



Newsletter

Volume 2 – No. 01

Holiday

March 26, 2009

Message from the President

This year marks the tenth anniversary of our festival. I want to take this opportunity to thank all our committee members, our collaborators, our supporters and the general public for having made our festival one of the outstanding events of its type in the country.

We have grown from a wishful dream to an event that attracts tens of thousands of attendees, we have acquired our own building, The Italian Heritage Center, where we have on display a wealth of information about our heritage, accomplishments of the Italian American community, information about upcoming events and where we hold our monthly pasta dinner fundraisers, classes in Italian and programs of cultural events, alternating live presentations with classic Italian films.

Proud as we are of the accomplishments of the past, we are mindful that we must continue to earn your trust and confidence to accomplish our mission and to increase the participation not only from Mercer County, but also from the rest of the state and beyond. For this reason, along with the chairs and members of the appropriate committees, we are striving to bring you new and exciting events and features that will make the festival a safe, family oriented, enjoyable experience for all.

We also welcome your feedback on what we have done and on how we can improve our festival, so send us your comments and suggestions by completing the survey on the back page of this issue or by emailing your suggestions to us at our return address.

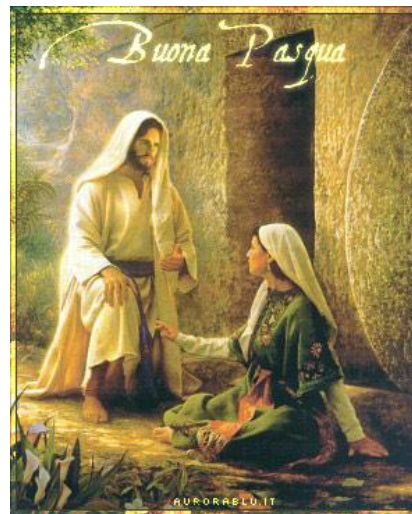
This year we are bringing back many of the attractions from previous years, such as the Sunday Mass celebration by our Bishop, the replica of Fountain of Trevi, better and improved rides, an expanded food court with more seating available for diners, new food vendors offering more variety, an enclosed beer and wine area with seating space to comply with ABC regulations, a

number of new entertainers to provide almost continuous free entertainment, a huge fireworks display on Saturday night, an improved layout to facilitate the movement of people, and an expanded and improved Veterans Court, for which we welcome items from veterans in your family that you may have available.

Other improvements will include free admission for seniors on Friday up to 4:30 PM, all day children's ride bracelets available daily at the festival to help reduce expenses for young families with small children, improved sanitation facilities, and improved entrance facilities to better control admissions.

All these improvements will, however, increase our expenditures and therefore we are announcing that we need to increase the price of admission for adults to three dollars, still a huge bargain considering the variety of entertainment, the number of displays and activities, and the access to so much of our proud heritage.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY ON PAGE 7.
YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YOUR
MERCER COUNTY ITALIAN-AMERICAN FESTA.**



HAPPY
EASTER

Mercer County Italian-American Association Executive Board

Title	Name	Chair	Contact
President	John Scarpati		631-7544
Vice President	Frank Cirillo		396-7619
2nd Vice Pres.	Michael Rossetti		977-0921
Trustee	Gary Carbone		223-0892
Trustee	Ed DiPolvere		586-2684
Trustee	Danielle Scarpati-Carbone		223-0892
Trustee	Gus Perilli		695-1849
Treasurer	Phil Vecere		882-6638
Secretary	Louise Konjushok		586-0696
Attorney	Anthony Massi		890-2273

Committee Representatives

Amusements	Ted Caruso	Co-CP	631-8647
Amusements	Rich DeVito	CP	586-3808
Bocce	Ron Ungarini	CP	883-7948
Cultural Court	John Prunetti	CP	771-0687
	Jeff Prunetti	Co-CP	439-3000
Cultural Theater	Gilda Rorro-Baldassari	CP	587-7000
Entertainment	Ann Lennon	Co-CP	499-1532
Entertainment	Nina VanDeleur	Co-CP	298-1356
Entertainment	Carl Carabelli	CP	586-9010
Entrance Ticket Sales	RoseAnn Cofone	CP	208-0468
Festival Photography	Paul Donini		658-7940
Festival Merchandise	Joan Guido	CP	540-7774
Food Vendors	Bill Hillman	Co-CP	585-9310
Food Vendors	Frank Cirillo	CP	396-7619
In-House Publicity	Nina VanDeleur	CP	631-7544
Ital. Heritage Memorabilia	Anthony Chianese	CP	586-0312
Local Fundraising	Gino Melone	CP	396-3412
Local Fundraising	Vince Colletti	Co-CP	989-1298
Local Fundraising	Marion Bolton	Co-CP	396-2944
Mass	Kathy Di Costanzo	CP	396-6226
Pasta Dinner			
Fundraising	Mario Casale	CP	587-5286
Signs & Banners	Ed DiPolvere	CP	586-2684
Site Operations	Wayne DeAngelo	CP	586-6877
Sponsorship & Marketing	Barry Chiorello	CP	695-5007
Volunteers	Christine Scarpati	Co-CP	396-7040
	Danielle Scarpati-Carbone	Co-CP	223-0892
Waste Disposal	John Scarpati Jr.	CP	584-8907
Website	Michael Rossetti	CP	977-0921
Website Developer	Mike Aregnano		713-2670
Admin. Assistant	Nina VanDeleur		631-7544
Beer / Wine Sales	Christine Scarpati	Co-CP	396-7040
Heritage Memorabilia	John Ricco	Co-CP	586-7724
Signs & Banners	George Mirabelli	Co-CP	396-1064
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Newsletter	Frank Gargione	Editor	883-4778
	Joe DeFelic	Co-Ed	841-5427
	Jack Beiger	Print	890-2638
	Lucy Gargione	Distribution	

General Contacts: E-Mail buongiorno2000@prodigy.net
 Website: www.ITALIANITALIANAMERICANFESTIVAL.COM
 OFFICE MAIL: MCIIFA - 2421 Liberty St. - Hamilton, NJ 08629
 PHONE: 609-631-7544

BREAKING NEWS

Welcome to Cathy Di Costanzo

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Cathy Di Costanzo will join the Festival Association as Committee Chair for Religious Activities, a task ably performed up to now by Shannon and Luann Scarpati. We wish to thank Shannon and Luann for their past efforts and thank Cathy for stepping in and bringing her know-how and enthusiasm to the Festival.

Merchandise Sale

We are holding a **SPECIAL 20% OFF SALE** on the Festival Memorabilia and other items as shown in the attached table. Now you can visually show your heritage and support for the festival and its mission. Please call Joann Guido at the Heritage Building Office at 609-631-7544

Super 50/50

Again this year we will have a 50/50 drawing to raise funds for the festival. Ticket books will be mailed to our supporters for advance sales and ticket booths will be set up at the festival to sell tickets. Please contact Gino Melone (609 396 1819) or Marion Bolton (609 396 2944) to get tickets or to volunteer for the ticket sales during the festival. As an added feature this year, Joe Sensi, who last year spearheaded our car raffle efforts, has come up with a new approach to fund raising. He will contact local merchants to provide them a means to show their support for the Festival by having their business advertised during the festival as special sponsors. He will offer merchants a number of packages of advertising space coupled with a number of raffle tickets so that the merchants can participate as advertisers and also as possible winners of the Super 50/50 pot.

MCIIFA Planning Calendar

Monthly Scheduled Events- On-going

1 st Monday	MCIIFA meeting	7PM
2 nd Monday	Culture Events	7PM
4 th Monday	Classic Italian Movie	7PM
Last Thursday ...	Dinner Buffet Fundraiser	6-8PM

May

7th Ladies Comedy Night

June

2nd National Hall of Fame Induction Dinner -Tropicana

22nd Golf Tournament

September

— Special FESTIVAL EDITION Newsletter
 25, 26, 27, Annual Festival Weekend

October

(Italian American Heritage Month)

3rd - Annual Columbus Day Ball - Angeloni's

4th -- Flag Raising Hamilton Municipal Bldg.

11th - Hamilton Columbus Day Parade 1:00PM

12th - Columbus Day Festivities at Our Lady of the Angels Parish

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Continued Improvements at the Heritage Center Building

The renovation of the second floor has resulted in a beautiful area in which we hold the pasta dinners every fourth Thursday and the Cultural Events program on the second and fourth Monday of the month. Even with the additional space, often it becomes difficult to accommodate all the guests for pasta dinner.

In view of that, and to provide a more easily usable Emergency Exit, the President and the board have decided to add a deck to the second floor. This additional nineteen feet by twenty feet space, located on the left rear of the building, will accommodate additional tables to provide seating for up to two hundred guests in good weather and a wider and more navigable set of stairs.

As of now, plans have been drawn up, approval from the township is expected shortly, construction will start in the spring with completion in the early summer to allow full use of it for several months before closing it for the winter. This is another example of the continuing efforts to improve the facilities and provide a welcoming and pleasant environment in the Heritage Building.

In Memoriam

During the past year, a number of faithful supporters and collaborators of the Festival Association have passed on. Although we are not listing their names, we want their families to know that they are missed and that their efforts will no be easily forgotten.

Columbus Day Ball and Parade

Even though we are a few months away from October, we want to remind everyone that this year we will again hold a Columbus Ball on October 3rd at Angelonies.

We are also planning a Columbus Day Parade that will gather and march on Nottingham Way as in the past few years. Please contact Parade chairman Pat Colavita for information about participating in the Parade with your group to show your pride in our heritage.



Italian Easter Bread



Easter is quickly approaching! This bread makes a great table center piece or gift. Use your bread machine to do the heavy labor.

Ingredients

1/2 cup mixed candied fruit
1/4 cup blanched almonds, slivered
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp salt
2/3 cup warm milk (just barely warm)
2 Tbsp butter, softened
2 eggs
3 cups bread machine flour
1 1/4 tsp bread machine yeast
1/2 tsp anise seed
7 raw eggs, dyed
vegetable oil

Instructions

Add all ingredients, except the anise seed, dyed eggs, and oil, in the order listed. Set the bread machine to dough and start. (If your dough cycle doesn't have a rise period, set for sweet bread and remove after the first rise.)

Add the anise seed after the ingredients are thoroughly mixed. Lightly rub the dyed eggs with oil. After the first rise, turn the dough onto a lightly floured board. Punch the dough down and divide in three pieces. Roll each piece into a 16" rope. On an oiled cookie sheet, pinch one end together and loosely braid ropes.

You can leave in one long braid, or form into a ring. Pinch the ends together. Gently pull apart ropes and tuck the eggs into the openings.

Cover and place in a warm (not hot), draft free place. Let the dough rise until doubled, about 30 minutes. Bake at 350F for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

Note: Some cooks like to coat the bread with an egg wash to give it a glossy look. Others dust the bread with confectioner's (powdered) sugar. Some like to use colored sugar as a topping.

The choice is yours.

Cultural Events at the MCI AFA Heritage Center

Cultural Events Series well underway

The Cultural Events program, started in January, continues through June. The opening program *'Neapolitan Serenade'* by *Carl Di Donato* held in January was an outstanding success and very well attended. Carl talked about the history of the Neapolitan song genre, explained some of the terms and offered a live rendition of songs spanning centuries of creativity.

In the February program *"Wine - Our Heritage"*, *Vittorio Vettori of Banfi Wines* presented a history winemaking in Italy from ancient times to the present and the role of the Italian American *Mariani* family in returning the Italian wines to their rightful place in the world by improving the vineyard stock, by working with the Italian government to impose better controls to guarantee the quality of the wines

produced and to safeguard the different regional wines by registering the names and preventing adulterations.

The presentation was followed by the tasting of several wine varieties accompanied by snacks prepared for the occasion by John and kitchen help.

The classic Italian movies in the program, in Italian with English subtitles, have been chosen to offer a picture of the evolving conditions of life in Italy over the past century.

The remaining programs, all scheduled on the second and fourth Monday at 7:30 PM, are listed below for your convenience:

Apr 13, 2009
Apr 27, 2009

Pasquetta Program. Bring your own Easter delicacy to share
Movie: Cinema Paradiso directed by Giuseppe Tornatore

May 11, 2009
May 25, 2009

Italy then and now, presented by Cristina Fratarcangeli
Movie: The tree of the wooden clogs directed by Ermanno Olmi

Jun 8, 2009
June 22, 2009

Italy in Space, presented by Frank Gargione
Movie: Two Women, Sophia Loren, directed by Vittorio De Sica

July - August - September Summer Break and Festival Break

For further information on each event, please click on the EVENTS tab at the festival web site www.italianamericanfestival.com



Wine Tasting Event: Cav. John Scarpati, Vittorio Vittori and Cav. Frank Gargione, Chairman

Italian Language Lessons

Grammar, spelling, and usage

Nouns: formation of plurals

For most nouns, the singular ending changes as follows:

masc. sing.	masc. plur.	example
o	i	libro libri
e	i	padre padri
a	i	artista artisti

note: nouns ending in **e** can be either masculine or feminine. In the plural they all end in **i**, e.g.

la televisione **e** le televisioni
il mare **e** i mari

note: most nouns ending in **co** and **go** become **chi** and **ghi** in the plural to keep the **c** and **g** hard sounding.

Some exceptions occur in the masculine, e.g. amico - amici

fem. sing. fem. plur. example

a e mela mele
e i madre madri

Note: nouns ending in **ca** and **ga** become **che** and **ghe** in the plural to keep the **c** and **g** hard sounding.

Nouns ending in **cia** and **gia** often becomes **ce** and **ge** to keep the **c** and **g** soft sounding.

Pronouncing Italian

Spelling and pronouncing Italian are easy once you know the few basic rules. This section has been designed so that as you read the pronunciation of the phrases, you can follow the Italian. This will help you recognize how Italian is pronounced and give you a feeling for the rhythm of the language. Here are a few rules you should know:

italian	sounds like	example	pronunciation
* au	ow	autobus	ow-tobus
* ce	che	cena	chayna
* ci	chee	cibo	cheebo
* che *	kay	barche	barkay
* chi *	kee	chiave	kee-avay
* ge	jay	gelato	jay-lato
* ghe *	gay	traghetto	tra-gay-to
* gi	jee	gita	jeeta
* ghi *	gee	ghiaccio	geeat-cho
* gli	lyee	degli	day-lyee
* gn	ny	ragno	ranyo
* iu	you	aiuto	a-yooto
* sc	sh	scena	shayna
* sch *	sk	schermo	skayrmo

- **c** and **g** are hard except when followed by **e** or **i** – to make them hard in Italian an **h** is added.

Double letters **ss**, **tt**, **ll**, etc. are distinctly pronounced – with a slight pause between the two:

posso pos-so, **gatto** gat-to, **pelle** pel-lay.

Stress usually falls on the second-to-last syllable.

We have indicated the stressed syllable with bold italics in the pronunciation of the phrases.

CELEBRATIONS

I'd like to wish you...

Vorrei augurarle (augurarti - informal)...
vor-ray owgoo-rar-lay (owgoo-rar-tee)...

Happy Birthday!

Buon compleanno!
bwon komplay-an-no

Happy Anniversary!

Felice anniversario!
fay-leechay an-nee-vayr-sar-yo

Merry Christmas!

Buon Natale!
bwon na-talay

Happy New Year!

Buon Anno!
bwon an-no

Happy Easter!

Buona Pasqua!
bwona paskwa

Best wishes!

Tanti auguri!
tantee ow-goo-ree

Have a good trip!

Buon viaggio!
bwon veead-jo

Welcome!

Benvenuti!
baynvay-nootee

Enjoy your meal!

Buon appetito!
bwon ap-pay-teeto

Thanks, and the same to you!

altrettanto!
altray-tanto

Cheers!

Salute! or **Cin-cin!**
sa-lootay / cheen cheen

Congratulations!

Congratulazioni!
kongra-toolats-yonee

Fruit

apples	le mele	maylay
apricots	le albicocche	albee-kok-kay
bananas	le banane	ba-nanay
cherries	le ciliegie	cheel-ye-jay
grapefruit	il pompelmo	pom-pelmo
grapes	l'uva	oova
lemon	il limone	lee-monay
melon	il melone	may-lonay
oranges	le arance	a-ranchay
peaches	le pesche	peskay
pears	le pere	payray
plums	le prugne	proon-yay
raspberries	i lamponi	lam-ponee
strawberries	le fragole	fra-golay
watermelon	l'anguria	ang-oo-ree-a

Men's Comedy Night a great success!

On March 18, the Heritage Center hosted the annual Men's Night, a once a year event to promote camaraderie among the men that support the MCIIFA and to help raise funds for the construction of the second floor deck described elsewhere in this newsletter.

The event was attended by more than one hundred people from Hamilton, Trenton, Mercer County and adjoining areas. Among the notables were the Honorable John Bencivengo, Mayor of Hamilton Township, and two former Hamilton mayors, Jack Rafferty and Cav. Maurice Perilli. John and his kitchen staff prepared for the occasion a bountiful buffet of Italian specialties, including appetizers, parmigiano reggiano cheese carvings, many types of salads, ravioli, meat balls, sausage with peppers/onions, polenta and a variety of home-made desserts.

After the meal, the well known comedian Jeff Pirrami had everyone in stitches with his repertoire of jokes and sketches.

The evening ended with a 50/50 drawing that featured, as a second prize, a beautiful replica of a sailboat as an extra inducement to increase the sale of tickets.

Saint Patrick's Day Parade

The Mercer County Italian American Festival wishes to congratulate the Irish Community on the beautiful Parade organized in honor of Saint Patrick. The parade was well organized, composed of many and varied marching units, and attended by a large crowd all along the parade route.

After observing such a show of unity and solidarity, we cannot help feeling some envy for their success compared with our Columbus Day Parade. We are hopeful that we can secure the collaboration of the much larger Italian American community to increase its awareness, its participation and its attendance at our own Parade.

New Italian Consulate for Mercer County

The State of New Jersey has now its own Italian Consulate in Newark to serve the Northern Counties including Mercer. The offices are located at 1 Gateway Plaza, Suite 100, Newark, NJ. The telephone number is 973 643 1448. The new Consul, the Honorable Andrea Barbaria, was introduced to the Mercer County Italian Community at a reception at Mercer County Community College on Feb. 13. The reception was organized by the Hon. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, the Italian Consular Correspondent in Trenton, and by Carl Carabelli in conjunction with the Mercer County Cavalier Society.

Upcoming Ladies Comedy Night

The Heritage Center will offer a Ladies Comedy Night on May 7 featuring Sandy Ehlers, Kendra Cunningham and Mary Dimino with a dinner buffet starting at 6:00 PM and the show starting at 7:00. This event has been organized at the request of some ladies seeking equal treatment, is open to ladies only, and will benefit the Heritage Center Building and Maintenance Fund. Tickets for the dinner and show are only \$30 and can be purchased by calling the Center at 609 631 7544.

Monthly Buffet Dinner at the Heritage Center

The Heritage Center continues its monthly Italian Buffet Dinner to raise funds for the support of the Building. The dinner is held once a month, on the fourth Thursday, starting at 5:00 PM. It features Italian food like Mom used to make in a home atmosphere, with live musical entertainment that changes every month, a 50/50 and door prizes. Bringing your own wine to enjoy and share with your friends is highly encouraged! **The cost is only \$ 14.00 for adults and \$ 7.00 for children. Reserve your table by calling the Center 609 631 7544.**

Personal Note from Co-Editor Joe De Felice

I want to share with you a personal involvement of mine that is only Italian-related because of the several Italian-Americans involved and because it involves a love of SINGING, an Italian LOVE.

Jack Pinto a Trenton native, now living with his family in Hamilton Square, has brought his excellent men's harmony chorus to Hamilton Square recently. I am a singer in his chorus, the BROTHERS IN HARMONY.

Some of you may know this very talented young man from his community involvement or the "famiglia Pinto". His grandfather introduced him to Barbershop Harmony singing when Jack was very young, and Jack has risen to musical heights. He also studied at TCNJ as a Music Major.

The chorus is putting on a show on Sunday the 19th of April, at the Nottingham Ballroom, 200 Mercer Street, Hamilton Square (admission just \$15.00). I want to encourage attendance as a welcome for this new community group led by one of our own. I promise you an enjoyable experience for young and old alike. Tickets are available though me as well as at the door. Joe



***Mercer County
Italian American Festival Association***



Free Associate Membership Application Form

Come join one of the largest and fastest growing Associations in Mercer County!

Membership is FREE and you will be put on our mailing list automatically.

We just ask that you help promote our heritage and events.

If you would like to be active, here are some of the activities you may want to participate in:

Please check next to where interested:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Office Work | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help with On-Site Operations at Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Maintenance Help at MCI AF Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Join a Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ 50/50 On-site sales | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Columbus Day Parade |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help at Other Events at MCI AF Center | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Vendor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help at Monthly Dinners | |

Name: _____ Address: _____

Occupation: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ E-mail _____

**FOR FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL: Cav. John Scarpati, President
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We are a non-profit 503-C organization dedicated to promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture
Donations are tax deductible and are appreciated.

*Wont you please help to fulfill the mission of MCI AFA.....
"To Preserve and Promulgate our Italian Heritage and Culture"
Don't... "do nothing and Let it Disappear" ----- Volunteer*

MERCER COUNTY ITALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL SURVEY

Importance to you Compare to similar events

Rank 1 to 11. Rate (1 lo to 5 hi).

COMMENTS - SUGGESTIONS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. Entertainment | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 2. Food Service | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 3. Amusements | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 4. Vendors | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 5. Veterans Court | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 6. Cultural Court | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 7. Cultural Theatre | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 8. Sunday Mass | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 9. Parking | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 10. Beer and Wine | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 11. Raffle | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 12. Italian Market Tent | ___ | ___ | _____ |
| 13. Ticket Entry | ___ | ___ | _____ |

Your Ranking

Your Rating

Your suggestions for improving our festival.....



Easter in Italy / *La Pasqua in Italia*

In Italy, church bells ring joyfully during the year. But the bells stop ringing on the Thursday before Good Friday. They are silent for a few days while people remember the death of Jesus. On Easter Sunday morning, the bells ring out, telling people that Jesus is alive again. When people hear the bells, they kiss and hug one another.

In Italy olive branches are used on Palm Sunday instead of palm branches.. ***Domenica delle Palme*** or **Palm Sunday**, people take palm and olive branches to church to be blessed. When everyone is in the church, the doors are closed to represent the gates of Jerusalem. The priests knock three times, and the gates are then flung open in welcome, and they enter amid joyous music and the waving of palms, this is done to commemorate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The palms are often spread over fields for good luck or patching up quarrels as an expression of peace.

Giovedì Santo or **Holy Thursday**, many churches re-enact the ceremony of the washing of the feet at the altar. They chose 12 poor men from the parish representing the Twelve Disciples, and the priest, acting as Christ, bathes their feet.

Easter or ***La Pasqua*** is a joyous day. After morning mass people return home for the Easter dinner. The most important dish is ***agnellino, roasted baby lamb***. The table is decorated with colored eggs which have been blessed by the priest. In Italy lamb is eaten with a special salad made with hard-boiled eggs.

Moreover, Easter brings to a close the three most important days of the Catholic year -- days of prayer and fasting, which were also marked by the marvelous smells of the preparations for Easter dinner. In Roman homes ***pizza ricresciuta*** would glow on the dining room table, awaiting the blessing of the priest, ***but nobody was allowed to taste***. Small wonder children greeted Easter morning with joy!

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