

The Kreplach Festival and Traditions -- 1985 Version

These rules shall be strictly followed; the Kreplach Festival (hereinafter referred to as "KF") can only survive if these traditions are followed to the letter.

As we are learning as we go, modification and addition to these traditions may be made by unanimous consent of the participants. The KF is held the first Sunday in February beginning at 11:30am. This date is inviolate and must *never* be missed.

Tradition #0:

Official KF garments must be worn (except if you don't have any).

Tradition #1:

The youngest person present mixes the eggs (three eggs per batch of dough).

Tradition #2:

The eldest person present adds the flour to the eggs (two scant cups of flour per batch).

Tradition #3:

The first guest to arrive mixes the dough; only bare hands may be used for dough mixing.

Tradition #3a:

The second guest to arrive must come up with a good joke.

Tradition #4:

Everyone participates in "Kreplach Creation"; the first completed kreplach becomes the "Kreplach Icon" and is placed on a silver salver with a small glass of wine and a lighted candle. The "Host Mother" lights the candle.

Tradition #5:

The icon-accompanying candle is changed each hour to another of a different color.

Tradition #6:

All participants shall sip wine throughout the "Kreplach Creation" phase of the Festival.

Tradition #7:

The primary dough roller is the eldest participant; others may participate as the primary roller tires.

Tradition #8:

After each batch of dough is rolled, each participant slaps the rolled dough three times, spins in place and slaps the dough again. Failure to do this properly, for any reason, means the entire slapping and spinning process must be repeated from the beginning.

Tradition #9:

The "Kreplach Icon" is tossed by the Host Mother over her right shoulder into the soup pot ("Kreplach Cauldron") while the candle is extinguished by the youngest participant.

Tradition #9a:

All participants sample the icon wine.

Tradition #10:

Leftover dough, if any, is made into dumplings. The KF Coin is hidden in one. The one who finds the dumpling containing the KF Coin (during the consumption phase) takes the KF Coin home.

Tradition #11:

All participants share in the "Kreplach Consumption" phase. During this phase, at a time chosen by the eldest participant, the second-from-the-youngest participant is called upon to open the "Kreplach Query Envelope" and ask the assemblage the "Four KF Questions". All participants are urged to answer.