

## Pike Place Market Street Talk INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS COMPILED BY RICK RUTABEGA

This month we asked the Market community if they'd ever had a PSYCHIC experience and what they believe. Answers ranged from cheeky to scary. Here are some of the best:



Rick Swanson  
City Fish

"You know I have them all the time. I'll be thinking about a song and then it will play on the radio or I'll be thinking of someone and then I'll see them."



Kirsten Hansen  
The Creamery

"I was on the Monorail when it caught on fire. As soon as I got home I called my mom and she said 'you were on the Monorail weren't you.' How did she know? I was shaken and went to Lowell's. Then the next morning and said I was on the cover of the *Seattle Times*."



Atarah Levy  
Three Girls Bakery

"One of them, probably the most telling, was when my son was six months old. We were living in the country, in tents. I was carrying him across a meadow and a voice spoke in my head. It repeated the word meningitis. I had no idea what it was at the time, but the sensation prompted me to go to the hospital. Luckily I did, it may be what saved my son's life."



Gene Davis  
Market Shopper &  
Food Bank Volunteer

Yeah, I believe in psychic powers... I've got a girlfriend who tells me all about it"



Chad Van Dam  
Busker

"I predicted the last earthquake to my wife, about two days before it happened. I think having predictions and premonitions are something we do as people to feel comfortable in our environment. We look for coincidences and trends."



Derrick Malvern  
PDA Security

"Of course I do, I think everybody does to a point.. especially down here."

### BONSAI continued from cover

shape of branches, overall shape of the canopy and trunk diameter in ratio to the height of the tree. Bonsai can be a four-inch tree or a four-foot diameter tree.

Bonsai originated in India where doctors carried their healing herbs in pots then the concept moved to China where bonsai became more decorative than medicinal. Bonsai then moved to Japan where it became the art form we in the U.S. learned from Japan. People don't usually know its Indian origin or how it traveled to Japan via China.

Muth likens bonsai to other art.. It's comprised of technique, artistry and botany. Good bonsai comes from proper technique. The artist must know the rules and the guidelines, and learn the botany and care different trees require.

"It's the artistry that determines great bonsai," he adds. "Anyone can learn the basics of painting and paint good pictures, for example, but not everyone is a great painter. It's the same with bonsai."

To understand the difference, Muth suggests people look at topiary trees growing in Seattle.

"We see topiary trees growing here and say 'that's nice.' We go out in the mountains and see a tree that makes us say 'wow'. That's what we're trying to recreate in bonsai, trees that make us say 'wow,'" he said.

Bonsai Northwest grows their tiny trees in a variety of ways, primarily using four types of trees: Juniper, pines, maples and azaleas. The ideal way is to start a tree from a seedling or a cutting.

To look in scale or proportion, Muth prefers trees with a woody base and small foliage, which is then reduced about 50 to 60 percent by pruning. They don't use chemicals to grow multiple trunks like big commercial nurseries and "treat our trees very gently."

Tree starts are placed in nursery pots until grown to desired size and structure, before being bent and wired. Trees stay in nursery pots until the basic size and structure are achieved. Then they are shaped one of two ways: By wiring or by pruning.

According to Muth, wiring is "like putting braces on your teeth for a while, then the braces are removed. It is very important to remove wire which will scar or ruin the tree which keeps growing around wire that becomes too tight."

Correct use of pots is an important component of bonsai.

"Esthetically, use a shallow pot so it doesn't visually overwhelm the tree, and a color that complements the tree," said Muth. "Bonsai is about the tree, so if you do bonsai and invite your friends over and they really like the pot, it's like a viewing a painting and preferring the frame, not the picture."

He offers diagnostic services, too. If people are having problems with their bonsai, they can bring it in for diagnosis. though Muth jokes that they don't have the ability to make house calls.

Many people in the U.S. mistakenly think bonsai is expensive.

"It's a misconception that only the wealthy can afford bonsai," said Muth.

"It's a matter of how much of other people's work do you want to pay for. I have customers who buy a four-inch maple for \$4 and place it in a \$4 pot, which is affordable," he said. "We sell a lot of upper range bonsai, including million dollar trees."

"There are trees in Japan that sell for \$1 million dollars," said Muth. "These are trees with a 200 year history, trees that have been maintained for 200 years, that are put in antique pots which are valuable themselves without the trees."

To learn more about this ancient yet ever new art form, Muth recommends several books including *Bonsai Techniques I and II* by the late John Y. Naka and *The Complete Book of Bonsai* by Harry Tomlinson. Muth offers workshops and classes at his nursery for all levels of expertise, including beginners. Three free upcoming lectures that require advance registration to ensure seating are: beginning bonsai on Saturday April 15; growing and styling azaleas for bonsai on Saturday, April 29, and; pine trees on Saturday, May 6.

To purchase a bonsai or for more information, shop the day stall Friday through Sunday, telephone 206 242-8244, stop by the nursery at 5021 S. 144<sup>th</sup> St. in Seattle Wednesday through Sunday or visit [www.BonsaiNW.com](http://www.BonsaiNW.com)

## The Larry Fosberg Joke Corner



Did you hear about the two mind readers who met on the street? The first one said, "Well, you are fine. How am I?"

Knock-knock  
Who is there?  
Voodoo  
Voodoo who?  
Voodoo you think you are?

What do you get when you cross a judge with poison ivy?  
-Rash decisions

What do you get when you cross a policeman with an alarm clock?  
-A crime watch

**STOP TO SEE LARRY, HE LOVES EXCHANGING JOKES, MONDAY-FRIDAY AT HIS PERCH DOWN THE STEPS FROM THE BAR & GRILL.**