

Calendar

- **February 8**

Program Meeting—
Noon Petroleum
Club—

- **February 15**

Board Meeting -
watch your email for
location and time

- **February 22**

Business Meeting—
Noon—Petroleum
Club

- **March 14**

Program Meeting—
Noon—Petroleum
Club

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UPTOWN NEWS BEAT

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY 2012

President's Letter

Let it snow, let it snow. Can you believe we made National news because we have had more snow than places in the North. I loved what we had, but I am truly grateful that I do not live where it is like that for weeks and months on end. A little goes a long way in my book.

January has just zipped by us and now we are approaching February. Super Bowl, Valentines, and Presidents Day will be upon us. Soon the tulips will be blooming and hopefully we will have some rain so we do not have to watch everything green die.

Flu season is here and I know several members who have had a case of this. Be sure and remember to always wash your hands.

Our deepest sympathy to Bronna Sanders on the loss of her grandmother re-

cently.

Our style show is fast approaching. April 25, noon at the Hilton. You will be getting messages for that committee very soon. Please reserve your table as soon as possible.

Remember to "Take Time"
Tell someone you love them
and that they are important to
you.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Looking forward to seeing
you soon.

Glenda Knox
President 2011-2012

"Take Time"

Please
Remember
To
Renew
Your
Membership!



**National Wear
Red Day
is
Feb. 3, 2012**



Tax Time

.....

Ann Forest

VITA Program-Free Tax Preparations.....

Community National Bank will be preparing income taxes again this year. We have begun to prepare tax returns at the Florida branch on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:30 and from 1:00 to 3:30 until March 29th.

Income limit is \$50,000.00 or less. We will only be doing the basic income taxes.

Tell your family, friends and neighbors!!! It's Free!!

For Appointments Call Treasury Audit 262-1665.

First Child.....Jessica Breiten



Jessica announced at our business meeting last week that she is pregnant with her first child.

She is due in March!!

**Congratulations
Jessica!!**

"Love doesn't make the world go round,
Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

- Elizabeth Browning

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

-Helen Keller

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite.

- William Shakespeare,
Romeo and Juliet

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning

What the heart gives away is never gone!
It is kept in the hearts of others.
- Robin St. John

Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age.-

Anais Nin

**A Few
Valentine
Quotes**

Valentines goes to the movies.....

Some Classics:

Casablanca (1942) An intense love triangle between a jaded nightclub owner in French-occupied Morocco during WWII (Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman) - perhaps the greatest love story ever committed to film.)

Gone With The Wind (1939 Beautiful, scheming southern belle Scarlett and her married first love and her possible soul mate Vivian Leigh and Clark Gable survive the Civil War.)

Roman Holiday (1953) Romantic Comedy stars Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck.)

From Here to Eternity (1953) Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr Hawaii days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor)

History, Adventure and Romance

Doctor Zhivago (1965) Omar Sharif and Julie Christie star against the tumultuous backdrop of the Russian Revolution)

Out of Africa (1985 based on the autobiography of Danish writer Isak Dinesen) Meryl Streep, Klaus Maria Brandauer and Robert Redford)

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000 Chow Yun Fat and Michelle Yeoh star in this fantastic martial arts drama along with Zhang Ziyi and Chen Chang)

Offbeat Romances

The Princess Bride (1987 A tongue in cheek version of a classic fairy tale good over evil starring Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Billy Crystal, Mandy Patinkin and Andre the Giant)

Say Anything (1989 About an improbable match between an unambitious kickboxer and his sheltered class valedictorian) John Cusack and Ione Skye)

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004 starring Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet) do we really want to forget our true love?)



Happy Happy Birthday !!!

- Feb 4 Diane Riggs - Baker Hughes) Diane joined Uptown Nov. 2010
- Feb 14 Diane Browne - Artist www.dbrowne.com) Diane joined Uptown Jan 2000.
- Feb 20 Mary Ann Brock - Retired) Joined Uptown May 1985) She is our most tenured member
- Feb 23 Evie Gandy - The Bosworth Co.) Joined Uptown Aug 2002
- Feb 23 Jillian Lellis - Preferred Personnel) Joined Uptown Nov 2010
- Feb 24 Stacy Nelson - The Bosworth Co.) Joined Uptown Feb 2002



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February 14th - - Valentine's Day A Brief History.....

Every
February 14,
across the
United States
and in other
places around
the world,
candy, flowers
and gifts are
exchanged
between loved
ones,
all in the name of
St. Valentine.

But who is this
mysterious saint,
and where did
these traditions
come from?

The history of Val-
entine's Day—and
its patron saint—is
shrouded in mystery.
But we do know that
February has long
been a month of ro-
mance.

St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, 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—his crop of potential soldiers. 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.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl—who may have been his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around 270 A.D.—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "christianize"

celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. .

Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day at the end of the 5th century. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February—Valentine's Day—should be a day for romance. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America.

History is filled with Great Romances and love stories.....

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

The only child of the famous feminist Mary Wollstonecraft and the philosopher and novelist William Godwin, both influential voices in Romantic-Era England, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin fell in love with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley when she was only 16; he was 21 and unhappily married. In the summer of 1816, the couple was living with Shelley's friend and fellow poet, the dashing and scandalous Lord Byron, in Byron's villa in Switzerland when Mary came up with the idea for what would become her masterpiece · and one of the most famous novels in history · *Frankenstein* (1818). After Shelley's wife committed suicide, he and Mary were married, but public hostility to the match forced them to move to Italy. When Mary was only 24, Percy Shelley was caught in a storm while at sea and drowned, leaving her alone with a two-year-old son (three previous children had died young). Alongside her husband, Byron, and John Keats, Mary was one of the principal members of the second generation of Romanticism; unlike the three poets, who all died during the 1820s, she lived long enough to see the dawn of a new era, the Victorian Age. Still somewhat of a social outcast for her liaison with Shelley, she worked as a writer to support her father and son, and maintained connections to the artistic, literary and political circles of London until her death in 1851.

Richard Wagner

One of history's most revered composers, Richard Wagner set his work on the famous Ring cycle aside in 1858 to work on his most romantic opera, *Tristan and Isolde*. He was inspired to do so partially because of his thwarted passion for Mathilde Wesendonck, the wife of a wealthy silk merchant and patron of Wagner's. While at work on the opera, the unhappily married Wagner met Cosima von Bulow, daughter of the celebrated pianist and composer Franz Liszt and wife of Hans von Bulow, one of Liszt's disciples. They later became lovers, and their relationship was an open secret in the music world for several years. Wagner's wife died in 1866, but Cosima was still married and the mother of two children with von Bulow, who knew of the relationship and worshiped Wagner's music (he even conducted the premiere of *Tristan and Isolde*). After having two daughters, Isolde and Eva, by Wagner, Cosima finally left her husband; she and Wagner married and settled into an idyllic villa in Switzerland, near Lucerne. On Cosima's 33rd birthday, Christmas Day 1870, Wagner brought an orchestra in to play a symphony he had written for her, named the *Triebtschen Idyll* after their villa. Though the music was later renamed the *Siegfried Idyll* after the couple's son, the supremely romantic gesture was a powerful symbol of the strength of Wagner and Cosima's marriage, which lasted until the composer's death in 1883.

Elizabeth Taylor

An actress since early childhood, the dark haired, violet-eyed Elizabeth Taylor has won two Best Actress Oscars (for "*Butterfield 8*" in 1960 and "*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*" in 1966) but is perhaps best known for her rare beauty · and her epic love life. She has been married a total of eight times · twice to the same man, the actor Richard Burton, whom she has called "one of the two great loves of my life." The first was the film producer Mike Todd, who died in a plane crash in 1958. Taylor and Burton met on the set of "*Cleopatra*," when both were married to other people; their affair soon made headlines around the world and earned a public rebuke from no lesser authority than the Vatican. Their own married life together was a study in extremes, soaked in alcohol and characterized by a passion that was no less intense when they were fighting than when they were getting along. After divorcing in 1973, they found it impossible to stay apart and remarried in 1975, only to break up four months later. Barred from Burton's funeral in 1984 by his last wife, Taylor still received legions of condolences, honoring her and Burton's place in the pantheon of history's most celebrated love stories. She died March 23, 2011 at the age of 79.

Kathleen Woodiwiss

Born in 1939 in Alexandria, Louisiana, Kathleen Woodiwiss was a young wife and mother when she began writing romantic fiction as a response to her dissatisfaction with the existing "women's fiction" of the time. In 1972, she published her first novel, *The Flame and the Flower*, set on a Southern plantation in the late 18th century. Its historical setting and theme, florid prose style and steamy sex scenes inspired a legion of imitators, and its smashing commercial success sparked a new boom in romance fiction. Woodiwiss was given credit for inventing the modern romance novel in its current form: thick period melodramas packed with an array of dashing and dangerous men and bosomy women in low-cut dresses. She herself wrote 13 of these so-called "bodice-rippers," including "*Shanna*" (1977), "*A Rose in Winter*" (1982), "*Come Love a Stranger*" (1984) and "*The Reluctant Suitor*" (2003). In an interview with *Publisher's Weekly*, Woodiwiss firmly denied the characterization of her books as erotic, maintaining that she wrote only "love stories, · with a little spice." By the time of her death in 2006, Woodiwiss's spicy love stories had sold more than 36 million copies in 13 countries.



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Shirley Harris and

Gone Craze...

News from the home front. Brian is coming home from Afghanistan early (deployed for 11 mos.). Hopefully he will fly back around Feb 20- 24th!! He rec'd his orders and promotion and they are to report to Fort Carson CO by Aug 10th. They are excited and also a bit nervous - they have been stationed at Ft Hood his entire career of 17 years.

Stateside for his Birthday!

Renewals for October:
Pamela Sanchez

Renewals for January
Irmalee Ingrham
Lily White

Renewals for February
Stacy Nelson
Jo Fite
Tracie J. Cherry
Tiffany Blakely
Yvonne Reyes

Please check your email for your renewal invoice/ notice. Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks Jerri Ripplinger—
jrangel@mfh.org

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



WooHoo!!