By Nancy Whitaker

A Valentine’s Day gift

Valentines Day is tomorrow, Feb. 14. Are you a romantic person who surprises your sweetheart with that special gift? Do you like chocolates, flowers, jewelry or maybe a book? I am a romantic at heart and I love getting any of the above gifts. Now, I know that some of the stores had Valentine’s Day gifts on the shelves right after Christmas, so I guess we have all had plenty of time to get something for that special someone.

They say a woman remembers Valentine’s Day more than a man does. She is more apt to throw out hints on what she wants and nine chances out of ten she will also buy her sweetie something.

But, did you know, guys, that there are certain items your gal just may not want for Valentine’s Day? In fact, there is a list of what not to buy women and a list of what not to buy for men on Feb. 14. I find the list interesting, because not everyone is alike and we all have different ideas of what constitutes a “gift of love.”

One of the items on the list not to buy was a box of chocolates. I love chocolate, but I will admit, I have my favorites. If I get a fancy box of candy, I love to throw away the map that comes with it and just randomly choose a piece. And, wouldn’t you know? I usually get an orange-filled or lemon-filled chocolate, definitely not the kind I like. By the time I get done trying to find the piece I like I have bit into almost all of them and just have the pretty box left. Now, my favorite candy are those neon sour worms. So, hint, hint, anyone who is going to get me candy, make sure it is sour worms.

Another thing on the list of what not to buy a girl is an oil change for her car, a small appliance, tickets to your favorite sporting event (so you can go too), diet pills or a girdle. I can understand why. One lady said she was very upset when her better half got her a thigh master for Valentine's Day. So guys, getting to know her likes and dislikes may be the key to buying her a successful gift.

Now ladies, here are some of the things they said never to buy a man for that special day. They said never buy him a pair of silk boxers (I would wear those myself), a gaudy necktie, a handkerchief, socks, give him a picture of yourself or a handy little screwdriver set with 20 fittings. I sure don't know what is wrong with those gifts as those are things I usually buy. In fact, it is reported that a man is satisfied with a big old steak dinner made with your loving touch making the old adage true, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

I remember well when my kids were in school, how we used to make their Valentine's Day boxes to take to school for a party. It was always a big deal to see who was going to bring home a prize for the best decorated and creative box.

Yes, I remember too, when I was in school having those special Valentine's Day parties. I recall one year I took those little conversation heart candies as a treat for the party. I felt so happy and proud taking them, because I had my eyes on a special little boy and wanted to give him a heart that said, "Kiss Me."

However, whatever gift you buy that special someone for Valentine's Day will make them feel special and will reflect your love for them. Now, I am not a cheapskate, but I do know that most Valentine's Day candy and gift items are about 50 percent off the next day. So, if I don't get any special sweetheart candy this year right on Valentine's Day, I will just go out and get my own on Feb. 15.

We all know that it takes more than chocolates, flowers or jewelry to say, "I love you," but it sure helps.

So in the meantime, “Je t’aime, Ti amo and Te amo,” which are all ways to say, “I love you.”

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The opinions stated are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect that of the newspaper.