

Bill Rapaport's

GUIDE TO RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BUFFALO

ACL-88 Edition — May 13, 1988

Buffalo is fortunate to be blessed with a large number of very good restaurants. I have listed my favorites; those near campus; and some others recommended by friends, having special cuisines, or otherwise noteworthy.

A word on locations: The UB Amherst Campus is in the Town of Amherst, not in Buffalo. The City of Buffalo is southwest of campus; the UB Main Street Campus, at the northeast corner of the city, is about 3 miles southwest of the Amherst Campus. Getzville is a suburb northeast of campus; Williamsville is a suburb southeast of campus; both are in the Town of Amherst. The Town of Tonawanda, separated from Amherst by Niagara Falls Boulevard, is west of campus; Kenmore is in Tonawanda. The Buff State campus, on Elmwood Avenue across from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, is west of Delaware Park (one of Olmstead's creations, by the way, and the location of the Buffalo Zoo). "Allentown" is a neighborhood about 2 miles south of Buff State and 1 mile north of downtown Buffalo. Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, is across the Peace Bridge, about 10 minutes from downtown.

Within groups, the restaurants are listed alphabetically. The selection of restaurants listed here and the comments are my own [unless indicated by initials in brackets]. You should not construe absence from this list as a negative evaluation. Reservations are always recommended. I hope the list contributes to the enjoyment of your stay during the conference or future visits to the area. Thanks for suggestions to: Sy Ali, Kulbir Arora, An-Tzu Chin, Harry DeLano, Randy Dipert, Judy Duchan, Susan Giusto, Takashi Hagiwara, Cheeha Kim, Deepak Kumar, Russ Miller, David Park Musella, Joe Piazza, Mort Schagrin, Arun Sharma, Lynn Spahr, Jan Wiebe, and Jeff Zucker. (Send comments to me at Dept. of Computer Science, SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260; rapaport@cs.buffalo.edu, rapaport@sunybcn.bitnet)

Key: *, **, *** = Bill's favorites
 + = "near" campus (within 2 miles)
 [XXX] = recommendation from person listed above whose initials are XXX

===== EATING ON CAMPUS DURING ACL-88 =====

BREAKFAST will be served on a cash basis, for *all and only* conference participants, in Talbert Hall, Tuesday-Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.

LUNCH will be served in Talbert Hall, Tuesday-Friday, for *all and only* conference participants who pre-paid. Tickets may still be purchased at the conference registration desk.

The **SNACK BAR** in Governor's residence halls will be open on a cash basis, for *all* participants, according to the following schedule:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday, 6 June | noon - 4 P.M., and 9 P.M. - midnight. |
| Tuesday, 7 June | 9 P.M. - midnight. |
| Wednesday, 8 June | 6 P.M. - midnight. |

The **RECEPTION AND BANQUET** will be Thursday evening at Erie Community College/City Campus, a beautifully restored Victorian building in downtown Buffalo that used to be the main Buffalo post office.

And now, here is the list of *real* restaurants:

===== BILL'S FAVORITES =====

*** **Adriatic Gardens** (a.k.a. **Sunset Family Restaurant**). 282 Amherst St. (at Military Rd., west of Buff State), Buffalo. 874-0272. Wed-Thurs 4-8, Fri-Sat 4-12, Sun 12-9. Yugoslavian (i.e., roughly a cross between Greek and Hungarian). Try the cheese or spinach burek and the Serbian salad. Full dinners are *very* inexpensive and include soup and "George's special Serbian Manhattan" after-dinner drink (a sort of cherry schnapps ice-cream drink). Entertainment (music, belly-dancing) on Fridays and Saturdays. Closed July and August.

** **Bocce Club Pizzeria**. 4174 Bailey Ave. (north of UB Main St. Campus), Eggertsville. 833-1344. The best pizza in Buffalo (even I agree, and I'm from New York City!). They deliver.

** **El Charro**. 3447 Bailey Ave. (at Winspear, south of UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 837-5300. Very good Mexican food; *not* a chain like Chi-Chi's. Vegetarians take note: no lard is used.

+** **Fanny's**. 3500 Sheridan Dr. (east of Millersport Hwy.), Amherst. 834-8665. Elegant, expensive, continental cuisine.

** **Harlan's**. 150 Theater Pl. (on Main St., in the theater district, downtown), Buffalo. 842-6500. Elegant, moderate to expensive, continental cuisine. Also has a wine bar and an informal menu.

*** **Just Pasta**. 307 Bryant St. (west of Elmwood Ave., in Allentown), Buffalo. 881-1888. My favorite. Menus change with the season. *Not* just pasta, but also all sorts of other good things with pasta as a side dish. The desserts here are extraordinary; my favorite is White Satin. Informal; *not too* expensive. Good list of wines by the glass.

+** **Marriott.** 1340 Millersport Hwy., Amherst. 689-6900. Believe it or not, the Marriott's Panache Restaurant serves very good continental cuisine. Breakfasts and lunches, too, of course. There's also a disco if you're into that sort of thing.

** **May Jen/University Plaza.** 47 Kenmore Ave. (near UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 832-5162. A bit cramped for space, but pretty good Cantonese and Szechuan cuisine. Unfortunately, far superior to its more elegant sibling restaurant at 810 Elmwood Ave. (between Allentown and Buff State), 881-0038.

*** **Ming Teh.** 126 Niagara Blvd., Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. 416-871-7971. The best Chinese restaurant in the area. Szechuan. Also, you can request no MSG. Reservations a must.

*** **Old World Cookery.** 206 Allen St. (west of Elmwood Ave., in Allentown), Buffalo. 884-4455. Excellent and imaginative continental cuisine; fresh fish; great desserts. Robert Redford ate here in *The Natural*.

*** **Oliver's.** 2095 Delaware Ave. (north of Delaware Park), Buffalo. 877-9662. Elegant, expensive, continental cuisine. I prefer Oliver's to Fanny's (but it's no slouch, either).

** **Peking.** 5185 Transit Road., Williamsville. 631-8825. Very good Mandarin, Hunan, Szechuan cuisine. On the other hand, [ATC] says: "I have only been to the Peking once after the new owner took over. The food is OK."

** **Rigoletto's.** 3945 Main St. (east of UB Main St. Campus, at Eggert), Eggertsville. 837-2822. Gourmet Italian with an operatic theme; gourmet pizzas. More red sauces than at Just Pasta, but nothing whatsoever like your corner spaghetti-and-meatballs place. There's also a branch at 716 Elmwood Ave. (near Ferry, between Allentown and Buff State), 884-0461.

** **Rue Franklin West.** 341 Franklin St. (downtown), Buffalo. 852-4416. Elegant, expensive, authentic French cuisine. Reservations a must.

** **Towne Restaurant.** 4346 Bailey Ave. (at Ruth, about 1/2-way between the UB Main St. Campus and the Amherst Campus), Eggertsville. 838-2233. Open 24 hours. Greek, informal, inexpensive. Good soups, open souvlaki, spanikopita, baklava. The Allentown branch at 186 Allen St. (east of Elmwood), Buffalo (884-5128), is the closest thing Buffalo has to a European café in ambiance.

===== WINGS =====

Buffalo chicken wings are a local specialty that have gained widespread popularity. Here are a few restaurants that do them well.

* **Anchor Bar.** 1047 Main St. (at North St., near Allentown), Buffalo. 886-8920. The place that invented Buffalo chicken wings (and, in my opinion, have the best ones). Their Italian food is OK (of the spaghetti-and-meatballs variety), but people come here primarily for the wings.

+ **Barnaby's.** 1009 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. 832-6054. [SA] believes that the best wings in town can be obtained here. They do takeout. And they are cheap. [SA] likes a wing that's crispy outside, tender inside; and the ones at Barnaby's are perfect in this respect.

+* **Duff's.** 3651 Sheridan Dr. (near Millersport Hwy.), Amherst. 834-6234. The best wings near campus.

+ **Rootie's Pump Room.** 315 Stahl Rd., Getzville. 688-0100. Famous for its chicken wings. Don't go in without a coupon (available, e.g., in Tops supermarket at Maple and Forest, and at the ACL registration desk). Basic bar setting; doesn't open until 4 P.M. [ATC].

===== OTHER RESTAURANTS NEAR CAMPUS =====

"Near" (here and elsewhere on this list) means within 2 miles. Nothing is within walking distance, unfortunately.

+ **Bennigan's.** 4060 Maple Rd., Amherst. 838-3550. Part of the chain.

+* **Café Pasta.** 1030 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda. 833-4255. Italian, with a fantastic salad/antipasto bar.

+ **Charlie Bubbles.** 60 Maple Rd., Williamsville. 633-4990. Part of the chain. Good salad bar.

+ **Chi-Chi's.** 4003 Maple Rd., Amherst. 834-2281. Mexican. Part of the chain.

+ **Dessert Deli.** Maple-Forest Plaza, Williamsville. 689-2115. [ATC]

+ **Doug's New Deli.** 630 Frankhauser (across from Marriot), Amherst. 632-9243. A basic corner store, which also sells subs and ice cream among other emergency items like toothbrushes, milk, and cookies. Open 24 hours. [ATC]

+ **Fuddrucker's.** 4300 Maple Rd., Williamsville. 836-3683. Part of the chain.

+ **Golden Palace.** 3488 Sheridan Dr., Amherst. 833-2270. Excellent Peking and Szechuan food at very reasonable prices; besides, it's owned by the parents of one of our undergrads—they are very good to Computer Science faculty and their friends [KA]. Also serves Koreanized Chinese food [CK].

+ **Grisanti's.** 3980 Maple Rd., Amherst. 837-6190. Italian. Part of the chain. [JW]

+ **Ichi Hana.** 850 Niagara Falls Blvd. (near Eggert, south of Sheridan), Tonawanda. 832-1585. Japanese and Korean. Sushi bar, tempura, suki-yaki. Open Wed-Mon, 5-10 P.M. \$20-\$30 per person [TH]. According to [CK], their Korean food is better than that at Seoul House.

- + **Indian Clay-Oven.** 3246 Sheridan Dr. (Hills Plaza), Amherst. 832-1030. A new place run by the family of a UB student. The food is good. However, avoid this place on a busy night (Friday or Saturday evenings). Good lunch specials. Try their mango shake, mango ice cream, lassi (yogurt shake). Among entrees, etc., try the chicken makhani (butter chicken curry), chicken curry, beef-spinach curry, and their breads (naan, aloo paratha (stuffed potato bread). Good vegetarian dishes are mutter paneer (peas and fried tofu curry), chickpea curry, daal (lentil), and palak paneer (spinach tofu curry). The "tofu" is actually homemade Indian cheese that kind of resembles tofu, but is made out of milk. Also try the aloo gobi (potatoes and cauliflower). Indian food is generally heavy (so avoid going there on your way to work, else you will feel sleepy). [DK]
- +* **Juicery.** Century Mall, Northtown Plaza (Sheridan near Bailey), Eggertsville. 833-2360. Cafeteria-style, mostly vegetarian. Cheap and good. There's a neat newstand and used-book store opposite it in the mall.
- + **Mama Rose's.** 2555 Millersport Hwy., Getzville. 688-1555. Basic Italian restaurant. Dinner entries about \$8 [ATC]. [RM] doesn't like it that much, but thinks others around here do.
- +* **Mexican Joe's.** Maple and N. Forest Rds., Williamsville. 632-4530. Not quite as good as El Charro, but far superior to Chi-Chi's.
- + **Perkins.** 3920 Maple Rd., Amherst. 837-0296. Pancakes, etc. Part of the chain.
- + **Pizza Plant.** 3093 Sheridan Dr. (Northtown Plaza), Amherst. 833-0882. Stuffed pizza ("pods") and beer. Possibly has the longest beer list around. Small and wholesome. (Rumor has it that LS smuggled one of their pizzas to Pittsburgh at the request of her son.) Highly recommended [ATC]. On the other hand: My [Bill's] New York City taste buds cringe at this place, but locals seem to like it. Vegetarian pizzas available.
- + **Port of Entry.** 270 Campbell Blvd., Getzville. 689-7374. Located on a parcel of land consisting of a few restored farmhouses which have been converted into country craft stores and a nice, quiet restaurant. Dinner entries about \$10, lunch about \$5. Craft stores worth browsing, too. A quiet country setting [ATC]. I really enjoyed it (not very big, but the food was excellent and so was the atmosphere) [RM].
- + **Red Lobster.** 4010 Maple Rd. (at Bailey), Amherst. 837-0202. Part of the chain.
- + **Santora's Take Out & Delivery.** 1402 Flint Rd. (across from Red Roof), Amherst. 688-3081. Delivers subs, pizzas, wings. [ATC]
- + **Sassafras.** Holiday Inn, 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd. 691-8181. Continental cuisine. British chef, with many Irish waiters. The best lobster pie I've tasted. Moderate to expensive prices. Interesting touches like complementary spoonful of Haagen-Daz lemon sorbet to (as they say) "cleanse your palate" between the salad and main entree! [KA]
- + **Scotch and Sirloin.** 3999 Maple Rd. (at Bailey), Amherst. 837-4900. Part of the chain.
- + **Showbiz Pizza.** 1551 Niagara Falls Blvd. (in plaza behind Swiss Chalet), Amherst. 832-0979. For someone who wants to take kids out. [DK]

===== OTHER ETHNIC =====

In general, [ATC] does not recommend Chinese food in Buffalo to anyone from New York, San Francisco, or LA; the best Chinese food here can only be rated mediocre in those cities. As for Korean, there are four, but [CK] doesn't want to recommend any of them.

Amy's Place. 3234 Main St. (between Heath and Merrimac, near UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 832-6666. A neighborhood, breakfast-type place; however, Amy is of Lebanese origin, and so their menu has lots of Lebanese/Middle Eastern dishes. [DK]

Bamboo China. 6600 Main Street, Williamsville. 633-5033. Koreanized Chinese food. [CK]

Emperor Wok. 1060 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda. 835-7878. Across from Village Green Bookstore. Chinese. Formerly called **Mei Yuan**; now related to King's Wok (see below). Good lunches [RD]. [JP] has seen a few instances here of diminished quality but overall still good. [ATC] has only been to Emperor Wok once and the food was awful, possibly because that was the opening weekend and the place was packed.

Gamma Mora's. 2051 Niagara St. (at Hertel, on the west side), Buffalo. 877-9532. Good, inexpensive, fairly genuine Mexican food. [HD]

Great Wall. 402 Evans St. (Pierce Arrow Plaza; south of Sheridan), Williamsville. 632-0331. Cantonese, Mandarin, Szechuan. Good service, fresh food, excellent hot-and-sour soup. [DK]

Jiro. 8316 Main St. (near Transit Rd.), Williamsville. 632-2229. Japanese; sushi bar. Lunches. A little more expensive than Ichi Hana. [TH]

King's Wok. 3233 Bailey Ave. (south of UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 837-1740. Good Chinese. Szechuan. This is a case of a young restaurant with excellent food whose quality tapers off after time. Should still be good. [JP]

Kostas. 1561 Hertel Ave. (east of North Park Theater), Buffalo. 836-9944. Greek. The quality of food is good. Open 24 hrs. Nice casual atmosphere. Good dishes to try are their open souvlaki and gyro sandwiches. The dinners are huge. Their Friday fish-fry is a guarded secret. [DK]

* **Ralph's Restaurant & Stumpy's Delicatessen.** 1434 Hertel Ave. (next to North Park Theater), Buffalo. 836-3400. Jewish-style (but not kosher) deli.

Rekha. 271 Kenmore Ave. (between Niagara Falls Blvd. and Englewood; west of UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 833-3466. Indian; vegetarian and non-vegetarian. When this was the only Indian restaurant in Buffalo, it was the best one. Inexpensive.

Saigon Cafe. 3331 Bailey Ave. (south of UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. Best Vietnamese restaurant around; no liquor license [ATC]. Small, cozy; the food is good and the chef always has good recommendations [DK].

San Marco Ristorante. 2516 Elmwood Ave. (at Tremont), Kenmore. 874-6711. Moderately priced, excellent Italian food, including desserts & specials. Reservations suggested. I've never been disappointed here. [LS]

Seoul House. 38 Kenmore Ave. (across from University Plaza, west of UB Main St. Campus). 836-3122. Korean.

Shepherd's. 8222 Transit Rd. (K-Mart Plaza), Williamsville. 689-7802. Cajun specialties. [SG]

* **Wurzbürger-Hof.** 3250 Bailey Ave. (south of UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 836-9387. Not especially elegant, but traditional German specialties, well-prepared and inexpensive. Don't expect the best German wines or beers, however. Frequented by the Buffalo Logic Colloquium, so not unaccustomed to technical discourse! [RD]

* **Yianni's.** 581 Delaware Ave. (in Allentown; near the Theodore Roosevelt inauguration site), Buffalo. 883-6033. Very good Greek cuisine; more formal than Towne or Kostas; moderate prices. [MS]

Ziggy's. 3975 Main St. (near Eggert; around the corner from Rigoletto's), Eggertsville. 837-7560. This is a small, fast-food place that caters mainly to high-school teenagers; however, it is open late (until around 3 A.M.), and the steak tacos/burritos are good. [DK]

===== OTHER VEGETARIAN =====

Reginald's. 718 Elmwood Ave. (near Ferry, between Allentown and Buff State), Buffalo. 885-3370. A variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes at reasonable prices. [HD]

===== KOSHER =====

All under rabbinic supervision.

+ **Bagel Place.** 964 Maple Rd. (near Forest), Williamsville. 688-4255. Various bagel sandwiches and pizza slices. Open daily 6:30 A.M. - 10:00 P.M., Sun. 6:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. [JZ]

Preservation Hall Bakery & Café. 752 Elmwood Ave. (between Allentown and Buff State), Buffalo. 884-4242. Wide variety of vegetarian dishes and soups. (Very good!) Open Mon.-Thurs. 9-7, Fri.-Sun. 9-6. [JZ]

Silverstein's. 677 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. 836-0762. Meat and poultry dishes and sandwiches, soups. Take-out deli and meals on premises (limited seating). Open Mon.-Thurs. 9-6, Fri. 9-4, Sun. 10-2. [JZ]

===== OTHER DESSERT PLACES =====

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. 59 Kenmore Ave. (at Windermere, near University Plaza, west of UB Main St. Campus), Amherst. 834-8566. Famous for their Vermont ice cream. [DK]

Parkside Candy Co. 3208 Main St. (at Winspear, west of UB Main St. Campus), Buffalo. 833-7540. Ice cream, candy, good sandwiches. A fantastic interior.

* **Soda Bar & Pastry Co.** 929 Elmwood Ave. (between Allentown and Buff State), Buffalo. 885-0056.

===== MISCELLANEOUS =====

Central Park Grill. 2519 Main St., Buffalo. 836-9466. For jazz and food. [ATC]

Crawdaddy's. 2 Templeton Terr. (downtown, overlooking Lake Erie), Buffalo. 856-9191. OK seafood; absolutely fantastic view of the waterfront and marina, and of the skyline of downtown Buffalo.

Parkside Sweet Shoppe. 2304 Main St. (at Oakwood, east of Delaware Park, not far from the Frank Lloyd Wright house on Jewett), Buffalo. 834-4222. (Not connected to Parkside Candy Co.) Good Saturday/Sunday brunch, exquisite coffee [DK]. Robert Redford met Glenn Close here in *The Natural*.

===== OUT OF TOWN =====

These are about an hour's drive from Buffalo. Niagara-on-the-Lake is home of the Shaw Festival.

** **Harbour Inn.** 35 Melville St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. 416-468-3881. Excellent seafood.

*** **Prince of Wales.** 6 Picton St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. 416-468-3246. Elegant, expensive, continental cuisine.

** **White Inn.** 52 E. Main St. (Rt. 20), Fredonia, NY. (716) 672-2103. Excellent continental cuisine in a restored hotel (built in 1868). Near the SUNY Fredonia campus.