

# STUDIO CITY

FEBRUARY 2021

## South



Meet the Damus Family



# STUDIO CITY MARKET UPDATE

HOMES IN STUDIO CITY – SOUTH OF VENTURA BLVD.

## RECENT NEW LISTINGS AND SALES

ADDRESS	HOME SF	LOT SF	BUILT	BED	BATH	LIST PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	\$/SF	DAYS
3838 Carpenter Ave.	2,019	5,377	1968	3	2	\$ 1,649,000		\$ 817	
3640 Wrightwood Dr.	2,196	9,588	1953	3	2.5	\$ 1,495,000		\$ 681	
11354 Sunshine Terr.	2,861	5,105	1976	4	6	\$ 1,785,000		\$ 624	
3631 Sunswep Dr.	2,184	18,679	2014	4	4	\$ 1,599,000		\$ 732	
11428 Dona Teresa Dr.	3,466	13,580	1961	4	4	\$ 2,795,000		\$ 806	
3240 Fryman Rd	7,400	43,642	1941	4	5.5	\$ 9,300,000		\$ 1,257	
12060 Laurel Terrace Dr.	1,980	5,999	1940	3	2	\$ 1,490,000		\$ 753	
3060 Dona Susana Dr.	3,153	11,690	1964	3	3	\$ 2,599,000		\$ 824	
3738 Laurel Canyon Blvd.	4,980	30,845	1941	3	4	\$ 3,495,000		\$ 702	
13027 Blairwood Dr.	4,996	25,090	1950	4	5	\$ 4,749,000		\$ 951	
3268 Berry Dr.	1,735	10,078	1964	4	2	\$ 1,524,000	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 1,014	11
13015 Greenleaf St.	1,637	9,393	1941	2	2	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,410,000	\$ 861	158
11319 Dona Pegita Dr.	4,227	17,993	1964	5	3.5	\$ 2,995,000	\$ 3,095,000	\$ 732	10
3700 Goodland Ave.	1,880	12,676	1950	3	2	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 878	10
11324 Sunshine Terr.	1,161	6,956	1937	2	2	\$ 1,149,500	\$ 1,065,000	\$ 917	41
3923 Carpenter Ct.	4,900	9,000	2015	5	6	\$ 3,749,000	\$ 3,675,000	\$ 750	48
3272 Wrightwood Dr.	2,135	5,780	1962	3	3	\$ 1,675,000	\$ 2,069,420	\$ 969	6
3625 Goodland Ave.	1,714	11,277	1955	2	2	\$ 999,000	\$ 1,035,000	\$ 604	19
3065 Dona Susana Dr.	3,253	10,453	1964	3	3.5	\$ 2,395,000	\$ 2,460,000	\$ 756	12
3288 Wrightwood Dr.	1,983	5,354	1962	3	2.5	\$ 1,595,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 794	5

For a complimentary market valuation of your Studio City home call Susanna today

Properties were listed and/or sold by a variety of brokers. Listing information from multiple sources deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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# STUDIO CITY

South

FEBRUARY 2021

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## CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

Content Due:	Edition Date:
January 20	March 2021
February 20	April 2021
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June 20	August 2021
July 20	September 2021
August 20	October 2021
September 20	November 2021
October 20	December 2021
November 20	January 2022
December 20	February 2022

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## DEAR READERS,

We've usually have a lot on our mind during the month of February, from Valentine's Day to the President's Day holiday weekends to the Super Bowl, college basketball and "Awards Season" (particularly The Grammys and The Academy Awards). Under normal circumstances, love truly is in the air in February, whether its romantic love, love of country, love of sports or our for the year's best entertainment. February 2021, however, will be a little quieter and more introspective this year, allowing us to shift our paradigms on deeper, more meaningful definitions of love.

On our cover, David Damus talks to us about his growing up in Studio City and what he did to enable his daughters to experience the kind of a childhood he recalls with great affection. Elsewhere in the issue, other stories cover both the things you can do for those you love and fun seasonal activities you'll love trying out.

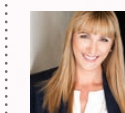
We hope all of this will inspire you to keep loving life, even with all the unexpected curves the world may throw at you.



*Elyse Glickman*  
Elyse Glickman | Content Coordinator

HAPPY  
*Valentine's Day*

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## All "Systems" Are Go!

# Meet the Damus Family

By Elyse Glickman | Photos by Paula Marshall Nucci

While many families gravitate to Studio City and the East San Fernando Valley for the family-friendly atmosphere, the green spaces and the schools, David Damus, CEO & Chairman of the Board of System Property Development, Inc., can speak from personal experience about the benefits of both growing up and, later, raising a family in this corner of Los Angeles.

"I attended Campbell Hall in Studio City from Kindergarten to 8th Grade, and attended Notre Dame High School in nearby Sherman Oaks," he affirms. Today, the 1993 graduate volunteers his time on the Board of Directors for Campbell Hall as well as Notre Dame High School, where his 16 year-old twin daughters, Madison and Makenzie, are enrolled. "It is important to me to give back to the community that helped me so much in my life, and this tradition continues on through them."

The proud USC alumnus (he earned his MBA and his undergraduate degree in political science) and graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, heads the Board of Directors and strategic direction of the National Parking Association, North America's leading organization for parking owners and operators. In this position, he blends his experience as an attorney, asset owner and parking operator.

His company possesses an expansive national commercial real estate portfolio from New York to California including office and parking properties. They have recently completed several billion dollars in real estate transactions along with industry-related mergers and acquisitions.

"After law school, I worked for a New York law firm, Chadbourne & Parke, but knew all along I wanted to return to the East Valley, the place I really think of as home," David explains. "Once I reestablished my roots here, I decided to teach and start my own law practice. I taught at Notre Dame High School, my alma-mater, for three years teaching U.S. History and Debate as the school's Director of Forensics. After that, I went on to teach at USC in the Annenberg School for Communications and served as their Director of Forensics for 12 years while working full time as General Counsel of System Property and System Parking. As System Property celebrates our 100th year in Los Angeles, a rare accomplishment for any company, I am proud to be ushering it into its next century.

David and wife Edie, whom he affectionally refers to as "the love of my life," married on January 15, 2000 after a courtship that began at 30,000 feet with a round-trip flight from Los Angeles to Detroit.

"We started dating after we landed in Los Angeles and never looked back," David continues. "We also knew we wanted to make the East San Fernando Valley our family's home, as it has always been home for me. I wanted our daughters to have the same kind of education and experience I had growing up. For these reasons, and more in my business and personal life, I have expanded my roots here because it is a great place to work. The extended community offers everything a parent would want for his or her family."







After the twins were born, David committed himself to focusing more on his family and career. After a five-year run as the Chief Executive Officer of the L&R Group of Companies, he returned to System Property as the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer, where he's been since 2010. Once he ascended to be one of the company leaders, he relocated the corporate headquarters to Sherman Oaks in 2018 in the East San Fernando Valley to provide what he describes as, "all the amenities that employees expect from a great quality of life allowing them to work and play hard."

David finds time to dedicate himself to the role of Chairman of the Board of the National Parking Association, North America's leading industry authority on mobility and parking. Outside of the office, he volunteers to judge debate tournaments at the high school speech and debate tournaments when his daughters compete, putting the same energy and passion he put into his role coaching the Trojan Debate Squad at USC.

"It was a privilege to lead the finest undergraduate and graduate students to compete at the highest level of intercollegiate debate," David says. As the 'Head Trojan' from 1993 to 2007, the squad qualified 26 teams to the National Debate Tournament.

"The most rewarding aspect of this role was producing great graduates who went on to become leaders in business, law, education and their communities throughout the country. I was honored to be a part of a special program which continues with a rich tradition of excellence, and I am applying all of these values and skills to give my daughters a great head start in life through their activities beyond the classroom."

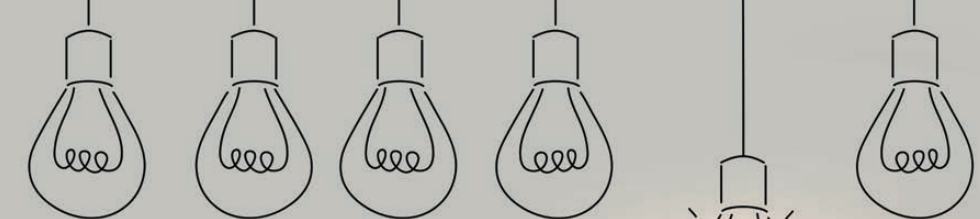
Madison is very active in high school speech and debate and drama studies at Campbell Hall, while Makenzie keeps busy with equestrian competitions. David and Edie beam with pride because the girls are now competing on the national level in their many endeavors, and this extends to supporting their classmates in their involvement with the Campbell Hall and Notre Dame High School communities.

Although all of the Damus family members are engaged and busy, they have always managed to find time for fun and adventure. "I am an avid golfer and love all college sports. Our entire family avidly follows the Lakers, Dodgers and Rams," details David. "As a family, we love to travel and see the world, and have been to South America, Europe, Central America and Asia on vacations. When the world is a safer place, we hope to move forward with a dream journey to Africa for a safari which was cancelled due to the pandemic, and in time, hit every continent. However, we are also grateful to live here in the hills, with its prime views of the sunsets. Beyond our group, we have a horse named Aragorn, a dog named Snowey, two turtles and a hamster to keep things interesting."

**AARON HAN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
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# WHAT IS YOUR WORKING GENIUS?



By Patrick Lencioni, founder and president, The Table Group

When it comes to work, we all have gifts. Natural, God-given talents that give us energy and allow us to contribute to the success of organizations and teams. We are meant to use those gifts, and it is frustrating, sometimes tragic, when we can't. Of course, if we don't know what our gifts are, we can't be sure that we are using them.

Now, in addition to our gifts, we all have limitations—natural areas of deficiency that drain us of our energy and frustrate our ability to contribute to work. Though we can't always avoid those areas, we are meant to minimize the time we have to spend on those tasks, though again, if we don't know what those deficiencies are, we can't minimize them.

The Six Types of Working Genius is a model and an assessment tool that allows anyone—CEOs, schoolteachers, factory supervisors, college students—to identify their gifts and limitations so they can maximize their satisfaction and success in any kind of work they do. In thirty minutes, someone can radically alter their day-to-day job fulfillment or even their career direction.

What a difference that can make in a person's life.

As it turns out, those six types of genius—Wonder, Invention, Discernment, Galvanizing, Enablement and Tenacity—make up the six required activities for any work endeavor.

Whether you're engaged in running a company, a department, a project, or even a family, all six are necessary ingredients for success. No one person can possibly embody them all, which is why teamwork is so important.

Among those six types, everyone has two that we call areas of genius, where we get our joy and energy and have natural ability. We have two that we call areas of frustration, where we get drained of joy and energy and have little natural ability. Then there are two in the middle, areas where we might have some ability, but that are not a source of energy and satisfaction.

Imagine if every company, every organization, every team knew the areas of genius, competency and frustration of their people and organized them for success. Imagine if every parent knew those areas of genius for their spouse and children. It's not an exaggeration to say that there would be more joy and less misery in society. But that has to happen one person at a time and that person might as well be you. What are your areas of genius?



## The Genius of Wonder (W)

The natural gift of pondering the possibility of greater potential and opportunity in a given situation.

## The Genius of Invention (I)

The natural gift of creating original and novel ideas and solutions.

## The Genius of Discernment (D)

The natural gift of intuitively and instinctively evaluating ideas and situations.

## The Genius of Galvanizing (G)

The natural gift of rallying, inspiring and organizing others to take action.

## The Genius of Enablement (E)

The natural gift of providing encouragement and assistance for an idea or project.

## The Genius of Tenacity (T)

The natural gift of pushing projects or tasks to completion to achieve results.

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*Patrick Lencioni was named in Fortune magazine as one of the "ten new gurus you should know." His passion for organizations and teams is reflected in his writing, speaking and executive consulting. He is the author of eleven best-selling books.*



# February

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

*Publisher's Note: At the time this magazine went to print, all live event times and virtual site content "events" were accurate. However, we recommend checking listed websites for the most current information. Some in-person events may have been postponed or canceled.*

### Thru February 28 BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVITIES

@The City of Santa Monica  
The City of Santa Monica's Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and its Black History Month Committee offer a fascinating and enlightening roster of special online events to highlight the history, diversity and achievements of the local Black community and the Black community nationwide. The events fall under the theme of "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity," and include discussions by community members about their family histories and contributions to the city, reflections by current and/or former residents on memories of Historic Belmar Park and the Belmar History + Arts Project commemorating its history, and a community conversation about the novel "Saving Ruby King," which explores trauma, friendships and secrets that intertwine families for generations.  
Cost: free • santamonica.gov/blog/blackhistorymonth2021

### Thru March 7, 2021 'STRANGER THINGS' DRIVE-INTO EXPERIENCE

@ROW DTLA, 777 Alameda St, Downtown LA  
If you're anxiously awaiting "Stranger Things 4," get your fix now with this themed experience which brings the series to life through an hourlong journey transporting visitors to the 1980s world of Hawkins and the Starcourt Mall from the safety of your car. Hatched by the UK's Secret Cinema, the experience will take groups of 24 cars at a time with the help of with actors in costume and special effects through a totally awesome spin through the tunes, mullets and monster hunts of the era. Sets include the Starcourt Mall, Russian labs and the Upside Down, with stop for extended periods of time at each site to see different scenes play out. Time: Wed, Thur + Sun, 6-9:45 pm; Fri + Sat, 6pm-10:45 pm • Cost: General, \$69-114; VIP, \$114-234, based on number of passengers per car • feverup.com

### Thru April 21, 2021\* BECOMING JANE: THE EVOLUTION OF JANE GOODALL

@Natural History Museum at USC, Downtown Los Angeles  
This West Coast debut of this wild exhibition traces the career of legendary scientist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, from her early years in Africa studying chimpanzees to her current role as an activist and advocate. The exhibition includes info about chimps, a replica of Dr. Goodall's research tent and a hologram-like projection of her. \*Check website for updates on times and ticket prices • nhm.org/becoming-jane

### Thru May 14, 2021 SOUND/STAGE: VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

@laphil.com/campaigns/soundstage  
If you are missing the excitement and artistry of Hollywood Bowl concerts, take heart! You can go back to the "Bowl" virtually through this new video series from the LA Phil. SOUND/STAGE features nine performances filmed at the temporarily shuttered

Bowl, as well as some additional footage from the nearby Ford Theater. Performers and artists include Andra Day, Kamasi Washington and Chicano Batman as well as orchestral suites conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. Each performance is paired with essays, interviews and playlists from the likes of Alejandro G. Inárritu, Pico Iyer, Herbie Hancock, Rian Johnson, Gabriela Ortiz and Alicia Vera, among others. though donations are encouraged)  
Cost: free (though donations are encouraged)

### ONGOING THE STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

@2052 Ventura Pl, Studio City  
There are plenty of wonderful holiday gifts and conversation-inspiring holiday season treats and original specialty foods to be found among the freshest fruits, vegetables, herbs and condiments anywhere in L.A. Be sure to visit the website regularly for information on safety precautions, holiday promotions, new vendor news, recipes and more. Time: 8am-1 pm • Cost: free  
studiocityfarmersmarket.com

### HIKING TRAILS & WEEKLY SKY REPORT

@Griffith Observatory, Griffith Park  
While the physical building containing Southern California's gateway to the cosmos is closed for now, you can check out stratospheric events and natural phenomena on the website. During the day, the Observatory's Earthbound outdoor attractions are open—trails, hiking and spectacular views of Los Angeles and the "Hollywood" Sign—with use of masks and social distancing.  
Cost: free • griffithobservatory.org

### THE LOS ANGELES ZOO

@5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles  
The Los Angeles Zoo is open, and while live talks, indoor attractions and performances are closed, many of the outdoor sections of the zoo are open for your enjoyment. To ensure the health and safety of its guests, staff and animals, social distancing rules, face mask requirements and hand sanitizer stations will be in place. The number of guests will be capped, reservations will be required and entry times will be assigned after tickets are purchased online. However, mild temperatures and minimal crowds will make zoo strolls a pleasure, and guests will be allowed to stay through the 5pm close time. Visit the site for further instructions on making a family day at the zoo safe and fun. Time: 10am-5pm Cost: Adults, \$22; Seniors, \$19; Kids 2-12, \$17; Infants, free • lazoo.org/reopening

### ONLINE ADVENTURE GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE

@artsandculture.google.com  
Bring exhibitions from Los Angeles' best museums (FIDM Museum & Galleries, Museum of African American Art, Annenberg Space for Photography) and destination museums from around the U.S. and the world into your home with this vibrant, interactive and constantly changing site that offers something for every type of art lover, from dedicated spectators to those wanting a more hands-on experience. • Cost: free  
artsandculture.google.com

### MAKE ART AT HOME WITH LACMA EDUCATORS

@Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
Color, cut and create with LACMA's amazing educators and lectures on-demand. From painting to sculpture and collage, the museum offers numerous hands-on activities and educational resources for creative kids of all ages, including special ones

for the holiday. The site also offers K-12 curricular resources following California State Content Standards that foster kids' and teens' creativity, inspire personal growth and enhance classroom learning. Cost: free • lacma.org/athome/learn

### KIDS' PATH AT THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

@The Los Angeles Public Library Website  
All the branches of the city library may be closed, but your kids' library card is a key that can open many of its resources, learning activities, games and gateways to their favorite websites from film, television and their own classrooms—and right on time for "back to school." The Studio City branch has an archive of its "Children Chatting" podcast series, featuring local kids chatting with some of the most popular authors of children's literature.  
Cost: free • lapl.org/kids/fun; lapl.org/kids/fun/children-chatting

### THE BROAD FROM HOME

@thebroad.org  
With the magic of film, technology and a website, it's easier than ever to explore highlights from Los Angeles' hottest contemporary art museum. Light and Space, a film by Brazilian-born, L.A.-based visual artist Clarissa Tossin, is a tour of The Broad's iconic architecture, built in celebration of The Broad's 5th Anniversary. L.A. Intersections: Music, Language, Movement is a multi-part video series celebrating a diverse, vibrant array of Los Angeles-based musicians, poets, and dancers performing in the distinct physical spaces of the museum. Families can see and recreate works of featured artists in The Broad's ever-changing offering of art tutorials, released monthly on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Each video shows step-by-step instructions on creating a modern masterpiece, using materials found in your home.  
Cost: free • thebroad.org/broadfromhome

### EXPLORE CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORY

@California State Capitol Museum  
At the State Capitol, the past, present and future of California interact with equal force. The building serves as both a museum and the state's working seat of government. Visitors to the Capitol can experience California's rich history and witness the making of history through the modern lawmaking process. Several virtual tours available, covering the "Kid Zone," architecture, capitol history, garden tours and historic rooms. Portions of popular past exhibits, including Building a Legacy: 150 Years of the California State Capitol, The Road Ahead: The Automobile's Impact on California and others are accessible at the click of a mouse.  
Cost: free • capitolmuseum.ca.gov

### HEAD WEST WITH THE AUTRY ONLINE

@The Autry Museum of the American West, Griffith Park, Los Angeles  
The Autry's doors may be temporarily closed to the public, but that's not going to stop this dynamic institution from bringing all the stories of the American West to you. The online portal features links to Collection Spotlights, videos, educational resources (handy for your kids' "California Studies" curriculum) and its new "Is This a Western?" series.  
Cost: free • theautry.org/AutryOnline

### LIVE STREAMING YOGA CLASSES + VIDEOS

@Yoga With Adriene  
If you have never tried yoga or want to jump start your 2021 health and fitness New Year's resolution, visit this award-winning site designed by instructor Adriene Mishler. The site provides information about access to her YouTube channel as well as 35+ hours of videos, including some especially for kids, expectant moms and seniors.  
Cost: free • yogawithadriene.com



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# YOGA: LET'S FIT IT IN!

By Nancy Wadsworth, Registered Yoga Teacher  
Illustrations by M. Umar Shahzad

It's February and I can finally relax as I quietly tuck away those New Year's resolutions that January had me chasing. During January, I commit, throw my energy into making time for the new workout, self care and projects I want to finish or start. I am actually a person who does finish projects, so those are easy and completely in my comfort zone. However, how am I going to make more time for a new workout, and what actually defines "self care"? That said, I find myself feeling a bit better about myself in February as I, along with others, have quietly tucked the seemingly unreachable resolutions away to be revisited next year. While I give the resolution thing the old college try in January, when February rolls around, reality comes in for a landing.

I have been teaching yoga for more than 20 years, and one of the best things it has given me is the knowledge that yoga can be done for one minute here, there and everywhere throughout the day. The beauty of it is that you can easily sneak yoga into your day! It may not be a full-blown resolution, but it's definitely something I can fit in all day long without making time, changing my clothes, setting out my mat and asking for quiet in the house.

My favorite one-minute yoga pose is "downward facing dog" (adho mukha svanasana). It is so magical in that it can be done

anywhere! In my kitchen, I use the counter or table to place my hands, step back enough to feel a long spine and after a few deep breaths I truly feel better.

Sometimes the shoulders or legs are feeling tight so bent knees are fine. Keep in mind that locked knees are NOT fine – have active legs with a slight micro bend in the knees or bend them as needed to lengthen the spine (please see photos). There's always a way (and place) to do yoga (my actual motto)!

My kitchen is sunny and bright so it often doubles as my office thanks to the convenience of laptops. So let's move downward facing dog into your office. Your desk, back of your chair and even the wall can give you a quick down dog pick-me-up. No available wall space? Close your door and use the closed door to do this pose. Add a few deep full breaths and you're good to go!

Try the down dog, bend the knees if necessary, take a few deep breaths, and you will feel reenergized. There are many one-minute yoga poses. Simple poses, done correctly during your day and done anywhere can help you feel better and clear your mind.

*Nancy Wadsworth, RYT 500 is the author of "Yoga What? Basic Understandable Yoga Alignment," a yoga instructor, actor and small business owner.*



## Valentine's Word search

By Felicia Romano

Y	R	E	R	I	M	D	A	T	E	R	C	E	S
A	O	G	F	E	L	I	S	B	C	V	A	C	W
D	M	D	H	S	I	R	E	H	C	I	U	O	E
S	A	K	F	E	X	W	O	E	H	Y	L	R	E
E	N	L	P	V	D	C	V	B	L	R	E	V	T
N	C	D	L	O	O	R	C	F	R	L	A	C	H
I	E	M	W	L	V	A	F	B	E	M	I	N	E
T	O	N	A	C	C	E	S	S	G	E	W	Q	A
N	D	T	N	E	M	R	A	E	D	N	E	O	R
E	E	F	Q	N	M	O	P	L	A	S	R	F	T
L	J	K	C	D	R	T	P	O	R	F	T	Y	P
A	F	L	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	D	A	A	T
V	N	B	A	V	R	T	J	U	I	E	W	Q	P

**WORDS:**  
VALENTINE'S DAY  
ADORATION  
BE MINE  
CHOCOLATE  
CHERISH  
SECRET ADMIRER  
SWEETHEART  
ENDEARMENT  
ROMANCE  
LOVE

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# DOUBLE CHOCOLATE *Mint Chip* COOKIES

By Madison Farkas



A holiday tradition in my family for as long as I can remember, these cookies are perfect for dipping in milk. You can substitute different chip flavors if you want, but I think these are by far the best.

## Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 2/3 cup cocoa powder
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups mint chocolate chips

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla until light and fluffy.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add to wet ingredients and mix until not quite combined, with a few streaks of flour remaining.
4. Stir in chocolate chips.
5. Place approximately 2 Tbsp. of dough per cookie on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool slightly, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

## Valentine's Day Activities *for All Ages*

By Chelsea Scott

Historically, Valentine's Day has been geared toward adults. Greeting cards, chocolate assortments, and weekend romantic getaways at inclusive resorts all tend to be marketed toward adult couples. But what about the kids? How can they take part? Or parents and grandparents? Keep reading for ways to celebrate heart day with everyone in your circle of family and friends.

### Young Children

Incorporating the kids into your Valentine's Day plans is both easy and fun. Beyond crafting homemade cards for friends and family, what about spending a few hours paying it forward? Take the kids in your life on a walk to pick up litter, check on your elderly neighbor (maybe bearing some freshly baked chocolate chip cookies!) or simply hold the door for the person behind you. Small acts of kindness. I can't think of a more appropriate way to celebrate love. After they have done their good deeds, hit the stores on the 15th to stock up on all the marked down candy!

### Teenagers

Teens are tricky. They likely have their own ideas about what to do for this day—including hanging out with their friends or the person they are dating. If you can negotiate a few hours of time, watch a heartwarming movie with pizza or popcorn. We suggest *Love Actually*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Titanic* or *Romeo and Juliet*. You decide, based on ratings and kids' ages.

### 20s

Young adults in their 20s are probably in college or working at their first job. What better way to show you love them than to send a heartfelt care package their way? Pack a cardboard box

with homemade treats, quarters for the laundry machines, a new planner for school, phone case, gas card, framed picture of you together and anything else you think they could use. They will definitely call and thank you!

### 30s

Go for the gift of experiences over tangible items. Get your friends and family together for a picnic with wine and cheese, ziplining (if you're brave!), a hot air balloon ride or hiking to the top of a mountainous trail. And if everyone pitches in, no one breaks the bank. Plus, you can check off some bucket list items. Gotta love that!

### 40s

If those in your circle have kids, offer to watch them while mom and dad enjoy a Valentine's dinner out. When was the last time that happened? Or try a game night. Convert your living room to a Vegas-inspired casino—complete with table games! Make your own party food, pour some drinks and tango with lady luck.

### 50s and Beyond

If you and your sweetie have gotten into a Valentine's Day rut, we suggest shaking it up. If your tradition is a quiet evening at a fondue restaurant, why not take in a magic show, comedy set or concert? Do you prefer to stay in and watch a movie? Get out of your comfort zone and go dancing. You will have a blast making new memories.

No matter your age or the ages of those you love, there is something for everyone to do on Valentine's Day!





# The Valentine's Day Treat

By Clarissa Woods

\_\_\_\_\_ was told by his teacher last week  
(BOY NAME)  
that he is required to bring valentines in for Valentine's Day. He didn't know where to begin! What could he bring to a class full of \_\_\_\_\_ students? There were \_\_\_\_\_ of them! That's a lot of valentines. He sat outside at recess and thought about it. Then, a great idea came to him: he could ask his mom to buy a bunch of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(COLOR) (NOUN/FOOD) (STORE NAME)  
Satisfied, he rode home on the bus, excited to tell her his plan.

He walked in the door and ran up to his mom, who was busy in the \_\_\_\_\_ cleaning the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(ROOM IN HOUSE) (NOUN)  
"Hi \_\_\_\_\_! How was school?" his mom asked.  
(BOY NAME)

"Never mind school, I need \_\_\_\_\_!  
(NUMBER OF STUDENTS)  
\_\_\_\_\_! Let's go to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight!" he pleaded.  
(COLOR) (TYPE OF FOOD - PLURAL) (STORE NAME)

His mother said, "We can't, \_\_\_\_\_ . We are having the \_\_\_\_\_ over for dinner. But you're in luck! I have all the ingredients here at home to make \_\_\_\_\_ . We can make them after dinner."  
(BOY NAME) (LAST NAME - PLURAL) (TYPE OF FOOD - PLURAL)

A little \_\_\_\_\_ , but still \_\_\_\_\_ , he shuffled off to his room to do his homework. He had never baked before. What if he messed up? There were \_\_\_\_\_ minutes until dinner; he could gather the courage by then.  
(EMOTION) (EMOTION) (NUMBER)

Dinner dragged on. His mom made \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He thought they both tasted \_\_\_\_\_. Finally, the table was cleared, and the guests left. He ran into the pantry and pulled out the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(FOOD) (FOOD) (ADJECTIVE) (NOUN) (NOUN)

both of which were hard to carry because they were so \_\_\_\_\_. His mom set out the ingredient list on the counter, so he rummaged around in the spice cabinet for the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, and he couldn't forget the \_\_\_\_\_!  
(ADJECTIVE) (NOUN) (NOUN) (NOUN) (NOUN)

His mom looked everything over. "Okay, so you want to make these \_\_\_\_\_? Are you sure that won't look too \_\_\_\_\_?" she asked.  
(COLOR) (ADJECTIVE)

"No, mom, I think they will look \_\_\_\_\_!" he replied.  
(ADJECTIVE)

They got to work baking. While his mom stirred the \_\_\_\_\_, he poured in the \_\_\_\_\_. It was starting to smell really \_\_\_\_\_. He couldn't wait to taste it. He had to wait \_\_\_\_\_ minutes until they were done, so he started to \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(NOUN) (NOUN) (ADJECTIVE) (NUMBER) (VERB) (NOUN) (ROOM IN HOUSE)

At last, he heard the timer go off! He ran so fast he almost slid into the \_\_\_\_\_ but caught himself by grabbing onto the \_\_\_\_\_. The kitchen smelled \_\_\_\_\_. His mom stood at the oven, smiling. "You did \_\_\_\_\_! They look \_\_\_\_\_ . Let's taste them, shall we?"  
(NOUN) (NOUN) (ADJECTIVE) (ADJECTIVE) (ADJECTIVE)

Together, they took their first bites. He felt so \_\_\_\_\_ because he couldn't believe he made these and they tasted so \_\_\_\_\_. Valentine's Day was going to be one \_\_\_\_\_ day!  
(EMOTION) (ADJECTIVE) (ADJECTIVE)

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By Holly Rutchik, Editor, Best Version Media



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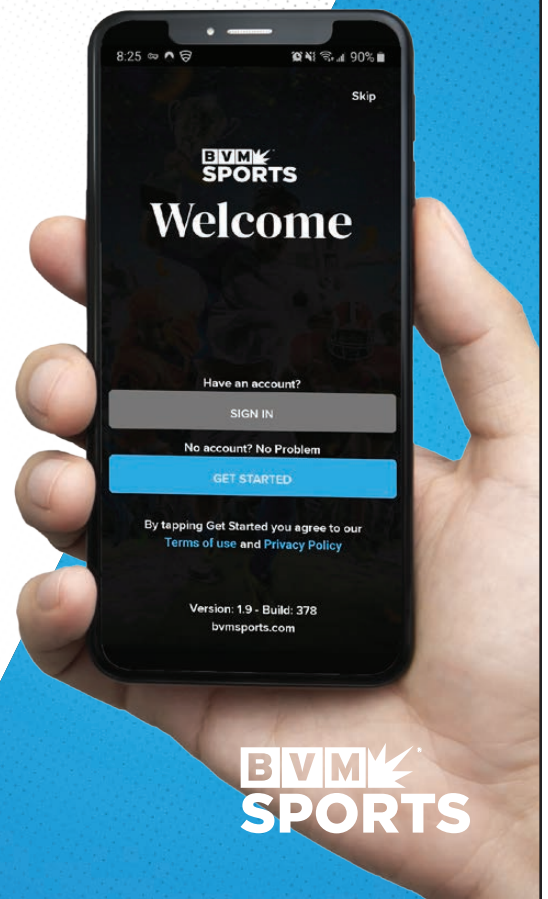
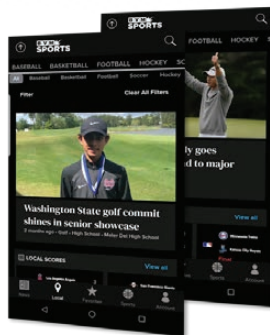
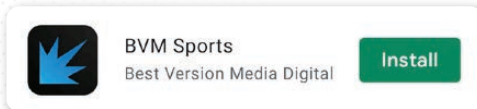
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