

## . PASSOVER



On March 27 & 28 this year, we will celebrate the Jewish holiday of Passover. The holiday began during the Exodus of the Hebrew Slaves from Egypt. If you watch "The Ten Commandments" movie with Charlton Heston, Yvonne DeCarlo, Edward G. Robinson and Yul Brynner, you will get the story in a nutshell. That said, it is my favorite holiday and the most work. I have had a nun, a priest, a minister, you name it, grace my seder table to see what the hoopla is about. It's about tradition. It's what keeps us going as a religion, a people, a country and an organization like IWCNE. Like "Tradition" the song in Fiddler on the Roof. So for a week, my house and many others get rid of the Chometz, anything with bread laying around, even in the freezer. We use different plates, one for meat and one for dairy, if you go all the way. I have always done most of this, now paper plates suffice & take out at the Jewish restaurants if I'm in Florida. But, noooooo bread or bread products for 8 days. Oy!!!!!!

I remember the time my oldest daughter Rachel who lives in York, faked choking on a fish bone at dinner, just so she could go to my good Catholic friend Pam 2 doors away and get a piece of bread to dislodge the bone. That became a tradition, too, every Passover. Pam & I now laugh over the tricks the kids played on us even on a religious holiday. So, to continue, we have a seder, which means order. We have a participatory service, where we reenact the exodus with prayers, songs and traditional foods and the crowning glory, a seder plate to adorn our table with different food items to represent the story of Moses & the crossing of the Red Sea. We even hide the Afikoman, which is Greek for the dessert which is a piece of matzah. Oh yes, we eat matzah for 8 days and have to eat plenty of dried fruit to dislodge it. Then the children try to find the matzah so we can finish the meal and they can get a prize. We are there sometimes all night if they can't find it. Not really. Once, when my late husband & I were hosting a Passover Seder at the Immaculate Conception Church, the teenager who found the Afikoman got 2 free tickets to a Celtic game in Boston. Somehow it was difficult to explain this was not part of the "tradition" even though he put in a reservation to be at next years Passover Seder.

Submitted by Ellen Farber

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Ireland was not a part of the Roman Empire. There is some evidence that the Irish were fierce warriors and served as mercenaries for the Empire. When these warriors invaded England during the fall of the Empire, England was at a disadvantage because they did not have fighters. On one invasion the Irish brought back a captive who was to change the course of history. As a slave, Patrick worked as a sheep herder in Ireland for 6 years. During these years Patrick's faith strengthened. He was able to escape and return to England. Patrick returned to Ireland on his own and converted the Irish to Christianity.

Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day with great enthusiasm. They have large parades, wear green, drink green beer, and throw parties. They even spray some buildings green, dye rivers, and some dye their hair green. Although it is possible that we could have snow on March 17, Americans are ready for the move from winter to spring. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was in Boston in 1737.

Historically, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated very differently in Ireland. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He converted the Irish to Christianity. It is believed that he used the shamrock to explain the mystery of the trinity (three persons in one God). In Ireland and Northern Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday. Catholics celebrate it as a holy day and are expected to attend Mass as they would on a Sunday. People picked the shamrock to wear on that day and there were small parades with an occasional float,

During the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, St. Patrick's Day has become more festive in Ireland. Now Dublin sponsors a huge week-long festival starting with multi-cultural and fun events for family and visitors. They have a large parade on March 17. Spring arrives in Ireland 6 weeks before it arrives in the United States. This week-long festival attracts many visitors, an estimated half-million people come to the celebrations.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR IWCNE'S ST. PADDY'S EVENT MARCH 17, RESERVATION DEADLINE MARCH 10!**

## WCI Report

### How do other clubs attract new members while motivating and maintaining their current members?

In a leadership webinar, put on by Welcome Clubs International in January, I had the opportunity to learn what some of the clubs around the world and also here in the US are doing to keep their members interested and inspired during the pandemic.

For motivating and maintaining members, there were two necessary components:

1. Consistency of Meetings.

Whether in person or social-distanced meetings or Zoom, regular meetings were cited as a key.

2. Quality of Communication

Sincere communication, personally calling members to check in, connections with members outside of club events, constant communication to ensure connection.

New member retention and motivation suggestions:

Dedicated, well-planned talks on interesting topics on Zoom.

Gallery hopping with guided tours to attract younger members

Afternoon cocktail events.

Creating a cooking group and a cookbook to share with members or as a fundraiser.

Outdoor events - outdoor galleries, picnics

Handwritten notes and cards to members.

Drive-by, Champagne and purchased lunches

Much effort devoted to New Member Orientation programs that encourage new members to keep active with club activities and board positions.

Relying on long-term members to solidify strong, extensive friendship networks to move clubs forward in difficult times.

Club Facebook for members only

At our February IWCNE Executive Board of Directors meeting we had 65 members with an up-to-date membership. Last year we had 104 paying members and expect to reach about the same number of members in 2021. Globally 60% of the WCI clubs had maintained their pre-pandemic membership numbers while 40% had not.

We need your help to reach out to friends and to spread the word about our club and vision "to foster friendship and understanding among people of different nations and to support charities that assist women and children". Why not bring a friend to our St. Patrick's Party on March 17, our first fundraiser event for the year!

Submitted by Margareta Claesson

**MARCH 27, 2021**

### **MONTHLY MEETING FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

### **RAFFLE DRAWING**

We are hopeful it will be safe to resume luncheon meetings in the near future. In the meantime, ZOOM meetings will be scheduled each month. This gives us an opportunity to have a short business meeting and a good amount of time to visit with one another. We will also have a short program.

Please plan to attend the ZOOM meeting on Saturday, March 27 at 10 am. During the business meeting we will have the drawing for the Spring Raffle Basket!

**PROGRAM :** The speaker will be Patrisha McLean from Finding Our Voices , one of this year's charities (see page 3).

You will receive a link to that meeting in mid-March with a follow-up reminder on March 25.

Some of you are very familiar with ZOOM, but others have not used it or had problems using it. If you want some instruction, you can email me at [mdarganb@gmail.com](mailto:mdarganb@gmail.com) and I will take you through the process of joining the meeting.