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a community within communities

by The Rev. Bill Terry, Rector St. Anna's Episcopal Church
Email: fr.bill@stannanola.org

**EASTER!
Bonnets, Bows,
Bunnies, & Abundance!**

Easter Carol by Christina Rossetti
Spring bursts to-day, For Christ is risen and all the earth's at play.
Flash forth, thou Sun, The rain is over and gone, its work is done.
Winter is past, Sweet Spring is come at last, is come at last.
Bud, Fig and Vine, Bud, Olive, fat with fruit and oil and wine.
Break forth this morn In roses, thou but yesterday a Thorn.
Uplift thy head, O pure white Lily through the Winter dead.
Beside your dams Leap and rejoice, you merry-making Lambs.
All Herds and Flocks Rejoice, all Beasts of thickets and of rocks.
Sing, Creatures, sing, Angels and Men and Birds and everything.
All notes of Doves Fill all our world: this is the time of loves.

Easter, it breaks the back of winter and with it throughout all religion it speaks of an awakening after a great sleep and slumber. It is the time of bonnets, bows, about Easter Parades, and of course, bunnies; soft cuddly bunnies. Were it that religion were soft and cuddly like bunnies. Were it that religion was all about bows and bonnets. Were it that religion was always positive and never negative.


A young man came to me recently. He lives in bayou country. It is all he has known; that culture, that beautiful bayou. He hunts, he fishes, and he plays music. He travels to the city to play his music. Once he was the traditional faith of his fathers and heard the mass. Then he followed a path into the church of the deep-south. He heard the conversation about love. The preaching was strong and choirs grand. A leader in his church said love the sinner but hate the sin. It is an abomination to offend God's law! That abomination would send "them" to Hell by the God of judgment. That homosexual at the college had to be expelled – it is an offense against God. They said that the Bible told them so.

This young man stammered and stuttered and looked around the room. He explained and explained and explained. His explanations seemed to circle themselves like a knot being tied; tighter and tighter without a discernible end. He looked up and asked, "Is suicide a sin?" He explained and explained and explained without end or point. Is suicide a sin? I responded but briefly with trepidation having lost my own daughter to suicide; the unspoken death. And he explained and explained and glanced about the room. He came from the bayou; he went to church; he was good and he explained. No, suicide is not a sin as such; for suicide is from a soul that is sad and sick and at odds with one's own nature. A true and loving God does not condemn such illness; even desperation and profound sadness but rather weeps when he witnesses such profound sorrow. At that hour and that moment this young man was not there yet – he was searching rather than ending.


Then gently, like the stone of the tomb being set aside, he looked up, "I have never said this to any other human being... I am gay and always have been." He explained and explained and explained that he had never acted on his orientation. He stayed in the closet. But when he heard the hatred that spewed forth by the leader of his church his inner voice said, "It is me he hates."

[continued on 33]

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communities ...from 32

He was changed, those words were his crucifixion. He began to gently weep. This week was Good Friday, his crucifixion and Easter his resurrection. He was seeking and he found the truth about Easter.

I pointed out that the real truth of

Jesus is found in the Gospels. That the real truth about Jesus was not found or bound in hatred but in love. That Jesus was clear and specific about his judgment. He judges hatred, he judges greed, he judges those that take instead of give, those that cast out instead of inviting in; he does judge but he judges hated and harm. This young man discovered Easter that afternoon. Resurrection is coming through hatred and pain and hurt to find love and life and living. This young man is still searching. Then, after our meeting, he wanted to see our

church. We walked into the quiet church and he wept again. These tears were the tears of a loving God; tears of thankfulness for being made whole through Christ; he said, "The burden is gone and I feel so good." I suspect that it was the first time, in a real way that he felt good about himself.

[continued on 34]

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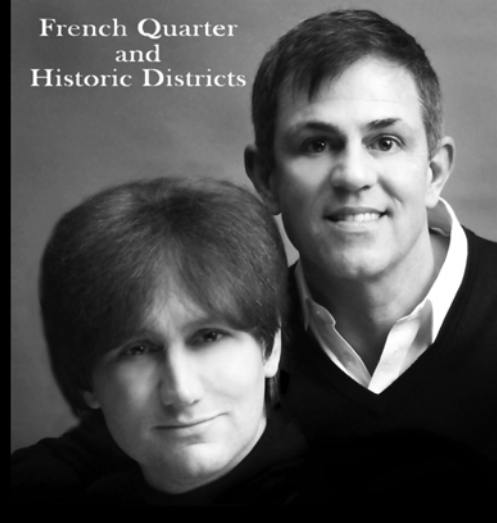


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communities ...from 33

So, it is Easter. It is for Christians the day of renewal, new life, wholeness, rebirth, and for some, finding the real "me." The real "me" is loved and has a place on heaven and on earth. "For God so loved the world, that he

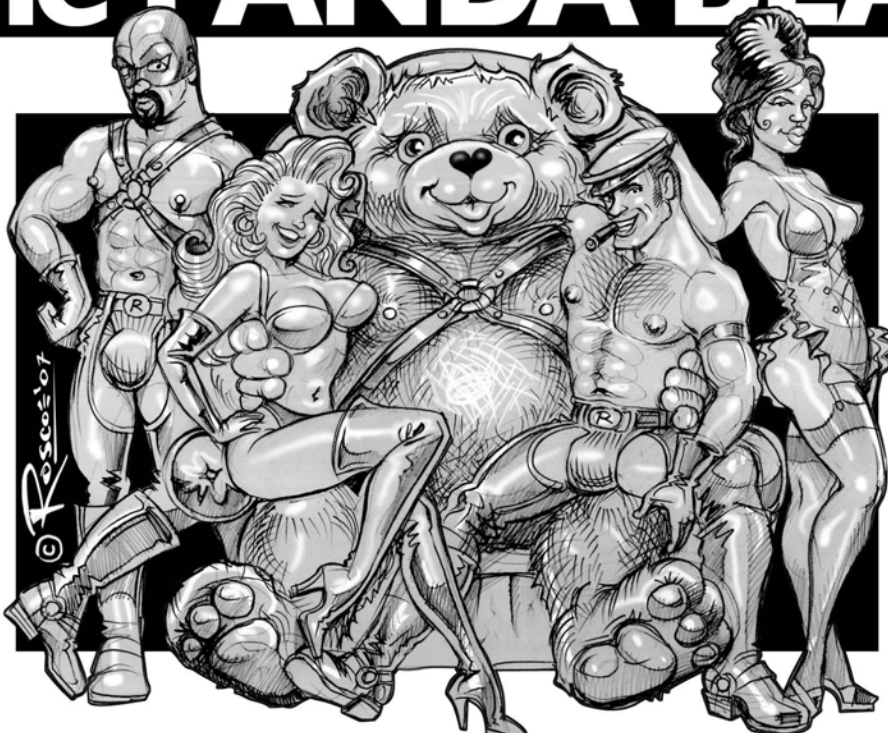
gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 Jesus also said, and this is His law, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neigh-

bor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." The Gospel according to Matthew. So to this young man who came out of the darkness and into the light – love, love large, and know that you are loved. To those of dark skin who despise the color of their skin – come into the light and love and love large and know that you are loved. To the poor, you are loved and indeed specially loved. To those who are new to our country and community – Jesus demands hospitality – you are loved. It is indeed Easter. No, it is not a bunny faith, doesn't wear bonnets, it abides deeply and it is profound. It is love; love thyself and love thy neighbor. Rejoice, the Lord is risen, the Lord is risen indeed...and so are we.

P.S. Stuart Butler asked that we know this: Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Ave., invites all to an inter-faith Seder (Passover ritual meal) on April 9 at 6:30pm. Reservations required \$25/person.

The PANDA BEAR

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pride: beyond the rainbow

Who will be Pride 2012 Grand Marshal? ...Find out April 7th

Join the Pride Committee at the Hotel Monteleone for the Pride Grand Marshal Announcement Party & Gala on April 7 from 8-11pm (doors open at 7:30pm). There will be food, a cash bar, and a concert by Amanda Shaw and the Cute Guys. Advance tickets are only \$20 and can be purchased from a Pride Board Member or on the Pride website. There are a couple of tables left for \$150, and this includes admission for 6 people. Tickets will be \$35 at the door so purchase them in advance.

The Pride Committee wants to congratulate all of its nominees! Although the committee can only choose two grand marshals, know that it is an honor to be nominated!! In no particular order, the nominees are: Josh

[continued on 35]



chop chop

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain
Email: marsha@ripandmarsha.com

Fatoush brings Greece/Turkey to The Big Easy

Ever since *Ambush* ad rep Paul Melancon told us about the pan fried calf liver with tzatziki sauce at the newly opened Fatoush Mediterranean Grill, Coffee House & Juice Bar, we were dying to get over there. Plus he told us one of our old clients Fatma Aydin owned the eatery. She and her brother Suleyman were the original proprietors of Mona Lisa Restaurant many years ago.

The restaurant is located at, 2372 St. Claude Ave., #130, the new revitalized corner at St. Roch in the same complex with Cafe Istanbul, New Orleans Healing Center and New Orleans Food Co-op.

Our server arrived with fresh baked pita served with a delightful olive oil tomato garlic dipping sauce to wel-



Pita with Olive Oil Tomato Dipping Sauce

come us to Fatoush. We ordered two vodkas (Absolut 8.00) and looked over



Pan Fried Liver with Tzatziki

leaves, stuffed bell pepper and sigarette pastry. While we enjoyed all of the selections, our first time sampling the sigarette was over the top. The delicate phyllo was stuffed with



Hot Appetizer Platter

the many choices which attracted our attention.

We started with the Hot Appetizer Platter (14.99) which was indeed a whole lot of food. It boasted hummas, eggplant dip, piyaz, stuffed grape



Shepherd Salad

feta cheese and parsley then deep fried. Talk about delicious!

The Shepard Salad (5.99) with to-



Beef Moussaka



Chef Beker @ Fatoush

matoes, cucumbers, parsley, red onions, and both red and green bell peppers tossed with lemon and olive oil was crisp and tasty.

So far the food samplings reminded us of our trip to Athens, Greece in the 90s. Every day there Marsha had moussaka for dinner, so why would there be any other choice for her tonight. The Beef Moussaka (11.99) was prepared as we remembered it in Athens, full of tasty beef in a bubbling tomato sauce topped with golden brown bechemel, with a heavy hand of nutmeg. The white pilaf was loaded with toasted pine nuts.

Rip who loves eggplant, tried the Eggplant Karniyarik (11.99). The half an eggplant was topped with both lamb and beef in one of the richest tomato-garlic sauces ever to be had. It was baked off with fresh tomato slices on



Eggplant Karniyarik

top. The bulgar pilaf on the side was quite interesting.

After a fantastic dinner, we were looking forward to having the eateries homemade Baklava, but they were sold out. That was the only disappointment with Fatoush!

New Orleans Restaurant Guide

700 Club Restaurant, 700 Burgundy St., 561.1095, 700ClubNewOrleans.COM, is serving sliders, paninis, quesadillas, and more at the popular club in the French Quarter. Restaurant hours are 7pm til Wed.-Sun. with extended Decadence hours.

Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon St., 598.1010, CloverGrill.COM, is open 7 days and features breakfast including build your own omelettes. But let's not forget their fab burgers grilled right under a hub cap and then there's all those sandwiches, sides, desserts and shakes.

Country Club Restaurant, 634 Louisa St., 945.0742,

TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM. The chef has paid attention to detail and ingredient, and focused on a more contemporary menu at an even more affordable price point. Still the best food, but at even more unbelievable value! Serving 7 days 11am-10pm and Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm.

The Decadence Shoppe, 806 N. Rampart, 529.8874, DecadenceShoppeCafe.COM is part coffee shop, part cafe, and part bakery. "We take pride doing all our own baking, and you can order your next special treat from us," says owners Matt and Kevin. This little neighborhood place will fulfill your sweet tooth or both your breakfast or lunch cravings in a quiet setting while serving "desserts like Mom use to make". Located across the street by the Armstrong Park arch, the cafe is open Wed.-Sun. 7am - 3pm.

Fatoush Mediterranean Grill, Coffee House & Juice Bar, 2372 St. Claude Ave., #130, 504.371.5074, FatoushRestaurantNOLA.COM, is truly a fresh new restaurant with a 23-year history of serving New Orleans and guests from all over the world. Think of Fatoush as a combination coffee house, herbal teahouse, natural juice bar, and organic restaurant offering a unique selection of the richest and healthiest foods from around the world. Handcrafted dishes that contain only the finest natural ingredients and a variety of cuisines and innovative taste offer thrills that are appealing, exciting, and best of all, healthy. Open 7am-10pm daily serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, 95 French Market Place, 522.9500 or visit LouisianaPizzaKitchen.COM, is famous for its wood fired gourmet pizzas, pastas, salads and appetizers. Open 7 days from 11am-10pm.

Mona Lisa Restaurant, 1212 Royal St., 522.6746, features Italian specialties including salads, pizzas, sandwiches and both lunch and dinner entrees. Open Mon.-Thurs. 5-10pm, Fri. Sun. 11am-10pm.

Orleans Grapevine Wine & Bar Bistro, 720 Orleans, 523.1930, is located in a beautiful renovated 1809 building offering a pleasant atmosphere, extensive wine list with 200 selections, and delicious food including soups, salads, appetizers, entrees and house made desserts that will delight any palate. Open daily at 4pm serving dinner Sun.-Thurs. 5-10:30pm, Fri.-Sat. 5-11pm.

Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St., 529.1416, QuartermasterDeli.NET, voted Restaurant/Deli of the Year, is open 24 hours 7 days. Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night menu, the deli offers free delivery.

pride ...from 34

Carcabasis, Rip Naquin, Tony Leggio, Phillip Gordon, Mark Boline, George Melichar, Persana Shoulders, Matthew Birkhoff, Richard Borne, Charles Jenkins, Marsha Delain, Rikki G, Princesse Stephaney, Lyndsie Oubre.

All former Pride Grand Marshals will also be recognized at this event.

Don't forget about the Mr. & Miss Pride Pageant on May 20th at JohnPaul's. The pageant starts at 5pm All contestants need to arrive by 3:45pm. Anyone interested in competing should enter at www.prideneworleans.org.