## What song reminds you of Valentine's Day!

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hether it is the melody or lyrics that captivate you, there are songs that hit us in different ways especially during Valentine's Day. For this issue, we ask readers about music that in their mind is tied to the day of hearts:

"Let's Get It On by Marvin Gaye. No other classic gets you in the mood for love and for celebrating companionship. ... I listen to Marvin Gaye regularly but [I listened to] this particular song probably a few months ago. I am single so I don't get to play that song often (laughs)."

> -Frankie Eliptico, interim president, **Northern Marianas College**

"Love Will Keep Us Alive by the Eagles. I love this song and it defines the role of loving one another as key to making this world a better place for all."

—Esther Muna, CEO, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"Lady in Red by Chris DeBurgh because the lyrics shows the guy is absolutely in love with the girl. So hopelessly romantic, perfect for Valentine's Day."

—Shey Fernandez-Owens, Capital Hill

"Unforgettable by Nat King Cole because it's a classic love song. Reminds me of my parents and my dad playing it at home along with Frank Sinatra records."

-Jessie Delos Reyes Willsey, Capital Hill

"Better Together by Jack Johnson because love is the answer and it is always better when we are together."

-Nicole Babauta, director, CNMI Small **Business Development Center** 

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"Can't Take My Eyes Off of You by Lauryn Hill because this song makes me dance."

-Alyona Gersonde, Dan Dan

"Stand By Me by Ben E. King. This is the song we played when I walked down to meet Jeff at our wedding. We picked this as we both love it. We heard it in the movie that came out when we got engaged. The song was even in the top 10 (1st when it came out in 1961) This song was perfect for us as it wasn't traditional and neither was our wedding, or us!"

—Heidi Yelin, Capital Hill

"Just The Way You Are by Billy Joel because it describes love in in its true form. When you love someone, you love them for who they are, all their flaws and imperfections included. Billy Joel sings about wanting someone to talk to, being there in good and bad times. Valentine's Day celebrates love and romance and this song describes that in its raw form."

-Chris Concepcion, deputy director, Office of Planning and Development

"Ordinary People by John Legend because I usually have fights with my ex when it's Valentine's Day! But we end up making up afterwards. Something about this day makes women crazy, you know, me included. Must be the moon! (laughs). There is added pressure for couples to celebrate and women end up getting their hopes up on their man and getting disappointed. I mean, let's face it, men usually fall short on celebrating Valentine's."

-Candy, Marianas High School teacher

"Always Be My Baby by Mariah Carey because it's about a loving and healthy relationship. Always Be My Baby is like a promise that, no matter what happens, I love you and I will stand beside you."

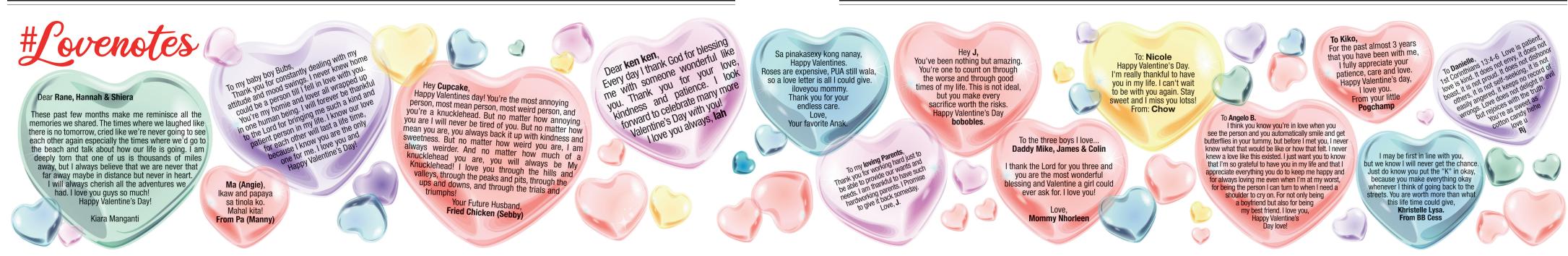
-Kathy Fernandez, Garapan



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# Things I love to do with you

Work, bills, children, and future plans are not the only ones that occupy the hearts and minds of married couples. It's also talking with their husband or wife about what makes them happy and what things they want to do together not only on Valentine's Day but every day.



For Derek and Tania Cutting of Cutting Solutions LLC,

partnership is always a work in progress and loving the

little details about life that many tend to take for granted.

"I love traveling the world with you, hiking, exploring and

going on adventures with you, sunrise motorcycle rides

with you, random sunset beach picnics with you, date

nights with you, binge watching Netflix with you, jeepin'

it with you, building our dreams with you and I love being

a parent and loving our son Makai with you," Tania said.

"I love raising our son together and watching him be-

come a strong, independent little man. I love when we ride

side by side on our Harleys cruising the streets together,

going to the gym to train with you, watching a movie on the couch with you, pushing you past your comfort zone

and sharing the fruits of your labor, bicycle rides in the

park with Makai and you and talking about new ideas and

business opportunities with you," Derek said.

Derek and Tania Cutting

Joe and Jamika Taijeron

For Salt & Barber Beauty Salon owners Joe and Jamika Taijeron, both find joy not only in being married but managing a business together as well. "I like to travel with Joe but since we cannot travel, the other thing I like to do with him is to run errands together. I appreciate the days where we have a list of things to do which normally do by myself. When we do it together, I rest in the fact that I am doing these things with someone I enjoy being with," Jamika said.

"As co-owners of a business, some of our errands include picking up supplies from the airport, mail for the post office, etc. Doing things together makes co-ownership much more fun. .. I also like to go out on date night with my wife, just the two of us. Maybe a nice dinner with some peace and quiet. We don't have to do anything else but just enjoy each other's company," Joe said.



Emily and Dustin Darr of Papago moved to Saipan over a year ago and find common ground in hanging out at the beach with each other. "Currently, my favorite thing to do with him is to spend the day relaxing on the beach with good food and a little adventure. When the world opens back up, I love traveling together, experiencing new places and cultures. Being out of your comfort zone together forges a deeper and stronger bond!" Emily said.

"I enjoy her company as we relax at the beach or getting a couples massages. We love going best thing that he does for me is taking time to out to lunch together and going on double dates with good friends. We also enjoy cooking fun on a call with them, even if he is busy," Misty said. and creative meals together," Dustin said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Misty and Marty McPadden

For Marty and Misty McPadden of Podjam-

**TV Productions**, one of the things that make their bond strong is the encouragement they get from each other. "My wife and I will be married for nine years this coming August and I love that we both love to travel for work and leisure. ... The one thing that I love most is how she encouraged me when we started our media production business. Her support and belief in me has been instrumental in helping us grow. ...I love that she likes to explore and try new things

and she always encourages me to always be adventurous, especially when it comes to food. I don't think I would have visited or eaten exotic food without her cajoling me into it. Last but not least, I love that she listens and taught me to be open to speaking about anything under the sun and not worry about being judged." Marty said.

"One of the best things is to be able to work alongside my husband, building a media production business. We have faced our share of challenges, but we always have fun because I know Marty is always by my side and always has my back. I love that he gives me my space when I work that he even built a small command center for my home office, which has allowed me to do work and paint. I love that he makes me laugh a lot. He listens and is always patient when I have my bad days. My favorite part of my day is before we sleep, we watch cat videos together. ... The speak with my family and best friend when I am

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and Madge Gai of Dan Dan are into various adventures. Whether on land, under the

Newly married **Russ Wilcox** sea, or above mountains they know how to get the most out of everything that each day presents to them. "I love talk-

ing about the different points in our cultures, seeing what is different and what is actually similar. I love spending time

island—hiking, diving, swimming, exploring, and watching sunsets. I love working out

in the outdoors of our amazing and encouraging one another. I love being grumpy about being social with her/for her when I actually kind of like it



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Russ Wilcox and Madge Gai

most of the time," Russ said. "I love to go scuba diving with you every weekend, hiking, driving around in your little truck, seeing you laugh, I love when you pet our cat even if he likes being 'Mogui.' I love watching movies after your work and trying out food that you cooked for me. I love you," Madge said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Maria and Andrew Goethals

**Maria and Andrew Goethals** are ideal for each other-Maria makes delicious desserts and publish them at amusingmaria.com and Andrew loves trying them out. They admit they are usually both couch potatoes but when they get out to travel, their adventurous hearts kicks in. "I would not have been able to explore so many ancient temples and learn their history if not for Andrew. I also love when we are able to take out our kayaks to the water and explore. Food! I love trying out new food and restaurants or eating our favorite home-cooked meals. For the most part. Just hanging out with you at home and watching our shows are also part of my favorites," Maria said.

"The things that I love to do with you most is to explore. Whether it's searching for the best tacos in town, or climbing to the top of a ruin in a far-off jungle or kayaking to the very end of the creek, we are most alive and most together when we are going somewhere new. We both have suffered from 'wanderlust' at different times in our lives and when we give into it together, we have amazing experiences. Our journeys have just begun," Andrew said.