

# Valentine's Day can be more than chocolate, flowers

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**ADRIAN** — Call it a "Hallmark holiday" or an excuse to spend money, but you'll never change the fact that every year on Feb. 14 there will be expectant lovers everywhere.

If you're tired of giving that predictable heart-shaped box of chocolates that eventually gets tossed out with the remnants of the proverbial "taste test" candy rejects, then try something a little different this year.

If you don't know where to start, something as simple as a trip to the bookstore can turn up a few good ideas. For more experienced Valentines who have run out of creativity, there is now a book available that gives you inventive reasons and ways to kiss. "365 Ways To Kiss Your Love: A Daily Guide To Creative Kissing," by Tomima Edmark, lets you in on the "Cat Kiss" and "Toll Kiss," plus a few other reasons to lock lips that you've probably never considered before.

This should get you started. For a true love who is in touch with their "higher" self, there are a couple novels that should set the mood.

"A Bridge Across Forever," by Richard Bach tells the story of a man's lonely search

## Dinner tops celebrations

**LANSING (AP)** — Whether it's candlelight and roses or a burger at the nearest sports bar, taking a loved one out to dinner still is tops for celebrating Valentine's Day, a statewide poll shows.

Thirty-six percent of the 600 Michigan residents polled said they plan to go out to dinner with their valentine Wednesday, up from 31 percent last year, according to a survey by EPIC-MRA of Lansing. The poll, taken Jan. 29-Feb. 1, had a margin of error of 4 percent either way.

"It's a sign of better economic times," said Ed Sarpolus of EPIC-MRA. "It's the change in cultures, too. In years past, men would usually ask the woman out. But now the woman can ask the man out and feel very comfortable with it."

for his soulmate and how he found her when he least expected.

"Bluebirds," a metaphysical love story from Detroit's David Frasure, looks at the

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Red roses are among the traditional Valentine's Day gifts. Jeannette Schmidt of the Hyacinth House/Van Peenen's Floral arranges a bouquet Monday in Lansing.

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# Cupid

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power of love, karma and reincarnation. It explores what happens when a man returns to earth in a stranger's body to console the woman he is eternally connected with. This powerful love story touches readers on new levels with each read. It is guaranteed to never be the same story twice.

If your relationship has been under a bit of a strain lately, or if you want to use Valentine's Day as an excuse to renew your bond, look to the eminent Dr. Robert Gray. Gray's "Men Are From Mars, Women are From Venus" will help you work out all the kinks in your relationship.

Since Valentine's Day is for friends as well as lovers, if you have a romantically inclined soul in your life, they will cherish "Love Letters: An Anthology of Passion." This is a collection of real-life love letters penned by Isadora Duncan, John Keats, Dylan Thomas and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Each page is designed like a real letter, with an envelope containing love letters you unfold and read as you go along.

It's pretty well known that Cupid doesn't always hit his mark, so if you're spending the 14th alone, why not make the best of it and rent movie?

Meg Ryan reigns supreme in the "rent a romantic video" category. Her blockbuster hits range from the friends-to-lovers minded "When Harry Met Sally," and the somewhat reluctant European love affair with Kevin Kline in "French Kiss," to the inspirational tear-jerker "Sleepless in Seattle."

But if you are trying to win the heart of someone new this year, the old stand-by that never fails is a bouquet of flowers.

According to the Society of American Florists, American's love their roses. Almost 155 million roses were sold for Valentine's Day in 1995.

Stephanie Clark and Diane Rhinehart of Maple City Floral said an average trip to the florist can cost \$50. Chose from FTD "Romance Bouquets" with sweetheart roses, freesia and tulips, or one dozen long-stemmed roses.

Whatever message you are trying to send, there's a rose that conveys that feeling. Red roses are synonymous with passion and love, while yellow mean friendship and trust. White signifies purity of intention and pink denotes true love.

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