



My Crafty Valentine

MY CRAFTY VALENTINE

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Make a gift for your valentine!

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There's always something crafty going on!

Ahhh, February. The month of love. With budgets getting tighter this year why not avoid the mall and purchase from a local artist? If you missed our *Sunday, Crafty Sunday* Valentine's shopping event last weekend, or you want to take a stab at making something yourself 'cause you're crafty, then here are some websites we found that have fun how-to's for creating that special handmade gift.

Love to knit? Then knit this!

Knit up this beer cozy for your favorite beer snob! <http://www.chroniclebooks.com/Chronicle/excerpt/0811835332-e4.html>

How about a fun and rockin' heart necklace from Vickie Howell? Too cool.

<http://vickiehowell.blogspot.com/2008/01/love-rocks-free-pattern-of-month.html>

Is sewing your thing? Then stitch it!

Have an old concert t-shirt that needs a new life? Make it into a fun throw pillow? <http://www.allfreecrafts.com/sewing/tshirt-pillow.shtml>

Got cold floors? Warm 'em up with this fun rug pattern made by using old blue jeans. <http://www.allfreecrafts.com/sewing/denim-rug.shtml>

Like cross stitching?

A hound dog book mark is perfect for your "hunk 'a burnin' love"! <http://www.allfreecrafts.com/needlework/cross-stitch-bookmarks.shtml>

Why not add one of these vintage cross stitch patterns to your project! <http://www.allfreecrafts.com/needlework/priscilla-cross-stitch1.shtml>

Sweets for the sweet!

Forget flowers! Make this cookie bouquet! http://www.ehow.com/how_2194894_valentine-cookie-bouquets.html

Ever wonder how Valentine's Day is celebrated in Japan? Try these chocolate covered cherry daifuku! <http://theanimeblog.com/japanese-culture-links/chocolate-covered-cherry-daifuku/>

Shot through the heart! These bleeding heart cupcakes are to die for.

<http://www.yumsugar.com/1024600>

Like paper crafts? Don't forget to send a card!

This one is sure to please by combining a card with candy. Sweet! <http://zakkalife.blogspot.com/2009/01/clip-art-craft-valentine-card.html>

Need lots more? How about a herd of zebra cards? http://bunnycakes.typepad.com/bunny_cakes/2009/01/class-valentines.html

Happy Valentine's Day!

MA MANGIA

Make a King Cake For Mardis Gras!

King Cake -Traditional New Orleans Recipe
Ingredients

- 1/2 cup warm water (110 to 115 degrees)
- 2 packages active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup plus 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 1/2 - 4 1/2 cups flour unsifted
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest, this is lemon rind, grated
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 5 egg yolks
- 1 stick butter cut into slices and softened, plus 2 tablespoons more softened butter
- 1 egg slightly beaten with 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1" plastic baby doll

Directions Pour the warm water into a small shallow bowl, and sprinkle yeast and 2 teaspoons sugar into it. Allow the yeast and sugar to rest for three minutes then mix thoroughly. Set bowl in a warm place for ten minutes, or until yeast bubbles up and mixture almost doubles in volume. Combine 3 1/2 cups of flour, remaining sugar, nutmeg and salt, and sift into a large mixing bowl. Stir in lemon zest. Separate center of mixture to form a hole and pour in yeast mixture and milk. Add egg yolks and, using a wooden spoon, slowly combine dry ingredients into the yeast/milk mixture. When mixture is smooth, beat in 8 tablespoons butter (1 tablespoon at a time) and continue to beat 2 minutes, or until dough can be formed into a medium-soft ball.

Place ball of dough on a lightly floured surface and knead like bread. While kneading, sprinkle up to 1 cup more of flour (1 tablespoon at a time) over the dough. When dough is no longer sticky, knead 10 minutes more until shiny and elastic.

Using a pastry brush, coat the inside of a large bowl evenly with one tablespoon softened butter. Place dough ball in the bowl and rotate until the entire surface is buttered. Cover bowl with a moderately thick kitchen towel and place in a draft-free spot for about 1 1/2 hours, or until the dough doubles in volume. (Continued next page)

(Continued from page 1) Remove dough from bowl and place on lightly floured surface. Using your fist, punch dough down forcefully. Sprinkle cinnamon over the top, pat and shake dough into a cylinder. Twist dough to form a curled cylinder and loop cylinder onto the buttered baking sheet. Pinch the ends together to complete the circle. Cover dough with towel and set it in draft-free spot for 45 minutes, or until the circle of dough doubles in volume. Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees.

Brush top and sides of cake with egg wash and bake on middle rack of oven for 25 to 35 minutes until golden brown. Place cake on wire rack to cool. If desired, you can hide the plastic baby in the cake at this time.

Colored sugars

Green, purple, & yellow paste
12 tablespoons sugar

Squeeze a dot of green paste in palm of hand. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons sugar over the paste and rub together quickly. Place this mixture on wax paper and wash hands to remove color. Repeat process for other 2 colors. Place aside.

Icing

3 cups confectioners sugar
1/4 cup lemon juice
3 - 6 tablespoons water

Combine sugar, lemon juice and 3 tablespoons water until smooth. If icing is too stiff, add more water until spreadable. Spread icing over top of cake. Immediately sprinkle the colored sugars in individual rows consisting of about 2 rows of green, purple and yellow.



Photo: foodieoessed.com

Cake is served in 2" - 3" pieces.

Recipe from mardigrasday.com

MADAME CRAFTINA

LOVE IS IN THE AIR...& IN THE STARS!

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, love is definitely in the air. But make sure you are not wasting your time, passing by another holiday with someone you are clearly not compatible with. Here is a quick astrological guide to who you should be spending special time with, and who should romantically avoid.

Aquarius: You are most compatible with Aries and Cancers, and also communicate well with Libras, Leos and Pisces. If you find yourself questioning a love predicament with the other signs, use your intuition. You'll know the right move to make.

Pisces: For you Pisces, Taurus' and Virgos are right up your alley, yet Cancers, Aquarius' and Leos also catch your eye. When dealing with other signs, be sure to stand up for yourself; you deserve it.

Aries: You're most definitely most compatible with Aquarius; take note! But you also get along very well with your own kind, other Aries! Watch out for those you know you cannot really trust, it will save you drama in the future.

Taurus: Bulls have great relationships with Capricorns and with Pisces' and Virgos, Geminis and Cancers will make you feel valued and appreciated. Your wants and needs are best manifested by releasing them into the Universe and having patience.

Gemini: Geminis have the best lovers in other twins, Cancers and Aquarius'. Don't worry too much about the recent romantic debacles, just look forward to what's to come and be remember to be you.

Cancer: You crabs just love to love the Pisces' and Scorpios and though you get along with other crabs, your sensitivities combined may be overwhelming. Remember that more comes out of being cooperative than does from acting combative.

Leo: Aquarius', Cancers and Aries' get along best with lions. And even if you do happen to be presently single, you still may have a very eventful February 14th, just beware who you choose to confide in.

Virgo: Pisces' are a wonderful match for you as well as Taurus', Cancers, and Aquarians. Watch out for relationships with Geminis, Capricorns, and other **Virgos**. You may run into some difficulties.

Libra: Compatible signs of the Libra include other Libras, Aquarius', Geminis and Leos. Your relationships flourish with plenty of attention and time invested. And don't forget to listen carefully and speak thoughtfully. It will pay off.

Scorpio: You scorpions just fall right in love, especially with Taurus' and Pisces'. Be very cautious and patient in regards to matters of the heart and avoid impulsive actions that you may regret later.

Sagittarius: Sags are most compatible with Aquarians and are likely to kindle and/or rekindle relationships with Libras, Leos, Cancers and Pisces'. Let go of false hopes and empty promises to make room for what the New Year has in store for you.

Capricorn: Goats are their best with Taurus' and Cancers. Watch out for people who not

CRAFTY BLACK BOOK:

CRAFTY CONSPIRACY

Consider yourself crafty or want to learn to be? Join the NPCM at **Filter Coffee House** on **Tuesday, February 24th from 7 to 9 PM** for a night of crafty fun! Bring your own project to work on meet other crafty folks! Be sure to try some of the wonderful coffee and yummy treats they serve at Filter. I hear they'll soon be serving beer & wine too!

SHATTERED HEARTS: AN ANTI-VALENTINE'S SKATE WITH THE GIRLS FROM SAN DIEGO ROLLER DERBY!

That's right! The SDRD is hosting a pre- Anti-Valentine's Day event on **Tuesday, February 10th at Skateworld in Linda Vista**. Put on some skates and get out there on the floor with the girls from the SDRD. They'll be selling baked goods and other hand crafted items at their fundraising booth. The fun starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 and skate rental is \$4. Don't miss it! **Visit: sandiegorollerderby.blogspot.com for more info.**

WHO IS KEEPING SAN DIEGO CRAFTY?

Teresa Salazar of *Velvet Klaw*
www.velvetklaw.com

Svea Komori-Ang of *Belle Pepper Couture*
www.bellepeppercouture.com

Penni Hawkins of *p-starr products*
www.p-starr.com

Amy Smock of *Designs de Luna*
www.designsdeluna.com

Meagan Rae Longtin of *Meagan Rae Designs*
www.meaganraedesigns.com

Karen Jorgenson of *Altered Provisions*
www.alteredprovisions.com

THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 2007 AND IS DEDICATED TO CRAFTING, FASHIONING, STYLING AND CREATING THEIR SAN DIEGO.