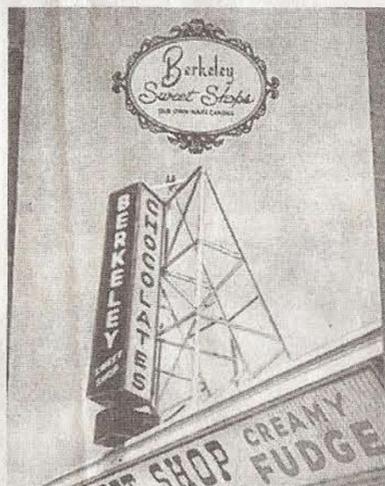
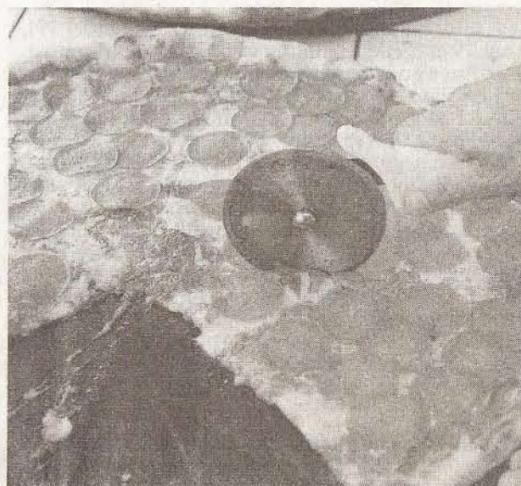


## FRUITY FACTS

The average strawberry has 200 seeds.

## Sundaytable

## Real people, real voices

Kids wait for their treat at Kehr's frozen custard stand.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY CURTOThe Berkeley Sweet Shops sign.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY CURTO

A pepperoni pie at Maruca's. NJ PRESS MEDIA FILE PHOTO

# EVERYBODY HAS A HUNGRY HEART

## A Ferris wheel diary of days, years and boardwalk food

By Kathy Curto  
For the Asbury Park Press

April 12, 2013

I suppose it's a form of hunger that compels me to check the Shore weather forecast and get every stitch of laundry done today. I'm the only one in my house with no set plans for the weekend, and the weatherman is calling for a sunny, dry Sunday. I haven't seen my sisters, my brother and their families in a while, and I miss them. And I haven't tasted the boardwalk (candy! ice cream! pizza!) since last summer.

April 13, 2013

As I have for almost 25 years now, I hop on the Garden State Parkway South and drive to my hometown. It's early in the morning, and I slide into a parking spot on N Ocean Avenue in Seaside Park before most people have poured their first cup of coffee. The dry, warm breeze swirls by me, and sand lifts up, teasing my ankles. I walk north on the planks of the boardwalk that are passable. I stare at the red and white metal signs that read "Beach Closed." I notice a few runners and some families up ahead taking pictures of the fractured pier, the broken amusement rides and the Ferris wheel. I find an empty bench and sit, stretching my legs out on the boards.

Despite it being early spring according to the calendar, the sun shines down on the tops of my feet, enough to make them grow warm and at home in last year's flip flops. That's all I need to remember ...

Summer of '72

I ask for a white chocolate lollipop, and the lady gives me two — one white and one milk. "The second one's on me, Sugar," she says, "and keep smiling!"

I do and decide when I grow up, I want to work behind the candy counter at Berkeley Sweet Shop.

Summer of '75

My parents are what everyone is calling "back together," and it's Saturday night on the boardwalk. I'm 8 years old and trying not to act dumb and silly, but that's hard to do. I'm happy.

First we visit my father's friend, Buffalo. I don't think this is his real name, but I can't imagine him with another one. Buffalo works at the stand where people pay to throw a softball into a stack of milk jugs. If the jugs tumble, the player can choose between a stuffed Fred Flintstone or a jar of gumballs. Since Buffalo knows my dad, I get a prize even if I throw the ball and jugs don't tumble.

After Buffalo, we go to Kehr's, and I order my favorite: Orange and Vanilla Twist. My mother eats it with me but acts like she doesn't.

"Just cleaning up the sides," she says.

Summer of '86

I never had a real boyfriend before, and now I do. We hold hands and walk from Funtown Amusement Pier to Casino Pier and back. We share a slice of Maruca's pizza, and before we get back into



Kehr's frozen custard stand on the boardwalk in Seaside Heights. NJ PRESS MEDIA FILE PHOTO

### BERKELEY SWEET SHOPS

ADDRESS: Boardwalk, Seaside Heights  
INFO: 732-793-0690; berkeleycandy.com

### KOHR'S CUSTARD

ADDRESS: Boardwalk, Seaside Heights  
INFO: kohrsfrozencustard.com

### MARUCA'S TOMATO PIES

ADDRESS: 1927 Promenade, Seaside Park  
INFO: 732-793-0707; marucaspizza.com

his car, we kiss. It's our third kiss, and it tastes like pizza.

Summer of '93

Down the Shore from New York. I show off the boardwalk summer scene to my second real boyfriend, who is also my new husband. I see people with strollers and sticky babies. I wish for a sticky baby of our own. We share two slices of Maruca's and an Orange and Vanilla Twist.

Another kiss.  
And another. And another. And another.

Summers of 2002-2012

Now we have four sticky kids who say things like, "When can we go to Jersey?" "Do you think I'm tall enough for the upside-down rollercoaster?" and "Can I get taffy?"

So we plan trips to the Shore, buy our discount tickets for the amusement rides at Easter time and visit Berkeley Sweet Shop for enough saltwater taffy to get us through the two-hour ride home.

Summer 2013

After speaking with the owners of each of these cherished Jersey Shore businesses, this I know for sure: Berkeley Sweet Shop, Kehr's and Maruca's Tomato Pies will be open this summer.  
And we'll be there.

*Kathy Curto lives in Cold Spring, New York, with her husband, their four children and one big dog.*



The classic Kehr's frozen custard cone: Orange and Vanilla Twist. STAFF PHOTO: TOM SPADER