

Interactive
Questions
for Your
Shabbos
Table

Please do not read during davening and krias haTorah.

ISSUE 29

SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYAKHEL 5785

What Did You
Think of the Band?

We recently got engaged and are preparing for our wedding. We're thinking of hiring Sameach Tesamach as our band. But we want to know what style of music they play and if their sound and energy are what we are looking for.

Can we call people who have used them for a reference if that might cause them to say something negative—or do we personally have to go to a wedding to see them perform?

—Binyomin and Rochel

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

- A **No**, instead of asking anyone for a reference, go check them out for yourselves.
- B **Yes**, you can call past customers—it's *to'eles*.
- C You may only call references that Sameach Tesamach gives you.

How to Be an Informed Consumer

If you ask people who used Sameach Tesamach for their opinion without telling them why you are asking, and they give a negative report, this is *loshon hora* and you would be guilty of causing them to sin. But asking for information about a potential hire is considered a *to'eles* because it helps you make a better decision and can save you from a loss. Even in that case, the conditions of *to'eles* require that we first try to find a way to get the information without causing *loshon hora* to be spoken.¹

How far do you have to go to find out the information without involving others? The *halachah* is that you don't have to make an *extraordinary* effort.² Therefore, you can call people who have used Sameach Tesamach. Also, calling might be more useful because just seeing the band doesn't tell you if they're easy to work with. When asking others for their opinions, you must make sure to explain why you're asking and to only ask for specific information.³

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: 718-951-3696 2-3PM / 9-10:30 PM

The
Answer

The halachah is B.
Yes.

Reviewed by
Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

Be aware! When discussing *shmiras haloshon* issues, using personal examples may lead to unintended *loshon hora*. Keep it general to keep it kosher.

We are an **אדרבה** family

We host **conversations** that we're **proud of.**



See the
good
in the
heart
of a Yid



Heard from
Rabbi Yaakov
Cohen,
Aish.com

When Eli Price passed away, hundreds of people poured into the home to comfort his family. One was a man named Isaac, who was the principal of a school in a nearby town. He had come to tell the family a story:

"When I was in middle school, I was a troublemaker," he said. "I was always being sent to the principal's office. One day, I was bored in class, and I threw an aluminum foil ball at the teacher. The teacher held up the ball and said, 'I want the student who threw this to please stand up and leave the room. I will not continue class until that student leaves.'"

"Everyone sat silently. I was not going

He Jumped In and Saved a Boy's Life

to confess, because I knew that if I went to the principal again, I'd be expelled from school. After 30 long

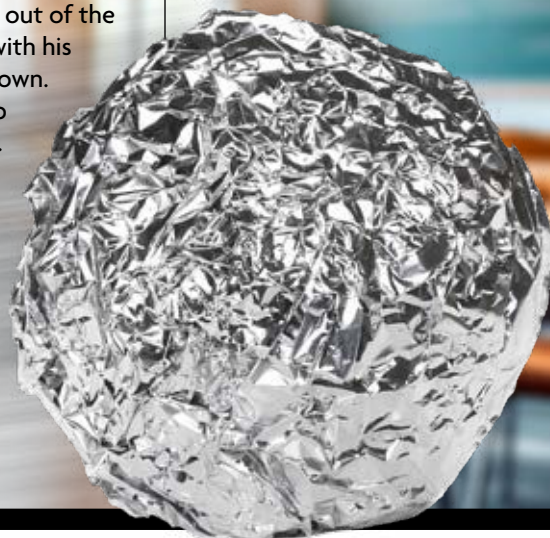
seconds, a boy named Eli, who was a star student, stood up and walked out of the room with his head down.

He had no reason to help me, but he did it anyway.

"Eli saved my life. Through that selfless act, he showed me how much he cared about my dignity. From that moment on, I took my life more seriously. With a lot of

work, I stopped being a troublemaker.

"When I heard that Eli passed away, I had to come here to tell you that any impact I've made as a Jewish educator is all due to Eli's compassion."



Be the
good
Pursue
Peace



As heard from
a CCHF Shalom
Challenge2
participant

Yehudah owned a fine piece of Judaica. He gave it to his son Yaakov to

take care of, and Yaakov fulfilled his job perfectly. As Yaakov grew old, his children took over caring for this precious object.

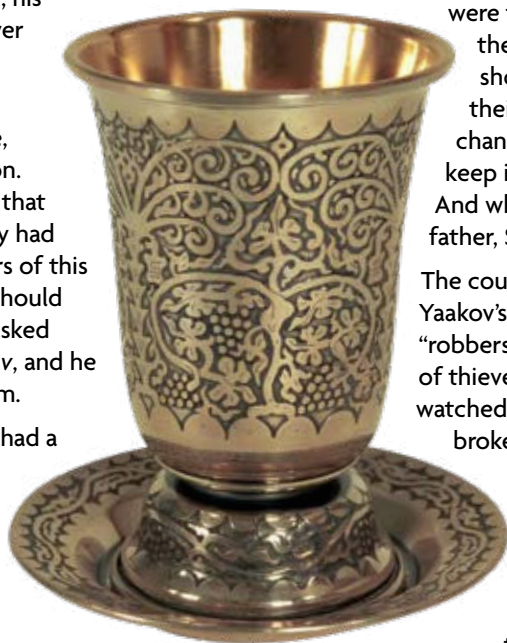
At a ripe old age, Yaakov passed on. His children felt that since their family had been the keepers of this heirloom, they should inherit it. They asked advice from a *rav*, and he agreed with them.

But Yaakov also had a living brother, the children's Uncle Shlomo.

Without asking him or any of

their cousins, Yaakov's children sold the piece for a very high price.

Call Off the War!



When the cousins found out, they were furious. Even if Yaakov's children were the owners of the object, they should have given their cousins a chance to buy it and keep it in the family! And what about their father, Shlomo?

The cousins called Yaakov's children "robbers" and "a gang of thieves." Shlomo watched sadly as war broke out in the family his father had proudly built.

One day, he decided to call an end

to it. He softly told his children, "I don't care if Yaakov's family received millions of dollars for this heirloom. No money can ever replace the value of shalom in the family!"

"I declare that as the last remaining member of the (original) family, I am fully *mochel* my nephews who sold this precious heirloom. This is so that our family will have shalom at all times. I don't want to hear or say anything more about this subject!"

"And," said the cousin who told this story, "so it was."

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in your community!**
Be מזוכה את הרבים!

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in your shul/neighborhood

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07946-370-936

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D E D I C A T I O N S

L'ilui nishmas
Amalie Fruma
bas Moshe a"h

In honor of
Rabbi Akiva Hall
Dedicated by
Shlomo Ahron Dauber

L'ilui nishmas
Avrohom ben Yosef z"l
and Yaffa bat Yosef a"h

As a zechus for a
shidduch for
Akiva Hillel ben Shoshana

As a zechus for a
shidduch hagin for
Elazar ben Adina

As a zechus for a
shidduch for
Yitzchok Tzvi
ben Miriam Pessel