

Valentine's Day Made Easy

by Jessica Krogmann

Valentine's Day has nearly come again. It's always been said that it's just another stupid holiday made so men can buy their women more things and spoil them some more. While this may be true for many people, there are other reasons and meanings behind this special and romantic day.

Looking back in history, it's said that Valentine's Day is from the feast day of two different Christian martyrs named Valentine. However, it's also said that it's from an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia which took place every year on February 15th. The festival was held to honor Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, and also Pan, the god of nature.

Valentine's Day around the world

Not only is Valentine's Day an old custom to us here in America, but also in many other countries. In Great Britain, children go around singing songs to receive gifts of money, fruit or candy. In some cities there, a single man is said to ring the doorbell of the woman he hopes to marry, leave a basket of gifts on her doorstep, and run away. In Italy, the young, single women leave their love in fate's hands. They wake up early and stand by their window. It's said that the first man that they see walk by will be either the man they marry, or he will at least look similar to him. In Denmark, people send out pressed flowers or "gaekkebrev" which is a joking letter. In these, the sender writes a poem, but signs their name in dots that can be decoded. If the person receiving the letter decodes the dots and guesses the correct person, they win an Easter egg on Easter.

Customs, beliefs, and traditions still hold true today, but not quite to the same extent since everyone's lives have gotten more modern.

"Love" has become a household word now, although it should be taken a bit

more seriously. The word itself has nearly 15 definitions, although all of them are based around a strong sense of devotion. It's great to be loved or love someone, but it also takes a lot of time and effort. In high school, it's not always an easy thing to do and keep, but if you go about it the right way, you can end up with the person who makes you most happy and loves you back rather than is just looking for a one night stand type of cheap lust.

Ideas for the romantic at heart

This Valentine's Day, you may realize that certain people look at you differently than you ever knew before, so give them a try as well as a few other things. Certain sites on the internet give great and romantic ideas to try with your friends or with that special certain someone.

•With the snow on the ground, and there being only a sliver of a moon, it's a great idea to bundle up and go on a

process, but the rewards afterwards are so much better.

•Dancing together, anywhere, is a spontaneous thing that she'll remember for a long time. The two of you holding each other close as the music (or maybe no music) plays will make both of you feel a bit stupid, but laughing at yourself is almost all of the fun!

•Play-doh may seem a bit childish, but messing around with it and letting your creativity flow could make this old past time become something you like to do all of the time.

•For those who are able, snowmobiling is a fast and exciting sport that will let her or him hold tight to you as you fly over the drifts.

However, if you tend to be a person that likes to stick to traditions, there are also lots of ideas for you too!

•Taking your special someone out to eat can be fun, especially if it's something new that you've never tried before. Around here there isn't a lot, (although the Stadium and Diny's has great food (and it might take a reservation)) by just by traveling a few miles out of town you'll have more than you could ever wish for! The Conquest, Mondos, The Olive Garden, Lonestar, TGIFriday's, Carlos O'Kelly's, The Outback, Fitzzy's, and Chili's all offer a huge variety of food and isn't all that expensive.

•Then there are the classical movies to watch to bring you closer together like "Love Story," "Romeo and Juliet," "Jerry Maguire," "Bridget Jones' Diary," "Miss Congeniality," "Never Been Kissed," "Cocktail," "Notting Hill," "Pretty Woman," "While You Were Sleeping," "Sleepless in Seattle," "When Harry Met Sally," and hundreds more.

With everything this article contained, Valentine's Day should be a breeze! All you need now is some chocolate, a few dozen roses, and of course, you need to find that someone special and ask them, "Will you be my Valentine?"



late night walk or hike together in the dark. You'll be able to cling closely to each other to keep warm, and also hold her hand in case the darkness becomes unbearable.

•Also, cooking together is said to bring two people closer. Baking cookies will not only become a messy and fun