

What's UPstairs?

Volume 2, Issue 3

March/April 2010

Contact us:

(508) 532-5570

Ext. 4361

Fplmail3@minlib.net

IM: fplref@meebo.com

Reference at the Framingham Public Library

What is the Census?

While the Census might appear to be nothing more than paperwork - a questionnaire to be completed - the information derived from these forms helps to sustain one of democracy's most important principles: representation.

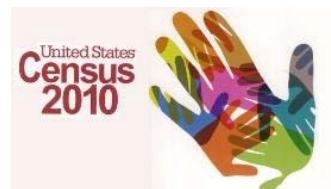
The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution every 10 years.

It's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

In addition, residents themselves have used census data to support community initiatives involving environmental legislation, quality-of-life issues and consumer advocacy

The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Job training centers
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Senior centers
- ◆ Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- ◆ Emergency services



Page 2:

Spring Holidays

"In Springtime, love is carried on the breeze. Watch out for flying passion or kisses whizzing by your head."

Emma Racine deFleur



Visit these sites for more U.S. Census Information:

American Fact Finder - Tables and maps of the most current census releases

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Census 2010 - Answers questions about the upcoming census.

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census>

Census Bureau Homepage – Public resources from the U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>

Did you know...?

The Federal Reserve's new rules for credit card companies mean new credit card protections for you.

Look here for some key changes you should expect from your credit card company:

http://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/wyntk_creditcardrules.htm



SPRING HOLIDAYS

Contact us:

(508) 532-5570 ext 4361

Fplmail3@minlib.net

IM: fplref@meebo.com



"It's Spring fever. That's what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"
Mark Twain

Did you know that some of the oldest holidays in the world are rooted in the celebration of the seasons?

In Christianity celebrations of Easter honor spring and rebirth with eggs and flowers. The word Easter is derived from the name Eostre who was the pagan deity of spring in Greek mythology. Customs surrounding the Jewish festival of Passover also include symbolic eggs and fresh vegetables. These holidays are historically intertwined and occur at the vernal or spring equinox.

Nawruz or "New Day" is associated with the vernal equinox and the New Year in the Islamic calendar. It is celebrated in many of the countries of central Asia, originating in ancient Persia. Not unlike Lent, observance includes rituals of fasting and prayer preceding Nawruz. Like the Passover meal, specific prescribed symbolic foods are served at the Nawruz meal. It is a season of celebration and renewal.

Holi is a Hindu celebration of the grain harvest in India. It occurs on the full moon day in the month of Phalgun that corresponds roughly to mid-February to mid-March in the Gregorian calendar. The traditional bonfires on the eve of Holi herald the coming of the spring season. Crowds gather to sing, dance and worship. In the morning young and old greet each other by squirting colored water and throwing colored powder.

The Buddhist calendar is based on a lunar cycle requiring an additional month be inserted every two or three years but the Southern Buddhists New Year is marked by a solar date in mid-April after the spring equinox. This three-day celebration is a time of renewal and reunion. Houses are thoroughly cleaned and statues of the Buddha are washed. Water festivals have evolved from the rituals of physical and spiritual cleansing. The eastern Buddhist calendar and traditions vary from this but also incorporate the concepts of cleansing, celebration and renewal. The Northern or Tibetan Buddhist New Year begins in mid to late February and the festival continues for several weeks. It is a season of devotion to the Buddha and great cultural and athletic activity.

This is just a taste of spring holidays around the world but there are many similarities to remind us just how much we have in common, despite differences in customs or beliefs.



We have many books about all of these holidays and more. Information for this article came from **Festivals of the world : the illustrated guide to celebrations, customs, events, and holidays** by Elizabeth Breuille REF Y394.269 Breuille

Get Your Lawn Ready for Spring!

Rake away all the thatch that has accumulated since the fall. Thatch is that tangle of dried up dead grass and weeds that intertwines with the live grass. If left alone, thatch can prevent nutrients and water from reaching the roots of your lawn, so you need to remove it now as the grass begins to sprout again. If you plan on seeding your lawn, it is essential to remove all the thatch, otherwise the grass seed will simply sit on the thatch and not put down roots in the soil. If your lawn already needs a mowing, set the mower blades at their highest setting, just to trim off the top. This is a good time to spread fertilizer on your lawn if you think it needs a feeding. If you're having moss problems, you can purchase a combination fertilizer and moss killer.

ScottsMiracle-gro can answer most of your lawn care questions:

<http://www.scotts.com/>

