

Find a little love on-line Feb. 14



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With Valentine's Day approaching, let's take a look at three books that are breaking out of the mold with fresh approaches to love and romance. "Cyberlove is possible and pleasurable but until you meet, it's only 'cyber-fantasy,'" says author Lorilyn Bailey, who claims to have written the first guidebook to online dating, "The Little Book of Online Romance: How To Find It." Anyone interested in spending \$6.95 on the book may send an E-mail inquiry to lorilyn@questfinder.com.

In her book, Bailey offers suggestions from safety tips to keeping long-distance love alive and lists 500 questions for cyber couples to discuss. Her first book, "The Original Lovers' Questionnaire Book," has silly-to-serious questions on such topics as money, politics, sex, romance, AIDS, body weight, household chores, and etiquette.

Visit her Web site, "Online-Romance Central," at <http://www.online-romance.com> and find free online "Electronic Antique" Valentine's Day postcards for use at this time of year.

After sending out an electronic greeting, turn your attention to Shel Horowitz, who is a self-proclaimed expert on high living and romance for Valentine penny-pinchers. His Web page is <http://www.frugalfun.com>.

Horowitz shares ways to slash the cost of every kind of pleasure, including romance. Among the ideas are: fabulous free dates; free concerts and plays; travel for pennies on the dollar; cost-free gifts; and tightwad weddings.

Horowitz, author of "The Penny-Pinching Hedonist: How to Live Like Royalty with a Peasant's Pocketbook," shares his tips and offers a free idea sheet, "17 Great Romantic Dates for Penny-Pinchers."

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Shel Horowitz, (413) 586-2388, AWM Books, P.O. Box 1164 Northampton, Mass. 01061. To find out how to purchase the \$17 "Penny-Pinching Hedonist..." book, send an E-mail inquiry to shel@frugalfun.com.

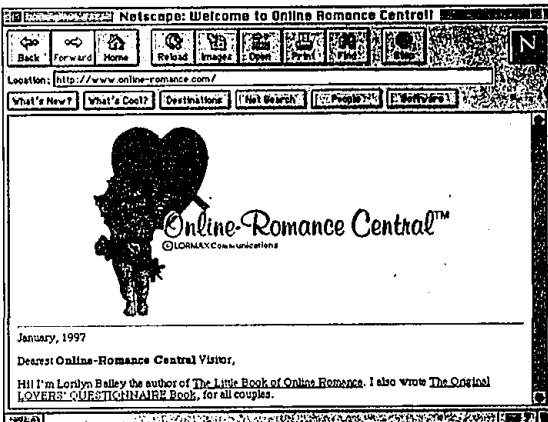
Horowitz is a popular media guest, speaker and teacher.

He's written more than 700 articles and edits Global Arts Review, an Internet-only international arts magazine, that can be accessed at <http://www.frugalfun.com/review.html>.

The Valentine season may be a time to light fires. If it might be for you, then read David LeClaire's book on how to rekindle the passion in your marriage.

LeClaire, author of "Bridges to a Passionate Partnership," offers a step-by-step pathway to keeping passion alive as couples grow together.

LeClaire shows how to avoid and defuse "land mines" that partners plant in their relationships and how to maintain open communication to keep the passion alive.



On-line Love: You can find free Valentine postcards and other love links at the Online Romance Central home page: <http://www.online-romance.com>.

LeClaire and wife Kristin have led the "Keeping Love Alive" programs for couples since 1991.

He shares the difference between what men and women say they want in the bedroom, why so many married women rarely experience sexual fulfillment, the value of a conflict in relationship and why it should not always be avoided, ways to reduce friction, and why nearly half of all divorces and separations happen before the first child is 3 years old.

To find out how to purchase "Bridges to a Passionate Partnership" paperback for \$12.95, write Equestrian Press/HARA Publishing, P.O. Box 19732, Seattle, Wash. 98109 or send an E-mail inquiry to dleclaire@earthlink.net.

Or to learn more about his book, visit Alternative Books Superstore at <http://web.star.com/Alternative/Bridge.html>.

Valentine Jewels

• Where does Valentine's Day originate? Some would, with good reason, say from the Feast of Lubercus. There are several interpretations as to the origin of Valentine's Day at <http://www.american.net/valentine/origin.html>.

• Visit the NJWeb Valentine's Web site at <http://www.njweb.com/valent.html> and read this site's explanation of how Valentine's Day got its start.

Use this site's links to launch to other Web sites to learn about "History of Valentine's Day" or "Kids on Love" (humor), "Men's Guide" (humor), "Women's Guide" (humor) and other Valentine's links.

• If you feel like a snoop, point to the

Valentine's Day Message Center at <http://www.teleport.com/almanac/valentine.html> and read Valentine greetings of others, such as JJ's greeting to Lynne. "I love you more than buttered toast squares and Thai food."

Of course, that's easy if you eat them both at once. But I even love you more than I eat 'em separately."

• A child can print out a Valentine story that's customized with his or her first name, the name of their friend, favorite cookie and other details.

Presented by Sears Portrait Studios as part of the original "Story Creations" series, this site is designed to encourage parent-child reading interaction.

The Valentine story is free and does not require an E-mail address or user registration. Point to <http://www.searsportrait.com>.

• On-line sweatershorts looking for virtual Valentines may choose from 18 selections, including four animated cards. Offered by GPH Photo, Fox Photo and Sears Portrait Studios, the cards can be customized with a personal message and E-mailed to your valentine.

There's no limit on the number of cards you can send, and there's no charge to customize or send cards.

Available at three sites: point to <http://www.w.w.p.s.p.h.o.t.o.c.o.m>, <http://www.foxphoto.com>, or <http://www.searsportrait.com>.

Emory Daniels may be reached via E-mail at emory@online.com. Past columns are archived on-line at <http://online.com-emoryd/archive.html>.

Cigar from page E1

The first issue of Detroit Cigar Lifestyles, which rolled off the presses in December, features Joe Muer, owner of both Joe Muer's Restaurant in Detroit and Joe Muer's Grill in Southfield.

All 15,000 copies of the quarterly magazine are available free of charge at 300 cigar and tobacco stores and a dozen restaurants in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. Subsequent issues will sell for \$2.50. Annual subscriptions are \$5.

The cigar-centered magazine is expected to debut in 26 other major cities across the nation by year's end.

The winter issue of Detroit Cigar Lifestyles features stories about smoking clubs, restaurants, hand-rolled cigars, humidors, and couples who share the passion.

It also includes profiles of male and female cigar-smokers, many from Oakland County. "We've found out so many fascinating things about cigars," said Levin, a mother of three and grandmother of six. "We've become totally expert."

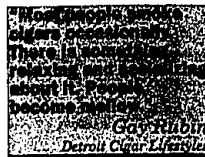
Levin and Rubin met 20 years ago as members of Detroit Women Writers. The pair decided to open an office together when Levin turned to free-lancing and Rubin was in the process of moving and renovating her home.

The novice cigar-smokers, who puff only occasionally, found an ideal location in a smoke-free building at 801 S. Adams. The rent was reasonable and the office was within walking distance to town and their Birmingham homes. "And each of us had to have our own window," said Rubin, who moved to her latest novel line the partition that divides them. "We each feel like we have our own private office and we love it."

Until last October, the two friends worked independently on their own projects. But it wasn't long before Levin felt she could use a little help with her new story-centered entity. "It's so time-consuming," said Levin, a regular contributor of Style magazine. "I said to Gay, 'You have to help me.'"

For Rubin, whose first novel, "On a Good Day," hit the bookstores in 1993—working as a contributor to Detroit Cigar Lifestyles was a way to pay the rent while plugging away on her next tale.

Levin, becoming editor of her first magazine has edged her back into covering the social scene. Only now, she's accompanied by her camera, standing ready to snap at metro Detroit's



Cigar-smoking personalities.

While restaurants catering to the cigar-wielding crowd are installing ventilating systems to whisk away secondary smoke, cigar manufacturers are scrambling to meet the growing demand as even the younger generation is going back to the grandfathers era.

But Levin and Rubin seem unconcerned with possible health issues affiliated with smoking. "You don't inhale a cigar," said Levin, who enjoys Royal, Davidoff and Royal Vintage Butera cigars. "If you do everything in moderation, you're not going to get sick."

"Most people smoke cigars occasionally," said Rubin, a mother of two, who likes to puff on Umanan and Paul Garmarian cigars. "There's something relaxing and socializing about it. People become mellow."

When she's not working on features for Detroit Cigar Lifestyles, Rubin is preparing for the taping of "Round Table," her upcoming television show featuring the personal passions of authors like Charles Baxter, Judith Guest and Margo LaGattuta.

Levin plans to break from her role as editor when she journeys to Egypt to write a travel article — and maybe check out the cigar scene, as long as she's there.

On April 14, the pair will be covering the major cigar dinner sponsored by 12 Birmingham restaurants to be held at The Community House in Birmingham. The Spring issue of Detroit Cigar Lifestyles, due out in April, will feature "a very famous name and face on its cover," said Levin. Upcoming stories will explore the Windsor cigar scene.

"It's going to be fun — fun and filled with great people, great profiles and very upbeat," said Levin, who invites the general public to read.

"This community is starved for fun profile pieces and fun entertainment."

To find out where to obtain a copy of Detroit Cigar Lifestyles, or to subscribe, call Eddie Carmine at (810) 543-1500.

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