

**Subject:** "What not to say in a TSA line...."

**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2023 at 9:01:01 AM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Bernadine Fong

**To:** foothill

**CC:** centralservices, ASFC

"What *not* to say in a TSA line...."

Ram Subramaniam came up with this when some of us were discussing how to be particularly sensitive to people's feelings and perceptions, in general, but particularly during this past week when there has been an extraordinary outbreak of violence. It has come to my attention that remarks that we might make in jest or have on a poster or a license plate holder that we might display, could have reference to violence and weapons that were not intended to draw unwarranted attention, but they might in a TSA line ....

These are very sensitive times, in many different ways, and we have many different levels of sensitivities and levels of emotional tolerance. I urge all of us to be vigilant in our expressions and comments. When you share a "secret" with someone, I would not follow with "but then I would have to....." Think of the TSA line.

At the same time, comments, remarks, other expressions of support for one another are critical to our sense of community and well-being. To this end, I have asked MIP-C (Mission Informed Planning Council), to deliberate on some suggested guidelines to help us effectively and thoughtfully address how to best be a supportive community. To date, our attention has been episodic but not necessarily uniform. For example, we responded to the invasion of Ukraine, because we have students and staff who are from Ukraine. But we did not necessarily respond to other invasions of other countries though we might have had connections to those countries, as well. We commented in the past on the tragedies in Buffalo and Uvalde but not to others in other parts of the country. And we now have the tragedy in Memphis. In the end, we want to be responsive, supportive, and constructive, and for all of us to have the same or similar expectations of what we can do as a community in support of one another and to be particularly helpful and mindful of how our students might feel and what we can do for them.

As we conclude our remembrance of Jewish History Month (don't forget to view the posters in the Administration Building), continue the celebration of the Lunar (Rabbit) New Year, and prepare for the beginning of Black History Month in February, let us also prepare to celebrate *Random Acts of Kindness Week* (February 14-20) and *Random Acts of Kindness Day* which is February 17<sup>th</sup>, along with remembering Valentine's Day and our loved ones. <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/rak-day>  
<https://www.bhg.com/holidays/traditions/random-acts-of-kindness-day/>

And remember, we are always in a TSA line.... Thanks Ram!

Best regards,

**Bernadine**

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