

# valentine's DAY

*A group of friends come together for "Galentine's" party, emphasizing the importance of platonic love on Valentine's Day*

Candles dimly lit a table decorated with vibrant red roses, and the sounds of laughter and conversation filled the room as **Talia Abeles**, 12, and her friends joke around over a Valentine's Day dinner. Though Valentine's Day is traditionally thought of as an exclusively romantic holiday and is still scorned by some as disheartening and commercial, the rise of "Galentine's Day" is helping redefine the holiday to focus on every type of love.

"It was really fun to do something for Valentine's Day that was something, like, not just [about] romantic love, but with friends and to appreciate the people that you love platonically," Abeles said, "I think [platonic love] should be equally celebrated, or at least more celebrated... because I think so many people forget about it, or just don't consider it worthy of celebrating on Valentine's Day."

In addition, Galentine's is bringing new depth to the holiday, allowing women to appreciate and share joyful moments with the friends who support and love them throughout the year.

"[My favorite part] was probably when we sat down to dinner, and we were just like laughing for a few minutes,



**ABELES**

"There's not really another designated time to celebrate [platonic love] like that."

**Lucia Pavic**, 12, Abeles' friend who also attended the celebration, enjoyed spending time with her friends, and has taken Valentine's Day as an opportunity to show appreciation for all her loved ones.

"I've never really thought of Valentine's Day as a romantic type of thing, just as a 'love day'. So I feel like you can extend Valentine's Day to anyone you feel like you love," Pavic said. "And I just love Galentine's Day because it's like the feminine energy, you know what I mean, all coming together and you're with your friends, just like having a good time."

**Bella Wethington**, 12, who hosted the "Queen of Hearts" themed party, is also passionate about Valentine's Day,

and Bella had set up the table so pretty, and like it was so cute and we were all hungry, so that was like a happy moment," Abeles said.

and said she appreciates the meaning it holds for every kind of love, not just the romantic type.

"It is my favorite holiday... I just think it's a day for love and showing your appreciation for...any person in your life that you love," Wethington said, "[and] self-love can definitely also relate to it. I saw a few things on TikTok that were like 'if you're not with anybody, go out and treat yourself'... because there's, like, flowers and chocolates everywhere and those don't have to be for someone else... you deserve all of these things no matter whether you're in a relationship or not."

Throughout the year, close friends give each other advice, trust each other with secrets, make one another laugh, and support each other through hard times. Friendship is more than important enough to be celebrated on the day of love, and more people are growing to see that.

"Valentine's Day gives you a chance to sit down and remember to love those that you love across the book, and let them know you still love them," Wethington said.

**Story by Sydney Lewis  
Designer Harmon Kerrison**

*"So I feel like you can extend Valentine's Day to anyone you feel like you love."*

## GALENTINE'S



**LOVE DAY:** (left) At a Valentine's themed party, **Helen Berenyi**, 12, **Ellie Reynolds**, 12, **Cati Stoehr**, 12, and **Carson Berry**, 12, dance the night away. "It was fun to hang out and spend time with my best friends and celebrate love day with them. All of us brought a different valentine's day treat and had an amazing time together. My favorite part of the gathering was blasting our favorite songs and all singing and dancing together," Berry said; photo by a. seigel

winter 182-183  
valentine's