



The Chili Blast

Weekly Chronicle For Those With No Taste At All
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FINAL EDITION



Hello my friends:

April 25, 2022

This edition – the last edition of ‘*the Chili Blast*’– is written at a bittersweet time for me.

The **2022 Prince of Peace CHILI COOKOFF** is now history.

On Saturday, last, the event was held in the Fellowship Hall and the competition, while friendly, was quite intense. Eighteen chefs competed in two categories to determine who would hold the title of

2022 Chili Master

The event planners envisioned competition in three categories –

TRADITIONAL, AVANT-GARDE, and YOUTH – with first, second, and third awards in each. Those placing second and third would receive an inscribed medal with neck ribbon, and the category first place winners would collect a ‘*great big hunchin*’ medal and an inscribed chili pot trophy. The desired awards were displayed at registration table for all to feast their eyes upon and to particularly covet the hoped-for prize of honor – the bragging rights to title of –

2022 Chili Master.



Seven members of the Fairfax County Police Department graciously performed the tasting and judging of the unique creations presented for evaluation. Their task was enormous – imagine the mission of evaluating such an array of epicurean delights and being able to discriminate sufficiently to determine the nuances of flavor, texture, and spice, and then to select two winners and three place awards. Kudos to our friends in blue whose taste buds were greatly stimulated (abused) but who overcame to the end. Also, thanks goes out to Bubba Urps for arranging for members of the force to participate in this event. Further, we thank John Bancroft and Carol Schmidt for registering entries and proctoring the judging process.



The turnout was fantastic with an estimated 135 church members and guests filling the Fellowship Hall to capacity. The thought of the day was: Let's celebrate returning to normality and enjoy fellowship with friends. The consensus of those participating was that the evening was a truly a fun event. One of such that we have not enjoyed since the beginning of the pandemic.



Another set of kudos go to the behind-the-scenes team – the Admin Committee who set up the space, provided condiments, and most importantly – cleaned-up afterwards. Thank you: Linda Harley, Marcel Page, Nancy Sinclitico, plus John Bancroft & many unnamed helpers.

And – as always – the office staff who take care of us all – all the time: Brad Womble, Tiffany Sears & Tanya Tucker.

ENOUGH WITH THE INTRODUCTION - who were the players and who won?

Competing chiefs were:

Mark Borrack	Aivars Buamanis	Jason Faunce
Kathleen Gillmann	Linda Harley	James Heger
Tom Lambiase	Chris Martin	Adam Miller
Johanna Olson	Marcel Page	The Poe Family
Danny Revard	John Schmidt	Tiffany Sears
Nani Tegene Tesfaye	Carolyn Thomas	Brad Womble

Chiefs bringing chili but not competing were:

The Kletts & Shannon Kearney

**The winners of the
2022 Chili Master
Cook-off are:**

**TRADITIONAL CHILI:
Aivars Buamanis**

**Avant-Garde Chili:
James Heger**



Other chiefs placing in the competition include:

TRADITIONAL:

Second: Mark Borrack

Third: Marcel Page*

* As a footnote – Marcel's contest entry number was 13 and when entering the church parking lot, the pot slipped making a mess in her car and purse. Hopefully winning a medal will compensate for the initial bad luck.

AVANT-GARDE:

Second: Nani Tegene Tesfaye

Third: None Selected.

YOUTH:

None Participating.

And this brings to the end – and last edition of – *'the Chili Blast'*.

The old Chili Master, as in the parting words of General MacArthur, will:

Just fade away, but my thoughts will always be of
the Chili – and the Chile – and the Chili.

Signing off:

John Schmidt

The Chili Master [Emeritus]

