

MAKE CHRISTMAS GREAT AGAIN COMMUNITY COMMENT Mike Goldsby, December 8, 2016

Merry Christmas! It's time for friends and family to gather together and celebrate. These gatherings can range from wonderful to awkward anyway and this year we add in the reaction to the recent presidential election. Your gatherings may be purely red Republican voters. Or you may be safely nestled in a bubble of diverse liberal elitists.

But, at some point, chances are you will be together with people who have very different views from you. I have some holiday entertaining tips to make sure your celebrations go smoothly.

First, some obvious basics. Do not call the turkey Yuuuge. Don't call the prime rib Bigly. Don't make the deplorables sit at a separate table and don't refer to your guests as Bad Hombres or Nasty Women. Don't joke about grabbing a piece of pie. Don't brag about how your wall of mashed potatoes is holding back the gravy.

You may be a strong Second Amendment supporter, considering an open carry Christmas celebration. If so, avoid an open bar. You may be more of a First Amendment person, ready to speak your mind whether people want to hear it or not. If so, you should also avoid the open bar.

Christmas is a time for sparkling cider or water, bubbly wines and pink rose'. But avoid whines like "I am going to move to another country." Somebody at your party will likely help you pack. Avoid putting down California because the State went Blue, for the same reason.

It is safe to discuss sports. No, wait. That will somehow get around to the 49ers and Colin Kaepernick. First thing you know, your guests will be shouting "All Lives Matter". And then, somebody will bring up the 49ers miserable record and that will bring down the mood of any party.

It is probably safe to talk about the weather. Ooops, sorry. Avoid that topic. Talking about the weather will certainly come around to climate change or global warming.

Probably a good idea to turn off the computers and hand held devices.
Somebody will interrupt Christmas dinner with the latest Presidential Tweet.

But seriously, what happens when Uncle Roscoe finishes his six-pack of PBR and launches into making America great again? Or your Aunt Flo starts defending her vote for a third Party candidate? It is really hard to listen without judging, but that is exactly what needs to happen. Nobody needs to set anybody else straight at Christmas. It is not like any dinner conversation is going to change the outcome of the election. The holidays are probably not a great time to tell it like it is.

A great way to honor guests is to ask them questions. Maybe ask one of the elders about a funny story, even if you have heard it many times before. Or about what it was like when they were young.

Christmas is a wonderful, optimistic and positive time. There will be plenty of time to argue in 20 17.

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment