



*Happy Valentine's Day!*

## **Super Bowl LI**

By Maria Marabito

In this year's super bowl, New England Patriots beat the Atlanta Falcons at 34 to 28. The Falcons took control at the start of the game and had a huge lead by the end of the first half. Tom Brady must have given an encouraging pep talk during half time because the Patriots worked their way back to tie the game thanks to a miracle catch by Julian Edelman that allowed them to score a touchdown and a two point conversion. In the first overtime of super bowl history, Patriots won the coin toss and took control of the ball. Within the time of one quarter, the Patriots managed to push forward to the two yard line and score an impressive touchdown. The Falcons' Matt Ryan was no match for the Patriots' Tom Brady during the second half. Congratulations to Matt Ryan for excellent playing in his first super bowl. Ryan, who is from the Exton area, also won NFL MVP for the 2016 season. Also congrats to Tom Brady who made history by being the first quarterback to win five super bowls (though he has played in seven). One this is for sure: this year's super bowl is definitely one to remember.

# DEAR NORA...

By: Brigid Coyle

Dear Nora,

My boyfriend wants to hang out on Valentine's Day, but my friends, who aren't dating anybody want me to hang with them. What should I do?

-Mary

Dear Mary,

Your boyfriend most likely has planned something special for you if he wants to hang out with you that day. It would be mean, not to mention rude, if you ditched him. Your priority is to him on Valentine's Day, and if it seems like you would rather be with your friends, maybe you should rethink your relationship with him. Also, consider a compromise where you go to dinner with him and dessert with your friends.

From

Nora

Dear Nora,

What should my friends and I do on Valentine's Day if we all don't have a valentine?

-Taylor

Dear Taylor,

An idea for you and your friends to do on Valentine's Day is to go see a movie, get something to eat, or any activity you will enjoy. You could also do something fun like have a "Pollyanna" type thing and get each other gifts, chocolates or stuffed animals. Make your night full of fun and laughter!

From,

Nora

# Reserved Seating Takes a Beating

By Maria Marabito

Popular date night ideas for Valentine's Day usually include a picnic in the park, going to a concert, or getting a quick bite to eat before deciding on what movie to see. Well, the latter is out of the running thanks to movie theaters' most recent ploy to increase popularity and profits. No longer can people make a simple spur of the moment decision to see a movie. With the new trend of reserved seating that is occurring in movie theaters all across the nation, people are hindered by the annoying hassle of having to plan where they are going to sit. Forget meeting friends for a movie. You have to plan ahead of time to make sure your seats are right next to each other. Dropping in late for the movie and without a ticket? You are going to miss even more of the movie trying to pick an available seat and finding it in the pitch black theater. The new reserved seating trend basically forces people to plan and buy their ticket ahead of time online, while the theater companies are cashing out on the "added convenience fee" for online ticket purchases. The entire point of theaters implementing reserved seating was to get more people to come to movie theaters. With the skyrocketing popularity of Netflix, movie theaters have felt a hefty drop in attendance but with this added hassle, reserved seating will hurt more than help in the long run. Also, it is not even effective. Even if you get your tickets ahead of time to grab the best seats in the theater, there are still people who ignore the assigned seats and sit where ever. Supposedly, according to Ryan Noonan (AMC's director of corporate communications), "Guests are loving the anxiety-free movie-going experience that reserved seating provides, ensuring when they walk into the theater they'll have the seat they selected waiting for them" (John Kelly). I personally think this is a load of you know what. In the always changing technological world that we live in, a little old fashioned cannot hurt (if you can call non-reserved seating old fashioned). Reserved seating has taken the fun out of going to the 'pictures'. Though it has eliminated the need to scour the movie theater for open seats, it has also taken the 'experience' out of going to the movies. Kids will no longer have the joy of running into the theater to grab the best seats (center of the top row in my opinion). The fun that is associated with going to the movies rests not just with viewing the actual movie itself but also with choosing out your snacks, seeing friends from school there to see the same movie, and yes: picking your seat when you get into the theater.

# Valentine's Day Crafts

By; Emily Killinger

*Valentine's Day is coming up and just in case you wanted to make something for your valentine, here are a couple of cute Valentine's Day themed presents you can make.*

## Rainbow Heart Pom Pom Wreath

### Materials:

- Colored cardstock
- Mini stapler
- Ribbon
- Paper cutter
- Pom Pom balls



### Instructions:

**Step 1.** Fold your 8.5" x 11" cardstock paper in half, cut off one inch strips in various colors using your paper cutter.

**Step 2.** Fold the two open ends in to make a heart and use your mini staple to staple shut. Repeat to make as many hearts as you'd like.

**Step 3.** Line your hearts up in a circle and start stapling them to each other on the back side so the staple does not show in the front.

**Step 4.** Staple a piece of ribbon on two hearts across from each other as shown. If you choose to add a pom pom, add it to the center through the string from your pom pom.

## DIY Valentine string heart

Are you looking for the Valentine Day craft? A pop of colorful DIY string art adds the perfect touch for any décor! Use your hammering skills to turn a plain old piece of wood and some nails into an artistic masterpiece!

### Materials:

- a piece of wood (I found a circle piece with a finished edge at Home Depot for \$7)
- Craft paint (You can choose any color you wish!)
- small nails (I used size #18, which is listed as 5/8 inch)
- yarn (any color will do, you could also use embroidery floss)
- a foam brush
- a hammer



### Instructions:

To begin, prep your wood with a fresh coat of paint

Next, allow your wood to dry completely before you do anything else!

While your paint is drying, create a heart template to use as a guide.

Once your paint is dry, position your template and tape it down using a painters tape or other removable tape that won't pull up your paint

Using a ruler, measure out where you are going to hammer in your nails. You can space them as far apart or as close together as you like (1/4 inch between each nail is most common) and mark each spot on the template.

Using your hammer, gently tap your nails into place, leave about 1/2 of your nail up and out of the wood, enough to loop your yarn on

Next, rip your paper template off of your board

To begin your string art process, tie your yarn to the middle nail in your heart. Don't worry about the tail of yarn that hangs down into your heart, it will be covered and unnoticeable.

Begin by pulling your yarn directly across the side of your heart and loop on a nail.

Then, pull your yarn back across to your starting point and loop around the nail directly above the nail you started on.

Next, pull your yarn back across your heart and loop it around the nail directly below the last. Keep this process going, pulling your yarn across and following your looping pattern. (Pull across, loop above, pull across, loop below, etc....)

Once you hit the other side of your heart design and you make your last loop around where you started you must pull your yarn completely across your heart and begin to loop on the other side of the heart.

Keep pulling your yarn across your heart and keep your looping process going. You will make your way around your heart a second time

At the completion of your looping, double knot your yarn around the last nail and tuck the loose end into the yarn. It will disappear.



# Valentine's Day Playing Card

Does your Valentine love card games or card tricks? Maybe this is the perfect gift for him/her!

## Materials Needed:

- Deck of Cards
- Computer (To type on) or Marker
- Glue
- Paintbrush
- Modge Podge
- Hole Punch
- Binder Rings



## Steps:

1. Get brainstorming! Think of 52 inside jokes or things you love or appreciate about your Valentine!
2. Type up or write up your little love messages.
3. Cut out your messages so that they fit nicely on the card
4. Glue the messages to the playing cards.
5. Using a paintbrush, paint Modge Podge on the cards and let them dry. (This seals the message to the card and gives the cards a shiny finish.)
6. Once the Modge Podge has dried, hole punch the cards, line them up, and create a book out of them using the binder rings.

# Valentine's Day Recipes

By Sydney Dickson

## Triple Chocolate Mini Cheesecake

### Ingredients:

#### For the Crust:

12 chocolate creme filled sandwich cookies

(Chocolate filled Oreos)

2 tablespoons butter, melted

#### For the Cheesecake:

12 ounces cream cheese, room temperature

1 cup Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Baking Chips, melted

½ (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk (about ⅔ cup)

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 eggs, room temperature

#### For the Ganache:

2 ounces (1/3 cup) Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Baking Chips

¼ cup whipping cream, hot

#### For the Garnish:

12 fresh raspberries

Whipped cream

Ghirardelli Valentine's Day Impressions



### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line a muffin tin with foil cupcake liners.

#### For the Crust:

1. Place cookies and melted butter together in a blender and puree until no large chunks. Divide among cupcake liners and press the crumbs firmly in the bottom of each.

#### For the Cheesecake:

1. In an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Mix in the sweetened condensed milk, melted chocolate, and vanilla and beat until combined and smooth. Beat in the eggs one at a time until evenly mixed. Spoon batter into liners dividing it equally among all 12. The batter should be almost to the very top of the liner.

2. Bake for 15-18 minutes until set (it won't jiggle when you shake the pan). Let the cheesecakes cool in the pan on a cooling rack for 15 minutes. Remove the cheesecakes from the pan onto the cooling rack and cool another 15 minutes. Move the cheesecakes to the fridge and refrigerate for 1-2 hours until cold.

3. Gently remove the foil liners and top with ganache, whipped cream, a raspberry, and a chocolate square.

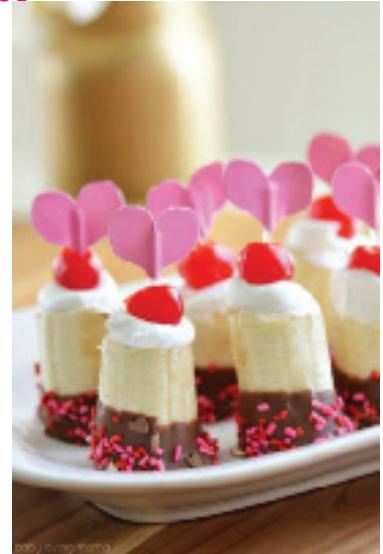
#### For the Ganache:

1. Place chocolate in a bowl. Microwave whipping cream and pour over chocolate. Let it sit for 2 minutes and then stir until smooth. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of ganache onto the top of each cheesecake and spread to the edges.

## Chocolate Banana Sundae Bites

### Ingredients

- 2 large, ripe bananas, peeled
- 2/3 cup milk chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons oil
- 8 maraschino cherries washed and dried
- whipped topping
- sprinkles
- toothpicks or cupcake picks



### Directions

1. Cut bananas into four equal pieces, removing ends.
2. Place on parchment paper or silicone baking sheet lined baking sheet.
3. Freeze bananas for 15 minutes.
4. Melt chocolate chips and oil in microwave, just until melted.
5. Dip bananas 1/3 way into chocolate.
6. Add sprinkles over chocolate and place back on lined baking sheet.
7. Refrigerate 10 minutes or until chocolate is set.
8. Add a dollop of whipped topping to top of bananas.
9. Skewer cherry with cupcake pick and gently push down into center of banana.
10. Serve immediately or refrigerate up to one hour.

## Strawberry Shortcake English Muffins

### Ingredients

- 4 Light English Muffins
  - 1/2 Cup Canned Full Fat Coconut Milk, refrigerated for 24 hours
  - 1 Tsp Honey
  - 1 Tsp Vanilla
- For the Strawberry Syrup:
- 2 Cups Strawberries, sliced
  - 1/4 Cup Sugar
  - 1 Tbs Lemon Juice
  - 1 Tbs Cornstarch + 1 Tbs Water



### Directions

1. Set one cup of sliced strawberries aside. Blend remaining one cup until you have a strawberry puree. In a medium saucepan, combine strawberries, strawberry puree, cornstarch + water slurry, lemon juice and sugar. Cook on medium-high heat until syrup starts to boil. Turn of heat and set aside to thicken and cool.
2. Half the English muffins and toast them on medium-low toaster setting. While muffins are



toasting, dump coconut milk, honey and vanilla in the bowl of a mixer and whisk until light and fluffy, approx 3-5 minutes.

3. Lay English muffins on a baking sheet or tray and top with a generous amount of strawberry syrup and a tablespoon of coconut whipped cream. Garnish with strawberry (optional)

## PROMPOSALS

By Morgan McCelroy

Now that Prom is just around the corner girls and guys alike are becoming more and more anxious to come up with extravagant ways to ask. The entire ritual of Promposals are very stressful, yes this is our last dance of high school but it isn't suppose to be a negative thing. Now, girls are expecting to be asked in public with elaborate schemes of flash mobs or giant banners for the community to see. Prom is just suppose to be a last hoorah before we graduate, it really isn't anything to stress over. Promposals should be a warm-hearted, sweet gestures of affection for a significant other, like their favorite food or something revolving around a sport they play, something that's important to them on a personal level.



How to get a definite yes?  
Donuts.



A date to prom doesn't have to be romantic, going as friends can be just as fun.



What did he do to get his entire truck that dirty?



Auntie Anne's is the way to go if your date likes carbs and sodium



Is taking care of a cat for many years worth saying yes to a prom date?



At least the pizza guy understands how corny promposals can be.

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