

Happy Valentine's Day

Each year, on February 14, we celebrate Valentine's Day or Saint Valentine's Day. Originating in 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop, Valentine's Day is now the day we express our love for one another. These days we send cards, flowers, candy and other gifts, but some report the first valentine being sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time. Today, the U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making the day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas. The association estimates that women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

If You Love a Vegetarian

Cabbage always has a heart;
Green beans string along.
You're such a Tomato,
Will you Peas to me belong?
You've been the Apple of my eye,
You know how much I care;
So Lettuce get together,
We'd make a perfect Pear.
Now, something's sure to Turnip,
To prove you can't be Beet;
So, if you Carrot all for me
Let's let our tulips meet.
Don't Squash my hopes and dreams
now, Bee my Honey, dear;
Or tears will fill Potato's eyes,
While Sweet Corn lends an ear.
I'll Cauliflower shop and say
Your dreams are Parsley mine.
I'll work and share my Celery,
So be my Valentine.

- Author Unknown

Did you Know?

Valentine's Day around the world

In Finland and Estonia, Valentine's Day is more about remembering all your friends, not only your loved ones.

According to Jewish tradition the 15th day of the month of Av - Tu B'Av (usually late August) is the festival of love. In ancient times girls would wear white dresses and dance in the vineyards, where the boys would be waiting for them (Mishna Taanith end of Chapter 4). In modern Israeli culture this is a popular day to pronounce love, propose marriage and give gifts like cards or flowers.

In most of South America the Día del amor y la amistad (lit. "Love and Friendship Day") and the Amigo secreto ("Secret friend") are quite popular and usually celebrated together on the 14 of February (one exception is Colombia, where it is celebrated on September 20th).

The 14th of every month marks a love-related day in Korea, although most of them are obscure. From January to December: Candle Day, Valentine's Day, White Day, Black Day, Rose Day, Kiss Day, Silver Day, Green Day, Music Day, Wine Day, Movie Day, and Hug Day.

In Iranian culture, Sepandarmazgan is a day for love, which is February 17. Valentine's day is currently celebrated in Iran despite some restrictions made by government; young Iranian boys and girls are seen on this day going out and buying gifts and celebrating.

Good Idea!

Other dates to note

February 16 is Family Day in Ontario – spend some quality time with your family. Why not have Members invite family Members to your meeting?

February 19 is WI Day – What does WI Mean to you?

March 8 is International Women's Day – Celebrate women...celebrate yourself!

April 22 is Earth Day Canada – What are you doing to protect the environment?