



Peter L. Mendall, CFP[®] Kimberley J. Mondoñedo, CFP[®] Certified Financial Planner[™]

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Dear Friends,

Love, Cupid, hearts, chocolates, diamonds (lots of diamond ads too), cards, and flowers are everywhere—Valentine's Day is here again! On February 14th, we celebrate love and friendship. But where did this holiday of affection come from?

The origins of Valentine's Day are murky. As a matter of fact, we've come across numerous versions of its origin. This one in particular we found recently and thought we'd share in the spirit of the holiday.

It's said that the romance we associate with Valentine's Day may have sprung from the medieval belief that birds select their mates on February 14th. During the Middle Ages, human "lovebirds" recited verse or prose to one another in honor of the day. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" wrote William Shakespeare. And poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning expressed love this way:

How do I love thee; let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height My soul can reach...

Nowadays, the common medium to convey your message of love and appreciation is through a greeting card. "Will you be my Valentine?" people often ask. Probably the first cards, handmade valentines, appeared in the 16th century. As early as 1800, companies began mass-producing them. Initially these cards were hand-colored by factory workers. By the early 20th century even fancy lace and ribbon-strewn cards were created by machine.

Whichever way you decide to let those special people in your life know that they're loved—be it a poem, spending quality time, or a greeting card—we hope you make it a special one.

Here at The Mendall Financial Group, we wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!

P.S. Please mark your calendars for our annual **Shredding Day on Tuesday, May 14 from 9am to 11am**. We will be behind the Augusta office building with coffee and doughnuts – rain or shine. RSVP not required!

P.P.S Retail **1099 Forms** will be mailed in three main groups- the first mailed by **2/15**, the second mailed by **2/28** and the third mailed by **3/15**. These dates also hinge on when we receive the information from our securities. Forms for retirement, such as, **1099-R** and **5498**, as well as education saving accounts, Form **1099-Q**, will be mailed by **1/31**. Please be aware that amended **1099s** can still come past the above dates.

Sincerely,

Kim PETER

Peter L. Mendall, CFP® Kimberley J. Mondoñedo, CFP® *Mendall Financial Group LLC*®