

 **The Schmooze**
Stories with a Yiddish Twist

WANT TO “HONIK-KHOYDESH”* IN ISRAEL FOR \$1,500?

*The Yiddish word for “honeymoon” is “honik-khoydesh.”

by
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Syosset, New York

There’s a playground song that goes:

_____ and _____ (names of boy and girl)

Sitting in a tree

K-I-S-S-I-N-G.

First comes love,
then comes marriage,
then comes baby
in a baby carriage.

Note: In Yiddish a “baby buggy” is called a “vegele.”

Today’s newlyweds can change the lyrics to:

First comes love,
Then comes honeymoon Israel.

Some say that there’s no better place for a fairy-tale (“maysele”) honeymoon for the bride and Prince Charming than Walt Disney World Resorts. Others escape to Las Vegas or Acapulco, once the honeymoon destination for John and Jackie Kennedy. “The Knot” website says that Bora Bora, French Polynesia is “most romantic” with its crystal-clear waters, picturesque mountains and a coral reef swirling with colorful fish. It was recently voted on of the best islands in the world by US News and World Report.

Young couples can now get to honeymoon in Israel for 9 days for only \$1,500 - \$1,800, a tour that's worth close to \$10,000. The remainder is a gift from the Jewish community.

Honeymoon Israel is credited to Mike Wise and Avi Rubel. It comes at a time when about 58% of Jews who married in the past eight years have a non-Jewish partner. They feel that "yung" (young) marrieds are at a crucial moment in their Jewish development. "For the first time, whether they both are Jewish or if it is an interfaith/mixed ("mish-ziveg") couple, they are now confronting the deep questions about their futures and about their families' Jewish failures."

The program is open to participants 25 to 40 years-old. It ISN'T limited to heterosexual couples in which both ("beyde") partners are Jewish. Interfaith couples, same-sex partners, and committed life partners will be welcomed, as long as ONE OF THEM is Jewish. HMI will focus on Jews who AREN'T ACTIVELY ENGAGED with their communities; it will serve non-traditional couples.

Note: Couples with children are not permitted to bring children to Israel as part of HMI (Honeymoon Israel).

During the trip, participants will see the sights, sample the cuisines, and spend quality time ("kvalitet" time) with their partners. There will be tours of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, a hike up Masada, participation in Shabbat experiences, and some floating in the Dead Sea.

So, what is the application process? A written application and interview with a local partner in your home community are required. If there is no availability for you the first time, you can re-apply for a future trip. Honeymoon Israel will endeavor to notify all applicants at least 4 months prior to the trip.

According to Michael Schulson, Nov. 7, 2014, "If HMI takes off, it will extend that trend [subsidized Israel trips] to a whole new age demographic."

MARJORIE WOLFE has visited Israel three times. Two of her grandchildren have participated in Birthright, and another grandson will be participating in a new kind of Israel trip: Akiva. He'll witness a Jewish wedding, take a tour of a mikva, pay a visit to a Kaabalist, and participate in a "kumzits."

"Kumzits" is a word used to describe an evening gathering that Jews partake in. Everyone sits together--on the floor or on chairs--and sings spiritually moving songs. If taking place outdoors ("in droysn"), it is usually around a campfire. A similar gathering is called a "zitzen," or "zitsn," which is Yiddish for "sitting."

MARGE'S favorite quotes about Israel:

"Are the Israelis friendly? Don't ask! If you are lost in Israel and ask directions, they don't tell you. They take you, then you both get lost."

Dave Berg ("My Friend God")

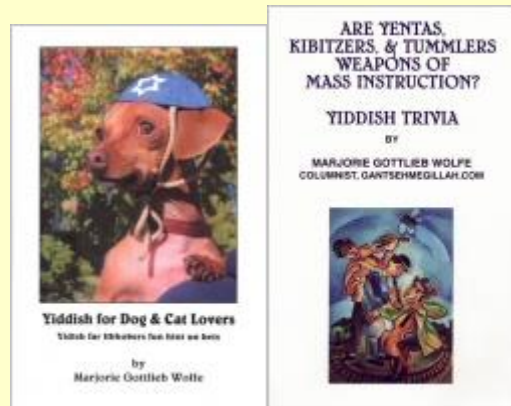
"I flew on a El Al airplane. The signs read: "No Smoking." "Fasten seat belts." "Eat, eat, look how bad you look!"

(Dave Berg)

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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

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