



PIKE PLACE MARKET NEWS

FREE!
Volume 32, Issue #2
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OUR NATION'S OLDEST
FARMERS' MARKET
SEATTLE, WA, USA

MARKET MAP AND DIRECTORY ON BACK PAGE

THE VALENTINES 'N CHILI ISSUE

The Market welcomes chili enthusiasts for fourth annual Rachel's Pike Place Market Chili and BBQ Cook Off!

Joe Canavan and Elena Maldonado (pictured left) invite you to World Class Chili for a sneak peek.

BY MEGAN LEE

It's time again for the greatest of local chili events, right here in the Pike Place Market. Saturday, February 19, Presidents Day Weekend, is the fourth annual event known as Rachel's Pike Place Market Chili & BBQ Cook Off. The highly anticipated and increasingly popular competition packs the Market with hungry chili and BBQ enthusiasts and gives the masters a chance to exhibit, experiment and compete with other local chili champs. And, of course, to have fun.

The big event kicks off at high noon-thirty, for the People's Choice Tasting, and it goes from there. Competitors turn in a batch of competition style chili (that means meat and sauce only, no beans), and a family style (anything goes) entry. The rules state: All chili and BBQ must be produced on site, as specified by the Seattle/King County Health Department. Spectators are invited to buy a \$5 tasting cup, which comes with a spoon and ID bracelet, to get in on the

CHILI continued page 10



PHOTO BY MEGAN LEE

Writer Marie Ary takes us tiptoeing through the Jonkheer tulips

Thoughtful St. Valentine's Day gifting options abound inside the Main and North Arcades where 287 farmers and craftspeople offer their unique and hand crafted products seven days a week. The Market's 99-year-old tradition of "Meet the Producer" means direct sales daily to customers by farmers such as Ted



PHOTO BY MARIE ARY

Mary Sorman and Kara Dalke, Jonkheer Greenhouses, of the Skagit Valley delta, sell colorful fresh cut flowers and flowering branches seven days a week near the Desimone Bridge in the North Arcade.

Jonkheer, Jonkheer Greenhouses in the Skagit Valley. Since 1983, Ted Jonkheer, Jonkheer Greenhouses, has brought to Market the beauty and joy of fresh cut flowers and flowering branches grown on 27 acres in the fertile Skagit Valley delta

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VALENTINES: TIME TO ELECT KING & QUEEN

It is February, and time again for the illustrious "Market Royalty and Sweethearts" contest. The "vote early/vote often" election for King and Queen of the Market, with two runners-up (a.k.a. Sweethearts) is a unique Market event, was born during the excitement of saving the Market in the early 1970s. The Merchant's Association, during that era, including Michael Yeager, John Turnbull and an assortment of enthusiastic Marketeers concocted the event. Yeager, the unofficial current Market Mayor who initiated the Constituency's formation and began the Ghost Tours, among other things, maintains this is a sporadic, fun event that brings the Market community together, and is glad to see it continue.

When the King and Queen of the Market pageant began it was a really big deal. The King and Queen ceremoniously opened the annual Street Fair, which began in 1971, and also received a host of prizes. In the beginning, there were really no rules, people could stuff the ballot boxes as they liked, nominate whomever and almost everyone got involved. The event was—and still is—a sort of window into what is happening at the Market.

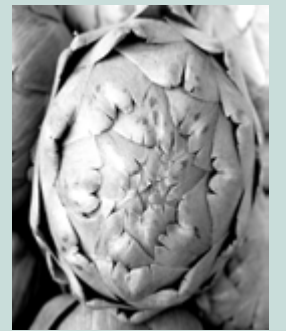
The tradition temporarily fizzled in the early 1980s, and then was resurrected in 1989, when the Urban Group (the group of New Yorkers) tried to buy the Market. It was part of an attempt to resurrect uniquely Market traditions and remind us what an amazing community the Market is. Fish throwing became a part. Merchants and craftspeople donated merchandise to the winners. The runners-up or 'Sweethearts' were introduced.

All-time highest vote getter was in 1994, it was Mr. Gary Goedecke, current President of The Merchant's Association Board of Directors and Market vendor since 1974. (His Queen was Elizabeth Steinbrueck.) This was around the time more people had access to photocopying machines, which led to initiating a rule: All ballots must be hand written. But, besides that it remains pretty much anything goes.

Mercedes Yeager helped continue the event, last year the Queen was the Creamery's Jessica Dendy and King Will Paananen, of Jack's Fish spot, and the Sweethearts were Ramazan Senturk, formerly of No Boundaries Cafe, and Nancy Nipples, of the Creamery. Miss Kirsten Hansen creates the crowns and many Market merchants donate prizes.

This year ballot boxes will be set up around the Market February 1. Votes will be collected through February 13. The winners will be crowned February 14, at noon, underneath the Market clock. Whom will you nominate? Ballot boxes are scattered around the Market, find one. -M.L.

FRESH THIS MONTH



Artichokes are a favorite February vegetable with a heart.

HERE'S HOW TO FIND IT!

Market Information Booth located between First and Pike, just east of the Market Clock. Ask about discount show tickets and helpful visitor information.

ATM MACHINES Six Market locations- end of Information Booth; inside of South Arcade by Pike Place Brewery; north end of Market inside hall by Emmett Watson's and the Souk; Down Under on level 4; inside Rotary Grocery; across street from Info Booth, and inside Pike Place Grocery & Deli.

RESTROOMS one flight of steps down from the Market Clock or down ramp at north end near City Fish.

PDA OFFICE One level below Pike Place down the stairs south of Pike Place Fish and Best Flowers.

SECURITY-682-2253 Office located two flights below Pike Place inside by Alibi Room, below the Lasalle Apartments.

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March
will be
'Psychics'
&
'Shamrocks'
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