

THE ENTERTAINING TALES OF TABBY, PRissy & PEACHES[®]

GROUNDHOG DAY CELEBRATION



Monday, February 2
Green Valley Town Square

Hot Drinks & Donuts
6:30am- 7:30am

Weather Prediction 7:25 a.m.

Gourmet Pancake Breakfast 8:00-10:00am

Groundhog Snowman Contest 10:30am

Candle Blessing Services 11:00am

Winter Stew & Biscuits Lunch 12:00-2:00

Sled Races 2:00pm

A GREEN VALLEY TALE FOR FEBRUARY

Groundhog Day was always a big event in Green Valley. Grover Groundhog (who is the town librarian and lives in a house next to the library on the town square) always secluded himself for a week before the big prediction to study his weather charts. After the prediction, all the farmers and

fruit growers in the area would gather around Grover at the Pancake Breakfast to hear his further comments on the weather for the coming year. (Grover was a very accurate weather forecaster.)

Many events are planned on this day, and posters were put up all over town. In the town square there is a contest for the best groundhog snowman. The high school band will play songs such as "Let It Snow" and "Winter Wonderland." The ladies of the town hold their famous Gourmet Pancake Breakfast, with the proceeds going to the town library to buy new books. Besides the plain pancakes they serve apple-cinnamon pancakes, blueberry pancakes, banana pancakes, pecan pancakes, and this year the special pancake will be pumpkin pancakes. And, of course, they are served with a variety of warmed yummy syrups or hot applesauce. And, as usual, each plate of pancakes is served with a generous portion of the ladies' famous winter fruit salad.

Groundhog Day is also Candlemas Day so the areas churches will all be holding ceremonies to bless the candles they will be using for the next year. The town residents all burn candles in the windows of their homes (most use electric candles to reduce the fire hazard) to light the darkness since Candlemas Day is the mid-point between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. For some it will be the day to take down their remaining Christmas decorations as the days to take down Christmas decorations are either Twelfth Night (Jan. 5), or Candlemas Day (Feb. 2).

February 2 arrives and as the day dawns the town square in front of Grover's house filled fills with anxious viewers eager to know if there will be six more weeks of winter. Mayor Whiskers steps forward and read the official opening to the ceremony. "If Candlemas be fair and bright, Winter has another flight. If Candlemas brings cloud and rain, Winter will not come again." The door opens and Grover Groundhog steps out and proclaims.....



GRANDMOTHER TABBY'S ETIQUETTE TIP #18

When planning an annual community meal, always have the foods that people have come to expect, but also add one thing that is special every year to the menu so the very same thing isn't served year after year.

A PRISSY TALE

FOR FEBRUARY

The daughter of Prissy's neighbor Matilda was going to be married in June. Prissy decided to have a shower for Matilda's daughter, Sabrina, and thought Valentine's Day would be the perfect day. The first thing Prissy did was to make up the guest list and pick out the invitations. Once that was taken care of she could plan the party.

Valentine's Day was an easy theme to work with for a bridal shower. Prissy decided

to serve a dessert course. Sitting around the living room would be bowls of chocolate heart shaped candies. In the dining room she would set up her table with a white lace tablecloth. She planned three small centerpieces for the table consisting of red tulips and ivy, and ivy would trail between the centerpieces. She would use red dessert plates on which to serve the dessert. The guests would have a choice of raspberry lemonade punch or a red raspberry tea. Dessert would be from her favorite bakery in the city and, after working with the pastry chef, she decided on a variety of small individual size white heart-shaped cakes. Though miniature, the cakes would be two layers. Between the layers would be either a raspberry or a chocolate filling. The pastry chef would use a white icing and then put either red or chocolate polka dots on the white icing so everyone could tell which cakes had the raspberry or chocolate filling. There would also be small crystal bowls of raspberry sorbet topped with a dark chocolate sauce served on the side. The desserts and drinks would be on the sideboards and Prissy's dining room table was large enough to be able to seat everyone.

The day of the shower arrived. Sabrina and Matilda arrived early so as to

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
Valentine's Day
Bridal Shower
IN HONOR OF
Sabrina Siamese
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
AT TWO O'CLOCK
THE VANMEOW BROWNSTONE
NEW OAK CITY
PRISSY VAN MEOW
KINDLY RESPOND BY FEBRUARY 10

be able to greet the guests as they arrived. The guests all arrived with beautifully wrapped boxes from Bloomingtails and Tiffurry's. The maid of honor sat next to Sabrina and wrote down every gift that was opened and who it was from so that if cards became separated from the gifts the bride could still write her thank you notes. The bride-to-be exclaimed joy over all of the beautiful gifts. She said that she was blessed to have such wonderful family and friends.

The group then adjourned to the dining room to partake of the refreshments. Everyone raved over the beautiful miniature cakes. Prissy had ordered more than she needed to be sure that everyone could take their choice of a cake with raspberry or chocolate filling. And, of course, they were as delicious as they looked. And everyone felt that the tulips brought a welcoming spring accent to the table.



GRANDMOTHER TABBY'S ETIQUETTE TIP #19

When receiving gifts always write your thank you notes within 48 hours. The gift givers will be very pleased to hear back so promptly from you and you will be thought as of someone who has very good manners. As Grandmother Tabby says – if you had time to open the gift you have the time to write the thank you note.



*Coming up in the March issue of **Entertaining Tales:**
Grandmother Tabby hosts a St. Patrick's Day Brunch
and Polly Poodle hosts a First Day of Spring Dinner.*