

DINING

Bean & Bagel 'makes the best bagels'

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

"Who makes the best bagels," bellows Charlie Kaye, the enthusiastic owner of Bean & Bagel restaurant in Farmington Hills. "We do!" shouts back his equally enthusiastic staff.

Bean & Bagel restaurant is offering a \$5,000 charitable donation to anyone who thinks their bagels can top the flavor, freshness, and quality of the Bean & Bagel's products. Kaye is calling his contest the "Great Bagel Challenge," and is challenging area bagel makers to match his \$5,000 pledge with all proceeds donated to the winner's charity of choice. The "Great Bagel Challenge" will be held April 27 at a yet-to-be disclosed location, and will be judged by several Detroit area celebrities. The contest is open to all bagel chains, franchises, bakeries or other bagel outlets. Call (810) 932-8914 for information.

Open since Sept. 8, Kaye and his staff at Bean & Bagel are having a fun, and selling a lot of bagels, too.

"We offer a consistently great product, and have a great team of people working here," said Kaye who went all over the country for two years searching for the best

Bean & Bagel
Where: 33224 W. 12 Mile Road, (at Farmington Road), Farmington Hills. Phone: (810) 553-7100, Fax: (810) 553-9096
What: Coffee, specialty coffee drinks, fresh bagels and cream cheese, homemade soups, salads, and sandwiches. Desserts include muffins, scones, brownies and cookies.
Hours: Open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

He found it at a bagel company in Boston, and hired the owner to show him how to make them.

"I traveled the entire country to find the best of everything," said Kaye. "Starting with the country's best bagel recipe and a baker who passed that recipe over the past 29 years. Bagels that are 25 percent bigger and taste better, with a golden outer layer and a middle that's soft, just the way I like them."

"Then he hired Dino Greco of Waterford, the longtime chef at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield to create five-word cream cheeses for Bean & Bagel, make soups, sandwiches and salads.

Before opening, Kaye held taste testing parties, and sent bagels to businesses in the area, inviting them to sample his bagels. "We tested over 300 flavors of cream cheese, and had everyone fill out extensive questionnaires," said Kaye. "We kept the top 10 percent on the menu."

"We offer good service, and a quality product, that's competitively priced," he said. "People love working at Bean & Bagel."

The enthusiasm is contagious. Bean & Bagel offers over 20 varieties of bagels, and the staff is always experimenting with new flavors. On the day I stopped in they were offering cinnamon and pizza in addition to plain, egg, sesame seed, honey-wheat, 8-Grain, onion, and pumpkin-kelce.

Bean & Bagel offers 30 different specialty cream cheeses that are blended on site, and continually changing based on customer demand. Choices include plain of light, veggie light, cinnamon-rain, garden vegetable, sun-dried tomato basil, garlic and herb, artichoke pinenut and Novo Lox.

Coffee — the "Bean" part of the business — is freshly ground throughout the day. Every pot is freshly ground and brewed. Cafe au Lait, Espresso, Latte, Cappuccino, flavored Cappuccino, Cafe Chocolate and Spiced Cinnamon

Mocha are on the menu, but be sure to check the menu board for more specialty coffee drinks.

A major part of their business is lunch and carryout. The menu offers a variety of soups, salads and bagel sandwiches, all made fresh daily. Sandwiches are served on your choice of bagel with dill pickle and vinaigrette cole slaw. Prices range from \$2.95 to \$4.95. Offerings include oven roasted turkey, pepperoni, mild smoked turkey, roast beef, deluxe ham, salami, veggie, chicken, egg and tuna salad.

Bean & Bagel's chicken, egg and tuna salad are also available in eight ounce take-home sizes for customers in a hurry.

The restaurant, designed by architect John Barklisan, and Kaye's wife, Helen, seats 65. "We wanted to make it warm, and have a coffeehouse feel so people would feel comfortable sitting down and having a home-cooked meal," she explained.

The cozy interior features warm woods, textured walls and soft lighting, and the staff, which aims to please, adds to the relaxing atmosphere.

On a cold day, Kaye beckons to students waiting for friends outside to come in.

He and his wife, Helen, live in



Bagel booster: When it comes to talking about his bagels, Charlie Kaye, owner of Bean & Bagel, can't say enough good things. He's a good sport who instills a sense of team spirit in his enthusiastic staff. Together they offer a quality product that's consistently good.

West Bloomfield and have two daughters, one a sophomore at Michigan State University, the other a junior at Andover High School.

Kaye recently spoke to a school group, and supports local schools and charities. "When you take from the community, you should give something back," he said.

SINGLES CALENDAR

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or fax to (313) 591-7279.

DANCE PARTIES

- WEDNESDAY DANCES**
Wednesday Suburban Singles hold "single mingle" dance parties every Wednesday 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road south of 8 Mile, Redford, No. 100. Must be 21 or older. Admission \$4. No hot hors d'oeuvres. (313) 842-0443
- THURSDAY DANCES**
The Ultimate Singles Dance Parties will be 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Thursday at the Farmington Elks, 23666 Orchard

Lake Road, south of 10 Mile. You must be 21 years old. Cover charge of \$4. Draft beer and wine \$11. Hors d'oeuvres served 8-10 p.m. All single clubs and couples invited. No jeans. (810) 478-1940

WESTSIDE SINGLES
Dance series 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays through March 29 at Burton Manor in Livonia. Dressy attire. Must be 21 or older. Admission \$5 (\$3 before 8:30 p.m.). (313) 981-0909

TRI-COUNTY SATURDAY DANCES
A "Think Spring Dance" will be 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at Burton Manor, 196 and Inkster Road, Livonia. Admission \$4, or \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older. Fashionable attire. (313) 842-7422

ST. PATRICKS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE
A St. Patrick's Day Dance will be 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, March 10, at St. Leo's 29350 Laker, Southfield. Cost \$7/members and \$8/non-members; includes beer, wine, pop and munchies. (810) 247-8426

SINGLE GROUPS

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS
A non-profit social group for singles ages 25-40, who share common interests and want to form new friendships. It's not limited to the Farmington area and members participate in more than 200 activities per year. (810) 478-9181

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB
The Catholic Alumni Club is a non-profit organization composed of single Catholics age 21 and older who have a bachelor's degree and are free to marry in the Catholic Church. Indoor volleyball at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Mary's Media School, \$3 members, \$5 non-members. (810) 557-6183, (810) 682-1807

ACTIVITIES GROUP
The Activities Group is single adults participating in activities on an organized year-round basis. They are not affiliated with any self-help group, religious or political organization. Membership fee is \$30. (810) 624-7777

BETHANY
Bethany, a support and social group for divorced and separated Christians meets 8 p.m. the third Saturday of each month at St. Kenneth Church, Haggerty

Road south of Five Mile, Plymouth Township. (313) 261-9123, (313) 729-1974

EXPRESSIONS
An adult discussion group meets 7:30-11:15 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month in First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 1017 Westlawn Ave., Ann Arbor. The program is not church-affiliated. The group is open to those age 21 and older. Admission is \$5 per person and \$2 for volunteers. Snacks are served at each meeting. (313) 996-0141

METRO MINGLERS
The Metro Minglers, a singles group for people with disabilities ages 21-35, is sponsored by the Easter Seal Society. (213) 338-9626, (810) 946-3347

NEWBURG SINGLES
Newburg Singles ministries meets 7 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in Gutrie Hall of Newburg United Meth-

odist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, east of Newburg, Livonia. (313) 663-0014

PWP/LIVONIA-REDFORD
The Livonia-Redford Chapter 130 of Parents Without Partners meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at Mama Mia's Restaurant, 27770 Plymouth Road between Inkster and Middlebelt in Livonia. Orientation is 8 p.m., the general meeting 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing. (313) 464-1960

PWP WAYNE-WESTLAND
The Wayne-Westland Chapter 340 meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Wayne AMVETS Hall, 1217 Meriman, Westland. Meeting is 8-8:30 p.m. Dance is set for 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$4 before 9 p.m., \$5 after 9 p.m. New members welcome. (313) 525-6937

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