

# The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

## “GROYS HEYM” OR THIRD “BEYBI”? THAT’S A FOOLISH QUESTION!

Note: The Yiddish words for “large home” are “groys heym.”  
“(oys) klaybn” means “to choose”  
“beybi” means “baby”  
“luksus” means “luxury”  
“klotz kashe” means “foolish question”

**by**  
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**Syosset, New York**

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach (“Shalom In The Home - Smart Advice for a Peaceful Life”) wrote:

Here’s the secret of life: You can do whatever you want.  
Our lives will never be judged by what we intend to happen,  
or even by our characters--they will be judged by the CHOICES  
WE HAVE MADE. And we are always free to CHOOSE whatever  
we wish.

Remember that your life is the sum of what you have done during  
the time you are given. Make sure that your CHOICES and  
actions reflect the generosity and exuberance with which you

would wish to be remembered.

DailyMail.com reported an “interesant” (interesting) story. Sarah Scott, a former teacher and stay-at-home mother of two, reported that in order to have a third (“driter”) child, her family would have to move into a smaller home (“klener heym”) and give up their timeshare. She wrote that she “swapped a baby for the perfect home”--a fully-loaded luxury home.

This controversial essay titled, “I Made A Huge Sacrifice To Buy My Dream Home,” caused a bitter backlash. Her personal woes did not go over well with many (“a sakh”) readers, especially those who are unable to have children.

More details: Ms. Scott says her “uterus literally aches for a third child.” She laments about only being able to afford one family “vakatsye” (vacation) a year, using a timeshare she and her husband purchased as newlyweds. (Note: Only 54% of Americans take a one-week vacation.) Her “budzhet” (budget) does include money for a ride-on lawnmower, garden supplies, a fenced yard for their “hunts” (dogs), and a generator.

After their purchased their “heym,” Saran and her husband had a change of heart about having “ander” (another) child. However, in order to do so, They would need to downsize and move out of their home. Mom would have to return to work. The child would be forced to go into childcare.

One commentator wrote, “You can’t have another child because the timing is wrong and you made a decision (“bashlus”) that your dream home was the better (“besser”) choice. Go cry me a god....river...You and your husband (“man”) made a conscious (“bavustzinik”) decision to put material (“materyal”) well-being first and that was your choice to make, but don’t act like it was some incredible act and that the sense of loss is so pervasive that it disrupts your life.”

Other comments:

“World’s tiniest violin is playing the saddest song for the saddest rich white lady. Boo-hoo.”

“You really have no idea how 99% of this country lives, do you?”

“Perhaps Sarah doesn’t know how lucky she is. One in eight couples has trouble conceiving. Lisa Miller (Belief Watch, Newsweek, March 24, 2008) says, “For Orthodox Jewish women, having children is critical to identity.” “Not having children is unheard of,” says Michelle Friedman, a NYC psychiatrist who sees many Orthodox Jews in her practice. “The continuity of the covenant is bedrock.”

A reader shares the following prayer for one who is experiencing infertility:

We have been praying for a child, G-d, but month after month our hopes have turned to disappointment. Bless us with a child, God. Help me, God. Let me conceive. Turn my envy into love, my despair into joy. Bless my doctors with wisdom and skill. Let the seed of life be planted and let it take root. Make me fertile, God. Be with me, God; watch over me, hear my prayer. Amen.

Another reader wrote, “It’s a ‘poor little me’ story that smacks of utter selfishness.” (Note: the Yiddish word for “selfish” is “egoistish.”)

And the writer recalls the teachings of Rabbi Kassel Abelson of Minneapolis. For the years of his rabbinate, Rabbi Abelson encouraged his congregants to have a “mitzvah baby”--that is one more child than they initially intended for the sake of the Jewish people. When his successor arrived in Minneapolis, people often introduced themselves as one of Rabbi Abelson’s “Mitzvah babies.” The congregation and the individuals took great pride in this title of honor. [from an article by Rabbi Jack Moline]

Listen, Sarah Scott: In Judaism, a big emphasis is placed on the family. Jews are commanded by G-d to “be fruitful and multiply.” You have a choice: Cut your “buzhet,” take a shorter/less expensive vacation, buy “bilik” (inexpensive) furniture, and you can have a third child. Perhaps you need to be reminded of the Yiddish expression:

“NAKHES FUN KINDER IZ TAYERE FUN GELT.”  
(Joy from children is more precious than money.)

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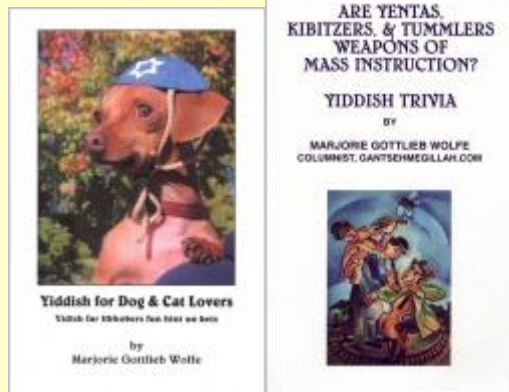
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**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:**



**"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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