

"I write because I don't know what I think until I read what I say." ~ Flannery O'Connor

A Valentine for You

The holiday of Valentine's Day probably derives its origins from the ancient Roman feast of *Lupercalia*. In the early days of Rome, fierce wolves roamed the woods nearby. The Romans called upon one of their gods, *Lupercus*, to keep the wolves away, and a festival held in his honor was celebrated February 15th. Their calendar was different at that time, with February falling in early springtime.

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 from which each young man drew a slip. The girl whose name was chosen was to be his sweetheart for the year.

Legend has it that the holiday became *Valentine's Day* after a priest named Valentine at a time when Christianity was a new religion. The Emperor **Claudius II**, ordered the Roman soldiers NOT to marry or become engaged, believing that as married men, his soldiers would want to stay home with their families rather than fight his wars.

Valentine defied the Emperor's decree and secretly married nine young couples. He was eventually arrested, imprisoned, and beheaded on February 14th, the eve of *Lupercalia*. After his death, Valentine was named a saint. Then, as Rome became more Christian, the priests moved the spring holiday from the 15th of February to the 14th – Valentine's Day! Now the holiday honored Saint Valentine instead of *Lupercus*.

And "buy" the way, over \$1 billion of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day, and while women make 75% of chocolate purchases all year long, during the days and minutes before Valentine's Day, 75% of the sweet (or bitter) purchases are made by men! Also, about 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year – the largest seasonal card-sending occasion next to Christmas.

~ From the 50s Café Newsletter



"If Love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?" ~ Anon and on

My Melinda – What a card

DURING OUR THIRTY-PLUS HAPPY YEARS together, **Melinda** and I used silly or sincere greeting cards as a way to express our love and the acknowledgement of our heart and soul-felt union. Our holiday tradition was to hide cards under our pillows which we took turns opening while still in bed, and so it was on Valentine's Day, too, of course. The highlight of this ritual, however, was always the cards we got from our cats! We were so impressed to see that they'd saved up their allowance for treats to think of us...



"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt." ~ Frederick Buechner

Life is like a box of chocolates

THIS VALENTINE'S DAY, I WAS ALONE, BUT luckily, I had lovely friends!

First, there was **Philip J. Marshall**, who came out here for the Director's Guild Awards and stayed in the guest dungeon. I met him when cast in the role of **John Randolph** of Roanoke in his Maryland Public Television production of **Francis Scott Key: After the song**, and we've been good friends ever since.

Well, he took me along to several symposiums with the nominees for Series, Commercials, and

Movies, and it was fascinating. And probably the most fun was to hear the directors – **Greta Gerwig, Yorgo Anythimos, Christopher Nolan, Alexander Payne** and **Martin Scorsese** – telling wonderful behind-the-lens stories, brilliantly moderated by my old friend, **Jeremy Kagan**.

And I was particularly touched at the pre-dinner cocktail party, when several people from my past stopped by to say hello. It was the first "industry party" I'd been to in many a year, and I was surprised to be recognized with such admiration and emotion. Thank you, Phil, and I sincerely hope we will work together again – and maybe even be up for an award!

"Talk sense to a fool, and he calls you foolish."
~ Euripides



Drive, he said

MY NEXT HOUSEGUEST, WHO'D STAYED WITH us before, was our Old-Time-Radio pal, **Dan Crist**, who came down from Washington state to meet with his sons and other mutual friends, like **Hank Rosenfeld**.

■ CONTINUED



ON THE TOWN

With Philip J. Marshall, above, and as John Randolph of Roanoke (top right)

There are apparently no Delis in the Seattle area, and so we visited several down here, including **Cantor's**, **Langer's** and the **50s Café**! Dan, as he freely admits, has a worse sense of direction than I, but I was still able to help him drive me around town, because he is an excellent chauffeur, full of endless stories, jokes and anecdotes.

We met him at the **REPS** (Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound) conventions in Bellevue and became fast friends, even spending a night in his magical home up there.

Thank you, too, Dan, for your important companionship during my time of loss.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." ~ A. Lincoln



TAKE TWO
Hank and Dan at Langer's Deli

Man/Wo/man same thing?

“ **THINK WOMEN ARE FOOLISH TO PRETEND** they are equal to men. They are far superior and always have been.

“Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater. If you give her sperm, she will give you a baby. If you give her a house, she will give you a home. If you give her groceries, she will give you a meal. If you give her a smile, she will give you her heart.

“She multiplies and enlarges whatever is given to her. So if you give her any crap, be ready to receive a ton of shit!”

~ William Golding

"Sometimes kings were so displeased at their jesters, they laughed their heads off!" ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

Let's eat

HIS FATHER WAS VERY OLD AND SHAKY AND dropped food on his shirt and trousers while at the early bird senior lunch. Other diners watched him in disgust.

After he laid down his fork, his son, who was not at all embarrassed, quietly took him to the washroom, wiped the particles, removed the stains, combed his hair, and readjusted his spectacles.

When they came out, the entire restaurant was abuzz, not able to grasp how someone could embarrass themselves publicly like that. The son settled the bill and started walking out with his dad.

And suddenly, an old man at a table in the back called out, asking:

“Young man – Don't you think you have left something behind?”

The son, puzzled, replied, “No sir, I don't think we have.”

“Yes, you have!” the old man retorted, “You just left a lesson for every son and hope for every father.”

And at that, a few patrons stood up and applauded!

~ From Quora

*"I don't have a philosophy. I have a camera."
~ Saul Leiter*

A sweet surprise

“ **HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU WELL. I AM** writing to you as a dedicated fan of your work in the entertainment industry. As a founding member of the legendary comedy group, **Firesign Theatre**, your talent and creativity have brought joy and laughter to audiences for decades. Your contributions to comedy and entertainment have left an indelible mark on the industry, and your performances continue to entertain and inspire fans around the world.

“I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for your comedic genius and the countless hours of entertainment you have provided to fans like myself. Whether it's your memorable characters, hilarious improvisations, or insightful social commentary, your work has consistently pushed the boundaries of comedy and enriched the lives of your audience.”

And I thank you sincerely, **Aaron**, for this lovely tribute. A Valentine's gift, for sure.

*"At the feast of ego, everybody leaves hungry."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

Gogh, Van, Gogh!

His dizzy aunt Verti Gogh
The brother who ate prunes Gotta Gogh
The brother who worked at a convenience store
. Stop N Gogh
The grandfather from Yugoslavia U Gogh
His magician uncle Where-diddy Gogh
His Mexican cousin A Mee Gogh
The Mexican cousin's American half-brother
. Gring Gogh
The nephew who drove a stage coach
. Wells-far Gogh
The constipated uncle Can't Gogh
The ballroom dancing aunt Tang Gogh
The bird lover uncle Flamin Gogh
An aunt who taught positive thinking
. Way-to-Gogh
The little bouncy nephew Poe Gogh
A sister who loved disco Go Gogh
And his niece who travels the country in an RV
. Winnie Bay Gogh
And I saw you smiling So there ya Gogh

"Lucky is the land that has no need of heroes."
~ Bertolt Brecht

Thanks

ROB LEWINE, RAYMOND LESSER, NICK Oliva, Shelley Herman, Barry Pearl, Guy N. Robinson, Philip J. Marshall, Dan Crist, Nereida Carillo, Hank Rosenfeld, Kristin Campbell, Jim Terr and Aaron Hard.

And **Phil & Ted's Sexy Boomer Show** is on air, LIVE every Tuesday 1-2 on KPFK-FM. Recent conversations have been with **Shadoe Stevens**, introducing his amazing Mental Radio ([CLICK HERE TO VISIT](#)) and

PLANETCLICK PRANKS

BRAD	IT'S THE LAW
SPHERE	LOST
DANCE	RIP
BACKSTAGE	SNOW CAT
JAG	OWL

with funny ex-weatherman **Fritz Coleman** and ex-DJ and present standup and comedy host **Frazier Smith**.

March madness kicks off with **Shelley Herman**, author of **Peacock Tales**, about her crazy experiences as an NBC page, and we're already booking some April fools!

STAY TUNED.



Let us seek peace ...
near the inland murmur of streams,
and the gracious waving of trees,
the beauteous vesture of earth,
and sublime pageantry of the skies.
Let us leave "life,"
that we may live."
~ Mary Shelley

"We've gone from rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic to throwing them at one another." ~ Jim Terr

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