

# MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1996

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## SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

## Ready your table for a romantic eve

**A** romance! Is there anything better than a fireside candlelight dinner for two on Valentine's night?

The menu might include a heart salad (combine artichoke hearts and hearts of palm with baby lettuce) and heart vegetables (make carrot and turnip cutouts with tiny heart-shaped cutters). Coq au vin is an elegant entrée and a chocolate dessert, the food of the gods, guarantees a perfect ending.

Of course the setting for this feast must be conducive to romance, so polish the silver and press your vintage linens. This is the time to set the table in your Depression-era amethyst glass and cut-crystal rose bowls. Or, if your old chipped china is no longer fit for the dinner table, consider some of the newest dinnerware collections, introduced at Hudson's recent bridal show and registry fair. Mary Dearing, divisional merchandise manager for Hudson's tabletop department, says that blue and white is probably "the most enduring" of dinnerware color combinations and it's



the hottest combo for '96. Also, look for earthenware pottery particularly Denby's Harlequin and Spice patterns; Danak's fluted and petal-shaped mismatch stoneware in blue, green or ivory (in stores in March); and Wedgewood's new Home Collection, featuring a white-on-white sunflower pattern.

## Have it your way

Mix and match is another new tabletop concept, whereby designers offer different pieces and patterns in colorways and patterns that you and I can purchase by the piece and create our own unique place settings. Villerooy and Boch's Switch collection is an example.

For our aforementioned romantic Valentine's dinner, I culled through the collections and came up with these suggestions.

What could be more beautiful than Ralph Lauren's rose-hewn Daphne bone china? Edged in gold, it recalls antique dinnerware and is perfect for formal occasions, yet charming for a brunch or afternoon tea.

Drape the table in Waterford's new heirloom-quality linens. The Lismore tablecloth features exquisite detail and workmanship, and Hudson's is the first to carry the line. Waterford also introduces the Millennium Collection of special edition champagne flutes, perfect for your Valentine's toast and complementary to Tiffany's extraordinarily simple Hampton crystal stemware. Also from Tiffany, from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Collection, you might choose Chryseanthemum sterling silver flatware and Scroll candlesticks. And the piece de resistance, a gorgeous crystal bowl filled with Jungle Roses from Neiman Marcus. The grapefruit-sized blooms, grown in the South American rain forests, are spectacular in fragrance and beauty. Adored by the likes of Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Taylor and Helen Gurley Brown, friendly Jungle Roses are



available for overnight delivery in shades of Pink Panther and Red Butler. Call Neiman Epicure at (810) 643-3300 Ext. 2380 today to surprise your sweetheart.

Linda Bachrack welcomes merchandise news and views to share with column readers. Call her at (313) 933-4747, Ext. 1889, or send a fax to (810) 644-1314.

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- From Zee-Zee Gabor to Mary Lou next door, fashion retailer Michael Getsoff enjoys dressing special ladies.
- A look at Isaac Mizrahi's unique clothing show at Saks.
- Retail Details briefs you on the latest marketplace news.

## Retailers cash in on love

■ Everywhere you shop these days, it's hearts and flowers. More candy is now sold for Valentine's Day than Mother's Day.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

If you're not paying attention, Valentine's Day can sneak up on you, leaving you without arrows for cupid's bowstrings.

Your neighborhood mall or Main Street retailer wants to make sure you're well armed for the big day Feb. 14 with cards, flowers, chocolates and lingerie... and it wouldn't hurt to include gifts for friends, children, teachers and even pets!

"Who needs Cupid when you've got Frederick's of Hollywood?" asked Rebecca Sharp, manager of the store at Lakeside in Sterling Heights.

Pam Tucker, spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation in Washington D.C., said Valentine's Day has become a promotional hook for many different retailers and "they've become much more savvy in their presentation of the holiday. They've taken every opportunity to get the consumer excited with cleverly packaged merchandise and unique twists on tried-and-true gifts."

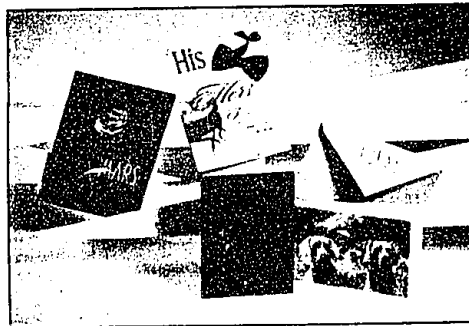


JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Afternoon delight:** A different kind of cheesecake was served at the Cook's Garden in downtown Birmingham Wednesday afternoon, to the surprise of diners David Grant (center) and Gary Busch. Models presented romantic gifts from Harp's Lingerie on S. Woodward in Birmingham.

This was the case at the Cook's Garden restaurant in Birmingham last week when the Harp's Lingerie shop down the street was invited to showcase its merchandise for a Valentine's promotion that also featured the restaurant's Candlelight Dinner for Two package.

Most of the lunch crowd seemed surprised to see models in bathrobes, peignoirs, and negligees strolling between the tables. But as one secretary on her lunch break noted, "Maybe I better buy something special for Valentine's Day. I've been wearing long underwear to bed all winter."



**Loving thoughts:** This year Hallmark offers two new selections of Valentine cards including a line based on the book "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" and another selection designed for dogs and cats to give their owners.

## '90s Valentines speak out on relationships

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Hallmark, those producers of Valentine's Day greetings since 1915, report that more than 925 million valentines will be exchanged on Wednesday.

And Hallmark can thank the Romans for the flurry of mid-February card sales, for without their pagan celebration of Lupercalia upon which Valentine's Day is loosely based, there would be no winter celebration of Love.

Did you know the Feb. 14 holiday has little or nothing to do with the Roman priest Valentine, martyred in 279 A.D. for performing weddings against a direct order from Claudius II? It seems Claudius wanted his men off fighting wars and not at home with wives and lovers.

Instead, many historians believe the roots of Valentine's Day sprang from the Roman Lupercalia, a fertility festival honoring the two mythical wolf pups Remus and Romulus. In fact, Pope Gelasius set aside Feb. 14 in 469 A.D. with the hope of supplanting the Lupercalia with a Christian theme.

Valentine's greetings as we know them date from 1760. These were entirely hand made until commercial cards came on the scene around 1800. The first valentines were aimed strictly at lovers, while today's cards reflect contemporary life situations. Hallmark has more than 1,500 designs and messages in print to include everyone from family members to special friends and co-workers.

See VALENTINE, 11A

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

### BEPAL BEWING

Haberman's Fabrics hosts fashion show of custom creation 7 p.m. Inspirations from local designers and dressmakers. Door prizes. Reservations required for complimentary program. 117 W. Fourth, Royal Oak. (810) 541-0010.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

### CAFE CONCERT

Complementary treats and drawings, plus Renaissance Love Songs by Jim Perkins and Owan Phyllis. 7-9 p.m. Border's Books and Music Cafe. 30095 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. (810) 737-0110.

### VOCALIST VIBES

Vocalists perform 6 and 7:30 p.m. on stage near Crowley's. Complimentary gifts for women attending. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (810) 476-1166.

### WALKERS MEET

9-10 a.m. lower level auditorium. Tony Thomas from Blue Cross/Blue Shield discusses "Trouble-free travel." Mail opens to walkers daily at 7 a.m. near Olga's Kitchen Entrance. Walking program ends at 10 a.m. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

### SPORTS COLLECTIBLES

Cards, coins and collectibles through Feb. 18. Regular mall hours. Former Tiger's starting pitcher Paul Foytack heads all-star autograph sale. (\$2 each autograph) to raise money for a local child who recently lost a leg in an accident, through show hours. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia. (313) 822-4100.

### INFORMAL MODELING

Casual clothing from Rear Ends modeled noon to 2 p.m. at Stage & Co. restaurant. Boardwalk, Orchard Lake's, Maple, West Bloomfield. (810) 855-6622.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

### INFORMAL MODELING

Fashions from Northern Reflections and Tatbots presented during lunch, noon to 2 p.m. at D. Dennison's and Alie's American Grill. Laurel Park Plaza, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 462-1100.

### FORMAL WEAR SHOW

See special occasion dresses for spring and summer events by Chris Kole through Feb. 17 at Roz & Sherm, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bloomfield Plaza, Maple/Telegraph. (313) 855-8977.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

### KIDS PROGRAM

"See and Do Zoo Review." Noon. Center Court. Interactive puppet show. Afterward, kids visit a craft table to color their own zoo puzzle. Tel. Twelve, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (313) 353-4111.

### BLUES HISTORY

Hudson's Book Department presents WDET's Robert Jones speaking about the history of blues music from its roots in West Africa. 3-5 p.m. He'll perform on his guitar and blues harp. Northland Center, Eight Mile/Greenfield, Southfield. (810) 443-0000.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

### STORY TELLING

Hudson's presents story-telling and diverse music performed on instruments from around the world. 3-4 p.m. Children's Department. Repeated Feb. 25 at Northland Center, Southfield/Michigan, Dearborn. (313) 436-7000.