

The Schmooze

Stories with a Yiddish Twist

A YIDDISH GUIDE TO BOCA RATON

by

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When you think of Boca Raton, do you immediately think of Morty and Helen Seinfeld--Jerry's "tate-mame"--who are living in a retirement community called Del Boca Vista? (Note: the Yiddish words meaning "to retire" are "tsuriktsien zikh.")

Or, perhaps, you are familiar with the story about the elderly ("alt") Jewish couple who won \$20 "milyon" dollars and immediately bought a magnificent ("glentsndik") mansion in Boca Raton. The home was decorated ("oysgeputst") and they hired a butler through an agency. He was very proper ("geherik") and very British, and they brought him back to their home.

The day after his arrival, he was instructed to set up the Stickley dining room ("estsimer") table for 4 as they were inviting the Cohen's to lunch ("lontsh").

The couple then left the house to do some shopping. When they returned, they found the table set for eight ("akht"). They asked the butler why eight, when they had specifically instructed him to set the table for four ("fir"). The butler replied, "The Cohens telephoned and said they were bringing the Blintzes and the Knishes."

And then there's the story about Mr. Rosensweet who shlepped one mile to Ben's Deli in Boca in horrible rainstorm. He entered, soaking wet.

"Milton, I'll take one hot dog with mustard and sauerkraut.

"That's it?" asked Milton, shocked to see Rosensweet's condition.

"Rosensweet, your wife sent you out on a night like this for one hot dog"?

“Who then?” said Rosensweet, sighing. My mother?”

Here’s some interesting facts about Boca Raton.

- . Boca is home to three of the ten most expensive (“tayer”) gated communities in the U. S.
- . Local folks call their city (“shtot”) “Boca.
- . Almost everyone (“yeder eyner”) in Boca dreads the annual (“yerlekh”) migration of Snowbirds.
- . People in Boca take all that good weather (“veter”) for granted. It may get humid there but they’ll take a few weeks of stickiness over any inches of snow (“shney”).
- . People in Boca don’t even bat an eye (“oyg”) at swanky cars (“oytos”). When a Mercedes, Ferrari, or Lamborghini pulls up next to them at a stop light, it’s just another day in paradise (“ganeydn”).
- . Residents of Boca love boating. Maybe it’s a friend’s boat, or a friend of a friend’s boat. There’s nothing more romantic than spending an evening (“ovnt”) on the water.
- . Red Reef Park in Boca is like a second living room.
- . Boca has been nicknamed the “6th Borough” by some as there is a claim to be a heavy NYC population in Boca.
- . During the 2012 presidential debate at Lynn University in Boca, Seth Meyers said on Saturday Night Live: “Speak loudly and clearly. You’re in Boca Raton, Florida. Their city motto is, ‘Say it in my good ear.’”
- . Boca has its own magazine (“zhurnal”), The Boca Raton Magazine.
- . IBM invented the personal computer (“kompyuter”) in its Boca Raton headquarters.
- . Natalie Crawford of Boca said, “We have valet parking at the Publix. That’s how we roll.”
- . “Der komiker” (comic), Freddie Roman said: “Just got here from Boca Raton. My old fans from New York are down there. They’re thrilled to see me. I tell them about the woman who complains to the hotel, ‘I’ve been coming here for 20 years. This year, the food is poison! And such small (“kleyn”) portions.”
- . The most popular places to shop (“aynkoyfn”) include Mizner Park, Royal Palm Plaza, Town Center Mall and Atlantic Avenue (“evenyu”).
- . In Boca lifeguards work seven-days-a-week, all year long. (Note: The word meaning “to guard” is “hitn.”)

- . Floridians' favorite baseball ("beysbol") team is the New York Yankees.
- . The dating scene isn't just 65+. Boca is actually chock full of young ("yung") men and women.
- . During the holidays, one can even sing the song, "A Boca Xmas":

.....
 I drove past TooJay's
 there were lines out the door.
 People were waiting
 for kishka and more.

The restaurants were busy,
 Christmas dinners not planned.
 Never, not here,
 We're in Boca Land.
 At home all was quiet,
 I left out Kosher wine
 In case Santa came to Boca
 for the very first time.

...
 As I cleared off the table
 I heard with delight
 "Shalom to you all,
 and OY, what a night!"
 (Source: JewishJokes.org)

And, finally, Boca residents can now enjoy the new upscale movie theatre located in Mizner Park. The iPic movie theater, according to Morty Eatowitz of The Boca News (7/24/2012), "is not a 'walk up and buy a ticket' sort of theater. He rates it as a five out of five Morties!

What's unique? PREMIUM SEATS buys you a fully reclining chair (think lay-z-boy), blankets and pillows. You can have access to a full menu ("menyu") of main courses. A waiter is summoned by pushing a small dimly lit button right at your seat. Within five minutes or less your meal will arrive. Food service and wine ("vayn") can be ordered as the movie begins. Dinner options include filet sliders to Paninis. Dinner for two, with wine, is roughly \$65.

Every seat is reserved, and there are NO SENIOR DISCOUNTS. Prices range from \$12 to \$24, depending on whether you're an iPic loyalty member or nonmember. And there's an iPic APP for iPhones or Androids.

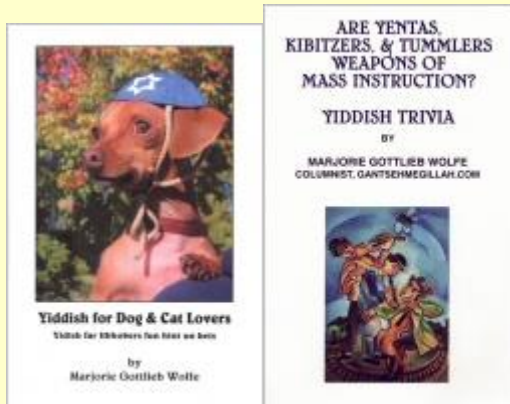
Brian R., of Boca wrote, "If heaven ("himl") has movie theaters, this must be what they are like."

 MARJORIE WOLFE spends the winter in Lake Worth, Florida. Her local movie theater charges seniors \$6. Recently, while attending a movie, there was a lady

in the back of the audience who couldn't hear. She shouted, "Did they say 'Gall bladder' or 'It doesn't matter'?" :-)

Some of this information was obtained from Movoto.com, an online real estate ("grunteygn") brokerage based in SAN Mateo, CA

Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

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