

Word  
Power

## The Sweet Sound of Your Name

Rav Gad Eisner, better known as Rav Gad’l, was the beloved *mashgiach* of Yeshiva Sfas Emes in Tel Aviv. He inspired thousands of Jews during his lifetime. People wanted to be close to him not

only because of his Torah wisdom, but because he overflowed with happiness and made everyone around him feel happy.

But there was a time in his life when he didn’t know how he could go on living. It was at the end of World War II. The Germans were losing the war, so they emptied out the camps where the Jews were imprisoned and marched them from one location to another. The Jews were exhausted, starving, and dressed in rags. Many of them couldn’t keep going. The Nazis solved the problem by shooting anyone who stopped marching.

Rav Gad couldn’t go on. He laid down on the ground, no longer caring if he lived or died. But his friend yelled, “Gad! Get up! Run!”

Rav Gad told his friend to go on without him. He was finished. But then his friend called him again. “Gad’le, please get up!”

Hearing his name with the “le” at the end, as he was called by his loving parents, woke up Rav Gad’s will to live. He suddenly remembered what it was like to feel precious, protected, and loved. He got up, he survived, and with his unique gifts he helped rebuild Klal Yisrael.

Take it to the **Table**

Why is our own name so sweet to our ears?