

Conversation starters help parties flow

Flowing conversation can keep parties moving and make them feel more engaging. Silent moments can be deafening and awkward. The following are some conversation starting tips hosts and guests can fall back on when silence is trying to intrude on the festivities.

• **Enlist a nomenclator.** Did you know that, in ancient Rome, senators hired nomenclators to follow them around and introduce them to people? Sometimes hosts are too busy to introduce everyone. Find a friendly face at a party and ask this individual to introduce you to as many people as possible. Ask this trusted friend for tidbits of information you can use to strike up subsequent conversations.

• **Steer conversations toward interesting things.** According to Rico Gagliano, coauthor of "Brunch is Hell: How to Save the World by Throwing a Dinner Party," categories such as science, unusual cultural or arts exhibits, and portmanteaus (new words made out of two other words) can spark conversation. For example, break the ice by speaking about "blowtox," a trend in which people receive Botox injections

into their scalps so their blowout hairdos won't re-curl. That's certain to spark some conversation that should lead in an interesting direction.

• **Ask others about themselves.** Engage others with open-ended questions, such as "Have you done anything new or interesting lately?" This may be a catalyst for conversa-

tion, and many people will reciprocate with questions about you.

• **Choreograph the conversation.** If the host hasn't thrown out a few ice breakers, take it upon yourself to start a conversation. Have a list of clever questions or topics at the ready. Some can include, "Who is your favorite comic?" "What's the strangest thing you've

ever purchased?" "What's your prediction for the next binge-worthy series on Netflix?" "Are tacos or pizza the better comfort food?" Keep questions lighthearted and encourage as many people as possible to give their own answers.

Dinner parties and other social occasions tend to be more enjoyable when the conversation is flowing freely.

Ferdinand Seniors sponsoring Derby Dinner trip

Enjoy dinner with friends, with no cooking, no clean-up, followed by top quality seasonal entertainment - what could be a better way to spend an evening?! You don't even have to drive!

Ferdinand Senior Citizens are planning a delightful all-inclusive trip to Derby Dinner Playhouse for Friday, November 30.

As has been mentioned frequently in this publication, a good time can always be found

at Derby. The show that evening is Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn* and the price of \$79 per person includes transportation, a buffet meal, pre-show entertainment by the Footnotes and the performance of a first rate Broadway show filled with humor and memorable music.

The Enterprise Coach Line deluxe air ride coach will depart from the Old National Bank parking lot in Ferdinand, with boarding beginning at 4 p.m. EST and departure at 4:30

p.m. (Note: this is a new boarding site.) This is an opportunity for all ages, not just senior citizens, and all are welcome. Please note, the cost covers everything except alcoholic beverages, dessert and tips.

Reservations must be made by October 30, at which time payment is due. Call Brenda Gramelspacher at 812-998-2786 to reserve a spot. Cancellations will be refunded up to the October 30 deadline.



Santa's Lodge

St. Nick's Restaurant

Thanksgiving Dinner

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (CST)

Reservations are not required but are highly recommended.

Call **812-937-4359** to make your reservation.

www.santaslodge.com

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