

Announcing the new & improved Partner Program

Posted by MenachemGYE - 24 Dec 2019 00:02

A freilechen Chanukah everyone!

Behind the scenes we're constantly working to improve the GuardYourEyes website. Today I'd like to update you about new improvements to the Partner Program to make it easier and simpler to use:

- We have temporarily disabled accounts that haven't been active in the last year. This makes it much more likely that person you want to connect with will accept your request.
- Email notifications about activity in the partner program have been more user-friendly.
- When you get an email notification about a new request, you can accept or decline by clicking a link in the email — no login is necessary.
- The speed of the Partner Program on the website has been greatly increased.
- You can now specify if you'd like to be in touch with potential partners via SMS text messaging or whatsapp. (This is in addition to the standard options of phone, chat or email.)
- You can specify which additional languages you speak (e.g. Yiddish).

We've also changed the term *sponsor* on the Partner Program to **mentor**, and the term *sponsee* has been replaced by **protégé** (pronounced *prodo-zhay*). A protege is "a person who is guided and supported by a more experienced person".

If you have any questions about anything related partner program, we're here to help. You can email me at info@guardyoureyes.org or call/text/whatsapp me at 646-600-8100.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program

Posted by DavidT - 24 Dec 2019 20:16

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The importance of the Partner Program...

If Reb Yochanan's words were true two thousand years ago, how much more so in an age when Yiras Shomayim is at an all time low and the mentality of "what will the neighbors say?" is what drives many lives. The ability to access the worst imaginable temptations in the privacy of one's own home with but a few clicks of a mouse places today's generation at a tremendous risk.

This spiritual pandemic has caused even the secular world to recognize the truth of Reb Yochanan's words and the value of bringing ???? ??? ??? into our homes. Without an element of "public perception" to protect themselves, even the most righteous have stumbled.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program
Posted by MenachemGYE - 25 Dec 2019 22:52

Some other sources on this topic:

Kiddushin 81a:

The Gemara relates: **Those captive women who were brought to Neharde'a**, where they were redeemed, **were brought up to the house of Rav Amram the Pious. They removed the ladder from before them** to prevent men from climbing up after them to the attic where they were to sleep. **When one of them passed** by the entrance to the upper chamber, it was as though **a light shone in the aperture** due to her great beauty. Out of his desire for her, **Rav Amram grabbed a ladder that ten men together could not lift, lifted it on his own and began climbing.**

When he was halfway up the ladder, he strengthened his legs against the sides of the ladder to stop himself from climbing further, **raised his voice**, and cried out: There is **a fire in the house of Amram**. Upon hearing this, **the Sages came** and found him in that position. **They said to him: You have embarrassed us**, since everyone sees what you had intended to do. Rav Amram **said to them: It is better that you be shamed in Amram's house in this world, and not be ashamed of him in the World-to-Come.**

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Hayom Yom, 20 Teves:???? ????????????? ?????? ????? ?????????????? ?????????? ?????? ??
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The Mittler Rebbe [son of the Baal Hatanya] once answered [a chassid] at *yechidus*: “When a person discusses his Divine service with a friend and they study together, there are two G?dly souls pitted against one natural soul.”

[Commentary: One answer is that the animal soul does not understand unity. On the contrary, it is motivated by opportunism and self-interest, and does not know how to communicate and work openly and honestly with another person. So, when two people genuinely work together, it can only be that their G?dly souls are active, for only the G?dly soul has an inner desire to help another.

[Cf. the teaching of the Sages: “A person does not sin unless he himself gains something from it” (Kiddushin 63b).]

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program
Posted by MenachemGYE - 25 Dec 2019 23:05

From By Rabbi Avi Tenenbaum M.S.c (psych.) CASAP CASAC (grad.) in [this booklet](#).

Why it is permitted in halacha to do step five and admit one’s sins to a sponsor?

The answer simply is, the Torah forbids sharing one’s sins when it has no constructive purpose. However, if the sins are being told over for the purpose of seeking guidance or in the context of working a spiritual program to sober up from addiction, this is permitted. Not only that, it seems to be the minhag Yisrael as well. If this idea was not true, it would not be permitted to discuss one’s spiritual problems with a Rabbi, Mashgiach, or Chasidic Rebbe in order to seek guidance.

Rabbi Twerski is known to bring the source for this from **Reb Elimelech of Lizhensk** in his Tzetel Katan. Although I was originally bothered that Reb Elimelech seemed to be the only one who writes that this is permitted, I later understood that no one else wrote this is permitted simply because it is so obvious that it is unnecessary to speak out. Indeed, all the Rabbanim that reviewed this paper said this idea is obvious, and that it is clearly the custom of Klal Yisrael to understand the halacha in this way.

The letter of Rabbi Twerski on this topic can be found in sefer Yishmaru Da'as, vol. 2, p. 116; The Tzetel Katan itself is in the Tzetel Katan paragraph 13.[spoiler][p]Author's note: The Shlah Hakadosh (Sha'ar HaOseeyos, Chess, Chaver Tov 2 quoting Rabbeinu Yona in Igeress Hatshuva 97) brings from Rabbeinu Yona a general statement about the importance of having a friend in regards to doing teshuva, so that if one friend veered off the path of teshuva, he can share this and then the person he shared the information with can rebuke him and influence him to return to the path of teshuva.

The language that the Shlah quotes from Rabbeinu Yona may only support that idea of sharing general information with one's friend, but not sharing specific sins. However, in the Yad Rama edition of the Shlah Hakadosh, they note (see footnote 89) that the text quoted by the Shlah of Rabbeinu Yona is different from the actual text that we have today.

Take a look at the version that we have in our edition of Rabbeinu Yona, which says: "The way a man should conduct himself in order to achieve fear of heaven is to find one or two good friends to be able to speak to them constantly in topics concerning yiras shamayim. If one of the friends sins or fails to perform one of the positive mitzvos, his friend can rebuke him, and they can rebuke one another on each sin that the other one did".

According to this text of Rabeinu Yona, it seems that it is permitted for friend "a" to share his specific sins with friend "b" so that friend "b" can rebuke the sinner, friend "a", specifically for that sin. Rabeinu Yona seems to imply that it is permitted to share one's specific sins with a trusted friend for the constructive purpose of doing teshuva; if friend "a" didn't share his specific sin with friend "b" then how would "b" ever know about it in order to rebuke "a"?

It is still possible to say that one cannot draw any proof from here either because of an alternative way of reading this text, which suggests that speaking with the friend in yiras shamayim is one idea while being rebuked is another. According to this reading, friend "b" is not rebuking "a" because "a" told anything to "b". Rather, it may simply have happened that "b" saw with his own eyes something that "a" did, and he rebuked him for this.

Nonetheless I think the original, more simple way to read the text of Rabbeinu Yona is also a possibility according to this reading of the text, Rabeinu Yona is telling us that the two friends should talk in yiras shamayim constantly, which means to always check in with one another about sins and mitzvos, so that if one is slacking off, the other friend can rebuke him, vidok, vian kan makom liha'arich, eyin sham.) Similarly, it is possible to understand the Tzetel Katan in an alternative fashion-that Reb Elimelech is referring specifically to urges and bad thoughts that come to him naturally, but he is not referring to actual sins and thoughts that the man conjured

or devised on his own-therefore, there is no absolute proof to say from here that according to Reb Elimelech, one can share his sins with a trusted friend for a constructive purpose, because in the actual text of the Tzetel Katan, the man there may have not done any sin at all-since the halacha is that it is not a sin to have sexual or evil thoughts-it is only a sin to prolong or create such thoughts. Vidok gam bazei, yaish liyin vian kan makom liha'arich.)

The point is that all said and done, all the poskim and talmidei chachamim that I consulted with, as well as the basic understanding of the reason behind the Gemara in Brachos 33b, as well as the support from Sota 7b, as well as the custom of klal yisrael-all of this together permits step five beyond the shadow of any doubt.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program
Posted by MenachemGYE - 25 Dec 2019 23:22

Another new feature, by popular demand:

You can now set a special email to be used for the partner program that is different than your regular GYE email address.

To use this feature go to guardyoureyes.com/tools/partner-program?view=accounts, and under the email option, choose **"I'd like to use a different email for the partner program"**.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program
Posted by cordnoy - 25 Dec 2019 23:43

Here is a post I once wrote; the thread (in the middle) is all about the 12 steps in halachah:

guardyoureyes.com/forum/1-Break-Free/210029-Tryin?limit=15&start=900#282764

There are seforim that compile these mareh mekomos:

1. Yuma 86b says not to publicize one's sin in public, for that will decrease the kevod shamayim.
2. chachmas shlomo 607 says that there are times on account of the obligation of teshuvah and viduy that one must reveal his sin, and on the contrary, if he doesn't, he hasn't fulfilled his obligation.
3. there might be a proof that one can tell another his sins in order to guide the other on the path of teshuvah. the explanation might be based on rashi who explains the prohibition as it is an indicator that he is not ashamed; if, however, he is doing it for the other to repent - that would not apply. [Nesivos on eichah palgei mayim 1:18; beis halevi vayera]
4. Tiferes Yisroel 4:21 writes that the kohen gadol can confess with a loud voice, and some explain that it is permitted for that is the nusach of the viduy.
5. Question: How can one bring a female goat as a chatas, for everyone will realize that he has sinned?
6. Reb Shlomo Kluger says that it would be preferable to bring a different animal as a chatas, where people will not realize that he sinned.
7. netziv cites Reb Refoel hamburger that on the contrary! If he brings a female goat, all of his sins will be forgiven, for he is even more ashamed.
8. Reb Elyashiv asks this question and he answers that this prohibition doesn't apply by an unintentional sin.
9. Magen Avraham says it applies even on a shogeg.
10. From the Rambam it seems that the prohibition is only if he specifies the exact sin.
11. Panim Meiros says this entire prohibition does not apply by a korban.

From this past discussion, it would seem that they all do not say that it is permitted because he is doing this for atonement.

v'adayin tzarich iyun.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program

Posted by MenachemGYE - 14 Jan 2020 14:47

Two more updates:

- You can now browse the list of partners/mentors more easily, by narrowing down the list to members that match certain criteria. Try out those options at <https://guardyoureyes.com/tools/partner-program?view=members>
- You can now select multiple options for describing yourself. Sometimes that can give potential partners more of an idea about the type of background you have.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program

Posted by Gme - 03 Feb 2021 00:30

In regards to the this last update, I just tried to set my background to chabad and it says updated successfully but in the member list it does not actually update and I am unable to find anyone else who is chabad leading me to believe this is a general problem.

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program

Posted by Zedj - 03 Feb 2021 00:48

I have the same results....nobody is registered as chabad

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program

Posted by Markz - 03 Feb 2021 02:51

[Gme wrote on 03 Feb 2021 00:30:](#)

In regards to the this last update, I just tried to set my background to chabad and it says updated successfully but in the member list it does not actually update and I am unable to find anyone else who is chabad leading me to believe this is a general problem.

Yes it is!

[Afro Slonim Chabad Modox](#)

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Re: Announcing the new & improved Partner Program
Posted by wilnevergiveup - 03 Feb 2021 05:26

[Zedj wrote on 03 Feb 2021 00:48:](#)

I have the same results....nobody is registered as chabad

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