

Holiday breads cheer season

A Jewish Sabbath meal would not be complete without the nut-brown, egg-rich, fine-textured bread called Challah (pronounced Hallah). It is usually served as two braids on a silver platter with a special fringed silk or satin Challah cover. The two braids are in honor of the Israeli forefathers who wandered for forty years and dined each day on the "bread from heaven." Each week, on the sixth day, they received a double portion.

Challah is braided for Sabbaths and festivals. On Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, the Challah is fashioned into a round shape — for a good year "all year round." And so that prayers and pleas might more easily rise to heaven, figures of birds and ladders are often used to decorate the loaves.

This Challah recipe, uses the Rapidmix method of bread prepa-

ration. This eliminates the step of dissolving the yeast first in warm water in a warm bowl. The active dry yeast is combined with some of the dry ingredients and liquids are heated to very warm (120° F. - 130° F.), then added to the dry ingredients. Initial mixing is done with an electric mixer. Rapidmix speeds up mixing time and makes yeast doughs that are lighter, springier and easier to handle.

CHALLAH Makes 2 loaves

- 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 cups unsifted flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 package active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup softened margarine
- pinch powered saffron
- 1 cup very hot tap water
- 4 eggs (at room temperature)
- 1 teaspoon cold water
- 1/4 teaspoon poppy seeds

In a large bowl thoroughly mix 1 1/4 cups flour, sugar, salt and undissolved active dry yeast. Add softened margarine.

Dissolve saffron in very hot tap water. Gradually add to dry ingredients and beat 2 minutes at medium speed of electric mixer, scraping bowl occasionally. Add 3 eggs, 1 egg white (reserve yolk for later use), and 1/2 cup flour, or enough flour to make a thick batter. Beat at high speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Stir in enough additional flour to make a soft dough. Turn out onto lightly floured board; knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 to 10 minutes. Place in greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.

Punch dough down; turn out onto

lightly floured board. Divide dough in half. Divide each half into 2 pieces, one about 1/3 weight of dough and the other about 2/3 weight of dough. Divide larger piece into 3 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a 12-inch rope. Braid the ropes together; pinch ends to seal. Divide smaller piece into 3 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a 10-inch rope. Braid the ropes together; place on top of large braid. Seal braids together at ends. Place on greased baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough to form second loaf.

Beat together remaining egg yolk and 1 teaspoon cold water; brush loaves with egg mixture. Sprinkle with poppy seeds. Let rise, uncovered, in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.

Bake in hot oven (400° F.) 20-25 minutes, or until done. Remove from baking sheets and cool on wire racks.



The beautiful nut-brown color of the Challah crust comes from glazing the bread with a mixture of egg yolk and water. A pinch of saffron adds to the color of the egg-rich, fine-texture of the dough.

Albina party scheduled

The 15th Annual Albina Children's Christmas Party, sponsored by the Jimmy Bang-Bang Walker Youth Foundation, will be held Friday, December 22nd at the Albina Women's League, 8 N.E. Killingsworth, at 11:00 a.m. Special guest will be Miss Tan Portland, Mary Holden.

As a special treat this year, the party will present a special showing of the film "The Road to Glory," the story of the Portland Trail Blazer's trail to victory in winning the 1977 World Championship. Santa Claus will arrive at 12:30 to make his traditional hit with the children by passing out gifts and fruit stockings. The public is invited. There is no charge for the fun and festivities, but a can of food to be donated to the Salvation Army Food Relief Fund would be greatly appreciated.

PCC adds live music

It will be "Friday Night — Live and Free" at Portland Community College's Cascade Center this winter, where top local music groups will be performing instrumental numbers for the public at no cost.

The concert series, which will feature jazz, contemporary, and rock music, and other varieties, is co-sponsored by the college and the American Federation of Musicians Local 99. It is being funded by the Music Performance Trust Fund, a public service organization established by the recording companies under agreements with the National American Federation of Musicians. The fund is the largest single sponsor of live music in the world.

Kicking off the series on January 5th will be the Swingin' Cavaliers, an 18-piece band led by Walter Bridges. On January 12th, the Mel Brown Quintet will bring their brand of contemporary, swing, and jazz music to the Cascade Center. The following Friday, January 19th, the Staple Brothers, a rock, funk, and gospel group will perform, and on January 26th the Hamiltones, a light jazz group, will be featured.

All of the concerts will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Cascade Center auditorium, 705 N. Killingsworth. Additional performances are being scheduled for February and March. The January performances were coordinated in part by the Urban League of Portland.

The public is invited to any of the Friday night performances for a fun-filled evening of music.



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