



DBH Cultural Event Newsletter

Assembled by: Minette O'Bryan
April 2009

<http://www.ccp.edu/eoaa/2009Cal/aprmain.htm>
<http://www.wheeloftheyear.com>
<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2009.htm>
<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/importantdates/religiousdates.htm>
<http://www.dom.com/about/education/culture/april.jsp>
<http://www.luxurytraveler.com/seasons.html>
<http://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-hashoah.html>
<http://www.gatheringofnations.com/front.htm>
<http://netivotshalom.org>
<http://ecumenicalbuddhism.blogspot.com/2008/01/2008-buddhist-holidays.html>
<http://www.usatoday.com/life/lhistory.htm>
<http://www.villanova.edu/campusministry/worship/interfaith.htm>
<http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/april.html>
<http://www.youthwork.com/dates.html>
<http://www.nwhp.org/news/april.php>
<http://www.ispac-italy.org>
http://casnov1.cas.muohio.edu/cawc/religious_info.html
http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/229/public_holidays/Caribbean/Puerto-Rico.html
<http://www.suelebeau.com/april.htm>
http://goitaly.about.com/od/festivalsandevents/a/april_fest.htm
<http://hillel.myjewishlearning.com/holidays.shtml>
<http://www.hebcal.com/holidays>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_holidays_by_country
<http://www.avesta.org/zcal2007.htm>
<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>

 **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** For more info contact: Prevent Child Abuse America (312) 663-3520. E-mail: mailbox@preventchildabuse.org
April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation since 1983.
<http://www.cyfernet.org/hottopic/childabuse.html>
<http://www.preventchildabuse.org/>
<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/>
<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/highlights/April2003/abuse/links.asp>
<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/news/Archives01/child-abuse.cfm>

 **National Month of the Military Child** A time to show appreciation of the important role military children play in the armed forces community. This is a time to applaud military families & their children for the daily sacrifices they make & challenges they overcome. Military children face many obstacles unique to their situation, such as having a parent deployed for extended

periods of time & frequently being uprooted from school. Throughout the month, numerous military commands will plan special events to honor military children. These events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services & support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle, defense personnel & readiness. <http://www.va.gov/kids>

http://www.americasupportsyoudo.com/military_child.html

<http://www.monthofthemilitarychild.com/>

<http://www.spousebuzz.com/blog/2008/04/month-of-the-mi.html>

Sesame St. Military Family Special—Talk,

Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes

Sesame Workshop will air a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) special on April 1, 2009 that is aimed at helping military families cope with changes. The special carries a message for children whose parents suffered a physical or psychological wound in combat. The half-hour special, which will air at the beginning of the "Month of the Military Child," is a part of Sesame Workshop's "Talk, Listen, Connect" initiative, which began two years ago. The special is scheduled to air Apr. 1 at 8 p.m. EST. Please check your local listings for the exact air time in your area.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc>

<http://archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc>

Sesame Street Experience for Military Families

Program Highlights:

- » Free admission
- » Exclusively for military families and their children
- » 60-minute experience: mini-show, giveaways, outreach materials

For base tour information go to:

<http://archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/tlc-tour.php>

 **Alcohol Awareness Month** For more info contact: NCADD (212)206-6770. Alcohol-Free Weekend takes place the 1st weekend of April, 3-5, 2009.

<http://www.ncadd.org/programs/awareness/aamk2006new.html>

 **Multicultural Communications Month**

Multicultural communications may seem difficult at 1st -- differences in languages, backgrounds, customs & the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it becomes easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause.

 **April 7th World Health Day:** Marks the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is an occasion to raise awareness of key global health issues. The aim of the Day is to urge governments, organizations & businesses to "Invest in health, build a safer future".

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/>

 **Jazz Appreciation Month.**

Nationwide celebration of this original American music which encourages people to attend jazz concerts, listen to jazz recordings, support jazz programs, and simply enjoy the music's verve, pulse, and power.

<http://www.menc.org/resources/view/april-is-jazz-appreciation-month>

<http://www.smithsonianjazz.org>

National Poetry Month.

Inaugurated by the Academy in April 1996, National Poetry Month brings together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/pmonth1.html>

<http://www.suelebeau.com/poetry.htm>

 **Poem In Your Pocket Day: April 30, 2009.** Join thousands of individuals across the U.S. by carrying a poem in your pocket on this day. The idea is simple: select a poem you love during National Poetry Month then carry it with you to share with co-workers, family, and friends. <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/406>

Holocaust Month.

The Holocaust should be remembered as a warning for the future. Is a month where you learn and teach others about the causes, circumstances and lessons of the Holocaust. <http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/tc.htm>
<http://www.suelebeau.com/holocaust.htm>
<http://www.bravenewweb.com/>

2009 Days of Remembrance--APR 19-26, 2009

Holocaust Remembrance Day (*Yom Hashoah*)

Tuesday APR 21, 2009

The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to those victims. In accordance with its Congressional mandate, the Museum is responsible for leading the nation in commemorating the Days of Remembrance, and for encouraging and sponsoring appropriate observances throughout the United States.

<http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor>

April 1

Alberta Hunter, (1895-1984): African-American.

American blues singer, songwriter, nurse.

<http://www.redhotjazz.com/hunter.html>

Toshiro Mifune, (1920-1997): Japanese. Actor.

<http://www.toshiromifune.org/>

 **April Fool's Day.** also called All Fools' Day 1st day of April, named from the custom of playing practical jokes or sending friends on fools' errands on this date. Although it has been observed for centuries in several countries, the origin of the custom is unknown. It resembles other festivals, such as the Hilaria of ancient Rome (March 25) & the Holi festival of India (ending March 31).

 **Kha B'Nissan (New year): Assyrian.** Originally celebrated for 12 days, Assyrians place a bunch of green grass at the threshold of their homes to welcome fertility



& prosperity in the new year. On the 10th day, groups of new brides visit every house in their village or city & receive presents that are then distributed amongst themselves. Traditionally falling on the vernal equinox, it was moved to April 1 when the Gregorian calendar was adopted by Assyrian Christians. <http://www.aanf.org>
<http://www.aina.org/aol/limmu.txt>
<http://www.answers.com/topic/assyrian-celebrations>

 **Day that same-sex marriage was 1st legally recognized (2001).** Same-sex marriage has been legalized in the Netherlands (2001), Belgium (2003), Spain (2005), & Canada (2005). Many countries recognize same-sex civil unions or domestic partnerships (e.g., Denmark (1989), Norway (1993), Sweden (1995), Greenland (1996), Hungary (1996), Iceland (1996), France (1999), South Africa (1999), Germany (2001), Portugal (2001), Finland (2002), Liechtenstein (2002), Croatia (2003), Israel (2004), Luxembourg (2004), New Zealand (2004), the United Kingdom (2004), Switzerland (2005), Andorra (2005), & Slovenia (2005)). In the U.S., the state supreme courts of Hawaii (1993), Vermont (1999), & Massachusetts (2003) ruled that the bar to same-sex marriage violates their state constitutions. Subsequently, Hawaii adopted (1998), & the Massachusetts legislature proposed (2004), a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. The Hawaii & Vermont legislatures were given the option of recognizing civil unions, which Hawaii (1997) and Vermont (2000) both adopted. California (1999), D.C. (2002), New Jersey (2004), Maine (2004), & Connecticut (2005) have also legalized same-sex civil unions or adopted same-sex domestic partnership laws. However, some U.S. states have passed constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage (e.g., Alaska, Nevada, Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, & Kansas), & others have statutes or judicial decisions banning same-sex marriage. A federal statute (Defense of Marriage Act -- 1996) bans same-sex marriage under federal law & allows states to not recognize same-sex marriages contracted elsewhere. Congregations of Reformed Judaism & congregations of Reconstructionist Judaism perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. Some congregations of Conservative Judaism also perform same-sex marriage ceremonies.

 **Veneralia: Old Roman.** Festival celebrating Venus (Goddess of Peace) vanquishing Mars (God of War) with love. She nurtures peace, friendship, & love; & punishes war-mongers, hate-mongers, & false friends & lovers.

April 2

Giacomo Girolamo Casanova (1725-1798): Italian.

Soldier, spy, diplomat, writer, & adventurer.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/106644.stm>

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/casanova.htm>

Camille Paglia (1947-) Italian-American. Social critic, philosopher., & professor.

<http://www.fluxeuropa.com/camillepaglia.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camille_Paglia

Hans Christian Anderson (1805-1875): Danish.

Author of more than 150 children's fairy tales [*The Ugly Duckling, Little Mermaid, The Emperor's New Clothes*].

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/hcanders.htm>

<http://hca.gilead.org.il/>

<http://www.andersenfairytale.com>

In 1931 a 17-year old Jackie Mitchell, the 1st woman to play baseball in the minor leagues & be signed to an all-male team as a pitcher, pitches an exhibition game against NY Yankees & strikes out both Babe Ruth & Lou Gehrig. The next day, the Baseball Commissioner voided her contract, claiming baseball was too strenuous for women. The ban was not overturned until 1992.

Malvinas Day: Argentina-Falkland Islands. Is a holiday celebrated in Argentina every year, on or around April 2nd. It is always celebrated on a Monday in remembrance of the soldiers killed during the Falklands War, which occurred in 1982.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/malvinas-day>

April 3

Jane Goodall (1934-): English. Is an English UN Messenger of Peace, primatologist, ethologist, & anthropologist. She is best-known for her study of chimpanzee social & family life in Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania, for 45 years, & for founding the Jane Goodall Institute. <http://www.janegoodall.org>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Goodall#Biography

Washington Irving (1783-1859): American.

Attorney & author [*Rip Van Winkle, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*].

Gertrude "Ma" Rainey (1886-1939): African-American. Singer, "Mother of the Blues".

<http://www.redhotjazz.com/rainey.html>

Festival of Min: Ancient Egypt. The festival of the ancient fertility god Min was celebrated during the 1st month of the Shammu season.

<http://www.thekeep.org/~kunoichi/kunoichi/themestream/min.html>

<http://www.nefertiti.iwebland.com/ceremonies/>

Ramanavami (rama-na-vamee) (Birthday of Rama): Hindu. The story of Rama, one of the incarnations of the god Vishnu, is told in the *Ramayana*, which along with the *Mahabharata* is one of the great epic poems of Hinduism. Rama is celebrated in literature, music, & art throughout India & Southeast Asia. This holiday is observed with sanctity & fasting. Temples are decorated & parts of the *Ramayana* are recited at home.

Recognizing the Festival/Holiday: Fasting is part of the celebration of this holiday. You should check before involving food as part of your visit. Also, keep in mind that Hindus neither eat meat nor drink alcoholic beverages. "God bless you with prosperity and

happiness" or "I wish you happiness and prosperity" are appropriate greetings for all Hindu holidays.

Alcohol-Free Weekend 3-5, 2009. Takes place the first weekend in April.

April 4

Dorothea Dix (1802-1887): American. Teacher & social reformer for the mentally ill.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/dorothea-dix>

Maya Angelou (1928-): African-American. She is an accomplished poet (inaugural poet for President Clinton), an award-winning writer, a journalist, a civil rights activist, a performer, a dancer, an actress, a director, and a teacher. She is also a three-time Grammy Award winner for her autobiographical spoken-word recordings. Born in St. Louis, she was raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and then went



to San Francisco. She lives in Harlem, NY, and Winston-Salem, NC. <http://www.mayaangelou.com/>

Marguerite Duras (1914-1996): French. Writer.

http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/ucbio_duras_margaret.htm

Susanna Medora Salter (1860-1961): American. In 1887 she became the 1st U.S. woman to be elected mayor (of Argonia, Kansas) by a two-thirds majority.

National Day: Senegal. Commemorates Senegal's gaining full independence from France in 1960.

Ch'ing-ming (Tomb Sweeping Day): China. This is also called Cold Food Day. It is the only traditional Chinese holiday celebrated according to the solar calendar. This is a day for paying homage to one's ancestors by visiting graves & leaving flowers & food.

FOOD AND DRINK

Tea, noodles, & fruit are traditional offerings at the grave. The fruit is usually red or gold—tangerines, oranges, & jujubes are traditional bananas & apples are modern additions. Often pomelos, a type of grapefruit, are used in rituals. Afterward the family returns home & eats a meal that marks the separation of the living & the dead. The meal always includes pork as a tribute to the ancestors & a blessing to the living, & a grain to represent growth & renewal.

<http://www.chcp.org/chingming.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qingming_Festival

Mindfulness Day: Zen Buddhist. Day for being mindful that the joys & suffering of others are your joys & suffering.

April 5

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915): African American. Educator. Organizer & 1st director of the Normal & Industrial Institute for Negroes at Tuskegee,

Alabama (later Tuskegee Institute), He became the nation's foremost advocate of education for African Americans. His cautious & conciliatory approach to race relations was criticized by W. E. B. Du Bois & other leaders who urged more active efforts to achieve civil & political rights for Black Americans.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/washington/bio.html>

Robert Smalls (1839–1915): African American. War hero & legislator. As a slave forced to serve in the Confederate navy, Smalls took control of his vessel & turned it over to Union forces. He then served as a pilot & later captain in the United States Navy. After the War he served in the South Carolina legislature & for 8 years in the U.S. Congress. <http://www.robertsmalls.org/>

Day after Ch'ing-ming: Hong Kong, Republic of China (Taiwan).

Palm Sunday: Christian. On the Sunday before Easter, Christians remember Jesus' last entry into Jerusalem, when his way was strewn with palms by those gathered to see him. Churches, therefore, are decorated with palm. In England & Russia, where palm is unobtainable, pussy willow is used instead. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, the most important week of the Christian year. In Spain & Mexico many communities have penitential processions often lit by candles & people sometime flagellate themselves to reenact Jesus' suffering. Some communities perform traditional passion plays. The Lenten fast is strictest on Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. Holy Week or Semana Santa in Spanish, is Mexico's biggest holiday period with many cities holding candlelight processions. FOOD AND DRINK

Italian, French, Spanish, & Portuguese communities have a number of fast dishes made from salt cod. In Puerto Rico, it is traditional to make large amounts of escabeche, a marinated fish that can be kept refrigerated for many days. While salt cod is the traditional choice, the technique is also used with fresh white fish such as snapper & grouper. In this way, the cook of the household can observe the solemnities without having to spend a lot of time preparing meals.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_Sunday



April 6

North Pole reached by African-American explorer Matthew A. Henson & Inuit guides Coqueeh, Ootah, Eginwah, Seegloo they reached the North Pole 45 minutes ahead of expedition leader Robert E. Peary.

Chakri Day: Thailand. This holiday commemorates the founding of the present dynasty by King Rama I (1782–1809), he also was the founder of Bangkok as the capital of Thailand. <http://readbangkokpost.com/http://www.a2zpattaya.com/index.htm?main=chakri.htm>

Tartan Day: U.S. Tartan Day was established by an act of Congress in 1998 to recognize the role Scottish

Americans played in the founding of the nation & to acknowledge the many contributions that have been made by people of Scottish ancestry. Some notable Americans of Scottish descent include John Witherspoon, who served in the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence, & was president of the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University); Alexander Hamilton, the nation's 1st secretary of the treasury & leader of the Federalist Party; Andrew Carnegie, the great industrialist & philanthropist; Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president of the U.S.; & Sir Alexander Fleming, the bacteriologist who discovered penicillin. Tartan Day also commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, on April 6, 1320.

Vishnu Puja: Hindu. Day to fast from grains & meat & make offerings to Hindu God Vishnu. Flowers, incense, lamps, & vegetarian food are offered; bells are rung & drums beaten.

National Public Health Week (April 6-12, 2009) For more info contact: American Public Health Association (202) 777-APHA <http://www.nphw.org/nphw09/default.htm>

April 7

Billie Holiday(1915-1959): African-American. Jazz singer & songwriter. http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_holiday_billie.htm <http://www.billieholiday.com/> <http://www.cmgww.com/music/holiday/>

Julia Miller Phillips (1944 -2002): American. Film producer; 1st woman to win a Best Picture Academy Award (1973, *The Sting*) also produced *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* & *Taxi Driver*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia_Phillips

François Dominique Toussaint-Louverture (c. 1743–1803): Haitian. Military & political leader. Born a slave on the island of Saint-Domingue, a French colony (later called Haiti), he became the leader of his country's independence movement. As a guerrilla leader of insurgent slaves, Toussaint-Louverture sided with the French Republic in 1793 when other rebel leaders supported Spain's war against France. Appointed lieutenant governor of the colony, he succeeded in driving out the Spanish & the British. In 1801, defying Napoleon's orders, he freed the slaves on the island & established an independent government with himself at its head. After an invasion by French troops, he was removed from office, then arrested & imprisoned in Switzerland, where he died in captivity on this date in 1803.

In 1805-Sacagawea leads Lewis & Clark to the Pacific coast.

In 1987–The opening of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC, the 1st museum devoted to women artists.

The Annunciation: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian. This holy date celebrates the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of Galilee that she would become the mother of Jesus. This is the date according to the Julian calendar followed by Coptic Orthodox Christians & several Eastern Orthodox Christian denominations.

Mahavir Jayanti: Jain. Jainism is a religious system practiced by approximately 2 million people in India. It arose in the 6th century B.C.E. as a protest against some aspects of Hinduism. This festival is dedicated to the birthday of Jain, the religion's 24th Guru. It is celebrated with prayer & visits to shrines.

<http://festivals.tajonline.com/mahavir-jayanti.php>

World Health Day: UN. Each year on April 7th, the world celebrates World Health Day. On this day around the globe, thousands of events mark the importance of health for productive & happy lives. The aim of the Day is to urge governments, organizations & businesses to "Invest in health, build a safer future".

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/>

April 8

Ramón Emeterio Betances (1827–1898): Puerto Rican. Physician, writer, & revolutionary leader. Betances studied medicine in Paris & lived there most of his life, working from exile for the cause of Puerto Rican independence & the abolition of slavery while writing fiction, journalism, & translations from Latin. His "Ten Commandments of Free Men," issued on November 4, 1867, while he was living on the island of St. Thomas, sets forth the ideals of political & social justice to which he dedicated his life.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/betances.html>

Dennis Chávez (1888–1962): Mexican American. Legislator. A Democrat from New Mexico, Chávez served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1931 to 1935, when he was appointed to a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate. Elected in his own right in 1936, he won reelection 4 times, serving until his death. During his career he championed bills to benefit American Indians & Puerto Ricans, & as a founder & later member of the federal Fair Employment Practices Commission, worked to outlaw racial & religious discrimination in the workplace. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Chavez

Deaf students became eligible for college degrees from Columbia Institution (now Gallaudet University) when President Lincoln signed a charter authorizing it on this date in 1864.

In 1940-Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) is elected to the 76th Congress to fill a slot left open by her husband's death. She was the 1st woman elected to both houses of Congress, serving 8 years in the House of Representatives & 24 in the US Senate. She is a 2003 Women's History Month Honoree.

Vesak--Buddha's Birth (c. 563–483 B.C.E.): Buddhist-International. Siddhartha Gautama, who

became known as Buddha, or "enlightened one," was an Indian prince who left his family at the age of 29 to seek the truth of life. After years of wandering, meditation, & self-denial, he attained the enlightenment he sought at a place now called Buddha Gaya or Bodhi Gaya. The religion he founded spread throughout central & Southeast Asia, China, Japan, & Korea, & has also attracted followers in the West. Celebrated on this day in the Mahāyāna Buddhist tradition based on the Japanese Buddhist calendar.

Recognizing the Festival/Holiday: "Happy Buddha's Birthday" is a common greeting.

Hana Matsuri/Shinto flower Festival: Shinto. Rite honoring the Kami of Flowers.

Passover: Jewish (Begins at sundown).

April 9

Florence Price (1888-1953): African-American. 1st black woman symphony composer.

<http://chevalierdesaintgeorges.homestead.com/Price.html>

Chandler Hovey, Jr. (?–1998): American. Lawyer & sailor. A lawyer until his retirement from a New York investment banking firm, Hovey & his family had a long association with sailboat competition, particularly the America's Cup. This involvement continued even after Hovey began to suffer from multiple sclerosis in 1947. He used crutches during sailing trials competition, & in 1995 the Independence Cup, the national trophy for the disabled, was named in his honor. Date of his death.

Paul Robeson (1898–1976): African

American. A multi-lingual singer, athlete, actor, writer, civil rights activist, bass-baritone singer, & Spingarn Medal winner, & Lenin Peace Prize laureate. Robeson won international acclaim for concert performances of classical works, spirituals, & folk songs, & for stage performances, particularly in the title role of Shakespeare's *Othello*.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Robeson

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/robeson_p.html

Martyrs' Day: Tunisia. Public holiday.

Valor Day: Philippines. This marks the anniversary of the forced march to a prison camp of 70,000 Americans & Filipinos captured on Bataan in 1942 by the Japanese. Only 54,000 prisoners survived the march; 7,000–10,000 died & the rest escaped into the jungle.

Restoration of Independence: Republic of Georgia.

Jalal: Baha'i. The 1st day of the 2nd month. The English translation of Jalal (Arabic) is Glory.

Pesach (Passover): Jewish (First day of 8-day observance). This holiday, which is observed for 8 days, celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt & their return to Israel. Moses, an Israelite born into slavery, raised in the Pharaoh's household, & later banished as a young man for defending his people,

returned to Egypt & confronted the Pharaoh in the name of God, demanding freedom for his people. The Pharaoh capitulated only after God sent 10 plagues, the last of which killed the 1st son



of every Egyptian family, including that of the Pharaoh. The Israelites marked their doors to identify their homes for the angel of death, who passed over & spared them. Moses then led the Israelites through the desert for 40 years until they reached Palestine. The celebration of Passover, a spring festival commemorating freedom & new life, begins the previous evening with a Seder, a meal during which the story of Passover is read from the Haggadah. The menu includes a number of traditional foods such as matzoh, or unleavened bread, which recalls the unleavened bread eaten by the Israelites in the desert. The significance of Passover, explicit in the rituals & the Seder, the meal eaten on the 1st & 2nd nights of the holiday, is the focus on the family & its religious roots. Passover signifies deliverance from affliction & slavery into joy & liberation. Because of this & because Jews make great efforts to get together as a family for Passover, this is an important family gathering as well as a religious festival. This holiday begins at sundown on the previous day.

FOOD AND DRINK

Passover has many observances & customs mandated by the Torah. Among the most crucial of these are the dietary rules, which, during Passover, are stricter than usual. Foods must not be simply kosher but kosher for Passover, following the passages in Exodus "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread" & "Seven days shall there be no leavened products found in your homes." During this time matzos replace bread & any other wheat product. These matzos are produced under rabbinical supervision, which ensures that the flour & liquid are in contact for less than the 18 minutes required for moistened flour to begin to rise. Ashkenazic Jews (those originating in eastern & central Europe) also refuse to eat corn, rice, or beans, called kitniyot, because these, too, might rise due to natural fermentation.

At the Seder, a plate divided into sections is used for foods that recall the Passover story. Bitter herbs such as horseradish or bitter lettuce symbolize the bitterness of slavery, while a fresh herb such as celery leaves or parsley & a hard-boiled egg symbolize spring. (See recipe for **Bitter Herbs Salad**.) A roasted lamb bone recalls the sacrificial offerings made in the Temple. Haroset, a brownish mixture of fruit & nuts, suggests the mortar the slaves used in Egypt for making bricks. Wine, also kosher for Passover, is important in the ritual. A sweet wine is customary, although not necessary. Sephardic Jews also make **Sephardic Eggplant Balls**. For Passover menus, most people choose turkey, chicken, or lamb. Fish such as gefilte fish & salmon are also popular. Desserts & snacks include cakes, cookies, & macaroons, based on matzo meal & nuts such as almonds, hazelnuts, & coconut rather than flour.

Rum Macaroons are also a favorite dish.

<http://www.holidays.net/passover/>
<http://www.jewfaq.org/holidaya.htm>
<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/passover/>
🕍 **Maundy Thursday: Christian.**

April 10

🌍 **Dolores Huerta (1930-):** Chicana. Activist, Co-founder of the United Farm Workers.
<http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blhuerta.htm>
🌍 **Frances Perkins (1882-1965):** American. Secretary of Labor 1933-1945, 1st woman member of U.S. Presidential cabinet.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Perkins
🌍 **Clare Booth Luce (1903-1987):** American. Playwright; Congresswoman; Ambassador to Italy & also Brazil. <http://www.lkwopl.org/wihohio/luce-cla.htm>
🌍 **Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911):** American. Journalist, founder of the Pulitzer Prizes which have been awarded yearly since 1917. <http://www.pulitzer.org/biography>
🕍 **Good Friday: Christian.** This is the day Christians commemorate Jesus' crucifixion.
🕍 **Passover (second day of observance): Jewish.**

April 11

🌍 **Jane Matilda Bolin (1908-2007):** African-American. Lawyer, 1st African-American woman to graduate Yale & serve as a judge.
<http://www.wellesley.edu/Anniversary/bolin.html>
🌍 **Juan Santamaría Day (Anniversary of the Battle of Rivas):** Costa Rica. (Every year on April 11th.)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Santamar%C3%ADa
🕍 Day Pope John XXIII called for world peace, recognition of human rights, & justice under law (1963). He recognized that peace will only be realized when social justice is realized.
🕍 **Holy Saturday: Christian.**

April 12

🌍 **Andy Garcia: Cuba (1956-):** Cuban. Actor.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Garcia
🕍 Today in 1955 it was announced that the vaccine for Polio developed by Dr. Jonas Salk (1914-1955, Jewish American), was safe & effective. Dr. Salk was also the founder of the Salk Institute.
🕍 In 1933-Ruth Bryan Owens is the 1st woman to represent the U.S. as a foreign minister. She is appointed by President Roosevelt as envoy to Denmark & Iceland.
🕍 Day Saudi Arabia's top Islamic authority condemned forced marriage as un-Islamic and banned the practice (2005). Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh, who heads the Council of Senior Ulema (Scholars), said forced marriage is against Islamic law & those

responsible for it should be jailed. He said: "Forcing a woman to marry someone she does not want & preventing her from wedding that whom she chooses...is not permissible" under Islamic law. "Anyone who insists on forcing a woman...to marry against her will is disobeying God and His Prophet (Muhammad)."

Easter: Christian. This is the holiest day for Christians. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after he was crucified, on the previous Friday (Good Friday), & died in Jerusalem. It is Jesus' suffering & death on the cross, often referred to as the "passion," followed by his resurrection that is central to Christian faith. Easter culminates the penitential period that starts with Ash Wednesday. Palm Sunday, which marks the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, occurs 1 week before Easter. Easter is a joyous holiday, since it marks for Christians the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy of the coming of the Messiah. In addition to its religious significance, Easter is also celebrated as a spring holiday with themes of rebirth, gathering together with family & friends, & sharing special foods. For Christians who have fasted during Holy Week or Lent, the joyousness of this day is celebrated by once more eating meat & other rich foods.



FOOD AND DRINK

Traditional Easter food varies from country to country, but spring foods are always significant. Among these, eggs are the most widespread. Not only are they newly abundant as hens move into the spring laying season but their perfect shape symbolizes eternity.

Many European countries have Easter breads or cakes. Frequently they are flavored with spices or citrus zest & enriched with eggs & dried fruits such as raisins. Hot cross buns are popular. Regional specialties include simnel cake, which is covered with marzipan & decorated with 11 marzipan balls symbolizing the apostles who remained true to Jesus.

For the main Easter meal, the most popular meats vary depending on the climate & topography of the country.

Baltic

Pork is the meat of choice in the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, & Estonia.

English

In England, a roast leg of lamb or a large roast chicken is most common. Children receive chocolate eggs, often filled with candies, as gifts. Hot cross buns are the most popular baked good, but there are also some regional raisin breads & a marzipan-covered fruit cake called Simnel cake.

French

In northern France, *jambon persillé*—diced ham in parsley-flecked aspic—is the traditional Easter dish, while in southern France, the preference is for lamb roasted with garlic & rosemary. *Salade de pissenlits* is also popular. Traditionally, families gather the necessary dandelion leaves for this salad while hunting for Easter eggs. The leaves are tossed with the chopped eggs & browned bacon to make the salad.

German

In Germany (& also in Switzerland), ham is the most common Easter dish. Chicken is an alternative. The German Easter cake is *ostertorte*, a sponge cake with a mocha filling & chocolate-egg decoration.

Italian

Lamb is the standard Easter holiday dish. Cookies & breads are also popular & vary from region to region. Roman Easter bread, *pizza civitavecchia*, is made from a ricotta-enriched dough flavored with anise. Another bread, *pizza di pasqua*, is flavored with the zest of oranges & lemons. From the area of Venice and to its east comes *gubana*, a bread shaped like a snail & filled with a sweet mixture of raisins, walnuts, hazelnuts, & pine nuts. *Columba pasquale* is an Easter bread made of a rich orange-flavored dough & baked in the shape of a dove. *Panada di Milano* is a northern Italian Easter soup made of beef broth, eggs, Parmesan, & bread.

A Sicilian Easter specialty, which has become popular throughout the year, is *cassata*, a cake with a sponge base, almond paste sides, a ricotta cream filling, & a fondant frosting with candied fruits.

Torta Pasqualina, a tart filled with ricotta, Swiss chard, & eggs, is a traditional dish in Liguria. Unusually for an Easter dish, it contains no meat so it is suitable for vegetarians. Marzipan shaped into fruits (*martorana*) & lambs are popular Easter treats, especially in southern Italy. <http://italianfood.about.com/library/rec/nr0360.htm> <http://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/chocolate-nut-cassata>

Lebanese and Syrian

The Christian communities of Lebanon, Syria, & Palestine make an Easter pastry called *ma'amoul*. The pastry is flavored with rosewater & filled with dates, pistachios, or walnuts.

Polish

A day or 2 before Easter, Poles take the food they plan to eat to church, where the priest blesses it. The Easter feast always features a large holiday *kielbasa*. Ham, turkey, & other large cuts of meat are also often served, as are hearty soups such as *barszcz* containing *kielbasa* with veal, pork, or other meats in a slightly sour broth. The idea of both the large pots of soup & the big meat dishes is that there will be food to offer visitors throughout the holiday. Another custom is for family & visitors to symbolize their unity by sharing 1 hard-boiled egg cut into many small pieces.

Portuguese

A roast pork loin or shoulder stuffed with a filling of rice seasoned with tomatoes & peppers & dotted with raisins & olives is the Easter dish of Portugal.

South American

In South American countries, beef is the typical center of the Easter meal. Cuts & preparations depend on the wealth of the family. In Uruguay & Argentina, affluent families roast a whole side of beef outdoors poorer groups most often make a beef and vegetable stew. Leg of Lamb with Apple Mint Sauce is also popular.

COLORS

The pastel colors of spring flowers, especially yellow & mauve, are associated with Easter in the U.S. & northern Europe. In Russia & Greece, red, symbolizing the blood

of Jesus, is used for dying eggs & in other symbolic ways.

<http://www.holidays.net/easter/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter>

Palm Sunday: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian. Palm Sunday is observed on this day according to the Julian calendar followed by Coptic Orthodox Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Palm Sunday is often called the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem and is the beginning of Holy Week. On Lazarus Saturday, the day before Palm Sunday, believers prepare palm fronds by knotting them into crosses in preparation for the procession on Sunday.

April 13

Eudora Welty (1909-2001): American. Writer, won Pulitzer prize in 1973; photographer; winner of National Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Arts, & the French Legion d'Honneur.

<http://www.mswritersandmusicians.com/writers/eudora-welty.html>

Anne Sullivan Macy (1866-1936): Irish-American. Teacher of Helen Keller who was blind, deaf, & mute.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Sullivan

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989): Irish. Playwright & novelist. The winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize for literature, Beckett is best known for his novels & plays in which characters are confronted with mysterious situations in bizarre, timeless settings.

<http://www.samuel-beckett.net/>

Founding of the University of Mexico (1551): Mexico. The University of Mexico was the 1st university to be founded in the Western Hemisphere.

Bown Pinai (New Year): Cambodia, Laos. This is 1 of the most important holidays. In the morning food is brought to Buddhist temples, & in the evening more secular celebrations with food & music are held. The holiday continues through April 15.

The festive meal invariably includes meat, either pork or chicken, though in Cambodia men often hunt for game such as rabbit, deer, & snake. Desserts, often based on sticky rice or coconut, & fruit are especially significant at this time of year. Large platters of red & yellow fruits, including mangoes, bananas, papayas, & pineapples, are often a centerpiece.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodian_New_Year

Sechseläuten (Spring Festival): Zurich, Switzerland. Spring officially gets underway in Zurich with the traditional Sechseläuten festival, which is normally held on the 3rd Sunday & Monday in April. The celebrations include colourful processions & culminate in the burning of an effigy known as the Böögg.

The festival goes back to 1818, when one of the city's traditional guilds held a night time parade complete with

musicians & horseback-riders. The idea caught on, other guilds followed suit & in 1839 the first coordinated Sechseläuten parade of all the guilds took place.

The name Sechseläuten, meaning "chiming six o'clock," goes back much further in history than the parades: it derives from the fact that in winter the working day was limited by the lack of light, but once spring had come work could be carried on until 6 p.m.

The festivities open on the Sunday with a parade of

children, mostly dressed in historical costumes. Unlike the adult parade, children from other communes, cantons or even countries are allowed to take part.

This is followed the next day by the parade of the guilds. In mediaeval times the guilds were organisations grouping members of one craft or profession, but today very few of their members are still engaged in the work represented by their guild. However, they must all belong to old Zürich families & have a close connection with the city. Each year the guilds also invite a guest canton & a limited number of other guests of honour to join them in the parade.

The culmination of Monday's festivities is the burning of the winter effigy, the Böögg. The Böögg, looking like a snowman and stuffed with firecrackers, stands on a huge woodpile which is lit when the cathedral bells ring out 6 o'clock. As the pyre burns, members of the guild gallop round it on horses. The moment when the Böögg's head explodes marks the official end of winter. And the faster this happens, the longer and hotter the summer is meant to be.

<http://www.halabuk.com/europe/sech.htm>
http://www.swissworld.org/en/culture/seasonal_customs/spring_festivals/

http://www.zuerich.com/en/event_calendar/event_display.cfm?event_id=1193283

<http://www.planetware.com/zurich/spring-festival-ch-zh-zuspr.htm>

Easter Rebellion of 1916: Ireland. On Easter Monday in 1916 Irish militants attempted to gain freedom from the United Kingdom, but were unsuccessful. Celebrates a day of remembrance.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/1390080/posts>

Vaisakhi (vye-sak-hee) (New Year): Hindu. This celebrates the beginning of the solar new year 1930 of the Saka era, which dates from the ascendancy of Emperor Salivahana in A.D. 78. On this day, Hindus ritually bathe in the Ganges River to purify themselves. Recognizing the Festival/Holiday: "Happy New Year," "God bless you with prosperity and happiness," or "I wish you happiness and prosperity" are appropriate greetings for all Hindu holidays.

<http://www.baisakhifestival.com/>



La Pasquetta: Italy. The Monday following Easter, la Pasquetta is also a holiday throughout Italy. On Easter Monday, some cities hold dances, free concerts, or unusual games often involving eggs. In the Umbrian hill town of Panicale, cheese is the star. Ruzzolone is played by rolling huge wheels of cheese, weighing about 4 kilos, around the village walls. The object is to get your cheese around the course using the fewest number of strokes. Following the cheese contest, there is a band in the piazza & of course, wine. Easter Monday is a time to gather with friends & have fun.

Easter Monday (observed as a public holiday in many countries): Christian. The days from Good Friday through the Monday after Easter are public holidays in many countries. Governmental services & banks are closed, & most people have time off from work. Countries for which this is the case include England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Canada, Australia, Austria, France, & Germany. When making plans, please check to see whether or not this holiday is observed. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Monday

April 14

Pan American Day: Latin America. Pan American Day has been observed each year since 1931 on April 14 by the 21 American republics. The holiday honors the bonds of friendship between the U.S. & the nations of Latin America.

The first organization to abolish slavery in American was begun today in 1775 in Philadelphia - the Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage.

In 1977-18 women in the House of Representatives form the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

Vaisakhi (New Year): Sikh. This is the beginning of the new year for the Sikhs, 1 of the largest religious groups in India. It commemorates Guru Gobind Singh's founding of Khalsa, the ritual of bringing all those who become Sikhs into a community of equals. This is the date based on the both the Bikarami calendar & the Nanakshahi calendar, it is always on April 13th.

<http://www.indianest.com/festivals/00501.htm>

Songkran (New Year): Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand. In southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a 3-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, & water is sprinkled on monks paying visits & on statues of Buddha. <http://www.songkran.net/en/announce.php>
<http://www.sriwittayapaknam.ac.th/songkran.html>

April 15

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519): Italian. Artist, scientist, the original Renaissance man. <http://www.leonet.it/comuni/vinci>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/vinci/>
<http://www.leonardoda-vinci.org/>

A(s) Philip Randolph (1889–1982): African American. Labor leader & civil rights activist. Randolph organized the 1st major union of African American workers, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in 1925 & became its 1st president. Throughout his long life he was a leader in the movement to improve job opportunities & working conditions for African Americans. He was 1 of the chief organizers of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0841110.html>

1st public school for deaf students in American was established on this date in 1817.

Tax Day: US.

Toonik Tyme (April 15th-20th, 2009): Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada. Traditional Inuit games such as fishing & hunting contests take place.

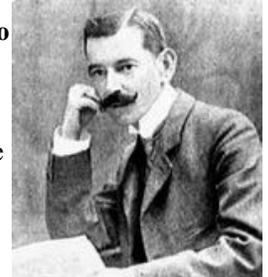
<http://www.tooniktyme.com/english/index.html>

Adam's Peak Pilgrimage: Sri Lanka. It is an ancient pilgrimage site to the sacred mountain, Sri Pada. According to legend, when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, he planted one foot on the north of the royal city, & the other foot on Sumana-Kuta (Adam's Peak), about a 100 miles distance.

<http://www.hiddenmysteries.org/mysteries/terra/adampeak.html>

April 16

José de Diego (1866–1918): Puerto Rico. Attorney, poet & patriot. A public holiday honoring this eloquent orator & accomplished poet José de Diego wrote & spoke in support of the independence of his homeland. He served as Secretary of Justice in the short-lived government of 1897, after Spain had granted autonomy to the island & before the U.S. re-imposed its governance. He later became 1st president of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives. As a prominent political figure, he opposed the Jones Act establishing Puerto Rico as a commonwealth of the U.S.



<http://www.preb.com/poetico/jdediego.htm>

Ike Pappas (born Icarus Nestor Pappas) (1933–2008): Greek American. News correspondent. Born to Greek immigrant parents in Queens, New York, Ike Pappas became a CBS News correspondent who traveled to more than 40 countries during his career. But he is perhaps best remembered for his live coverage of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 when he was a radio reporter for WNEW in New York. Pappas was covering Oswald's prison transfer when Jack Ruby brushed past him to shoot and kill Oswald. Pappas' historic live broadcast captured the entire event. In 1964 he began his 23-year career at CBS News as a radio writer, becoming a network correspondent in 1967

assigned to cover such beats as the Pentagon, the CIA, and labor. Pappas covered many of the events that occurred during that tumultuous time in U.S. history, including the Vietnam War and anti-war demonstrations, the civil rights movement including the Selma civil rights march, the 1967 Six Day War in Israel, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, the launch of Apollo 11 in 1969, the Kent State shootings in 1970, and coups in Greece, Bolivia, and Chile. After being laid off by CBS in 1987, Pappas formed his own video production company known as "Ike Inc." and wrote and produced television documentaries for PBS.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ike_Pappas

In 1869 Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett became the 1st African-American consul to Haiti.

Last Day of Passover: Jewish. This is the final day of Passover that commemorates The Exodus & freedom of the Israelites from Ancient Egypt Ends at sundown.

Holy Thursday: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian.

April 17

Sirimavo Bandaranaike (1916-2000): Sri Lankian. 1st woman in the world to be elected as a Prime Minister, served 1960-1980.

<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/bandaranaike/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirimavo_Bandaranaike

Day Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge, who caused the deaths of more than a million civilians (1975); vigil for true peace, justice, & respect for the human rights of all in Asia.

Day of Silence: U.S. A project of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize & protest the discrimination & harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students & their allies.

For more info: <http://www.dayofsilence.org>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_Silence

Ta'anit Bechorot: Jewish. Begins at dawn in the Diaspora on April 17th, 2008.

Holy Friday: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian.

April 18

Lotta Caldwell & Mary Ramsdell were appointed as the 1st female State Police officers today in 1930. Caldwell served 10 years, Ramsdell, 20 years.

Independence Day: Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe, formerly called Rhodesia, gained independence from Great Britain on this day in 1980.

Holy Saturday: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian.

April 19

Glenn Seaborg (1912-1999): Scandinavian American. Scientist & governmental advisor. Although a chemist by training, Dr. Seaborg did much of his work in nuclear physics, leading the research that created nine artificial elements, including plutonium. In 1951, he shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for these achievements. Dr. Seaborg became the director of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory & remained emeritus director after he retired. He was a scientific advisor to a number of presidents, serving as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission for 10 years. He also served as chancellor of the University of California.

<http://www.atomicarchive.com/Bios/Seaborg.shtml>

1st professional horse race where all the jockeys were female was held on this date in 1969, & won by Penny Ann Early on Royal Fillet.

Day Nicaragua's 9-year civil war ended (1992); vigil for true peace, justice, & respect for the human rights of all in Central America.

Administrative Professionals Week (April 19th-25th, 2009): USA, & Canada Administrative Professionals Week began in 1952 as an effort to honor administrative staff for their efforts & to attract more people to office & administrative careers.

<http://www.iaap-hq.org/APW/apwindex.htm>

Feast of Divine Mercy: Roman Catholic.

Easter: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian. Easter is celebrated on this day according to the Julian calendar followed by Coptic Orthodox Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians. In the Orthodox church, the celebration of Easter begins just before midnight on Holy Saturday with the lighting of candles during Easter midnight mass.

April 20

Tito Puente (1923-2000): Puerto Rican. Musician & bandleader. A pioneer in bringing Latin music to the U.S., he brought percussion to the center of his orchestral presentations with the Tio Puente Orchestra. He became known as the "Mambo King". He also was a leader in fusing Latin rhythms with jazz & other forms of music. He recorded over 120 albums including *Cuban Carnival*, *Mamborama*, *The Legend*, & *Tito Puente Live at Birdland Dancemania '99*.

http://www.bearzweb.com/t_puente/t-puente.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tito_Puente



Daniel Chester French (1850-19312): American. Sculptor, created statue of Abraham Lincoln for Lincoln Memorial, 1922.

<http://www.danielchesterfrench.org/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Chester_French

Asser Levy of New Amsterdam (later New York City) objected to legal discriminations against himself & other Jews in the city & on this date in 1657 was the 1st to win full citizenship. Levy later became the 1st Jew to own land in American & the 1st to serve on a jury.

José de Diego's Birthday: Puerto Rico. This public holiday honors José de Diego (1866–1918), eloquent orator, accomplished poet, attorney, and patriot who wrote and spoke in support of the independence of his homeland. He served as Secretary of Justice in the short-lived government of 1897, after Spain had granted autonomy to the island and before the United States reimposed its governance. He later became first president of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives. As a prominent political figure, he opposed the Jones Act establishing Puerto Rico as a commonwealth of the United States.

Sham el Nessim (Spring Festival): Egypt.

Easter Monday: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian.

April 21

Charlotte Bronte (1816-1855): English. Writer & the eldest of the 3 Brontë sisters whose novels have become enduring classics of English literature.

http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_bronte_charlotte.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_Bronte

Friedrich Froebel (birth): German. Educator,, inventor of kindergarten (1837), advocate of play in learning, author [*Mother-play and Nursery Songs*].
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Wilhelm_August_Froebel

Tiradentes Day: Brazil. This commemorates the execution on this day in 1792 of Jose da Silva Xavier, a leader of the revolt against Portugal.

Kartini Day: Indonesia. Commemorates Indonesia's 1st women's emancipationist. There are parades, lectures & social activities attended by women, all wearing their regional dress. Mothers aren't allowed to work as the family does the house chores. Many go on a pilgrimage to the grave of Kartini who died at age 24.

<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/Indonesia/Event/16385>

Rome's birthday: Italy. The date of Rome's founding (in 753BC) is celebrated on April 21 so if you're in Rome, watch for festivals & special events.

<http://goitaly.about.com/b/2008/04/18/happy-birthday-to-rome-italy.htm>

Festival of Ridvan: Baha'i. On the 1st, 9th, & 12th day of the Baha'i month of Ridvan (April 21, 29, & May 2), Baha'is commemorate the declaration of Baha'u'llah in 1863 of his mission as the last messenger of God to the world. Although Baha'is observe all 12 days, these 3

days are ones on which they refrain from work. The word "Ridvan" means paradise, & refers to the garden in Baghdad where Baha'u'llah proclaimed his mission as the prophet of God.

April 22

J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904–1967): Jewish American. Physicist. A pioneer in the field of atomic energy, he was director of the Los Alamos laboratory where the 1st atomic bomb was developed during World War II. Troubled by the use of science to produce weapons of mass destruction, Oppenheimer joined other scientists in refusing to work on developing the even more powerful hydrogen bomb.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Robert_Oppenheimer

Nikolai Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), (1870-1824): Russian. Revolutionary leader who in 1917 overthrew the Czar & founded the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenin>

Earth Day. Senator Gaylord Nelson is the founder of Earth Day. Theme for 2006: "Climate Change Solutions Campaign". For more info contact: www.earthday.net

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/>
<http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>
Earth Day 2009 Calendar:

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/calendar.html>

Day the world's nations guaranteed asylum to those persecuted in their homelands on account of their ethnicity, religion, or political opinion (1954).

Administrative Professionals Day: USA, & Canada. On this day, workplaces all over the 2 countries acknowledge secretaries, administrative staff & other support personnel for their contributions.

<http://www.iaap-hq.org/APW/apwindex.htm>

Shiva Puja: Hindu. Day to fast from grains & meat & make offerings to Hindu God Shiva (the Creator & Destroyer). Flowers, incense, lamps, & vegetarian food are offered; bells are rung & drums beaten.



April 23

William Shakespeare (1564-1616). Playwright.

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/works.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare

Sovereignty Day: Turkey. Public holiday. Known as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, this celebrates the day in 1920 that Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, met in Ankara with his provisional government, the Grand National Assembly, and began establishing the institutions of a new secular state independent of the old Ottoman Empire and entrusting its future sovereignty and independence into the hands of its children.

🇬🇧 St. George's Day: England. This is also considered England's national day. Like all the other countries of the United Kingdom, England has its patron saint. St. George, whose emblem is a red cross on a white background, is the flag of England, & part of the British flag. St. George's emblem was adopted by Richard the Lion Heart & brought to England in the 12th century. The king's soldiers wore it on their tunics to avoid confusion in battle. St. George was a brave Roman soldier who protested against the Romans' torture of Christians & died for his beliefs. The popularity of St. George in England stems from the time of the early Crusades when it is said that the Normans saw him in a vision & were victorious. St. George's Day is the day for wearing a red rose, England's national flower, in the button hole. However, unlike other countries, England does not celebrate it like Americans celebrate July 4 with fireworks. For most people in England St. George's Day is just another ordinary day.

🇮🇹 Saint George's Day: Italy. In Caresana in the Piedmont region, Saint George's Day on April 23 is celebrated with the *Palio dei Buoi*, a parade of floats pulled by oxen. Saint George is the patron saint of farmworkers.

🌐 World Book & Copyright Day: UN. By celebrating this Day throughout the world, UNESCO seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright.
http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

🇨🇦 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day: Canada/USA. Parents are encouraged to bring their daughters &/or sons to work on this day & to use this opportunity to educate their children on the nature of employment. Takes place the 4th Thursday in April. For more info. contact: www.daughtersandsonstowork.org

🇺🇸 24th Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow: Native American. APR 23-25, 2009. This 3-day event is held annually the last full weekend of every April at the University of New Mexico Arena in Albuquerque, New Mexico & is the largest powwow in North America. More than 700 tribes & nations, from Canada & the U.S., come every year to participate in this celebration of American Indian culture, which features drum groups & ceremonial singing, chanting, & dancing in traditional dress. There are exhibitions of American Indian artifacts & authentic Indian crafts for sale. The Gathering of Nations organization seeks to promote the traditions & culture of the American Indian people in the most positive manner possible & to dispel stereotypes created about the Indian people. The powwow provides educators with an opportunity to develop instructional materials on Indian history & culture for elementary & secondary schools. <http://www.gatheringofnations.com/>



🇬🇧 St. George's Day: Greeks & Coptic Egyptians. He is their patron saint. The Bulgarians and Macedonians celebrate it on May 6th. The red cross on St. George's armor & white tunic is now the symbol of the international Red Cross and forms part of the Union Jack of UK & Northern Ireland.

🇳🇮 Feast of Ogun: Yoruba/Santeria. Orisha of Self-reliance & Industrious Labor. Yorubas/Santeros celebrate with drumming, ecstatic dancing, & possession trance.

April 24

🇺🇸 Robert Penn Warren (1905-1989): American. Poet, novelist, essayist, critic, 1st official Poet Laureate, 1986-88, won Pulitzer Prize for the novel *All The King's Men*.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Penn_Warren

🇦🇲 Genocide Memorial Day: Armenia. This day, also known as Armenian Martyrs Day, commemorates the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in 1915–1916. Most Armenians living in the U.S. are the children or grandchildren of survivors of the genocide. This day has been chosen to commemorate this tragic event since on this day in 1915, many of Armenia's leading politicians, writers, & professionals in Constantinople were deported &/or killed.

FOOD AND DRINK

Armenian cooking has influenced the cuisines of other peoples in the Caucasus. It features many dishes of minced or chopped meats, lots of wild herbs, trout, & flatbreads such as lavosh cooked on a hot cast iron stove called a tonir.

🇮🇸 First Day of Summer: Iceland. Iceland is the only country in the world that celebrates the 1st day of summer as a national holiday. According to the old Icelandic almanac, the year was divided into 2 seasons: winter and summer. Summer began in April, heralding the reappearance of the sun & marking the beginning of the growing season. After the long, dark winter, the 1st day of summer was a day of celebration throughout Iceland. The people of Iceland still celebrate this 1st day of summer by the giving of summer gifts, or *sumargjafir*. Festivities include parades, sporting events, & other entertainment.

http://www.istc.org/sisp/index.htm?fx=event&event_id=18124

🇺🇸 Global Youth Service Days (April 24th-26th, 2009): US. Is the largest annual celebration of young volunteers, where millions of young people in countries everywhere highlight & carry out thousands of community improvement projects. <http://www.ysa.org>
<http://www.gysd.net/home/index.html?width=800>

🇺🇸 Arbor Day: USA. Communities across the U.S. plant trees in an ongoing effort to conserve American forests. Founded by J. Sterling Morton, Secretary of Agriculture under Grover Cleveland (1893-97). Is held the last Friday in April. <http://www.nationaltreetrust.org/>

April 25

 **Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996): African American.** Internationally renowned jazz singer. Ella Fitzgerald, who was to win more Grammy Awards than any other jazz musician, began as a singer with Chick Webb & his band. She later sang with Dizzy Gillespie & became known for her improvisations & "scat" singing, playing with words & musical notes. She demonstrated expert taste in material. Her recorded songbooks of music by the Gershwins, Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, & others remain definitive. Lyricists loved to have her record their works; her razor sharpness guaranteed that every word would be meaningful. Composers loved her dedication to melody, & jazz musicians loved her improvisation. Along with Billie Holiday, she is generally considered to be 1 of the greatest female jazz singers of her generation.

<http://www.redsugar.com/ella.html>

Anzac Day: Australia & New Zealand. This is Australia's most important national occasion of commemoration, marking the anniversary of the 1st major military action by Australian & New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) during World War I. Religious services are held at dawn across the nation. Later in the day, former servicemen & women meet & join in special marches, rekindling memories of their experiences. Commemorative ceremonies are held at war memorials around the country, including observing 1 or 2 minutes of silence. <http://www.acn.net.au/articles/anzac/>
http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/anzac_tradition.htm

Liberation Day: Italy. This commemorates the day in 1945 that Italy was liberated from German occupation during World War II.

Liberation Day: Portugal. This commemorates the bloodless revolution in 1974 that overthrew the dictatorial regime of Antonio Salazar & the reestablishment of democracy.

Sinai Liberation Day: Egypt. This day commemorates the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt & Israel in 1982.

Festival of San Marco: Italy. Saint Mark, *San Marco*, is the patron saint of Venice & there is a festival in Saint Mark's Square on April 25 including a procession to the basilica. On this day in Venice you should give a rose to your loved one.

Mounikhion Noumenia (4/25 eve to 4/26 eve): Old Greek. Festival honoring all the Gods & Goddesses. Flutes were played; prayers were said; offerings of barley, olive oil, incense, & food were burned in an offering hearth; & libations of water & wine were made.

April 26

In 1777 - American Revolution heroine Sybil Ludington, 16, rides 40 miles by horseback from town to

town during the night to warn the Connecticut countryside of invading British troops.

Charles Henry Cooper was drafted by the Boston Celtics today in 1950, thus becoming the 1st African-American professional basketball player.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 26-May, 2009). 1st proclaimed by President Reagan in 1981. For more info: Call the OVC Resource Center at 1-800-851-3420. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>

Mayan Rain Festival (4/26 to 5/3). Honoring Rain God Chac & His attendant Chacmool, & welcoming the fructifying rains.

April 27

Coretta Scott King (1927–2006): African American. Noted community leader.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coretta_Scott_King

Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (1759-1797): English. Writer, social reformer, wrote *Vindication of the Rights of Women* published in 1792.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Shelley

Independence Day: Sierra Leone. This day commemorates Sierra Leone's gaining independence from Great Britain in 1961.

Freedom Day: South Africa. This commemorates the day in 1994 when for the 1st time all South Africans had the right to vote.

dan upora proti okupatorju (Day of Uprising Against Occupation): Slovenia. Formerly Liberation Front Day (*dan Osvobodilne fronte*), marks the establishment, in 1941, of the Liberation Front to fight the German, Italian & Hungarian occupation of Slovenia

Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Memorial Day): Jewish. APR 27th, 2009. Begins at sundown. On this day, the memory of the young men & women (who were on active duty) who gave their lives for the creation & security of the Jewish State

<http://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-hazikaron.html>

<http://www.ou.org/yerushalayim/yomhazikaron/>

http://hillel.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Modern_Holidays/Yom_Hazikaron.htm

Akshaya Tritiya: Jain. This day celebrates the day when Lord Rishabha broke his 1st year-long fast by drinking sugar cane juice. To begin anything new is considered very auspicious on this day.

April 28

In 1993 – The 1st "Take Our Daughters to Work" day was observed, sponsored by the Ms. Foundation for women. (2003 is the the 1st "Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work" day).

Floralia (4/28 eve to 5/3 eve) Old Roman. Festival devoted to Flora, Goddess of Flowers.

🌐 **Feast of Old Greek Goddess Aphrodite (4/28 eve to 4/29 eve).** Day to honor peace & compassion.

April 29

🌐 **Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington (1899–1974): African American.**

Composer, pianist, & jazz orchestra leader. A prolific composer & arranger & brilliant leader whose orchestra included some of the finest jazz soloists of his time, Ellington was one of the preeminent figures in jazz from the 1920s until his death. His compositions include such classic songs as "Mood Indigo" & "Satin Doll," & concert works on jazz themes—some of them with religious texts.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_Ellington
<http://www.dukeellington.com/>

🌐 **Golden Week (April 29–May 5): Japan.** This is a holiday period that incorporates Greenery Day on April 29, Constitution Day on May 3, Holiday for a Nation on May 3, & Children's Day on May 5. This is a period when children have vacation from school & many workers have time off.

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2282.html>

🌐 **Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzma'ut): Israel.** This holiday marks the establishment of the independent state of Israel and its provisional government on May 14, 1948. The date varies according to the lunar calendar.

🌐 **Showa Day (Showa No Hi): Japan.** This day commemorates the birthday of former Emperor Hirohito, known after his death as Emperor Showa, from the Showa period (1926–1989) during which he reigned. When the emperor died in 1989, the holiday was renamed Greenery Day in an oblique reference to the emperor, who loved biology and nature, but during whose reign Japan had pursued an increasingly imperialist and militaristic course. The day is now celebrated as Showa Day, with the official purpose of the holiday being to “reflect on Japan’s Showa period when recovery was made after turbulent days, and to think of the country’s future.”

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2282.html>

🌐 **International Dance Day.** (UNESCO). Every year on April 29th since 1982, Dance Day is celebrated all over the world. The main purpose of Dance Day events is to attract the attention of the wider public to the art of dance. <http://www.iti-worldwide.org/>
<http://www.iti-worldwide.org/danceday.html>

🌐 Day production and use of chemical weapons was outlawed world-wide (1997); day to mourn their victims.

April 30

🌐 **Ellen Zwilich (1939-): American.** 1st woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for Music (1983).



<http://www.presser.com/Composers/info.cfm?Name=ELLENTAAFFFEZWILICH>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_Zwilich

🌐 **Leopold Karpeles** a sergeant in the 57th Massachusetts Infantry rallied retreating troops to stand firm at the Civil War Battle of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. He was issued the Medal of Honor on this date in 1870, becoming 1st Jewish soldier to receive the award.

🌐 **Feast of Valborg: Sweden.** Public holiday.

🌐 **Koninginnedag (Queen's Day): Netherlands.** A Dutch national holiday, it's the nationwide celebration of the birthday of former Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, who acceded to the throne in 1948. Celebrations begin the evening before and continue the next day with parades, music, and street entertainment. Everyone wears orange, the color of the royal house. Flags are flown throughout the country with orange "wimpels" hanging on them to signify this royal occasion. City streets are taken over by organized games, fairs, flea markets & garage sales.

🌐 **El Día Del Niño (Children's Day): Mexico.**

🌐 **Feast of Old Greek Goddess Artemis (Roman Diana/Slavic Diwitsa) (4/30 eve to 5/1 eve).** She represents the feminine in Nature & protects women throughout their lives. Women recognized the transitions in their lives & honored female fertility.

🌐 **St. James the Great Day: Orthodox Christian.**

🌐 **Maidyozarem Gahambar: Zoroastrianism-Fasli (APR 30-MAY 4, 2009).** Mid-spring feast.

🌐 **Beltaine (4/30 eve to 5/2 eve): Old Celtic/Welsh.** Feast of Blodeuwedd (Goddess of Flowers) & Llew (the Oak King - God of the waxing Sun).

~~MOVIES~~

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (2008)

When his family moves from their home in Berlin to a strange new house in Poland, young Bruno befriends Shmuel, a boy who lives on the other side of the fence where everyone wears striped pajamas. Unaware of the fate of those Jewish prisoners or the role his own Nazi father plays in it, Bruno embarks on a dangerous journey inside the camp. <http://www.boyinthestripedpajamas.com>

La Vita è bella (Life is Beautiful) (1997)

In this poignant tragicomedy, a clever Jewish-Italian waiter named Guido is sent to a Nazi concentration camp during World War II, along with his wife and their young son. Refusing to give up hope, Guido tries to protect his son's innocence by pretending that their imprisonment is an elaborate game, with the grand prize being a tank.

www.netflix.com/Movie/Life_Is_Beautiful/1192333

Luna: Spirit of the Whale (2006) Adam Beach, Graham Greene, & Jason Priestly star in director Don McBreaarty's fictionalized account of the events that took place in the harbor of a Vancouver Island village & shocked animal lovers around the

world. When a government representative (Priestly) announces that he intends to reunite an orphaned orca with his pod by transporting him hundreds of miles over dry land, the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nations Band, which believes that the spirit of their late chief resides in the majestic ocean mammal, does everything within their power to thwart the controversial plan.

<http://www.blockbuster.com/movies/luna-spirit-of-the-whale.html>

Smoke Signals (1998) The very first Native produced movie--this dramatic feature was written, directed, & co-produced by Native Americans. Set in Arizona, Smoke Signals is the story of two Indian boys on a journey. Victor (Adam Beach) is the stoic, handsome son of an alcoholic father who has abandoned his family. Thomas (Evan Adams) is a gregarious, goofy young man who lost both his parents in a fire at a very young age. Through storytelling, Thomas makes every effort to connect with the people around him. When Victor's estranged father dies, the two men embark on an adventure to Phoenix to collect the ashes.

<http://www.fallsapart.com/smoke.html>

Out on the Job (2008) For gays & lesbians of any age, coming out is a momentous & often difficult act. That's even more true of coming out in the workplace. This documentary, from Logo's "Real Momentum" series, reveals the pressures faced by three gay professionals. Each of them finds differing levels of acceptance in the workplace, especially for those who live in one of the 33 states where they can be fired simply for being gay.

www.netflix.com/Movie/Out_on_the_Job/70094825

RECIPES

Escabeche

Escabeche was traditionally made—as it often still is—with salt cod. Nowadays white fish of many species is often used. The dish is served cold & is traditional at holidays, especially Easter week, because large amounts can be prepared ahead & kept on hand in the refrigerator for several days. At times when there is no religious or traditional reason for choosing fish, chicken can be cooked in a similar way, & quantities can be increased. *Escabeche* is popular in Mexico, Puerto Rico, & other Hispanic countries of Central & South America.

- 3 pounds white fish cut into serving pieces
- salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 6 large cloves garlic
- 1 fresh hot pepper, sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 cup olive oil



- ½ cup white vinegar
- 2 sprigs thyme or ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 8-ounce jar red pepper (pimento) strips
- juice & grated zest of 1 lime

Season the fish with salt & pepper & place in a heavy casserole with the onions, garlic, hot pepper, & bay leaves. Mix the oil & vinegar with the thyme & pour into the casserole; simmer for 10 minutes. Remove the fish; increase the heat & simmer the sauce briskly for a further 4–5 minutes to reduce it slightly. Add the pepper strips & the lime zest & juice. Return the fish. Cool & chill. Serve cold. Serves 8.

Salade de Pissenlits (Dandelion Salad)

In France this salad, popular at Easter, is made with wild dandelions, collected early in the morning. Hard-boiled eggs gathered in Easter-egg hunts are used as the garnish. Cultivated dandelion leaves, now widely available, make it easier.

- 2 large bunches dandelion greens, washed
- 1 tablespoon white wine
- 1 tablespoon oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- 8 slices smoked thick-cut bacon
- 1 tablespoon cider or white wine vinegar
- 2 chopped hard-boiled eggs

Supermarket dandelions are usually 9–10 inches long, you will need to cut off the coarse stems & then cut the leaves in half to make them manageable. In a salad bowl, mix the wine & oil with salt & pepper to taste. Put the dandelions on top & toss. Broil the bacon slices; then cut them into 1-inch pieces & scatter these over the dandelions. Discard all but 2 tablespoons of the bacon fat; let it get hot, then add the vinegar, & immediately pour it over the salad. Toss, then sprinkle with the eggs. Serves 4–6.

Torta Pasqualina

This Easter pie from northern Italy is a perfect meatless main dish for Easter dinner. Though 33 sheets of dough are traditional because they represent Jesus' lifespan, often fewer are used to keep down the fat content.

- 5 bunches (about 4–5 pounds) Swiss chard
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 cup olive oil
- 2–3 cloves garlic, chopped
- ¾ cup coarsely chopped onion

- 3 tablespoons coarsely chopped fresh marjoram
- freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound (2 cups) ricotta
- cup Parmesan
- 24 sheets filo pastry
- 1½ tablespoons butter
- 6 eggs

Wash the Swiss chard; then separate the leaves from the stems, discarding damaged parts or tough leaves. Cut the stems into strips about 1½ inches long. Cut the leaves into 1-inch strips. Bring a large pan of water with 1 teaspoon of salt to the boil & drop the stems in. Cook for 5 minutes; then add the leaves & cook for another 5 minutes or until stems & leaves are tender. Drain and leave until cool enough to handle. Squeeze excess water out with your hands. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large frying pan. Add the garlic, onion, & marjoram & cook gently for a minute or two, Stir in the chard & season well with freshly ground pepper. Continue to cook for 5–6 minutes, stirring often. Let cool to lukewarm. In a large bowl combine the ricotta with ½ cup Parmesan. Stir in the chard mixture & the remaining salt. Check for seasoning: it should be peppery; if not, add extra pepper. (You can prepare to this point a day ahead if you like. Keep the filling covered in the fridge.)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 10-inch springform pan. Open the filo & cover with a damp cloth. Warm the remaining oil slightly so it's easier to spread. Fit 2 sheets of filo in the pan, letting it overlap the edge. Brush with oil. Fit in 2 more sheets & brush them. Continue this way, angling the filo so it overlaps all round the pan, until you have used 12 sheets. Turn the filling into the pan & spread it evenly. Make 6 hollows in it & put a bit of butter in each. Carefully crack an egg into each hollow. Sprinkle the remaining Parmesan on the eggs. Cover with 12 more filo sheets, brushing after each pair. Trim excess overlapping filo with scissors, but leave enough to roll over & seal into a border. Brush this border with oil. Bake for 30–35 minutes. Let stand for 5–10 minutes before serving. Unlatch the springform ring & transfer the pie, still on the pan base, to a serving plate. Serves 6.

Ma'Amoul

These cookies, either filled with dates as in the following recipe, or with nuts or a mixture of both dates & nuts, are an Easter specialty in the Christian communities of Lebanon & Syria.

- 4 ounces chopped dates
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1½ cups cake flour
- 1 stick (4 ounces) unsalted butter, chilled
- 1½ tablespoons rosewater

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar

In a small saucepan, stir together the dates & half a cup of water. Cover & place over low heat. Cook, stirring frequently, for 6-7 minutes or until the dates are soft. Stir in the lemon juice. Mash with a potato masher or process in a food processor to make a smooth paste. Cool.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees & grease a baking sheet. Sift the flour into a large bowl. Cut the butter into small bits & rub it into the flour until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs. Make a well in the center & add the rosewater. Stir in with a fork. Add a tablespoon of water & pull the mixture into a ball. (A very little extra water may be necessary.) Form the dough into 12 walnut-sized balls. Working with each in turn, shape into a 3-inch disk. Place a teaspoon of the date mixture in the center; then draw up the edges to cover it. Make sure the seams are firm. Shape into a circle & place, seam side down on the prepared baking sheet. Press the edges with the tines of a fork to make indentations. Bake for 20 minutes. They should be soft & pale when they come out of the oven. Cool; then dust with confectioners' sugar. These cookies keep well in an airtight container. Dust on more confectioners' sugar just before serving.

Leg of Lamb with Apple Mint Sauce

Lamb is 1 of the traditional European choices for Easter. Mint sauce made from the fresh mint – often thriving by Easter – is the perfect accompaniment as long as it is not too sweet.

For the Roast Lamb:

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled
- 5-6 stalks summer savory
- 1 boned & rolled leg of lamb, about 3.5 lbs
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt

For the Apple Mint Sauce:

- ¾ cup apple jelly
- 4 tablespoons cider vinegar
- ⅔ cup chopped fresh mint plus



Preheat the oven to 450 degrees & lightly grease a roasting pan. Cut the garlic cloves into slivers. Put some of these in the underside of the lamb where the bone was removed. Also, put in some savory leaves. Turn the lamb fat side up & with the sharp point of the knife make several deep cuts in the lamb. Put a sliver of garlic & some savory leaves in each 1. Rub the salt into the fat then trickle on any remaining oil. Put the lamb in the preheated oven & roast for half an hour. Reduce the heat to 375 & continue roasting for another 40-50 minutes. This timing gives you well done meat on the outside with

medium rare, slightly pink meat on the inside. Sprinkle any remaining savory over the meat & let it rest it for 5-10 minutes before serving with the apple-mint sauce. To make the sauce, put the apple jelly & cider vinegar in a saucepan and simmer for 5 minutes. Reserve a tablespoon of the mint. Add the rest to the jelly-vinegar mixture & simmer for another minute. Keep the sauce warm until serving time. Stir in the remaining tablespoon of mint just before taking it to the table.

Lambropsomo

This Greek Easter bread is most often made in a braided loaf or wreath with either 1 egg to symbolize the resurrection or 4 eggs to symbolize the cross. In Greece it is sometimes shaped as a dome & decorated with dough cut-outs of flowers & leaves. Flavorings may include spices, citrus zest, vanilla, & mastic.



- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 stick (4 ounces) butter
- 5½–6 cups flour
- 1 package quick-rise yeast
- ¾ cup white sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- finely grated zest & 3 tablespoons juice from 1 large orange
- 1½ teaspoons powdered allspice
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon red food coloring
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons sliced almonds

Put a cup of milk & the stick of butter in a small pan & heat until the butter melts. Let cool to lukewarm. In the bowl of an electric mixer or food processor, mix a cup of flour with the yeast & a tablespoon of the sugar. Mix in the milk & butter mixture. Cover & leave for 20–30 minutes or until it looks very bubbly. Add the rest of the sugar, the salt, orange zest & juice, allspice, vanilla, & 2 eggs. Mix until smooth. Mix in 3 cups of flour using the dough hook of the mixer or the plastic blade of a processor. Add flour a cup at a time to make a firm dough that does not stick to the sides of the bowl or your fingers. This will take about 5–6 minutes of kneading. Form the dough into a ball & place in a greased bowl. Cover with a plastic bag or wrap & leave in a draft-free spot until doubled in bulk—about 1½–2 hours. Remove the dough & thump it several times. Briefly knead it. Divide it into 3 portions & form each portion into an 18-inch rope. Braid the ropes together. Either fold the ends under, or form a wreath by joining

the 2 ends of the braid. Place on a greased baking sheet & let rise until doubled in bulk again—about 1½ hours.

During the last half hour of rising time, preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Put the remaining egg in a pan of cold water. Add the food coloring & bring to the boil. Cook for 15 minutes; then chill in cold water for 5 minutes. Dry the egg & grease the shell with a kitchen towel dipped in oil. Place egg firmly on the bread. Bake for 20–30 minutes. Mix the honey with the egg yolk & remaining tablespoon of milk. Remove bread from oven & brush with this mixture. Sprinkle with almonds. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees & return the bread to the oven for 5 minutes. (The egg is only decorative.)

Baklava



From the Balkans east to Afghanistan, this sweet pastry appears at all holiday & festive occasions. The following recipe comes from the Balkans. Variations include substituting sugar for the honey in the syrup in Yugoslavia & Greece, flavoring the syrup with cardamom, rose geranium, or rose essence in the Middle East & Afghanistan, substituting pistachios for half the walnuts in Lebanon & Afghanistan, or using hazelnuts instead of walnuts in Turkey.

For the syrup:

- 1½ cups sugar
- 1½ cups honey
- 2 cups water
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

For the pastry:

- 1 pound walnuts, half of them chopped, the rest ground (or use a mixture of walnuts & pistachios)
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 pound sweet butter, melted
- 2 pounds filo

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Combine the chopped & ground walnuts with the sugar & the cinnamon. Brush a 12-by-17-inch baking tray with melted butter. Place 6 sheets of filo on it, brushing each with melted butter. Scatter a 3rd of the walnut mixture on top. Then repeat the process 2 more times. Cover with 6 sheets of filo, brushing between each 1. With a sharp pointed knife, score the top layer of pastry into a diamond pattern. Bake for 1 hour or until golden brown. Remove from the oven & let cool to lukewarm. Pour the syrup all over the top. Best eaten a day later, when the syrup has had time to infuse. (*Note:* Never pour hot syrup over hot *baklava*; it makes it soggy. Either the syrup or the pastry or both should be cold.)

Salad Olivier

In 19th century Russia, when this salad was invented, it was customary to use cold roast game as the meat ingredient. Today chicken or ham is substituted. This salad appears at every festive meal in Russia, so it's not surprising that it's often called Russian salad.

- ½ roast chicken, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped pickled cucumbers
- 5 boiled potatoes, diced
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1 4-inch piece English cucumber, finely diced
- 1 cup canned peas
salt & pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard powder or hot prepared mustard
- ½ cup mayonnaise (or more to taste)
slices of cucumber, boiled carrots, and olives for garnish

Mix the chicken, pickled cucumber, potatoes, eggs, & cucumber together. Stir in the peas & season with the salt & pepper. Mix the mustard & mayonnaise & stir into the other ingredients, using extra mayonnaise if necessary to hold everything together. Mound in a dish & decorate with the sliced vegetables. Serves 6.

Armenian Lamb & Apricot Stew

- 1 cup whole dried apricots
- 2 tablespoons sunflower oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 pound lean lamb, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 3 medium potatoes, peeled & cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tomatoes, peeled & seeded
- ½ cup chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon powdered coriander seed
salt & pepper to taste
- 1-2 tablespoons chopped cilantro for garnish

Cut each apricot into 2–3 pieces & put them in a bowl. Cover with water, then strain & cover again. Leave for an hour. Heat the oil in a large pan & soften the onions & garlic in it. Add the lamb & cook until browned—about 7–8 minutes. Stir in the potatoes, tomatoes, parsley, & coriander. Season to taste with salt & pepper, then add 2 cups water. Cover the pan & bring to simmering point. Cook gently for an hour. Drain the apricots & add them. Continue cooking for another 20 minutes. Check for seasoning & add more salt & pepper if you think it needs it.

Knoedel

These dumplings are made w/matzo meal at Passover in obedience to the Biblical rule against eating leavened bread.

- 1 tablespoon chicken fat
- 2 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups matzo meal
- ½ - ¾ cup mashed potatoes
- 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper



Beat chicken fat until white. Mix well with eggs. Add meal & potato, & enough lukewarm water to make a thick but workable mixture. Stir in the parsley, ginger, salt, & pepper, then form small balls the size of marbles & drop them into boiling soup. Boil for about 15 mins.

Bitter Herbs Salad

To recall the bitterness of slavery, Ashkenazic Jews (those of northern European descent) include a bitter herb such as horseradish on the seder plate at Passover. Further south, Sephardic Jews (those of Spanish & North African descent) make a salad including spring herbs & bitter-leaved plants such as romaine & endive.

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon cayenne (or more to taste)
- 1 large head romaine lettuce, coarse outer leaves removed & torn into large shreds for serving
- 1 cup torn arugula leaves
- 6 mint leaves, torn or coarsely chopped
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ cup chopped fresh dill
- 6 scallions, white and tender green parts, cut into thin slices
- 1 bunch radishes, washed, and green tops removed
- 2 heads Belgian endive, coarse outer leaves removed

Put the olive oil, lemon juice, & cayenne in the salad bowl you plan to use. Place the romaine, arugula, mint, parsley, dill, & scallions on top. Gently turn this mixture over & over with salad servers. Slice the radishes & scatter on top. Just before serving, cut the root end off the endive. Then cut leaves into 1-inch-wide pieces, separate the leaves, & then add them to the salad. Toss again.



Sephardic Eggplant Balls

Sephardic Jews are those who settled in the Mediterranean countries. While they follow the same dietary laws as the Ashkenazic Jews of northern Europe, they have a different culinary repertoire because they live in warmer countries where hot-weather crops such as eggplants, okra, tomatoes, peppers, & olives are staples.

- 4 medium eggplants, each about 8-12 ounces
- 2 eggs plus 1 extra egg white, beaten
salt & pepper to taste
- 1-2 teaspoons oregano, or to taste
- ½ cup flour, or more as needed
olive oil or peanut oil for frying

Preheat the oven to 400° F. Place the whole eggplants on a baking sheet & bake until the skin is wrinkled & dark & the interior is soft. This takes about 50–60 minutes. When they are cool enough to handle, scoop the flesh into a sieve or colander & leave for 1–2 hours to let some of the juices drain away. Then chop & mash the flesh & stir in the flour. Use sufficient flour to make a thick dropping consistency; the exact amount varies depending on the size & juiciness of the eggplants. Heat 1 inch of oil in a frying pan. When a half-inch cube of bread dropped into the oil rises immediately to the surface, the oil is hot enough. Drop in Tbsps of the eggplant mixture & cook until golden, turning once. You can make 4–6 at a time depending on the size of the pan. They take only 2–3 minutes per side to cook. Transfer them to a dish lined with paper towels to absorb excess fat. Sprinkle with salt & serve immediately as a side dish.

Rum Macarons

One of the Jewish dietary laws for Passover recalls the exodus from Egypt, when they had no time to make leavened bread for their journey to the Promised Land. In memory of this, Jews not only eat no leavened food during Passover, but to avoid even inadvertent leavening, which can take place 18 minutes after flour becomes moist, they use only specially prepared matzo meal. Another dietary law forbids eating meat & dairy foods in the same meal. Together these 2 laws impose limits on cake & pie possibilities during Passover. Jewish cooks have therefore created a repertoire of alternative desserts. Among them, almond or coconut macarons are a holiday staple. This recipe uses almond paste as shortcut.

- 1 7-ounce can almond paste at room temperature
- 2 cups sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 egg white
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 tablespoons dark rum (or to taste)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees & place sheets of baking parchment on 2 large cookie sheets. Break the almond paste into little lumps & put it in the container of a food processor or mixing bowl. Add the coconut & egg white & blend or stir together. Finally add the vanilla extract & the rum and process or beat it in so you have a thick paste, able to hold its shape when dropped but not too stiff. If necessary, add a few drops more rum to get the right consistency.

Put the mixture into piping bag or plastic bag filled with a wide nozzle such as Ateco 105. Pipe macarons about an inch or so in diameter. If you do not have a piping bag, make the macarons by dropping the mixture from a well-filled teaspoon. If the edges are untidy, just knock them into shape with the back of a fork. Bake for 18-22 minutes or until a warm golden brown. Makes about 2 1/2 to 3 dozen macarons. They can be stored for several weeks in an airtight container.

Rabri

Thick, sweet milk flavored with essences. (Hindu)

Ingredients

- 1 liter Whole milk
- 100 GMS Sugar
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- 1/4 cup sliced pistachios

Method

1. Boil milk in a large pan.
2. Keep stirring the milk occasionally until reduced to half of its original quantity. Add the sugar.
3. Scrape the sides of the pan from time to time to get the malai (cream) into the milk. Cook until reduced to half of its quantity.
4. Remove from heat & allow to cool. Add the almonds.
5. When cool, place in the refrigerator. Mix the milk if it feels to thick.
6. Garnish with pistachios.

Kheer

Sweetened milk & rice mixture. (Hindu)

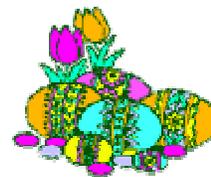
Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Rice (basmati)
- 4 cups Milk
- 1/4 cup Raisins
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1 tsp. Cardamom (seeds)
- 1/4 cup Almonds (shredded, blanched)
- A few strands of saffron

Serve with

Serve warm or chilled.

Method



1. Wash & drain the rice. Soak in water for 1/2 hour.
2. Boil Milk & add drained rice. Simmer on low heat for 1 1/2 hours. Scrape the sides & bottom frequently to prevent sticking.
3. When the rice is cooked and the mixture gets a creamy consistency, add sugar & stir well.
4. Remove from heat & add crushed cardamom seeds, Saffron & shredded almonds.
5. Serve hot or refrigerated cold.

MAY 2009

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month began in 1979 as Asian Heritage Week, established by congressional proclamation. From then until 1993, the period for recognizing Asian/Pacific Americans was created by congressional proclamation each year. President George Bush, on October 23, 1992, signed legislation into law that made May of each year Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. For more information, contact the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Council at 703-354-5036 or on the Internet at

Origins of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/asianhistory1.html>

Asian-Pacific-Islander Heritage Month: Stories from Across the Seas, Books:

www.calacademy.org/research/library/biodiv/storytime/may02.htm

More Info: <http://www.hmsdc.com/>

http://www.crayola.com/calendar/detail.cfm?event_id=187&year=2003

<http://www.rochesterasianhistory.org/index.php?page=apah>

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/asia/>

 **Older Americans Month.** Established by presidential proclamation (JFK designated May "Senior Citizens Month" in April 1963 & in 1980 Jimmy Carter designated May "Older Americans Month") to honor the contributions of older Americans to society. Materials are available for downloading: Administration on Aging: Washington, DC 20201.

(202) 619- 0724 www.aoa.gov

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past & current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs & other such activities.

 **Mental Health Month.** National Mental Health Association & National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare: 2001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

(800)969-6642 <http://www.nmha.org/may/index.cfm>

5th Cinco de Mayo

Looking for ways to support and honor U.S. military service members & veterans, go to the Military.com

Support our Troops web page at:

http://www.military.com/Content/MoreContent1/?file=support_troops to learn more.

Any Soldier, Any Marine, Any Sailor, Any Airman, Any Coast Guardsman: Send mail & care packages to soldiers who don't receive mail.

<http://www.anysoldier.com/index.cfm>,

<http://anymarine.com/>, <http://anysailor.com/>,

<http://anyairman.com/>, <http://anycoastguard.com/>

Let's Say Thanks to the Troops: The Xerox Corporation is helping people across the nation express their gratitude to our troops overseas with **FREE** postcards created at their Let's Say Thanks website which are printed out & included in care packages sent to the troops by **www.Give2TheTroops.org**.

<http://www.letsaythanks.com/Home.html>

Quilts of Valor Foundation: Quilting Honor & Comfort for Our Wounded Soldiers. The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL combat wounded & injured service members from the War on Terror whether physical or psychological wounds with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). <http://www.qovf.org/>
 Contact Info: Barbara Winkler 562-925-7673

Cell Phones for Soldiers: The program was started in April 2004 by 13-year-old Brittany Bergquist & her 12-year-old brother Robbie of Norwell, Massachusetts. Their goal is to help our soldiers serving overseas call home. They hope to provide as many soldiers as possible with prepaid calling cards. Through generous donations & the recycling of used cell phones, They have already distributed thousands of calling cards to soldiers around the globe. **Featured Sponsor** - AT&T has donated more than \$500,000 worth of prepaid phone cards to Cell Phones for Soldiers & is now offering all 2,000 company-owned wireless store locations across the country as drop-off sites to help recycle used cell phones for the program, through July 2009!

<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/>

Our Military Kids

Our Military Kids provides support to the children of deployed and severely injured National Guard and Military Reserve personnel through grants for enrichment activities and tutoring that nurture & sustain the children during the time a parent is away in service.

<http://www.ourmilitarykids.org>

Veterans and Families: Sacramento, California-based organization is building support services for returning veterans. <http://www.veteransandfamilies.org/home.html>

More Links to Warrior Care Foundations:

http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2008/wounded_care_orgs/index.html



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!



Soldiers' Angels

Soldiers' Angels has 200,000 volunteers in more than 20 different teams and programs who provide assistance to the wounded, continuing support for veterans, remembrances and comfort for families of the fallen, and immediate response to unique difficulties. They also provide letters, care packages and comfort items to the deployed, and support for their families here at home. <http://www.soldiersangels.org/>

Wounded Warriors: Donates everything from phone cards to TVs to wounded soldiers. <http://www.woundedwarriorhospitalfund.org/>

Soldiers Project

The Soldiers Project is a nonprofit organization provides free psychological treatment to military servicemembers: active duty, National Guard, Reserves and veterans who have served, or expect to serve, in Operation Enduring Freedom and/or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Treatment also is offered free of charge to servicemembers' families and loved ones. <http://www.thesoldiersproject.org>
Southern California: 818-761-7438

Still Serving Veterans

Still Serving Veterans helps returning war veterans re-integrate into the American workplace and communities through counseling, coaching, guidance, job assistance and help with securing Veterans Administration benefits. <http://www.stillservingveterans.org>

Veteran Love and Appreciation Fund

Veteran Love understands that there can be a substantial delay in the discharge from active duty and the payment of VA benefits. This is where Veteran Love steps in to help by providing for veterans' essential, day to day needs. <http://www.veteranlove.com>

Vet Dogs

America's VetDogs, a subsidiary of the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, offers guide and service dogs to veterans of all eras. A major component of the program is to provide service dogs to members of the military recently wounded in combat. The group also has deployed therapy dogs in Iraq working in conjunction with the U.S. Army to relieve combat stress in the field. <http://www.vetdogs.org>

Veterans' Families United Foundation

Veterans' Families United Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded by the mother of a veteran who served in Iraq to assist returning veterans and their families in healing through by providing a comprehensive list of support services and resources and a family support network. <http://www.veteransfamiliesunited.org>

Paws for Patriots

Sponsored by Southeastern Guide Dogs Inc., Paws for Patriots serves veterans blinded or otherwise injured in Iraq and Afghanistan by partnering them with professionally trained guide dogs and therapy dogs. Veterans with visual impairments receive 26 days of instruction at SGD's Palmetto, Florida, campus – and lifetime follow up and support. <http://www.guidedogs.org/index.php?page=Paws-for-Patriots-01>

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America is the nation's first & largest group dedicated to the Troops & Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, & the civilian supporters of those Troops and Veterans. As always, membership with IAVA is free. <http://iava.org>

VA Watchdog website

Follows VA news & informs about policy, regulation & benefit changes at the Department of Veterans' Affairs. <http://www.vawatchdog.org>

Download your free copy of the 2008 **VA benefits handbook** here... <http://vawatchdog.org/08/fedben%202008.pdf>

The Four Reliances

First, rely on the spirit and meaning of the teachings, not on the words;
Second, rely on the teachings, not on the personality of the teacher;
Third, rely on real wisdom, not superficial interpretation;
And fourth, rely on the essence of your pure Wisdom Mind, not on judgmental perceptions.

—Traditional Buddhist teaching

Never Again: What You Do Matters!

Remember

- Find out more about the Holocaust
- Hold a memorial service on Holocaust Remembrance Day



Learn

- Learn what is antisemitism and what are the consequences of unchecked hate.
- Learn what genocide is.

Take Action

- Stand up and speak out when you hear an inappropriate hateful remark. Words matter.
- Share the truth when someone says the Holocaust didn't happen. Direct them to authentic evidence and eyewitness accounts of the most well documented crime in history.

Mauthausen, Austria.

Mauthausen Concentration Camp (also known as Mauthausen-Gusen) was a group of 49 Nazi concentration camps situated around the small town of Mauthausen in Upper Austria, about 20 km east of the city of Linz. It was established on August 8, 1938, and liberated on May 5, 1945 by the US Army.

Mauthausen was classified as a so-called "category three camp". This was the fiercest category, and for the prisoners it meant "Rückkehr unerwünscht" (return not desired) and "Vernichtung durch arbeit" (extermination by work).

Originally, the largest group of inmates consisted of German socialists, homosexuals and Roma. In early 1940, a large number of Poles were transferred to the Mauthausen-Gusen complex, composed mostly of artists, scientists, boy-scouts, teachers and university professors.

For more information:

<http://www.mauthausen-memorial.at/>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/forgottencamps/Camps/MauthausenEng.html>

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/austria/mauthausen-concentration-camp.htm>

<http://www.remember.org/camps/mauthausen/index.html>

http://www.11tharmoreddivision.com/history/mauthausen/mauthausen_camp.htm

<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/othercamps/mauthausen.html>

<http://www.scrapbookpages.com/Mauthausen/KZMauthausen/History/introduction.html>



The gates of Mauthausen.



Looking towards the gates of Mauthausen.



M. O'Bryan © 2007

Looking out one of the windows of the prisoner's barracks at Mauthausen.



Prisoners of Mauthausen welcome a U.S. tank on May 6, 1945, the day after the camp was liberated.