

# Let My People Shmooz

Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions



ISSUE 18

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH 5785

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

## Did You Enjoy the Chazzan?

The office staff of our shul sent out an email after the *Yamim Nora'im* asking for any comments or feedback about the recent *tefillos*. To be honest, I was very uninspired by the *chazzan* for Maariv on both nights of Rosh Hashanah. He had a loud voice, but it wasn't a pleasant and mature voice, and it didn't come across with any passion.

Can I send them my thoughts?

— Eli



## What's the Psak?

Can you guess the halachah?

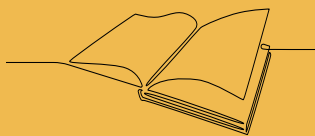
- A **Yes**, it will help for next year.
- B **No**, a *chazzan's* voice is a personal preference.
- C **Depends** on whether the *chazzan* for Maariv is being paid.

1- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Loshon Hora 10:1-2

## The Halachah

The answer is A.

Yes, you can share your thoughts, but not in an email.



## Who Can Help?

It is permitted to give a negative opinion if it will be a *to'eles* for next year's *Yamim Nora'im*. But *loshon hora l'to'eles* can only be spoken to the person who can actually fix the issue.<sup>1</sup> It is unlikely that the whole office team needs to hear your opinion of the *chazzan*.

## What to Do if It Happens to You

Reply to the email, asking who is responsible for appointing *chazzanim* for the *Yamim Nora'im*. That way, you can speak to the person who's directly involved in making the choice. When you find the right person to speak to, start by saying something nice about the *chazzan*.



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

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the heart  
of a Yid

שגרה מעלת חברינו

## Just What I Wanted!

**C**hedva was working late at the office one Thursday night when her husband texted her a mysterious picture. It was a hodgepodge of groceries that had been delivered to their door without any label, receipt, or even an address.

Maybe the box was meant for 1352 Elm, or Maple, or Sycamore Street instead of 1352 Oak? Chedva texted one person she knew on each of the neighboring blocks to ask them to spread the word about the mistaken delivery.

Finally, at 1 a.m., Chedva got a call. The delivery had gone not to the wrong 1352, but to the wrong Chedva. The "real" Chedva (we'll call her Chedva 2), who was one of the community's

\*All names  
have been  
changed



great "*chesed* ladies," had moved to another state, and now she was on the phone explaining.

Before she moved, she had organized a crew of volunteers who shopped for some families that needed a boost. They'd drop off the groceries at her house; other volunteers would divide and repackage the items and still others would deliver the bags to the families. Chedva 2 had moved far away, but she hadn't abandoned her mission! (She had put in place a plan to keep the *chesed* going, which was working well, but on this night

somehow there was a mix up that led to the mysterious delivery.)

So, on this night, Chedva got a glimpse of an incredibly fine-tuned *chesed*. Chedva 2 asked her to split the items into bags and mark each with an initial showing where it should be delivered. "Family Z gets a white cake because they're allergic to chocolate. The small ice cream goes to Bag J, because it's just one person... Family X gets the pickles..." Chedva 2 remembered and catered to the preferences of each family!

At around 2 a.m., a volunteer showed up at Chedva's door to pick up the bags. And Chedva went back to bed, her heart still warmed by the love of one Jew for another.

## Take It to the Table

What steps can you take to ensure that a *chesed* continues even when you can't do it yourself?

What's  
the real  
story?

היין לךף זכות



## How Could He Ignore His Baby?

**R**uthy and Freida were coming home from Israel, settling into their seats as the other passengers boarded. They noticed Leah, holding a cranky baby, squashing into a middle seat between

two large men. Poor woman! She'd be stuck in that seat for the next 12 hours!

Then, they noticed a *frum* man who was sitting in the aisle seat in the row behind Leah. The man spoke to Leah briefly and then switched seats with her. The stress on the young mother's face melted away.

"Must be the husband," Ruthy observed. "Who else would do that?"

As the flight wore on, Ruthy and



Freida noticed that the baby was giving her mother a hard time. She wouldn't settle down.

"You'd think the father would take the baby for awhile," Freida said to Ruthy. "How can he just sit there?"

"Look at him!" added Ruthy. "He's off in dreamland!"

Whenever they caught Leah's eye, they gave her a smile to boost her spirits. They pitied the poor girl who was married to such a selfish man.

## Can you Crack the case?

The man who changed seats with Leah wasn't her husband. He was a kind-hearted Jew who was willing to endure 12 uncomfortable hours to give a mother and her child the space they desperately needed.

### IN CASE YOU'RE CURIOUS

Leah was traveling alone with her baby on a stand-by ticket that her husband, a *kiruv* rabbi, had been given by one of his students. She used the ticket to visit an elderly relative in Israel, and since stand-by tickets don't allow the passenger to choose a seat, she was stuck in the middle on the way home.

Adapted with  
permission  
from "The Seat  
Swap," by Leah  
Hecht, Inyan  
Magazine

### DEDICATIONS

As a *zechus* for a *shidduch*.

Dedicated anonymously as a *zechus* for children and a *refuah sheleimah* for Leah bas Faiga L'ilui nishmas Yosef ben Sarah z"l and as a *refuah sheleimah* for Avrohom ben Sarah