

'Gifts from the Heart' help fund HIV Alliance

Looking for a unique gift for your Valentine? How about a basketball autographed by the Portland Trail Blazers' 1999-2000 team or a romantic Sun River getaway? Maybe three days and two nights in a Heceta Beach house in Florence or the British editions of the Harry Potter books are more your style.

Even a cherished and amazing handlebar mustache will be sacrificed to the razor for the right price.

The "Gifts from the Heart" auction and dessert gala to benefit HIV Alliance is Valentine's Day eve, Sunday, Feb. 13, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the DoubleTree Inn on Gateway Blvd. Hundreds of unique items and adventures will be on display.

Indulge in delectable desserts while Emmet Williams plies the piano with songs of love.

Silent auction begins at 2 p.m. Larry Tardie starts the oral auc-

tion fun at 4 p.m. Comic News editor Taft Chatham will emcee.

All proceeds of the auction will benefit HIV Alliance, Lane County's only nonprofit organization providing comprehensive response to the challenges of HIV and AIDS. HIV Alliance programs include education, prevention, client services and health care for people living with HIV and AIDS.

HIV Alliance recently launched "Here for Life," a major gifts campaign to make up for the loss of a major federal grant last fall. Auction proceeds will contribute to the drive for \$1 million so that the agency can continue programs such as Acorn Center, which provides meals, activities and life skills support to clients.

You can also bid on the Blazers' basketball at www.ebay.com in the days preceding the "Gift from the Heart" auction.

A sample of items to be auctioned at the HIV Alliance event

- Picasso reproduction, "Jacqueline"
- DoubleTree Hotel package: Saturday overnight and Sunday brunch for two
- Coffe (and coffee mug) with Rep. Peter DeFazio
- Antique Mall, refinished antique furniture
- Oak entertainment center
- Custom-built computer desk
- Heceta Beach package: three days, two nights in home; 1/2 hour bay tour on sternwheeler; lunch at Traveler's Cove; shop at Mo's; dinner for two at Mo's and wooden model of sailing ship
- 1999-2000 team autographed Portland Trail Blazers' basketball
- Tickets to "Rent" at the Hult Center

Sweetheart Market is the place to find a deal

Saturday Market's annual Sweetheart Market takes place Saturday and Sunday at the Lane County Fairgrounds. This special market features gifts by Saturday Market crafts persons, foods from members of the Saturday Market food court and a wide range of music from area musicians.

The market is open on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Market takes place in the Auditorium Building, with free admission and parking.

Special romantic music for the weekend starts Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. with Chip Cohen. At noon, Craig Einhorn plays classical guitar, followed at 1:30 p.m. by blues from slide guitarist David Bowers. Edson Oliveira plays romantic Brazilian bossa nova at 3 p.m. and duo Sweet River performs swing, folk and Delta blues classics at 4:30 p.m.

Sweetheart Market

The Lane County Fairgrounds hosts the Saturday Market's special Valentine's marketplace

Saturday Hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Music begins at 10:30.

Sunday Hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Music begins at 10:30.

Free admission and parking.

Sunday's entertainment starts at 11 a.m. as Janet Naylor plays specially selected Celtic love songs on harp. Paul Safar and Lori Deskin sing Beatles' love songs at 12:30 p.m. The afternoon ends with two well-known local singer/songwriters, presenting their best romantic tunes. Eileen Hemphill-Haley sings her songs from the heart at 2 p.m. and Neil Bjorklund performs his soulful songs at 3:30 p.m.

Call 686-8885 for information.

Aphrodisiac dishes can stoke your hunger lust

Can food really be an aphrodisiac? A few basic rules have to be followed. Firstly, the final preparation of a dish should only take a few minutes. Secondly, it should be satisfying without being heavy. Thirdly, it should incorporate at least one constituent with a reputation as an aphrodisiac. Fourthly, it should give the impression of being more expensive than it really is. And, finally, the taste should be delicious and different.

The following recipes try to meet all these requirements. Even though success cannot be guaranteed, at least you can expect a very pleasant meal. All recipes are for two persons, except where otherwise explicitly stated.

Main dish

Amorous pesto (feta dip)

The starting point for this recipe came from a Canadian contributor to the Aphrodisiacs Exchange. As usual, we began experimenting and, after a while and many attempts, came up some possible modifications. The dip mix can be used, e.g. as a pesto sauce. A similar dip mix has also been included in our collection of favourite recipes.

Ingredients:

- 150 grams feta cheese (preferably in brine)
- 1 bulb and 1 clove garlic
- 2 grams fresh basil (6 4-cm leaves) or
- 2 grams fresh cilantro (coriander) leaves
- 50 grams pine nuts
- 1/2 - 1 tsp saffron - optional!
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil or 3 tbsp creme fraiche (sour cream)

Proceed as follows:

1. Remove the papery skin from the garlic bulb and bake it in the oven for 1 hour at a temperature of 350F. Let it cool and remove any residual skin. You should have about 25 grams baked garlic with a creamy texture.
2. If you use saffron, soak it in the lemon juice for at least 30 minutes.
3. Purée the feta cubes, the baked garlic, the raw garlic clove, the basil or cilantro (coriander) leaves and the lemon juice (with or without saffron) in a food processor. Add olive oil or creme fraiche to get a smooth, creamy consistency.

The dip mix based on olive oil is the original one. Substituting olive oil by creme fraiche results in a dip mix with a softer taste and a smoother consistency. Both forms can be used in the same way as ordinary pesto sauce. Deep-freezing is possible, especially of the creme fraiche based dip. Remember: If you leave out the saffron, the aphrodisiacal effects might be very weak or even absent.

Dessert

Candied violets

This mildly exotic recipe is contained in the "Honeymoon Cookbook," which the Swedish "Kooperativa Förbundet" distributed to all newlyweds during the 1930's. Although we have not yet tried ourselves, we believe it might also work with lilacs!

Ingredients:

- Freshly collected flowers of violets
- Sugar solution: 0.5 kg sugar, 0.1 kg glucose, 1 dl of water

Proceed as follows:

1. Prepare the sugar solution by boiling the mixture until sugar and glucose have dissolved.
2. Let the solution cool but not to the extent that sugar crystals begin to precipitate.
3. Put the flowers of violets in a strainer and dip them into the solution.
4. Let them cool and dry on a roster or a paper towel

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