

Opinion

Holidays are hard for finicky eaters

This time of year is golden for foodies—those people who love to eat and love to cook. There are seasonal parties, there are the holiday feasts. For those who love food there is no better time than November and December of each year.

What about those who are more finicky when it comes to what they eat? They face a dilemma when invited to another's home—what if they don't like what is being served? Sometimes they just have to put their big boy pants on and do the polite thing.

There are many ways a finicky eater's delicate palate can be under attack. For example, having Thanksgiving dinner elsewhere—the in-laws, friends, siblings, is fraught with danger front, right and center for an eater who, seriously, eats 10 things (think meat and potatoes. Period).

For most of us, Thanksgiving dinner is fairly innocent, consisting of a roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables and stuffing. But some foodies have to go off base and experiment with exotic flavors and ingredients. That's when the trouble starts for the finicky eater.

I come from a family of finicky eaters. I come from one of only a handful of American families who were never served macaroni and cheese. I know, sacrilege, right? I have never tasted macaroni and cheese, no matter if it was made with something

other than cheddar and had bits of bacon or beef mixed in. Never had it, never will. Macaroni and cheese has made its way onto many Thanksgiving tables.

I come from an era in which turkey stuffing was very pedestrian: cubes of bread, some spices and chopped celery. I would put my mother's Thanksgiving stuffing up against any modern take on this holiday staple. Oyster stuffing? Please ... not in my life.

Thanksgiving dinners in my childhood included a vegetable, usually canned green beans. Though my family has roots in the Midwest, green bean casserole was never on the menu. But then casserole of any kind was never on the menu at my house.

Of all the people in my family I am the least finicky eater, which isn't saying much. I like seafood and shellfish; raw oysters on the half shell is my idea of culinary heaven. But people still marvel at what I say I don't like or won't eat.

I guess I am close to a meat-and-potatoes kind of eater. Mashed potatoes are next to Nirvana, but when someone deigns to mix in sour cream, my interest flies right out the window. There are people in my family who can enjoy yams with their holiday meal, but I am not one of them.

Being invited to someone's home for a meal, holiday or otherwise, the experience is always fraught with fear of what is being served. How does one politely accept a plate that includes food that one would not eat? Like every mother says, "Be polite." That means accept the plate graciously, if there is something unknown to you, take an itty bitty bite. It is fine if you don't like it, but at least you tried.

Some people I know go through the charade of mixing around unwanted items on the plate to make it appear as if eaten. One does want to be a good guest.

There are people who will eat anything placed in front of them; I envy them. They are much more culinarily adventurous than I.

Those who know me understand I don't eat 'white' things. That includes mayonnaise, sour cream, cream cheese, cottage cheese. It's a burden I live with. At least no one badgers me with "Just try it." No, I don't want to try it. I've been eating for more than 60 years and I know what I like and I know what I want.

Pass the unadulterated mashed potatoes and stuffing made with bread and celery and I am holiday feasting.

Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.

zaitz writes

If officials believe Trump is a danger to the country, they have a duty to say something

WASHINGTON -- Nikki Haley used to be known as the other member of President Trump's Cabinet who left with an intact reputation (in addition to former Defense Secretary James Mattis). In an administration more influenced by Recep Tayyip Erdogan than Ronald Reagan, the United Nations ambassador often provided a more traditional rhetorical take on American foreign policy. She seemed genuinely to care about human rights and democracy, and to somehow get away with displaying such caring in public. Her confidence in national principles marked her as such a freakish exception that some speculated she might be the rogue, anti-Trump Trump official who wrote an anonymous op-ed in The New York Times.

But Trump's corruption still pulls at a distance. Clearly convinced that Trumpism is here to stay, Haley has publicly turned against other officials in the administration who saw the president as a dangerous fool. She recounts an hourlong meeting with then-chief of staff John Kelly and then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who "confided in me that when they resisted the president, they weren't being insubordinate, they were trying to save the country." The conspirators (in Haley's telling) considered it a life and death matter. "This was how high the stakes were, he and Kelly told me. We are doing the best we can do to save the country, they said. We need you to work with us and help us do it."

Haley, by her own account,

refused to help. "Instead of saying that to me, they should've been saying that to the president, not asking me to join them on their sidebar plan," she now explains. "It should've been, 'Go tell the president what your differences are, and quit if you don't like what he's doing.'"

But to undermine a president is really a very dangerous thing."

Here Haley is confusing two categories. If a Cabinet member has a policy objection of sufficient seriousness, he or she should take that concern to the president. If the president then chooses against their position -- and if implementing the decision would amount to a violation of conscience -- an official should resign. Staying in office to undermine, say, a law or war you disapprove of would be a disturbing arrogation of presidential authority.

But there is an equally important moral priority to consider: If you are a national security official working for a malignant, infantile, impulsive, authoritarian wannabe, you need to stay in your job as long as you can to mitigate whatever damage you can, before the mad king tires of your sanity and fires you.

This paradox is one tragic outcome of Trumpism. It is generally a bad and dangerous idea for appointed officials to put their judgment above an elected official's. And yet it would have been irresponsible for Mattis, Kelly, Tillerson and others not to follow their own judgments in cases where an incompetent, delusional or corrupt president was threatening the national interest.

Consider the case of former White House counsel Don McGahn. According to the Mueller report, McGahn complained to then-chief of staff Reince Priebus that Trump was trying to get him to "do crazy s--t." McGahn (thankfully) told investigators he ignored presidential orders he took to be illegal.

Or consider a negative illustration. When it came to pressuring Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, the only morally mature adults in the room (and on the phone) were quite junior in rank. They expressed their concerns upward. But those above them -- Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and chief of staff Mick Mulvaney -- had learned the lesson about officials fired for an excess of conscience. They apparently looked the other way as a friendly country was squeezed for political reasons.

On the whole, I'm glad that responsible officials such as Kelly and Mattis stayed as long as they did to prevent damage to the country. But I also think they have a moral obligation to come out before the 2020 election and say what they know about Trump's unfitness. If Biden is the nominee, they might even get together and endorse him. But, in any case, if they believe Trump is a danger to the national interest, they eventually have a duty to say something. Saving the country requires no less.

As for Haley, she has now signaled to Trump Republicans that she was not a part of the deep state, thus clearing away a barrier to ambition. All she had to do was to ignore her conscience, betray her colleagues and injure her country. A small price to pay for such a brilliant political future.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

michael gerson

Reduce speed on River Road?

Via social media, the Keizertimes asked readers: for the sake of safety should traffic speeds on River Road be reduced?

Here are selected responses:

I drive almost the entire length of River Road twice daily, five days a week - during "rush hour" and I never see a police officer. I think if there was more of a presence it would make a difference.

— Gillian Gelfand Herndon

I would like to see crosswalks light up with flashing lights.

— Maralee Fletchall

It's just fine if folks would just "go with the flow," pay attention, and have a bit of patience and consideration. I have come to find that most who complain about traffic in Salem/Keizer have never been to a much larger populated area and experienced how bad it can really get.

— Tony Grove

What we need is more enforcement of dangerous people texting while driving. All day in

Keizer, I look over and people are texting. There are so many hands free devices. People just need to pay attention.

— Stephanie Duncan

It needs to be better patrolled. Often times when I am walking across the street at River and Chemawa I see multiple drivers think it's safe to turn quickly instead of waiting for the pedestrian in the cross walk. More times than not, they're speeding on their way and I have to yell at them. It shouldn't take a horrific accident, or death to bring it to the community's attention that action is needed.

— Michele Sawin

It should be consistent, from one end to the other in Keizer, at 35. The north end continues develop. It is no longer rural like it was 10 to 15 years ago.

— Hersch Sangster

No, the speed is fine; if people would follow it. I drive River Road daily, and often multiple times each

day. I see drivers who are driving too slow (25), texting, phone to ear, and or trying to navigate the turn lanes and causing slowing of traffic and people getting frustrated and racing around them.

— Danielle Bethell

Are the accidents that are happening due to speeding or drivers not paying attention? I think the latter.

— Kristeen Coon Jennings

Reduced?! Its not like people follow them as it is. And maybe if people stopped jay walking at night in dark clothes 10 feet from the cross walk or driving distracted we'd have less accidents.

— Valerie Olsen Feliciano

Speed enforcement on current limits and pedestrians need to pay more attention to what's happening around them and not think that they have the right to make any move and drivers will just see them.

— Dave Ball

obituaries

Submit an obituary through our website at keizertimes.com or send an email to: editor@keizertimes.com

Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Bowerly, Jr.

June 15, 1920 – October 30, 2019

Dr. Gerald "Jerry" James Bowerly Jr. was born June 15, 1920, in Sheldon, Iowa to Gerald James Bowerly Sr. and Eva Mae Johnson. He passed on October 30, 2019, while residing at Avamere Court in Keizer.

Jerry, one of five children, was raised on a farm in Minnesota and eventually headed west to Oregon where he attended Mohawk High School in Marcola. He studied at University of Oregon and Northwestern School of Dentistry in Portland prior to becoming Keizer's first dentist. His career carried him into the Navy as a mid-shipman during World War II. He achieved the rank of captain. His family said he modeled patriotism, loyalty and love of our country.

Also known as "Captain" or "Chief," Jerry spent his last years at Avamere sharing life with many of his former patients and best friend, Opal, and lifelong friend, Dr. Vern Casterline. The pair shared Keizer's first medical-dental clinic.

Bowerly began his career working nights, convincing the Hyster Guard to allow him to begin filing orders. That evening he met the love of his life, Margaret Zieg, who worked in sales near the filing area. Many glances were exchanged behind the reception desk where she worked. Each night he would walk her hand-in-hand to the street car. On March 4, 1944, at the Evangelical Church in Portland, during Jerry's senior year, they were married.

"At graduation, I was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade and given orders to the Naval Training Center in San Diego. My next orders were to Japan, but I was eligible for discharge as the war was over. I was sent to the Marines in Hilo, Hawaii until getting a ship to come home (It was 1946)," Bowerly wrote of his experience.

Bowerly started his practice in Portland, but Margo didn't want to raise the couple's children in the city.

"I started looking at prospects in suburban towns. One of my patients in Portland was a cousin of a classmate at Mohawk high. She also informed me that another cousin had just graduated from medical school, Dr. Vernon Casterline, and was going to practice in Keizer. 'Where's Keizer?' I asked," Bowerly wrote.

The pair developed a business plan that reserved one portion of a building for a pharmacy while the other portion was a medical and dental office.

"After our equipment was installed, Dr. Casterline and I shared the reception room. The owners of the bakery were publishing the Keizer News and they put the word out about our new clinic and the doctors. From the first day of practice I never had a day without patients," Bowerly wrote.

At the time, Keizer was a bedroom community. Bowerly described Keizer as comprised of the 1916 elementary school, a gas station, a grocery store, Coomler & Franz Hardware, Dorothy & Chuck Teeters' bakery, Perterson's Cupboard Cafe, a meat market and food locker, and boasting groves of surrounding filbert and walnut trees.

Manbrin Gardens was the elite



G. Bowerly

subdivision and the spacious homes along Rivercrest Drive. By 1950, they bought a small home on Will Avenue, now 7th Ave.

Two years later, Bowerly, who was still a Naval reservist, received orders from the 13th Naval District to report for active duty at the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton for another 18 months. He found another dentist to take over his practice while he was at Camp Pendleton and a patient rented out the family home until they returned. He practiced at the same location for another decade and then moved to a new clinic on Linda Avenue in Keizer.

He continued as a Naval reserve officer until 1980 and assisted at the veteran's clinic in Salem one night a week.

"Keizer has been a great place to live and raise our family, and it is still in spite of its rapid growth. We are proud of our city," Bowerly said.

As a civilian, Bowerly became a charter member of the Lions Club, member of Rotary Club of Keizer, served as first president of the Keizer Art Association, as a member of the Salem-Keizer School Board Budget Committee, a board member of the Keizer Heritage Community Center, and was an active member and leader in his church.

He enjoyed family vacations at Detroit Lake playing Shanghai, sipping peppermint tea and "daylight in the swamps" early morning fishing adventures with kids and grandchildren. He loved hiking, camping, water skiing until age 74, snow skiing to age 84, travel, music, Bible study and writing notes of encouragement to widows, shut-ins and other friends and acquaintances. He loved everyone and "lived life large."

The Bowerlys raised their four children in Keizer: Dave (Dr. David Bowerly-deceased), Judy, Ron and Laura. The couple remained in Keizer for over 65 years. In 2017, after 71 years of marriage, Margo passed away.

Bowerly is survived by daughter Judy Luse (Walt) of Redmond, Ore., son Ron (Shaaron) and daughter Laura Heiman of Salem, Ore., nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Nov. 23, at 10 a.m. at Keizer Funeral Chapel, 4365 River Road N. in Keizer.

In lieu of flowers, Bowerly requested contributions to Salem Evangelical Church, Youth Camp Scholarship Fund.

Remembrances, photos and stories can be shared online at www.keizer-chapel.com.

Allen Newton Schlag

October 23, 1937 – November 7, 2019

Allen Newton Schlag 82, of Keizer, Ore., died Nov. 7, 2019.

He was born to the late Albert and Helen Schlag (Newton) of Independence, Ore., on Oct. 23, 1937 in Salem, Ore.

In 1955, he graduated from Central High School located in Independence. He worked as a delivery driver for 35 years at Blue Bell Potato Chip company before retiring in 1994. Allen loved fishing, baseball, trap shooting, dogs - in particular bull terriers - and spending time with his family. He and his cousin are the founders of Fat Schlag's Sausage the Philly-style sausage dogs available at many Oregon festivals and events.

He will be joining many family



A. Schlag

and friends in heaven but especially his beloved daughter, Jalen Miller of Gervais, Ore. He is survived by his wife Janet Schlag and daughter's Patty Johnson and Kathryn Schlag of Salem Ore., and Sharla Hartgraves of Tempe, Ariz.. His grandchildren include Janay Miller, Calvin Miller, Mandy Miller, Rodney Miller, Crystal Johnson, Nicole Diaz, Maxwell Hartgraves, and Jackson Hartgraves. He is also survived by nine great grandchildren.

A Celebration of life will be held at the Keizer Elks on Nov. 17, 2019, from 1 to 4 p.m. In Lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to Bull Terrier Rescue, Inc. It is fully tax deductible.

MHS bazaar arrives Nov. 23

The annual bazaar at McNary High School is slated for Saturday, Nov. 23.

More than 100 local vendors will be hosted by McNary students raising money for a variety of school-based activities. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Raffle drawings will be held every hour. Exchange two non-perishable food items or hygiene products for an extra raffle entry. Donated items will benefit Marion Polk Food Share.

McNary High School is located at 595 Chemawa Road N.E.

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