

COMING UP

- Sunday: Arts & Entertainment
- Tuesday: Health & Environment
- Wednesday: Food & Dining
- Thursday: MetroWest Weekend



Dunia, an "earth-friendly" store on Maynard's Nason Street, has been raising eyebrows with its latest exhibit, "Unmentionables."

How do I love thee?
Let me count 6 ways

By Jennifer Lord
DAILY NEWS STAFF

It's coming, as sure as an arrow shot by a winged cherub.

It's the day that launched a thousand Hallmark cards. The day when a long-stemmed red rose isn't just a flower but a referendum on a relationship. The day when romance is mandatory, dinner had better be by candlelight and risqué undergarments temporarily replace flannel nightgowns.

It's Valentine's Day 2006, and with Feb. 14 falling on a most unromantic Tuesday, you can have this entire weekend for fun, frolic and chocolates.

1. Saucy sculptures

Who needs Victoria's Secret? Dunia, an "earth-friendly" store on Maynard's Nason Street has been raising eyebrows with its latest exhibit, "Unmentionables," an undergarment-themed series of sculptures by Maynard-based artists Ingrid Goldbloom Bloch, Jennifer d'Entremont, Christine Hanley, Susan Huszar and Gwen Murphy.

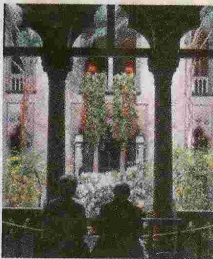
"I've been doing this whole trashy lingerie series," said Bloch, who wove panties out of used soda cans and welded bras out of hardware store parts. "I just think it's funny to recreate these soft undergarments using masculine materials."

A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Breast Form Fund, which offers financial assistance for post-mastectomy prostheses for underinsured women with breast cancer. "Unmentionables" will be on display at Dunia through April 1.

For more information, call 978-897-8850.

2. You've gotta have art

On Valentine's Day proper, you can whisk your sweetie to a Venetian palazzo and be serenaded by musicians – and you don't have to go any farther than Boston.



The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum will celebrate "The Art of Romance" Tuesday, with special performances by jazz vocalist Lucas Madrazo, who will croon romantic ballads in the courtyard garden at noon and 1 p.m. A self-guided tour offers the romantic highlights of the collection and those inspired by the muse can create their own works of art from drawing supplies on hand in the courtyard. The museum is also offering decadent desserts in its Gardner Cafe as well as a special Valentine's Day cocktail, a Kir Royale made with champagne and creme de cassis.

The events are included with museum admission, \$10 for adults and free for all women named Isabella. "The Art of Romance" runs 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. For information, call 617-566-1401.

3. Natick is for lovers