

The Schmooze

Stories with a Yiddish Twist

HILLARY CLINTON APPEARS TO BE GETTING TALLER: IS THIS A “BUBBEH MEISSEH”?*

*The Yiddish words “bubbeh meisseh” or “Bobe-mayse” means “old wive’s tale” or a “far-fetched story.”

The Yiddish word for “taller” is “hekher”; “heykh” means “height.”

by
Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe



Syosset, New York

Robert Quillen said, “As we grow older, our bodies get shorter and our anecdotes longer.” Eda Suzanne (“Retired Not Expired”) wrote about her experience at a doctor’s office:

“What are you looking for?” the nurse asked me as I searched the floor of the examining room.

“When you measured me, you told me I lost a half an inch,” I said. “I came in here five-foot four. The missing half inch has to be here...somewhere. My pants aren’t dragging on the floor.”

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton’s height are most popular Google searches. Some of the queries about the political candidates are also quite unique. One unusual (“umgevyntlekh”) question was, “How tall is Hillary Clinton?”

Two recent headlines:

FORGET POLLS: IS HILLARY RISING ON HEIGHT CHART?

Jay Mathews, The Washington Post, Sept. 25, 2015

HILLARY HAD 'SECRET FACE-LIFT'
Emily Smith. New York Post, Page Six, Sept. 29, 2015

Are we “machen a tsimmes” (making a fuss over nothing) regarding the height of presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton?

Mrs. Clinton will be 69 years old on Inauguration Day in 2017, making her one of the oldest (“eltst”) presidents in U. S. history if she wins the race. Former President, Ronald Reagan, was older--by 8 months.

She said, “I’m aware I may not be the youngest candidate in this race, but I have one advantage: I’ve been coloring my hair for years. They are not going to see me turn white (“vays”) in the White House--and you’re also not going to see me shrink from a fight.”

(Source: Annual “Day in Blue” luncheon for the South Carolina Democratic Women’s Caucus)

BTW, Hillary put part of Bergdorf Goodman on lockdown recently to get a \$600 haircut at the swanky John Barrett Salon. They ushered her through a side entrance on the Fifth Avenue store. Staff closed off one side of Bergdorf’s so Hillary could come in privately to get her hair done. An elevator bank was shut down so she could ride up alone (“aleyn”). Clinton regularly sees salon owner, John Barrett, who charges regular mortals \$600 for a cut and blow-dry. Hair color (“kolir”) can cost an extra \$600.

(Source: New York Post, 7/29/15)

Hillary was 5’ 5” tall. Now she says she’s 5-foot-7 inches. Is she having a growth spurt? People tend to lose 1 - 3 inches of their height during a lifetime. (The writer used to be 5’ 6 1/2” and at her last physical, her doctor said she was 5’ 5” tall).

Does height have an effect on our employment? Politics? Studies show height discrimination: short people are paid less than taller people. Someone who is 6 feet tall earns, on average, nearly \$166,000 more during a 30-year career than someone who is 5 feet 5 inches—even controlling for gender, age and weight. Some view tall people as more leader-like and authoritative.

If we stood the candidates side by side, would we vote for the taller one? Wikipedia reports that the public has a preference for taller candidates.

Let’s examine some statistics:

Abraham Lincoln--the tallest U. S. President--was 6’ 4.”
The shortest was James Madison, at 5’ 4.”

Bill Clinton is 6' 2."

George Bush is 6' 2."

Richard Nixon was 5' 11 1/2."

Jimmy Carter is 5' 9 1/2."

Barack Obama is 6' 1"

Bernie Sanders is 6 feet tall."

Carly Fiorina is 5' 6"

Donald Trump and Jeb Bush say they are 6-3. Is Trump exaggerating?

Rand Paul is 5' 8."

Was Patrick Rothfuss correct when he said, "We all know that when the lights are out all women are the same height"? (Source: "The Wise Man's Fear")

Ed Klein wrote in "Unlikeable," that Bill Clinton wanted Hillary to get a face-lift. Klein claims that she asked a well-known plastic surgeon to go to her home in Chappaqua, NY, where he set up a "mini operating room" in her home with the latest medical equipment.

What work was done? Her cheeks were lifted; her wrinkles and lines Botoxed. She also had work done on her eyes ("oygn"), neck ("nakn") and forehead ("shtern").

Emily Smith says that "Clinton herself has laughed off attacks on her appearance. All our presidents come into office looking so vigorous ("kraftik"). And then we watch their hair grow grayer and grayer."

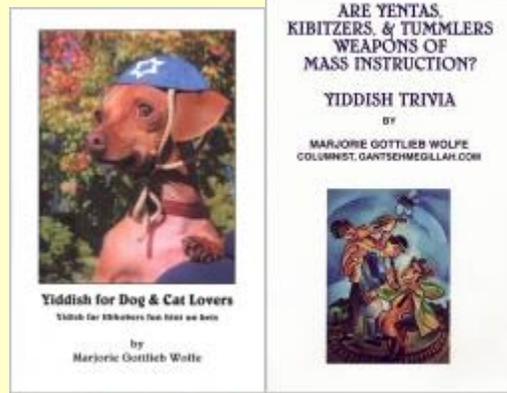
MARJORIE WOLFE agrees with the following Yiddish proverb:

"Me darf nit zayn boykh tsu zayn groys."
(You don't have to be tall to be great.)

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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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