

RELATING

According to Merriam-Webster, human relations is “a study of human problems arising from organizational and interpersonal relations (as in industry),” or, “a course, study, or program designed to develop better interpersonal and intergroup adjustments.” I like to think it just refers to how we get along, and why we get along (or don't) the way we do.

North Carolina annually declares February as Human Relations Month, and we're lucky that here in Orange County, not only do we do the same, but that at least some of us take the time to focus on what that means. Earlier this week, Orange County kicked off the month with its annual forum, which this year focused

on the implications of defining marriage by constitutional amendment. For the record, we believe those implications are *bad news*.

This little arts/music/food/literature/whatever rag might seem an odd place to broach something so political, but I'd like to argue to the contrary – the way we express ourselves, be it through painting, poem, lyric or something created on the stove, has everything to do with how we see, interact with and treat one another – everything to do with love.

So this month (and on the May ballot), in honor of relating with other humans, share the love.

– Susan Dickson

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ROSS'S ALMANAC

"After being seated at that counter for about 30 seconds I had the most wonderful feeling. ... I felt like I could have walked on a cloud. I felt as if I had died at that moment life wouldn't have cheated me out of anything. I would have had a full life."

– Franklin McCain, one of four students at the first sit-in at Woolworth's in Greensboro, on Feb. 1, 1969

If the recent spell of warm weather has you thumbing through the seed catalogs, you may want to check out the new zone map site at the U.S. Department of Agriculture website, which has a nifty GIS-driven interface. Punch in your zip code and drill down. Both the USDA and NOAA are stepping up their climate-change monitoring, including the effect on plant hardiness. Around here, the maps say we're a warm Zone 7, but Zone 8 isn't far away, pushing up from the coast, with the line through parts of Harnett, Wake and southern Chatham. Regardless of zone, this month will feature its usual wild swings. Last year, the last day of the month was a record-setter, with a high of 81.

Feb. 1 – Sunrise: 7:15 a.m.; Sunset: 5:41 p.m.
Feb. 29 – Sunrise: 6:49 a.m.; Sunset: 6:08 p.m.

● Full Moon – Feb. 7 ● Last Quarter – Feb. 14

● New Moon – Feb. 21 ● First Quarter – Feb. 29

The full moon in February is known as the Snow Moon, Wolf Moon and Hunger Moon

Planets & Stars: Planets are in the night sky in February – Jupiter, Venus and the moon draw closer together throughout the month, crossing paths around the 24th, with Mercury finally visible after sundown.

September is Black History Month and Heart Month.

Significant Dates

- Feb. 1 is National Freedom Day
- Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day and Candlemas
- Abraham Lincoln's birthday is Feb. 12
- The Feast of Saint Valentine is on Feb. 12
- Feb. 17 is Random Act of Kindness Day
- Presidents' Day is Feb. 20
- Mardi Gras is on Feb. 21
- Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22
- George Washington's birthday, and possibly Groundhog Day, is on Feb. 22
- Leap Day is Feb. 29

There are UNC home basketball games on Feb. 8 (Duke!), 11, 18 and 29.

rossalmanac.com/journal

ART NOTES

In the galleries

At the N.C. Botanical Garden De-Berry Gallery for Botanical Art and Illustration this month, “Seed Play,” a textile art exhibit by Nancy Cook exploring the architecture of seeds, is on display through Feb. 27.

Also this month, the artists of FRANK explore themes of birth, death, religion and myth with their “Body & Soul” exhibition. On Feb. 16, artists will lead a tour and discussion of the show.

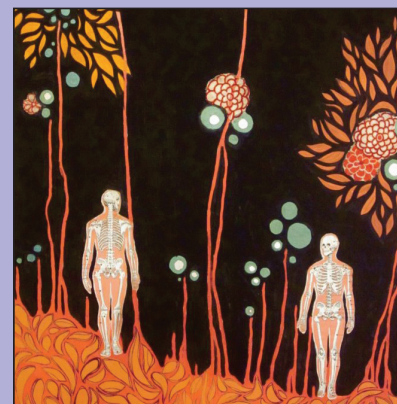
Over in Saxapahaw, “From the Earth: Gifts of Fire and Clay” opens Friday, Feb. 3 at Saxapahaw Art Gallery. The exhibit includes pieces ranging from modestly scaled pots and figurines to large sculptures, crossing a spectrum of conventional delineations among fine art practices.

On Feb. 12 from 4-6 p.m., Chapel Hill native Kelsey Melville will host an opening for an exhibition of her work at Carrboro Massage Therapy. Working with a variety of materials and processes, the central idea behind her work deals with human emotion, thought, experience and emotion.

At The ArtsCenter, the illustrations, graphic art and paintings of FRANCO will be on display in the Center Gallery. A reception for the show, which synthesizes art and activism to form visual activism, will be held during 2ndFriday Artwalk on Feb. 10.

LIGHT Art+Design celebrates its first anniversary this month with the opening of “ILLUME,” an exhibition exploring concepts of light through art and lighting fixtures, on Feb. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibit will play on different facets of light and feature photography, paintings and sculptures by principal LIGHT artists and newcomers to the gallery, in addition to high-design lighting.

At Hillsborough's Eno Gallery, “Steel Canvas,” a solo exhibition of paintings on steel plate by Robert Gardner, is on display through Feb. 21.



“Transients” by Kelsey Melville, on display at Carrboro Massage Therapy

In Your Words

Cheney Stole My Snow

A poem by Jacquelyn M. Gist

The wood piles still high
Trees are in bud
Mosquitoes buzz
It's January
Dick Cheney stole my snow

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