

Would you say that February is the month most Americans relate to the word love? One might make that case since Valentine's Day on February 14th certainly focuses marketing and advertising dollars on love. Companies/stores selling flowers, cards and chocolates are most happy for this holiday to come around each year.

For history and trivia buffs, [here](#): are a couple of Valentine's Day facts according to history.com:

- Chaucer may have "invented" Valentine's Day with one of his poems (hmm...did I happen to mention the newly-invented "take-a-Steve to breakfast" holiday that happens in March? :-)
- This date could be celebrated multiple times a year depending on which St. Valentine you choose to honor (there are about a dozen St. Valentines!)

Of course, societally we hope that it doesn't take this holiday to remember to express our love. With last month's column's "life is short" message and the idea of making memories in mind, let's catch one another doing loving activities. If you have pictures and/or descriptions of catching others sharing love, could you send them to me here: longmemories2@gmail.com ? Maybe a few of these will find their way into an upcoming column?

Speaking of love, don't you just LOVE the hometown feel you get from your Community Press newspaper? Many of us need these local newspapers to remind us of the many good things all around us. The February 3rd edition struck me this way more than any previous copy. That version included: the local library being heralded in a collaborative fashion by three Community Press writers, activities with our public high schools, safety for our school children, people recognized for promotions, notes about why people love the library, Rita's 'language of love' article, Barbara's nice letter to the editor about a local eating establishment, etc.. We need to share this good news with so many in our community. While all of the editions cannot be this good, that perfection isn't required for love, is it? :-)

Love is _____. We can fill in the blank with many responses including "never having to say you're sorry" (Love Story paraphrase), "patient and kind" (I Corinthians 13 paraphrase) and "asking and then listening" (memory missionary paraphrase.) Finding the answers to "tell me about yourself" questions can truly be an act of love with family and friends alike. In the Binder of a Lifetime (BinderOfALifetime.com), the "About Me" section can foster the loving relationships that we cherish. "Grampa, please tell me about your parents." "Mom, what was your favorite meal when you were growing up?" "Sis, do you remember the day that dad burst out in laughter and couldn't stop?" "What TV show episode made you laugh hysterically?" Asking these questions and then listening is an easy gift of love, that when recorded can be a lifetime treasure.

So, let's keep spreading the love...you know how!

Enjoy the day...and the memories!

Steve Long, an Anderson Township resident, is an "aspiring memory missionary." He and wife Kim are having fun with Long Memories efforts (www.LongMemories.info), focusing on helping others in "Making, Capturing, Organizing and Sharing Memories...Now and (Virtually) Forever!"