

# **The Schmooze** **Stories with a Yiddish Twist**

## **CONSUMPTION OF “KAVE” IS “GUT”**

Note: The Yiddish word for “coffee” is “kave.”  
In Yiddish, “gut” means “good.”  
A “coffee pot” is a “kavenik.”

*by*  
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**Syosset, New York**

Such “gut naves” (good news)! Daily consumption of “kave” may prevent a recurrence of colon cancer in people treated for the disease (“krankayt”) with the strongest benefits for those drinking at least “fir” (4) cups.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston conducted the study and said people should not begin drinking coffee if they aren’t already java drinkers. Those who drink it should not increase their number of daily cups, the scientists said.

The study is the “ershter” (first) ever to examine whether coffee plays a role in preventing colon cancer recurrence and lower mortality from the disease among U. S. residents--who consume the most coffee globally.

Dr. Jules Garbus said, “Diet and lifestyle affect people’s cancer risk.” He also noted that Dana-Farber’s reputation adds credence to the findings.

Nearly 1,000 patients were involved in the research. All had been treated with surgery and chemotherapy. Those who had the best five-year survival rates drank at least four cups of caffeinated coffee daily, consuming about 460 milligrams of caffeine. There was no correlation between a survival

benefit and HERBAL TEA CONSUMPTION, the study found. Dr. Peter Bach at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan said more powerful data are required.

On the lighter side, there are many Jewish stories and jokes about coffee and coffee drinkers. Here are some of my favorites:

- . Do you know it's a sin ("zind") for a woman to make coffee? Yup, it's in the Bible. It says....He-brews!
- . Abe walks into a coffee shop and asks "di kelnerin" (the waitress):  
"How much is the coffee?"  
"Coffee is \$2.90," the waitress says.  
"How much is a refill," the man asks.  
"FREE ("umzist"), says the waitress.  
"Then I'll take the refill," the man responds.
- . Jacob and Morris are meeting at Starbucks for their regular weekly schmooze and "kave." But this time, they just sit there staring at their cups of coffee without saying a "vort" (word).

Suddenly, Jacob says, "Do you know what I think, Morris?"

"No," replies Morris, "What is it that you think, Jacob?"

"I think," says Jacob, "that life is just like a cup of coffee."

"Why do you think that?" asks Morris.

"How should I know," replies Jacob. "Am I a philosopher?"

- . A Jewish beggar was out on the street in New York City with his "tsin" (tin) cup. "Please, sir," he pleaded to a passerby, "Could you spare 73 cents for a cup of coffee and some pie?"  
The man asked, "Where do you get coffee and a pie for 73 cents in New York? It costs at least a dollar fifty just for the coffee."  
The beggar replied, "So who buys retail?"
- . Sarah and Abe are driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. They argued back and forth, then they stopped for "kave." At the counter, the husband asked the waitress, "Before we order, could you please pronounce where we are VERY SLOWLY?"

She leaned over the counter and said, "STAAR BUCCKKS COFFFFEE."

- . Reva awakens one "nakht" (night) to find her husband, Howard, is not in

“bet” (bed) with her. She goes “untn” (downstairs) to look for him and finds him sitting at th “kikh” (kitchen) table with a cup of coffee in front of him. He appears to be in deep “gedank” (thought), just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes away a “trer” (tear) from his eye and takes a sip of his coffee.

“Vos tut zikh?” (What’s going on?) Why are you up in the middle of the night?”

Howard looks up from his coffee. “Do you remember, Reva, how “yung” we both were when we first started dating?”

“Yes, I remember,” Reva replies.

Howard’s voice is brimming with “emotsye” (emotion).

“Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car making love?”

“How could I forget?” Reva says.

“And do you remember he put a “biks” (gun) to my head and said, ‘Either you marry my daughter or I’ll see to it that you go to “turme” (jail) for 30 years?’”

“I remember well,” Reva replies, taking hold of his “hant” (hand).

Howard wipes away a tear and says, “I would have got out today.”

And, finally, let’s share Jackie Mason’s opinion of Starbucks: [1996 article]

“Starbucks is the best example of a phony status symbols that means nothing, but people will still pay 10 times as much for it because there are French words all over the place. You want coffee in a coffee shop, that’s 60 cents. But at Starbucks, Cafe Latte: \$3.50. Cafe Cremier: \$4.50. Cafe Suzee: \$9.50. For each French word, another four dollars.

Why does a little cream in coffee make it worth \$3.50? Go into any coffee shop; they’ll give you all the cream you want until you’re blue in the face. Forty million people are walking around in coffee shops with jars of cream: ‘Here’s all the cream you want!’ And it’s still 60 cents.

You know why? Because it’s called ‘coffee.’ If it’s Cafe Latte--\$4.50. You

want cinnamon in your coffee? Ask for cinnamon in your coffee? Ask for cinnamon in a coffee shop; they'll give you all the cinnamon you want. Do they ask you for more money because it's cinnamon? It's the same price for cinnamon in your coffee as for coffee without cinnamon--60 cents, that's it. But not in Starbucks. Over there it's cinnamonier--\$9.50.

You want a refill in a regular coffee shop, they'll give you all the refills you want until you drop dead. You can come in when you're 27 and keep drinking coffee until you're 98. And they'll start begging you: 'Here, you want more coffee, you want more, you want more?' Do you know that you can't get a refill at Starbucks. A refill is a dollar fifty. Two refills, \$4.50. Three refills, \$19.50. So for four cups of coffee--\$340.

And it's burnt coffee. It's burnt coffee. Starbucks, let's be honest about it. If you get burnt coffee in a coffee shop, you call a cop. You say, 'It's the bottom of the pot. I don't drink from the bottom of the pot.' But when it's burnt at Starbucks, they say, 'Oh, it's a blend. It's a blend. It's a special bean from Argentina....' The bean is in your head.

And there's no chair in those Starbucks. Instead, they have these high stools. You ever see those stools? You haven't been on a chair that high since you were two. Seventy-three-year-old Jews are climbing and climbing to get to the top of the chair.....Then you can't get off the chair.

...Am I exaggerating? Did you ever try to buy a cookie at Starbucks? Buy a cookie in a regular coffee shop. You can tear down a building with that cookie. And the whole cookie is 60 cents. At Starbucks, you're going to have to hire a detective to find that cookie, and it's \$9.50. And you can't put butter on it because they want extra...

If I said to you, 'I have a great idea for a business. I'll open a whole new type of a coffee shop. A whole new type. Instead of 60 cents for coffee, I'll charge \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50, and \$5.50. Not only that, I'll have no tables, no chairs, no water, no busboy, and you'll cleanup for 20 minutes after you're finished.

Would you say to me, 'That's the greatest idea for a business I ever heard! We can open a chain of these all over the world! No, you would put me right into a sanitarium. Starbucks can only get away with it because they have French titles for everything....'

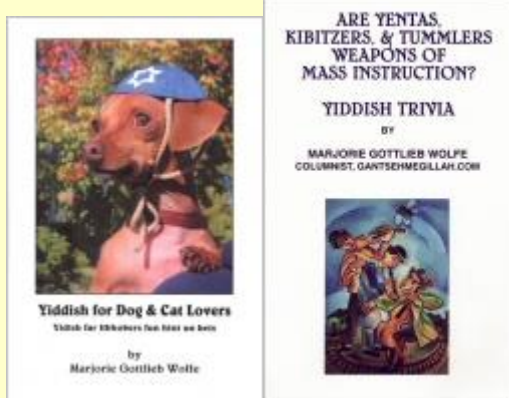
Source: "A Dissent On Starbucks" by Jackie Mason, The Weekly Standard, May 27, 1996.

Looking for MARJORIE WOLFE? She can be found “gliklekh vi der velt” (happy as can be) enjoying a cup of coffee at her local Dunkin’ Donuts in Plainview, New York. The senior discount used to be 10%, but it was recently reduced to 5%.

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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 Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: [MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com](http://MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com)**

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