

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

What Is Love?

If you find yourself wondering about the meaning of love in this Valentine's month, just do what the experts did — ask a group of four- to eight-year-olds:

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. *Billy, age four*

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. *Terri, age four*

Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss. *Emily, age eight*

When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you. *Karen, age seven*

Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken. *Elaine, age five*



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Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day. *Noelle, age five*

Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford. *Chris, age seven*

Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. *Karl, age five*

You really shouldn't say "I love you" unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget. *Jessica, age eight*

Love is a child's smile, a mother's hug, a father's pat on the back, a sibling's sharing of candy — you can find love in almost anything!

— Tara and April

Be Good To Your Heart

In addition to Valentine's Day, February is also Heart Month. Here are some easy ways to be good to your heart:

Take the stairs instead of an elevator or escalator. Start with just one flight. Or get off the elevator one floor early and walk up the stairs. Soon, you'll be ready for two flights.

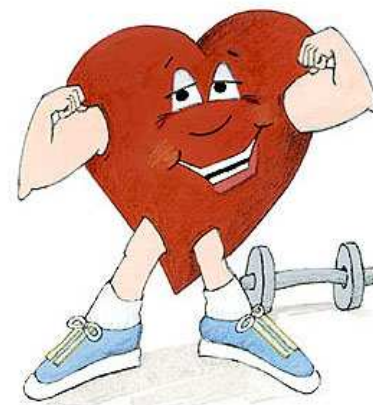
Park a few extra blocks away from your destination or at the far end of the parking lot and walk the extra distance. Pick up your walking pace from "stroll" to "brisk".

Walk around the building for a break during the work day or during lunch. Added benefit: it will help you stay awake.

Try thinking of your dog as an exercise machine and take him/her for regular walks. That will be good for both of your hearts!

Sleep well. Research studies have linked sleep deprivation to blood pressure problems, depression and other factors that increase the risk of heart disease.

Laugh — often and honestly. Rent a funny video, tell a silly joke, read a funny story, take yourself less seriously. Stress is your heart's enemy, and laughter is a great stress reliever.



The Cookie Lesson

After a long, exhausting day, a woman was waiting for her flight in the boarding lounge of a busy airport. When an announcement was made that her flight was delayed, she decided to buy something to read. While in the airport shop she also purchased a package of cookies.

The woman returned to the boarding lounge and began reading. Beside the armrest of the chair where the package of cookies lay sat a man reading a magazine. When she took out the first cookie, the man also took one. She stared — he smiled — and both went back to their reading. She was irritated — "What nerve!" she thought — but said nothing. For each cookie she took, the man took one too. Soon she'd gone from irritated to infuriated, but she didn't want to cause a scene.



When only one cookie remained she thought, "What will he do now?" No sooner had she thought that, the man took the last cookie, divided it in half, while smiling, and gave her one half. That was too much! She opened her mouth to reprimand him but was interrupted by her flight being called. In a huff she took her book and her bags and stormed to the boarding gate.

After she sat in her seat on the plane, she opened her purse and to her surprise, there was her package of cookies. Untouched and unopened. She was stunned — and embarrassed. All along, that man had been sharing *his* cookies with *her* — and with a smile.*Things aren't always what they seem!*

Start Saving By Stopping

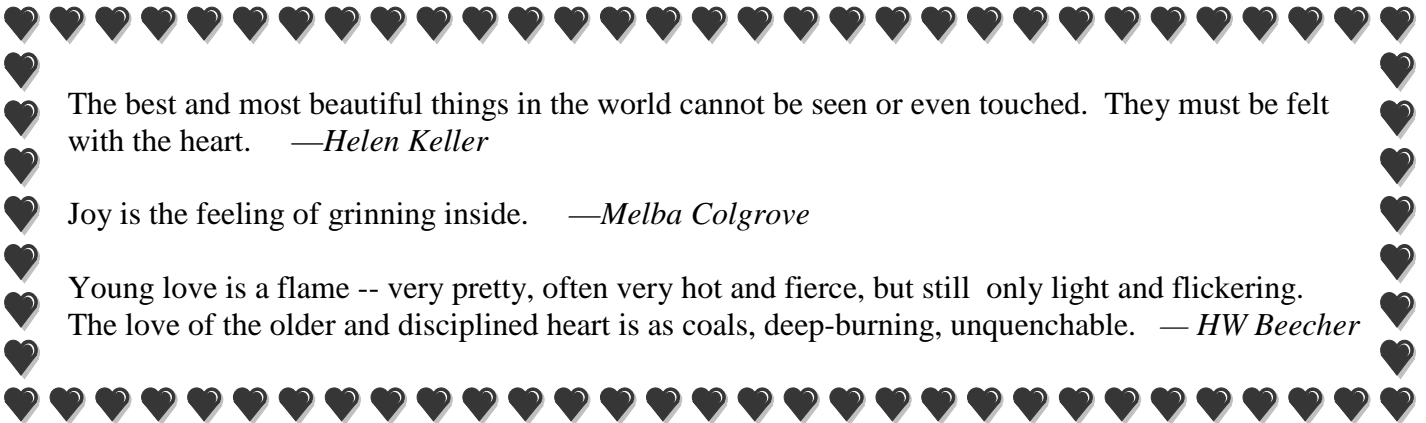


A good way to *start* saving money is to *stop* doing something, and take the money you would have spent and deposit it in your savings account on a weekly or monthly basis.

Some things you might consider stopping are smoking, buying books and DVDs when you could borrow them from the library, paying dues at a gym or country club that you don't use, paying for subscriptions to magazines you don't read, eating out for lunch everyday when you could be packing your own food, and paying for cable or satellite

channels you don't watch.

If you start saving by stopping, you'll feel great at the end of the year when you see the balance in your account — or piggy bank!



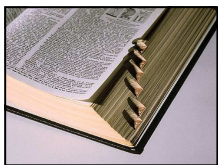
The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. —*Helen Keller*

Joy is the feeling of grinning inside. —*Melba Colgrove*

Young love is a flame -- very pretty, often very hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. The love of the older and disciplined heart is as coals, deep-burning, unquenchable. —*HW Beecher*

A Word For Creativity

Have you ever been completely stuck when trying to come up with an idea? It's a common problem, says innovation expert Jeffrey Baumgartner. His cure? The dictionary. He suggests randomly selecting a word and then trying to reformulate your ideas while incorporating the word you've selected.



It's surprising how well this works, says Baumgartner. "The concept is based on a simple but little-known truth: Freedom inhibits creativity. There's nothing like a restriction to get you thinking," he contends.

Don't Take This Bet

The strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen. After several minutes, the older worker had enough.

"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he said. "I'll bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that building that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the young guy rudely replied.

The older man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then he turned to the young man and said, "All right. Get in."

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently, whom we'd like to welcome, say thank you, and wish you all the best!

Robb Stacy and Jill Willis (past and treasured clients)

Kimberly Wagenmakers

Andrew and Julie Cullum

Annie Call

Bruce and Gretchen Keller

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

Jan/Feb Quiz Question

Who invented Velcro?

Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$25 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 2/28/09



Nov/Dec Quiz Answer

Question: Who was the first woman to run for President of the United States?

Answer: Victoria Woodhull — in 1872.

source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Woodhull

(Turn to page 6 to read more about Victoria Woodhull)

Congratulations to Reginald Stanton

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$25 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Absolutely NO ONE sells more homes in *The Wood Streets* neighborhood than "The Sister Team"!!

we **LIVE** in the neighborhood,
we **WORK** in the neighborhood,
we **KNOW** the neighborhood,
we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!

www.thesisterteam.com

The Pet Page

Valentine's Day Pet Tips

Valentine's Day can be as much fun for pets as it is for humans if dangerous foods, flora and other items are kept out of paws' reach! Each year, poison control experts see a rise in cases around February 14, many involving chocolate and lilies, a flower that's potentially fatal to cats. So please heed experts' advice — don't leave the goodies lying around on Lover's Day.

Pet-Safe Bouquets

Many pet owners are still unaware that all species of lily are potentially fatal to cats. When sending a floral arrangement, specify that it contain no lilies if the recipient has a cat — and when receiving an arrangement, sift through and remove all dangerous flora. If your pet is suffering from symptoms such as stomach upset, vomiting or diarrhea, he/she may have ingested an offending flower or plant. Go to www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/ to view the ASPCA's toxic and nontoxic plant library as visual guides of what and what not should be in your bouquets.



Forbidden Chocolate

Seasoned pet lovers know the potentially life-threatening dangers of chocolate, including baker's, semi-sweet, milk and dark. Go ahead and indulge, but don't leave chocolate out for chowhounds to find.

Careful with Cocktails

Spilled wine, half a glass of champagne, some leftover liquor are nothing to cry over until a curious pet laps them up. Because animals are smaller than humans, a little bit of alcohol can do a lot of harm, causing vomiting, diarrhea, lack of coordination, central nervous system depression, tremors, difficult breathing, metabolic disturbances and even coma.

Life is Sweet

So don't let pets near treats sweetened with xylitol. If ingested, gum, candy and other treats that include this sweetener can result in a sudden drop in blood sugar known as hypoglycemia.

Every Rose Has its Thorn

Don't let pets near roses or other thorny stemmed flowers. Biting, stepping on or swallowing their sharp, woody spines can cause serious infection if a puncture occurs.

The Furry Gift of Life?

Giving a cuddly puppy or kitten may seem a fitting V-Day gift; however, returning a pet you hadn't planned on is anything but romantic. Companion animals bring with them a *lifelong commitment*, and choosing a pet for someone else doesn't always turn out right. Great pets — purebreds and designer dogs included — can be found in local shelters and rescue groups, or on petfinder.com. Irresponsible backyard breeders abound, and while you may think you're saving that adorable doggie in the window, buying from most pet stores only helps perpetuate puppy mills. Granted, adopting a pet that suits your lifestyle sometimes requires time and patience, but don't give up. After all, finding *true love* takes a lot of hard work!



IMPORTANT NOTICE

"The Sister Team" is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help cats and dogs!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always
for the animals!

--Tara and April

BUYERS of Real Estate

Now is the time to buy! Are you aware how low prices and interest rates are? It's a great time to think about buying your first home (and/or investment property) — something that was a distant dream not too long ago.

Some great reasons to work with “The Sister Team”:

- ◆ **No fees!** As a buyer, it costs you nothing to work with us. As a seller, fees are negotiable.
- ◆ We can show you ANY home on the market.
- ◆ Hire us for our 23 years' experience and continuing education. Our licenses have remained current and in good standing since day one.
- ◆ We will guide you through the process of multi-page contracts, disclosures, and negotiations!
- ◆ We're a team, so you have more than one Realtor® working for you at any given time.
- ◆ We'll help you get qualified for a loan at no cost or obligation.
- ◆ By owning real estate, you will build equity for future investments and education.

Stop paying rent -- and start planning for your future!

SELLERS of Real Estate

“The Sister Team” is here to help with ALL of your real estate needs. Lately, we've had many people ask us questions about the ever-changing market. We can get you top dollar for your home in today's real estate market.

No one lists and sells more homes in the Wood Streets neighborhood! We want you to know that we can help you, and anyone you know, with all of the following concerns:

- ◆ facing foreclosure
- ◆ refinancing
- ◆ reverse mortgages
- ◆ bank repos or bank-owned properties
- ◆ loan modifications
- ◆ short sales

Don't hesitate to pass along our information to someone who may need help. Don't wait or it may be too late. We are your real estate consultants for life and we can help in all areas of the real estate industry. We appreciate all referrals and look forward to being of service.

The First Woman to Run for President of the U.S.

Victoria Woodhull was born Victoria California Claflin in Ohio on September 23, 1838. She was later described by Gilded Age newspapers as a leader of the American woman's suffrage movement in the 19th century. She became a colorful and notorious symbol for women's rights, free love, and labor reforms. Her role as a representative of these movements was powerful and controversial; however, she is probably most famous for her declaration to run for the United States Presidency in 1872.



While many historians and authors agree that Woodhull was the first woman to run for President of the United States, some people have questioned the legality of her run, usually citing one of the following reasons:

- ◆ The government declined to print her name on the ballot.
- ◆ She was under the constitutionally mandated age of 35.
- ◆ She did not receive any electoral and/or popular votes.
- ◆ She was a woman.

Woodhull attempted to secure nominations for the presidency again in 1884 and 1892. She had two children, published a magazine called *The Humanitarian* from 1892 to 1901, and died on June 9, 1927.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed AND Sold by “The Sister Team”

SOLD

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 260 | Fox Mills | \$ 245,000 | 4 bed, 2.5 bath | 1680 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 2856 | Iron Hills | \$ 290,000 | 3 bed, 1 bath | 1588 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 4390 | Linwood | \$ 279,000 | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1328 sq ft | 2-car garage & guest house |
| 2653 | Mangrove (sold in 2 weeks!) | \$ 200,000 | 2 bed, 2 bath | 1200 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 4333 | Maplewood | \$ 306,500 | 2 bed, 2 bath | 1780 sq ft | 2-car garage |

IN ESCROW

| | | | | | |
|------|------------|---|------------------|------------|--------------|
| 4639 | Brentwood | Sold prices posted in next “Activity Report” | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1400 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 334 | Cedarbrook | | 2 bed, 1 bath | 648 sq ft | no garage |
| 3908 | Larchwood | | 3 bed, 1 bath | 1614 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 4223 | Linwood | | 3 bed, 1 bath | 1368 sq ft | 1-car garage |
| 5395 | Riverside | | 2 bed, 1 bath | 936 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 5209 | Wroxton | | 2 bed, 1 bath | 870 sq ft | 2-car garage |

AVAILABLE

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 3573 | Beechwood | \$ 415,000 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 2323 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 3708 | Briscoe | \$ 224,900 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1200 sq ft | 2-car garage |
| 7175 | Golden Vale | \$1,599,000 | 4 bed, 3.50 bath | 5550 sq ft | 3-car garage & pool/spa |

ALL of the properties above were listed and/or sold by “The Sister Team.”

If you would like information on other properties (listed or sold) in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.

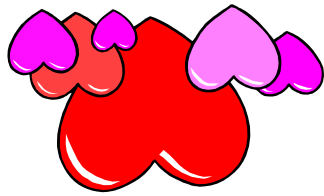
*we LIVE in the neighborhood, we WORK in the neighborhood,
we KNOW the neighborhood, we SELL the neighborhood*



\$1,599,000 7175 Golden Vale, Riverside -- Featuring dramatic interior living spaces, this palatial 5500 sq ft single-level contemporary Mediterranean estate is exceptionally suited to a social lifestyle yet also retains a casual elegance that makes it feel like “home”. Uncompromising quality is evident at every turn! This 4-bedroom, plus bonus room and library, 3.5-bath estate boasts a backyard which is rivaled only by Las Vegas’ Bellagio! Must see to believe! *Featured property on www.thesisterteam.com.*



\$224,900 3708 Briscoe -- 3 bedrooms, 1.75 baths, approx 1200 sq ft, new central air/heat, formal dining room, fireplace, fruit trees. Not a foreclosure or short sale — this “Wood Streets” home has been in same family since the 1920s.



Happy
Valentine's
Day!



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Place
Stamp
Here

Chit Chat

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

If you want any friends, coworkers, relatives or business acquaintances to receive a free subscription to this newsletter, please contact us and we'll put them on the mailing list immediately.

It is our desire to build a business based on strong and lasting relationships.