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Point your Browser to massapequaNEWS.com each week in February as we shoot on location interviews with:

Anthony Ferrari, Shop Owner
Besame-42 Years in Business
"Hair Cutter, Stylist & Colorist"
February 4th



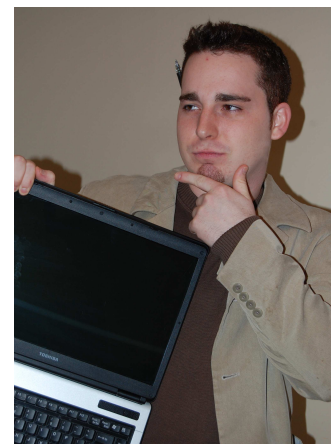
Gary Zaccaro, President
Ambassador Home Improvement
"Beautifying Massapequa one home at a time."
February 11th



Looking for the Face of Sweet 16
BE the "Manor Girl" at the Manor East
February 18th



Will Slater, Aspiring Journalist
massapequaNEWS.com
"The Who's Who of Massapequa"
February 25th



From the Editor's Desk



Monday, February 18th is Presidents' Day, the day to supposedly celebrate America's history in the executive office. Officially designated as Washington's birthday, the term "Presidents' Day" was popularized by advertisers as the holiday became more commercial. Now, it is mostly a pretext for stores to hold sales and schools to close.

The holiday may have a more special significance this year; another presidential election year. And, this year's position is obviously a much sought-after one. With so many contenders vying to fill the spot of our past leaders, a new medium has swept campaigns: the internet. It seems candidates are trying to reach a younger audience, with such exploits as the CNN-YouTube Debates, which featured viewer-submitted questions in the form of YouTube video. Candidates are also trying to "friend request" voters through sites such as MySpace and FaceBook. Is this personalization a welcome edit to the profile of politics, or can this new wave of reaching out to people through popular social sites be compared to the commercialization and degradation of Presidents' Day?

On the 18th, as we browse the sale racks, this year, however, maybe some of us may still think on the current election, our founding fathers, the legacy left by Washington and the tough times our presidents have capably (or not) guided us through.

-Alyssa-Rae, Assistant Editor
February, 2008

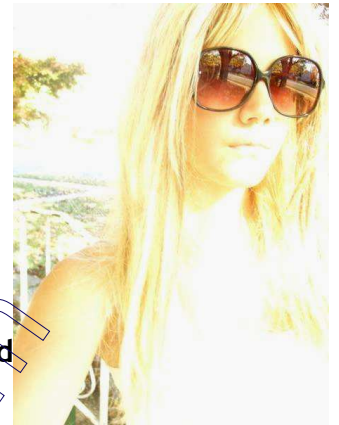


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Events in the Community

By: Sabrina "Montana"



View Photo-journalist Coverage of These and Other Events on "Events 2008"

Massapequa Mustangs' Town/Travel Awards Dinner



Knights of Columbus Basketball Freethrow Contest



Induction of Hon. Rhonda Erin Fischer

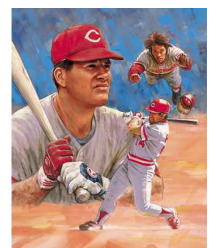


LQQking for Something to do?

Find local events on the massapequaNEWS.com "Calendar of Events"



- Saturday, February 2nd-Open House at the Grace Day School
- Saturday, February 9th-Pete Rose at Last Licks
- Saturday, February 16th Babysitter's Job Fair at Library
- Saturday, February 23rd Prix Fixe Menu at Café Toscano



How the Christians Stole February

by Will Slater

Well folks, it's that time of the year again: a time for joy, festivities, fun, and hopeful anticipation for your dreams to come true! With all of that being said, it's also a period in the calendar year that can bring depression, anguish and angst if you are on the losing end of the spectrum. No, I'm not talking about the Super Bowl and its embellishments, but rather Valentine's Day, the feast of Saint Valentine and all of its extravagancies and travesties alike.

Despite what some modern day Americans may think, historically speaking St. Valentine's Day is not the first or only celebration of inter-gender relations in February at all. In fact, much controversy surrounds the truth of the story of St. Valentine, and the reasoning for the implementation of his holiday to begin with. I did some research and was surprised at what I was able to find.

The earliest known celebration of February love went on long before Saint Valentine even existed. It was known as the Lupercalia festival, a pagan holiday which was celebrated in ancient Rome to commemorate the beginning of spring in mid February. In that area of the world, the Ides of February (February 15th) marks the beginning of spring...

According to Christian history, around 270 A.D., Valentine of Rome, who was a priest, was martyred for his Christian practices. Valentine (or Valentine in today's English) continued to marry couples even though marriage was outlawed by the state at the time, and for that he was found guilty of treason and killed. Valentine was later canonized (made a saint) by the Christian papacy and in 498 A.D. Pope Gelasius declared February 14th to be Saint Valentine's day. This is where the story gets interesting...

I know what you're thinking. You're saying to yourself "So what? So we bend the truth a little bit so we can have a day for happiness and festivities with the one that we love? Where's the harm in that?" I guess I can answer that question by simply saying, I guess there isn't much harm in that. This is what makes America great! You have the

liberty to buy whatever lies and sacks of bologna that are shoved down your throats by the powers that be. Land of the free, baby! Love it or leave it!

So if you want to run around buying all kinds of cards and candy, supporting our economy based on emotional devastation that's fine. Just don't call it Valentine's Day. Call it "Love Day" or "False Sense of Security Day" or "Spike in the Suicide Rate Day" or even "I'm Only Buying This Crap So My Girlfriend Won't Give Me Any Crap"... Day. The possibilities are clearly endless, just don't call it Valentine's Day, because this supposed guy that goes by St. Valentine might not have even existed and if he did exist he had nothing to do with cards, candy or cupid. It's a nice story and all, but that's all it is, a story, and it's masquerading as the truth.

Again, I know what you're thinking. You're saying to yourself "Why does this person think so negatively? What's the point of an article bashing such a nice thing as Valentine's Day? What's wrong with this guy?" Well, this one particular piece of literary art is multi-faceted; it serves more than just one purpose. Not only is it meant to defraud the farce of a holiday that we know as Valentine's Day, but it is also meant to prove the point that nothing is done without a reason. Just as Pope Gelasius implemented Valentine's Day in the fifth century to steal the thunder from the evil Godless Pagans, we here in America are forced to participate in Valentine's Day to support the economy which relies on holidays like this to survive. Think about it, it's inescapable, if you have a significant other of *any* kind, you must go out and buy all kinds of nonsense for them on Valentine's Day. For if you don't, you are labeled a misanthrope or a miser, or just extremely forgetful but any way you cut it those are all unfavorable titles to carry!

I'm not saying that you should stop celebrating Valentine's Day, in fact at the end of this article I'm going to provide you, the privileged reader, with information about great stores in the Massapequa area that carry marvelous Valentine's Day gifts. What I am saying is that you shouldn't need an excuse to do something nice for the one that you love, and when you do show the one that you care for how much you love them, it shouldn't be based on materialism and consumerism, it should come from the

heart. Whether you choose to believe the story of St. Valentine or not is inconsequential, carry love in your heart and show it off often, regardless of when society tells you that you should and shouldn't.

Now, when you do participate in Valentine's Day, support your local Mom & Pop shops people. If you don't meet all of your Valentine's Day needs on the massapequaNEWS.com "Shopping" page, call them directly:

- *Step into L.I. Picture Frame & Art Gallery at 4780 Sunrise Highway in Massapequa Park for a piece of artistic brilliance, or a beautiful frame for one of your own!* 798.8400
- *Check out Ambassador Home Improvement for all of your Home Improvement needs. "It's not just a house, it's you're home!"* 799.0040
- *Have a sports fan in mind for Valentine's Day? Stop by Last Licks in Massapequa for all of the sports memorabilia you could ask for, including autographed material by famous players from all of your favorite New York teams!* 541.6326
- *Want to plan a nice Valentine's Day dinner over some fine cuisine? Make a reservation at Stillwaters in Seaford for romantic dining in a nautical, relaxing atmosphere – complete with fireplace!* 783.1999
- *If you want to send some fresh flowers to your loved one on Valentine's Day, think Feldis Florist for the freshest flowers & the most competitive prices around!* 1-800 800.LILY (5459)
- *Looking for some fantastic Italian Cuisine to eat with a loved one on Valentine's Day? Wine and dine at Café Toscano on North Broadway in Massapequa! Dial 798.4500 to make your reservations today!*
- *Do you have a special woman in mind on Valentine's Day? Besame Beauty Salon, conveniently located in North Massapequa, offers gift certificates for beauty services at 293.9079!*

READ this story in its entirety on massapequaNEWS.com's "Holidays" page

The massapequaNEWS.com "Who's Who" Because Everybody is Somebody



Upgrade your Complimentary "Who's Who" Entry to Include:

Written Biography

Your profile: education, profession, family, background, etc.

Photograph

Include your existing photograph or schedule a shoot with our photographer

Video Interview

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Framed Proclamation

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