

# BOOK CLUB PRESENTS

March and April Holidays

*Disclaimer: The information in this presentation is for informational purposes only. The Center for Family Support is a diverse agency who acknowledges and accepts all people and all religions.*



# About Purim

- Purim is a two-day event beginning at sundown on the fourteenth day of Adar, the twelve months of the Jewish calendar.
- Every race and religion have solemn and festive holidays. Purim is the most festive of the Jewish holidays. Children dress in costumes and people give gifts. Usually, solemn synagogues are turned into festive arenas. Children shake noisemakers called "Graggers".
- The festive holiday centers around Queen Esther, King Ahasuerus (or Achashverosh), Mordechai, and Haman. The event took place in the Persian Empire in the fifth century, B.C. It is a celebration of a major victory against the oppression of the Jews at that time.



*When is Purim? March 7, 2023; March 24, 2024; March 14, 2025; March 2, 2026; March 22, 2027; March 11, 2028; February 29, 2029; March 18, 2030*

# International women's day



On March 8 holiday. The United Nations sponsors this worldwide event. However, the UN did not originate this special celebration. The roots of this celebration go back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. It grew from women's socialist movements and early women's trade union groups. In those early days, it was called *International Working Women's Day*.

The first celebration was held on March 19, 1911. Women socialists and trade unions held an earlier Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1908. The event grew from there and has been celebrated annually since. The focus is on women workers and advancing women's rights in the workforce, politics, and society. Nowadays, the goals are to promote and celebrate women's cultural, political, and social issues and accomplishments.

# St. Patrick's day

- *Saint Patrick's Day*, a March 17 holiday, honors the Patron Saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the Emerald Isles, as Ireland is known. It is truly a day of celebrating Irish history, ancestry, traditions, and customs. On, this day everything is green, including the beer and whiskey that is consumed in copious amounts. Join the party because everyone is a little Irish o Saint Paddy's Day.
- *Saint Patrick's Day* has many symbols and traditions, from shamrocks and leprechauns to green beer and Corned Beef and Cabbage. *Saint Patrick's Day* parades are popular in many cities around the U.S. Interestingly, the first *St. Patrick's Day* parade did not take place in Ireland. It took place in New York City, in 1762.



**When is Saint Patrick's Day? This holiday is always celebrated on March 17**



# International Earth Day

- *International Earth Day* was initiated to make the earth's inhabitants aware of their responsibility to care for the planet. This care includes environmental and natural resources. Everyone needs to take an active role, big or small, in preserving the earth and its resources. John McConnell, of Davis City, Iowa founded *International Earth Day*. In September 1969, he proposed the establishment of Earth Day to the San Francisco, California Board of Supervisors. After approval, he gained support from many others, including then UN General Secretary, U Thant.
- In 1970, McConnell wrote an Earth Day Proclamation which was ultimately signed by UN Secretary-General U Thant on March 21, 1971.

**Date When Celebrated: International Earth Day is always observed on the Vernal Equinox- March 20th**



**vernal equinox**, two moments in the year when the Sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length; also, either of the two points in the sky where the ecliptic (the Sun's annual pathway) and the celestial equator intersect. In the Northern Hemisphere the vernal equinox falls about March 20 or 21, as the Sun crosses the celestial equator going north. In the Southern Hemisphere the equinox occurs on September 22 or 23, when the Sun moves south across the celestial equator. According to the astronomical definition of the seasons, the vernal equinox also marks the beginning of spring, which lasts until the summer solstice (June 20 or 21 in the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 or 22 in the Southern Hemisphere).

# Spring Vernal Equinox Day

- The Vernal Equinox arrives today. Ah, Spring! A time when “a young man’s thoughts turn to thoughts of love” ...and outdoors and fishing and gardening and..... And let’s not leave out the ladies. Spring brings out these thoughts and more, for both ladies and gentlemen. So, let’s go and enjoy what many believe to be the best season of them all!
- The Spring Vernal Equinox brings days and nights in equal proportions. It is simply the day when there are exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of nighttime. But did you know that this is only true on the Equator? For the rest of us, the timing is a little sooner, or later, depending on where we live on the planet. We won’t go any deeper than that, as this is a fun site, not a science course.



***When is the Spring Vernal Equinox? March 20, 2023; March 19, 2024; March 20, 2025; March 20, 2026; March 20, 2027; March 19, 2028***

# Ramadan Islamic Holy Day

- *Ramadan* is a time of fasting, worship, and renewal of family ties. Fasting lasts the entire month and Muslims cannot eat during daylight hours. Fasting is done to show devotion to god. On the last day of Ramadan, it ends with the sighting of the moon. A Muslim friend of mine says people in high-rise apartments have the advantage, as they see the moon first.



When is Ramadan? Date Varies. March 23, 2023; March 11, 2024; March 1, 2025; February 18, 2026

# Feast of the Annunciation

- On this day, nine months before the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning, we celebrate the incarnation of our savior, Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel came to Mary of Nazareth and told her she was to bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This event is called the Feast of the Annunciation.



When is the Feast of the Annunciation? This holiday is always observed on March 25.



# April Fools Day

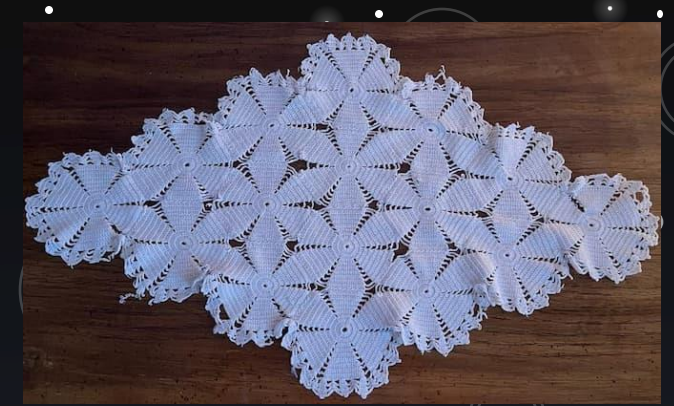
- The joke is on you! Traditionally, *April Fool's Day* is an opportunity for playing jokes or tricks on one another. The stranger and the more absurd the better. The challenge is to carry out a trick that is believable, if only for a little while. Tricks are most successful when played earlier in the day before a person is wise to what is going on. After that first cup of coffee, people are wise to the fact that it is April Fool's Day, and that anything can happen. Younger children are also more gullible. And everyone seems to get into the act, including media organizations like the BBC, which has played more than one joke on the general public.
- Any tricks or jokes must be harmless and in good taste for the unsuspecting "victim". And we suggest you think twice before pulling one.



*Date When Celebrated: April Fools Day is always observed on April 1*

# About International Tatting Day

- **International Tatting Day**, an April 1st holiday. Tatting is the skill of making delicate, elegant tatted lace. It is enjoyed by people all over the world. Tatting is a craft using thread and tools to create intricate knotwork. This craft goes back to ancient times. It is believed that fishermen gave sections of old fishing nets to weavers. The nets were constructed of strings and knots. The weavers used thread to add finer loops and knots forming the lace.



*When is International Tatting Day? This holiday is always observed April 1*

# Palm Sunday A Christian Holy Day

- Palm Sunday begins the Holy Week leading to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where people put their palms down in front of his path.
- On Palm Sunday, palms are distributed in church and blessed during the mass. People take them home and place them around religious pictures, statues, or other objects. They remain there for a year until the next Palm Sunday when they are replaced by newly blessed Palms.
- When discarding old palms, remember it is a blessed religious object and should be burned or buried. Some gardeners bury it in their home garden to bless the coming year's crop.



***When is Palm Sunday? April 2, 2023; March 24, 2024; April 13, 2025; March 29, 2026; March 21, 2027; April 9, 2028; March 25, 2029; April 14, 2030***

# Good Friday

- On Good Friday, Jesus Christ died on the cross. He died for us. But he only died in human form. He then arose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning to show us that there is life after death in heaven. Good Friday, also called “Dark Friday”, is a day of solemn prayer and the final day of fasting for the long Lenten season.
- Christ was nailed to the cross at noon. His death came at three o’clock in the afternoon. During this time, Christians should spend in prayer and silence.



*When is Good Friday? April 7, 2023; March 29, 2024; April 18, 2025; April 3, 2026; March 26, 2027; April 14, 2028; March 30, 2029; April 19, 2030*



# Easter Sunday

- The real meaning of Easter is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Christians, Easter Sunday is the most special day of the year. Yes, the birth of Christ is quite important. But his resurrection offers the hope of everlasting life to everyone! The season of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday is a time of fasting, sacrifice, and prayer. It is the Christian way of replicating in a small way what Christ sacrificed for us, both in his fasting and his final death on the cross.



**When is Easter Sunday? April 9, 2023; March 31, 2024, April 20, 2025; April 5, 2026; March 28, 2027; April 16, 2028; April 1, 2029; April 21, 2030**

# Passover a Jewish Holiday



- Passover is the celebration of the freeing of the Jews from Egyptian rule around 3000 years ago. At the time, the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptian ruler Pharaoh Ramses II. God instructed Moses to go to the Pharaoh and ask for freedom for the Jews. According to the Bible, his plea of “Let my people go” was ignored despite Moses’ warning of punishment by God if the Israelites were not freed.
- God then sent 10 terrible plagues upon the people of Egypt. Then, the Pharaoh conceded and freed the Jews who immediately fled Egypt. They fled without taking time to bake their dough. They took the dough and baked it into thin crackers in the hot desert sun. These crackers were called Matzoh. (Or Matzo)
- To commemorate the freeing of the Jews, matzoh is eaten in place of bread during Passover.



**When is Passover? Passover begins at Sundown on April 5, 2023; April 22, 2024; April 12, 2025; April 1, 2026; April 21, 2027; April 10, 2028; March 30, 2029; April 17, 2030**

# Knowledge is power

*That was a lot of information, do you  
or will you celebrate any of these  
holidays ? If so which ones ?*





APRIL IS  
AUTISM  
ACCEPTANCE  
MONTH



# NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH-April

- National Autism Awareness Month raises awareness for autism and Asperger's syndrome during April. Autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings, and form relationships with others.
- According to WHO, about one in 270 people in the world has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is a group of developmental disabilities that causes challenges in many areas of one's life. Some of the profoundly affected areas include social, communication, and behavior. Children with ASD are usually nonverbal, or they have restricted or repetitive behaviors. ASD also affects people of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- The month-long observance takes place during World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), celebrated each year on April 2nd. WAAD was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. WAAD activities increase world knowledge of autism and impart information about the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD celebrates the unique talents and skills of persons with autism around the world.



# NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH- April

- **HOW TO OBSERVE #AUTISMAWARENESSMONTH**
- Host an event supporting autism awareness.
- Attend an event and show your support for someone you know.
- Share your story and make your voice heard.
- While the MONTH also celebrates the stories and lives of those with autism, it's also important to remember that autism is a lifelong condition with varying degrees of severity. It's important to continue to support research for treatment and therapies that will improve the lives of those with autism.
- Speak out about autism to help eliminate the stigma associated with it.
- Use #AutismAwarenessMonth to share on social media.
- **NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH HISTORY**
- National Autism Awareness Month began in 1972 as National Autistic Children's Week. The [Autism Society](#) founded the event to increase awareness, advocate awareness, and spark change in schools, communities, medical facilities, and businesses.

