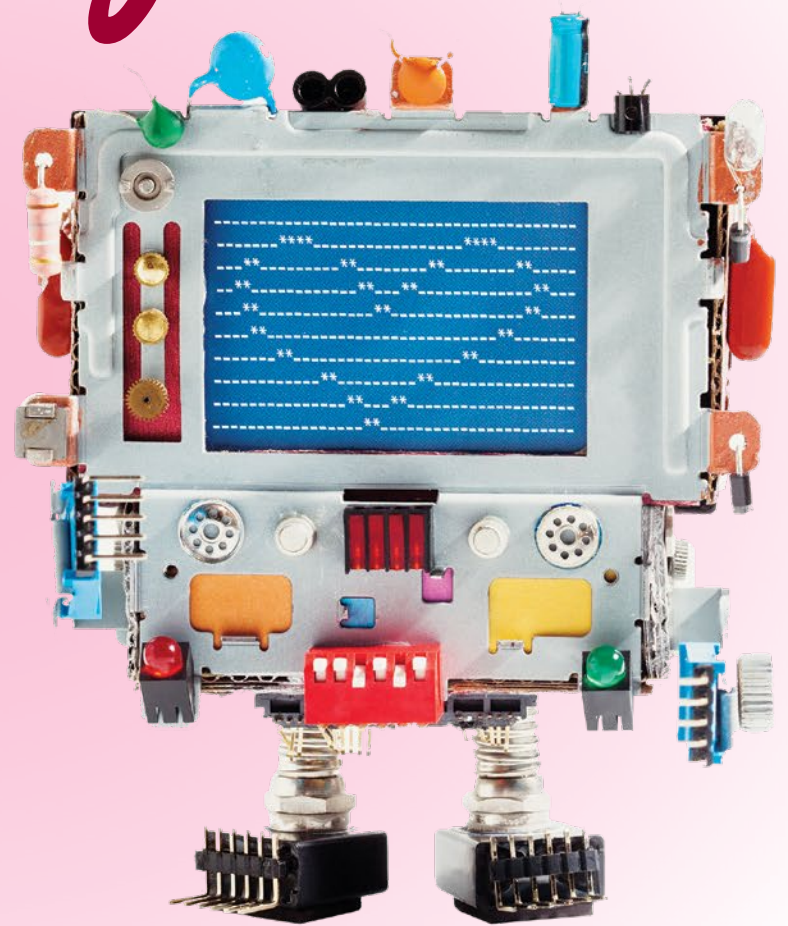
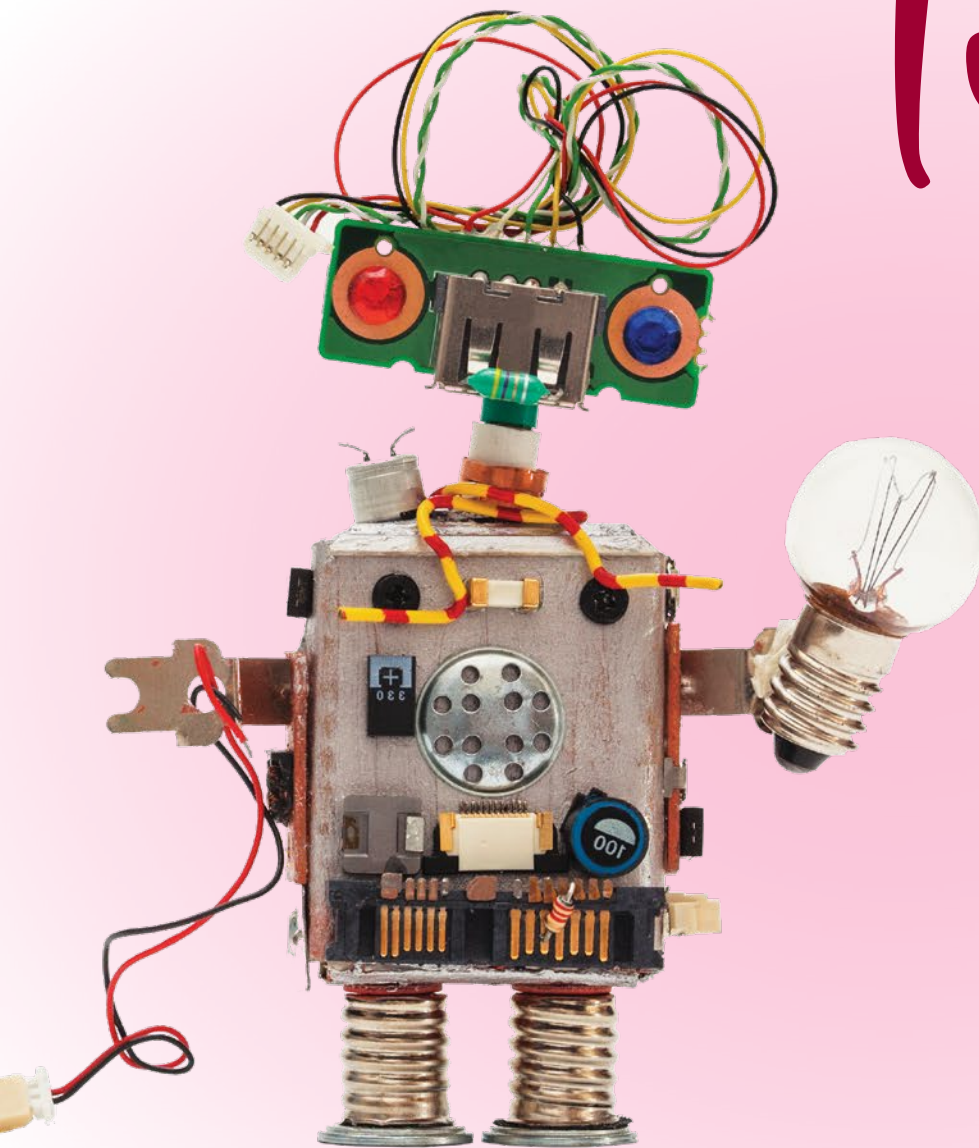


MAKE IT Together



Hobbies for sweethearts

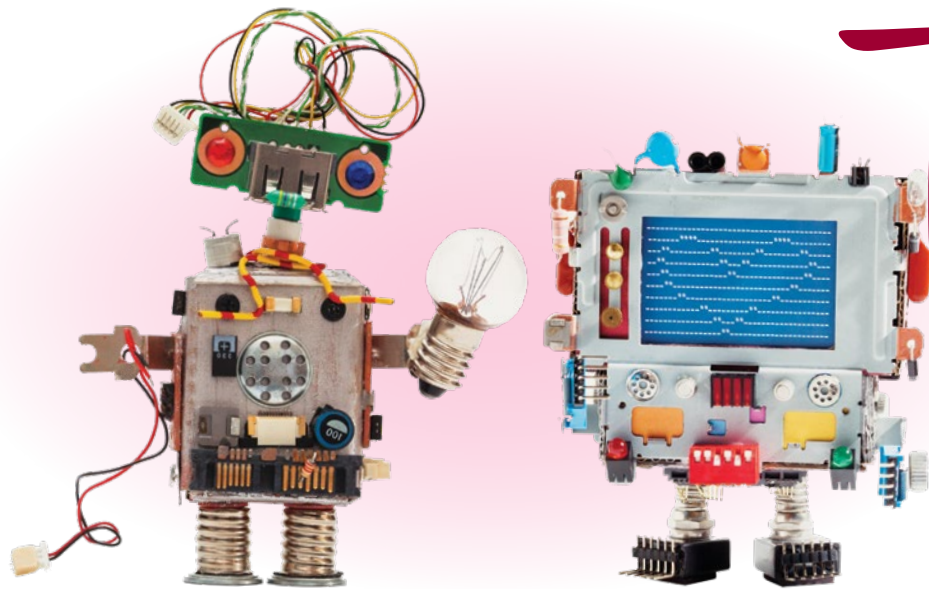
or anybody who wants to learn something new with a partner

INSIDE: FEBRUARY VACATION CAMPS

MAKE IT

Together

Hobbies for sweethearts
or anybody who wants to learn
something new with a partner



You could buy flowers or chocolates for your loved one this Valentine's Day, but why not up the creativity factor and do something fun together instead? You

can make all kinds of things with your partner, your friends or even your kids — from robots and guitars to pottery and chocolate-dipped strawberries.

Made with love

Unique, hands-on projects for couples

By Scott Murphy
smurphy@hippopress.com

This Valentine's Day, ditch dinner and a movie for something a bit more creative, with unique crafts like blacksmithing, guttarmaking and even robotics.

Robo romance

Discover a variety of craft workshops at makerspaces across southern New Hampshire. These member-based facilities house workshops for wood and metal working, automotive work, electronics and more.

"When you come to a makerspace, you're constantly exposed to a diversity of people

with diverse backgrounds and skill sets," said Daniel Perrinez, president of Manchester Makerspace.

That includes modern activities like 3-D printing, laser cutting and robotics. Perrinez said plenty of people build robots at the makerspace and receive help from more experienced members.

According to Jay Francis, organizer for the Nashua Robot Builders and a member of the Nashua Makerspace, the club allows people with no programming experience to meet with experienced builders. People who join the makerspace can apply that mentorship to projects made at the space's electronics lab.

"Everyone is really helpful," said Francis.

"We have a mailing list, we're on Meetup and we also have a Facebook group."

The various workshops at makerspaces offers couples plenty of options. Roy Schlieben, executive director of MAxT Makerspace in Peterborough, has seen some couples come in and collaborate on a project while others work on different projects in different workshops.

"It can be a nice thing for couples to make something together," said Alex Nunn, general manager for Port City Makerspace in Portsmouth.

Wood you be mine?

Couples looking for a more traditional craft project can turn to woodworkers in



Intro to Arduino classes at the Nashua Makerspace. Photo courtesy of Jay Francis.

the area, who offer a variety of workshops and projects for all skill levels.

"We're a lot of people's 'golf game,'

Make it together

• **Amherst Makerspace** (14 Cross Road, Amherst) has a woodworking shop, metal shop, computer labs, electronics workbench and more. The space is open from 4:30 to 11 p.m. on weekdays during the school year, and from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends and during summer and school vacations. An open house is held every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. Membership for non-residents costs \$75 for three months or \$275 for a year. Amherst residents pay \$60 for three months and \$220 for a year. Visit amherstmakerspace.com.

• Learn **basic blacksmithing skills** at Brentwood Teaching Center (near Brentwood Recreational Facility, 190 Route 125, Brentwood).

Volunteer members from New England Blacksmiths are available to assist with with a project or technique. The center will reopen during the spring. Cost is \$20 per day. Visit newenglandblacksmiths.org/brentwood.

• Experience **in-shop or livestream classes** with Epic Woodworking (Baptist Road, Canterbury). In-shop classes will resume in the spring. Upcoming livestream classes include a **tilt-top table project** on Tuesdays, from Feb. 27, though April 9, and a **shaker-inspired blanket chest** on Wednesdays, from Feb. 28, through April 10. Both classes start at 8 p.m. and cost \$77. Materials not included. Visit epicwoodworking.com.

• Sign up for **blacksmithing classes** at Greenfield Forge Blacksmithing Shop (37 Wilton Road, Milford). The class starts with basic forging fundamentals and transitions into basic knife making. Six-week courses include weekly classes, available Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. The next session starts the week of Monday, Feb. 25. Cost is \$250 for the course and includes materials. Visit greenfieldforge.net.

• Explore veneering and **make your own table top** on Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Homestead Woodworking School (52 Bald Hill

Road, Newmarket). The workshop will cover the tools and techniques to cut, match, tape and glue veneers for larger wood projects. Cost is \$100 for the class and \$30 for materials. Visit woodschoollnh.com.

• **Build a picture frame** during a two-part workshop on Friday, March 15, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at Homestead Woodworking School (52 Bald Hill Road, Newmarket). Woodworkers of all skill levels will learn how to build a basic 8"x10" frame that they can take home. Cost is \$75 for the class and \$15 for materials. Visit woodschoollnh.com.

CONTINUED ON PG 15 ▶

their time for a social time out to have fun and make something they can see and take home,” said Alan Mitchell, director of the school.

At The Wood Shop in Alton, owner Steve Saulten has had students make everything from picture frames to computer desks. He said each class is tailored to students’ objectives and skill level, which allows for couples to collaborate easily.

“It lends itself to people working together, because you break a project down to various elements,” said Saulten. “One person can do one element while one does the other.”

Over in Fremont, North Road Guitars offers a unique type of woodworking project. Owner John Whiteside walks students through everything from picking tone wood to stringing up the final product.

“Two people can be working on one guitar, or they can be working parallel on two different guitars,” said Whiteside. “For a couple, you can produce two instruments that complement each other and can play gorgeous duets.”

Burning love

For a fun, physical activity from a bygone era, try your hand at blacksmithing. There are still places where you can forge your skills with this colonial activity.

“It’s a whole new experience to get a piece of metal hot and feel what it’s like to sink your hammer into it,” said Vinny Anfuso, owner of Greenfield Forge Blacksmithing Shop in Milford.



Photo courtesy of John Whiteside of North Road Guitars.

Anfuso’s students start out learning fundamentals like making and maintaining a furnace fire and using a hammer and anvil. Eventually, they move on to knife-making.

The forge’s students include “everyone from teenagers all the way up to senior citizens,” according to Anfuso. He added that his classes have proven popular among husbands and wives and boyfriends and girlfriends.

Garry Kalajian of Ararat Forge in Bradford holds classes and demonstrations at events across the state. He said the physicality and historical nature of blacksmithing appeal to people, and encouraged anyone with an interest to give it a try.

“Sometimes people are intimidated and reluctant to try it because of the fire, the physical demands, the process,” said Kalajian. “But it’s really not beyond the ability of virtually anyone.”

Make it together continued

- Learn the ropes with a **general woodworking course** for all skill levels on Wednesdays from April 3 to June 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Homestead Woodworking School (52 Bald Hill Road, Newmarket). Learn the tricks of the trade from an instructor with more than 20 years of experience. Cost is \$325 per person plus additional material costs. Visit woodschoolnh.com.

- **MakeIt Labs** (25 Crown St., Nashua) has an electronics and computer lab, wood shop, machine shop, welding/fabrication shop, automotive garage bay and more. Members have full 24/7 access to the space. An open house is held every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. Regular membership packages range from \$49.95 to \$64.95 per month. The makerspace periodically hosts classes and events. Visit makeitlabs.com.

- **Manchester Makerspace** (36 Old Granite St., Manchester) has workspaces for electronics, woodworking, metalworking, automotive work and more. Members have full 24/7 access to the space. An open house is held every Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. Membership costs \$65 per month with a subscription, or \$80 for a one-month trial. The makerspace periodically hosts classes and events. Visit manchestermakerspace.org.

- **MAXT Makerspace** (49 Vose Farm Road, Peterborough) has workspaces for jewelry-making, welding, woodworking, electronics and

more. The makerspace periodically hosts classes and events. Members have full 24/7 access to the space. An open house is held every Thursday starting at 7 p.m. Membership packages range \$35 to \$90 per month. Visit maxtmakerspace.org.

- Music-lovers can **build an acoustic guitar from scratch** with custom one-on-one classes at North Road Guitars (234 North Road, Fremont). Each guitar takes 200 hours to make, completed with 4 hour sessions scheduled weekly or biweekly at your convenience. Cost is \$16.50 an hour, or \$3,300 total, payable with installments. Materials not included. Visit northroadguitars.com.

- **Port City Makerspace** (68 Morning St., Portsmouth) has workshops for metal, wood, electronics, bicycles and more. An open house is held every Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. Membership costs \$50 per month for daytime access and \$80 per month for 24/7 access. The makerspace periodically hosts classes and events. Visit portcitymakerspace.com.

- Develop your abilities with **woodworking classes** at The Wood Shop in Alton (31 Chamberlain Road, Alton). Four-hour seminars are customized and scheduled by appointment only. Cost for beginner classes is \$40 per hour, or \$160 per class. Scheduling will resume in the spring. Visit woodshopinalton.com.

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Sweets with your sweetheart

Classes in baking, cake decorating and more

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsoll@hippopress.com

Taking a class in cooking, baking or cake decorating can be a tasty way to enjoy Valentine's Day with your loved one, your friends or even your kids.

One such class is at the Candy Kingdom in Manchester on Wednesday, Feb. 13, and will dabble in chocolate-dipped strawberries. Creative director Phyllis Capers said participants will be given 12 to 14 large strawberries to dip in milk, white and dark chocolate.

"Our master chocolate-maker will guide them through the process and demonstrate techniques as far as dipping and decorating the strawberries," she said. Capers said one of the designs you will learn how to make is a tuxedo, using white chocolate to resemble the undershirt, and

white or dark chocolate for the buttons and bowties. After you're done dipping the strawberries in chocolate, the class will also feature around eight to 10 toppings such as miniature M&Ms, coconut and sprinkles to decorate them even more. At the conclusion of the class, participants will go home with a customized heart-shaped gift box to share.

Over at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, the "Cooking at the Vineyard" series will continue throughout the month of February, with desserts as the central theme. The next available dates are on Wednesday, Feb. 20, and Wednesday, Feb. 27, and each class member will get a chance to make either crême brulee, chocolate molten cake, tiramisu or apple crostata under the direction of chef Dave Terry. The theme for March is butcher meats and cheeses and will feature opportunities to make either beef braci-

ole, stuffed chicken caprese or prosciutto and fontina stuffed pork loin. All classes include complimentary wine tastings with the price of admission.

"It's all hands-on, and it's really multifaceted as far as the people that [attend] the classes," said Rob Ozoonian, operations director at Zorvino Vineyards. "We get couples, friends and families getting together. ... Everyone always enjoys it because it's like they are hanging out in their own kitchen. It feels like home to them."

Dancing Lion Chocolate is also hosting a special Valentine's Day-themed class in Zen Brownie baking for couples on Friday, Feb. 22. Owner Richard Tango-Lowy said each couple will make their own batch of brownies to take home by the end of the night, and will also enjoy drinking chocolate and other gifts. Regular brown-



Chocolate dipped strawberry making classes at Candy Kingdom in Manchester. Courtesy photo.

ie-baking and croissant-making classes are also held.

"We really wanted the couples class to be part of a romantic night out," he said. 🍷

Take a cooking class

This list includes restaurants, chocolate shops and more that offer specialty classes in chocolate making, dessert-baking, cake-decorating and more, some suitable for couples and others for friends and parents with children. Call or visit the website for the most up-to-date information on the availability of each class.

• **Candy Kingdom** (235 Harvard St., Manchester, 641-8470, find them on Facebook) will host a chocolate-dipped strawberry-making class on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Participants will design "tuxedos" on 14 strawberries using milk, dark and white chocolate, and have an opportunity to choose from several assorted toppings like M&Ms, coconut sprinkles and jimmies to make a customizable chocolate gift box. The cost for the class is \$35 and reservations are required.

• **The Culinary Playground** (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, culinary-playground.com) hosts various cooking classes for couples, children and adults. The February couples classes are full, but upcoming programs include a made-from-scratch fettuccine alfredo class for parents and children on Friday, Feb. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. (the cost is \$48 per parent-child team) and an adult workshop on Sat-

urday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon focusing on healthy options to boost your immunity (\$58 per person). The next available dates for couples cooking classes are Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23, and will focus on homemade pizzas. The cost is \$160 per couple.

• **Dancing Lion Chocolate** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) offers several hands-on chocolate-making classes suitable for couples, friends and other groups. A special Valentine's Day-themed Zen Brownie Date Night class for couples is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., during which four couples will get a chance to bake their own brownies to take home together. The cost is \$250 per couple. Other upcoming classes include an introductory chocolate adventure class on Thursday, March 7, a hands-on croissant making class on Friday, March 15, and a regular Zen Brownie Madness class on Friday, March 22. All are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and cost \$85 per person.

• **Eaton's Cake & Candy Supplies** (114 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, 627-1808, eatonscakeandcandysupplies.com) offers classes in cake-decorating for both children and adults.

The spring schedule begins in March and includes a children's cupcake-decorating class on Friday, March 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. (for ages 8 to 15, \$39.95 per person), and a six-week beginner's cake decorating class that begins Tuesday, March 5, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. (\$69.95 per person).

• **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com) hosts a regular Cooking with Wine class series suitable for couples, friends and other groups, the next of which is happening on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The theme is "Around the Country" and will focus on Boston's North End, featuring recipes on how to make fresh pasta and fresh ravioli with ricotta filling. The class will be taught by owner and winemaker Amy LaBelle and guests will also get to enjoy a tiramisu cocktail. General admission is \$25.

• **Tuscan Kitchen** (63 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com) hosts a regular schedule of Italian cooking classes. The next one is a "For the Love of Pastry" class on Monday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m., that will include a raffle to win a bottle of sparkling wine. Tickets are \$75. Other upcoming classes include fish filleting on Monday,

Feb. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m.; pizza-making classes on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and a tiramisu-making class on Monday, March 4, from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotischocolates.com) hosts a variety of classes in chocolate- and sweet-making. The next available dates are a truffle-making class on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 9 a.m. (\$95 per person), a Chocolate Overload class on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 5:30 p.m. (\$35 per person) and a caramel-making class on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 5:30 p.m. (\$35 per person).

• **Zorvino Vineyards** (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com) hosts an ongoing Cooking in the Vineyard class series, and the theme for February is desserts. The next available dates are Wednesday, Feb. 20, and Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. and participants will learn to make crême brulee, molten cake, tiramisu and apple crostata. The cost is \$85 per person and includes wine samples. The theme for March is butcher board meats and cheeses, with opportunities to participate to make either beef bracirole, stuffed chicken caprese or prosciutto- and fontina stuffed pork loin.

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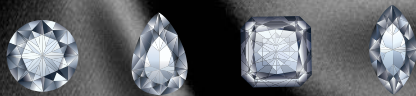
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Couples wood sign painting at The Canvas Roadshow. Courtesy photo.

Art from the heart

Create a masterpiece with the one you love

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

From pottery and painting on canvas to wood sign painting and glassblowing, there are all kinds of artistic creations you can make with your loved one this Valentine's Day. Many art and DIY studios are hosting special events with love-themed projects.

The Voice of Clay in Brookline, for example, is having a Pottery, Chocolate and Wine event on Wednesday, Feb. 13, Thursday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 16. The event starts with a wine tasting from Averill House Vineyard in Brookline and a chocolate sampling from Vicuna Chocolate in Peterborough. Then, there will be a one-hour pottery demonstration and workshop where couples can take turns throwing on the pottery wheel. The featured project is a heart-shaped bowl, but they're free to make a simple bowl if they're beginners or something more advanced, like a vase or a mug, if they have some experience throwing on a wheel.

"Most people find it harder than they thought it would be. It ultimately takes a lot of practice, but you don't need any experience coming in," owner Wendy Walter said. "It can be fun to learn something new together."

Couples can make one piece to take home, which is included in the admission price, or multiple pieces, which are \$10 each.

"What we usually see is, one person is brave enough to start and the other person watches them and gives advice, and then they switch," Walter said. "It's definitely a team effort."

DIY wood painting workshops are also a popular couples' activity for Valentine's Day.

The Canvas Roadshow in Bedford is having a two-hour Hammer & Stain Valentine's Day wood-painting workshop on Thursday, Feb. 14. Wood signs are the suggested project, but couples can choose

from a number of projects, including home shutters, pallet boards, serving trays, centerpiece boxes and more.

Couples can do individual designs or designs that pair together, like a love quote that's split between two signs.

"For example, there's a design where one sign says 'I wish I met you sooner,' and the other sign says 'so I could love you longer,' and then you hang the signs together," owner Debbie Ellis said. "That's a cute idea for Valentine's Day."

An instructor will go through the process step by step, helping couples choose and blend their colors, sand and distress the wood to give it a more shabby chic look, and use stencils to paint their designs. Couples can purchase wine and beer onsite and order appetizers from T-Bones to be delivered to the studio.

"It's a shared experience, and they'll go home with a wall-worthy masterpiece that they're proud to display, that will always make them smile and remind them of the fun they had together at the studio," Ellis said.

Valentine's Day art workshops

- Creative Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford, 672-2500, creativeventuresfineart.com) will have a **Valentine Gems Zentangle workshop** on Friday, Feb. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn to create beautiful colored heart-shaped gems to add to your Zentangle-inspired art. Bring your Prismacolor, Faber Castell or other color pencils if you have them, but there will be a few loaner sets available. Beginner and experienced tangles welcome. The cost is \$35.

- Spark Creative Studios (Mallard Pond Plaza, 865 Second St., Manchester, 232-1151, mysparkstudios.com) will have a **Valentine's Day reversible door art tags workshop** on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. One side of the tag will say

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Pottery at The Voice of Clay. Courtesy photo.

◀ ART FROM THE HEART PG 18

“Filled with Love,” and the other side will say, “Happy Spring.” Choose your own colors and stains. The cost is \$45. The studio will also offer a **Valentine’s embroidery hoop art workshop** on Saturday, Feb. 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Create a piece of Valentine’s day decor that holds small notes. The cost is \$28.

• Muse Paintbar (42 Hanover St., Manchester, musepaintbar.com) will host a **“Love is All You Need” wood sign painting workshop** on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$35. There will also be a **“Moonlit Love” couples paint night** on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 7 to 9:15 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person.

• Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com) will have a **Date Night in the Pottery Studio** on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Couples will receive basic pottery instruction, then work on the wheel to create their own works of art. The cost is \$30 per person.

• Time to Clay (228 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 888-0482, timetoclay.com) will host a **Galentine’s Ladies Night Out** on Wednesday Feb. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. Paint pottery or fuse glass and enjoy a dessert bar, a bottle of wine (BYOB) and raffle prizes. The cost is \$10 per person; the art supplies are purchased separately.

• The Voice of Clay (16 Meetinghouse Hill Road, Brookline, 672-2626, voiceofclay.com) will host a **Pottery, Chocolate & Wine event** on Wednesday, Feb. 13, and Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 16, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., and 5:30 to 8 p.m. Start with a wine tasting from Averill House Vineyard and chocolate sampling from Vicuna Chocolate, followed by a one-hour pottery class where you will create a heart-shaped bowl. The cost is \$65 per person.

• The Canvas Roadshow (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 943-2103, thecanvasroadshow.com) will host a **Hammer & Stain Valentine’s Day wood painting workshop** on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Choose from a variety of projects, including big home shutters, oversized signs, pallet boards, pallet signs, serving trays, centerpiece boxes and round signs. The cost varies depending on the project.

• Graffiti Paintbar (143 Main St., Nashua, graffitipaintbar.com) will have a **“Tweet Hearts” couples paint night** on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Paint and sip as an instructor guides you step by step to complete the featured painting. The cost is \$36 per person. At the same time, there will also be a **DIY Custom Wood Sign workshop**. Choose a framed, plank or round wood sign to paint. The cost is \$39 and up, depending on the project. The workshops are recommended for ages 16 and up.

• Terrapin Glassblowing Studio (79 Hadley Road, Jaffrey, terrapinglass.com) is offering a Valentine’s Day partner **glassblowing workshop** on Thursday, Feb. 14, with time slots from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Partners will work together to create a glass flower. It’s open to ages 16 and up. The total cost is \$30.

• AR Workshop Manchester (875 Elm St., Manchester, 573-9662, arworkshop.com/manchester) will have a **wood painting class** on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Stain and paint your own plank wood sign, porch sign, jewelry board, wood tray, lazy susan or pedestal tray. Choose from a variety of love-themed and other designs. The workshop is BYOB. The cost ranges from \$39.50 to \$75.50, depending on the project.

• Paint pARTy Studio (135 N. Broadway, Salem, paintpartynh.com) will have a **Paint ‘n’ Sip wine glass painting workshop** on Thursday, Feb. 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Paint two glasses with a heart design. The cost is \$35 per person.

• Amherst Board & Brush (292 Route 101, Amherst, 213-6138, boardandbrush.com/amherst) is offering a **Valentine’s Day wood sign painting workshop** on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Choose from a variety of love-themed and other designs. Complimentary wine and chocolate will be served. The workshop is open to ages 16 and up. The cost for two signs is \$120.