



**May the Easter holidays bring peace, tranquility, and the happiness of spending these wonderful moments with your loved ones. Happy Easter!**

Romanian Community Center

**IN THIS EDITION**

**Laura Tarau**

Romanian Easter

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School of Massage

**Activities at RCC**

## **Romanian Easter Ce este si ce inseamna pentru mine?**

*Autor: Laura Tarau -Student*

Easter is a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ following his death three days prior. In Romania, most of the population is Orthodox Christian, whose Easter falls on a different day than other denominations. This is because the Eastern Orthodox Church follows the Julian Calendar rather than the Gregorian Calendar. This year, Orthodox Easter is on Sunday, May 5.

Romania has many customs and superstitions that its people follow around Easter; here are the main ones, and my experiences with them!

In the evening before Easter, people attend a ceremony at their church. At most churches, people wait outside with a candle, and at midnight, the priest comes outside holding the "resurrection light," which gets passed onto everyone's candles. After we have all received the light for our candles, the people at my church would circle the church three times holding the candles, and then go back inside for the rest of the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the resurrection of Christ is marked by the back-and-forth between the priest and churchgoers, the priest exclaiming "Christ has risen!" and the people exclaiming "Truly, he has risen!" The ceremony lasts until morning, and at the end, the people who are still there have a feast together with food they have brought from home. The priest sprinkles this food with holy water before they start to eat. Last year, Easter fell on the same day as my birthday, so I was at church the entire night before! I remember when I arrived home after, I felt so tired, but fulfilled at the same time.



me (even though the eggs never turned out the best!).

It is customary to knock these eggs end-to-end before eating them, reciting the phrases, "Christ has risen!," and "Truly, he has risen!," before eating them.



For the main course of the meal, lamb is most traditional, being featured in "drob", an Easter recipe that consists of lamb offals, green onions, herbs, and eggs. Other very popular main dishes are "sarmale" and "boeuf salad", which aren't Easter specific, but are still essential. For dessert, "pasca" is a common dish that can be seen on the table. It

Easter dinner is a very important time during the holiday, as it is marked by one of the most important parts of culture: food. One of the main foods Romanians prepare for Easter are boiled eggs, which are typically painted red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ, but can also be painted in any other color and with any design. Every year, my mom and I gather at the kitchen table to color and design our eggs, and it's always been a highlight of the holiday for

This generally turns into a tournament for everyone sitting around the table, as people would go around knocking eggs with each other until there's only one person with an uncracked egg left.

is a crown-shaped bread, made with cottage cheese, lemon zest, and raisins. Additionally, “cozonac” (my personal favorite) is another very



popular dish when it comes to dessert. It is a sweet bread filled with chocolate paste that has ground walnuts inside and turkish delight.

Easter is a holiday marked with many superstitions and customs, and even the small ones hold large importance!

- Throughout the days following Easter, people greet each other by exchanging the same phrases: “Christ has risen!,” “Truly, he has risen!”
- During the Easter Dinner, it is customary to eat an egg first, to ensure health for the rest of the year, then to eat fish to be energetic, and finally to eat bird to be “as light as a bird.”
- It is important to wear new clothes to the evening church ceremony to ensure purification.
- It is said that the people you knock eggs with will come back to you in the afterlife.
- The candle that was used to take the “resurrection light” must be saved in the home to be lit in any predicament

As a kid who is growing up in the United States with Romanian parents, I have participated in many of these traditions, but also a fair share of American ones. I remember I would go to church the night before Easter, following all the traditions my parents had taught me, and then the day of, I would have Easter egg hunts with all my friends in my backyard!

This holiday holds many past memories and future excitement for me because of the friends and family I get to spend it with and the mix of fun, meaningful traditions I get to participate in.

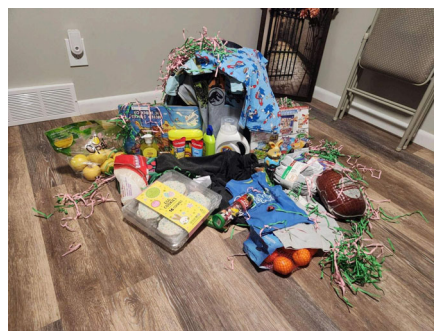
I hope everyone has a happy, meaningful, and memorable Easter this year!

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## Romanian Community Center

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Spreads joy among a few families in our community



# Coming soon to Romanian Community Center

## Breast Cancer Screening



8 Iunie 2024

Mobile caravan at RCC!  
Be responsible for your health!  
Breast cancer prevention and detection.  
Mobile caravan from Tower Health (Reading Hospital) for the women in our community

[MORE INFO](#)

## Universal Day of the Romanian Blouse



30 Iunie 2024

Universal Day of the Romanian Blouse  
More information coming soon on the website.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Romanian Festival



24 August 2024

Romanian Festival

Reading, PA

More information coming soon  
on the website.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Business Directory - In the spotlight!



**EUROPEAN MEDICAL  
SCHOOL OF MASSAGE™**

Welcome to the European Medical School of Massage LLC, the premier massage therapy school in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania! Our fully accredited institution offers the best in medical massage therapy education, allowing students to earn their diploma in just 6 months.

As a licensed institution by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Private Schools, we are proud to be accredited by COMTA, the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation.

Our state-of-the-art educational facility is conveniently located at the Spring Commons Business Complex, at 2921 Windmill Road, Suite 1, Sinking Spring, and we also have an auxiliary classroom at 2909 Penn Ave. Reading PA 19609.

Our locations offer students and educators alike a comfortable and accommodating open floor plan for theory and hands-on practice, with access to the latest technological, digital, and industry-appropriate equipment.

### FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS:

- FINANCIAL AID – FAFSA (for those who qualify)
- PELL GRANT
- F.S.E.O.G. GRANT
- VETERANS GI BILL®
- FEDERAL WORK-STUDY
- FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH EDUCATION
- STUDENT AID PORTION REPORTING
- PERSONAL LOAN

### School Location:

2921 Windmill Rd. Suite 1

Sinking Spring PA 19608

610.670.6100

contact@emsom.edu

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

MORE INFO

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Activitati la RCC

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### Activities at the Romanian Community Center

- Romanian Evening
- Backgammon & Chess Night
- Career coaching

#### Coming Soon

- Romanian Language
- English Language
- Sezatoare - creative workshop (Christmas ornaments and cards)
- Book club

For more information, you can contact us via [email](#) or [website](#)

CALENDAR

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**Do you want to build a center with us and be proud of your community? Together with you, we are looking for opportunities to organize for the common good. And for that, the Romanian Community Center is here to help. Have hope and give us a chance.**

BECOME MEMBER

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**Volunteers** - Are you passionate about Romanian culture and want to join us? Click the button on the right to start your journey with us for the year 2024

VOLUNTEERS

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**Suggestion box** - We need your suggestions to keep getting better!

SUGESTIONS

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## Romanian Community Center

Thank you for your interest in the Romanian community.

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