

## Local Events

### Kite Festival, Horseshoe Bay Beach, Good Friday (April 6)

Official opening at 11:00 a.m. with a praise and worship celebration featuring many local youth groups. Along with the annual kite competition, this will be an opportunity to enjoy live entertainment, food and drink provided by local vendors and various organized games. This year there will also be a talent competition with the first prize of an all expense paid trip to Atlanta, and attendance at the Tupac Amaru Shakur Center for the Arts as a special guest. Go join the fun, choose your favourite kite, and enjoy the spirit of community on a traditional Bermudian Good Friday!

## Further Information

### References in the Library:

R 394.266703 G Gulevich, Tanya. Encyclopedia of Easter, Carnival, and Lent.

R.BDA 394.097299 W Wadson, Judith. Bermuda : traditions and tastes.

R BDA 823.914 B Butler, Dale. The legend of codfish and potatoes.

R BDA 972.99 B Bermuda recollections / edited and transcribed by Elizabeth J. Jones.

Plus numerous other cook books in the Library and online resources such as [www.Bermuda-online.org](http://www.Bermuda-online.org) and [www.Bermudatourism.com](http://www.Bermudatourism.com).

### For research questions contact:

#### Local Studies Librarian

Available: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday  
Call for appointment to avoid disappointment



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## How Does the Modern Family Celebrate Easter in Bermuda?

### Patrice:

*Everyone in my immediate family is an adult (most of us are middle-aged or elderly) so we usually go out for Easter lunch or order a pre-cooked meal from one of the catering companies or local hotels. It will be Elbow Beach's "take-out" Easter meal this year. I still enjoy chocolate eggs - but in more limited quantities.*

### Ellen:

Now, we celebrate Easter in our own homes and have added a few new traditions. My sister's family observe Easter with a nod to her Italian husband. No meat is eaten on Good Friday, only fish, and *La pastiera Napoletana* (a classic Neapolitan grain pie) is eaten after Sunday dinner. This year my sister plans to make Italian Easter Bread (there is a good recipe on [foodgeeks.com](http://foodgeeks.com)).

### Michelle:

*Easter Sunday is usually a family affair. My immediate and extended family normally gather at my mother's or my aunt's house (they alternate years). We have a big dinner of roasts (chicken, lamb, beef) and the accompanying scalloped potatoes vegetables and salad, homemade rolls and cassava pie. We usually spend the afternoon playing games, talking and laughing. It is a great time every year.*

## BERMUDA NATIONAL LIBRARY

*Bermuda  
Traditions ~  
Church,  
Chocolate Eggs,  
Crinolines & More*



*- Bermudian Families at Easter -*



**At your service, Bermuda!**

## Easter Traditions in Bermuda

Last year we focused on many of the traditions associated with Good Friday, i.e., codfish cakes, hot cross buns and Bermuda kites. This year, in keeping with Bermuda Government's theme "Year of the Family", we thought that we would look at Bermuda family traditions for Easter.

Our staff members are comprised of different generations of Bermudians so we thought that it would be interesting to find out what we all remember most about celebrating Easter in Bermuda.

Many Bermuda families go to church on Easter Sunday. For years, this was preceded by a trip to Custodio's or Woman's Shop to pick out the Easter outfit. Little girls got new dresses complete with hats, gloves and new white shoes. Little boys had new Easter suits or jackets and trousers with shiny new shoes. This was also a time for ladies to proudly sport new Easter hats.

After Church, time was usually spent with family. Roast lamb or turkey was a favourite Easter dinner or everyone went out for brunch at one of the many hotels and restaurants which offer Sunday brunch.

Our Memories:

### Patrice:

*As a child, I remember the excitement of Easter morning. I usually gave up chocolate and sweets for Lent so, of course, the chocolate Easter eggs were looked forward to with anticipation. For many years we got a china mug with a picture of a cute animal on it and containing a large hollow chocolate egg. I still have a collection of these mugs. We were usually allowed just one chocolate from our baskets, then it was time to*



*get ready for Church. I was raised a Roman Catholic so church on Easter Sunday was very important - but I remember that the service always seemed quite long. Perhaps I was still thinking about those chocolates! When my grandmother was alive the whole family would get together for Easter lunch - a spread which included many foods brought by different family members. I particularly looked forward to my grandmother's macaroni and cheese but I was upset one year when one of her rabbits (furry kind, not chocolate kind) appeared on the menu.*

### Ellen:

On Good Friday I remember being taken to my Nana's house to fly kites and to eat codfish cakes or curried mussel pie - neither one of my favourite foods. I usually had a few slices of ham instead! The one thing we all had in common was our love of Nana's homemade hot cross buns ... mine was always smothered in peanut butter while everyone else grabbed the homemade codfish cakes.

In my family Easter always meant milk chocolate bunnies from Jack 'n' Jill's on the kitchen table on Easter Sunday - one for each member of the household.

Comments from childhood: 'eat the ears first' - 'they taste better cold from the fridge' - 'hide it in the back of the fridge, that way you can save it longer' are repeated every year, no matter how many years have passed.

### Miss Bell:

I remember going to Church on Easter Sunday in a brand new dress that my mom especially made for me. Hats and gloves were purchased from Jones dry goods shop on Glebe Road. After Church service, my family and I would drive to

Trinity Church, where we would put flowers on my dad's parents grave. Next we would travel to my mom's parent's house where we would have Easter dinner. After completing that yearly tradition, we were then allowed to open our Easter baskets that were purchased from Jack and Jill's.

### Sion:

When I was a youngster, the thing that I loved most about Easter was putting on my pretty new dress for Sunday Service. The most important part about putting on the new dress was the "crinoline". A crinoline is worn under the skirt like a slip. The crinoline is a stiffened or hooped petticoat made of horsehair and worn to make the skirt stand out. Almost every little girl wanted to be adorned with a crinoline.

I also remember Easter morning being very exciting in our home. The evening before Easter Sunday my parents would hide 5 Easter baskets throughout the house. On Easter morning my 3 sisters my brother and I would have to find our own basket of candies. No basket was for one particular person. The rule was: after finding a basket your hunt was over.

As the midday rolled on our Aunties, Uncles, cousins and friends would come over for Easter dinner. Each year Easter was hosted at a different Aunties house. The heads of each family was responsible for bringing a dish or two. By the time evening came most of the food would be consumed. Throughout the day we would have a variety of Easter egg hunts with the hard boiled eggs that we had painted the night before. The person who found the most eggs was guaranteed to receive lots of Easter candies. The hiding of Easter eggs was played as long as there were more candies in the house.

The next day we would get a good dose of milk of magnesia, mineral oil or cod liver oil.

Oh! The good old days!