Cantorial Message

March 2019

Be happy! It's still Adar! Because we are in a leap year, we are given a double scoop of happiness this year with two months of Adar. This is in order to keep the Lunar Jewish calendar in sync with the solar calendar and also keeps our agricultural holidays in the correct season. We celebrate Purim in Adar II, which falls on Wednesday, March 20. I hope you will come and have fun celebrating this holiday with your Temple Emanu-El family. Costumes encouraged. There will, of course, be noshes and dessert. :)

Speaking of food, my interesting food tradition from MyJewishLearning.com for Purim is:

Esther was a vegetarian (or at least a flexitarian; vegetables with occasional meat). According to Midrash, while Queen Esther lived in the court of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of legumes so that she would not break the laws of kashrut (dietary laws). For this reason, there is a tradition of eating beans and peas on Purim.

I didn't know about this tradition and ended up following a thread that ended up giving me a recipe for Fassoulyeh b'Chuderah, a vegetarian bean stew made with cinnamon and tomato. It's a Syrian-Jewish recipe that sounds delicious. I'm looking forward to preparing it on my next day off. However, since most people are more familiar with eating hamantaschen on Purim, there are recipes for Cannoli Hamantaschen, Rocky Road Hamantaschen, Chocolate and Sprinkles Dipped Hamantaschen, Triple Chocolate Hamantaschen, Rosewater and Pistachio Hamantaschen, Chocolate Hamantaschen with Irish Creme Filling, and more! If any of those peaked your curiosity, you can find the recipes at:
https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/purim-foods/

Even more happiness in Adar! The Temple Emanu-El Band will be playing at Shabbat Services on Friday, March 29. Thank you TE Band!

Thank you to Pat Sher for chanting Torah in February and March.

Thank you to Jonathan Rowe for helping me lead Shabbat Services while Rabbi Marc was with our Confirmation Class.

B'shir,
Sherry