

# The Schmooze

## Stories with a Yiddish Twist

### **PARTLY CLOUDY FORECAST...HALF A NICE DAY\***

\*Taken from Farmers Almanac, 1997 edition, written by WeatherCaster Channel 12, Norm Dvoskin, Long Island, New York

The Yiddish word for “cloudy”/”overcast” is “farvolknt” or “khmarne.”  
“Der climat” means “the climate” and “der veter” means “the weather.”  
“Yikes, it’s cold out there!” is “Tish: Gevalt, s’iz kalt!”  
“der vinter” means “the winter.”  
“der harbst(n)” means “autumn.”  
“varemen zikh” means “to warm oneself up.”

*by*  
**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe**



**Syosset, New York**

A “veter” story: It was autumn, and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if “der vinter” was going to be “kalt” or mild. Since he was a new Indian Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets, and when he looked at the sky, he couldn’t tell what “der veter” was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that “der vinter” was indeed going to be “kalt” and that the members of the village should collect wood (“holts”) and be prepared. But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea (“idee”).

He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service, and asked,

“Is the coming ‘vinter’ going to be ‘kalt’?”

“It looks like this ‘vinter’ is going to be quite ‘kalt,’ indeed,” the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even “mer” (more) wood in order to be prepared.

A week later, he called The National Weather Service again.

“Is it going to be a very ‘kalt’ winter?”

“Yes,” the man replied, It’s going to be a very ‘kalt’ winter”

The Chief again went back to the people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. They collected “a sakh mer”--a lot more.

Two weeks later, he called The National Weather Service again. “Are you absolutely sure that the ‘vinter’ is going to be very ‘kalt’?”

“Absolutely,” the man replied. “It’s going to be one of the coldest winters ever.”

“How can you be so sure?” the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, “The Indians are collecting wood like crazy.”

Weather forecasters are not always correct. Weather has endless combinations of surprises; it’s chaotic. In 2014, the 24 hour forecast is correct 94% of the time, according to @wxbradBlog, 5/19/14.

On August 28, 1992, The New York Times printed this correction:

The weather report misstated the New York City temperatures for Wednesday. The high temperature was 90, and the low was 72.

The report also misstated several other statistics about the day.

The mean temperature was 81, the number of degrees below normal for the year was 85, the precipitation was 0.13 inches, the precipitation total for August was 3.46 and the precipitation total for the year was 26.13.

Just recently, the newspaper headlines said, “Cuomo’s Snow Job.”

Gov. Cuomo blames forecasters over Buffalo-area snowstorms. Cuomo is fighting back against mounting criticism over the state’s response to the deadly upstate snowstorm - by blaming the weatherman.

“No one had an idea that it was going to be that much snow (“shney”) that fast,” Cuomo said during a tour of the Buffalo region. SEVEN FEET of snow fell and there were 13 deaths in the area.

“Snow coming down at the rate of about 5 inches AN HOUR. No one had an idea,” he said. “The weather service was off,” said Cuomo. There was so much snow that they didn’t know where to put it.

“Today” show weatherman, Al Roker, got heated over a weather-related snafu. When New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said that more snow fell in the city than had been predicted. Roker took to Twitter to contradict the mayor and criticize the city’s decision to keep schools open in the inclement weather (5 - 8 inches of snow fell during the morning commute). For that he’s sorry. He apologized for the comment that he said was a little “below the line.” He had written that his “LONG RANGE” Di Blasio forecast was ONE TERM. Some say that Al focuses more on entertainment (“farvaylung”) than providing weather forecasts.

Mayor Blasio said, “I respect Al Roker a lot, watched him on TV for many, many years. It’s a different thing to run a city than to give the weather on TV.” de Blasio said. He had just spoken with the National Weather Service.

“I respect all the meteorologists out there, but the one I respect the most is called the National Weather Service, and this did, and they just confirmed to us on the call before we came out to you, that this went faster and heavier than their projections last night.”

Roker followed up that de Blasio was throwing the Weather Service “under the school bus.” Roker said, “Mr. Mayor, I could never run NYC, but I know when it’s time to keep kids home from school.”

Perhaps what’s needed is a little humor from meteorologist, Norm Dvoskin. Dvoskin has been the weekend meteorologist for News 12 Long Island. We read on facebook: “In all this time, his forecasts have always been right about one thing--there’s some kind of weather every day.”

His credentials include a Master’s Degree in Meteorology from N.Y.U., the Seal of Approval for Television Weather casting, and past President of the Long Island/NYC branch of the American Meteorological Society. He says, “The first words in my vocabulary were possibly, probably and unusual.”

Dvoskin is the author of a “vunderlekh” book titled, “Weather Wit.” He claims “Even though we have access to sophisticated technology, weather forecasting is not an exact science. Many TV forecasters spend too much time looking at their computers instead of out the window.”

Norm says he has one goal - to resolve the issue of whether hail is the size of golf balls or ping pong balls.

[www.news12.com](http://www.news12.com)

Don't you just love these Dvoskin weather definitions:

Taxi Driver - A person to whom a rainy day is always fare weather.

Condensation - Much ado about dew.

Frost - Ice to meet ya.

Russian Meteorologist - Doppler Zhivago

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MARJORIE WOLFE leaves for Florida next week. She knows about the four seasons of Florida: Hot, hotter, summer and Christmas.

Her favorite "snowbird joke": A man and his wife are driving their Sonata across Florida and entered a town called Kissimmee. They noted the strange ("modne") spelling and tried to figure out how to pronounce it - KISS-a-me, kiss-a-ME?

They grew more perplexed as they drove into the town. Since they were hungry ("hungerik"), they pulled into a restaurant to get something to eat. At the counter, the man said to the waitress ("di kelnerin"), "My wife and I can't seem to figure out how to pronounce this place. Will you tell me where we are and say it very slowly so that I can understand?"

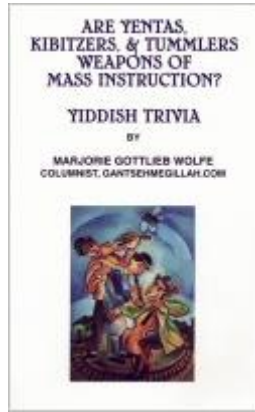
The woman looked at him and said, "Buuuurrngerr Kiiiinnng."

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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](http://MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com)

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