

The Schmooze

Stories with a Yiddish Twist

A “MUSEY” *OF BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

*The Yiddish word for “museum” is “musey.”
“Tsebrakhn sheykhus” means “a broken relationship.”

by
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“Two words. Three vowels. Four consonants. Seven letters. It can either cut you open to the core and leave you in ungodly pain or it can free your soul and lift a tremendous weight off your shoulders. The phrase is: It’s over.”

Maggi Richard

Rabbi Elliot R. Kukla (“Wholeness of a Broken Heart”) wrote, “True repair begins when we acknowledge the impact of broken relationships on this planet.”

Dudley Rutherford (“God Has an App for That”) writes, “Relationships can elicit overwhelming (“ovuervelming”) joy, such as the special bond between parent and child or the enduring love between a husband and a wife. However, the breakdown of relationships - seen across the ages and across the world - can cause unbearable devastation. Couples divorce, family members become estranged (“estreynjd”), siblings fight, and long term friendships dissolve bitterly.”

And James Pittman (the Discovery Series, RBC Ministries, cloudfront.net) wrote, “Unless you live by yourself on a remote island (“vayt inzl”), you know all too well the pain of broken relationships. Even the best of friendships can go sour. Marriages have bad days. Co-workers can turn the office into a battlefield...Families explode (“oyfraysn”) because of

unkind words. Neighbors argue about barking dogs. The problem is of epidemic (“epidemye”) proportions. It is a greater threat to our well-being than influenza, cancer, or heart disease.”

Hollywood, California has “altsding”--everything! The Hollywood Wax Museum. The Hollywood Bowl Museum. The Museum of Death (located along Hollywood Boulevard “Where the stars End and the Darkness Begins”). There’s even a new museum called “The Museum of Broken Relationships.” This is the second location. The original is in Zagreb, Croatia.

Olinka Vistica, curator of the museum, said, “There is something precious in breakups.” Amanda Vandenberg, assistant director, talks about physical momentos (“moumants”) that one keeps long after the relationships is over. They could be a pair of blue jeans, a vintage cheerleader outfit, teddy bears, photographs, old T-shirts, and half-empty (“halb leydik”) cologne bottles. Some are quirky. One woman sent her wedding dress in a jar.

Next to each of the 100 items on display is a description by the donor. This might even be a cathartic experience.

“Cholileh!” (God forbid! Perish the thought!) So far, no one has displayed the shardz of glass/broken pieces from their wedding ceremony, as it symbolizes the absolute finality of the marital covenant. Nor have we seen a receipt from a one-week honeymoon at the Concord Hotel, with its 2,000 acres of buildings and grounds, 1,250 guest rooms, outdoor swimming pool, and 3,000 seat nightclub with comedian George Burns performing. And can be expect to see a FAILED “Matchmaker Matchmaker” ad from The Forward, which reads:

STILL HOME ALONE? Retired, financially secure, former corporate head hunter, good conversationalist Ready to enjoy life again and explore diverse cultural attractions. Seeks Jewish widow or divorcee in her 70s, with car, for dating, friendship and good conversation. Don’t delay. Life is too short. WILL PAY FOR GAS.

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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?
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