Shavuot

Shavuot celebrates the Jewish people receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. On this holiday, it’s traditional to decorate synagogues and homes with leafy branches and flowers, stay up all night studying Jewish texts, and listen to the Ten Commandments read aloud at morning services. The congregation stands for this reading, as if they were standing with their ancestors at Mount Sinai. And the most delicious custom is to eat something made with dairy, like blintzes: crepe-like treats filled with cheese. Why dairy? One explanation is that just as milk nourishes the body, Jewish learning nourishes the soul.

Make Dandelion Chains for Shavuot

Gitele and Yankl want to make blintzes to celebrate Shavuot, but another easy Shavuot custom is to decorate with flowers and greenery. A simple bouquet in a vase always works, but another idea is to make flower chains. If you live in an area where dandelions grow, you won’t even need to save your kopecks—just go outdoors and pick!

Supplies

- Dandelions with stems at least four inches long
- Small plastic knife (or your thumbnail)

Using the knife or your thumbnail, make inch-long slits down the middle of the stems, being careful not to cut the stems in half.

Bake the dandelions in the oven so the flowers wilt. When they’ve wilted, slide the stem of one flower through the slit of another.

Depending on how many dandelions you have, you can make crowns or necklaces to wear, or create a garland to place over a doorway. Chag Sameach—have a happy holiday!