

VALENTINE BUDGET GEMS – Gifts Under Ten Bucks

BY RENA LANGILLE

With sweetheart day approaching, a gift guide seemed in order. Chocolate is dandy, but how about a little surprise to go with it? For those who can't afford to give BMW's, diamond encrusted chandeliers, or old castles in Scotland, I searched the Market to see what

could be purchased for smaller budget – under \$10. Through the back aisles and down under I went in search of gifts. The variety is amazing. I found so many, we couldn't print them all. Here is a partial list of what I found. Up the ramp from the Economy Arcade past Delaurenti's, is **Tenzing Momo**. You can pick

from over 200 essential oils for bath, and perfume under \$10. Next door is **The Great American Windup** with a wide variety of things on legs starting at \$3.

At **Simply the Best** across from Pike Place Fish Grab some Killian corn, ooh so scrumptious (they have samples), \$4 a bag and head down Flower Row to **All Things Lavender** for beautiful organza bags decorated with beads, flowers, and ribbons, jam packed with dried lavender to put under a pillow for the sweetest of dreams or to freshen the back seat of a

Black Creek Botanicals and buy live culinary herbs in a French flower pot for \$5 to \$7.50, or the Attar of Rose scented Geranium for a whiff of summer, and then there are hand made soaps: ginger, lemon, lavender.

One door down is **Market Cellar Winery**. For someone who likes to make their own beer and wine there are lots of free information sheets, packets of yeast for making wines for \$1.10 - \$6.85, cork screws to open that special vintage, \$1.10, and for the fisherman, a wine cork topped by a lively Rainbow Trout in pewter, \$4.50, in

case there is any wine left in the bottle.

The Pike Street entrance to the Sanitary Market leads into a long back hall all the way to Pine is filled with small businesses that have many charming gift items. Here are a few. **Dar Salaam** has gorgeous, wide, hand beaded bracelets for \$8.95 and lovely tea glasses decorated with silver plate, and some in gold leaf - 6.95- \$7.95. Shiny Abalone necklaces for \$8.95 and candles in pewter holders to set the mood for \$4.95. Next is **African Treasures** for small animals \$1 each, and lots of beautiful beads from 50 cents up (fill a little jar and put chocolates on top).

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Studebaker. Down to the Mezzanine **The Miniature Car Dealer**. What super man could resist the black metal PT Cruiser that runs fast and has doors that open, and the Air force F-16 model planes for \$6.95. **Afghani Crafts** on the other side of the mezzanine has beautiful bags and scarves \$3 up. It is crowded, but packed with great buys.

Trekking down under to **Hands of the World** I found colorful, padded, mirror cases in different shapes for that special big or

little miss and beautiful old style Italian glass bead bracelets for \$8.95. Drop in at **Lionheart Books**, the owner doesn't really roar, but he is full of ideas. There are leather covered journals; for \$5 or Marilyn Monroe playing cards for \$3.50, and tons of used books for lazy afternoons around the pool. Across the aisle is **Sweets** - there is a large variety of bulk candies nonpareils, bright red Kukaberra Licorice, colorful bridge mix, and gummies, all for \$7.20/lb - mix and match.

Down one more floor to **Cintli** (go north) has Katrina clay miniatures and bright clay piggy banks with flowers painted on them \$4 - \$8. Turn around to **Pike's Asian Art** for 100 year old Chang dynasty ceramic spoons, slightly worn, for \$8. Then to **Old Friends Antiques and Collectibles** - marble apples, \$5, billiard ball key rings \$1, ornate brass pill boxes for \$6; and splat man for \$2.50 - ask!

Head South to **Pharaohs Treasures** for exquisitely decorated perfume bottles in exotic shapes from \$6.95 (a good gift for *la femme speciale*) and bangled bracelets for all ages, especially young ones, \$5 - \$8.

Slip down to legendary Western Avenue to



PHOTO BY MEGAN LEE

Cintli's Katrina dools are just one of the amazing gift ideas. Inside the cases is exciting handmade jewelry by Beto & Sergio

In the back of Soames Dunn/Stewart House, past Pirotsky, Pirotsky, is **Market Tobacco**. For the fine cigar smoker in your life, give an Arturo Fuente hand made, mild to medium cigar with a hint of spice for \$4.99-\$7.99, or a Diamond Maximum, medium to full body for \$8.99. If you don't want to give a cigar, how about the wonderful empty cigar boxes from paper or wood, \$1 - \$4, use them to disguise chocolates. Across the aisle is **Little Shanghai** with decorative hair pins with long stems, \$6.95, and rayonette purses and cell phone bags in jewel colors for 6.95 - \$7.95, and everyone should have a Rhombus bag, for coins, and as a jewelry carrier for that big fat diamond, get three for \$7.95. Go out the back door, through the courtyard and into the next building to the **The Soap Box**. Besides soaps, shampoos, massage oils, and lotions, they have great bathtub windup toys and bath pets for \$3 - get two. Then there is **Antiques at Pike Place** with a million billion small items - but there is not enough column space to go there.

You get the idea.

There are many ways to say you're special with and without chocolate.



The Pharaoh offers many special gifts.