

Corey Bearak

Presentation at 2011-03-19 Latkes v. Hamantaschen “debate” during at Temple Sholom of Floral Park program held at Temple Torah of Little Neck

{Opening remarks}

Even though we hold this forum in a house of worship, I prefer not to focus on the miracle of the latkes.

We all know where that little vessel of oil – the oil that lit the Menorah in the Temple - got found – in a sack of potatoes of course.

And think about the miracle associated with the HamanTaschen.

The shape of the hat worn by, or the shape of the ear of, the ancient minister who tried to murder – us.

So we eat a tasty pastry in memory of that fiend.

Is it not a bit – I dare say cannibalistic to swallow something down our mouths or chew on the darn thing in memory of beating down a beast.

I ask each and every one of you: Why stoop to such low levels?

Taste alone offers an insufficient answer. People like salt – its taste – but Mayor Bloomberg says it is bad for you and in difficult fiscal times has marshaled significant taxpayers resources to warn us away from its use. And we know the Mayor previous railed against sugary sweets and drinks.

Interestingly, latkes while delightful with apple sauce or sour cream requires no salt or sugar in its preparation. Some people might add salt but it's just not required or called for.

And Latkes generates more interest. Just a few hours ago, that the much revered source of all non-spiritual information – *Google* – declared that latkes has more than one-half million hits and this occurred in just four hundreds of one second. That triangle pastry registered barely 1/5 of the hits but in 1 and 1/2 more time. [Latkes: about 565,000 results (0.04 seconds); Hamantaschen: about 116,000 results (0.06 seconds)] Can you imagine?

But why disparage a cookie in the shape of hated Haman's hat or his ear?

Why disparage a cookie that lacks any capability to include onions, particularly the venerable vidalia onion, as a key ingredient?

Why disparage a cookie lacking in any versatility beyond its size with no ability for so-called waste-watchers who incredulously substitute things like carrots and zucchini – among other healthy veggies – for the potato used commonly in latkes.

Why disparage a cookie that finds its way into diners and other unkosher establishments, such as bakeries when just about any fast-food restaurant included a version of Latkes in their breakfast menus and may one day learn from Arby's and Ben's Best Deli that lunch, and dinner also work fine for this cuisine. The facts are that those millions, billions whatever the number served at these places tried a latkes. Imagine when Ben's Best learns to market to all these patrons about a quality latkes. Really Imagine that. Actually don't.

I have a client working on that and my friend Fred's son is the patent lawyer. I found him by the way by posting on Fredslist.

{REBUTTAL}

Hamantaschen is bad for your health. Who, truthfully – we are in as sacred house of the almighty now, who can eat just one. Don't you just eat that whole darn box? And a good latkes fills you up – **and you know it!**

And what about the dent in your pocket, pocket book or wallet? A gallon of gas costs less than a pound of hamantaschen – and that is when you go the *Stop and Shop* on Monday! Did you try that purchase on your own? Or are you so afraid of the cost that you showed up tonight arriving early and enduring this debate and the services on either side of it?

{LAST WORD}

And have you ever seen and enjoyed a more versatile food? You can have Latkes for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a midnight snack. It goes with meat or dairy. Hamantaschen is just dessert!