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IN OPINION... By Jane Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA

Much ado about... everything, especially love.

Love. That's what's on my mind. Nah, not because it is Valentine's Day in just a few hours, but because today has been filled with sign after sign of the bountiful love that exists in the world that swirls around me.

I went to a funeral today for a longtime friend. I didn't know their mom, but I have a better understanding of why they are the people they are now. I know some felt immense loss, sadness, but I just couldn't get over the overflowing love felt there. The poignant words of the nurse revealed how very deeply the expression of love affected others in a life lived well. I left that service floating, on love, for those friends who I'm so very grateful. My prayers are with the Dilley clan.



Could be the swoony chick flicks on the Hallmark channel I've been watching hour upon hour. They are cheesy. But they do make you swoon. And Andrew Walker isn't hard to look at, just sayin'. Discovering love is a beautiful thing. It's sweet every time. Can you recall that excitement? Hopefully your heart is full.

Then came the writing of a tenure review. Tedious at first look. Research, curriculum, vitae and more. But as I delved in, the pages, documents, notes and letters overflowed with an undercurrent of love. Love of work. Love of learning. Love of experiences. People having an impact on others. I'm grateful and honored to have been a part of such a process. Even better to see how a teacher can impact the world in so many ways.

And finally, rice. Yep, it arrived in the shape of a heart. The food was a taste sensation. The conversation wandered. We pondered. We laughed. We enjoyed. The time with my husband Ken, was simple, comfortable, easy...lovely. I love meals like that.

So, I got it God. Love abounds in unusual ways and I'm blessed to share in it in so many ways. As words left with me today, "how do you love?" Think about that. The signs and ways are everywhere. No Valentine's Day needed for that, just tell those that matter and sometimes those you don't even know that you love them, the food, the experience. We'll all be better, fuller of heart to let love be our focus and not just because of a holiday.