

The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

ONE ROBOCALL I WOULDN'T HANG UP ON

by
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Syosset, New York

Note: The Yiddish word meaning “to elect” is “dereyln.”
The word for “election” is “valn” and “the candidate” is “der kandidat.

It’s election time. Mitt Romney sent out anti-Trump robocalls on behalf of Marco Rubio and John Kasich—and against Donald Trump.

Many political campaigns regularly use “autodialed” and “prerecorded calls” for political contributions and voter (“veyler”) support.

According to some estimates, Trump has outpaced Clinton by 388 percent in political robocalls over the same period of time.

Many consumers received political spam calls from malicious actors. Since January 2016, political scam calls have increased 614 percent.

(Source: “Trump, Clinton Robocalls Rising as Election Day Looms,” by Daniel R. Stoller, Oct. 19, 2016, nba.com)
Robocalls are becoming frequent (“oft”). Perhaps you are unfamiliar with all the tips from the Better Business Bureau and Money Talks News about the handling of these calls. Here’s the Yiddish version:

1. Keep your number to yourself (“zikh”).
2. Tell companies you use to buzz off.
3. Hang up right away. Now (“itst”).

4. Don't press a number ("tsof")—You're actually making it worse ("erger"). By pressing a number, you are confirming that someone ("emetser") is actually re-spending to the call, and you will likely receive more ("mer") of them.
5. Get on the Do Not Call Registry. It's free ("umzist"). It's for both cell phones ("tselularer telefon") and landlines.
6. File a complaint ("tayne") with the FTC. That's how most Robocalling got banned in 2009.
7. Use a free service that blocks all robocalls. Nomorobo is a free tool ("makhshir"). You can use it to block robocalls. Nomorobo works by letting your phone ring once. It then identifies the caller and if it's a robocaller, it hangs up.
8. Block political calls. Since politicians aren't trying to sell ("farkoyf.n") you anything, their calls are excluded from the do-not-call rules. (Source: "8 Tips to Stop Annoying Robocalls" by Brandon Ballinger, Money Talks News)

Mel Brooks is known as the short, funny Jewish guy who has made a string of memorable movies. He's a film director, producer, screenwriter and actor ("aktyor"). Would you believe that Mel Brooks did robocalls for his nephew, who is running as a State Senator? This is the same man who said, "My job is to go out and entertain the most people possible."

This was the message on his 20,000 robocalls: (Note: The Yiddish has been added by the writer.)

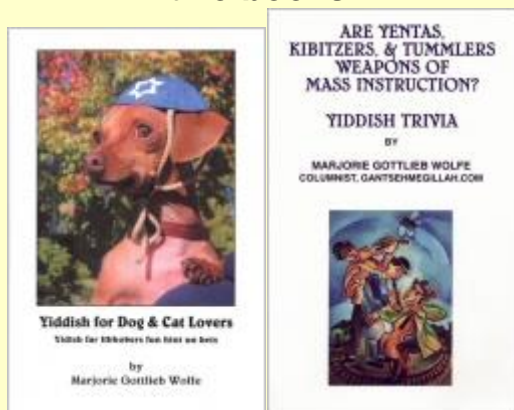
Hello! This is Mel Brooks. Yes, it REALLY is Mel Brooks. Although my real name is Melvin Kaminsky, I'm calling you on behalf of my nephew; actually my great nephew, Todd Kaminsky, who is running for reelection as your State Senator. He's not only smart ("klug") and talented ("talantirt"), but he's absolutely honest ("orntlekh")—which is pretty rare ("zeltn") for people in my family ("mispokhe"). Now the election is this Tuesday ("dinstik"), so write it down. Mel Brooks says: Vote for Todd Kaminsky on November 8th! Did you write it down? Good. OK. Do me a favor ("toyve"). Do Long Island a favor. Vote for Todd Kaminsky on Tuesday, November 8th. WRITE IT DOWN AGAIN.

Kaminsky is facing Republican Christopher McGrath, a Hewlett (Long Island) attorney ("advokat"). McGrath responded in a statement that cited two Brooks films:

“Todd Kaminsky had to get a robocall from Uncle Mel, it’s pretty clear his campaign is having ‘High Anxiety.’ My campaign is ‘Blazing Saddles ’til Tuesday. This is no laughing matter.”

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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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