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LOVE STINKS

Alternatives to Valentine's Day in New Jersey and beyond

Tammy Paolino
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

There are candy hearts that say "Be Mine" and "XXXO," but there are also candy hearts that say "Kiss Off," "No Way" and "Love stinks."

Whenever you land this year on the totally underrated holiday sugar candy index, we have the perfect event for you if you aren't feeling the love, but don't want to ignore Valentine's season (and yes, it's a season).

If 2020 was the year you kept swiping left, we've got some fun ways to mock the holiday while still having a good time. (Before you head out the door, consider the virtues of this "Tacos Are My Valentine" T-shirt.)

If you have big saucy plans with your sweetie, but also want to share some fun, grumble moments with your besties, we've got cool ways to do that, too.

Kidlos in tow? No problem! We've unearthed some sweet ways for the whole family to celebrate the season of love and, well, candy hearts. Just keep the four-letter words ones away from the kids.

Kx still bugs you?

Did your last love crawl out from under a rock? Name a critter after him/her/them.

The Bronx Zoo's annual Name A Roach program will charge you just \$15 to "name" one of its 50,000 giant Madagascar hissing cockroaches and present your former love with a certificate.

What's that? Your current significant other LIKES cockroaches. Well, you two crazy kids can stay after hours at the zoo and enjoy wine and chocolate and bond with your newly named friend for a bunch of roaches that look like him), while learning about the laws of attraction in the animal kingdom.

Want to take the messaging a step further? You can spring for a full roach package, which for \$55 also includes roach socks and roach cards.

(Not a strong enough message? The El Paso Zoo does the same sort of thing, only the cockroach gets served to a Meerkat.)
Go: 2300 Southern Blvd., The Bronx, bronx000.com/roach

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Wyckoff couple invent cart for wine-lovers

Rebecca King
North Jersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

"The simplest inventions are always the best."

That's what the patent attorney told Iolite Santolli of Wyckoff when they patented their Wine & Cheer Cart.

The shopping cart is designed with 16

metal rings for holding wine and liquor bottles that fold out from the top section of the cart. The rings hold 10 traditional wine bottles, four magnum bottles and two handles (a bottle that holds 1.75 liters of liquor).

The Santolli's created it to keep glass around a liquor store.

Charlotte, a stay-at-home mom who raised two daughters, thought of the

idea while she and Thomas, a life insurance broker, were shopping at a Bottle in Glen Ridge.

My wife said that they should invent a cart so the bottles don't tip over," said Thomas. "It was a light bulb moment."

Thomas loaded up his computer and spent hours searching for carts with wine brackets. None existed, he said.

"So we did what everyone does when they have a good idea," he said. "We did

nothing for six months."

Eventually, they got serious, made mock models, got the cart patented and put a few models into liquor stores in a chain called Big Red Liquors that Thomas thought would be ideal for market research for free so they could collect data on the cart's usefulness.

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