



Hello, Spring

CELEBRATING SPRING TRADITIONS

BY NORA SNYDER

Spring is just around the corner, how are you celebrating? Depending on where you are from, it could differ! Countries all around the world have many diverse ways of celebrating the coming of spring, and some will be covered in this article.

Starting in Thailand with the Songkran Water Festival, this festival happens shortly after the spring equinox, and is celebrated as New Year's Day in Thailand. The festivities last up to six days

and include visiting elders, going to a Buddhist monastery, and throwing water! Many of the locals and tourists grab buckets, water guns, pressure hoses, and even water cannons to drench anyone brave enough to face them. Anyone from children to the elderly can participate, and there is always loud music playing to ensure there is never a dull moment.

Next up is Northern India, with the festival Holi! Holi is

(Continued Next Page)

In This Issue:

Spring Allergies

The World Trade Center, Part 3

Faculty Crossword Puzzle

Spring Photo Gallery

CELEBRATING SPRING TRADITIONS (CONT'D)

definitely one of the most colorful festivals mentioned in this article, and it includes throwing colored powder at one another to pay tribute to the colors of the spring season. This festival lasts one day and one night, celebrating the end of winter and the beginning of the spring growing season.

Over in Central Asia, they are celebrating Nowruz, which translates to 'New Day'. It happens on the first day of the first month of the Iranian calendar, which usually falls around the spring equinox. Nowruz symbolizes the rebirth of nature, new life, and new beginnings. It often starts with people deep cleaning their homes, but usually rockets up to a multi-day festival of costumes, bonfires, and family remembrance. On the 13th day of the new year, everyone gathers outside with friends and family for music, food, and dancing in the cities' public areas.

In England, the Gloucester cheese-rolling takes place on Cooper's Hill in Gloucester. This event is a lot more intense than you would believe it to be, dangerous even. A wheel of cheese is thrown down a very steep hill and a second later, the competitors throw themselves down the hill following it, and the first to cross the finishing line wins. The contestants are often battered and bruised from the trip down the hill, and bleeding or broken bones aren't uncommon with this tradition. Despite its intense demeanor, this tradition is proudly upheld by the community, and has been in effect for more than 200 years.

In Bosnia, they are celebrating Cimburijada, which translates to "Festival of Scrambled Eggs". It celebrates the first day of spring, and at sunrise, people gather at the edge of the Bosnia river where a meal of scrambled eggs is prepared for everyone. The community shares a breakfast of scrambled eggs with friends and family and listens to music to celebrate the first day of spring.

In Mexico, they celebrate the spring equinox in Teotihuacán, where thousands of people gather at the giant Teotihuacán pyramid, dressed in white to celebrate the spring equinox. The participants use the morning to climb the 360 steps to the top of the pyramid to get closer to the sun. They raise their arms to the sky to bask in the sun's warmth and 'soak up' energy from the sun for the upcoming year.

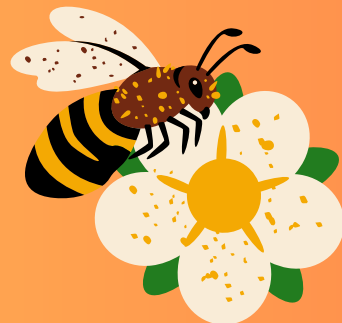
In the US, the holiday Easter coincides with spring and the spring equinox. Activities and traditions include hiding colorful eggs with prizes inside for children to find, the "Easter bunny" gifting family members baskets filled with colorful grasses and candy, and coloring hard-boiled eggs with dye and stickers, which are later eaten, sometimes on Easter morning. On the Sunday of Easter, sunrise services often celebrate the Christian belief of the resurrection of Jesus. On a more whimsical note, some families even "plant" jelly beans outside for them to grow into lollipops overnight.

In other countries that celebrate Easter, things are not done exactly the same way! In France, instead of the Easter Bunny delivering eggs to the children, it is flying bells! In the Greek island of Corfu, it is tradition to throw out old pots from upper-story windows on Easter Sunday. And in Norway, they have a very unusual tradition of watching and reading stories about crime. In fact, true crime books and movies will often be displayed more than the Easter Bunny if you visit Norway during the Easter season!

Finally, in Australia they celebrate spring with Floriade, where an exotic floral display is constructed. The display was originally placed in celebration of Australia's bicentenary and Canberra's 75th birthday, but now it represents the beginning of Spring. Each year thousands of people travel to see the millions of flowers bloom in this month-long festival of music, color, and horticulture.

However you celebrate spring, it's here! So make the most of it!

Bee-lieve You Me, Pollen is Nothing to Sneeze At!



BY JACK HORNING

Ah, the sniffles of the spring have come once again. The flowers are blooming, the trees are coming back to life, school is coming to a close, and our immune systems are turning against us. The joys of springtime being spoiled every single year by today's villain, pollen.

Pollen doesn't just come from flowers; it is also released by grasses, bushes, trees, and weeds. Pollen levels in the air are the worst after a storm, in the morning, when it's windy, and when the lawn is freshly mowed.

A pollen allergy is classified as Allergic Rhinitis, which could potentially contribute to asthma. Now for why those little microscopic particles kick our butts every year. When pollen is inhaled, the immune system mistakes the proteins in it as a threat which triggers an inflammatory response. The first time the body encounters an allergen, antibodies are sent to exterminate it. After that, every time the body encounters the allergen, histamines are sent to eliminate it; histamines are what cause the itchy and runny noses, watery eyes, and sore throats.

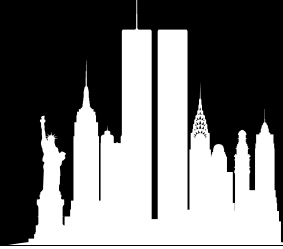
Ways to combat our not-so-surprise guest on our game show of spin! the! mucus! wheeeeeeeel!!!- are as follows:

- Keep your windows and doors closed when the pollen content in the air is high (you can find the pollen count on your weather channel app or visit the National Allergy Bureau at AAAAI.org/nab).
- Shower every night and wash your clothes frequently.
- Change your air filters often.
- Use a dehumidifier to reduce the amount of water in the air in your home (preventing mold).
- When having allergy symptoms take an over-the-counter antihistamine such as Benadryl, Zyrtec, Ny/Dayquil, etc. If those don't work, talk to a doctor to determine the severity of your allergies so you can stay safe and avoid things such as asthma attacks.

DING DING DING! *You, my lucky* guest star on "snot gamble" have won twenty billion boxes of tissues!! Which you'll donate to charity because you read this article and now know how to toss your allergies **in the trash!**

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER: ON TOP OF THE WORLD

BY JOSEPHINE MARSHALL



Please enjoy Part 3 of our ongoing look at the World Trade Center.

The World Trade Center towers were the tallest functioning buildings in the world... for about a month. One World Trade Center stood at 1,368 feet tall, while Two World Trade Center stood at 1,362 feet tall. They would end up being surpassed by the Sears Tower in Chicago (now called Willis Tower), which stands at 1,451 feet tall after it opened to tenants in May of the same year. The Port Authority now had a new mission. They wanted to turn the towers into attractions. They loved stunts involving the towers: Philippe Petit's high wire walk and George Willig's climb of Two World Trade Center made them look like toys. The World Trade Center would offer several now iconic attractions and amenities.

Starting in 1975, New York City visitors could (on clear days) view Manhattan, Brooklyn, New Jersey, and beyond from the top of the world. After the opening of the Top of The World observation deck on the 107th floor of the South Tower, it quickly became one of the most popular tourist attractions in New York City, attracting 1.8 million visitors a year. More than 46.3 million visitors experienced the beautiful views from the tower's summit from its opening in December 1975 to September 10, 2001.

In April of the following year, the restaurant Windows on the World opened on the 107th floor of the North Tower. Like visitors of the South Tower observation deck, diners would have beautiful views of the city and everything around it. By 2001, two subsidiary restaurants were opened also at the top of the North Tower. Together, they employed around 450 people who spoke more than 60 languages.

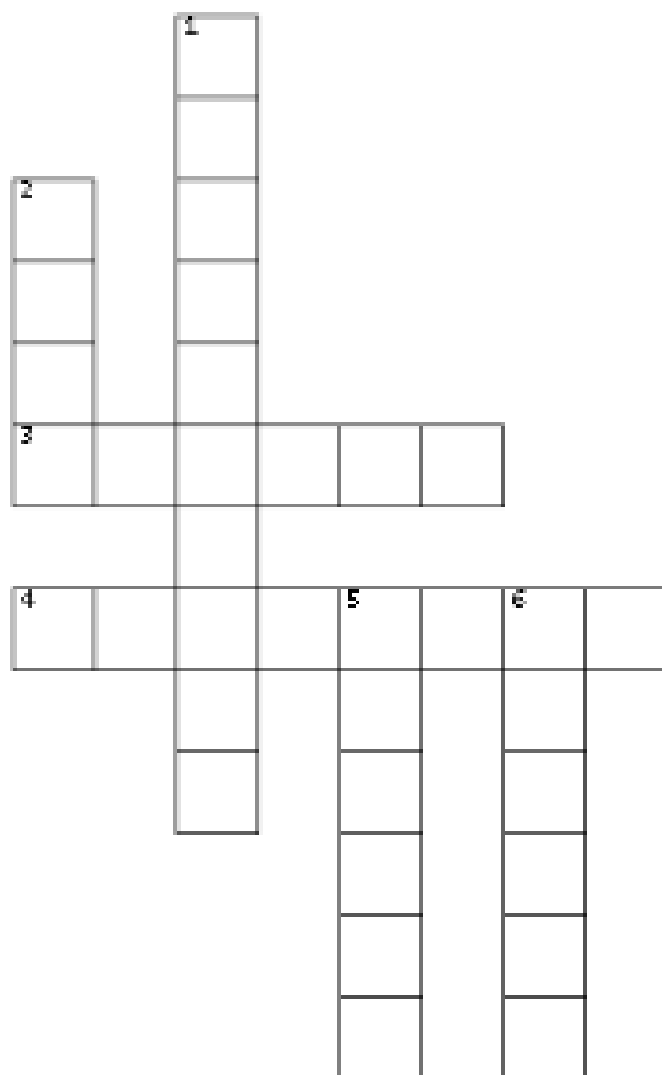
The Mall at the World Trade Center was located primarily under Four and Five World Trade Center. It was completed in 1975 and was the biggest shopping mall in New York City, with various restaurants and roughly 80 stores. Thousands of people traveled through the mall every day. The main entrance was located on the south side of Four World Trade Center, and another entrance was located on the east side of Five World Trade Center. The mall was also accessible from the lobbies of the Twin Towers and served as the point of access or transfer to the Chambers Street-World Trade Center subway station. Trains also intersected in the basement levels, located under the mall.

Business was not the only thing through which the World Trade Center celebrated international community. There's no saying officially just how many pieces of art were in the Trade Center before 9/11. Four hundred and thirty companies occupied the Twin Towers, each office with decorative art and large private collections most notably held by Fred Alger, Cantor Fitzgerald, and Bank of America. It's estimated that at least \$100 million of art was lost after the 9/11 attack. Iconic sculptures dominated the Austin J. Tobin Plaza, and several artists from all over the world had studios in the towers. The Sphere by Fritz Koenig is perhaps the most iconic piece of art associated with the World Trade Center. A symbol of resilience, the largest bronze sculpture of the modern age was the only remaining work of art to be recovered, mostly intact, from the ruins of the Twin Towers. Michael Richards was an artist-in-residence at the World Views studio the morning of 9/11. Instead of taking the two-hour trip home to Queens, Richards spent the night in his 92nd-floor studio. Debris from Flight 11's crash in between floors 93 and 99 landed on the 92nd floor, sealing up each of the three stairwells, making it impossible for anyone to escape on that floor. When the tower collapsed 102 minutes later, Richards' artwork was destroyed, and Richards himself was killed as a result of the attacks.

Be sure to look for the conclusion of the World Trade Center series in our Summer issue!

GUESS WHO? FACULTY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF
RISING SUN HIGH SCHOOL?**



ACROSS

- 3. Which administrator grew up ice skating on the Erie Canal?
- 4. Which teacher has a pilot's license?

DOWN

- 1. Which teacher's favorite hobby is disc golf outside of school?
- 2. Which administrator can recite the alphabet backwards?
- 5. Which teacher had a nest of birds in their classroom AC unit?
- 6. Which teacher used to live in Hawaii and Iceland?

Spring

IN CECIL COUNTY

PHOTOS BY RAGAN BAKER, SOPHIA COST, AND MRS. HASH

