

* A Message From the CEO *

Feb. Means Lots of Love

by **John Hawkins**
President and CEO, The Club



I was trying to think back to my most memorable Valentine's Day. While not one stood out in particular in my adult years, I distinctly remember my grade school celebrations. Most notably, I remember getting those mass-produced Valentine cards stuffed with three or four of those little multi-colored heart candies with the short sayings and words on them. I don't know about you, but I took them pretty seriously. I dreaded getting the "No Way" or the "Get Lost" heart. And if I got one that said "U R the 1," I was dreaming of marriage. I was a pretty romantic tyke, and I truly believed each heart was hand-picked, just for me.

Speaking of those little colored heart-shaped candies, I did some research online. Did you know that they have been produced for more than 100 years? Yep, and the company, Necco, that started making them first is still making them. And, if you were/are a sugar-holic like me, you may also remember those multi-colored wafer candies that were called Necco's; yep, same company. Come to think about it, those tasted very similar to the candy hearts ...

One more weird fact: Did you know that each color of the candy hearts has a flavor? I didn't, to be honest; they all tasted the same to me. Here's the official list: Pink is cherry; yellow is banana; orange is...well, orange; green is lemon (I guess it was more important to have banana take the yellow color); purple is grape; white is wintergreen; and brown is chocolate.

Since we're talking about love, this issue is an example of how much John Burnes, our *Alive!* editor, loves his job. Last month he spent three days on the road, tracing the course of one of the main origins of LA's water, the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Fighting the freezing cold, gale-force winds and a bout of the flu, he brought back a wonderful story and photos of this vital piece of Los Angeles. "Precious Water" begins in all its glory on the front page. Enjoy!

And speaking of journeys, be sure to read "Rock Tour." It too begins on the front page and chronicles the unusual voyage of a moon rock from Houston to Los Angeles. This very rock is now on permanent display at the City-owned and -operated Griffith Observatory.

A few other notes on this issue:

- See page 13 for you fellow City employees' Valentine tributes;
- We're still publishing holiday party pictures; they start on page 34;
- Check out our new design and look for *Alive! Around the World* on page 49;
- Read and then go see the Franklin Bridge for yourself. It's also known as the Shakespeare Bridge and would make a romantic spot for a Valentine's Day rendezvous! (page 50)

Well, that's it for now. Have an excellent February!

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Features

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Special Section 28 Precious Water

Where does the water you drink come from? About half comes from the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Follow the water in a special section.



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The DWP Dream Makers team is participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, in the fight against breast cancer.

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