

Shmanners 513: Nesting Parties

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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. I didn't arrange the pillows that I'm sitting on before I got started, now I'm just going to throw 'em on the ground.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: How are you, my dove?

Teresa: I'm, you know... tired.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: It's week two of the Max Fun Drive. We've been putting the work in.

Teresa: We sure have.

Travis: Hours. I did a three hour and 15-minute-long stream explaining season two of Yellowstone to my brothers, and I'm *still tired*.

Teresa: I did a 30-minute stream, where I talked about some interesting etiquette points and—

Travis: You did great.

Teresa: Said thank you and stuff.

Travis: You were wonderful.

Teresa: Thank you.

Travis: But for the record, today, if you're listening to this on the day it comes out, is the last day of the Max Fun Drive. Though they usually extend kind of an amnesty thing through the weekend, so you can still become a new, upgrading or boosting member. But in case you've missed it, Max Fun Drive is the time when we ask our listeners to consider becoming members, or upgrading their memberships to the next membership level, or boosting by a couple dollars if you're not ready to move up to the next level. All of these things help us make the shows that you love, that you support.

And without your support, we wouldn't be able to do them. Max Fun is supported by members like you. We own our shows. It is co-op run. It is a wonderful, wonderful place to be a part of. And it can only exist with your support. The membership levels start as low as five dollars. And with just five dollars a month, you are going to get access to hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours of bonus content, including our bonus episode this year where we talked about Disney Channel original movie Zombies, for like an hour and a half.

Teresa: For a very long time. I think we talked longer than the actual movie is.

Travis: That is very possible. So if you go to maximumfun.org/join, you can become a member, upgrade your membership, or boost your membership today. Do it right now while you're thinking about it. But none of that is what we're talking about today. What are we talking about on this episode?

Teresa: We are talking about nesting parties. What do you think that is?

Travis: Okay, my first thought was like empty nesters getting to have a party when their kids move out, have a baby shower. But now it's like, "Hey,

we get to party, get us a bunch of like margarita mixers." But I think, I think it's like a housewarming party for a house you've lived in before?

Teresa: You know, you were actually closer with the baby shower comment.

Travis: Oh?

Teresa: Because nesting parties are the practical side of a baby shower, whereas a baby shower is like a kind of party where you get gifts and like play games, and socialize. A nesting party—

Travis: No one talks to each other. They stand facing the wall for two hours and then say, "What a great party," and they leave.

Teresa: Is a nod to the nesting instinct that pregnant people usually have towards the end of their pregnancy. You've heard about this, right?

Travis: No, I do know that.

Teresa: Where people are like, "Oh, no, I have to get the nursery and like the special colors, and I have to hang up every single onesie." And, "Oh, no, now this time, I think I want to redo my kitchen." It's like a burst of energy that happens towards the end of pregnancy where the person is like, "I have this intrinsic need to ready my nest for the egg."

Travis: Now see, so I had this too, when you were pregnant with Bebe. And I would posit—[chuckles] maybe this is just because it's been a long two weeks, and I'm feeling a little sassy.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: But like the other day I was having a conversation with Bebe about doomsday preppers. Doesn't matter why.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And I explained like, really, it's an outlet of extreme like anxiety and worry, and a feeling of a loss of control. And so you try to do things to prepare for something that you couldn't possibly prepare for—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: As a way to make yourself feel more in control of something you have no control over. And perhaps that is the real basis for this nesting feeling of like, "Oh, I have two options now, panic or paint these walls a different color. And I'm going to paint these walls a different color."

Teresa: [chuckles] Perhaps.

Travis: That's why I did it. Because like, first of all, Bebe was born three weeks early, and I absolutely panicked. And I was like—

Teresa: That's fair.

Travis: We don't have anything set up yet. And I went and bought everything all at once, and tried to set it up all at once. [chuckles] It was chaos.

Teresa: Meanwhile, her pediatrician was like, "Babies are fine. Just pull out a drawer. Put 'em in a drawer."

Travis: Yeah, just—and he didn't say close the door. This is important to know—

Teresa: No, no, leave it open.

Travis: He said just pull the drawer open, line it with like a soft blanket. You got a baby bed. And I was like, that might be true technically.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: But if anyone we knew were to come over and be like, "Is that your baby in your sock drawer?" I'd be like, "I put a blanket in it."

Teresa: [chuckles] No, don't put blankets in with babies.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: It should just be a soft surface.

Travis: My socks.

Teresa: Not a blanket. Anyway, so it's like a laid back get together. I would say party only because it's multiple people, right? It's not really a party, it's not really a celebration—

Travis: It's a gathering.

Teresa: It's a gathering that focuses on the expectant parent's need and postpartum readiness, okay? It's different from a traditional baby shower, which typically involves a formal atmosphere with like baby-focused gifts and hosting responsibilities and stuff. So, people will have their friends and family come over to help maybe do gigantic meal prep, right? Or enlist their friends to help them set up the crib or the baby clothes, or prepare the room. Or like even if there's like things that are not necessarily about the baby, right? Maybe you need a storage closet—

Travis: "The baby would love it if you did my taxes."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "The baby—I just feel like the baby would come into this world so much happier if my taxes were done. I know it's January, but just like the baby, ah, it's for the baby, Doug. Doug, could you do my taxes?"

Teresa: But maybe in a different way, like there are things that the pregnant person can no longer accomplish being as far along as they are. Things like yard work that needs completed or things that need cleaned or moved like, you know, organizing closets and stuff.

Travis: "Doug, I can't even reach the keyboard. My pregnant belly's in the way! Please, Doug, do my taxes."

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: That's what I would do.

Teresa: So here's a—

Travis: Just have Doug do my taxes.

Teresa: Here's a little interesting history of nesting.

Travis: I'm betting my instinct is like, this feels like a new thing, like in the last like 30 years, right? This feels like we need more excuses, like let's fi— now we have this party and this party and this gathering and...

Teresa: The reason why you feel that way—

Travis: That just made me feel like such an old, sassy man. "Things are different these day—kids love getting together with people for no reason, *ugh*. Back in my day, we hid our faces from the world and we loved it!"

Teresa: The reason why you feel that way is because it is new to the Western tradition, right? But it is, in fact, centuries old. Many indigenous, African and non-Western cultures have longstanding traditions of supporting expected parents in the weeks and months before and after birth. Because this tradition is very rooted in these cultures, no one really took notes on "the first nesting party," because it was more just like community care for these cultures and areas.

Travis: I also, I'm no ornithologist, I think is someone who studies birds? I'm pretty sure that's right. I think I nailed it.

Teresa: I think you're right. I think yeah.

Travis: I don't know where that came from. Maybe I remember more things after 8:30 PM?

Teresa: I don't think so.

Travis: Could that be it? I got a—I made so much room that I don't have to think about Yellowstone anymore—

Teresa: I think that's it!

Travis: But now I can remember things. But I don't think that birds are like, "Hey, man, see you got eggs there. Let me help you build a nest."
[chuckles] I don't think birds are doing that for each other so much as they do it for themselves.

Teresa: No?

Travis: But because I was going to say, maybe the idea came from watching birds.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: But I—but I don't think that birds as a community, at least on average, get together and they're like, "Let's build Judy a nest."

Teresa: No, I think it's about the party part.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: The—yeah.

Travis: I would love to see a nest warming like comic strip or something, where a bunch of other birds come in after the nest is done and they're like, "Twigs, nice."

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: "Oh, is that like some string you found on the ground and some old shiny wrappers? Nice!"

Teresa: Baby showers really only date back to the early 1900s, so—

Travis: That's when we started having babies.

Teresa: Nope. Nesting parties go way before that. Although, of course, they weren't called that. It's only now catching on in the West. But over the past decade, especially over the COVID-19 pandemic, Western culture and medicine has gotten a much deeper look into how vital community support is, right? Especially in times of transition, change and upheaval. So, a baby definitely feels like those things!

Travis: Yeah! I think I mentioned this when we did the meal train one, right?

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Where I was explaining this to Bebe, about like, yeah, if you have a baby or like move to a new city or start a new job. And she was like, "Will I get that? When I moved to New York to become Taylor Swift's fashion designer." And I was like, "Probably not." [chuckles] People will probably be like, "I think she can handle it herself."

Teresa: [laughs] So, I think another apt comparison would be like an Amish barn raising, right?

Travis: Sure!

Teresa: Where there's a need that the community comes together to fill.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: It's also, you made kind of a joke about it, but there is a kind of intrinsic thing that happens to pregnant people around 24 weeks, but usually in the third trimester.

Travis: Telekinesis.

Teresa: No, but the pregnant person experiences a drive to prepare their

surroundings. This is n—I mean, it's not like—it is documented that this is something that happens.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Is it—

Travis: I don't mean to say it's not happening.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: I just mean to say like, I think one could ascribe a cause to it of like, I'm ready to settle dow—or like you know like, I want to make this house a home kind of feeling. Versus like, I need to do something to prepare for this so I feel prepared, so I feel ready, right?

Teresa: I mean, I'm not saying I know where that instinct comes from exactly, but it's like a documented like instinctual type feeling.

Travis: I know that that's true. I just think it comes from panic.

Teresa: Okay. [chuckles] This varies from person to person, like we said. It can be decorating the nursery or meal prepping, or like I said, painting the house or redoing the kitchen, right?

Travis: Putting plug covers in and baby gates and rubber things on corners and—

Teresa: Sure, right?

Travis: Buying too much equipment that promises to like monitor your baby's heartbeat.

Teresa: Yeah...

Travis: But it doesn't really work and it false alarms all the time and gives you full-blown panic attacks. And you stay awake for two days just like staring at the baby, making sure nothing's wrong. Stuff like that?

Teresa: Are you s... do you need—do you need to talk to someone? Do you feel okay?

Travis: I have been! Baby, do you not remember all the PTSD therapy—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I went through with my therapist?

Teresa: I do. I do.

Travis: Having a baby is scary! I don't know if I've mentioned that so far. And I don't mean like babies are scary, I mean like the process. [chuckles] It feels like you're building a like huge tower out of unlit matchsticks, while all your friends smoke cigarettes around you.

Teresa: Well, so wouldn't it be nice—

Travis: Anywho, I have a lot of panic.

Teresa: Wouldn't it be nice to have other people besides the person who's seven months pregnant do the things that they want done, right?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And that's what a nesting party is for.

Travis: So it's about community coming together to support someone.

Teresa: Yes, of course.

Travis: Like the Maximum Fun community and how they support our show?

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: Yes! Hey, everybody, it's the Max Fun Drive, we mentioned at the top of the show, but I wanted to mention again because this is the last

technical day, though you'll probably get away with it if you become a member or upgrade or boost during Saturday or Sunday. But Max Fun is a community! First of all, in all truth, if Max Fun wasn't a community, the McElroys might have never joined Max Fun. Because My Brother, My Brother and Me was a show back when Max Fun had like very active forums. We had only been around for like 11 months and a bunch of our listeners went onto these forums and like Jesse had posted like, "What shows should we add to Max Fun?"

And a bunch of people suggested My Brother, My Brother and Me, and Jesse checked it out and he was like, "Yeah, that sounds great." I think we were like the fourth show added to the network, because people supported us, and told Jesse to check us out. And since then, people supporting us through the Max Fun Drive has been what has allowed us to grow like the stuff that we do, to start shows like Shmanners and Sawbones and Adventure Zone and Wonderful and Still Buffering.

Like all of these shows have been born out of the support that we've gotten, and it being like, okay, great, our audience wants this, so we make more of it, and we wanna make it, so we make it. And then that's extended into like, we've been able to do more YouTube stuff, we've been able to have, you know, post a lot more clips of stuff, do streams, all of these things. I mean, a lot of touring and stuff wouldn't have happened without Max Fun support. And all of that is from listeners, right? We don't have to like cater to big businesses. We'll do ads, but that's not like—

Teresa: That's not the bread and butter of this operation.

Travis: That's not the thing—yeah, it's not the thing that supports us. And when we are coming up with, you know, our weird ideas for the things that we do, like a three hour long Yellowstone stream, we're not thinking in terms of metrics, right? We're not thinking in terms of like, what's gonna make advertising partners wanna wor—we're thinking in terms of like what our audience will enjoy and what we wanna make, right?

Teresa: It's less clickbait and more fan service.

Travis: Well, I don't wanna say fan service, because we wanna do it too! We're not just doing it to cater to you.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: But we do wanna cater to you!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's more of, like I said, community. It's much more of a symbiotic kind of thing, where there are people who like the stuff we make, and we like to make the stuff, and we like that people like it. You know what I mean?

Teresa: Yeah, totally.

Travis: When we have the idea, if it excites us, we know it will—like that the people who like us will like it too.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And that is all because of the community and the support that comes through Max Fund Drive. And I say it every year, but I love Max Fund Drive because it is such a reminder of the support that we get and the reason we make the things that we do, and you know, that our audience likes the stuff we do and wants us to keep making it. So, I mentioned at the top, there's thank you gifts for each membership level.

\$5 a month, you're going to get access to the entire back catalog of bonus content, extending back from the first Max Fund Drive, so it's hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours. Every Shmanners bonus content, every My Brother, My Brother and Me, Adventure Zone, everything is still there. And if you're a fan of The Adventure Zone, we put episodes, like live episode audio up there early before it goes into our main feed.

Teresa: Oh? Cool.

Travis: So, that's a chance to hear that. And this year at the \$10 level,

along with the enamel key chains, and you pick your favorite from each of the shows, you also are going to get access to advertiser-free feeds for some of the shows on Max Fun. Not My Brother, My Brother and Me, 'cause that one's an award win—no. [chuckles]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I think if we cut the ads, we would lose like 10 to 15 minutes of content from each episode because we're—we don't pay attention to the timer. But shows like Shmanners, Adventure Zone, stuff like that, you can get an ad-free feed, if that's the—what you want, for becoming a member. Because member support is way more important to us than advertiser support. And you know, there's \$20 level, \$35, on up. Maybe you've been a \$5 member for a while and you're ready to move up to that \$10 level, do it! Get your key chain.

Get that member-only ad-free feed, or, you know, move up to \$20, or whatever you want to do. Maybe you've been a member for a while, you'd love to give more, but you're not quite ready to move up to the next level, you can boost. You can boost and just give like a dollar or two extra a month. All of those things really add up and mean the world to us. You can do any of 'em by going to maximumfun.org/join, find a membership level that works for you or upgrade your membership level or boost by a couple dollars a month. All of those things matter to us, and your support means the world to us.

[break]

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: All right!

Travis: We're back, to the content!

Teresa: Before I give you some etiquette and tips, let me throw some numbers at you.

Travis: Six! 12!

Teresa: [chuckles] No.

Travis: 93!

Teresa: According to a 2025 Pinterest trend report, online searches for a nesting party jumped a whopping 205% just in the last year alone. The term "nesting party ideas" rose 150%. So, this is most common among millennial and Gen Z parents. But I think that this supportive community-based trend looks like it's here to stay for a while, and that's great.

Travis: I wanna know how many searches there were for "nasting party" and then being like, "Oh, no—"

Teresa: Oh, no.

Travis: "Sorry, backspace, backspace, backspace! Nesting party. No! Ah! Okay, nesting party, send."

Teresa: Nice. Okay, so for some etiquette, who usually throws the nesting party?

Travis: The biggest bird in town!

Teresa: [chuckles] Big Bird!

Travis: Big Bird.

Teresa: What-what.

Travis: Big Bird knows how to party, I bet. Isn't he a child, canonically?

Teresa: Canonically, yes.

Travis: So is he gonna get bigger?

Teresa: No, I don't think so.

Travis: Do they ever talk about that?!

Teresa: No, I think he's a fully grown—

Travis: So he's a fully grown child?!

Teresa: Well, that's the way that things work in animals.

Travis: I think he's gonna get bigger!

Teresa: They get fully grown by like age two.

Travis: I think he's a baby bird! And he's gonna get bigger.

Teresa: Interesting.

Travis: Then he'll be the biggest bird, his final form, where he will wreak havoc upon Sesame Street, crushing buildings beneath his feet. Not on purpose, mind you, but because he's just so big. He is an eldritch horror, the biggest bird.

Teresa: Okay, okay, okay.

Travis: Sorry, it's late. It's 8:45 PM, guys—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: It's so late.

Teresa: A sibling, a friend, a parent, anyone who loves the expecting couple is more than welcome to throw the nesting party. Or the expectant people can throw one for themselves. Just be sure that whoever throws it has spoken to the couple about what they personally need help with, right? So you don't have a bunch of people showing up to help fold onesies when they really need help painting.

Travis: So it's not like a gifting event, right? It's like—

Teresa: No, this is not a gifting—

Travis: A service.

Teresa: A gift of time.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: This is the loving act of service, right?

Teresa: Yeah, so here's some ideas of tasks. Decorating and organizing the nursery. Putting together and testing out baby items. inventorying or finding space for new items for the baby. Fridge or freezer stocking meal prep for easy eating. Smaller home improvement projects that you wouldn't have time for, like I said, cleaning up the garden or fixing a leaky faucet or getting the carpets cleaned, right? With like one of those big steamer things. General deep cleaning or laundry catch up. Sterilizing and cleaning binkies and bottles.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Or even helping to pack a hospital bag, if that's something that you might have experience with, you can share your knowledge.

Travis: Listen, all joking aside, I joked about it earlier, but I want everyone to know, if you've got a baby on the way or you're headed that way or whatever, baby-proofing the house is something you can so wait on.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: For the first like six months, your kid's a potato! It's a loaf of bread. You set it down wherever and it's not gonna move from there.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: You don't have to worry about covering outlets or baby gates or anything! Because that stuff won't be necessary until that baby's on the move. And that's not gonna be for a couple of months! Don't worry about that, just you got time!

Teresa: Sage advice.

Travis: What you want is as many different surfaces to set that baby down on that you can think of. That's the most beneficial thing I think as a new parent in the first like three months. So many like, here's a little folding thing that we expanded, and now it's just a little bassinet. I could just set the baby down there for a minute. Because what you don't want, baby falls asleep in your arms and you're like two floors away from where you can set that baby g—and you're like sneaking through the house like the weirdest cat burglar who's returning something they stole. You don't want that. You want places everywhere to set that baby down!

Teresa: I mean, if you don't have nosy pets, you can just put 'em down on the rug. I've done that.

Travis: You sound like that pediatrician. Just put 'em—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Put 'em in the silverware drawer! Come on.

Teresa: Here's another one. "Can I combine the nesting party and a regular baby shower?" I would say that you can, but that sounds like a marathon of events to me.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And when I was that pregnant, I did not want to do an all-day deal. Right?

Travis: You might also have a hard time actually getting anything done.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Because like when it's an event focused around like service and doing things, and getting things accomplished, versus like a socializing event, those are two very different mindsets that people show up in. And what you don't want is you are expecting people to show up and be very helpful around the place—

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And everybody's like keeps stopping what they're doing to chat with one another. And you as like the homeowners or the, whatever, the parents-to-be are like, "Hey, could you get back to work?" You know what I mean?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Like—

Teresa: Also, you tend to invite different people to those different functions.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Right? So like maybe you—like your 87-year-old grandma would come to the baby shower to like eat cake and play games.

Travis: You don't think 87-year-old grandma's gonna roll up and be like, "Let's paint this som—" Like and just like go for it?

Teresa: She might not have the stamina to help you weed the garden or whatever it is you wanna do, right?

Travis: I'm just saying when I'm 87, do not invite me to baby showers. But if you let me swing like an axe at something?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: At 87, yeah, let's do it.

Teresa: I'll keep that in mind, right?

Travis: You'll also be old! You won't have a say in it! It'll be up to my great grand like cyborg children.

Teresa: I would say that—

Travis: Nothing about cyborg children? My great—okay.

Teresa: No. I would say that a baby shower is much more about like being cute and getting gifts and hanging out, right? And a nesting party is much more informal, and like people are actually doing things, like you said, not like a socializing event. I'm not saying that you can't, you know, buy a pizza and some two liters, and also enjoy each other's company. But I'm saying that they have different things in mind that they want to accomplish.

Travis: I'm also just gonna say this, as a dad, invite dads to the baby showers. If not, even better, have a separate baby shower that the dad's friends showw—throw for the dad. And let me be clear, I'm not saying a man vers—I want the exact same version! I want weird games where you're eating melted chocolate out of a diaper, I want pretty little baby clothes that are so cute. I want baby toys that are so cute. Don't be like, "And here's a thing that says like, 'I'm as cool as dad.'" I don't want that. I want to be as excited, because like... dads are also scared!

Teresa: Well, I—

Travis: Dads wanna have cute stuff thrown at them too!

Teresa: This is a great idea for someone else, but I think that your time has passed in this suggestion—

Travis: It's not too late!

Teresa: No?

Travis: I still got babies!

Teresa: It's too late.

Travis: It's too late for a baby shower?

Teresa: For you.

Travis: Oh, man... Do it for other dads, is what I'm saying!

Teresa: Okay, all right. Ask—

Travis: Dads are also scared!

Teresa: Ask that dad if he wants a dad baby shower.

Travis: Yes! And make it clear to him like this isn't a manly version where it's like the joke is that we're men having baby shower. This is a sincere, legitimate baby shower just focused on him, instead of focused on the mom, or the partner that's not having the baby, whatever. Throw baby showers for everybody! It's so scary! [chuckles]

Teresa: Okay, you're really—

Travis: Sorry.

Teresa: Making it—

Travis: It's late, you know? And I—

Teresa: Sound like a barrel full of monkeys.

Travis: No, it's just a lot of anxiety! But yeah, I felt like during that whole time that you were pregnant, more with Bebe than Dot. Because by Dot, I was a seasoned dad professional.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: But with Bebe, I was like, I have no—I can't do anything but assist you in all the work you're doing. So I had even less of a feeling of control

than you did. Where I'm like, I don't know, I'm an outside observer! I'm merely a coach.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I'm not playing the game. And so I had anxiety around that. I'm just saying, include the dad as much as you can.

Teresa: It's nice. So, tips and etiquette to throw a great nesting party. Like we said, before anything else, talk to the expecting parents about what they need help with. Make a list of everything they want done, and then you can help divide it into sections that people can help with.

Travis: I think that that is—like, I was just thinking about that, of if you're going to have people show up to help get stuff done—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Don't have it be like, "Okay, now that you're all here, let me think."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: "What do we need." Right? Because first of all, that's gonna kill everybody's productivity spirit, if they're like waiting for you to be like, "I don't know, maybe this?" Right? And it's like, "Oh, we don't actually have the paint. Okay, well maybe—" Right? You wanna have it prepared and ready to go.

Teresa: Many party planners say that it's helpful to have zones, right? So the kitchen is the cooking zone, the living room might be a folding or organizing zone, the basement or the study is for building stuff. So that you can kind of keep things organized and streamlined, right? So that everybody can lock in. Speaking of the plan, talk through the guest list. Who do you think will show up ready to help, and who is likely to kind of get in the way, right?

Travis: Especially if different people have different set of skills.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Where it's like, "Oh, they're so good at baking and cooking and stuff, we will put them in like the kitchen zone. And they're really handy, so we're gonna have them hang these shelves." Right? Like that kind of thing of don't invite a group of people where not a single one of 'em has any experience cooking.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: To a party where you're doing a bunch of meal prep and you have to explain every single thing to them.

Teresa: So what you wanna do is you take the people who you want to invite and their skill sets, right? Organize them into teams in their zones, right? Matching with their strengths.

Travis: I think this is a very strong argument against the parents to be having to plan their own nesting party.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Right? Because there's preparation, there's planning, there's organizing that goes into it—

Teresa: Other than the things that you wanna get done.

Travis: Yes, absolutely. But I'm saying like, I can off the top of my head right now think of three of our friends that would la—like former stage managers, you know?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That if we were like, hey, you're gonna organize these people into like zones and skill sets, and have like detail and like have itemized lists, they would be so excited for that. And if someone said, "Hey, can you do that for your own house for a party?" Be like, no!

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: That sounds like so much work.

Teresa: Be clear on the invitation what kind of event this is, right? Once you set a date and a time, let everyone know what the tasks are that you're hoping to complete, right? And how they should dress if they are going to be doing that work. You don't want someone to show up thinking that they were just gonna sit and fold things when you're asking them to like deep clean or paint something, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: One—

Travis: We're digging a pool in the backyard!

Teresa: [chuckles] One tip is to put your tasks on a poster board in a central area, right? And so that people can kind of check off or move their, like maybe their post-it note or whatever from like an in progress to a done. Or like even if you have like the post-it notes where people can like pick a post-it note off.

Travis: ohh, that's a good idea.

Teresa: So that then they have like a physical reminder of the thing that they need to do. And then when they're done, they put it on a different board and they'd say, this is the done pile, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Something like that. Something that can help you visualize and organize people. Then that makes it so that everyone has a job to do, everyone feels accomplished. I do think that there's a little bit of hosting that should go on. Like I said, maybe a two liter and some pizza, that kind of thing can go a long way. Making sure that everyone is well fueled and also feels taken care of while they're taking care of you.

Travis: Ice cream cake.

Teresa: Ah, I love ice cream cake.

Travis: I knew that would get you.

Teresa: *Ah.*

Travis: Did you hear the confidence with which I said it?

Teresa: [laughs] I know, right? And then have a planned way to say thank you. Whether it's over your—

Travis: I thought you were gonna say, have a planned way to say, "Thank you, now leave."

Teresa: No, no, no, no, no! Whether it's like—

Travis: That is important, though. 'Cause you're pray—you're tired, right? And you're like, "Everyone's still hanging around and the invitation said it was done at 7:30, and it's 7:45! Get out of my house!"

Teresa: Maybe you can like offer a toast during your little pizza party or whatever it is that you're having. I wouldn't say that you need to like write a separate thank you note for people who come to this, because they pretty much have your back, right? This isn't about observing the niceties, right? But maybe a little favor that you can send them home with or like offering to pay them back in kind, something like that. Make sure that you—

Travis: Let them vote on what to name the baby.

Teresa: Nope. [chuckles] That you let them know that you appreciate their time.

Travis: Speaking of appreciating, we appreciate all the support that we've received throughout the years from Max Fun and Max Fun members. We're going to say it one last time, because this is the last time this year you're going to hear us talk about the Max Fun Drive. If you go to

maximumfun.org/join right now, you can choose to become a new member, you can choose to upgrade your membership or boost your membership by throwing in a couple extra bucks a month.

All of those things are hugely helpful for us. And, you know, we put a lot of work into the shows, we've put a lot of work into this Max Fun Drive. We've done sometimes multiple streams a day, every weekday. And that's because it's important to us, because it's important to you. And we want to put the work in to make it worth your while, and show how much your support means to us. So, like I said, one more time, maximumfun.org/join. Please consider becoming a new member, upgrading or boosting.

And we want to say thank you. Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we would not be able to make this show. And without you listening, we wouldn't be able to pay. Thank you to our editors, Gino and Rachel, without whom we wouldn't be able to make this show. And without your support in the Max Fun Drive, we wouldn't be able to pay. And thank you to you for listening and for supporting us! It means the world to us. 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 Pin-Up 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. And as always, we are constantly taking your topic submissions, your questions, your idioms. Please send those to shmannerstcast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

Travis: You usually say "we're always taking." And this time you said "constantly." And it felt much more like a barrage of them—

Teresa: [chuckles] Oh, really?

Travis: Or like just a huge wave was always g—we're constantly—

Teresa: I was just in the flow.

Travis: I know!

Teresa: I was just in the state.

Travis: But it's so weird because there's—

Teresa: And I don't even remember that.

Travis: They're definitely synonyms, and yet constantly sounds way more like, "Yeah, I know, we're constantly doing it, but it's fine."

Teresa: 24/7—

Travis: I know, listen—

Teresa: Working for you.

Travis: We're always on our grind taking submissions.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Query—there was just something about it that really tickled me.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Hoo! That's going to do it for us this week. Join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required!

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. [laughs] Get it?

Travis: I'm melting!

["Shmanners Theme" by brentalfloss plays]

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