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### Around The Market:

# Who's on First (Avenue, that is)?

## Dragon's Toys, a Lair of Amazement

Visiting Dragon's Toys, the educational toy shop inhabiting the former Dita boutique, 1525 First Avenue, is an unusual experience. The month-old shop displays all the latest and greatest gadgets, accouterments, models and, yes, even "toys." Stock includes everything from educational toys, science kits, developmental toys, games, giggle-y balloons, Schleich animals, laboratory accouterments, marionettes, etc. to the current fan favorite: instant snow (just like on TV and in the movies – add H2O).

Dragon buys and sells Breyer Horses. The lair's collection includes classic 30-year-old models right up to current (including Brenda Breyer).

Dragon is the big dream of Gail Small, daughter Brekke and Tristan Small. Gail and Brekke aspired to have their own shop while working in an educational-type toy store on Bainbridge Island. An inheritance allowed the family to open a place of its own.

Check out the thought-proving and varied merchandise. There is something for everyone from infant to adult – and they encourage field trips!

## Falafel: Authentic Middle Eastern Cuisine

The Market Falafel stand, 1570 First Avenue, is revamped and ready for business.

Much of former owner Michael's mastery still is there. It is now painted crimson and decked out with new equipment.

There will be a few additions to the menu and with the new equipment comes the capacity for more volume, with the same authentic Middle Eastern flavor and inviting First Avenue tables.

## Mooooovin' On Up

Stewart Meats – the fourth-generation family-owned jerky/pepperoni specialists out of McKenna Wa. – has leapt from the craft line to its own stall on Pike Place, between Mee Sum Pastries and Sotto Voce.

The owners cordially invite everyone to visit their old-fashioned meat market, complete with sausagey-smells and samples. All sausages are made from their own grain-fed USDA Choice beef – without hormones or antibiotics – and seasoned with their own

secret family recipe.

Award-winning jerky, sausage, pepperoni and beer snacks ... the more you eat, the more you realize this beef gives you super powers.

## Tattoo convention

Vyvyn Lazonga, Market Tattoo maven and amazing artist, will have a booth at the Seattle Tattoo Convention, the regional tattoo convention meeting Aug. 12 to 14 at Seattle Center.

Though not as big as the prestigious National Convention (recently held in Miami, Fla., where Lazonga and Melissa Thompson recently won awards) this event will showcase what is hot in our area.

The Madame Lazonga studio, on 1516 Western, will remain open during the event.

Lazonga says the convention is a great place to meet and exchange ideas with people from British Columbia, Idaho, Montana and Portland. For more information [www.seattleTattooconvention.com](http://www.seattleTattooconvention.com)

## Il Bistro Nuovo

The 30-year-old Market landmark restaurant Il Bistro, 93A Pike Place, is under new ownership.

The new owner Nick Wiltz, of Campagne Restaurant fame, always dreamed of owning his own restaurant. He began doing restaurant work in college, after spending two decades in the industry he has done every job from table buser to waiter to manager.

Il Bistro's Market-fresh Italian menu will remain mostly the same. He plans a few subtle changes while carefully preserving and continuing Il Bistro's unique style.

Wiltz, a Northwest native, is enchanted by the Market and is constantly learning new stories about its rich history. Before becoming Il Bistro, the location was the Locke family's restaurant. Wiltz says the former governor pops in occasionally. A sort of memory blog is developing on the website ([www.ilbistro.net](http://www.ilbistro.net)) to record personal perspectives.

Il Bistro is open daily for dinner at 5:30 p.m., with food service continuing until midnight, Sunday through Thursday and until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The cozy bar—known for Martinis, Single-Malt Scotch, Bourbon and Grappa – is open until 2 a.m. daily (one of the late ones in the Market). Just listen for the atmosphere, especially on Tango Thursdays . . . pop by to "spend a night in Italy."

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