

Shmanners 373: Family Reunions

Published September 1, 2023

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[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: I had to reach out and touch you.

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: I needed a physical connection, hand on shoulder. Now you put your other hand on my should and we'll get a cycle of energy going. Yeah—oh—no. Ooh, direct current. Oh no, my heart has stopped.

Teresa: Oh no. [laughs]

Travis: Well, what are you gonna do?

Teresa: You were the one that told me to do that!

Travis: Yeah, but then you touched the same shoulder. I was thinking I would touch your right shoulder and you would touch—no. I would touch your left, you would touch my left, and we'd have a cycle going?

Teresa: I can't reach that shoulder. I would have to—

Travis: Not with that attitude.

Teresa: I would have to hit both microphones on the way over.

Travis: And that—it just wasn't worth it for you?

Teresa: No. No.

Travis: I see. I'll keep that in mind.

Teresa: I'm about... quality.

Travis: I'm just saying it's really nice to get back together every week to record this, you know. We spend so much time, sometimes six whole days apart, and it's nice to have these little family reunions.

Teresa: Segue!

Travis: Segue! We're talking about family reunions.

Teresa: We are! Have you ever been to one?

[pause]

Travis: Okay. Maybe... maybe. So the thing is...

Teresa: [through laughter] What?! Maybe?!

Travis: I don't have... the world's best memory.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: So it is possible that prior to, like, my tenth birthday that I did, right? But the other—

Teresa: It is something that your family has had, you believe?

Travis: Maybe? Babe, I don't know. But I will say this. I don't think it was ever like, "This is a family reunion," right? But there have definitely been times where it was like, my dad, his brothers, my grandmother, her sisters, all of their, like, sons and daughters and grandchildren got together for, like, Thanksgiving, right? Or together like, "Yeah, we're all in town for the summer hanging out at this grandparent's pool," or whatever. Right?

I don't think it was ever like, "This is a McElroy family reunion" so much as it was just, "Yeah, there's, like, 50 of us all related in one place." You know what I mean? Um, but when I think of family reunions I think of the Bobbie Gentry song Family Reunion, which is an absolutely incredible and wild song that's just layered, like, voices that you would hear at a family reunion singing. But it's just, like, her doing all of them, right?

But you hear, like, the grandfather's voice talking about a kid getting his finger stuck in a Coke bottle and, like, a mom yelling at a kid to leave his cousin alone and stop pulling on her hair. And someone saying, like, "That's a beautiful dress. Where'd you get the pattern? I'd love it if you could make one for me."

But it all is, like, musically layered.

Teresa: Huh.

Travis: It's really, really cool.

Teresa: I've never heard that.

Travis: Bobbie Gentry, Family Reunion. It's amazing. So we're talking about family—have you been to a family reunion?

Teresa: One, just one.

Travis: Was it your family?

Teresa: It was my grandmother's family.

Travis: On your dad's side or your mom's side?

Teresa: My mom's side, so my grandmother.

Travis: Okay. So it was her f—like, okay. So it was your mom's mom's family.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, she had a lot of brothers and sisters, and I recall at one point going to one of their houses, and the thing that I remember about the whole thing is we were in the backyard, and this particular brother or sister was, like, growing grapes, and we just, like, played hide and seek in the grape rows.

Travis: Okay. See, what I remember—once again, not, like, a family—

Teresa: I was young. I was young, very young.

Travis: I would hope so. If you're hiding in grape rows when you're, like, 32...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Also if you were 32, why wasn't I there? Are you ashamed of me?

Teresa: I know, I know.

Travis: On my mom's side, once again it was like, Christmas. Would go and I would see people and I'm like, "Who is that?"

And they're like, "That's your cousin."

And I'm like, "What?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, 'cause it was, like, big, like, Kentucky extended family. Very Kentucky. Everybody smoking, uh, cigarettes, and, uh, strong Kentucky accents. And me and my brother sitting there like, "Any time you want to leave, we're fine with that. That would be fine. There are many loud cousins here running around screaming, and we're fine just whenever you want to leave."

Teresa: There were not very many cousins that I recall. There were probably two or three people that I knew. We went at one point a couple times down to my dad's aunt's house in North Carolina, and there was a little more people over there. Um, but, like, as far as the big family reunion, we don't have a lot of people in the family, I guess?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So...

Travis: Easier to plan, then.

Teresa: Easier to plan.

Travis: Smaller venues. So, family reunions have only been around for about 20 years.

Teresa: Nope.

Travis: Okay. I was just guessing.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: I thought that wasn't it, but wouldn't that be wild if that was true?

Teresa: That would be wild.

Travis: Where do you even start? The history of—"So families got together for the first time in 2000 BCE."

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. No. Uh, obviously families have been getting together as long as getting together has happened, right? I mean, I guess it probably... goes back to once all of your family stopped living in the same village, when they, like, started going other places you would have the occasion to get back together? That makes sense to me.

Travis: But even then—man, sometimes I think about, um—and by "sometimes" I mean every time I get onto an airplane, I think about the Joad family in—was it Grapes of Wrath?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. Of them, like—it takes them, like, months to get from Oklahoma to California. And then it's like, I get on a plane and I go from Ohio to California in about four hours. Right? And so there was this time, right? Where getting to see your family was like, we better start going now, and maybe in two weeks if the horse doesn't die we'll get to see them. Yay!

Teresa: [laughs] Well, so—okay. So a lot of families get together for, like, maybe Christmas, or like the—the matriarch's birthday every year, or something like that, right? But the idea behind a family reunion is—

Travis: Or an elaborate heist. They all come back together, one last job!

Teresa: Maybe. Is you're not celebrating any day in particular. It's a gathering that's usually—it could even be planned on the same weekend or date every year, but it's not celebrating anything else, just it is the reunion.

Travis: I love that, 'cause if they tried to do a reunion on my birthday and make it not about my birthday, I already gotta share it with Justin. And now your sister.

Teresa: I know.

Travis: Right? It—ugh. If I had to share it with, like, "[mockingly] Now we're all together, we'll talk about how we're related." Gross! No thank you!

Teresa: And these family reunions often have activities. Um, some of the ones—

Travis: Silly t-shirts.

Teresa: Silly t-shirts. Some of the ones that we pulled straight from the interwebs. Things like swimming, potlucks, genealogical presentations, cookouts, talent shows, storytelling skits, things like that. Right?

Travis: Some of those are sillier than others.

Teresa: They are.

Travis: Swimming... not inherently silly. In fact, I'm gonna say, don't be silly in the pool. Focus [crosstalk].

Teresa: Well, like, people do, like, lake trips.

Travis: Oh, sure.

Teresa: All together. Or, I mean, if Nana has a pool why not go there?

Travis: Yeah, if Nana has a pool, that's what I would say. If Nana has the pool—has a pool, then don't go to school.

Teresa: Um, so the beginning of the family reunion... not called as such, is difficult to pinpoint.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But... we can tell when family reunions became a staple of the American holiday lexicon.

Travis: 20 years ago.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: The Emancipation.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared, quote, "That all persons held as slaves within rebellious states are and henceforward shall be free."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Right? Amazing.

Travis: And also it would be cool if families got together once in a while.

Teresa: Well, okay, here it is, right? Unfortunately, this didn't automatically end slavery, especially, you know, the executive order was directed at ending slavery in the southern territories, but enslaved people wouldn't actually be freed until the Union took those territories back, right?

Travis: Yeah. It was not like you make that Proclamation and states that had literally seceded and rebelled would be like, "Alright, if you say so."

Teresa: Uh, so for example, in Texas, right? They may not have even heard about this Proclamation, because there were no Civil War battles being

fought directly then, right? In Texas. So two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed, Union troops made their way to Galveston Texas, and that's when the soldiers read the general order that people of Texas are informed, in accordance with the Proclamation from the executive of the United States that all slaves are free. A few months later, slavery would officially be abolished legally by the 13th Amendment.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Okay. So, that happened on June 19th, 1865, which is now celebrated as Juneteenth, um, and this is the direct correlation between Juneteenth and family reunions.

Travis: I can't wait to hear it. But first... how about a word from some other Max Fun shows?

[theme music plays]

[Star Trek comm noise]

[music plays]

Speaker 1: The Greatest Generation: Maximum Fun's irreverent potty mouth Star Trek podcast is a big deal.

Speaker 2: How big? It's the only Star Trek podcast big enough to have our very own live show tour. We're inviting all Star Trek fan Max Funsters everywhere.

Speaker 1: We're calling it the share your embarrassment tour, and this year we're going to celebrate and roast Star Trek V: The Final Frontier.

Speaker 2: We're gonna go to a bunch of cities and greatestgentour.com has all the info.

Speaker 1: That's greatestgentour.com for dates and ticketing info for the share your embarrassment tour.

Speaker 2: Share your embarrassment! And grow stronger from the sharing.

[Star Trek comm noise]

[music and ad end]

Travis: Okay. It just seemed—I know it was early, but it just seemed like such a good, like, cliffhanger. "And this is it! Whoa!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, so what's the correlation?

Teresa: Well, once formerly enslaved were no longer enslaved, many of them shared the common goal of reuniting their family that they got separated from while they were kept in bondage.

Travis: Yeah, that makes complete sense.

Teresa: So it really became a tradition of continuous celebration of kinship and resilience in the face of the immeasurable suffering that these Black families endured. So family reunions are very important to Black history, and we really have the whole tradition to thank for these people who wanted to be reunited with the rest of their kin.

Okay. So, the tradition began to spread amongst Americans throughout the next couple centuries, because the Great Migration happened. Between 1915 and 1970, approximately six million Black people moved from the American South to Northern, Midwestern, and Western states to escape racial violence and pursue better economic and educational opportunities. The latter half of the Great Migration was overlapped with the hillbilly highway, as it was called, which was—

Travis: This is Grapes of Wrath right? This is, like, people going west, right?

Teresa: Yes. Yeah. So the out migration of people from Appalachian mountains and the Appalachian highlands into the industrial cities of the Northern, Midwestern, and Western states. Um, this was toward the latter half as most of the people in Appalachia at the time were employed in the coal mines.

Travis: Ugh, yeah.

Teresa: Which started to decline in the 1940's. So as the work dried up, people made the move to better paying jobs. Um, and so say that you find yourself and your family in a brand new place because you need work or because it really sucks where you're from. People started to get their families back together to celebrate, and this is where the family reunion really starts to come into our American lexicon.

Travis: Okay. I like how you worked West Virginia into there. Really appreciate that.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It does make me think at some point, at some point! I want to do, like—I don't know if it even fits into the show. But a whole thing about, like, coal mining towns, and company stores, and company scrip, and all that. Maybe just the origin of, like, "redneck" and "hillbilly" and all that, yeah.

Teresa: Ooh, maybe.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Ooh, maybe some bonus content?

Travis: Maybe, we'll see. Oh, we could do a whole, like, hillbilly etiquette thing!

Teresa: You—you—you could do that.

Travis: Yeah I could.

Teresa: You could do that.

Travis: Ugh! Ugh, that just spoke to me so deeply.

Teresa: Okay. Next. Dos and don'ts.

Travis: Do you think that reunions are still... uh, as popular? Like, as much a thing now in the year 2023?

Teresa: Um, as—I definitely know that they happen, because the t-shirts still exist. They still end up at Goodwill.

Travis: [simultaneously] Yeah, you can find 'em at Goodwill, yeah.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, but I do think that families in general over, like, land span, right? Stay in better contact because of all the technology that we have.

Travis: Yeah. I mean, I—I bet... like, not even anecdotally, I bet you could, like, track it. But I bet, like, Facebook had a huge impact. Where you're just like, "I know what they're doing. It's fine."

But also, also—

Teresa: Not even that, but also finding them, right?

Travis: Well, but also there must be an impact too of one, just in the last 30 years, how many huge cultural discussions have been happening in the United States at least. And then also, like, seeing people talk about—like, seeing your relatives talk about some of those social things on, like, Facebook and Twitter and stuff where you'll be like, "You know what? I actually don't need to get back together with them."

Teresa: On that note... friends, listeners. You 100% do not have to go to these.

Travis: No. And in fact I would go one step further and say, uh, when we talk about a family reunion, family is more and more what you make it these days. You do not have to be blood related to people to have a family reunion. It could be, like, "You know what? In college these 20 people were my found family, and I spent so much time with them, and I would love to get together with them and meet their kids and their partners if they have them." Whatever, right? And call that your family reunion. Totally fine. Do that.

Teresa: The thing is, you still need to be polite and RSVP your decline, right?

Travis: Uh, I'm gonna say—now—

Teresa: We're not saying that you have to go. But you have to check that box and say "Don't count on me being there."

Travis: Here's what I will say. I'm, um... I'm petty. Um, I'm Tom Petty over here. And what Teresa is saying is, that is the textbook—if you're asking "Do I still need to respond? I'm worried about being shmannerly." Then yes. If you're like, "Oh no, actually I've been no contact with these people for, like, the last ten years and I'm not gonna start now to write back and say no," then don't!

Teresa: Do you think that they would have your address? I mean—

Travis: I don't know, man. There's—ugh.

Teresa: Email or whatever? I don't know.

Travis: We'll see. But if you're no contact with people—

Teresa: [simultaneously] All I'm saying is—

Travis: —you can stay no contact.

Teresa: Okay. Sure. But all I'm saying is... it's important for, like, head count for potato salad or whatever. Right?

Travis: Can you RSVP and, like, write in H-E-double hockey sticks now?

Teresa: [laughs] Maybe!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: If you're no contact, it doesn't matter, right?

Travis: Yeah, right? And you know what? As your dad, I give you all permission to write the F word no if you really want to.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Go for it.

Teresa: Do also pay attention to the host's requests, right? If it's a potluck, let them know what you're bringing. Um, and if there are any fees for venues or t-shirts, we talked about if everybody needs to buy a t-shirt, you know, make sure that you pay up in a timely manner, because showing up with 20 bucks and expecting a t-shirt isn't exactly how that works, right? Your family is not like a store. They don't have it just, like, in stock.

Travis: Yeah, there you go.

Teresa: Yeah. If you're gonna go, you might want to brush up on your family tree, right? Someone who is probably more like a stranger to you is gonna come up and say, "[goofy voice] Last time I saw you, you were this big!"

Travis: And you say, "And who are you?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "And I would know you from...?"

Teresa: [laughs] Maybe it would behoove you to save that awkward interaction, and try and figure out who the people are that might be there, right?

Travis: I will also—so, here's another thing. I think we've talked about this before when we talked about, like, holiday get-togethers and blah, blah, blah. But... to touch on what I said earlier, there's a very good chance that you're like, "I do want to go to my family reunion. I do want to be there. But I know that there are going to be people there who maybe we do not see eye to eye socially. Maybe they do not—they do not, uh, treat me and who I am and my identity with respect, right? And I want to go, but I'm worried about that."

One... is there someone in your family that's like, "This person is in charge. That's the—" right? I can reach out to them and say, "Hey. I want to be there, but I need you to talk to this person and let them know that we won't be having this conversation and I won't stand for it."

Or, is there someone, like a cousin, a sibling, right? A cool uncle, right? That you could be like, "Hey. If you see this person come over and talk to me, I need you to come steal me away," right? "I need you to come over and join me. I need you to wingperson with me. 'Cause I want to come to the thing, but I don't want to fight with this person."

Teresa: I think that's great advice. Um, my general advice is maybe just, like, don't get into it. But, like, if somebody says something homophobic about your cousin, like, let 'em have it, right? But maybe don't bring up the time, unprompted, when your uncle got arrested for riding his lawnmower into town, or whatever. Right?

Travis: Now, hold on. That's a cool st—I wanna hear that story now.

Teresa: Only if he's not embarrassed about it. [laughs]

Travis: If it's any of my uncles, you're gonna hear the whole story. Um, yeah. I think, like, all in all, right? To sum all this um, we're big advocates of, like, ask for what you need. And advocate for yourself, and take up space. All these things, right? So you have just as much right to be at your family reunion as the person that makes people uncomfortable, or the person that you don't like, or the person that you fight with. So ask for what you need ahead of time, and if that is not honored—if they're like, "You have to come! They're gonna be cool, it's gonna be fine."

And then you get there and then that person is not cool, and it's not fine, you can leave.

Teresa: Totally.

Travis: Right? You have my full shmannerly permission to get out of there and go hang out with people who treat you with respect and like you for who you are.

Teresa: Um, another thing. Family reunions can be very overwhelming for kids, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, maybe if they're under a certain age, don't bring them? But if you do bring them, any age, it's important to prepare them for what might happen, right? That there's gonna be a lot of people. It's gonna be loud. There might not be stuff for you to do. Or—

Travis: There will be people who speak to you with a familiarity that you don't expect because they met you when you were a baby, and you haven't seen 'em in six years, and they're adults and you're kids. And if you're like, "I don't know this person!" You don't have to hug them. Come back over here with me.

Teresa: Exactly, right? Um, and so just let them know that they're not under any pressure to, like, perform or whatever. But, like, you know, it might be good for you to come prepared with, like, some coloring pages, or

some toys, or your little, like, video game handhelds or whatever, right? Something so that if they cannot physically participate due to whatever stressors or age, that they have something to do.

Travis: Also, man, I tell you, with our kids, like... it's really easy—I can see how the importance of, like, "They're gonna meet their family that they haven't known. This is the first time we're getting together, and our seven-year-old's gonna meet all these relatives that they don't—this is so important!"

They're, like, seven, you know? They're kids. Like, it does not hold the same significance. They'll get out of it whatever they want to. I think it's more important that they come away from it feeling positive about the experience than coming away like you've milked every, like, "And this is your great-uncle! Bond with him!" Right? Or whatever. Like, no. Just let your kid enjoy it, and don't put the pressure on them to, I don't know, soak up every, uh, every experience.

Teresa: That said, it could be a really awesome time if you commit and, like, play the game, play in the space, right? Maybe for this week, or this, like, family reunion party, you love watching slideshows of genealogy presentations.

Travis: I would love that.

Teresa: Or maybe, you know, this week, you're gonna wear that t-shirt that says "I survived the Johnson Family Reunion," you know? Or, you know, you—there's a talent show, and you're gonna win it. Right? So get into this. The more you participate and the more you, like I said, play in space? MBMBaM.

Travis: Thank you. Well, I don't think we invented playing in the space, but thank you, yes.

Teresa: I mean, but you guys—that was the joke. [crosstalk].

Travis: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: Um, the better time you're gonna have, right? And I would say that that goes for your kids, too, right? If you can, get them to participate in something, even if it's just swimming in the pool with their cousins, right?

Travis: Yeah. I just thought of two really fun games you could play.

Teresa: Ooh.

Travis: And one, have everybody go around and say what famous person in history they claim they're related to, and I bet it'll be a lot of different ones. And also if there's, like, a story in your family of like, "Oh, everyone tells the story about the time that grandpa did this" or whatever, have everybody—

Teresa: The time that grandpa got deported from Canada.

Travis: Yep, indeed. Then have everybody, like, go around and be like, "That's not how I heard it. No, I heard it like this," right? And compare notes on all these stories. It's also a great time, by the way—one of my favorite things about being an adult and hanging out with my family is, like, going to my grandmother, going to my Nonnee and be like, "Hey, you lived in Vegas in the 60's, right? What was it like?"

Right? And just, like, hearing stories about it, right?

Teresa: That definitely goes to my next point. It might be a really great idea to make a point of going to sit with someone who is alone, right? And trying to get them to tell you a story, or participate in something, because a lot of people feel awkward around these things. And if you are one of the people who can, you know, exude that extrovert energy, it might be a really great thing for you and for them, to help them participate, right?

Travis: Now, do watch out, though. 'Cause if you see someone sitting by themselves, there's like a 1% chance it's a ghost.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Because, like, if you think about it, right? There's a lot of energy there. Your family is gonna draw in—now, that might be cool, right? And it's like, "Oh, what's that? It's our... uh, ancestor from, like, the 1800's. This is wild!"

But then he's gonna say some stuff that people are like, "Whoa, that's actually not... oh, that's not actually okay to say anymore. Get outta here, ghost!"

Teresa: Here's one more do or don't about the party specifically. Don't wait till the end to say thank you to the host or the organizer. Say it at the beginning. Get it out of the way. It will help set the tone for the party. And, you know, if they need any assistance, maybe with food or decorations or whatever, and you can help, it's a great time to do that. And then you won't have to stay late and help clean up.

Travis: Always great, especially if you have kids. That's very, very important.

Teresa: Um... so, here, if you are the host, are a couple of dos and don'ts here. Don't be unrealistic about the way your family operates, okay? It might be your dream to have a weekend-long camping trip and hiking in the mountains.

Travis: Gross!

Teresa: But maybe your family just wants to eat mac and cheese at Nana's pool, right?

Travis: Yeah. Not every family is outdoor kids. Some of them is indoor kids.

Teresa: So don't feel pressured to pull off, like, a big thing with, like, balloon arches or, like, with, you know, spending every single second of a weekend together in a tent.

Travis: The experience is more important than all of the stuff around it.

Teresa: Yeah, low-key is probably better, right? Because people are gonna try and, like, talk to each other, and having a bunch of activities in the way—although it is great to have one or two...

Travis: Anchor activities, that's it.

Teresa: Anchor activities.

Travis: You want anchor activities where it's just like, if the energy starts to flag, we're gonna do this. Or, like, let's get everybody—like an icebreaker thing, right? But you don't want to schedule it, like, minute to minute to minute, right? 'Cause people want time to sit and talk and, like, catch up and do all that stuff. So, like, if you've scheduled it within an inch of its life, right? It's gonna be way too stressful for everybody.

Teresa: Speaking of scheduling, don't feel weird about trying to schedule up to a year in advance, okay? Because this is a lot of people possibly coming from a lot of different places with a lot of different schedules, all this kind of stuff. The sooner that you can pick that date and have people plan their other lives around it, the more, like, functional this whole thing is gonna be, right?

Travis: Here's another very important do for a family reunion. Do invite your family.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Not everybody thinks of that, right? Then they get there and like, "Why isn't everybody here? Why didn't they just know it was happening?" You have to invite them.

Teresa: Uh, keep in mind accessibility, right? Because a lot of these people might be old, or might be brand new. And so if you have a venue, are they accessible for everyone? Um, is the hall you picked maybe not too expensive, right? Because you might have people who are paying for college, or people who are paying for medical bills. And if you want everyone to chip in, you know, the more expensive it is, the more you'll expect people to pay, right?

Travis: Um, and that accessibility also extends to, like, food.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: And, uh, not just dietary things but, like—

Teresa: But allergies.

Travis: —allergies, all of that stuff. Right?

Teresa: And since you don't know all of these people, if you're planning the reunion, that's another good thing to put on the invitation, right? To say with your RSVP let me know about any intolerances or, you know, um, special diet restrictions, or allergies, or, I mean, maybe even just, like, a blank space so that, you know, your great-aunt can say "I'm on oxygen, nobody can smoke," or whatever. Right?

Travis: Right. Also just—and this is gonna sound like I'm making a joke. But, like, even if you don't drink, you should have alcohol there if you're planning it, right? 'Cause I've been to some of these.

Teresa: A thoughtful decision about alcohol.

Travis: Yeahhh.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: That's a good way to put it.

Teresa: Um, because maybe alcoholism runs in your family, and you don't want to provide that.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: But also, it is an important social lubricant for some people. I think that it is an appropriate thing maybe to think about how... how people might do with, like, a beer and wine selection versus a fully stocked bar, right? And the longer that you've planned this reunion to go, the longer the hours, I would say, steer away from the fully stocked bar, because more drama is probably going to ensue the longer—

Travis: [simultaneously] Also just sleepiness.

Teresa: Yeah, and sleepiness. The longer that people are partaking in libations.

Um, make sure to have a first aid kit! Right? Because with kids and older people, bumps and bruises—

Travis: With everybody!

Teresa: Everybody!

Travis: I get hurt all the time.

Teresa: I mean, that's true. Right?

Travis: I'm just out there Shrekin' around, knockin' stuff over, bruisin' myself.

Teresa: Um, especially if it's an outdoor event, make sure you have, like, um, like bug spray, and Neosporin—

Travis: [simultaneously] Sunscreen.

Teresa: —and sunscreen. And if there's food, bring Tums, right? 'Cause us older people. [laughs] We've got sensitive tummies!

Travis: Let's throw Lactaid on there as well.

Teresa: [laughs] And maybe some Pokémon Band-Aids for the kids.

Travis: Aw, yeah!

Teresa: Um, you know, but this is supposed to be fun, and that is the big thing that I want everyone to come away with from this is that it's—it's not supposed to be a chore to hang out with your family. And if it is, you don't have to go there.

Travis: There you go.

Teresa: So have fun. Enjoy your family reunions, folks.

Travis: I have fun hanging out with you.

Teresa: Aww, me too.

Travis: I appreciate you. Um, and I appreciate you, listeners. I know I often joke that we could do this show without you, but we wouldn't. That's the thing. We wouldn't do it without you. That would be weird. It would be weird to do, like, 400 episodes if we put it up and get zero downloads. That would be wild.

But we also want to say thank you to Alexx, our researcher, without whom could not make this show. And thank you to Rachel, our editor, without whom we could not make this show.

Coming up, I'm going to be at Rose City Comic Con here in just a couple weeks. You can go to mcelroy.family and click on tours, I believe, and find all the details there. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners. If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

As always, we continue to love your topic submissions and your idiom submissions and your questions. You keep sending those to us, please, at shmatterscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, 'cause she reads every single one.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to Shmatters...

Teresa: Manners, Shmatters. Get it.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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