

The Good Times Valentine's Day GUIDE

By Terrence Edwards

Valentine's Day is a day to wine, dine, and cuddle close to your sweetheart. The cynic in us all tells us it's just another holiday cash-in for businesses that sell greeting cards, but why not surrender and enjoy a sentimental holiday with your special somebody? Take a look at these upcoming events:

For lovers with a sweet tooth, why limit yourselves to just one day of chocolates? The marketing campaign called Chocolate And I, New York is a weeklong celebration of all things chocolaty, bitter, and sweet.

"The main goal of Chocolate and I, New York is to transform New York City into a chocolate shrine," said the campaign's press release.

From February 9 to 15, shops throughout Manhattan are offering special deals and discounts for special chocolate menus. Log on to chocolate-and-i-newyork.com and find a list of shops participating, including Joy's Truffles and Deluva Spa at 152 Franklin Street in New York City. Those shops



Road (Route 110) in Melville on Wednesday, February 11 begins the "Four Days Of Valentine's Day." In addition to its regular menu, a special four-course menu will be offered. Included with the meal is a gift bag of massage oil, candles, and chocolates. Meals are \$49 on weekdays and \$75 on Valentine's Day.

You shouldn't have to buy love, so there's no shame in a little savings on dinner. One of the best values of the holiday, Thom Thom Steak and Seafood at 3340 Park Avenue in Wantagh, will offer soup or salad, an entrée, and desert at under \$50. Meals are \$35 on Thursday, February 12; \$40 on Friday, February 13; \$45 on Saturday, February 14; and \$35 on Sunday, February 15.

Can't decide between seafood and Italian

food? Novita at 860 Franklin Avenue in Garden City and Waterzooi just next door at 850 Franklin Avenue will both feature specials. Novita will tempt the palate with special meals for couples, and Waterzooi will offer a special three-course menu. As an entrée, Waterzooi will offer their famous muscle pots.

"We're a lot of fun here, and mussels are always good for sharing with your date," said Stephanie Mallick of Waterzooi.

For more information, call Waterzooi at (516) 693-5400 or Novita's at (516) 739-7660.

If you like playing with your food, stop by London Lennie's at 63-88 Woodhaven Boulevard in Rego Park for expert instruction on oyster shucking by Executive Chef Jeffrey Baruch from Thursday, February 12 through Saturday, February 14. Guests will be taught to shuck six different types of oysters. Lessons are \$25 per person, and include three oysters

pluses." The trip costs \$149 and is all-inclusive. For bus pickup points, departure times, and all other information, log on to longisland-winecountry.com or call (866) 946-3268. To make sparks fly, try some gripping theater or live music. Get close with your honey with some sexy R&B at B.B. King Blues Club & Grill at 237 West 42 Street in New York City. Known for hits like "Rock Me Tonight (For Old Time's Sake)" and "Jam Tonight," Freddie Jackson will perform live for lovebirds on Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$41.50 in advance and \$45 at the door. If music alone isn't extravagant enough, VIP booths are available, and include platters of chocolate-covered strawberries. A booth for four is \$240, and for six is \$360. For more information, call (212) 307-7171 or log on to ticketmaster.com and search for the show.

For an all-day Valentine's event, a Long Island guided wine tour will visit Macari Vineyards and Winery, Laurel Lake Vineyards, as well as a private estate. The package includes round-trip coach bus transportation, a guided tour by experts from longislandwinecountry.com and Wine Country International magazine, a three-course meal at Claudio's Greenport, and cheese tasting. "Our guides are highly educated and teach a "Wine 101" course," said Christopher Davies of Long Island Wine Country. "We teach people about wine tasting on the way out, and by the time we get to the wineries everyone will know what to expect and how to enjoy their sam-



London Lennie's

will have free wine and chocolate sampling all day, every day the week.

Here's a great Valentine's gift for the significant other in your life: exciting lingerie. A new upscale lingerie retail store for women and couples, Guilty Pleasures, opened in Westbury this past fall. The store carries many upscale, quality brands of lingerie, including Hanky Panky, Hustler, Baby Phat, and Ed Hardy, carrying sexy undies and lacey things in all sizes. The store is located at 915 Merrick Avenue; call them at (516) 227-6969.

Nothing impresses better than a quiet, candle-lit dinner. There are plenty of Long Island restaurants that will be happy to serve you and your date during a memorable Valentine's Day evening.

All-inclusive dinners, including an appetizer, soup or salad, and an entree will be available at Mulberry Street at 30-32 East Main Street in Babylon. Promising a special Valentine's menu, you're sure to have a full heart and stomach. Call in for a reservation at (631) 321-5980 – and ask about their wine list, mentioned the restaurant staff.

At Four Food Studio at 515 Broadhollow



Four Food Studio



Freddie Jackson

If you would rather keep it casual this year, the multi-gender cover band Full House will perform at Frank Cariola's Sundance at 621 Route 25A as rock & roll meets sweet love this year at the legendary music venue. For more information, call (631) 228-4711 or log on to sundancerocks.com. Both Nutty Irishman locations are celebrating



Valentine's Day with a "Cupid Is Stupid" celebration. At 11:30 pm, The Gyst will perform in Farmingdale at the 323 Main Street location, and Allstar at the Bay Shore Nutty at 60 East Main Street. For more information, call Farmingdale at (516) 293-9700, Bay Shore at (631) 969-9700, or log on to thenuttyirishman.com.

For couples who enjoy jazz, Leon Ivey will perform at the American Legion at 160 Marvin Avenue in Hempstead. The night will include original songs, special guests, and a meal and complimentary glass of wine. Admittance costs \$45, and the event runs from 9 pm to 1 am. For more information call Leon at (516) 527-0341,

Wendy at (631) 880-9770 or log on to 4thmillenium.com.

A romantic musical set during the era of speakeasies, flappers, and bootlegging gangsters will be performed at Corio Supper Club at 337 West Broadway (Grand Street) in Manhattan. The original play Vaudeville At The Gin Mill will feature live jazz music and food for guests.

"At the heart of this show is a romantic comedy, so it's perfect for a date on Valentine's Day," said show producer Lee Sobel. Tickets are \$25 in advance, and the dinner and show will cost \$75. For more information call (212) 868-4444.

To make your favorite little girl's heart flutter, take her to The Crazy Donkey to see tween sensations Push Play at 1058 Broad Hollow Road (Route 110) in Farmingdale. All attendees can enter to win a private acoustic show, and the band will stick around to meet their biggest fans

after the show at a special "meet and greet" segment. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$17 at the door. Doors open at 6 pm. For more information, log on to clubloaded.com or call The Crazy Donkey at (631) 753-1975.

If you're flying solo this year, don't fret because you're not the only single on the island. RC Dugan's at 2314 Hempstead Turnpike in East Meadow is hosting an 80s-themed "Valentine's Singles Mingle Party." For singles in their twenties, thirties, and forties, there will be an open bar, icebreaker games, and eighties dance music. Admittance costs \$39.75 for men and \$34.75 women, or \$50 at the door if space allows. For



more information, call (516) 520-0325.

Be merry this Valentine's Day and spread a little love. As you can see, there's plenty to do, so show your significant other you still care with a night neither of you will soon forget.



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