

# THE VOICE

Grain Valley Historical Society

## Valentine's Day, 2021

Last week I was really struggling with a topic for this issue of *The Voice*. I've been writing this newsletter for nearly four years. This is issue number 47. I went to my file of past issues and Valentine's Day was pretty much covered in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

So what is different in 2021? **Everything**. In case you hadn't noticed, we are in a midst of a pandemic! How does one celebrate in a pandemic?

Then I thought about history. How does one celebrate "love" in the middle of a Civil War? Spanish War? World War? How does one celebrate in the midst of a depression? How does one celebrate when you are a poor college student? How does one celebrate when you've just lost your job? Sorry, I didn't mean to be so negative.

Valentine's Day is a day for love, not just the romantic love, but love of family, friends, and yes, even special treats for kitty cats and puppy dogs.

So in the middle of a pandemic maybe it's time to get creative. Remember in elementary school when we all made Valentine Boxes? What did you use? While shoe boxes seemed to be the most popular, shirt boxes also served the purpose. If you were a real optimist, you might use a hat box although I doubt it was filled with cards. Red and white crepe paper, paper doilies, and Valentine cards were the preferred decoration in my day. One year, my mom bought us glitter. With a little Elmer's Glue, I remember writing "Love" on my shoe box and drawing hearts and arrows to cover with the sparkling silver glitter. **Maybe this year you can make a Valentine Box with or for someone special!**

Can't go out for dinner? Fix a special meal for your sweetheart, family or friends. We always had dinner at home, but somehow my mother made it special. Usually it included angel food cake with red flowers, hearts and writing. (really it was pink because in those days you could not make red with the food coloring available). **Maybe this year you can make a Valentine Dinner (or order out) to share with your family or someone special.**

As for dessert, I highly recommend strawberry brownies or maybe some sugar cookies with hearts and flowers! If you have children or grandchildren around, make Valentine's Day special and bake with them. They will remember the baking much longer than the \$10 or \$20 you give them to spend on something they won't remember next year.



## Notes from the Historical Society

Last year was definitely one for the history books. Thanks to many of you, we have attempted to record the pandemic for future generations. We probably won't archive the toilet paper, however, we are keeping newspaper articles that headlined some of the big news about the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, we've added photographs, a mask, and some posters to our collection.

**It's not too late for you to donate items to our collection. We would welcome anything you would wish to donate that would help us tell the story of 2020 to future generations.**

## New Chairs

In January we were able to purchase 36 new padded folding chairs to match the new tables we bought in August. The grey chairs with black and white cushions are not only attractive, but along with the new light-weight tables, they make our facility more desirable to potential renter for special events.

Did your teacher let you help to decorate your classroom for Valentine’s Day? How did you decorate. I remember one year, about 3rd grade, we all made lacy paper hearts. We first cut out the hearts and then we folded them; first in half, then quarters, then eighths and finally we cut them with scissors, like a snowflake. I’m not sure what the boys in my class thought, but we girls thought they were beautiful. Another year, we cut hearts from many colors of construction paper and we were told to write something nice on them. We hung our “conversation” hearts on the bulletin board and on Valentine’s Day we could take them home for our parents. **Maybe this year you can make some hearts to share with a family member or a friend.**

In addition to conversation hearts, chocolates are always a big hit on Valentine’s Day. My dad wasn’t much on flowers or cards, but he always brought my mother a heart-shaped box of Russell Stover’s chocolates on Valentine’s Day. Fortunately, she shared! If flowers aren’t your thing and you can’t get out to buy chocolates (or even if you can) **maybe this year you can make some candy to share with a family member or friend.**

I hope this has made you remember how you and your family celebrated Valentine’s Day over the years. And even if you cannot go out to dinner and a movie, or take your daughter to the Father/Daughter Dance at the community center, **I hope this year you can**

### Strawberry Brownies

My “new favorite” Valentine’s Day Dessert

**Maybe this year you can make some for the special people you love!**

**FOR THE BROWNIES:** - - or use your favorite brownie mix

- Heat oven to 350-degrees F, and spray a 13 x 9-inch baking pan with nonstick spray.
- In a small bowl, whisk together 1 cup flour and 1/2 tsp. Kosher salt.
- In a large bowl, cream together 1/2 cup softened, salted butter and 1 cup sugar. Add 4 eggs, one at a time. Beat well after each addition. Add 1-16 oz can chocolate syrup and 1 tsp. vanilla—beat well. Sprinkle the flour/salt mixture over the chocolate mixture and mix just until no dry flour remains.
- Pour into prepared pan and bake 30 minutes. (the top will appear wet. )Transfer brownies to wire rack and cool completely.

**FOR THE STRAWBERRY FILLING:**

- Cream together 1/2 cup softened, salted butter and 1 cup powdered sugar. Beat until smooth. Add 1/4 cup strawberry jam or jelly and cream together until well blended.
- Spread over the cooled brownies. Cover and refrigerator until well set

**FOR THE TOPPING:**

- Melt 1-10 ounce package semi-sweet chocolate chips and 1/2 cup plus 1 tbsp butter together. Stir till well blended.
- Cool chocolate 30 minutes, spread over the strawberry layer.

Keep bars refrigerated in an airtight container up to 1 week. **ENJOY!**



### Building for Rent

**The Historical Society is available for rent at reasonable rates - -**

The half-day rate is \$75 and a full-day rental is only \$100

A great location for birthdays, bridal or baby showers, graduation parties and more!

**For additional information call: (816) 867-5158 or (816) 392-4873**

### Mark your calendar

**March 25, 2021**

**Our Next Meeting**

**Grain Valley Historical Society**



### Visit our website

[www.grainvalleyhistory.com](http://www.grainvalleyhistory.com)

For information on museum hours, meetings, special events and building rental, check out our website. The website is provided and maintained courtesy of the

### Valley News

*Grain Valley’s Community Newspaper*