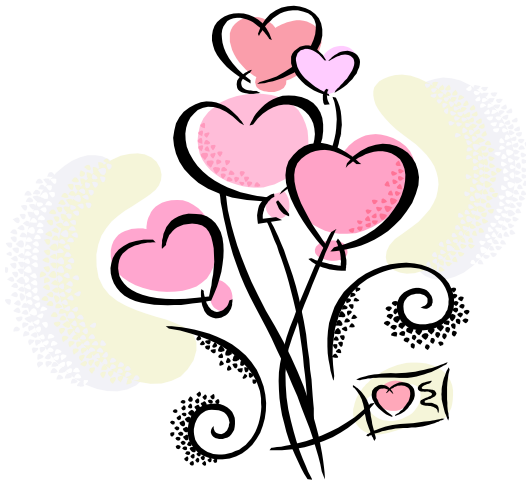




Valentine's Day is coming soon, and love is in the air!

February Activities

It's going to be another fun month at Mother Earth, a special month with lots of opportunities to remember those we love, whether they are our spouses, our families or our friends! We have arts and crafts galore – making valentine cards, flowers, and lacing hearts. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on the 14th with four sets of Kings and Queens! We will have a dance and party that afternoon, and will do the presentation of the Kings and Queens at that time. Other fun events scheduled for this month include a groundhog coloring contest, a Super Bowl pep rally, President's day crafts, and Mardi Gras fun! We will be having two field trips this month, on the 6th to the Dollar Store and on the 20th to the Dollar Movies!!



Birthday wishes go out to Phillip A., Lala B., Maurice B., Juan C., Lisa C., Francisco G., Emily H., Lisa K., Linda M., Natasha P., Claudia P., Rosa P., Jennifer S., Gloria T., Lucy T., Stephanie V., Angela W., Alice W., Otis W., and John W. Congratulations to all of you!! See you soon at Mother Earth!

The Legend of St. Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day--and the story of its patron saint--is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl--possibly his jailor's daughter--who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and--most importantly--romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Joke of the Month

A couple were having marital problems. They decided together to do the right thing and they contacted a marriage guidance counsellor.

Several visits followed when lots of questions were asked and lots of listening carried out. Eventually the the counsellor felt that he had discovered the main problem. He stood up, went over to the women and asking her to stand up he gave her a huge cuddle.

He turned to the husband man and said, 'This is what your wife needs, at least once every day.'

The husband frowned, considered what had been said for a moment, then replied, 'Ok, what time do you want me to bring her back tomorrow?'

Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the federal government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22—Washington's actual day of birth—the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present.