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Recipe of the month

Valentine's Day Brownies

3/4 c. unsalted butter
4 oz. unsweetened chocolate
4 oz. semisweet chocolate
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 c. unsweetened cocoa powder
3/4 tsp. salt

6 large eggs
1 c. granulated sugar
1 c. packed brown sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
vanilla frosting, for decorating

Total time: 40 mins. Yield: 16 servings

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Line 13-inch by 9-inch pan with foil, grease foil.
2. In 3-quart saucepan, melt butter and chocolates on low, stirring. Remove from heat.
3. In bowl, whisk flour, cocoa and salt. In large bowl, with electric mixer on high speed, beat eggs until blended. Gradually add sugars; beat until tripled in volume, about 10 minutes.
4. Fold in chocolate mixture and vanilla, then flour mixture. Pour into pan. Bake until toothpick inserted near centre comes out almost clean, 28 to 32 minutes.
5. Once cool, cut brownies into hearts freehand or using a heart-shaped cookie cutter. (Tip: Don't let the trimmings go to waste – you can even crumble them onto a sundae!)
6. Pipe on store-bought frosting to create cute chocolate "conversation hearts."

Source: www.goodhousekeeping.com

Did you know Gold Canyon Candles went out of business in March 2020?

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Everybody's Talking

Table for one: During the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing has been the norm. That's why restaurants have closed in countries around the world. However, a Swedish couple decided to try their hand at offering a safe dining experience. Linda Karlsson and Rasmus Persson, from the rural village of Ransäter, opened Bord för en (which is Swedish for "table for one"). They set up a table in a field for one person to dine, and sent the food to the guest in a basket, via a rope from the kitchen to the table. They carefully sterilized the dishes and table before serving a diner with a vegetarian meal of three courses.

Cool cake: When Zahirah Macwilson and Aiman Hakim Redza got married, they wowed their guests by presenting a unique wedding cake. The Malaysian actors hired bakers to create a wedding cake that hung upside down from the ceiling to resemble a chandelier. The newlyweds stepped up onto a small stage to make the first cut. The cake was made by Lily & Lola Cakes in Kuala Lumpur. Owner Lily Osman got the idea to make such a cake a few years ago, but this was her first opportunity to actually do it. It took a week to make, and she needed help to install it from the ceiling of the wedding venue.

Fast food diet: Dieticians don't recommend the food choices of a Belgian man named Rudy Gybels. He realized that he had a love for fried potatoes when he was 13 years old. His mother allowed him to eat the fried food for dinner if he would agree to eat a healthy lunch. Over three decades later, Gybels is still eating fries for dinner, along with a Dutch hot dog called a fricadelle. The fast food lover is not overweight, and he feels healthy, but admits that he hasn't had a check-up for a while. He realizes that his diet isn't great, but he likes fries too much to give them up.

Moose rescue: Travis Burke and Greg Miller went fishing, a favourite activity among folks who live near the Canadian city of Sudbury, Ontario. On this outing, however, the pair did more than catch fish. They came across a very young baby moose that was shivering and alone. It was in the water and couldn't seem to get up onto the rocky shore. So Burke and Miller came to the rescue, guiding their boat to the baby and helping it onto land. Upon hearing the story, a wildlife expert believed the men did the right thing by leaving it there, saying that it was likely the mother would come back to find it.

Quoteable Quotes

"Forget the past and live in the present hour." —Sarah Knowles Bolton
"What delights us in the visible beauty is the invisible." —Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

What's Happening

Feb 1 to 28-Hypothermic Half Marathon 10K Virtual event - participate from any location you choose! Run in support of Justsocks.ca - a volunteer operated charity providing new socks to those in need across Canada. www.hypothermichalf.com

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Trivia

1. What is an abacus?
2. The distinct flavour in Earl Grey tea is bergamot, cinnamon, or sage?
3. The largest part of the human brain is called the cerebrum or the cerebellum?
4. What plant is known for its stinging ability?
5. Who was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize, in 1903?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Inspiring dialogue may help you see someone's natural talents. Your experience and nurturing instincts may help you encourage them to find their own niche. Lucky Numbers: 16, 19, 26, 29, 36, 39.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Slowing down your pace, just to suit others, might not be best right now. Try not to be too abrupt, though. You probably know that you need to follow your own rhythm. Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 17, 33, 37, 41.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You may have decided on big changes in your domestic life. Communication with family or friends might be strained. Try your best to clear up the points of confusion. Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 24, 27, 43, 48.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Your energy level and attitude could be very high. Use this newfound force to take on some kind of struggle or resistance. You may need to find a cause to engage in. Lucky Numbers: 13, 22, 31, 44, 46, 49.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)

If you really focus on your objectives, you may really accomplish much. Plan a new future for yourself. Your positive attitude and physical energy levels might be very high. Lucky Numbers: 15, 16, 24, 25, 33, 34.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Don't let any wild, daring behaviour put you in risky situations. You may feel headstrong and rash. Your drive for independence in your own life might be strong. Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 24, 27, 30, 40.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

You may not feel as practical or resourceful as your usual self. Your ability to focus on the present may help your judgment about making important decisions. Lucky Numbers: 12, 30, 37, 42, 44, 49.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Expect some opposition, but know that you have more people on your side. The continued team effort may put your ideas at the top of the heap. Enjoy the limelight. Lucky Numbers: 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, 36.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You may have to do work that interferes with your personal affairs. Take pride that others recognize your talents. New ideas may arise in the conversation. Lucky Numbers: 3, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The role of host or hostess may suit you very well. Verbal agreements, contracts, or other joint efforts might work out to your advantage right now. Lucky Numbers: 7, 24, 32, 41, 43, 47.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You may have a strong need to be loved and to love others. You could make big strides and perhaps important discoveries, especially if your work involves family research. Lucky Numbers: 5, 6, 14, 15, 26, 27.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

Your strong relationships within your family may make this week a cooperative one. Show them how much they really mean to you. Count your blessings. Lucky Numbers: 8, 15, 19, 38, 45, 49.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Libra winners with the luckiest number being 12.

Did You Know...

Bead work: The Museo de Arte Popular in Mexico City is home to El Vochol. This Volkswagen Beetle has been decorated with beadwork, the traditional handicraft of the country's Huichol people. Portrayed in the beadwork are many colourful symbols of Mexico.

Queen of the colony: Naked mole rats live in colonies with a dominant female rat (the queen) leading them. The worker rats dig burrows using their big front teeth. As their name indicates, these mammals are hairless.

Many steps: Tianmen Shan near Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province, China, is an opening in a mountain face that seems to be the door to heaven. Visitors can reach it in several ways, including a 999-step staircase or a tour bus on a winding road.

Magic station: London's King Cross Station has a Platform 9^{3/4}. It honours the wildly popular *Harry Potter* book series, in which students of Hogwarts School went to this weirdly numbered, magical platform to catch to their train.

Beautiful beast: The Bengal tiger, which lives in and around India, is the most common subspecies of tiger and is designated as India's national animal. These cats are carnivores and can live to be 8 to 10 years old.

On the Lighter Side

"Does your dog bite?"
"Nope."
"Oh, so how do you feed him?"

What can you hold without ever touching it? A conversation.

The best thing about the good old days is that we were neither good nor old.

When do you stop at green and go full speed at red? When you're eating a watermelon!

The more you take from it, the greater it becomes. What is it? A hole.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Ancient counting tool 2. Bergamot 3. Cerebrum 4. Nettle 5. Marie Curie (Physics)

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