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DRINKS Love Bug \$12 Sweet, tropical cocktail made with vodka, grenadine topped with sprite. Pink Margarita \$15 A fun strawberry twist on the classic margarita

STARTER Heart-shaped Margherita Pizzetta \$19 Heart-shaped Bruschetta \$12

> <u>MAIN COURSE</u> Creamy Tuscan Salmon \$30

Creamy sauce served with shrimp and heart shaped white rice Spicy Alfredo \$28

Homemade fettuccine pasta coated in a Alfredo sauce, mixed with fresh spinach,

sweet cherry peppers, and tender grilled chicken Cupid's Filet Mignon \$45

Served with roasted potatoes and mixed sautéed vegetables **Truffle Pasta** \$23

Long fusilli pasta tossed in truffle oil, complemented by sautéed mushrooms, and crowned with fresh burrata

#### DESSERT

Dessert for 2... Love at First Sight S22 A slice of cheesecake, a slice of tiramisu served with two mini cannoli



Call for reservations Regular menu also avail.

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# Events Calendar

#### ART ON THE FARM SERIES

2/12, 2/19: 3-6pm. Watercolor Painting at the Queens County Farm Museum. Instructor is Denis Ponsot. This course is 6 sessions, sign up for 1 or all 6 for a discount. \$40 per class. Register online: www.queensfarm.org

73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Floral Park.

#### HEART PILLOW ADULT CRAFT JONES BEACH

2/13. 1:30-3pm. Upcycle fabric scraps to make your sweetheart a heart pillow. \$4. Fee. Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center, Bay Pkwy, Wantagh. Reserve: www.jonesbeachenc.org

#### VALENTINE WORKSHOP 2/14. 10am-1pm. Nassau County

Museum of Art Participants will make coasters with a heart-shaped center using the Nuno felting technique. All materials included. For ages 16 and up. \$60p.p., \$54 for members. Register online: www.nassaumuseum.org One Museum Drive, Roslyn. 516-484-9338

## NIGHT SKY LOVE AT VANDERBILT

**2/14: 2pm or 8pm.** Valentine/love emphasis, this show will explore how civilizations told stories about the constellations that included tales of heroism and love, and how they are

depicted in the night sky. **2:00 pm show**: adults \$20; students (with ID) and seniors (62-plus) \$18; children 12 and under \$16 **8:00 pm show**: adults \$12; students and seniors \$10; children 12 and under \$8, 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport. 631-854-5579. Purchase online: www.vanderbiltmuseum.org

#### SENIOR VETERANS LUNCH AND LEARN

2/14. 11:30am. Presented by the Nassau County Office for the Aging. Presentation by Honor Flight Long Island. <u>RSVP by Feb 10<sup>th</sup></u>. Bethpage Community Center, 103 Grumman Rd. West, Bethpage. 516-571-9910. Register: www.nassaucountyny.gov/aging-events

#### SWEETHEART NECKLACES

2/14, 2:30-4pm.Drop in between these times. Long Island Children's Museum. Ages 3+ Free with museum admission. Purchase tickets: www.licm.org 11 Davis Ave., Garden City

#### THE 90's BAND AT THE PLATTDUETSCHE

**2/15: 7-11pm.** \$8 Cover. German food & beer available for purchase. 1132 Hempstead Tpke., Franklin Square. 516-354-3131. www.parkrestaurant.com

#### CREATIVE COLLAGE WORKSHOP

2/15. 1-4pm. Nassau County Museum

of Art. This workshop will cover a range of collaging tools and techniques used by professional collage and mixed media artists. All materials included. For ages 16 and up. \$60p.p., \$54 for members. Register online: www.nassaumuseum.org 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn. 516-484-9338

#### SEAL WALK AT JONES BEACH

2/15 or 2/16. 1:30-3pm. Learn about these incredible mammals with a short lecture inside then onto a guided beach walk to find Harbor and Grey Seals. Dress warm. \$4 Fee. Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center, Bay Pkwy, Wantagh. Reserve: www.jonesbeachenc.org

#### **PLUTO DAY PLAY**

2/16, 1-3pm. Drop in between these times. Long Island Children's Museum. Ages 3+ Learn about Pluto and make a portrait. Free with museum admission. Purchase tickets: www.licm.org 11 Davis Ave., Garden City

#### **ADRIANCE FARM TOURS**

2/16, 2/22, 2/23. 11am-4pm, Every hour and half. Queens County Farm Museum. Learn about the oldest surviving structure on Queens County Farm. Free admission. No reservations needed. www.queensfarm.org 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Floral Park.

#### **ROOT TO RISE YOGA SERIES**

2/16. 10-11:00am. At the Queens County Farm Museum. Wellness series indoor in the barn, \$18. Per session. Register online: www.queensfarm.org 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Floral Park.

#### BIRD WALK

2/16, 9am. Massapequa Preserve. By the South Shore Audubon Society. Weather permitting. Free and open to the public, children also encouraged to come. Register by texting Joe Landesberg: 516-467-9498 leave your name and date you want to attend. Meet at Parkside Blvd., Parking lot east end of train station. For more info: www.ssaudubon.org

#### **DIGITALIS PLANETARIUM**

2/17, 1, 1:30 2 or 2:30. Long Island Children's Museum. Other dates & times avail. Ages 4+ 30 minute fascinating show. Free with museum admission. Buy tickets at the museum. For complete info: www.licm.org 11 Davis Ave., Garden City

#### FEB. BREAK FOR ART

2/18 thru 2/20 11-12:30 or 1-2:30. Nassau County Museum of Art. Kids age 2-10 (teens also welcome) with adult companions. 3 days of family artmaking. Different project each day, come for one or all 3. \$10 children, \$20 adult. Includes museum admission & supplies. Register online: www.nassaumuseum.org One Museum

Drive, Roslyn. 516-484-9338

#### INTERSTELLAR CINDERELLA

2/18, 11am or 1:30pm Long Island Children's Museum. Other dates and times avail. Ages 4+ \$11. with museum admission. Buy tickets at the museum. Order tickets: www.licm.org 11 Davis Ave., Garden City

## WINTER WONDER WALK AT JONES BEACH

2/20. 1:30-3pm. All ages and families. Join our educator for a paved walk and short beach walk to find animal tracks and winter surprises. \$4 Fee. Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center, Bay Pkwy, Wantagh. Reserve: www.jonesbeachenc.org

#### **PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

2/21, 2/22, 2/23, Various times. At The Madison Theatre at Molly University. Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta. 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. Rates, Times & Tickets online: www.Madisontheatreny.org

#### CRADLE OF AVIATION FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

2/21, 5:30-9pm. How To Train Your Dragon. Packed wit dragon inspired activities, making your own paper dragon, exploring the museum and a screening of the movie in our theatre. Snacks provided. Adults \$18, children \$16. Buy tickets online: www.cradleofaviation.org 516-572-4066

#### CREATIVE ART JOURNALING CIRCLE & WORKSHOP

2/22, 3/22, 1-4pm.Adults & teens 16+ at the Nassau County Museum of Art. Register for 1 class or all 3. Explore various creative tools & techniques, all levels welcome. \$60 per class, \$54 members. Register online: www.nassaumuseum.org One Museum

www.nassaumuseum.org One Museum Drive, Roslyn. 516-484-9338

#### **A BAND CALLED HONALEE**

2/23: 2:30pm A tribute to Peter, Paul & Mary Tickets: \$40-\$45. 516-599-6870. Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont. Tickets: www.PlazaTheatrical.com

#### MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP AT JONES BEACH

2/26. 1:30-3pm. Ages 12+ and adults. Join our educator for peaceful walks, mindful meditation and breathing exercise. Free. Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center, Bay Pkwy, Wantagh. Reserve your spot: www.jonesbeachenc.org



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What is the status of the monarch butterfly in the U.S. and is it listed as threatened or endangered? -- M. Smith, Williston Park

The monarch butterfly, known for its awe-inspiring migration across North America, has become a symbol of both ecological wonder and environmental decline. Once abundant across the continent, their numbers have plummeted in recent decades, raising concerns about the species' long-term survival.

In 2014, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), a leading conservation group, petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to list the monarch as "threatened." FSW launched a review of the butterfly's status, concluding six years later that listing was warranted although other species took priority. In 2022, CBD filed a federal lawsuit and won a settlement calling for the government to decide whether to list monarchs by late 2024, which FSW did in December, finally granted "threatened" status to the species.

The monarch's eastern population, which migrates from the U.S. and Canada to central Mexico for the winter, has experienced a staggering 80 percent drop over the past 20 years, largely due to habitat loss, especially the destruction of milkweed—the sole food source for monarch larvae. The widespread use of herbicides and pesticides kill both milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants. Climate is compounding the issue by altering the availability of suitable habitats, affecting mi-

gration patterns. The monarch's western population migrates along the U.S. West Coast to winter in California, and has also seen a drastic decline. It has not yet been listed as threatened or endangered by FWS, but the western monarch is still considered to be in serious jeopardy, with some estimates suggesting a 99 percent decline since the 1980s.

Being listed as "threatened" means that while monarchs are not yet in immediate danger of extinction, their populations are at significant risk. This status has prompted federal agencies to prioritize monarch conservation, leading to a variety of initiatives aimed at halting or reversing the decline. FWS has created a recovery plan, which includes restoring migratory and breeding habitats, reducing pesticide use and raising public awareness about the importance of monarchs and pollinators in general.

Despite official recognition of the problem and action, habitat destruction continues at an alarming rate, exacerbated by logging and urban sprawl. In response, conservation and governmental agencies and researchers are all working toward restoring monarch habitats and promoting the planting of milkweed.

Everyone can play a role in helping the monarchs. Readers can help by planting milkweed in your garden, backyard or community space. You can also reduce pesticide use in your yard and choose organic gardening practices. Support organizations working to protect monarch habitats and advocate for policies that protect pollinators and raise awareness about their decline can also create broader change.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

#### **RECIPE OF THE WEEK** =

Sweetheart Cheesecake Cookie Cups



2 pkg (16 oz each) chocolate chip cookie dough

Whipping Cream: 1 cup heavy cream 2 tbsp sugar

Filling:

8 oz cream cheese, softened 1/2 cup powdered sugar 1 cup whipping cream crumbled cookies, for topping (optional) sprinkles, for topping (optional) Heat oven to 350 F. In muffin tin, press three pieces of cookie dough into each muffin hole. Bake 15 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes then use shot glass and press into each hole. Let cool another 5 minutes and place on rack to cool completely.

With hand mixer, mix heavy cream and sugar until it thickens then add cream cheese and powdered sugar; cream together. Spoon into cool cookie cups.

If desired, use piping bag and pipe pretty edge around cup. Top with crumbled cookies or sprinkles,

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"



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