

Views

for openers

I'll Eat My Words

Two of my favorite things are food and words. To that end, I should like to present examples of how we include edible



items into our daily talk. If you are in a career, it is your bread and butter. When you get a promotion, milk it for all it's worth. Pay raises may ensue if your boss, the big cheese, recognizes your value and is brimming with the milk of human kindness. You both know you won't work for peanuts.

Mess with a bully (someone who would take candy from a baby) and you are toast. If you have insulted him, you may have to eat humble pie.

Whatever you do, do not egg him on.


If you are not a couch potato, you may find a task performed is easy as pie. You may even observe that doing it was "a piece of cake." Working with ease is your cup of tea.

If you know someone who is fond of only the basic food items, you'll know you are dealing with a "meat and potatoes man" — er, I meant person. Do not go bananas in having to cook for him; just remain as cool as a cucumber.

If a suggested plan seems to be questionable, you may think it sounds fishy. If you invest poorly, you may find

that the scheme was a "fine kettle of fish" and has left you in a pickle. Well, do not stew about it; realize you have bought a lemon and you will have little to show as the fruit of your labors.

To argue successfully, make sure you are not comparing apple to oranges. To avoid arguing, do not be one to spill the beans if you have been told of a secret enterprise.

Once you become aware of your propensity for food expressions, you are on the gravy train as a conversationalist. *B'tay avon* — good appetite. 



The Days are Getting Longer

I don't like living in a world where people don't have what they need.

I do like living in a world where people help others to get what they need.

Over the last couple of weeks, the community has filled Jewish Family Service up with its generosity. JFS' role is to spread this generosity throughout the community to the Chanukah and Christmas celebrators who don't have what they need.

This season, 850 people received that generosity from more than 500 generous donors. Generous individuals.

Generous families. Generous congregations. Generous workplaces. All "adopting" families.

Scooters and balls and games and jackets, and so many other familiar gift items. Wrapped beautifully. Walking around JFS' Adopt-A-Family "workshop," I noticed some paper towels. Then some kitty litter. Then some dishwashing liquid. More paper towels. This made me feel so sad and also so happy.

Whether we know it or not, acknowledge it or not, there are lots of families, right here in the Jewish community, not so far from our homes, that need paper towels and soap. And they don't just need help during these dark and cold months. Families need help in

April and July, too.

Jewish Family Service, our sister institutions and the Jewish community provide this light to help brighten others' darkness. All of us, if we are lucky enough to provide for ourselves, need to continue to bring this light to everyone.

As the days imperceptibly get longer, let us all commit to help our neighbors in the most dignified and respectful way we can. In December and April and July and every day.

I don't like living in a world where people don't have what they need.

I do like living in a world where people help others to get what they need.

— Perry Ohren, CEO
Jewish Family Service

Peters Joins Anti-Semitism Task Force

Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) joined the U.S. Senate

Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism.

Last year, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) and Sen. Jacky Rosen

(D-NV) launched the task force. The collaboration is the first of its kind in the U.S. Senate, serving as a corollary to the House of Representative's Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism.

"With evidence showing that anti-Semitism is on the rise, we are taking a stand against this disturbing ideology and violent acts of hatred," said Senators Rosen and Lankford. "We are proud to be joined by colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are committed to working together to prevent anti-Semitism before it starts, and to educate, explain and empower our communities to combat anti-Semitism."

Noah Arbit, founder and chair of the Michigan Democratic Jewish Caucus, said, "The establishment of the Senate's anti-Semitism task force is incredibly important, and I am thrilled to see Sen. Peters continuing his long-standing record championing the issues and concerns of Michigan Jews."

The task force has 32 members, split evenly between Democrats and Republicans. 