

SHERWOOD HOUSE FEBRUARY EDITION

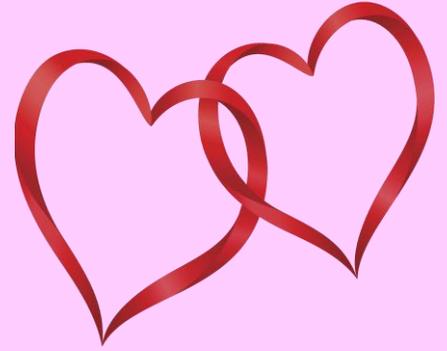
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

- Norah Stobbart
- Nora Jeffery
- Judy Gloster
- Charlie Lungair
- Ron Gallant
- Ernie Lineger
- Val Gillis



Farewell To:

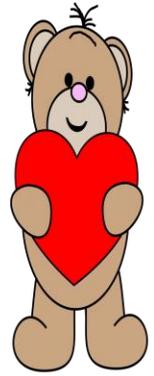
- Carroll Dalglish



Valentines Ideas

- Make your neighbours a Valentines Card
- Wear something Red or Pink
- Decorate your door with a festive wreath
- Make your own floral arrangement with real or faux flowers and share in the lounge





Did you know??

German Chocolate Cake is named after an American baker by the name of Samuel German.

It has no affiliation with the country of Germany.



**LOVE DOESN'T
MAKE THE WORLD
GO ROUND. LOVE IS
WHAT MAKES THE
RIDE WORTHWHILE.**

— FRANKLIN P. JONES



Happy Valentine's Day



How to Celebrate Valentine's Day in Japan

Each culture has their own way of celebrating Valentine's Day and expressing love for one another, and Japan dedicates not one, but two days of the year to this *love*ly holiday!

Here's everything you need to know about Valentine's Day in Japan, and its companion holiday, White Day.

Valentine's Day in Japan (February 14th)

Valentine's Day in Japan (バレンタインデー / *barentain dee*), like the rest of the world, is all about expressing your love to your nearest and dearest! Though, there are slight differences to the Valentine's customs in the West:

In Western countries, the effort is generally put in by both parties – though often, more effort is expected from the man in the relationship. Valentine's day is his chance to go all out and spoil his significant other with gifts and affection.

Although you might not agree with the concept, Valentine's Day in Japan is actually a day to give gifts *to* men, *from* women!

What's more, in Japan it is seen as the woman's responsibility to give gifts to *all* the males in her life – not only her love interest!

What to gift on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day in Japan is very chocolate-centric. It is not as common to gift jewelry, teddy bears or flowers in Japan as it is to gift chocolate.

This is probably due to the fact that Valentine's Day began in Japan with high school students. Valentine's Day was not really celebrated in Japan until the 1950s when it became a trend for high school girls to take February 14th as an opportunity to confess their feelings to their crush. An offering of chocolate treats, either store bought or homemade, would have been the most cost-effective option for a student.

These days, in the lead up to Valentine's Day, you can find love-themed chocolates, cafe treats and beverages everywhere. There are even restaurants advertising special Valentine's menus, including fried chicken covered in chocolate!

Depending on who you are offering a sweet sentiment to, there are a few different types of Valentine's chocolates in Japan. It is important to know the difference, as you don't want to give someone the wrong impression!

Types of Valentine's chocolates in Japan

- *Giri choco* (義理チョコ / ぎりちょこ). *Giri* means 'obligation' or 'duty' and *choco* is of course an abbreviation of 'chocolate'. *Giri choco* refers to a customary gifting of chocolate from a woman to the males in her life, but not in her inner circle. That may be co-workers, bosses, acquaintances etc. It is given to show respect and appreciation to that person, but not in a romantic way.
- *Honmei choco* (本命チョコ / ほんめいちょこ) is chocolate that you would gift to your romantic interest, with *honmei* representing 'true' or 'genuine'. You would present *honmei choco* to your husband, boyfriend or crush. If you want to opt for store bought chocolate, you should purchase a higher quality, more expensive brand for your genuine valentine compared to what you would gift your obligatory Valentines. That being said, it is also popular to make homemade chocolate treats as the effort put in to making them for that special someone makes them all the more delicious.
- *Tomo* is short for *tomodachi* (友達 / ともだち), meaning friend in Japanese. *Tomo choco* (友チョコ / ともちょこ) as the name suggests, is chocolate which you offer to your dear friends! These days, *honmei choco* and *tomo choco* are the most common types of offerings on this day of love. *Giri choco* has recently fallen out of popularity, with women stating they feel pressured into spending money for chocolates to give to their male colleagues and even feeling like they may see consequences if they don't. Due to the power dynamics in the workplace, many companies find the practice inappropriate and do not allow it to take place. So, *tomo choco* has taken its place as a more wholesome way to show love to the people around you, not because you feel a social obligation but simply because you love them!

White Day in Japan (March 14th)

Now, if you were thinking, "that's a little unfair that the guys get all the gifts!" – don't worry, because just a month later, on March 14th is when men are supposed to reciprocate all the love they received on Valentine's Day.

This 'reverse' Valentine's Day has been dubbed 'White Day' (ホワイトデー / *howaito dee*) As the name suggests, the gifts are traditionally white in colour. For example, white chocolate, marshmallows or white flowers.

It is also expected for the White Day gift to be two to three times more expensive than the gift received by the man just a month earlier.

