

ZEI(T) GEZUNT, TOM MAGLIOZZI

*In Yiddish, “zei(t) gezunt”--or “zay(t) gezunt”-- means, “good-by.”
The Yiddish word for car is “oyto.”
“farrikhtn” means “to repair.”

By



Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe

“Car Talk” co-host, Tom Magliozzi, 77, passed away on Nov. 3, 2014. I never met Tom, but I listened to his “radyo” (radio) show for “yorn” (years). I was impressed with his knowledge of cars, and more important, his special sense of humor.

Most women I know don’t know much about what’s going on underneath (“untn”) the hood of their car. The service manual sits in the glove compartment of my Sonata, and I call AAA when there’s a problem. I’ve always been meaning to educate myself (“zikh”) about car repair.

Then again, General Motors hired a 6-foot-4-inch Texan named Ed Whitacre, Jr. as their Chairman. By his own admission, he didn’t know anything about the car industry. At a Cadillac styling session, he opined that Cadillacs had the look of “old-fashioned Choo-choo trains.” He served as GM’s chief for exactly 10 months.

Tom, and his brother, Ray, gave us countless hours of laughing. They started the program in 1977, as Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers.

Tom was a graduate of MIT and a college professor. This pair of Italian brothers had a Massachusetts “aktsent” (accent).

Yes, the show gave advice on car problems, but “di por” (the pair) spent more time telling jokes and making fun of each other. One listener wrote, “They could talk about engines the way Jack Nicklaus could talk about a golf swing...”

A woman named Kathy Kosko wrote, “When I turned the calendar page to November the day before yesterday, I saw a note that I had wisely written

to myself months before: "Click & Clack recommended Nokia Hakellipita snow tires." So when I buy my snow tires this month, they will be the Tom Magliozzi Memorial Snow Tires. I'm sure Tom's already up there crackin' up God and the saints. Thanks for the good advice and the millions of laughs." Another listener wrote, "My favorite was when you told the gentleman who could smell exhaust in his car to buy a canary and place it in the back seat."

It took many people to produce "Car Talk" and their Official Staff credits included: :-)

Air-Quality Monitor	Carmine Dioxide
Air Traffic Controller	Ulanda U. Lucky
Anger Management Coach	Kirsten Hollered
Asst. Fleet Manager	Lisa Carr
Asst. to PR Specialist	Lotta B. Essen
Audience Resonse Analyst	Luke Warm
Auto Seat Tester	Fitz Matush
Chairman, Federal Lubrication Board	Alan Greasepan
Complaint Line Operator	Levon Hold
Crash Tester	Hope Anna Prayer
Director of Luxury Car Horns	Toney Blare
Emergency Humor Hotline Operator	Joe Klein
Manager of Automotive Accessories	Francis Ford Cupholda
Spanish Gerontologist	Senor Moment
Staff Gossip Columnist	Bud Inski
Timing Director	Benjamin Not-Yet-You-Yahoo
Toastmaster	Cy Gazunt
Videographer Tel Aviv Office	Schlomo Replay

Show below is a Yiddish Guide to the humor and sound advice ("aytse") of Tom Magliozzi:

"narish" (stupid)

"Do it while you're young. You may never have another chance to do anything this stupid again."

“mekhaniker” (mechanic)

“dos shifl” (the boat)

“How do you know if you’ve got a good mechanic? By the size of his boat.”

“der tselularer telefon” (cell phone)

“Kids, get away from the cell phone, get away from the computers, and mail someone a fish before it’s too late.”

“lebn” (life)

“Life is too short to own a German car.”

“fakt” (fact)

“Never let the facts stand in the way of a good answer.”

“der oyto” (the car)

“Some guy I met said it’s amazing how we use cars on our show as an excuse to discuss everything in the world--energy, psychology, behavior, love, money, economics and finance. The cars themselves are boring as hell.”

“khasene” (marriage)

At its peak, Car Talk would get 30,000 calls a month. The best calls often involved marriage. He said to a caller, “Well, it sounds like a clear choice between a new wife and a new car. And frankly, since you have held tight to this piece of junk (“khazeray”) for over 130,000 miles, I’m a little worried about which way you’re going to go.”

“kestl” (box)

“I like to drive with the windows open. I mean, before you know it, you’re going to spend plenty of time sealed up in a box anyway, right?”
