

## THIS THANKSGIVING, LET'S BE "DANKBAR"--THANKFUL

*Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe*



*Syosset, New York*

As a Jewish parent and grandparent, I have so much to be thankful for: "Meshpocheh" (family). The God Squad (Rabbi Marc Gellman). 31 Jewish members of Congress, 30 Democrats and one independent, Sen. Bernie Sanders. The Smithsonian, for taking Joan Rivers' file of 100,000 jokes. The National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst. A Dutch researcher who has come up with a mobile to hang over cribs. It looks like a stuffed toy but really is a camera. Every time "dos oyfele" (the infant) touches the "toy," it takes a picture of "dos kind" (the child), which can be automatically posted on Twitter and Facebook.

Thanks to "On Language" by Philologos (The Forward). Jon Stewart ("Rosewater") for saying, "But shooting in Iran, you can't get nice kosher food. The hummis is unbelievable, but there's no good bagel and a schmear." "Yidlife Crisis"--the first modern Yiddish sitcom.

The TV series, "Everybody Loves Raymond." Episode #181. Robert enters Frank and Marie's living room, slipping, falling, and finally landing on their holiday shopping bags.

Robert: "What am I sitting in?"

Marie: "Eggs. And egnog."

Robert: "And what is very sharp?"

Frank: "That might be the menorah."

Robert: "The menorah?"

Frank: "It was a big sale."

Valyum (Valium). Rabbi Sam Silver who defined "shiksa" as an electric shaver for women. Tovah Feldshuh. Mandy Patinkin.

He says, "Life's too short as it is. I'm a cancer survivor and a lot of survivors say how, in ways, it has the greatest gift of their lives--it woke them up to the gift of life. Nobody gets to live forever...So don't miss a second of it. Not a moment. And if you do--and we all have--then don't miss the next one." Camp Ramah.

Kitchen Aid wall ovens with a Sabbath Mode feature. Glatt kosher kitchens on ships and kosher food served at Walt Disney restaurants. The Academy of Continuing Education, JCC Palm Beaches, for their courses titled, “Bring Back My Smith-Corona,” and “In Defense of JAPS and JAMS-- Jewish American Princesses and Jewish American Mothers” by instructor, Joyce Saltman.

Billy Crystal (“700 Sundays”) for his definition of Yiddish: “a combination of German and phlegm. This is a language of coughing and spitting; until I was eleven, I wore a raincoat.” Fran Drescher (AKA “Fran Fine”)...

Five years of romantic suspense was terrible for our hypertension.  
“Mis-tah Sheffieeeeeeeeeeeeld!”

Lenore Skenazy’s “News Quiz” in The Forward. She explained the term “bageling,” which is the process by which one Jew on the street subtly recognizes another. Elizabeth Alpern’s article titled, “Cures for the Common Cold from Maimonides to the Shtetl.” She discusses “guggle-muggle,” a milk and alcohol based drink, or the Jewish “echinacea, cupping (“bankes”), Jewish penicillin (chicken soup), and eating garlic cloves or onion when a sore throat signaled the beginning of a cold.

Klez-Kamp. Courses titled, “The Mystery And Magic of The ‘Bubbe Mayseh!’ and “I Do, I Did, Wow--Did I!”--the legal aspects of separation, divorce, and remarriage. “Haikus For Jews” by David M. Bader:

New, at Oys “R” Us!  
Hypochondriac Barbie  
has a gout attack.

Pasken & Rabbis “Oy Vey Iz Mirachino Cherry” ice cream. Julian Sinclair’s (“Let’s Schmooze”) definition of a “shiddukh”: “This is when you decide that your husband’s business partner’s daughter really ought to go out with your extremely eligible, inexplicably unmarried nephew...There’s even a tradition which says that if you make three successful shiddukhim, you guarantee your place in the world to come.

“Maven”--the name of a Jewish Internet search engine. Blue Card Fund—a nonprofit organization that provides financial support to Holocaust survivors. They help over 2,000 survivors annually.

Thanks to Irving Picard, the court-appointed trustee in charge of returning funds to victims of Bernie Madoff’s massive Ponzi scheme. He has seized another \$500 million, tipping the amount of recovery past \$10 BILLION.

Our appreciation to Holtermann’s Bakery on Staten Island, who still makes a Charlotte Russe--that simple round of sponge cake shoved into a paper cup fitted with a push-up

bottom, then topped with whipped cream and a maraschino cherry. And to Bubby's Bakery, Gansevoort St., NYC, for its "Cr-nish"--a croissant, plus a knish. And to Kenny Gomberg, who runs Brooklyn's last remaining seltzer bottling plant. "Der prayz" (the price)? \$35 for 10 bottles.

Devan Sipher, who wrote "6 Things I Learned Writing About Weddings for The New York Times": A RECEPTION IS A RECEPTION IS A RECEPTION. "If you're in the midst of planning a wedding party, trust me when I say no one will remember the color of the napkins.

Every wedding ceremony ("tseremonye") has a personal element unique to the bond of the two people getting married, but receptions tend to blend ("tsenoyfgism") together. Some are fancier. Some are quirkier. But once the jackets are off and the guests are boogying down on the dance floor, the Rockefellers don't look much different from the Rubinsteins. And I can say that with assurance because I covered two Rockefeller weddings--and one of them married a Rubinstein."

Thanks to Manuel Schonhorn for his letter to the Metropolitan Diary 4/12/12:

Dear Diary:

My wife, who just mae me some hot boiled chickpeas, got tired of my nostalgia and demanded that I write.

I grew up in Brooklyn--Bed-Sty, Bushwick, Williamsburg--in the '30s, and remember during the winter years, usually a little Jewish man pushing a tin cart, with some coals heating it, and selling 'boiled chickpeas' in a small brown bag for a penny.

Does anyone have these memories left?"

Fashion Faux Pas: Obama wore a tan suit ("kostyum") to a press conference, sparking a national debate about whether it's appropriate to discuss foreign policy while wearing earth ("erd") tones.

Thanks to colleges which offer fascinating courses: "Rhetoric 24. Arguing With Judge Judy: Popular "Logic" on TV Judge Shows." The course description for this University of California at Berkeley is as follows:

"Identifying popular logical fallacies on Judge Judy and The People's Court and discussing why such strategies are so widespread. Students who are interested in logic, argument, TV, and American popular culture will probably be interested in this course."

Thanks to Morty and Lee, Long Island residents, for their Swiffer commercials.

“Der dank” (thanks) to the Mezuzah Doctor, Moshe Gantz. This doctor makes house calls to inspect, repair, and install your mezuzah. (Halacha requires you to check your mezuzot every 3 1/2 years.)

Thanks to Chava Hershkovitz, Israel’s first “Miss Holocaust Survivor.”

The contest was billed as a celebration of life and was open to women between 74 to 90 years of age. Nearly 300 women from across Israel registered for the competition.

The 14 finalists all wore “shvarts” (black) dresses as they described their memories of W.W. II.

Hatzolah--the Hasidic volunteer ambulance service.

Yesh Tikva, a support group of Hasidic women who have suffered from Lyme disease. They share medical and emotional resources and spread awareness about the disease, ensuring the Hasidic city dwellers understand the danger of tick-born illness and how best to protect themselves. (Note: The Catskills, which comprise Sullivan, Ulster, Delaware and Greene counties, is known as “tick central.” Between 2007 and 2011 there were 256 reported cases of Lyme’s disease in Sullivan County and the vast majority of incidents are not reported.)

Thanks to Michael R. Bloomberg for helping Yiddish to remain alive. He has given billions of dollars to charity via Bloomberg Philanthropies. He wrote in the New York Times (4/26/14), “All the billionaires added together are, as they’d say, BUPKIS compared to the amount of money that government spends. It’s trillions of dollars. Private philanthropy can’t do that.”

Thanks for the sense of humor of the congregant who hung the following sign outside of his synagogue:

RESERVED PARKING...RABBI

All violators will give drasha this coming Shabbos.

Thanks to those families who celebrate “Bark Mitzvahs.” They are emerging as one of the latest crazes in dog-lovers circles. When the dog turns 13, they hold a “simcha.” As we say, “MUZZLE-TOV!”

[Thanks to moms all over the world]

The ‘New York’ Magazine Competition, competition No. 25, in which you were asked for a contemporary verse, unbound by taste, in the manner of Theodor Seuss Geisel.

The winner: DAbruzzoTweets:

I cannot go for drinks tonight.  
I cannot “throw it down.”  
I cannot play in any way.  
My mother is in town.

And a big thanks to the Jewish mom who advised her unmarried 40-year-old daughter: “Anyone who says on his website, ‘enjoys long walks,’ means one thing: His car was repossessed. “GOT HOT NISH GEKENT ZAYN IBERAL, HOT ER BASHAFEN MAMES.” (God couldn’t be everywhere, so He created mothers.)

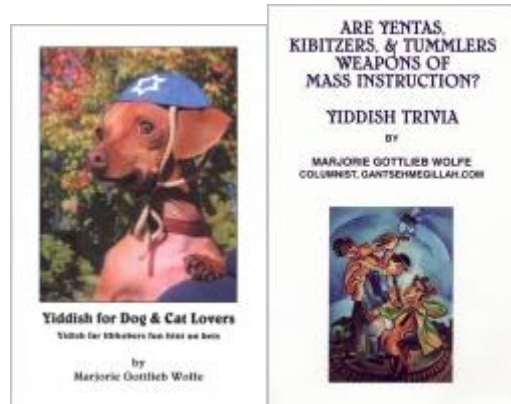
“Yiddish Yoga - Ruthie’s Adventures in Love, Loss, and the Lotus Position” by Lisa Grunberger. Grunberger discusses the Garudasana: Braided Challah Pose. “Garada is a real pretzel of a pose. As I shift my weight onto my right leg (it’s my stronger side) and wrap my left foot over my right thigh, and then wrap my right arm over my left arm, suddenly I feel like a braided challah loaf.” After class she stops at her favorite bakery and salutes the wall of braided challah loaves, shiny with egg wash, sprinkled with poppy seeds. She says, “My body feels stretched and kneaded, like these beautiful loaves that will adorn Shabbat dinner tables.”

Calvin Klein’s perfume, “Bubbie.” Who can resist Bubbie’s subtle blend of Ben-Gay and meat balls. Company executives explained that the product is designed to capitalize on the much sought after 80 (“akhtsik”) female Jewish market and they have even enlisted many seniors to assist in the advertising and marketing campaigns. Ethel Sapperstein said, “Bubbie is perfect for just lounging around the house, playing cards, or for meeting that special someone for dinner at the Early Bird Buffet. No senior can resist Bubbie’s subtle blend of Ben-Gay and mint chocolate.”

:-) [www.aish.com/jewlariou](http://www.aish.com/jewlariou) FunnyStuff

MARJORIE WOLFE wishes all of her readers a Happy Thanksgiving.

**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](http://MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com)

NU, what are you waiting for? Order the book!



[Yiddish Stuff](#)  
[Jewish Humor](#)  
[Schmooze News](#)  
[More Majorie Wolfe](#)

[Principle](#)  
[Jewish Stories](#)  
[All Things Jewish](#)  
[Jewish Communities of the World](#)

Site Designed and Maintained by  
Haruth Communications