

Is driving mother-in-law to airport considered a pleasure trip?



America's Heartland
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"No, it's not," the comedian said. "She came to visit the day after our wedding and she never left."

I heard another comedian say he had just gotten back from a pleasure trip. "Yeah," he said, "I took my mother-in-law to the airport."

Mothers-in-law sure get picked on a lot by comedians, and we all have probably laughed at many of their jokes. But those of us who have been blessed with great mothers-in-law know what a blessing they are.

My mother-in-law, Judy Glenn, is one of the sweetest ladies anyone could ever meet. She turned 90 years old this year but hasn't slowed down when it comes to doing good unto others. Among the

many kind deeds she does is to send encouraging birthday cards to everyone she knows - people in her church, people she worked with in years past, friends all across the country, to her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and more.

She mails a gazillion Christmas cards every year. She's the secret Santa who makes sure all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren receive lots of gifts.

If any of her gazillion friends have lost a loved one, they're certain to receive a sympathy card with a kind note scribbled inside.

She has been doing these things far longer than most of us have been alive.

I can't help but think of Ga-

latians 6:9 when I consider the kind things my mother-in-law does on a daily basis: "And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not."

I can honestly say of my mother-in-law that she makes this world a sweeter place.

I was out in the mountains of north Georgia a few weeks back and found what I considered a great treasure, bubby bushes. There were dozens of them growing along a dirt road leading to a trailhead, and they were all in bloom. Perhaps you're familiar with those wonderfully sweet-smelling blooms. In some parts of the South, these bushes are known by other names, including sweet shrub, sweet Betsy and Carolina allspice.

I grew up with bubby bushes in our yard. Just standing near them is an aromatic experience.

You know, great mothers-in-law are like those bushes - they sweeten up this world. And if you have a mother-in-law like that, I hope you'll let her know how much she means to you.

You could send them flowers or boxes of candy. You could buy them their own bubby bushes. Or, perhaps you could experience a real pleasure trip, take them to the airport for a dream vacation to a tropical resort.

However, you do it, show that dear lady just what she means to you.

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Kitchen Diva by Angela Shelf Medearis

Crab Stuffed Snow Peas Are Crowd Pleasers

Entertaining in the summer often means finding ways to keep cool while feeding a crowd. The best way to feed a large number of people is to find recipes with simple preparation and low-cost ingredients. I've discovered that inexpensive appetizers are a wonderful way to set the tone for a party -- and feed a crowd. I've provided a fabulous recipe for "Crab" Stuffed Snow Pea Appetizers and some tips for planning and preparing a crowd-pleasing menu:

1. Plan your menu using inexpensive ingredients as the "foundation" of your meal plan. For example, pasta, potatoes, rice, seasonal vegetables and good-quality canned goods like beans and tomatoes make a great base for a variety of dishes from appetizers, salads and soups to main course meals.

2. Make a shopping list and plan your trips based on the items you can prep ahead of time, and the items that have to be done the day of the party. Purchase large, food-safe plastic storage bags to make storing huge quantities of food easier and to conserve room in your refrigerator. Incorporate coupons and sale items into your menu and shopping plan. Don't try to shop and cook on the same day.

3. It's often easier to make a recipe that feeds 6 to 8 people multiple times than it is to try to multiply recipe ingredients to feed 12, 20 or 50. This method also allows you to use smaller pans or bowls, making it easier to transport and to store the finished dishes.

4. Substituting inexpensive ingredients for more expensive ones, or using smaller amounts of more expensive ingredients helps to stretch your food budget. For example, instead of using more expensive smoked salmon, good quality canned salmon can be mixed with cream cheese and spices to make a low-cost and delicious dip or spread that can be served on toasted bagels for brunch or as an appetizer for dinner with crudites or crackers.

5. Decide the order of preparation in advance and enlist help with preparing the menu as much as possible. Don't be shy about asking family and friends to bring drinks, side dishes or paper goods.

6. When making large amounts of food, cleanliness and holding the dishes at the correct temperature is very important. Invest in an instant-read thermometer and follow the temperature guide to determine if your dishes are at a safe temperature before serving. Crock pots, ice chests and placing

dishes or pans in bowls of ice help maintain food-safe temperatures.

Most of all, remember that the purpose of the occasion is to celebrate with the people that you love, so relax and enjoy yourself!

"CRAB" STUFFED SNOW PEAS

This delicious, crowd-pleasing appetizer uses inexpensive imitation crab meat and fresh snow peas. You can cut costs even more by eliminating the "crab" meat and doubling the amount of eggs, mayonnaise, pickle relish, celery and spices the recipe calls for. The "stuffing" mixture can be prepared a day in advance and the appetizer can be assembled the day of the party.

- 1 pound fresh snow peas
- 2 pounds imitation crab meat
- 4 hard-cooked eggs, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup light mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped onions
- 4 teaspoons pickle relish
- 1/2 teaspoon prepared horseradish
- 3 dashes of hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper

To make the stuffing mixture:

Dice or shred the crab meat. In a small bowl, combine the crab meat, eggs, celery, mayonnaise, onions, pickle relish, horseradish, hot sauce and salt and pepper. Mix well, cover and chill the stuffing mixture for at least one hour or overnight. Stir before using the mixture to stuff the snow peas.

To prepare the snow peas:

1. Wash and clean snow peas. Split the snow peas on the top side, removing and discarding any strings and leaving the bottom intact to form a little "boat" to hold the stuffing.
2. Blanch the snow peas in lightly salted boiling water for 30 seconds. Carefully remove the snow peas from the water and



immediately submerge them into a bowl of cold water for a minute to stop the cooking and retain the color. Remove the snow peas from the water. Set the snow peas aside to drain.

3. Stuff the cooled snow peas generously with the crab-meat filling (about 1 heaping teaspoonful for each snow pea). Chill the appetizer in the refrigerator until ready to serve. Makes about 48 stuffed snow peas.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

What God Has Done For America

Wednesday, July 7th, 2021 Message
 Bro. Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist Minister

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;"
Psalm 33:12

First thing God did for America -- God birthed America. First Colonies --

A. Jamestown, Virginia. The first community building was a church. It is the only original building with a wall still standing.

B. Puritans first act at Plymouth Rock was to kneel, praise and dedicate the new colony to God.

C. Lord Baltimore held church service in establishing Maryland.

D. Will Penn in writing policies for Pennsylvania made sure "all treasurers, judges, and all elected officials professed faith in Christ."

Our founding fathers consistently spoke of the need for utilizing the Bible and Judeo-Christian values in defining and preserving this nation.

Twelve of the original 13 colonies incorporated the entire ten commandments into their civil and criminal codes.

President John Adams stated, "The law given from Mt. Sinai was a civil and municipal code as well as a moral and religious code. These are laws essential to the existence of men in society and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws. Vain indeed would be the search among the writings of secular history to find so broad, so complete, and so solid a basis of morality as the Ten Commandments lay down."

The Supreme Court building, built in 1935, has carved on the front, Moses and the Ten Commandments. In the House of Representatives, across from the Speaker's seat, is a sculpture of Moses.

President Washington said, "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are indispensable supporters."

Patrick Henry, first governor of Virginia and a member of the Continental Congress, stated, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Our Constitution ends with, "In the year of our Lord." Our nation's motto, "In God We Trust." Our nation's Pledge, "One nation under God."

Second thing God did. In 1776, the British were set to take the state of New York. They had outflanked George Washington and his troops. There was but one way to escape and that was to cross the treacherous East river. The weather was very bad and it seemed impossible. Gen. Washington called for a prayer meeting to ask for God's guidance and help. The decision was made to attempt to cross the river after dark to keep from being seen. It would take a miracle to get all 18,000 troops across before daylight. Just before daybreak a thick fog came across them and hid them long enough to let them escape. Washington and his men recognized God's blessings on America.

Folks, I don't know where we have strayed, but we need for America to return to the old paths.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

Until next week, have a safe and enjoyable fourth of July and remember why you can do this.

Bro. Warren Rogers, Baptist preacher

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by BUD BLAKE

