

## THANKSGIVING WITH “BOBE”

The Yiddish words for “family affairs” are “mishpocheh-zachen”

By



MARJORIE GOTTLIEB WOLFE

Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. Erma Bombeck was asked, “What’s a good time to serve Thanksgiving dinner?” Her reply: “Thanksgiving dinners take 18 hours to prepare. They are consumed in 12 minutes. Half times take 12 minutes. This is not a coincidence.”

Several friends forwarded me a piece titled, “Thanksgiving at Grandma’s.” This is the Yiddish version.

### GRANDMA’S INVITATION (“DI BOBE’S” INVITATION)

Dear Family (“mishpocheh”):

I am not dead yet. Thanksgiving is still important (“vikhtik”) to me. If being in my Last Will and Testaments (“di tsavoe”) is important to you, then you might want to consider (“batrakhm”) being with me for my favorite holiday.

Dinner (“mitog”) is at 2:00. NOT (“NISHT”) 2:15. “NISHT” 2:05.  
TWO (“TSVEY”) 2:00.

Arrive late/tardy (“farshpetikt”) and you get what’s left over.

Last year, that moron (“shmegegi”/”idiyot”), Marshall, fried a turkey (“indik”) in one of those contraptions and practically burned the deck off the house (“hoyz”).

This year (“yor”), the only peanut oil (“fistashke boyml”) used to make the meal will be from the secret scoop of peanut butter (“fistashke puter”) I add to the carrot soup (“di mer zup”).

Jonathan, your last new wife (“froy”) was an idiot (“shmegegi”). You don’t arrive (“onkumen”) at someone’s house on Thanksgiving needing to use the oven (“der ovyn”) AND the stove. Honest to God, I thought you might have learned (“lernen”) after two wives - date them longer and save us all the agony (“di yesurim”) of another divorce (“get”).

Now the house rules are slightly different this “yor” because I have decided that 47% of you don’t know how to take care of nice things: Lenox china, Waterford glasses, Lladro pieces, Black Knight Bavarian china, and hand-made Bunka--Japanese needlepoint).

Paper (“papier”) plates and red Solo cups might be bad (“shlekht”) for the environment, but I’ll be gone soon (“bald”) and that will be YOUR PROBLEM to deal with.

#### HOUSE RULES:

1. The University (“universitet”) of Texas no longer plays Texas A&M. The television (“di televisye”) stays OFF during the meal (“der moltsayt”). And don’t even think of getting on Facebook. Yes, this old (“alt”) lady knows that Facebook has 1.32 billion users! I’m not one of them!
2. The “no cans for kids” rule still exists. We are using 2 liter bottles because your “kinder” still open a third can (“driter”) before finishing the first two (“tsvey”). Parents (“tate-mame”) can fill a child’s cup when it is empty (“pust”). All of the cups have a “nomen” (name) on them and I’ll be paying close attention to refills.
3. Chloe, last “yor” we were at Trudy’s house and I looked the other way when your Jell-O salad (“salat”) showed up. This “yor,” if Jell-O “salat” comes in the front door (“dir fornt tir”), it will go right out the back door with the garbage (“der opfal”). Save yourself some time, honey. You’ve never (“keyn mol nit”) been a good cook (“kukh”) and you shouldn’t bring something that wiggles more than you. Buy something from the bakery (“di bekeray”).
4. Grandmothers give grandchildren a cookie (“kikh”) and candy (“tsukerl”). That is a fact (“fakt”) of life. Your children (“kinder”) can eat healthy (“gezunt”) at YOUR home. At my home (“mayn heym”), they can eat whatever they like as long as they finish it. Clean Plate Club philosophy!

5. I cook with bacon (“beykon”) and bacon grease (“beykon fets”). That’s nothing new. Your being a vegetarian doesn’t change the fact that stuffing without “beykin” is like egg (“ey”) salad without eggs (“aier”). Even the green bean (“grin bebl”) casserole has a little bacon (“a bisl beykon”) grease in it. That’s why it tastes so good/delicious (“batamt”). Not eating “beykon” is just not natural (“natirlekg”). And as far as being healthy...look at me. I’ve outlived almost everyone (“yeder eyner”) I know.
6. Salad (“salat”) at Thanksgiving is a waste of space.
7. I do not like cellphones (“tselularer telefons”). Leave them in the car (“der oyto”).
8. I do not like video cameras. There will be 32 people here. I am sure you can capture lots of memories without the camera (“der aparat”) pointed at me.
9. Being a mother (“mutter”) means you have to actually pay attention to the kids. I have nice /pretty (“shane”) things and I don’t put them away just because company (“di gest”) is coming over. Mary, watch your kids and I’ll watch my things/knick-knacks (“tchatchkes”).
10. Rhonda, a cat (“kats”) that requires a shot twice (“tsvey mol”) a day is a cat that has lived too many lives. I think staying “heym” to care for the cat is your way of letting me know that I have lived too many lives, too. I can live with that. Can you?
11. Words mean things. I say what I mean. Let me repeat/reiterate: (“iberkhazern”): You don’t need to bring (“brenge”) anything. Anything whatever. And if I did tell you to bring something, bring it in quantity, I said. Really, this doesn’t have to be difficult (“shver”). Just remember this expression: “Vu fleysh un fish iz a freylekher tish.” (Lots of food creates a festive mood.)
12. Domino’s and cards are better (“besser”) than anything that requires a battery (“baterye”) or an on/off switch. That was true when you were kids and it’s true now that you have kids.
13. Showing up for Thanksgiving guarantees a present (“matone”) at Christmas (or Hanukkah). Not (“nisht”) showing up guarantees a card

("kard") that may or may not be signed.

In memory ("zikhorn") of your Grandfather ("zeyde") the back fridge ("fridzhider") will be filled with beer ("bir"). Drink until it is gone. I prefer wine ("vayn") anyway. But one from each family ("mishpokhe") needs to be the designated driver ("balagoleh").

I really mean all ("alts") of the above.

Love You.

Grandma

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MARJORIE WOLFE's entire family is spending Thanksgiving with her middle son, Jonathan, and his family in Cos Cob, CT.

She says,

"Simkhes darf men makhn, tsores kumen aleyn in hoyz arayn." (Celebrations have to be made; troubles come into the house all by themselves.)