

## GIFTS FROM PAGE 3

**CAUTION:** Don't wait till the last minute to throw something together. Without the thought, it's just a low-rent present that shrieks, "I guess I'm just not that into you."

Consider candy carefully. Those celo-wrapped heart-shaped boxes from the grocery or convenience store have turned a perfectly delicious treat into a cliché. If you know your sugar has a sweet tooth, put forth some effort and buy hand-crafted fancy chocolates or candies, preferably from a local provider. You'll get all kinds of style points for creativity, and a little extra love for supporting the local economy.

**CAUTION:** Beware lite or sugar-free sweets. You may be trying to say, "I care about your health," but your special someone is more likely to think something more along the lines of, "I knew he thought I was fat!" Sayonara!

Say it with flowers: I don't know many women who'd turn down a gorgeous bouquet of roses, but, despite the dramatic look, it's another tragic cliché. On the upside, a lot of dudes dig

getting flowers (nothing says "Chicks dig me" more – at least nothing that's acceptable for delivery in the office). So skip the obvious and send a mixed bouquet based on your flame's favorite color. And if your romantic partner really does relish roses, make sure they're sustainably grown so you can show Mother Earth some love too.

**CAUTION:** The allergist down the street asks me to remind you to make sure your sweetheart's not allergic to certain flowering plants. Inducing an allergic reaction (or worse, anaphylactic shock) is no way to say "I love you."

Bag some bubbly. Champagne is another traditional V-Day item. I like mine bone dry, but why not buy a few splits and do a tasting flight to see which appeals to you and your sweet thang? If you're doing the chocolate thing, the right red wine would make a fine accompaniment too.

**CAUTION:** Cheap champagne (as opposed to reasonably priced good stuff) is another way of saying the bearer wants to have his or her way with you and doesn't care if you both have a headache in the morning. If your babe bestows this stuff on you, hand it back and give him or her the Heisman in return.

That's the low-down on Valentine's Day gifts. Here's hoping Cupid's aim is true.



**64**  
I Fall For You  
Flowers

**537**  
I Cherish You  
Chocolates

**2,252**  
I Love You Gifts

**1**  
Romantic  
Destination

University Mall • Chapel Hill  
201 S. Estes Dr.  
919.929.7133  
southernseason.com

*A  
Southern  
Season*

# SWEETS FOR THE SWEET, LOCAL STYLE

BY MARGOT C. LESTER ♦ PHOTOS BY AVA BARLOW

The Aztecs called it *xocolatl*, which translates roughly to "bitter water." But they couldn't have been all that bitter about it because they also associated it with Xochiquetzal, the goddess of fertility. Perhaps that's why we associate chocolate with Valentine's Day and other opportunities to win one another's affections. But is there more to the magic of chocolate than ancient deities and gift-giving traditions? Possibly. In one study, melting chocolate in the mouth increased heart rate and brain activity more intensely than passionate kissing. Whoa!

Whatever the reason, we love our chocolate. And we love giving (and getting) it for Valentine's Day. From the dreaded (and clichéd) Whitman's heart-shaped sampler to expensive imported confections, sweets for the sweet are pretty much a required element for a romantic Valentine's Day. This year, why don't you show a little love for the object of your affection and your community by buying your Valentine's Day candy from a local maker?

Here are three:

**Carolina Confectionery Company**  
www.carolinaconfectionery.com ♦ 967-7500  
Hand-made toffee from mom's recipe and other candies  
**VALENTINE'S SPECIALS:** Heart-shaped box of toffee (\$35)  
or Heart-shaped box of truffles (\$40)

**Matthew's Chocolates**  
107 N. Churton St., Hillsborough ♦ 732-0900  
Selection of chocolate changes weekly

**Miel Bon Bons Patisserie & Confiserie**  
www.mielbonbons.com ♦ Carr Mill Mall ♦ 967-2313  
Hand-crafted petit fours and bon bons

Of course, if you want to get your candy along with a whole slew of other goodies, head to Chapel Hill's mega gourmet grocery A Southern Season in University Mall. They've got more high-end chocolate than you can shake a stick at. And at least you'll be spending your tax dollars with a "big box" that's locally owned and operated.

Fancy chocolates also are available from the local outpost of Dutch chocolate-maker Chocolaterie Stam at Chapel Hill North.

**Editor's note:** Did we miss a local maker of chocolates? Are there local candy makers we should know about before the next sweet-centric holiday (that'd be Easter)? Drop a line with the business' name and contact information to [margot@carrborocitizen.com](mailto:margot@carrborocitizen.com)

Chocolates made by Mary Butler of Carolina Confectionery  
PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW







Candy flowers made by Miel Bon Bons in Carr Mill Mall



Details of a wedding cake being prepared by Miel Bon Bons in Carr Mill Mall



Mary Butler of Carolina Confectionery Company making chocolate candies

## THEATER

### THE ARTSCENTER

**Alice in Wonderland** — Lewis Carroll's classic tale meets new twists and turns in this adventurous musical presented by Company Carolina. Jan. 30, 8pm; Jan. 31, 3pm, 8pm; Feb. 1, 5-7, 8pm. \$5-12

**A Date with Sherry and Her Trio** — An offshoot of Readers Theatre with live music. Feb. 5, 25 1:30pm  
Readers Theatre at Lunch, Feb. 10-11, 18-19

**The Love Show** — Transactors Improv on the joys and tortures of romantic love. Feb. 13, 8pm, \$12-14

**The February 48** — For the 4th year in a row, a bunch of zany teenagers will write, rehearse, produce and perform a new play in 48 hours. \$5-8

**Playwrights Roundtable** — The ArtsCenter's resident playwrights lab stage readings of new short works. Feb. 22, 7pm

### DEEP DISH THEATER

**Heart Murmurs: An Evening of Readings on a Valentine Theme** — Feb. 6, 7:30pm

## CALENDAR

**Uncle Vanya** — Anton Chekhov's provocative tragic-comedy centered on two desperate men watching their world slowly dying, and a young woman in whom they each hope to find salvation. Feb. 9-14, deepdishtheater.org

### DSI COMEDY THEATER

**Standup Comedy**, Fridays at 11pm, \$5

**Mister Diplomat**, Fridays at 9:30pm, free

**ComedySportz**, Saturdays at 7:30pm, \$12  
Dsicomedytheater.com

### PLAYMAKERS

In rotating rep, Tennessee Williams' classic **The Glass Menagerie** will be paired with the regional premiere of **Well** (pictured at right), the recent Broadway sensation by Lisa Kron. The plays will be performed on alternating dates through March 1, \$10-40, playmakersrep.org

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival** — The annual festival features more than

600 performers in 36 shows over nine days of comedy at The ArtsCenter, DSI Comedy Theater and the Cat's Cradle. Full schedule and description of acts at [nccomedysarts.com](http://nccomedysarts.com)



## THE GLASS MENAGERIE

by Tennessee Williams

IN ROTATING REPERTORY

## WELL

by Lisa Kron

PLAYMAKERS  
REPERTORY COMPANY

JAN 24 -  
MAR 1

*"To describe my mother would be to write about a hurricane in its perfect power."*

—Maya Angelou

Center for Dramatic Art, UNC-Chapel Hill

919.962.PLAY (7529) [playmakersrep.org](http://playmakersrep.org)

