

The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

GOOD FINANCIAL CENTS

Some terms:

“Ongeshtopt mit gelt” - filthy rich

“Reich” - rich

“G’vir” - rich man

“Ribi-fish, gelt ah-fen tish” - Cash only; don’t ask for credit

“Billik” - Cheap (price)

by
Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe



Syosset, New York

People have been worrying about money for years
In my retirement years I depend on financial advice from
my Wealth Management Advisor/Portfolio Manager at
Merrill Lynch. (He just happens to be my son!) I also
check periodically with Douglas Goldstein’s website,
“Goldstein on Gelt.”

I was also quite pleased to read that the new head of
investment banking for Asia Pacific at UBS Group AG, 45-
year-old Sam Kendall, took two weeks of paternity leave

after his wife gave birth to twins. Banks in recent years have focused more on work-life balances issues, especially as other industries such as technology have been touting impressive family benefits. (“A Banker Who Took His Paternity Leave” by Julie Steinberg, WSJ, 9/3/16)

Molly Katz (“Jewish as a Second Language,”), says that we should count on hearing these words:

- . “You get what you pay for” (said accusingly to the person responsible for buying an item, whatever the cost, that is just worn out or broken)
- . “You’ll have to fall back on” (said while pushing every student in the family toward a teaching degree, whether the kid is interested in ballet, architecture, or whaling)

There’s a fascinating story about the opening of the original Broadway show, “Fiddler on the Roof,” starring Zero Mostel. (The Yiddish has been added.)

“Before the show opened, composer, Jerry Bock, had called his friend and lawyer, Richard Ticktin, worrying about his finances. Could he afford to buy a brand-new refrigerator (“fridzhider”). Ticktin told him to wait (“vartn”) and see how Fiddler did. “I’d seen the wild (“vild”) enthusiasm at two previews,” said Ticktin, “but did I know there would be three national companies following the Broadway company? Did I know it would become an international sensation with money flowing in all directions? I certainly did not. So I said, ‘Let’s hold off.’”

“Then, the day after the opening, I walked down the street where it was playing and saw for the first time in my experience lines that curved around the block. I called Jerry and I said, ‘You know that refrigerator? You can go buy it.’”

Source: “Tradition” by Barbara Isenberg

And then there’s this “vunderlekh” story:

A “yung” college (“kaledz”) co-ed came running in tears to her father. “Dad, you gave me some terrible financial advice!” “I did? What did I tell you?” said the dad.

“You told me to put my money in that big (‘groisseh’) bank in Washington and now that big bank is in trouble. They’ve got ‘tsuris.’”

“What are you talking about? That’s one of the largest banks in the state,” he said. “There must be some mistake.”

“I don’t think so,” she sniffed. “They just returned one of my checks with a note saying, ‘Insufficient Funds.’”

Our comedians do a magnificent (“glentsndik”) job amusing us with financial jokes:

Jimmy Kimmel: “The CEO of Starbucks sent the message to Starbucks employees yesterday, instructing them to be sensitive to customers who might be feeling stressed out about the [stock] market. I like that the place that charges \$5 for a cup of coffee is concerned about our finances.”

“Bill Gates alone lost \$3.2 billion on the stock market yesterday. To put that in perspective, that’s like a regular person losing a dollar in a vending machine.”

Jay Leno: “The stock market crashed this week, but market analysts are not calling it a crash. They’re calling it a ‘correction.’ Oh, shut up! A correction. You never hear that at NASCAR, ‘Oh, we had a fiery correction on turn three. Four men are dead.’”

Billy Crystal: “It’s money. I remember it when I was single.”

Crystal tells this story in “700 Sundays”:

Nutty goes in to get his hair cut. He says to the haircut cat, “How much is a haircut?”

He says, “Well, you know, a haircut is two dollars.”

He says, “Wow, two dollars. That’s a little heavy for a haircut. How much is a shave?”

“Well, you know, Zutty, a shave is just a dollar.”

“And Zutty said....” as I pointed to my hair

“Okay, baby. Shave it.”

Henny Youngman: “Someone stole all my credit cards, but I won’t be reporting it. The thief spends less than my wife did.”

“I’ve got all the money I’ll ever need, if I die by four o’clock.”

Bill Vaughn: “Economists report that a college education

adds many thousands of dollars to a man's lifetime income—which he then spends sending his son to college.”

MARJORIE WOLFE recently failed Dave Barry's Money quiz. Two of the questions are shown below:

How do you plan to finance your retirement?

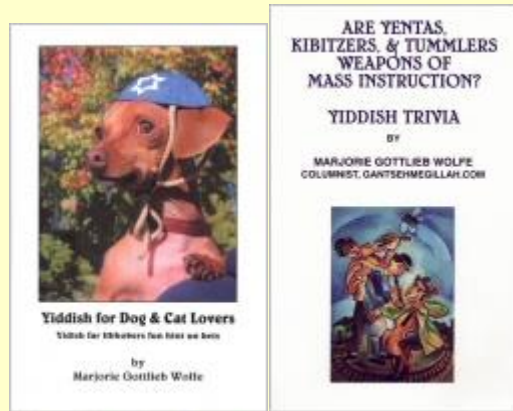
- a) Savings
- b) Social Security
- c) Sale of kidneys

What does Dave Barry say is the only proven way to make money in the stock market?

- a) Buy low, sell high
- b) Consult an investment firm
- c) Research and select the ten stocks that have performed the best over the last 25 years, get in a time machine, go back 25 years, buy those stocks.

| Search for Stories Beginning with the Letter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>A</u> | <u>B</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>E</u> | <u>F</u> | <u>G</u> | <u>H</u> | <u>I</u> | <u>J</u> | <u>K</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>M</u> |
| <u>N</u> | <u>O</u> | <u>P</u> | <u>Q</u> | <u>R</u> | <u>S</u> | <u>T</u> | <u>U</u> | <u>V</u> | <u>W</u> | | <u>Y</u> | <u>Z</u> |

Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tummlers Weapons of Mass
Instruction? Yiddish
Trivia." To order a copy, go to her
website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com**

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