

Interactive  
Questions  
for Your  
Shabbos  
TableSHUSHAN  
PURIMBe aware! When discussing shmiras  
haloshon issues, using personal examples  
may lead to unintended loshon hora.  
Keep it general to keep it kosher.

ISSUE 28

SHABBOS PARSHAS KISISA 5785

Please do not read during davening or Krias HaTorah.

# Post Shalach Manos Investigation

A few weeks ago, I approached my coworkers about pitching in for a *shalach manos* gift for our boss, Rivky. Eight out of ten people agreed to contribute, and we were able to put together a nice presentation with fruit, cake, wine, and lots of extra



goodies. When I delivered it to Rivky, I included a card. I wasn't comfortable writing the names of who exactly gave the gift, so I just wrote: "From the Office Team." She was really excited because it was the first time we've ever given her *shalach manos*.

After Purim, Rivky asked me who contributed to the gift because she wanted to thank them personally.

Am I allowed to tell her who did and who didn't?

—Dassy with a dilemma

What's the **Psak?**  
Do you know the halachah?

- A Yes, Dassy can tell her boss who did contribute and who didn't.  
B No, it will place the two people who didn't contribute in a bad light.  
C It depends.

## The Answer

The halachah is C.

It's loshon hora to specifically name who didn't give, but in some circumstances the names of those who contributed should be divulged.

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

Rav Pam, zt"l, advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *shailah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a *rav* or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

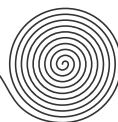
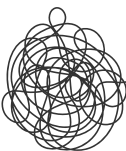
The Shmiras Haloshon Shailah Hotline:  
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## Make It Clear

For Dassy to be allowed to give the boss the names of those who contributed—and by omission the boss would know who did not—the employees would have to have been told in advance that this information would be available to the boss. Since Dassy wasn't clear on this point, the employees might have assumed that she would simply write "From the Team" on the card, and the boss would never know. If she had let her coworkers know in advance that their names would be included (or excluded) from the card, then she would be allowed to tell the boss who gave, but she would not be allowed to name those who didn't give. In fact, if Dassy had been clear to her coworkers, then telling the boss who contributed to the gift is a mitzvah, since a gift increases shalom between the givers and the recipient. Therefore, the ideal approach would have been to tell the employees that the card would include the names of those who gave and to encourage those who wanted to opt out to give even a nominal amount so they would be included.

My **אדרבה** moment

I was about to comment  
that my neighbor sent  
over such a simple  
*shalach manos* this year;



instead I popped  
a marshmallow  
into my mouth.

See the  
good  
in the  
heart  
of a Yid



**R**av Chaim Brim, zt"l, was close to the Chazon Ish and many other *gedolim* in his time. Although the whole Jewish world knew about his brilliance in Torah, he remained humble, and people often referred to him as, "the Anav."

At one time, when Rav Chaim was living in America, he led the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur *tefillas* for the Skverer community. This was a big responsibility since 2,000 people *davened* in the massive shul, and it was up to him to inspire them all.

At one point in the *davening*, one of the *misallelim* went up to the *aron kodesh* to open it for the prayer *Imru L'Elokim*. He was supposed to wait until the end of the long prayer to

close the *aron*, but the pages of his *machzor* accidentally flipped, and he lost the place. He opened to the last page of the prayer and, thinking

it was over, the man closed the *aron*.

Rav Chaim realized what had happened. He made a snap decision to also skip to the end and finish the *tefillah*. This way, the crowd would think

that Rav Chaim had made the mistake and that the man was following his lead, saving the man from great embarrassment.

*On the holiest day of the year, 2,000 people missed some of the day's precious tefillos in order to spare one precious Jew from embarrassment.*



## Who's Confused?

See the  
Good  
What's the  
Real  
Story?



**O**ne day in Yerushalayim, Yaakov stood in the courtyard outside his local shul. That's where he witnessed the "crime." He watched as Daniel carried a few stuffed shopping bags to a *sheimos* bin in the courtyard and pushed his bags in.

## Can't He Read the Sign?

When he couldn't fit anymore in, he put the rest of the bags down in front of the bin and walked away.

"Can't he read?" thought Yaakov. "The sign says this bin is only for the shul's *sheimos*."

How could he stuff it up with his own *sheimos*, especially when there's a public bin

right down the block!"

But then Yaakov stopped his thoughts and said to himself, "Wait, maybe he has a good reason. What could it be? Maybe it's ... nah ... Or maybe ... uh-uh ... Or how about ... impossible! There is no good reason for this!"

## Can you Crack the case?



Things changed when Yaakov overheard Daniel talking to Rabbi Greenfield. "When I left shul this morning I saw a mound of the shul's *sheimos* piled up outside. It was about to rain, and I was worried that the *sheimos* might get soaked if it stayed out there. Not a way to treat *sheimos*! I put them into a few plastic bags I found lying around and brought them all to the *sheimos* bin."

Now it was clear. Not only was Daniel not taking advantage of the shul by stuffing its bin with his own *sheimos*, he was actually going out of his way to help the shul. Yaakov learned that even if we can't figure out why someone is behaving in a certain way, we can safely bet that he has a good reason for his actions.

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haChaver Chaim z"l

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