



MenuMadness: Terumah Feeling Cruv-y

This week's parashah is the first that deals with the construction of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle that accompanied the Israelites in the wilderness and served as their portable Temple. While the entire structure is described in the parashah, there is special focus on the Ark and the curtains that hang around it. The ark, therefore, will serve as the basis for our Shabbat dinner.

To begin with, the golden Ark and the parochet (curtain) are decorated by figures of what in English we call cherubs. In Hebrew, those figures are called cruvim, winged angels that flank the ark. Interestingly (although not etymologically connected as per <http://www.balashon.com/2007/07/kruv.html>) cruv means cabbage in modern Hebrew and cruvit means cauliflower. The similarity of the Hebrew for cherub and cabbage makes it too difficult for me to ignore stuffed cabbage and popcorn cauliflower for Shabbat dinner. While not a visual tie in, these dishes will permit us to talk about what these figures looked like and why we think they adorned the Ark.

We will also play a game of 20 questions. According to the commentator Abarbanel, each of the 16 materials used to construct the Mishkan falls into one of four categories: animal, vegetable, mineral, and color. These familiar categories lead perfectly into a game of 20 questions about those materials.

Have a cruv-y Shabbat,

Tammie Zaks Rapps creates menu plans that reflect each week's Torah reading. Tammie feels that "Themed Shabbat meals allow us to focus on the Parashat HaShavua in an engaging and dynamic way." Check out Tammie's blog at parashahmom.blogspot.com and follow her here on ChallahCrumbs!