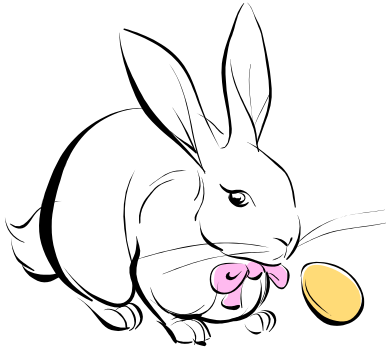


(Continued from page 3)

This practice, combined with the "rabbit's nest" of the Pennsylvania Dutch has evolved in the brightly colored containers filled with sweets, toys and the like left for children on Easter morning by the Easter Bunny.



Easter lilies are sometimes called the "white-robed apostles of hope," because they were reportedly found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus' sweat fell to the ground in his final hours. These same flowers have been long revered by Pagans of many lands as fertility symbols.

Hot Cross Buns: At the feast of Eostre, the Saxon fertility Goddess, an ox was sacrificed. The ox's horns became a symbol for the feast. They were carved into the ritual bread. Thus originated "hot cross buns". The word "buns" is derived from the Saxon word "boun" which means "sacred ox." Later, the symbol of a symmetrical cross was used to decorate the buns; the cross represented the moon, the heavenly body associated with the Goddess, and its four quarters. Still later, the cross was symbolic of the cross of the crucifixion.

Now this is my favorite! I've read in Sweden, the children dress up like witches and put Easter greetings into the mailboxes of their friends. Firecrackers are set off to scare away real witches. Don't have a clue how Halloween and Easter seem to have meshed here, but the point of this whole thing is, joy. Joy in life. If that comes with bunnies and colored eggs, or witch costumes or whatever, who cares? If someone else celebrates something different than you, celebrate their joy in living, however it's expressed.

The true meaning of Easter? Find it within and celebrate it. Celebrate all expressions of joy however they manifest. Even if Easter has no meaning to you at all-- just another day. Another day is the most beautiful of miracles. Celebrate every minute of it however you feel called to, and allow and rejoice in others however they feel called to celebrate theirs.

**Happy
Easter**

Avviż importanti : "Jekk tixtieq li naqgħulek ismek u l-indirizz tiegħek mid-database tal-grupp tagħna, u għal daqstant ma tirċevix in-newsletter tagħna, jekk jgħogħok ikkuntatjana u ahna nħassru ismek u dettalji personali tiegħek minn fuq id-database tagħna. Ahna nrod-dulek l-ispejjeż tat-telefonata li tkun għamiltalna minn fuq linja fissa għal linja fissa (kif stipulat skond l-Att Dwar il-Protezzjoni u l-Privatezza tad-Data

K.E.A.R.I.S.

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Marzu 2013

Minus One - support group for the widowed middle-aged

P.O. Box 21, Mosta. Tel: 99498784, 99271981 email:info@minusone.eu

Għeżież Hbieb,

Iż-żmien ma jistenna lil hadd. Għadda l-Milied u wasal l-Ghid. U wasal ix-xahar ta' hafna elezzjonijiet. Din is-sena l-AGM habat mal-elezzjoni ġenerali u tal-kunsilli. Nispera li fl-elezzjoni tal-kumitat ikollna kandidati biżżejjed li joħorġu u li intom il-membri tipparteċipaw biex tivvutaw! Ahna ma nixtiequx li mmexxu mingħajr is-sapport u l-approvazzjoni tagħkom. Għalhekk importanti li tiġu tivvutaw.

Kif tafu kellna xi nkwieta fuq il-post li niltaqgħu go fih. Kien hemm xi lmenti mill-management li saret xi ħsara u għalhekk nerġa' nappella biex min iġib it-tfal jieħu hsiebhom u jzommhom il-hin kollu hdejh. Ahna tal-kumitat kellna laqgħa mal-manager tal-post u dan qalilna li se jkollna niffirmaw ftehim legali li min jagħmel il-ħsara jrid iħallas. Qalulna wkoll li jekk l-istorja tirrepeti ruħha ikollna nitilqu minn Project House.

Ahna pprotestajna li nisperaw li ma nahlux bil-ħsara li jagħmel haddiehor. Għalhekk irridu noqogħdu attenti ikunx hemm ħsara xhin nidħlu. Nappellalkom inżommu l-indafa avolja ahna kważi qatt ma nsibu l-post nadif iżda ahna m'għandniex inżidu mal-ħmieġ.

Tajjeb nimxu mar-regoli għax inkella jbati kulhadd. Mhux faċli ssib post fejn tiltaqa' bla ma tħallas.

Nawguralkom l-Ghid it-Tajjeb

Dejjem Tagħkom

Maria

What is the True Meaning of Easter?

The Easter we celebrate today is a curious blend of the religious and the secular; of paganism, Judaism and Christianity.



Some say the word Easter is derived from Eostre (also known as Ostara), an ancient Anglo-Saxon Goddess. She symbolized the rebirth of the day at dawn and the rebirth of life in the spring. The arrival of spring was celebrated all over the world long before the religious meaning became associated with Easter. As Christianity grew and spread throughout the world, it was common practice to adopt and modify existing non-Christian festivals and assimilate them into the Christian theology. Because Eostre was the goddess of spring and her symbolism dealt with renewal and rebirth, the Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ fit well with these themes.

The true meaning of Easter? Guess that depends on who you are, where you're from, what you've been taught. Easter symbols and traditions again seem to be a blending of Pagan and Christian symbology.

The egg and hare (bunny) were symbols of Ostara representing fertility and new life in the Spring. Since ancient times, many cultures have associated eggs with the universe. They've been dyed, decorated and painted by the Romans, Gauls, Persians and the Chinese. They were used in ancient spring festivals to represent the rebirth of life. Dyed eggs also formed part of the rituals of the Babylonian mystery religions and in Egypt they were hung in temples as symbol of regenerative life.

As Christianity took hold the egg began to symbolize the rebirth of man rather than nature. A Polish folktale tells of the Virgin Mary giving eggs to soldiers at the cross while she pleaded with them to be merciful. As her tears dropped they spattered droplets on the eggs mottling them with a myriad of colors. Christians of the Near East used the egg to

(Continued on page 3)

Attivitajiet ghax-xahar ta' Marzu

Il-Ġimgħa 1 ta' Marzu: Project House 8.30 p.m. Illum se naghmlu diskussjoni bejnietna fuq xi suġġett magħżul mill-membri stess. Bhas-soltu kafe/te u kejk fl-ahhar.

Il-Ġimgħa 8 ta' Marzu: Project House 8.30 p.m. Illum niċċelebraw Jum il-Mara. Se niċċelebraw ukoll il-B'day Celebrations b'differenza – Wine and Pizza Night. Dan se jsir peress li l-ahhar Ġimgħa tax-xahar tkun id-Duluri. Prezz Kbar €6, Tfal €3.

Il-Ġimgħa 15 ta' Marzu: Project House 8.30 p.m. Illum se naghmlu l-Annual General Meeting u elezzjoni tal-kumitat. Nispera li jiġu biżżejjed membri biex inkunu nistgħu nipproċedu. Ejjew ha tivvutaw!

Il-Hadd 17 ta' Marzu: Se naghmlu l-irtir tal-Għid go Mt. St. Joseph. Imexxi Fr. Saviour Chircop. Niltaqghu fid-9.45 a.m. (L-Għaxra nieqes kwart). Indumu hemm sa xit-tlieta u nofs. Prezz €16 Kbar, Tfal sa 9 snin €8

Il-Ġimgħa 22 ta' Marzu: 8.00 p.m. Malta International Airport. Quddiesa tad-Duluri l-Airport immexxija minn Fr. Saviour. Niltaqghu l-Airport fit-7.45 (tmienja nieqes kwart). Wara mmorru niehdu kafe l-airport stess.

Il-Hamis 28 ta' Marzu: Hamis ix-Xirka: Illum se naghmlu l-visti ta' Hamis ix-Xirka. Din is-sena jmiss il-Hamrun! Niltaqghu quddiem il-Knisja ta' San Gejtanu l-Hamrun fit-tmienja nieqes kwart. Inhass li m'hemmx għalfejn norganizzaw private. Narawkom!

(Continued from page 2)

symbolize the tomb from which Jesus broke forth. They were often colored red to represent the blood of Christ. The Easter tradition of rolling eggs is said to symbolize the rolling away of the rock from Jesus' tomb.

The bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s. In many parts of Germany the people believed the Easter bunny laid red eggs on Holy Thursday and multi-colored eggs the night before Easter Sunday. That's where the first edible Easter Bunnies were made from pastry and sugar. When German settlers came to Pennsylvania Dutch country in the 1700's they brought the custom with them. The children believed that if they were good the "Oschter Haws" would lay a nest of colored eggs.

The Easter basket originates from the ancient Catholic custom of taking the food for Easter dinner to mass to be blessed. This, too, mirrored the even more ancient ritual of bringing the first crops and seedlings to the temple to insure a good growing season.

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