

A P R I L

1

ALL FOOLS' DAY

Tricks and practical jokes until noon.

9

EID AL-FITR BEGINS AT MOONRISE

Eid Mubarak!

In the Islamic calendar, the month-long celebration of Ramadan concludes and the Sweet Festival begins.

21

SAN JACINTO'S DAY

St. Jacinto's Day brings a springtime excuse to drink eggnog!

22

PASSOVER (PESACH) BEGINS AT SUNSET

A night different from all others. Pesach commemorates the freeing of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

23

ST. GEORGE'S DAY

Sacred to England, where folks will wear red roses today in their lapels.

25

ST. MARK'S EVE

Traditional night for divination, particularly in matters of romance.

26

ST. MARK'S DAY

Blessings upon the newly sown crops, as migratory birds herald summer's return.



For the month's close: May Day in Boston, 1918

30

MAY EVE, WALPURGIS NIGHT

This night brings the opposite spoke of the Wheel of the Year from Hallowe'en, and where that night gently coaxes us from fall to winter, this one leads us from spring to summer. Folks have been known to stay outdoors all night on this Eve of May to welcome summer and to *Bring in the May* tomorrow (the day when Robert Herrick's Corinna goes a'maying).

Tonight, though, brings the festival of the dead to Spain and Portugal, and in Germany, it is *Walpurgisnacht*: St. Walpurga's Eve. In Scandinavia, it's an occasion for bonfires accompanied by gravlax and sparkling wine. And one school of thought considers this the night of William Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*... though we subscribe to the school that places it at St. John's Eve in June.



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Our image for this first full month of springtide is titled "May Day in Boston, 1918." It was painted that year, oil on canvas, by Louise Upton Brumback. Convivio Book of Days April 2024.