

# The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

## SHABBAT-INSPIRED GAMES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

by  
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Today's parents ("di tate-mame") have a large choice of games to play with their children. Despite, what some people say, there does NOT seem to be a void when it comes to Jewish-inspired games. We've got:

- . Banana Split Card Game
- . Parsh-O Card Game
- . Schmear! Build-A-Bagel
- . Shopping for Shabbos: Memory Game
- . Bacon Recipe Playing Card Game  
"Zol ikh azoy visn fun tsores" (I'm not the least bit interested.)
- . Cholent, The Game

"Cholent the Game" is a slow-cooking, fast-moving card game. Chaim Kivelevitz says that you don't need any

specialized knowledge of Judaism to play “Cholent, The Game”—just a sense of Yiddishkeit, so you can enjoy its flavor. For those unfamiliar with “cholent”/“chulant,” here are the ingredients used in a recipe by Bertha Greenwald, taken from “Eppes Essen,” a cookbook put out by the Sisterhood members of Cong. Shaaray Tefila in Far Rockaway, New York, many years ago.

### Cholent from Hungary

1 lb. box navy beans

1 lg. diced onion

1/2 cup medium barley

2 lbs. flanken with bone

assorted spices such as: salt, garlic, pepper and for convenience, a pkg. of onion soup mix.

Some Orthodox Jews swear allegiance to a particular secret ingredient. Online discussion boards are rife with comments declaring the superiority of Dr. Pepper, beer (“He’Brew—the Chosen Beer”?), cream of wheat, instant oats, chocolate syrup, vanilla or cherry Coca-Cola, maple syrup, ginger ale or prunes.

Vered Guttman said, “Cholent is a dish that binds the present to the ever-receding past. It may be the nicest Jewish cooking tradition there is.”

(Source: “Cholent: The Truest of All Jewish Foods” by Sara Levin, [momentmagazine.com](http://momentmagazine.com))

“Cholent, The Game” is a family-friendly card game for 2 - 5 players, ages 8 and up. Players compete to finish their secret (“sod”) cholent recipes by obtaining the

ingredients they need, like potatoes, meat (“fleysh”) and spices. Successful (“matsliakhdik”) players will outguess and outbid their opponents with clever (“klug”) use of their Gelt and Chevra cards.

Bidding is the main way in which players receive the ingredients they need to complete their recipe. Bidding works as follows: Players secretly decide how many Gelt cards to use, in order to bid on the ingredient in question. There’s no limit to how many Gelt cards may be used to bid on a single (“eyntsik”) ingredient. All players simultaneously reveal the Gelt cards they used to bid. The player with the highest total value wins the ingredient and places it face-up in front of him. All the Gelt cards that were used to bid are then discarded.

The first player to complete his Cholent Recipe (“retsept”) flips over his Recipe card and declares himself the winner (“geviner”).

A Glossary of Hebrew and Yiddish words are included with “Cholent, The Game”:

Big Macher (Yiddish) - Big Shot

Chochum (Hebrew) - A wise person

Ganef (Yiddish) - Thief

Golem (Hebrew) - A mythical being, created from clay, used to protect the Jewish people

Gelt (Yiddish) - Money

Meraglim (Hebrew) - Spies

Mishpacha (Hebrew) - Family

Some others have defined “mishpoche” as “foreign relations committee.”

Morah (Hebrew) - Female teacher  
Nudnik (Yiddish) - Pest  
Rebbe (Hebrew) - Rabbi  
Rebbetzin (Hebrew) - Rabbi's wife  
Sabah/Zadie (Hebrew/Yiddish) - Grandfather  
Saftah/Bubby (Hebrew/Yiddish) - Grandmother  
Schnorer (Yiddish) - Moocher  
Shabbat (Hebrew) - Jewish day of rest (Lasts from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday)  
Shochet (Hebrew) - Ritual slaughterer  
Shuk (Hebrew) - Market

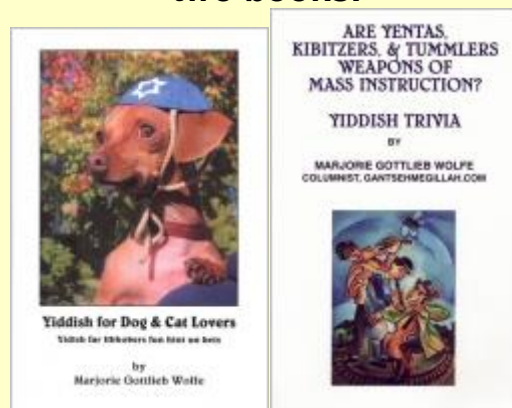
As they say on [www.cholentthegame.com](http://www.cholentthegame.com), "You've tried the food. Now play the game."

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**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:**



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and**

**"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass  
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