

WHO'S YOUR VALENTINE?

FROM LAURIE AND LINDA

This day of romance was named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century. If you and your loved one have long ago abandoned this celebration, why not surprise them this year by making sure that he/she knows they are still Number 1 in your heart? Some might say that Valentines Day is the epitome of cheesiness, so skip the typical candlelight dinner, the roses, and the heart-shaped box of chocolates. Try one of these rogue Valentines Day ideas instead!

Give them one dozen of their favorite flowers—that might be daisies, or

petunias, or tulips, or anything that makes them happy. Then attach a small note to each stem promising a future date or a special gesture from you. For example, vow to finish one of those big projects you said would be done light years ago! Or promise tickets to one of their favorite events like a symphony or a play or maybe a train ride to New York City for the day. Offer to give them a back massage or even a foot massage by candlelight. Just use your imagination!

On Valentines Day, skip the normal restaurant scene where you'll be stuck with an overpriced menu, a crowded room full of strangers, and seating that leaves you knee to knee with your loved one. Instead, surprise them with an indoor picnic dinner that you'll

cook, of course. Then spread out a blanket on the living room floor, light the fireplace, put on some romantic music, break out all your fancy dishware—and don't forget the Champagne!

Another fun romantic idea is to schedule a dance lesson for the two of you on Valentines Day. You can secretly schedule it ahead of time and then surprise your loved one on that day as you skip the light Fandango or learn to do a hot Salsa dance together.

After all, it's a special day to celebrate that you have both found someone pretty neat, and in their company you feel happy and complete.