

## *MJM Mailing — February Already —*

### *Morgan's Moment...*

*"Do you do Lent...?"*

I asked the question twice recently...  
nobody did Lent.

I'm sitting at Safeway Starbucks...  
why am I thinking about Lent?  
I don't do Lent myself.

I don't run with the right crowd...  
can't think of anyone  
who really cares.

Safeway is full of balloons...

I realize my question should be  
*"Do you do Valentine's Day?"*

Come next Saturday or Sunday...

I'll see the answer...  
those balloons and flowers will go.

It's religious in a way...

time to express love...  
an offering in hand.

Maybe some guilt in there somewhere...

or recognition of neglect...  
some forgiveness.

Maybe some promises to be kept...

some reaffirmation  
of a binding commitment.

Sort of like Lent but better I think...

I take another sip...  
Starbucks communion maybe?

Art Morgan

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY PRE-LENT TUESDAY PARTY (PANCAKE TUESDAY PARTY 6 PM FEBRUARY 9)

I know that Carnival and Mardi-Gras are the better known excesses to enjoy before the sobering season some Christians observe as Lent.

Some churches—actually none I know of—observe "Shrove Tuesday." It's a day to clean up your act before you enter a period of self-examination and denial as you follow Jesus toward the cross.

The line between religious holy days and secular celebrations of changing seasons and the like is hard to distinguish. Holy types never saw a happy celebration they didn't want to sanctify.

Several happy events seem to have held the line. They are all celebrated on the same Tuesday. You can choose whichever event for your own party. It works as well for none's and done's and never's as for all varieties of belief and heresy. Fat Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday can be substituted for Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday.

Personally, we are choosing Pancake Tuesday for our party this year.

Instructions follow:

1. Put out an all points invitation (It may be hard to drum up a party on a Tuesday).
2. Main Course — Pancakes
3. Additional Foods — Left-overs preferred  
(The event was probably originally designed to get rid of food items that might spoil when winter warmed)  
Check fridge, pantry and freezer for likely food items  
Dessert — Optional... whatever anyone wants to get rid of

Comment:

I note that in the Liturgical, Lent-observing churches, and the Eastern Orthodox churches, food items to serve (get rid of) on Shrove Tuesday or avoid during Lent are virtually the same items not allowed in the Mediterranean Diet (or heart and diabetes diets)!

4. Bring any canned or packaged food items you have kept for a long time to donate to a local food bank, (In our area we suggest Philomath Community Services)
5. Bonus opportunity to reduce excesses —  
Bring something you've had for a long time and want to get rid of. (Prize for the most outstanding or outlandish item)

It is said that there is something liberating about reducing the excesses of our lives, whether in diet or goods. It is not an exclusively religious idea, so you don't give up your non-religious position by participating in this.

It is not a bad idea to let go of excesses of guilt or anger or jealousy or hard feelings as well. The past is a hard load to carry into the future...(like keeping old food, or clothes you won't wear, or...)

Religions sometimes claim a monopoly on the forgiveness business. It is not really good theology to think that one must beg God of any type to take away such things. People, like Jesus for instance, make it clear that forgiveness is in the world. It's there for the taking.

Just like pancakes on Pancake Tuesday. There'll be plenty for any who want them. Happy Tuesday. My house at 6.

— Art Morgan February 6, 2016

### BOOK CORNER

Did you read the report that actual book stores are making a comeback? Used books are in great demand.

I think libraries are doing better as well. Many are re-discovering the pleasure of reading from a book.

A few years ago I downsized my modest library by about two-thirds. I proudly boasted of getting rid of two book-cases.

Then I began noticing books stacked on the floor and on my desks and behind books on my shelves.

I brought up another book-case. I'm filling the shelves. I think maybe I will give some of them away (as Lenten sacrifice?)

It is good to see more of my desks again. And some of the floor.

The amazing thing is that most of my reading is in library books.