

1: Walpurgis Night - Wikipedia

The Festival of Isis was held in ancient Egypt as a celebration of spring and rebirth. Isis features prominently in the story of the resurrection of her lover, Osiris. Isis features prominently in the story of the resurrection of her lover, Osiris.

The air is filled with strong Chinese emotions. In stores in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, and other cities, products of traditional Chinese style have started to lead fashion trend[s]. Buy yourself a Chinese-style coat, get your kids tiger-head hats and shoes, and decorate your home with some beautiful red Chinese knots, then you will have an authentic Chinese-style Spring Festival. Influenced by the flourished cultures, foods from different places look and taste totally different. Among them, the most well-known ones are dumplings from northern China and Tangyuan from southern China. Preceding days[edit] On the eighth day of the lunar month prior to Chinese New Year, the Laba holiday simplified Chinese: For those that believe in Buddhism, the Laba holiday is also considered Bodhi Day. Every member of the family was then served a bowl, with leftovers distributed to relatives and friends. The concept of the "La month" is similar to Advent in Christianity. Many families eat vegetarian on Chinese New Year eve, the garlic and preserved meat are eaten on Chinese New Year day. Receive the Gods in Chinese New Year, s On the days immediately before the New Year celebration, Chinese families give their homes a thorough cleaning. There is a Cantonese saying "Wash away the dirt on nin ya baat" Chinese: It is believed the cleaning sweeps away the bad luck of the preceding year and makes their homes ready for good luck. Brooms and dust pans are put away on the first day so that the newly arrived good luck cannot be swept away. Some people give their homes, doors and window-frames a new coat of red paint; decorators and paper-hangers do a year-end rush of business prior to Chinese New Year. Purchasing new clothing and shoes also symbolize a new start. Any hair cuts need to be completed before the New Year, as cutting hair on New Year is considered bad luck due to the homonymic nature of the word "hair" fa and the word for "prosperity". Businesses are expected to pay off all the debts outstanding for the year before the new year eve, extending to debts of gratitude. Thus it is a common practice to send gifts and rice to close business associates, and extended family members. In many households where Buddhism or Taoism is prevalent, home altars and statues are cleaned thoroughly, and decorations used to adorn altars over the past year are taken down and burned a week before the new year starts, to be replaced with new decorations. Taoists and Buddhists to a lesser extent will also "send gods back to heaven" Chinese: Families often offer sweet foods such as candy in order to "bribe" the deities into reporting good things about the family. Prior to the Reunion Dinner, a prayer of thanksgiving is held to mark the safe passage of the previous year. Confucianists take the opportunity to remember their ancestors, and those who had lived before them are revered. Some people do not give a Buddhist prayer due to the influence of Christianity, with a Christian prayer offered instead. Dishes consisting of special meats are served at the tables, as a main course for the dinner and offering for the New Year. This meal is comparable to Thanksgiving dinner in the U. In northern China, it is customary to make dumplings jiaozi after dinner to eat around midnight. Dumplings symbolize wealth because their shape resembles a Chinese sycee. In contrast, in the South, it is customary to make a glutinous new year cake niangao and send pieces of it as gifts to relatives and friends in the coming days. Traditionally, firecrackers were lit to scare away evil spirits with the household doors sealed, not to be reopened until the new morning in a ritual called "opening the door of fortune" simplified Chinese: First day[edit] The first day is for the welcoming of the deities of the heavens and earth, officially beginning at midnight. It is a traditional practice to light fireworks, burn bamboo sticks and firecrackers and to make as much of a din as possible to chase off the evil spirits as encapsulated by nian of which the term Guo Nian was derived. Many Buddhists abstain from meat consumption on the first day because it is believed to ensure longevity for them. On this day, it is considered bad luck to use the broom, as good fortune is not to be "swept away" symbolically. For Buddhists, the first day is also the birthday of Maitreya Bodhisattva better known as the more familiar Budai Luohan , the Buddha-to-be. People also abstain from killing animals. Some families may invite a lion dance troupe as a symbolic ritual to usher in the Chinese New Year as well as to evict bad spirits from the premises. Business managers also give bonuses through red packets to employees for good

luck, smooth-sailing, good health and wealth. While fireworks and firecrackers are traditionally very popular, some regions have banned them due to concerns over fire hazards. For this reason, various city governments e. As a substitute, large-scale fireworks display have been launched by governments in such city-states as Hong Kong and Singapore. However, it is a tradition that the indigenous peoples of the walled villages of New Territories , Hong Kong are permitted to light firecrackers and launch fireworks in a limited scale. Second day[edit] Incense is burned at the graves of ancestors as part of the offering and prayer rituals. The second day of the Chinese New Year, known as "beginning of the year" simplified Chinese: During the days of imperial China, "beggars and other unemployed people circulate[d] from family to family, carrying a picture [of the God of Wealth] shouting, "Cai Shen dao! Third day[edit] The third day is known as "red mouth" Chinese: Chigou, literally "red dog", is an epithet of "the God of Blazing Wrath" Chinese: Rural villagers continue the tradition of burning paper offerings over trash fires. It is considered an unlucky day to have guests or go visiting. Fourth day[edit] In those communities that celebrate Chinese New Year for 15 days, the fourth day is when corporate "spring dinners" kick off and business returns to normal. Other areas that have a longer Chinese New Year holiday will celebrate and welcome the gods that were previously sent on this day. In northern China, people eat jiaozi , or dumplings, on the morning of powu Chinese: In Taiwan, businesses traditionally re-open on the next day the sixth day , accompanied by firecrackers. In some overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia and Singapore, it is also the day when tossed raw fish salad, yusheng , is eaten for continued wealth and prosperity. For many Chinese Buddhists, this is another day to avoid meat, the seventh day commemorating the birth of Sakra , lord of the devas in Buddhist cosmology who is analogous to the Jade Emperor. Eighth day[edit] Another family dinner is held to celebrate the eve of the birth of the Jade Emperor, the ruler of heaven. Approaching 12 midnight on this day, Hokkien people prepare for the "Jade Emperor ritual" Hokkien: Some people will hold a ritual prayer after midnight on the eighth day. In Malaysia, especially, people light fireworks, often more than on the first day.

2: Celebration of Spring - St. Lawrence Cruise Lines

Join the Seagrove Potters for a Celebration of Spring weekend - we are very excited to share our work with you! April 21st and 22nd, - Special Activities.

Despite its significance as a Christian holy day, many of the traditions and symbols that play a key role in Easter observances actually have roots in pagan celebrations—particularly the pagan goddess Eostre or Ostara, the ancient Germanic goddess of spring—and in the Jewish holiday of Passover. Religious Tradition of Easter The resurrection of Jesus, as described in the New Testament of the Bible, is essentially the foundation upon which the Christian religions are built. Hence, Easter is a very significant date on the Christian calendar. He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect in the province of Judea from 26 to 36 A. Passover and Easter Notably, Easter is also associated with the Jewish holiday of Passover, as well as the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, as described in the Old Testament. The Last Supper was essentially a Passover feast. However, the New Testament describes it as being given new significance by Jesus: Easter Traditions In western Christianity, including Roman Catholicism and Protestant denominations, the period prior to Easter holds special significance. This period of fasting and penitence is called Lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday, and lasts for 40 days not including Sundays. Many churches begin the Easter observance in the late hours of the day before Holy Saturday in a religious service called the Easter Vigil. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which ends on Easter. Easter Eggs Irrespective of denomination, there are many Easter-time traditions with roots that can be traced to non-Christian and even pagan or non-religious celebrations. Many non-Christians choose to observe these traditions while essentially ignoring the religious aspects of the celebration. Examples of non-religious Easter traditions include Easter eggs, and related games such as egg rolling and egg decorating. Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration in a nod to the religious significance of Easter, i. Easter Bunny In some households, a character known as the Easter Bunny delivers candy and chocolate eggs to children on Easter Sunday morning. These candies often arrive in an Easter basket. The exact origins of the Easter Bunny tradition are unknown, although some historians believe it arrived in America with German immigrants in the s. Rabbits are, in many cultures, known as enthusiastic procreators, so the arrival of baby bunnies in springtime meadows became associated with birth and renewal. Notably, several Protestant Christian denominations, including Lutherans and Quakers, have opted to formally abandon many Easter traditions, deeming them too pagan. However, many religious observers of Easter also include them in their celebrations. An Easter dinner of lamb also has historical roots, since a lamb was often used as a sacrificial animal in Jewish traditions, and lamb is frequently served during Passover. Today, Easter is a commercial event as well as a religious holiday, marked by high sales for greeting cards, candies such as Peeps, chocolate eggs and chocolate Easter bunnies and other gifts. History, Origin, Symbolism and tradition.

3: FRAISIER CAKE: A CELEBRATION OF SPRING | Bewitching Kitchen

*The Celebration of Spring [Jessie Delair] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The story takes place in an imaginary world in which Piki and Boon, two young snails, travel the countryside on an exciting adventure in the hope of finding true love.*

Hulled and halved strawberries for perimeter of the cake I used 19 halves Diced strawberries for the filling about 12 large strawberries g almond paste powdered sugar for rolling Equipment: One inch round cake pan; one 9. Heat the oven to F. Prepare a 10 inch cake pan by buttering the interior. Then dust with flour and set aside. Place the butter in a small dish and cover then melt in the microwave. Set aside to let cool. Fill a pot with about 1 inch water over medium high heat. Once it starts to simmer, sit the bowl of a stand mixer over the pot. Put the eggs and sugar in the bowl and beat with a whisk until it warms up to a temperature between to degrees F. Return the bowl to the stand mixer with a whisk attachment. Whisk the mixture on high-speed. Continue to beat until the batter is cool to the touch. The end result should be a light batter that has tripled in volume. Set aside 2 tbs of the batter in a small bowl. Add the flour to the large bowl of batter in increments, gently folding until no dry streaks remain. Blend together the 2 tbs of batter with the melted butter. Pour into the large bowl of batter and stir until incorporated. Fill the prepared cake pan with the batter. Place pan in oven and bake until cake springs back when lightly touched. Baking time should be about 30 minutes. Remove pan and invert cake onto a rack to cool. While the cake is cooling, make the simple syrup by heating the water and sugar in a small saucepan. Once it comes to a boil, remove from heat and stir the Cointreau. Set aside to cool. Make the mousseline cream by combining in a saucepan the milk and vanilla paste, then bringing to a simmer over low-heat. Do not let the milk come to a boil. Place the eggs, egg yolks and sugar in a mixing bowl. Whisk vigorously until the mixture turns a light shade of yellow and becomes slightly thick and frothy, about 3 minutes. Add the cornstarch and whisk vigorously until completely incorporated. Add the rest of the milk, always whisking. Once all the milk has been added to the eggs, pour everything back into the saucepan, and over low heat keep whisking until the cream comes to a full boil, but do it slowly. Keep removing from the heat and placing it back if you feel it is boiling too quickly. Do not stop whisking, and make sure to go over each little spot of the bottom of the pan to prevent the cream from scorching. When large bubbles start coming to the surface, continue whisking for 15 seconds, then remove from heat, let it stand for a couple of minutes and add half of the butter, then the melted and cooled chocolate. Pass it through a fine sieve to remove any little lumps and place in the fridge for a couple of hours or overnight, with a plastic film on top to prevent a skin from forming. When fully cold, remove from fridge, place in a Kitchen Aid and beat at full speed for 5 minutes or longer, to bring it to room temperature. Now add the other half of the butter, which must be softened. Beat until fully smooth. The mousseline cream is ready to use. Place a piece of acetate film against the inner surface of the cake ring. If needed, trim the top crust of the sponge cake, to level it. Brush with half of the Cointreau syrup. Place each strawberry half upright inside the ring, forming an interior circle. The stem top should be face down and the cut side facing the inside of the flan ring. Smooth one cup of the mousseline cream over the split cake inside the flan ring. The cream should cover all exposed cake. Then place diced strawberries covering the center of the cake. Fill all spaces with the mousseline cream by using a piping tip and covering until you reach the top of the flan ring. Then place the other cake half over the cream layer and brush the top with the remaining syrup. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Roll a piece of almond paste very thin, make a pattern on the surface if you have an embossing rolling-pin. Cover the cake with a very thin layer of mousseline cream, then set the rolled almond paste on top, with the pattern facing up. Decorate with strawberries, if desired. Refrigerate until serving time. I used my beloved elephant pins a gift from my niece to keep the acetate in place see 2nd of the smaller photos in the composite above. Some recipes instruct you to cover the center of the cake with whole strawberries standing with the pointed end up, but I think that would make a bit harder to cut the cake in slices. I decided to dice the fruit instead and distribute the pieces more or less evenly on the surface. I like the way it turned out. The sun shinning through the window, cast a bright yellow tone on the slice of cake I served in our department mail room. Interesting effectâ€¦! For the topping,

my goal was to imprint a pattern on the thin layer of almond paste. I used a wooden rolling-pin, but unfortunately the effect was barely visible. Points to consider in the future Exchanging thoughts with Pâtissiers Extraordinaires Gary and Jennifer I realize a few things that could be improved. First, instead of baking a single round cake and slicing it in half, it would be nice to bake a cake in a sheet pan and cut two layers of the desired size. They could be any shape, circular, square, rectangular. As to the design on the almond paste, Gary suggests using a silicone mat instead of the rolling-pin. I think that is a great idea, and will definitely incorporate it on my next time. Another possibility that makes this cake even more appealing is to completely hide the cake when assembled. You achieve that by placing the strawberries outside the perimeter of the cake, which is then cut about one inch smaller than the ring. The mousseline will be outside, on the sides and top of the cake. You can see one beautiful example here. All things considered, I am happy with the way my first attempt turned out. The almond paste layer gives a nice almond-y flavor to the cake, and the texture is not harsh at all, it gets quite a bit softer in contact with the mousseline cream underneath.

4: PressTV-The Celebration of Spring in Iran

Kingston to Quebec City 6 nights, 7 days at a 5 night rate. Join us as we kick off the river cruising season with 6 nights and 7 days of celebrating spring and the natural beauty and history of the Islands and St. Lawrence River.

While you should not expect beach weather, there are still many adventures and destinations to make your April holiday in this Mediterranean country memorable. Women and children go to church to decorate the Epitaph Bier of Christ with flowers, while in the evening the Epitaph procession takes place, where the symbolic coffin is taken out of the church and carried through the streets by the believers. Here are a few suggestions that are right in the heart of the capital and in picturesque locations: Panagia Kapnikarea on Ermou St. Monastiraki Agia Irini Square: It is said that if you make it home without your candle going out, good luck is yours for the next year. The Holy Saturday Dinner takes place after midnight and consists of the traditional Magiritsa soup made with the intestine of the lamb, tsoureki and red-dyed eggs. On Sunday morning, mainly in Greek countryside, lamb is prepared on the spit and people eat and dance usually until late at night. The Easter meal is truly a feast with loads of salads, meat and rice dishes, breads, cakes, cookies, and plenty of wines and ouzo. Greeks celebrate life to its fullest and Easter is a very good example of that. Practical tips during your travel in Greece: Museums and Archeological sites are usually closed on Easter Sunday only, and maybe some places will have reduced opening hours on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. For details visit the official site [http:](http://) Holy Saturday operates normally and Easter Sunday are closed all day long. Bar and restaurants are not really affected till Sunday. Easter Sunday morning Greek people roast lamps on open pit fires and do not miss to take part on this unique experience. The majority of the festivities fall on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. This tradition-while fun as a game-has the symbolism of resurrection and new life. The egg is seen by followers of Christianity as a symbol of resurrection: Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed Tomb of Christ—the cracking of which symbolizes his resurrection from the dead.

5: ColorPalooza: A Celebration of Spring | Lewisville | Texas | April

Easter is by far the holiest of Greek holidays, but it is also the most joyful, a celebration of spring, of rebirth in its literal as well as figurative sense. Greeks celebrate life to its fullest and Easter is a very good example of that.

Welcome to Noble Thoughts from All Directions to promote the well-being of man and to know the purpose in Life. The Celebration of Spring Season. Spring is season of the year between Winter and Summer. Koel, the Nightingale of India is known because of its melodious call. Spring Season brings a sense of Joy, uplifts the mood of man. The Joy could be compared to the sweetness of nectar that is gathered by butterflies from various Spring Season flowers. The arrival of Spring Season is celebrated with a sense of Joy in numerous cultures and human traditions. The reason for Joy is because of the Season giving a sense of Hope. The reason for Hope is that of rebirth, renewal, regeneration, regrowth, and rejuvenation. In Spring, we witness the plant and animal life getting revitalized. Things in Nature change with Time but Nature remains unchanged. Nature remains constant, immutable, unchanged, or eternal. Nature does not change as mass, energy, and momentum always remain unchanged. The Laws of Conservation stated by classical Physics state that mass and energy can be neither created nor destroyed. We have hope as Nature exists without change. There is hope that we can recover and renew and restart if a process is broken or worn out. Indian tradition describes ideas by attaching them to personalities. The Sweetness gives Joy and Happiness and man can get easily addicted to its powerful intoxicating effect. The sweetness has to be experienced with a sense of restraint. The fresh leaves are used in decorating the house. The taste and flavor of unripe Mango fruit is unique, it is not sweet, it is not very sour or tart, and it is not bitter. The flowers which impart a mild taste of bitterness add flavor to the traditional holiday dish. The Covenant of Salt – The intimate connection of Salt with the idea of a Covenant or Binding Relationship between man and God or one person and another. Sugarcane, *Saccharum officinarum*, a perennial grass gives the taste of Sweetness to the traditional holiday dish. Small chunks of Sugarcane are used and in addition freshly prepared sugar called Jaggery, Gur, Gud, or Bellam is used. Happy Ugadi to all of you. Rebbapragada, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.

6: just saying Celebration of Spring Bunting

This week has given us a lot to celebrate – St. Patrick's Day (best holiday ever), the Season 1 finale of Empire, and, of course, the first day of spring. It has been a long winter, but the.

Walpurgis Nacht or S. An earlier mention of Walpurgis and S. Walpurgis Abend is in the edition of the *Calendarium perpetuum* of Johann Coler, [23] who also refers to the following day, 1 May, as *Jacobi Philippi*, feast day of the apostles James the Less and Philip in the Western Christian calendar of saints. The 17th-century German tradition of a meeting of sorcerers and witches on May Day eve German: Walpurgis was described as "many thousand". Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Young people gather around. Sudden black and dense smoke formations are cheered as "a witch flying away". An effigy of a witch is held up and thrown into a bonfire to burn. The feast is sometimes associated with Slavic goddess Marzanna , which represents winter and death. As evening advances to midnight and fire is on the wane, it is time to go search for a cherry tree in blossom. This is another feast, connected with the 1st May. Young women should be kissed past midnight and during the following day under a cherry tree. They "will not dry up" for an entire year. The First of May is celebrated then as "the day of those in love". Influenced by German culture, the night originally stood for the gathering and meeting of witches. Modern people still dress up as witches to wander the streets in a carnival-like mood. The celebration, which begins on the evening of 30 April and continue on 1 May, typically centre on the consumption of sima , sparkling wine and other alcoholic beverages. Student traditions, particularly those of engineering students, are one of the main characteristics of Vappu. Since the end of the 19th century, this traditional upper-class feast has been appropriated by university students. Many lukio university-preparatory high school alumni wear the black and white student cap and many higher education students wear student coveralls. For most university students, Vappu starts a week before the day of celebration. In Turku , it has become a tradition to cap the Posankka statue. Vappu coincides with the socialist May Day parade. Expanding from the parties of the left, the whole of the Finnish political scene has adopted Vappu as the day to go out on stumps and agitate. Left-wing activists of the s still party on May Day. Carnivals are arranged, and many radio stations play leftist songs, such as *The Internationale*. Traditionally, 1 May is celebrated by the way of a picnic in a park. For most, the picnic is enjoyed with friends on a blanket with food and sparkling wine. Some people arrange extremely lavish picnics with pavilions, white tablecloths, silver candelabras , classical music and extravagant food. Some student organisations reserve areas where they traditionally camp every year. Student caps , mead , streamers and balloons have their role in the picnic and the celebration as a whole. Germany[edit] Lewis Morrison as "Mephistopheles" in *Faust!* Brocken is the highest of the Harz Mountains of north central Germany. The Brocken Spectre is a magnified shadow of an observer, typically surrounded by rainbow-like bands, thrown onto a bank of cloud in high mountain areas when the sun is low. The phenomenon was first reported on the Brocken. As the carriage departs with the frightened and superstitious driver, a tall and thin stranger scares the horses at the crest of a hill. In some parts of northern coastal regions of Germany, the custom of lighting huge fires is still kept alive to celebrate the coming of May, while most parts of Germany have a derived Christianized custom around Easter called "Easter fires" *Osterfeuer*. There is a similar tradition in the Schanzenviertel district of Hamburg , though in both cases, the situation has significantly calmed down in the past few years. Sweden[edit] While the name Walpurgis is taken from the eighth-century English Christian missionary Saint Walburga, Valborg, as it is called in Swedish, also marks the arrival of spring. Walpurgis celebrations are not a family occasion but rather a public event, and local groups often take responsibility for organising them to encourage community spirit in the village or neighbourhood. Celebrations normally include lighting the bonfire, choral singing and a speech to honour the arrival of the spring season, often held by a local celebrity. Accordingly, this was a day of festivity among the merchants and craftsmen of the town, with trick-or-treat, dancing and singing in preparation for the forthcoming celebration of spring. On the eve of the festival, huge bonfires, which should be lighted by striking two flints together, blaze on all the hills and knolls. At Walpurgis Valborg , farm

animals were let out to graze and bonfires majbrisor, kasar lit to scare away predators. In Southern Sweden , an older tradition, no longer practiced, was for the younger people to collect greenery and branches from the woods at twilight. These were used to adorn the houses of the village. The expected reward for this task was to be paid in eggs. A large crowd, mostly students in typical Swedish white student caps , participating in the traditional Saint Walpurgis Night celebration with song outside the Castle in Uppsala. The silhouette of the cathedral towers may be seen in the background. To the right are banners and standards of the student nations. Choral singing is a popular pastime in Sweden, and on Walpurgis Eve virtually every choir in the country is busy. Singing traditional songs of spring is widespread throughout the country. The strongest and most traditional spring festivities are also found in the old university cities, such as Uppsala and Lund , where undergraduates, graduates, and alumni gather at events that last most of the day from early morning to late night on April 30, or siste april "The Last Day of April" as it is called in Lund, or sista april as it is called in Uppsala. For students, Walpurgis Eve heralds freedom. Traditionally the exams were over and only the odd lecture remained before term ends. On the last day of April, the students don their characteristic white caps and sing songs of welcome to spring, to the budding greenery and to a brighter future. More modern Valborg celebrations, particularly among Uppsala students, often consist of enjoying a breakfast including champagne and strawberries. During the day, people gather in parks, drink considerable amounts of alcoholic beverages, barbecue, and generally enjoy the weather, if it happens to be favorable. Several nations also hold "Champagne Races" Swedish: Champagnegalopp , where students go to drink and spray champagne or somewhat more modestly priced sparkling wine on each other. The walls and floors of the old nation buildings are covered in plastic for this occasion, as the champagne is poured around recklessly and sometimes spilled enough to wade in. Spraying champagne is, however, a fairly recent addition to the Champagne Race. The name derives from the students running down the downhill slope from the Carolina Rediviva library, toward the Student Nations, to drink champagne. It is seen by around , people each year. An important part of the gathering is the ceremonial donning of the student cap, which stems from the time when students wore their caps daily and switched from black winter cap to white summer cap. The university organizes student choir songs, there are different types of entertainment and a speech by the president of the university. Different stalls sell hot dogs, candies, soft drinks, etc. The Netherlands[edit] Walpurgis night bonfires As in all Germanic countries, Walpurgisnacht was celebrated in areas of what is now the Netherlands. The party called for a ban.

7: Spring Kiln Opening

From ColorPalooza: A Celebration of Spring Website: ColorPalooza will feature a wide variety of exhibits and interactive events with a "spring feel" for the whole family. Festival admission will be free, although some activities might carry a nominal charge.

Share via Email Hot cross buns: Alamy Easter is a pagan festival. Today, we see a secular culture celebrating the spring equinox, whilst religious culture celebrates the resurrection. However, early Christianity made a pragmatic acceptance of ancient pagan practises, most of which we enjoy today at Easter. The general symbolic story of the death of the son sun on a cross the constellation of the Southern Cross and his rebirth, overcoming the powers of darkness, was a well worn story in the ancient world. There were plenty of parallel, rival resurrected saviours too. The Sumerian goddess Inanna, or Ishtar, was hung naked on a stake, and was subsequently resurrected and ascended from the underworld. One of the oldest resurrection myths is Egyptian Horus. Born on 25 December, Horus and his damaged eye became symbols of life and rebirth. Mithras was born on what we now call Christmas day, and his followers celebrated the spring equinox. Even as late as the 4th century AD, the sol invictus, associated with Mithras, was the last great pagan cult the church had to overcome. Dionysus was a divine child, resurrected by his grandmother. Dionysus also brought his mum, Semele, back to life. This spring festival began as a day of blood on Black Friday, rising to a crescendo after three days, in rejoicing over the resurrection. There was violent conflict on Vatican Hill in the early days of Christianity between the Jesus worshippers and pagans who quarrelled over whose God was the true, and whose the imitation. What is interesting to note here is that in the ancient world, wherever you had popular resurrected god myths, Christianity found lots of converts. So, eventually Christianity came to an accommodation with the pagan Spring festival. Although we see no celebration of Easter in the New Testament, early church fathers celebrated it, and today many churches are offering "sunrise services" at Easter – an obvious pagan solar celebration. The date of Easter is not fixed, but instead is governed by the phases of the moon – how pagan is that? All the fun things about Easter are pagan. Bunnies are a leftover from the pagan festival of Eostre, a great northern goddess whose symbol was a rabbit or hare. Exchange of eggs is an ancient custom, celebrated by many cultures. Hot cross buns are very ancient too. In the Old Testament we see the Israelites baking sweet buns for an idol, and religious leaders trying to put a stop to it. The early church clergy also tried to put a stop to sacred cakes being baked at Easter. In the end, in the face of defiant cake-baking pagan women, they gave up and blessed the cake instead. What better way to celebrate, than to bite the head off the bunny goddess, go to a "sunrise service", get yourself a sticky-footed fluffy chick and stick it on your TV, whilst helping yourself to a hefty slice of pagan simnel cake?

8: Revels :: A Celebration of Spring

The Celebration of Generosity is an experience that brings people from around the country together to consider what it means to be entrusted with wealth, experience the joy of generosity, and excel in the grace of giving. These events are designed to help Christians view generosity from God's.

The arrival of spring means that the cold season is over and warmth is on the way. For the Iranian people, the arrival of spring is all about a long lasting tradition, a celebration rooted in history and the glorification of growth and vigor in Mother Nature. Carpets are washed, windows are wiped, silverware is polished, curtains are taken to the dry cleaners and old furniture is repaired or replaced with a new one. All family members are involved in this ritual, a ritual that signifies a fresh start to the year. It is widely believed that with all the dust and grime, ill fortune is also washed away and the slate is wiped clean again. During the weeks left to the New Calendar Year, people head for the markets and shopping centers to buy an assortment of goods. New clothes, new shoes, fresh fruits, sweets and confectionaries, nuts, flowers and everything that goes on the Haft Seen Table. The hyacinth is probably the most sought after flower here as it stands for prosperity and happiness in the Persian culture. This festival is full of special customs and rituals, especially jumping over fire. As the sun sets, people light up fires and gather around to jump over them. In this ritual, they ask the fire to take their paleness and problems and in return give them energy and warmth. As the last day of the year comes to an end, everyone rushes home to be with their families and loved ones. The New Year is all about celebrating those special moments and sharing the joy and gratitude with family members. Other items such as coins, flowers, mirror and candle sticks and decorated eggs are also put on the table to bring good luck, wealth and happiness for the family. The Holy Quran also has a special place on the table. It is mostly about socializing and strengthening family bonds and meeting up with old friends. Norouz holiday is also a perfect opportunity for the families to go on trips making these two weeks a prime travel season. This national event falls on the 13th and the last day of the holidays and it is when everyone goes out to spend time in nature. On this day, people set off for the countryside or the parks to set up tents and have picnics. Children play football, badminton and Ping-Pong, fly kites and enjoy a game of Frisbee while the elders prepare lunch. Making kebabs is a tradition and men usually take the lead. Sekanjabin is a syrup made of vinegar and honey. Single girls tend to tie a knot with the green sprouts and wish to find a husband in the coming year before throwing the sprout in the stream as a sign of getting rid of all the misfortunes. People also set the goldfish free by putting her back into the river before packing and going back home.

9: A Celebration of Spring | Perkins School for the Blind

The spring equinox is celebrated in many traditions as a time of fertility, regeneration and rebirth. Easter is calculated according to the date of the Spring Equinox. In the Western Church, Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox (the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Easter on a different date).

A great way to celebrate the end of Winter and the start of a fresh new Spring season is to host a celebration of Spring party. A great way to do this is to pick a theme or popular spring holiday to mark your reason for the spring celebration. This type of party is a fun and laid back way reason to celebrate with friends, family, and co-workers. Here are some spring celebration ideas and themes to inspire your seasonal soiree. Every year Spring cleaning marks the unofficial end of winter, however no one ever gets excited about cleaning out their closet. Make this chore fun by hosting a spring-cleaning themed spring celebration. Invite friends over for a clothing swap. Set up racks with hangers for everyone to display their clothing and let everyone swap out old clothes for new ones. This is a fun way to purge your closet of unwanted items and bond with friends. Serve snacks, fresh juice, and wine during the celebration to complete the Spring-cleaning soiree. Each year Earth Day falls on April It is a holiday intended to promote awareness about preserving the earth and its natural environment. In honor of this spring celebration host an Earth Day party. Get together with friends and family to plant flowers, trees, or herbs to pay homage to the planet. Along with going green outside also serve green foods at the event to keep everyone satisfied. Things like green tea, honey dew melon, cucumbers, pistachio cookies, garden salads, and guacamole all make the perfect go green dishes to include on your Earth Day menu. Spring is all about starting fresh. Treat you and your friends to a spring spa renewal party at a local spa or at your home. Book with the spa or with technicians in advance so everyone can get facials, massages, manicures, and pedicures to revive their bodies and minds. This celebration of spring is sure to be one that will be an annual event. Spring celebrations are a great reason to get together with family or friends just for fun. A perfect way to pull this off is to throw a spring themed dinner party. Make the party unique by cooking dishes that incorporate seasonal ingredients like citrus, asparagus, and strawberries. Decorate the dinner table with lots of fresh flowers and bright colors to complete your spring celebration dinner party. The Spring equinox marks the official start of the spring season and takes place at the end of March each year. This is because on that day the sun and the moon pass over the equator at the same time but on opposite hemispheres. This is a interesting and unique type of spring celebration that would be fun to share with friends and family. Host a party or event to honor the spring equinox. Use the party to educate everyone on the meaning of the day and what it is all about. Celebrate spring with our fun and festive spring celebration ideas and get the season started right!

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