



## on the cheap not impossible

Bowl on Sunday, go to early a.m. movie, order tickets at the last minute—these are a few ways to plan dates on the cheap.

By Gale Horton Gay

Money's tight—tighter than practically ever. The fact that so many of us are caught in an economic slump doesn't mean we can't still have a good time when it comes to dating, hanging out with friends or simply relaxing solo.

Bargains can still be found. It just requires a little searching.

*The Champion* has come to the rescue. We've done some investigating and have come up with the following Seven Cheap Dates. Mind you, one may have to be willing to hang out at odd hours or make last-minute arrangements, but those willing to do so can engage in a variety of recreational pursuits without taking out a bank loan (if you can get one). Below are a few of our favorite finds:

### Bowling on Sunday

To save quite a few bucks at Suburban Lanes in Decatur, head to the bowling alley on Sundays. It's then from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. that they offer their most deeply discounted rate. One can bowl for \$1.50 per game—dirt cheap, especially when compared to the \$5.50 per game Saturday late-night rate and the standard Saturday and Sunday rate of \$4.25 per game. Those willing to bowl Monday through Friday before 6 p.m. can save a little with \$3.25 per game rates. Suburban Lanes is located at 2619 N. Decatur Road, (404) 373-2514.



### Cheap Flicks

The two AMC movie theaters in DeKalb County offer \$5 per movie admission on Saturday, Sunday and holidays before noon. There are 12 AMC theaters in metro Atlanta participating in the program. The AMC 16 theaters at North DeKalb Mall in Decatur and Mall at Stonecrest in Lithonia are the two in DeKalb. For more information, visit [www.amctheatres.com/amcinema/](http://www.amctheatres.com/amcinema/).

Those who want more time options should consider checking out movies at the Movie Tavern in Tucker. Matinee shows are priced at \$5 per movie compared to the \$7 and \$8 ticket price for later shows. At this theater, one can also place orders for such munchies as \$7.49 hamburgers, \$7.99 boneless wings, \$2.99 apple crisps as well as beer and mixed drinks and have the meals delivered to one's seats. For more information on Movie Tavern, located at 4043 LaVista Road in Tucker, visit [www.movietavern.com](http://www.movietavern.com) or call (678) 680-5782.

### Stone Mountain at Twilight

Stone Mountain Park has a pretty loose definition of "twilight" but who cares if it means significant savings. The park offers discounted twilight pricing on its one-day adventure pass that gives unlimited admission to all open attractions such as the Summit Skyride, the Scenic Railroad, 4-D Theater, The Great Barn, Sky Hike, Paddlewheel River Boat, Pedal Boat, Antique Car and Treasure Museum and more. A twilight ticket costs \$15 compared to \$20 to \$25 for regular admission and goes on sale between 2 and 4 p.m. For more information visit [www.stonemountainpark.com](http://www.stonemountainpark.com) or call (770) 498-5690.

### Hors d'oeuvres with the Artist

Celebrate artist **Marc Brotherton's** new exhibit at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center Nov. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. during a free opening reception. This is an easy way to partake in art, conversation and hors d'oeuvres. Callanwolde is located at 980 Briarcliff Road NE in Atlanta. For more information, visit [www.callanwolde.org](http://www.callanwolde.org) or call (404) 872-5338.

### Sweet Poetry

Show your sensitive side by taking a date or friends to a poetry reading. Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta is one local venue at which to experience such a reading. One can spring for a evening of poetry for a mere \$5 per person at Callanwolde at 8:15 p.m. on Nov. 12. On this evening poets **Stephen Bluestone** and **Ginger Murchison** recite their work. Bluestone, who teaches English and film at Mercer University, is author of *The Laughing Monkeys of Gravity* and *The Flagrant Dead*. Murchison is an MFA candidate whose work has appeared in the *Atlanta Review* and *Terminus Magazine* and her recently released chapbook *Out Here*. Callanwolde is located at 980 Briarcliff Road NE in Atlanta. For more information, visit [www.callanwolde.org](http://www.callanwolde.org) or call (404) 872-5338.

### Go Climb a Tree

It costs nothing to climb a tree, but for \$20 one can get some expert instruction in the technical aspects of tree climbing. Join members of Tree Climbers International, a group dedicated to trees and tree climbing, on the first or third Sunday of the month at Blackburn Park, 3530 Ashford-Dunwoody Road, Atlanta from 2 to 5 p.m. They bring all the equipment (harnesses, ropes, etc.) for this beginner's introductory class. For more details, visit [www.treeclimbing.com](http://www.treeclimbing.com) or call (404) 377-3150.

### Culture at Half Price

One way to stretch one's dollars is by ordering same-day tickets to a wide variety of metro Atlanta music, dance, theatrical performances at Half Price Tix booths at Underground Atlanta Visitors Center and Lenox Square Quest Services. Tickets are available each day to different shows and attractions for half the usual ticket price and a service charge that varies from \$2.50 to more than \$10. One can also order half-price tickets online by going to [www.atlantaperforms.com](http://www.atlantaperforms.com) and clicking on the AtlanTIX icon of the left side of the page. To get more information, call (404) 588-9890.