

Collision of faiths celebrated with food

How do you spell ecumenical? This weekend we're spelling it f-o-o-d around our house. That's because this happens to be one of those years when Easter collides with Passover. Which means that by the time we finally hit the sack tomorrow night, this family will have been Good Friday-ed, Passover-ed (or is that Passed-over?), and Easter Bunny-ed to the hilt. Our five-year-old son Drew has been preparing for the joint occasions for weeks now. His most recent artistic creation consists of a drawing of the Easter Bunny hoisting a piece of Passover matzo.

And while the festive (spelled F-E-A-S-T-I-V-E) aspect of this Easter/Passover weekend will undoubtedly add to the poundage and cholesterol levels of us all, the profits of nearby gas stations should swell as well as both vehicles in the Stapley fleet take to the road for the purpose of fulfilling our myriad family obligations.

Yesterday saw us spread out over two fronts. My wife Susan and our two kids drove to Toronto for a first night Passover Seder at her mother's place, while I climbed into the old Honda to collect my older two offspring, along with their significant others, for a Good Friday evening church service, followed by supper at our house. The dinner was to be held after the service to enable Susan to return home in time for the wrap-up.

Although, having been present in years gone by at Seders put on by Susan's mother, you can be sure she will have absolutely no capacity left for even a smidgen of dessert, not even one slim wafer. And as is always the case after any dinner put on by my mother-in-law, we will be searching out every nook and cranny in the refrigerator to accommodate the inevitable multitude of leftovers sent back home with us. This morning, it's off to Newmarket to attend the special Easter function to be held at the nursing home where my father resides. I was informed by a member of the staff during my visit last weekend that I had better be there. Apparently my father is planning to play the Easter Bunny, as he was part of the little Easter shopping expedition organized by the staff last week. They say he's anxious to scatter his purchases for his offspring and grandkids to seek out. Adding to the excitement will be the fact that, because of his Alzheimer Disease, none of us will be able to look to him for clues as to where he hid the goodies! (Hey, it's okay. Experts in the field have told us it's helpful to joke about it sometimes.) Tomorrow it's back to the big city to collect my older offspring one more time for our family Easter dinner as we once again test our respective caloric capacities. By the time this big beanfeed has been reduced to a



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

smattering of lunch-bag leftovers, it will be time to get back in the car to redeposit Shane, Marisa et al. to their respective residences.

Thankfully, Monday will bring with it a welcomed return to the regular routine. Which means both cars will be given a chance to cool down, and we will be fasting in a manner to rival monks given to absolute self-denial.

Karl Marx saw religion as the opium of the masses. But in this house of two faiths, when Easter and Passover coincide, it would be more accurate to equate it with the tying on of the proverbial feed bag.

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