

HARRISON'S CORNER

By: Harrison Termotto, Teaching Assistant

The Torah teaches that one should not criticize, or gossip about another. This sin is referred to as lashon horah, which literally translates to evil tongue. Lashon horah is about gossiping and criticizing someone while they are not present. Many modern day Jews do not realize that not only is this unkind, but also forbidden by Jewish Law. Keeping in mind this law is very important in today's controversial world, where talking trash about someone behind their back seems accepted. But like other Jewish Laws, there is an exception to lashon horah. There are times when a person is obligated to speak out, even if the information may be negative. If a person's intent for sharing the negative gossip is for a beneficial purpose, lashon horah does not apply. Also, if the person is talking to prevent or warn of future harm, lashon horah does not apply. Today, where almost everyone, from children to adults, talk negatively about another person, the Jewish Law of lashon horah needs to be brought to attention now more than ever.