

## EASY News April/Mai 2008

1. Seasonal Customs
2. Erlangen News
3. Fürth News
4. Nürnberg News
5. Regensburg News
6. Historical trains
7. Two very special festivals
8. Special hint for the spouses of our delegates
9. Special hint for children

---

### 1. Seasonal Customs

The fifth month of the year, May derives its name from Maya, the goddess of growth. “Alles neu macht der Mai”, everything seems to start and grow now. May is also called the grazing or pasture month because the cattle is brought to the mountain pasture.

But first of all is May the month of delight. This first warm month of the year is equally called the month of love because it is said that more people fall in love during this month than during the rest of the year due to the “Frühlingsgefühle”!

Young girls should wash their faces with May dew to look more and more beautiful! So it does not surprise that the month of May is also the favourite month for wedding ceremonies in Germany.

A custom you will find in many regions is the “Maibaum”. This tree, a grand spruce, is placed in the centre of the community for everyone to see. The tree trunk is chipped except for the top end and is decorated with a spruce wreath, bows, little flags as well as signs of handcrafts men. The decoration and the tree itself symbolize fertility, abundance and richness.

Spring is also the season for festivals, and since we are in Franconia, especially for beer festivals. As soon as it will be warm enough, many beer gardens will open although you have to know that in Franconia most of these places are called “Bierkeller” because the beer you drink is stored in a “Keller”, inside a hill. The most famous of these hills in our region is the “Burgberg” in Erlangen where there used to be 16 of these cellars.



Quelle: EMT Erlangen

Don't miss the get2gether tour Easy Entry offers on Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> because then you will be able to see the largest one of these cellars (over 400m long). See also [Erlangen News](#).

## 2. Erlangen News

- May 1<sup>st</sup> is a German holiday and the city of Erlangen being one of the best equipped bicycle towns in Germany, is offering a special event, called "Erlanger Rädli". "Rädli" is dialect and means "Fahrrad". 26% of the Erlangen population claim the bicycle to be their main means of transportation. There are over 85 000 bicycles in town and the bicycle lanes in Erlangen are over 200 km long. So it is not surprising that the sport department of the city of Erlangen started a special event called "Erlanger Rädli" already 15 years ago. This is a bike rally for everybody to join.

It starts on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m. at the Rathausplatz. There you get the papers you need for the rally. You have to ride to different stops and find a so called "Passwort" and at the end there will be a "Tombola" where you can win a prize. This is a lot of fun for the whole family. See also [www.erlangen.de/Veranstaltungshighlights](http://www.erlangen.de/Veranstaltungshighlights)



Quelle: ETM Erlangen

- In case you are still looking for a bicycle to buy there is a perfect possibility already on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 3pm at the Neustädter Kirchenplatz. Then you can sell or buy (private people only) bicycles or bicycle equipment. For every sold piece you have to give Euro 3,- to the organizer, ADFC Erlangen e.V. You can also call them for more information: 09131-209673.
- For all of you who want to meet other English speaking persons from 33 different nations, there is a perfect place, the Franconian Society e.V. Erlangen. They meet every third Friday of the month at 6.30pm, Spardorfer Str. 79 (Turnerbund Sportverein) and there are a lot of other get-to-gethers every month. The Annual General Meeting will be on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There will be the Annual Gathering at the Bergkirchweih Sat. May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Very important for all of you who like to read will be the Annual Spring Book Sale. Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5.30pm-9.00pm. This is a perfect chance to get good English books for a very low price. For the complete programme call 09131-27141.

- The biggest event in Erlangen throughout the year is the “**Bergkirchweih**”. This beerfestival was founded in 1755. At the beginning it was a 3 day yearly pentecost market and it took place at the market square of the Altstadt, the square we call Martin-Luther-Platz today. After the market was combined with the yearly shooting festival it was moved out of town up north to the Burgberg. The festival attracted more and more visitors and was extended to 5 days, then 8 days and in the meantime it went up to 12 days. There are quite a few people who would like to extend it even more! Anyway these 12 days are called the 5<sup>th</sup> season of Erlangen. In the meantime the **Bergkirchweih** attracts 1,3 million visitors every year. I am sure you want to go there too to not only for the good beer, food and music but to feel this special atmosphere! This year it will start Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. If you plan to go there with your family (there are all kinds of fairground rides also for children) it is best to go in the morning or early afternoon. It is open every day from 10am to 11pm. To get a first impression see [www.der-berg-ruft.de](http://www.der-berg-ruft.de)



Quelle: ETM Erlangen

### 3. Fürth News

- The city of Fürth can be very proud. Everything seems to change to the better in 2007: The number of inhabitants did rise from 113 767 to 114 276 (Imagine: 158 of them had moved from Nürnberg to Fürth!). There were more newborns, more new apartments, a much smaller number of unemployed people (with 7,6 % instead of 23,7 the year before). The industry in Fürth had a plus of 15% and last not least 6,5% more tourists came to visit Fürth than the year before. This was, of course also because of the 1000year celebration in 2007. So we would like to share these good news with you (EN, S. 14, 26. 3. 2008)
- For the fourth time there will be the “Japanisches Kirschblütenfest”, a Japanese cherry blossom festival in Fürth, Grüne Halle, Krautheimerstr. 11. It starts at 11am and ends at 7pm, Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>. A big programme offering different artists some of them in costumes, music, sumo wrestlers, Japanese tea ceremony, Ikebana, an exhibition of cherry blossom photos, origami, suiseki, bonsais, shiatsu, aikido and a lot more. The entrance fee is Euro 3,-, children up to 14 years are free.

- Fürth has a real good theatre program all year long. A special highlight will be the musical “Die letzten fünf Jahre” (The Last Five Years) by Jason Robert Brown. The tender music and the sentimental lyrics of this play show, in an intensive way, the relationship between the writer Jamie and the actress Cathy who could not keep up their love. Each one of them sees the last 5 years from a different point of view.  
There will be four performances: April, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> always at 7.30pm at the “Stadttheater Fürth”, Königstr. 116, Tel.: 0911 -974-2400 or 974-2410 or see [www.stadttheater.de](http://www.stadttheater.de)

## 4. Nürnberg News

- A big event for rock fans is coming up in June in Nürnberg. We inform you already now to give you chance to get tickets.

The US rock band KISS will be performing in Nürnberg June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Arena. This is their first tour since 1999 and will certainly be booked out soon. If you are interested call 0911-2162298.

- People who love the Italian opera will be glad to hear that there will be a chance to see “La Traviata” by Guiseppe Verdi at the “Opernhaus” in Nürnberg on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 3.30pm, Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>. For tickets call 01805231600.
- Since we know that many of our delegates are interested in sports we are glad to inform you about a very special way to “work out”. “LUNA WALKING” takes place at night, so to say when the moon is shining. Equipped with forehead lamps Christine Marzano, the personal trainer, leads you through the forest. If you like, with walking sticks or dumb bells, for extra training. It takes 75 minutes and is suitable for any age.  
Christine offers also aqua fitness courses, nordic walking, walking with the special XCO dumb-bells.  
The last LUNA WALKING for this season (it will continue in fall) will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. For more information call 0911-4800526 or see [www.aqua-fitness-exklusiv.de](http://www.aqua-fitness-exklusiv.de)



Quelle: Christine Marzano, Luna Walking

- Or maybe you prefer to walk on your own and want to discover the attractions of Nürnberg. There is a special way to see, hear and to marvel at with the help of the new Tomis Audio Guide for Nürnberg. Twenty attractions are waiting to be discovered by you, completely without city guide and with no time pressure. You can put together your very own city tour, according to your interests. All you need is a city map and a mobile phone. The audio texts last between two and three minutes. The costs? Just the connection fee to the local land line, that's all! There is no additional cost. As an alternative, you can also download the audio files from the website and listen to them with an MP3 player: [www.tomnis.nuernberg.de](http://www.tomnis.nuernberg.de) (also explained in English) The audio files are free of charge.

## 5. Regensburg news

- Since we do expect the warm season we want to give you a couple of out door tips around Regensburg.  
How about a ship cruise along the river Donau. There is a tour starting every day at the full hour between 10am and 4pm until October 4<sup>th</sup> ( then until Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> between 11am and 3pm). The ship parts from the "Steinerne Brücke". For more information call 0941-52104 or see: [www.schiffahrtklinger.de](http://www.schiffahrtklinger.de)
- Twice a day (until Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> ) always at 10.30 and 2pm a ship leaves from the same start, "Steinerne Brücke" in Regensburg, for the very famous sight of Walhalla. The Walhalla was built between 1830-42 by König Ludwig I. and his architect Leo v. Klenze in the style of a Greek temple. Inside you find 127 marble busts of the most famous Germans like artists and scientists.

It is really worth going there even if you do not live in the Regensburg area. If you go there by car you find the Walhalla right above the river Donau in Donaustauf, Walhallastr. 48. Open daily between April and Sept. From 9am-5.45pm, in Oct. From 9am- 4.45pm, Nov.-March from 10am-11.45am and 1pm-3.45pm. Closed Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information see [www.walhalla-regensburg.de](http://www.walhalla-regensburg.de)

## 6. Historical trains

The season for the historical train rides is starting again April 27<sup>th</sup>. Riding on a historical train is a very special attraction for the whole family. You can get on the steam train at the train station in Ebermannstadt at 10am, there will be 5 stops before you will arrive in Behringersmühle at 10.45 and after a 15 minute stop you will go back the same way and arrive in Ebermannstadt again at 11.35. The same tour is starting again at 2pm and 4pm. There are drinks and snacks served on the train and you can transport your bike for free. So it is possible to go one way by train, or just one stop and then continue by bike.

The round ticket costs Euro 10,-- , 1 stop Euro 2,-- 2-3stops Euro 4,-- 4-6stops Euro 6.--Children under 6 years are free, children between 6 and 11years pay half price.

There will also be steam train rides on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and more throughout the year until October 5<sup>th</sup>. You will find the dates under [www.dfs.ebermannstadt.de](http://www.dfs.ebermannstadt.de)



## 7. Two very special festivals

- As already mentioned, the festival season has started and we want to inform you about a very special one here in Franconia, the “Walberla Fest” near Forchheim. The festival got its name from the saint “Walburga”. You will meet her bronze statue in front of the “Walburgiskapelle” on top of the hill “Walberla”.

You will find a typical Franconian festival there with good beer from the region, typical food and also attractions for children. Bring your blanket for a pique-nique and enjoy also the phantastic view (if you are lucky you can see the Dom in Bamberg from up there) on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday

May 4<sup>th</sup>. There is also a “Maibaum” (mentioned under [1. Seasonal customs](#)).

The “Walberla” is near Forchheim. To get there you park your car either in Kirchehrenbach along the streets (from there you can walk up to the festival hill in about 30 minutes. Some parts of the way are steep so it is not so good to wear sandals etc.) Or you park your car in Wiesentau. From there the walk is a little longer but easier.

You can also reach Kirchehrenbach by train, coming from Forchheim direction Ebermannstadt.



Quelle: [www.walberla.de](http://www.walberla.de)

- Kronach is the Franconian town with the biggest complete fortress in Germany. The fortress and the historical town of its own are worth visiting any time of the year. But there is a special reason to go there during the “Crana Historica-Festival” between Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>. During these days there will be historical music spectacles, a military camp, cavalier games, weapon shows, a historical market, a taverna and a lot more. You can reach Kronach either going on A9 to Bayreuth and then on B85 to Kronach or on A73 to Lichtenfels and then on B173 to Kronach. For very detailed information about the festival program see [www.cranahistorica.de/projekt.php](http://www.cranahistorica.de/projekt.php)

## 8. Special hint for the spouses of our delegates

When you are new in a foreign country, your family and friends are far a way, you don't speak the language yet, you are not working etc. - although there is Easy Entry - , it might also be good for you to find out how other women deal with this situation. For that kind of information see

[www.expatwomen.com](http://www.expatwomen.com)

## 9. Special hint for children

The fun park season has started. A very nice park not too far away is "Erlebnispark Schloss Thurn" off the A73 between Nürnberg an Bamberg. Over 50 attractions are waiting for you and your children: All kinds of fun rides like a roller coaster, a swan carousel, a waterslide as well as puppet plays, live shows, animals and a lot more. See more under [www.schloss-thurn.de](http://www.schloss-thurn.de)

---

This 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 from fotografers listed there, taken with the permission of the providers)

No responsibility will be taken by Easy Entry the integration people, Erdenkäufer & Stock GbR, for the accuracy of the contents. Changes are subject to change without notice.