

Keep the Date



- February 22
Chinese Cooking Demonstration
- March 14
The World of Japanese Quilting
- March 31
Annual Art Auction

The History of Saint Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and

marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honour of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavoured to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young

men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year arose in this way.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is much commercialised. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.

Thanks to a concentrated marketing effort, Valentine's Day has emerged in [Japan](#) as a day on which women, and less commonly men, give candy, chocolate or [flowers](#) to people they like. This has become an obligation for many women. Those who work in offices end up giving chocolates to all their male co-workers, sometimes at significant personal expense. This chocolate is known as *giri-choko*, in Japan, from the words *giri* (obligation) and *choko*, a common short version of *chokorēto*, meaning chocolate. This contrast with *honmei-choko*, which is given to a person someone loves or has a strong relationship with. Friends, especially girls, exchange chocolate that is referred to as *tomo-choko*; tomo means *friend* in Japanese.

By a further marketing effort, a reciprocal day called [White Day](#) has emerged. On [March 14](#), men are expected to return the favor to those who gave them chocolates on Valentine's Day. Many men, however, give only to their girlfriends. Originally, the return gift was supposed to be white chocolate or marshmallows; hence "White Day". However, men have taken the name to a different meaning and [lingerie](#) has become a common gift.

Stories of Romance

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day; it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

♥During my wedding 9 years ago, we had a great friend sing a beautiful love song during the ceremony. Matt and I were to stand and look at each other, however, little known to me, my husband walked off stage. I had no idea what he was doing. He came back with a chair and told me to sit down. One of his groomsmen handed him a beautiful large bowl. He bent down and proceeded to wash my feet. Not a dry eye in the place. When the song finished our pastor explained to the audience that Matt wanted to show his devotion to me the same way Jesus had when He washed the disciples' feet in the bible. I am happy to say I am still madly in love with my dear husband!

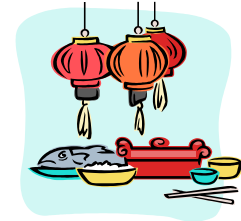
🌹Janet

In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favourite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

♥I remember with fondness the first night my husband invited me for dinner at his apartment before we were married. He had the table set, wine chilled, candles and soft music playing. He cooked his "now famous cheeseburgers" on the grill and once we had finished our prayer he turned on Jimmy Buffet "Cheeseburger In Paradise". It was the beginning of many romantic evenings.

🌹Elizabeth

Naval Officers' Spouses' Club of
Okinawa presents
**A Cooking and
Antiques Demo
and Lunch**



Thursday, February 22, 2007

We will be visiting Peter's Place Chinese Restaurant for a cooking demonstration and lunch, followed by an antiques demonstration.

We will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Peter's Place Chinese Restaurant in the Plaza Shopping Center, located on Route 330.

The cost will be \$15/person.

The menu includes the following—

Corn soup in chicken broth

Spring rolls (vegetarian)

Tofu with veggies

Beef and seasonal veggies

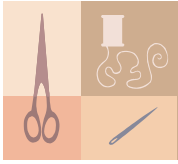
Kon Pau Chicken

Pork miso with cabbage

Fried rice

**Reserve your spot by Friday,
February 16, 2007,
at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop!!!**

Visit www.noscokinawa.com for more information.



NAVAL OFFICERS' SPOUSES' CLUB OF OKINAWA PRESENTS
THE WORLD OF JAPANESE QUILTING
WE WILL BE VISITING "HEARTLAND," A JAPANESE QUILTING SHOP
AND THEN GOING TO LUNCH AT "THE LOOP"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007

10:00 A.M.....MEET AT KADENA USO OR BUTLER OFFICERS' CLUB TO CAR POOL
10:30 A.M..... VISIT TO HEARTLAND QUILTING SHOP
11:45 A.M.....TRAVEL TO LUNCH
12:00 P.M..... LUNCH AT THE LOOP
1:45 P.M..... RETURN TO CARS
2:00 P.M..... DEPART

WE WILL HAVE GIFT BAGS FOR ALL AND DOOR PRIZES TO BE WON. LIMIT OF 20
PEOPLE.

THE COST IS \$15.00

DEADLINE: MARCH 7, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CARRIE WOOD 633-0389
RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY SIGNING UP AND PAYING THE FEE AT THE NAVY FLEET
GIFT SHOP!!!



NAVAL OFFICERS' SPOUSES' CLUB OF OKINAWA
AND
KANDA'S ART GALLERY BOQ
PRESENT THEIR

ANNUAL ART AUCTION
MARCH 31, 2007

START TIME: 1730 FOR PREVIEWING AND PRE SALES
START TIME AUCTION: 1900

BUTLER OFFICERS' CLUB
(MARK YOUR CALANDERS TO BE THERE)

Message from our President

Happy February,

Each and every month, it's amazing to me how many wonderful events this group pulls together. We truly offer something so precious to our members on island. Just read about all the fun we had this past month in this newsletter, and spread the word. If your friends are not a member, they should be.

A huge **thank you** to the Dental Coffee Group for hosting January's event. We had a wonderful turn-out and our hosts, Ann, Mimi, and Chris did a truly professional job at hosting. Thanks to Dental, there are 27 beautiful sets of feet walking around Okinawa, who ever said they are just into teeth.

January also brought us our wonderful travel opportunity to Korea. What a blast! Our fearless travel guide, Monica Butler, planned this trip ever so closely to her PCS date; she left the island last Saturday, and still brought us a great trip. Monica is compiling the pictures and doing a write up for the newsletter as her homework in Norfolk, so look to March's newsletter for all the highlights. Thanks to all who joined us. My favorite part about these trips is always coming away with new friends, it happens every time! So when I hear that members don't want to go on these trips because they don't know anyone, you are exactly who needs to go. It is the best friendship builder. So join us next time.

The Navy Fleet Gift Shop is keeping busy this month. Check out their page in this newsletter for all the important dates coming up. Have you considered volunteering at our shops? This is such a worthy use of your time. Let me throw some numbers at you. We have 170 members. Both shops combined are open a total of 40 hours a week, @160 hours a month. Are you thinking what I am thinking? With just one hour a month, look what we could do? Staff the store. There is power in numbers. The Paid Staff at NFGS could use our help. Please stop by and sign up to give them some time. If we all chip in, even a little, it makes a huge difference.

Looking forward..... Be sure and read about the monthly event for February, as well as March. RSVP now to reserve your spot. Remember, great door prizes are always given! It's that time again, please put March 31 on your calendars now. Our Annual Art Auction is coming. This is our one fundraiser for the year, so plan to come out and support our valuable organization. With some of the door prizes valued over \$500, it is definitely worth a Saturday night. Bid Books will only be \$5 and food will be served.

For Valentine's Day, I would like to ask each of you to look at your roses, eat those chocolates, remember all the reasons we love each other, and finally, reach out. Call the spouse of a deployed military member, offer to watch their kids, take them to dinner. Make this February heart filled for all.

Laina Bell, NOSCO President



Navy Fleet Gift Shop

SHANGHAI SHIPMENT

Shanghai shipment opens February 14, with Tibetan furniture, photo albums, purses, new long embroidered formal jackets, and much more. Be sure to check out these sweet new items from China.

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

TUESDAY IN THE STARS AND STRIPES

Remember to check the Tuesday issue of the Stars and Stripes for the fun code word to receive saving and gifts in the month of February.

KIDS COTTAGE

Drop by and see lots of new items and Valentine's Day bows.

GIFT REGISTRY

The Kid's Cottage offers a "Gift Registry" for the expecting mom to pick items she would most like to receive for the new bundle of joy. If you are expecting, drop by the Kids Cottage and get "signed up".

YOUR KOKESHI KONNECTION

We have a large selection of Kokeshi dolls for you to choose from. Sayonara dolls, bottle openers, military logo dolls and much more.

VENDORS AT THE HOME STORE

Jewels by the Sea – January 31 – February 3

Gonzalez Photography – February 7-10

Raymond Co – February 14-17

Mel Thai – February 21-24

Up Tight – February 28 – March 3

SHOPPING HOURS

Home Store: 643-7841

Wed. 10-6, Thurs.-Sat. 10-3

Kids Cottage: 645-8812

Wed.-Fri. 10-3, Sat. 12-2

Events and Things to Do

Army Community Group of Okinawa with the cooperation of the American Women's Welfare Association, MOSC, KOSC and NOSCO **Will be sponsoring an ongoing Book Drive to Benefit the Ryukyu America Historical Research Society**

Look for collection boxes located in various gift shops/thrift shops, libraries and BX's on Kadena, Foster and Torii Station. Please direct inquiries to Wendy Lundgren 633-9075

Deployment Support Child Care (DSCC) offers up to 10 free hours of respite hourly care in Child Development Center (CDC), Family Child Care (FCC), or School-Age Care Program (SAC) while the sponsor is deployed. Spouses wishing to obtain this care can call the CDC, FCC, or SAC to reserve a space the day of or up to 2 weeks in advance. We highly recommend calling as far out in advance as possible and specify that you need hourly DSCC.

Contact Information
Resource and Referral: 645-4117
Foster CDC: 645-2549
Kinser CDC: 637-2293
Courtney CDC: 622-7761
Foster SAC: 645-7301
Kinser SAC: 637-2250
McT SAC: 622-9051

Please contact the CY&TP Resource and Referral (645-4117) if you have any questions.

THE NOSCO MAH JONGG GROUP

If you want to learn a little about the game you can check out mahjongg@wrightpattersonowc.org or google "Mah Jongg" for many more sites. Please stop by if you are interested and see how it's played. You will be hooked, too!! E-mail Pam Caruso at PSCaruso@aol.com for more information.

Cultural Events

OIWC

(Okinawa International Women's Club)

Luncheon

February 13, 2007

Visit our site at: www.freewebs.com/oiwc for more information

Ikebana Classes with

Sensei Keiko-san Robbins

(featured in *Okinawa Magazine*-April 2006)

At any of the following locations

Mondays—USO Kadena, 9:00am-12 noon

Tuesdays—USNHO, Conference Room C, 4-5:30 pm

Thursdays—USO Kadena, 9:00am-12 noon

Saturdays—USO Kadena, 9:00am-12 noon

New students welcomed each week.

\$60 per month includes flowers

Call Sensei at: 897-5015 for supply list and reservations



Hot stuff from our coffee groups

CTF-76 Coffee Group

CTF-76 held our January coffee at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop. We had a wonderful turnout; three of our wives are fairly new to the island. Several of our wives had never been to the gift shop and enjoyed having the shop all to themselves and taking a peek at the Vietnam Shipment. We discussed the turnover that we will be having this summer and what the different jobs would be. Our February coffee date hasn't been set yet.

Dental Coffee Group

We would like to thank Angie Pinklerton for a great Jan. bunko. She kicked off the "New Year" with a fun theme "New Year's Resolutions- Anyone Can Use." There were a lot of laughs, good food, and as always we had a great time. Thanks Angie for hosting this function.

Our Feb. bunko theme will be "Death by Chocolate." (Time to throw those resolutions away) The function will be hosted by Margy Metzler on Feb. 27 at 6:00pm. More information will be provided at a later time.

The Dental Coffee Group would like to thank everyone who attended the NOSCO Jan. event "A Day of Pampering." at Cocok's. We hope you enjoyed yourself.

Chaplains Coffee Group

Our first meeting of the New Year was at Elizabeth Biddle's home and we enjoyed an Ikebana demonstration. In February, we will be hosting a "Sweetheart Dinner" for all the Chaplains and their spouses on the island. We have rescheduled our retreat to March in Okuma and at our March meeting we will be making Squash Photo Albums.

Also, in March we will be hosting the NOSCO group as we sponsor "The World of Quilting" on March 14, 2007. Please join us for this!

USN Hospital Coffee Group



What a great time we had together in January! The white elephant gift exchange was very entertaining, I can't say we all took home a treasure but I can say a good time was had by all.

We have another exciting event planned for our gathering in February, mark your calendars for February 15 and hire that babysitter because spouses are invited. We will be eating at a Korean restaurant

near American Village (just south of Pizza House Jr.)! Never had Korean food or eaten Korean BBQ? You are in for a treat! RSVPs will be needed by February 9, please e-mail or call either rep, Tami or Angie for more information and directions.

The Third Medical Group

The 3rd Med Bn coffee group has enjoyed a very social January which included a wedding celebration and an "after the holidays " family event done Jimmy Buffet style. Guest star appearance by Jelly Beans the clown.

February brings more fun events with a 3rd Medical and Dental mixer to be held at the Butler O' Club on Friday the 16th. The required dress is a Toga and sandals! Should be an entertaining evening! Prize for best dressed. Toga! Toga!! Toga!!!

We are also looking forward to co hosting the NOSCO luncheon with Naval Hospital at Peter and Mary's Place on the 22nd at 1030. Peter will be giving a cooking demo followed by lunch. Afterwards, Mary will give a tour of her Chinese antique collection. RSVP at NFGS by Friday the 16th of February. The cost is \$15. Promises to be a delicious event!

We wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

Day of Pampering

Sponsored by the Dental Coffee Group

On January 19, 2007, the NOSCO Dental Coffee Group held its annual event at

Cocok's, a spa on Route 23. The event was hosted by Ann Leonard, Mimi Brenyo and Chris Morse. Cocok's was able to accommodate 28 women for a luxurious pedicure that included a foot massage and nail art. For the first time ever, Cocok's was willing to provide a 500 yen discount, while an additional \$5 discount came from NOSCO funds. The charge for the whole event was just \$25.

The Dental Coffee Group was thrilled to welcome 25 women that morning. The event started right on schedule as Cocok's was more than ready for us. The guests each received a tote bag filled with a magazine, chocolates, biscotti, and an assortment of teas and coffees. While the guests were being pampered, orange cranberry muffins were offered along with the tea customarily given by Cocok's.

After everyone's toes were dry, a ladies' luncheon was served in Cocok's café area. The women were treated to various finger sandwiches, fruit salad, Chinese cabbage salad, and deviled eggs. As a special treat, petit fours from the Butler O Club were served for dessert. The recipes are included in this newsletter for anyone interested.

Finally, four door prizes were awarded. The door prizes consisted of an array of beautiful china pieces, donated by Mimi Brenyo. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful, relaxing time. Cocok's did a fantastic job of accommodating so many women. When three of the guests were unexpectedly unable to attend, Cocok's management offered to accommodate the ladies on a different day of their choosing. The Dental Coffee Group would like to thank all those who attended and we look forward to repeating the event next year.

(Pictures and recipes from this event are on the last page.)

FIRST BABY OF 2007!



Little Mia

Congratulations to our First Baby of the New Year, **Mia Frances Nash**, and to her parents, LtCol Christopher and Mari Nash. NOSCO celebrates this blessed event.

The USNHO provided a recognition ceremony January 29 for little Mia to welcome her and NOSCO was honored to attend as one of the organization that presented gifts.

Little Mia has become quite famous since her arrival on January 1. She has undergone five transfusions and appeared relaxed in her mother's arms. Her father thanked the doctors, nurses, hospital staff and others for the support of their family during this time.

Last year NOSCO gave 1,160 "First Hugs on Okinawa" baby bibs to each baby born at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.



Sandy, Laina and The Nash's



CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH HOSTED BY U.S. NAVY 3RD DENTAL BATTALION

MCCS Camp Butler, Okinawa Japan — U.S. Navy 3rd Dental Battalion is observing the American Dental Association's 58th annual Children's Dental Health Month during February 2007. This year's American Dental Association theme is "Fight Decay 24/7!" A series of events will educate and encourage families to make good dental health practices a habit as well as encourage healthy food choices.

Throughout the month of February, U.S. Navy dentists will visit MCB schools on Okinawa to give student presentations on the proper way to brush and floss as well as tips on healthy eating.

MCB students also had the opportunity to participate in a dental health themed art contest. Winning artwork will be displayed at the Camp Foster Library during the Month of February and the winning artists will receive prizes. The Art Contest Awards will take place on Friday, February 2, 2007 at 1400 at the 3d Dental Battalion Headquarters.

Children's Dental Health Month will culminate with Library Fun Day at the Camp Foster Base Library, Bldg 5679, on Saturday, February 10, 2007 from 1300 to 1400. Children can participate in storytelling, a sing-a-long, and receive goody bags. In addition, parents can receive information on oral health.

For additional information regarding Children's Dental Health Month, contact LT Burns, DC, USN 3rd Dental Battalion at

casey.burns@3denoki.med.navy.mil or
623.4657.

The U.S. Navy 3rd Dental Battalion provides basic and advanced dental care to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps service members, their dependents, military retirees, and other SOFA status personnel.

Things to Celebrate



BIRTHDAYS

Angela Yarde	Feb 2
Lisa Bandy	Feb 2
Claire Arnold	Feb 3
Jennifer Cannady	Feb 3
Rene Pachuta	Feb 10
Carrie Carmichael	Feb 10
Nichole Geisenhof	Feb 19
Sara Bailey	Feb 21
Elizabeth Thames	Feb 22
Melinda Morton	Feb 22
Barbara Rich	Feb 23
Kris Craven	Feb 25
Beth Haegen	Feb 29

2006-2007 NOSCO Board

Honorary President	Vacant
President	Laina Bell
1 st Vice President	Lissete Mize
2 nd Vice President	Stephanie Johnson
Secretary	Debra Bola
Treasurer	Sara Bailey
Parliamentarian	Melanie Hardy

Committee Chairs

AWWA	Shyla Hale
Consumer Affairs	Steve Emerick
Gift Shop Director	Vacant
Hospitality	Cindy Barrington
Membership	Paula Blivin
Publicity	Vicki Lane
Seagull Editor	Elizabeth Biddle

Ways and Means
Web Site Editor

Margaret Beaubien
Shannon GaNun

Coffee Reps

CTF76	Vicky Reed
CFAO	<i>Vacant</i>
Chaplains	Carrie Wood
USNDC	Mimi Brenyo
USNHO	Tami Cooper
	Angie Ehle
3 rd Medical	Andrea McCoy

Advisors

CTF76	Vickie York
CFAO	<i>Vacant</i>
Chaplains	<i>Vacant</i>
USNDC	Ann Leonard
USNHO	Cathi Cox
3 rd Medical	Debbie McCue

All contact information on website

Board News

NOMINATIONS

It's that time again. We are preparing to compile next year's NOSCO Board and WE NEED YOU! Please consider serving as we have many openings. Getting involved is sometimes difficult; however, we ask you to consider giving a little of your time to serve this dynamic organization that helps our community with actions and money. For more information, please contact Melanie Hardy. 646-5843

LOOK AT THE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY AWWA ...

Shyla Hale, AWWA Representative

All of these organizations were able to receive support because of you! Thank you to all the hard working volunteers of the gift shop and for all the hard work you do shopping at the gift shop!

- 3d Division Chaplains' Group Coffee House Ministries
- American Red Cross
- 10th Area Support Group
- Armed Services YMCA
- Army Emergency Relief Fund
- Army Women's Group
- Bechtel Elementary School (numerous grants)
- BHPS Reading Recovery Program
- Boy Scouts (numerous Packs on Okinawa)
- Camp Kinser Outreach Dinner
- Christians In Action Missions
- Cub Scouts (numerous Packs on Okinawa)
- Friends of Cunningham's Cabana
- Friends of the Family Support Center
- Friends of the Kadena Special Olympics
- Friends of the Shelter
- Friends of The Stork's Nest
- Girls Scouts (numerous Troops on Okinawa)
- Kadena Chapel AWANA
- Chapel 1 Eagle Scouts
- Kadena Chapel Education
- Kadena Chapel Impact
- Kadena Chapel - Improv. Okinawa
- Kadena DARE
- Kadena Elementary School (numerous grants)
- Kadena High School (numerous grants)
- Kadena Middle School (numerous grants)
- Kadena USO
- Killen Elementary School (numerous grants)
- Kubasaki High School (numerous grants)
- Kuwae Preschool
- Lester Middle School (numerous grants)
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society - Layette Program
- Okinawa American Animal Rescue Society
- Okinawa Diplomats Youth Futbol Club
- Okinawa Dolphins Swim Team (numerous grants)
- Okinawa Giants Football
- Okinawa Joint Women's Forum
- Okinawa Roller Hockey
- Pacific Congress PTSA- Reflections
- Pacific Patchwork Guild
- Pacific Wellness Association
- PAWS
- Perinatal Advisory Committee
- Phi Delta Kappa
- Pilots' Ice Hockey
- Red Cross
- Ryukyu Classical Academy

- Special Olympics
- St. Francis Xavier Youth of Okinawa
- Special Forces Harvest Festival
- Stearley Heights Elementary School
- Team USA Baseball
- Toys for Tots
- Typhoon Twisters Gymnastics Club
- US Naval Hospital Child Maltreatment Conference
- US Naval Hospital Pacific Peals Healthcare Symposium
- US Naval Hospital "Pregnancy and Beyond"
- USO Futenma Community Center
- Women Infants and Children (WIC)
- Young Marines Program
- Zukeran Elementary School (numerous grants)

Total FY 2005-2006 Donations

Japanese Organizations \$216,679.15
 American Organization \$ 97,216.60
 Combined Total: \$313,895.75

MEALS FOR NEW MOMS **Shannon GaNun, Coordinator**

*A Great Benefit of NOSCO Membership
 A Great gift to the new mother*

The gift of a prepared meal during those first hectic weeks with a newborn is always appreciated. If you or another NOSCO member has just had or is about to have a baby, please let Shannon GaNun know. Don't count on the new mom to ask you! Often they are too busy and overwhelmed to ask for any help. You get the "ball rolling" by contacting Shannon who will organize a few weeks of meals to be brought to the family. Make sure you include the new mom's email, phone number, and address. If you are interested in volunteering to cook meals, let her know and she will contact you regarding menu, timing etc. (shannon@shannonganun.com or 633-1199)

INTEREST GROUPS **/SCHOLARSHIP** **Lissette Mize, First Vice President**

It is never too late to join an Interest Group. Below is a list of current groups. Simply email the coordinator and attend. You'll be glad you did.

Baby Lunch BunchCasey Daily (caseydaily@yahoo.com)**Bible Study**Katrina Pringle
(pringleko@oki10.med.navy.mil)**Board Gaming**Meghan Capp (meghan.capp@gmail.com)**Book Club**Kelly Reddy-Heffner
(reddyheffner@hotmail.com)**Cooking**Jen Denevan (jenniferdenevan@hotmail.com)**Dining Divas**Shyla Hale (srmhale@yahoo.com) and
Lisette Mize (colycal@yahoo.com)**Hiking/Geocaching**Kelly Reddy-Heffner
(reddyheffner@hotmail.com)**Playgroup**Tami Cooper (tnccooper@mac.com)**Quilting**Carrie Wood (gclwood@oasis.mediatti.net)**Scrap Booking**Vicky York (reddahlia@hotmail.com)**Stamping**Paula Blivin (blivin000@yahoo.com)**Travel**Monica Butler (mkskoala2004@yahoo.com)**Don't see a group you want to join? Start your own!****2006-2007 EVENT PLANNING**

Month	Coffee Group	Event
February	USNH/3rd Med	Cooking Class/Demo
March	Chaplains	Japanese Quilting

April	NOSCO	Art Auction
May	NOSCO	Scholarship Reception
June	NOSCO	End of Year Picnic



-**192 million** Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion. (This total excludes packaged kids valentines for classroom exchanges.) (Source: Hallmark research)

- **Nearly 60 percent** of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the six days prior to the observance, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight. (Source: Hallmark research)

- There are **120** single men (i.e., never married, widowed or divorced) who are in their 20s for every 100 single women of the same ages.

- There are **33** single men (i.e., never married, widowed or divorced) age 65 or older for every 100 single women of the same ages.

- **2.2 million** marriages take place in the United States annually. That breaks down to more than 6,000 a day.

- **145,800** marriages are performed in Nevada during 2004. So many couples "tie the knot" in the Silver State that it ranked fourth nationally in marriages, even though it's total population that year among states was 35th.

- The estimated U.S. median ages at first marriage for women and men are **25.8 and 27.4** respectively, in 2004. The age for women rose 4.7 years in the last three decades. The age for men at first marriage is up 4.3 years.

- Men and women in northeastern states generally have a higher median age at first marriage than the national average.

- **4.7 million** opposite-sex cohabitating couples maintained households in 2004.

- **1,271** locations produced chocolate and cocoa products in 2003.

- **519** locations produced nonchocolate confectionary products in 2003.

- The total value of shipments in 2003 for firms producing chocolate and cocoa products was **\$13.5 billion**. Nonchocolate confectionery product manufacturing, meanwhile, was a \$5.5 billion industry.

- **3,523** Number of confectionery and nut stores in the United States in 2003. Often referred to as candy stores, they are among the best sources of sweets for Valentine's Day.

- The per capita consumption of candy by Americans in 2004 was **4.7 pounds**. Candy consumption has actually declined over the last few years; in 1997, each American gobbled or savored more than 27 pounds of candy a year.

- The combined wholesale value of domestically produced cut flowers in 2004 for all flower-producing businesses in 36 states with \$100,000 or more in sales was **\$422 million**.