

## EASY News February/ March 2008

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### 1. Seasonal Customs

The month of "März," March, is also called "Frühlingsmond", spring moon, and used to be devoted to the Roman god of war: Mars. The start of spring, March 20<sup>th</sup>, is also the beginning of gardening and farming: "Arbeit im Garten und auf den Feldern". Then farmers bring out their seed: rye, oat and barley.

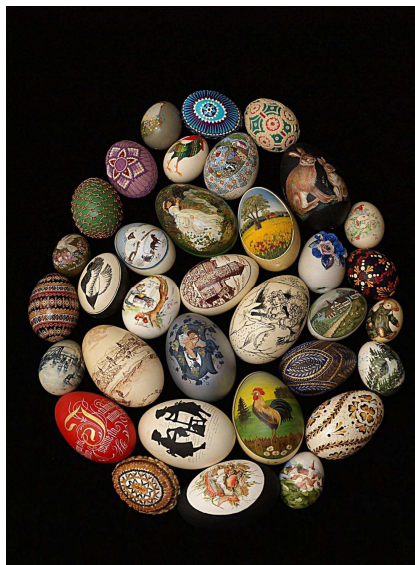
In former times March 1<sup>st</sup> was a favorite date for engagements. This date was a so called "Orakeltag": Then singles would have to walk three times around their bed at midnight and during the following night they could see their future spouse in a dream!

One of the most important feasts not only in March/April, but during the whole Christian church year is, of course, Easter. Since the council of Nizäa in the year 325 B.C. Easter is always celebrated on the first Sunday after the spring full moon. This can be between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. This year Easter is celebrated very early, Easter Sunday will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup>

In our next newsletter coming out on March 15<sup>th</sup> we will tell you more about Easter customs like Easter eggs, the Easter bunny, the Easter Lamb etc.

Since many events and activities concerning Easter are taking place weeks before Easter you will find information about this issue already in this newsletter: see:

2. Erlangen news, 6. Forchheim news, 7. Specially for children.



Quelle: Internationaler Erlanger Ostermarkt

## 2. Erlangen News

- One of the nicest events we want to recommend to you this time is the “Internationale Ostereiermarkt” at the Redoutensaal in Erlangen (entrance opposite the Theater, Theaterplatz) This special Easter-egg-market is the second oldest of that kind in Germany. 40 different artists present their crafts on Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6 pm There you can also admire other kinds of Easter handicrafts as well as nice flower arrangements and a lot of these Easter eggs are actually pieces of art.

This is an event for the whole family and a perfect place to get also different kinds of Easter presents or souvenirs. To get an impression of what to expect see also:

[www.ostereiermarkt-erlangen.de](http://www.ostereiermarkt-erlangen.de)



Quelle: Internationaler Erlanger Ostermarkt

- Another very, very special Easter-egg exhibition will take place in Erlangen-Frauenaurach, Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>, between 11am and 6pm, Brauhofhasse 2b. The topic of this presentation is “flowers” in all different styles. Four of the artists will be present, showing the technics and selling their products. At the same time traditional Easter cookies and cakes will be baked in an old stove. Those are also for sale. The entrance is free.

- How about dancing? There are a few quite different ways to enjoy this pleasant sport in Erlangen. The “Bürgertreff”, Isarstraße 10, has a fantastic program. Here are some proposals:

“Folklore, Paar- und Kreistänze”: Come with or without partner also if you are a beginner, February 29<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> always between 3 and 5 pm. The fee is Euro 3,-- for each afternoon.

At the same place starts a course “Argentinischer Tango”, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm-9.30pm. For 6 evenings you pay Euro 65,--

Or maybe a “Salsaworkshop” is what you have been looking for: Join in then on Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm-4pm and on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm. There you can learn the basic steps of this popular dance. Euro 20,-- is the fee for this week-end course.

For all three dance classes you have to register under Tel/Fax 09131-34546. The program leaflet tells us, foreigners are welcome!

- For those of you who are interested in history should use the next rainy weekend for a visit at the “Stadtmuseum” of Erlangen. There you find history of the middle ages as well as the history of the Huguenots, the history of the beer town Erlangen and a lot more presented on three floors. Open daily except Monday: Tue./Wed. 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, Thur./Fr. 9am-1pm and Sat./Sun. 11am-5pm, Martin-Luther-Platz 9. Tel.: 862408
- For flea market fans February 17<sup>th</sup> might be a perfect day to bring home some unusual items: The “20. Großer Trödelmarkt in der Heinrich-Lades-Halle” is Erlangen’s largest indoor flea market. Come and see between 9am and 3pm, Heinrich-Lades-Halle, Rathausplatz, Erlangen. Entrance fee is Euro 1,-- children up to 14 years are free. Future dates of this market: April 27<sup>th</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008.

### 3. Fürth News

- For the 11<sup>th</sup> time Fürth will be the center of Klezmer music: Between February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> 22 different groups from 9 different countries will perform during these 10 days. Next to fantastic concerts there will be workshops for music and Klezmer dance, a Klezmer disco, a jam session, a brunch and city tours. This festival is really a highlight in our region every year. The atmosphere is great! To get an impression and for tickets please see [www.klezmer-festival.de](http://www.klezmer-festival.de)



Quelle: Amsterdam Klezmer Band

- “Moonlight Serenade” (Eine Hommage an Glenn Miller) will certainly be one of the favorite performances at the Stadttheater Fürth, Königstr. 116, this year. Two performances will be shown on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm. We want to inform you already now to give you a chance to get a ticket – if , you too, are a Glenn Miller fan and songs like “Moonlight Serenade”, “Chattanooga choo choo” or “In the moon” are evergreens you would like to enjoy performed by a group of brilliant singers/ actors/dancers supported by a live orchestra. For more information and tickets [www.stadttheater.de](http://www.stadttheater.de) or tel.: 0911-974 2400
- We are especially glad to inform you that there will be a play in **English** already on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm also at the Stadttheater Fürth: “Animal Farm” refers to the book of George Orwell and is arranged by the American Drama Group Europe, produced by Barry Goldman. All seats for this rare play cost Euro 10,-- For tickets call: 0911-974 2400

## 4. Nürnberg News

- Nürnberg has a new star: a polar bear baby!" Over 50.000 mails, letters and cards were sent to the Nuernberg Zoo with suggestions of names for this special baby. Since January 18<sup>th</sup> it is official now: it is called "**Flocke**" (snow flake) Everybody is impressed and surprised by the enormous interest from all over the world. E-mails are coming every day practically from every continent of the world. A mail from Hawaii for instance says "Grow strong, Little Flocke! We all love you!" In the meantime Flocke got her first tooth and more and more people wonder why this animal baby has such a charisma. Maybe you want to find out yourself by checking [www.nuernberg.de/internet/polarbear](http://www.nuernberg.de/internet/polarbear)



Quelle: Tiergarten Nürnberg

Quelle: Tiergarten Nürnberg

"The major public interest will hopefully contribute to "Flocke" becoming an ambassador for the endangered habitant of her fellow polar bears", said the Zoos's director, Dr. Dag Encke In the meantime polar bear father Felix shows a lot of interest for polar bear mother Vera and the Nuremberg Zoo would certainly not mind having more polar bear babies! Besides there are a lot more animals and other attractions at the Nuremberg zoo as a matter of fact, it is one of the nicest zoos in Germany and certainly worth visiting. For a good impression and also opening hours etc. see: [www.tiergarten.nuernberg.de](http://www.tiergarten.nuernberg.de)

- Nürnberg (Allersberger Straße 120) has another attraction: February 15<sup>th</sup> the indoor swimming pool "süd.stadt.bad." reopens after a complete renovation. This is now a perfect place for sport and sauna for the whole family specially also because the entrance prices are modest. For more information see [www.suedstadtbad.de](http://www.suedstadtbad.de)
- Nürnberg has a lot of faces. If you would like to learn more about this city there is a new film showing the history of Nürnberg during the 20<sup>th</sup> century every Saturday at 4pm. You can watch this interesting portrait for two hours at the Stadtmuseum Fembohaus, Burgstraße 15 for Euro 5,-- More information under: [www.museen.nuernberg.de/fembohaus](http://www.museen.nuernberg.de/fembohaus)

## 5. Regensburg News

- Regensburg is a town with a lot of interesting sights like St. Peter's Cathedral: the most significant example of Gothic architecture in southern Germany, the Stone Bridge: the oldest existing stone bridge in Germany, the old town hall including the Imperial Chamber, the Thurn und Taxis castle and a lot more.  
All this can be visited either on your own or with a guided tour.

But if you want to experience something really special you should join a city tour organized and performed by a group called "Stadtmaus". These "tour guides" are professional actors and bring you to the most unusual places and happenings. Meet quack doctors and miracle

healers, baronial love, night watchmen, witches, bandits or enjoy the night of the beer, baronial love or the Halloween special and a lot more. There are tours for grown ups and children all of them are presented in costumes. For more information see: [www.stadtmaus.de](http://www.stadtmaus.de) or call 0941-230360 0

- The ballet of “Schwanensee” with music by Peter Tchaikovsky is certainly one of the most famous ballets in the world. You have a chance to watch a fantastic performance with the orchestra of Olaf Schmidt in Regensburg at the Theater am Bismarckplatz March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm or March 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information and further dates see [www.theater-regensburg.de](http://www.theater-regensburg.de)

## 6. Forchheim News

- When it comes to Easter customs in our region there is something you should not miss: “Osterbrunnen”. These are beautifully decorated Easter wells. The tradition’s origin cannot be determined exactly but the area in which it began can be narrowed down to the central region of the Fränkische Schweiz.  
The main reason for decorating the wells and springs lies primarily in the signification of water as a life-giving element. Mainly women would collect the water and carry it home. Naturally these sources were kept clean and in some places the inhabitants erected a so-called well house over the well.  
It is not known exactly when Easter well decoration started but it must have been around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The custom stopped in many regions after the Second World War primarily due to the installation of the central water supply system. At the beginning of the 1980’s there was an intensive revival of the Easter wells’ decoration and in 1986 there were 226 Easter wells in 169 locations.  
The decoration of an Easter well starts with the cleaning of the well called “Fegen”. In the past this was carried out by the young men of the community. Now it is mostly done by the women decorating the well or by their husbands.  
Garlands mostly out of box tree or spruce are wound around the body of the well or woven to form a frame or a crown to which the eggs are fastened. Ornaments include real blown eggs, either painted in one color or with decorative designs. In many places nowadays the organizers substitute the real eggs with plastic ones as the real eggshells can be destroyed by the weather. In some places real flowers are also used to decorate the wells.



Quelle: Osterbrunnen Forchheim

If all this sounds interesting to you and you would like to see some of those decorated Easter wells there is the perfect chance: The Tourist Office of Forchheim offers a guided bus tour on March 22<sup>nd</sup> leaving the train station in Forchheim at 9.15am.(return around 5pm). The tour costs Euro 17,- and includes a guided tour through a distillery. (one drink, schnapps or a soft drink are also included and there are two breaks for you to buy lunch and coffee in the afternoon if you like) For more information and booking call 09191-714 338 or 09191-714 337.

Of course, you can also go on a “Osterbrunnen Tour” on your own by car. The following link will propose to you a variety of tours [http://fraenkische-schweiz.bayern-online.de/02\\_Tourismus/Sehenswertes/Osterbrunnen/](http://fraenkische-schweiz.bayern-online.de/02_Tourismus/Sehenswertes/Osterbrunnen/)

## 7. Specially for children

- During the Easter school holidays there is a “Osterferienprogramm” for children as well as a special art school for children at the “Freizeitzentrum Frankenhof” in **Erlangen**, Südliche Stadtmauerstr. 35. Registration day is Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> between 8am. and noon. More information around the end of February under [www.erlangen.com/simson](http://www.erlangen.com/simson) or under tel.: 09131-862915 or 09131-862264
- Also at the “Freizeitzentrum Frankenhof” there will be a puppet theater showing “Osterabenteuer mit dem kleinen Raben” on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. The story is about a disappeared Easter bunny: Who should now paint and bring the Easter eggs? Other animals feel responsible and take over. See how they cope with the situation! A play for children 3 years or older. Entrance fee is Euro 3,- for children and Euro 4,- for grown ups. For reservation see address above.
- Another special event at the “Freizeitzentrum Frankenhof” for children 8 years and older will certainly be “Der verzauberte Schuh”. There you can change your old shoes or other left over objects into a piece of art! Bring your old shoes or other left over objects, wear cloth that can get dirty and don’t forget a snack and drink for the brake. The little “artists” meet on Friday February 29<sup>th</sup> between 3 and 6 pm and on Saturday March 1 between 10 am and 2pm also at the “Frankenhof”, Room 34. For fee and material you pay Euro 15,- For reservation see address above.
- Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> a big secondhand-bazaar at the “Heinrich-Lades Halle” in **Erlangen**, Rathausplatz, will be open from 9am to 1 pm and offer children’s’ clothes, toys and more. Entrance fee is Euro 1,50. Only private persons are allowed. If you want to sell, reserve under phone: 09131-874102 (Other dates at the same place this year will be: April 26<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, September 27<sup>th</sup>, November 22<sup>nd</sup> )
- “Das Konzert der Tiere” wants to introduce the pleasure of classical music to children starting the age of 5. Enjoy grandfather bear playing the contrabass, a cuckoo with a saxophone, a “rain dance” played by an elephant with drums and a lot more on Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am or at 3pm at the Markgrafentheater, (the oldest still used baroque theater in the south of Germany is always worth visiting) Theaterplatz in **Erlangen**. For tickets call 09131-862252

- “Die Schule der Phantasie” (A school of fantasy) was created in **Fürth**, Wasserstraße 5, in 2006. This school feels that it is important to bring forward the fantasy of children starting the age of 8 also with painting classes and starting the age of 10 with an additional art academy. Their new program starts at the end of February. For more information call Frau Hager 0911-7498652 or Frau Schweiger 0911-75803100.  
There will also be an additional program during the Easter holidays (March 25th-29th) between 10am and 3pm. For information concerning the holiday program call 0911-2128885 or see: [www.schulederphantasie-fuerth.de](http://www.schulederphantasie-fuerth.de)
- The “Nicolaus-Copernicus-Planetarium **Nürnberg**” has several programs specially for children. On Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm there will be live music “Zurück aus dem All”. The audience will fly with a little dragon into the outer space, dances with “Freddy the skeleton” and comes back to earth with a crazy cosmonaut. At the end, with the help of the audience, there will be an “ocean” of glow flies at the starry sky --- so bring your flashlights or blinking lights along and enjoy this intergalactic music delight. An event not only for children! Tickets cost Euro 6,50 for everybody.  
There are different performances specially for astronomy fans all year through so please check [www.planetarium-nuernberg.de](http://www.planetarium-nuernberg.de) For tickets call 0911-9296553, office hours are Mo-Thur. from 8.30am to 1pm., Nürnberger Planetarium, Am Plärrer 41

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Customs information has been taken from the book “Feste & Bräuche” by Sybil Gräfin Schönfeldt/Otto Maier Verlag Ravensburg, 1980, and from the websites of the addresses given above in this newsletter. (photos listed there, taken with the permission of the providers)  
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