



Shagririm Balev

Everyone Can Make a Match

AYELET GLATT | Head of Diaspora and Olim



לעילוי נשמת
מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

What Do We Share?

One of the most delicate parts of being a Shagrir (ambassador) is knowing how to hold two important values at the same time: protecting the privacy of the person we are representing, while also making sure the other side has the information they need in order to make a real decision.

At our recent Shagririm Balev Shabbat for head volunteers, we had the privilege of learning together with Rabbanit Sharon Rimon about these types of situations. We spoke about the moments where there is no obvious answer, where honesty, sensitivity, privacy, and responsibility all come into play.

I want to share one of the dilemmas we discussed. I'm intentionally not sharing the "answer," because these are exactly the

conversations we, as ambassadors, need to think about together.

Elad is a wonderful young man.

He has excellent middot, works hard, is loved by his friends and family, and everyone who knows him speaks highly of him.

Someone wants to suggest him to Shira.

While making inquiries, they discover a complicated detail: Elad's older brother has a significant criminal past. Several years ago, he was involved in serious situations, served time in prison, and even today there is still some complexity surrounding him and the family.

Elad's ambassador, who knows him well, says:

"Elad is not his brother. Why should Shira reject someone because of something he didn't do? Elad has built his own life, and he should be judged by who he is."

But Shira's ambassador sees it differently:

"If they get married, she won't only be connected to Elad, she will also become part of his family. Maybe this is something she should know before stepping in."

So what is the right thing to do?

Is information about a sibling's past something that belongs in the conversation when suggesting someone?

Does it make a difference how close Elad is to his brother? Would we look at it differently if this was a sibling who is very involved in the family's daily life, compared to someone who's "cut out"?

Who should make the decision about sharing this information: Elad himself, the

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ambassador, or the person on the other side?

And perhaps the hardest question: when information has the potential to cause someone to reject a wonderful person before ever meeting them, are we protecting them by sharing it, or are we taking away an opportunity unfairly?

These questions are not easy. That is exactly why they are important.

As ambassadors, we are not only matchmakers. We are people who are trusted with someone's story. That trust requires us to see the whole person, to act with sensitivity, and to recognize that every detail carries weight.

There is no single rule that can answer every situation. Each person, each family, and each circumstance requires thought and care.

And this is only one example.

During the Shabbat, we continued exploring other situations where the answer is not always simple. For example: What about a 22-year-old who was married for two months and divorced, and now finds it difficult to find a shidduch? Should we leave it to him to share this part of his story, or is it our responsibility to make sure this information is known before they meet? And what about someone with a medical issue that isn't visible at first glance? Or someone who went through a period of life when they were not religious, but has since gone through a deep process of change? When do we share? When do we wait? And how do we make sure that in our effort to be responsible, we never forget the person behind the information?

And perhaps that is the most important part of being a Shagrir: not having all the answers, but being willing to ask the right questions. ■

Want to set up your friends? Become their ambassador - join Shagririm Balev!



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Founded in Israel in 2019 and led by Rav Rimon, **Shagririm Balev** - a social online matchmaking initiative - has taken the dating scene by storm. With over 10,000 candidates and 3,000 Ambassadors, in Israel and the US, Shagririm Balev is averaging a Wedding every 2 days!

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