

Kids Eat Free

Save money while eating out with this guide to local eateries offering "Kids Eat Free" promotions.

By Ginny Priest

Have you felt the uneven planks of the Oceanside Pier under your feet at sunset as you stroll to Ruby's Diner? Visit this local treasure on a Tuesday evening and you'll save some of your riches because that's when kids eat free! Many local eateries and chain restaurants are stepping up to offer "Kids Eat Free" promotions. These specials are rarely advertised so here is your insider's guide to local savings. Call the restaurant beforehand because there are restrictions, but with a little planning you can enjoy great local deals.

We stumbled upon the kids eat free deal at Ruby's Diner by chance one Tuesday evening last summer. As we walked

armed with options when caught with a car full of hungry natives.

Promotions come and go so calling ahead is a must. When calling the restaurant, verify the day and window of time that kids eat free. Is it all day or between 4pm and 10 pm? Is the offer one per family or one free kids meal per adult? Is it for kids 10 and under? It would be a letdown to order and eat only to find the promotion had been discontinued or changed.

Farmer Boys has one of the best promotions. Kids eat free ANY day of the week after 4 pm with the purchase of an

adult combo meal. This casual country setting satisfies our starving nine year old heading for a growth spurt and our hard to please younger family members. It's an easy and economical solution any



down the Oceanside Pier, we watched the fiery yellow red disc of sun sink into the water. Anglers lined the wooden peninsula and we peered into their buckets to examine the fish they'd reeled in. It was a perfect California summer night, the reason we love living here. We were taking Uncle Johnny out to eat before he headed back to college in the frigid northwest. When eating out, I often have the youngest two split a meal. With our meal deal and Uncle Johnny as a third adult, each child ordered a kid's meal for FREE! For an economical mom like me, this winning combination makes a meal out even sweeter.

Tuesday night is your best bet for scoring a dining deal. Pat and Oscar's, Chick-fil-A, and Tony Roma's are a few of the local restaurants to consider when you need a break in the kitchen. Check out the "Kids Eat Free" dining guide and you'll be saving some dough while eating Pat and Oscar's buttery breadsticks. Store the guide in the car so you are

night of the week for a hungry family.

Whether it's a night on the town or a cross country trip, eating out with kids can get expensive. Holiday Inn Hotels and Resorts throughout the U.S. and Canada is offering free kids meals to registered guests. This offer is available for up to four kids per family, every meal, every day. Learn more by calling 1-800-290-0002. Finding a hotel offering a free continental breakfast to guests is a great way to stretch vacation dollars. Browse sites like www.kidseat4free.com and www.mykidseatfree.com to find kids eat free restaurants around the country. Escape the everyday while saving some serious money. Family fun in San Diego really can be affordable, oh and remember to bring the crayons.

I would love to hear how you make family fun affordable. E-mail me at ginny@abcbook.us.

KIDS EAT FREE DINING GUIDE

With adult purchase
Tip: Call ahead to verify

Bennigan's

Tuesday from 4-10 pm
San Diego
619-291-8853
1760 Camino Del Rio N.
www.bennigans.com

Carrow's Restaurants

Wednesday and Thursday
after 4pm 10 years and
under
Chula Vista
619-426-1849
598 H Street
Escondido
760-738-9583
510 W. Valley Pkwy
Oceanside
760-722-9435
936 North Coast
San Diego
619-424-6881
615 Saturn Blvd.
www.carrows.com

Chick-fil-A

Tuesday 5-8pm
Chula Vista
619-482-6719
2089 Olympic Parkway
Oceanside
760-7209199
3475 Marron Rd.
San Marcos
760-736-8105
587 Grand Ave.
Sports Arena
619-758-1555
3570 Sports Arena Blvd.
www.chick-fil-a.com

Coco's Bakery Restaurants

Tuesday and Wednesday
after 4 pm 10 and under
15 restaurants in the San
Diego County
www.cocosbakery.com

Denny's

Tues. 4-10 (some on Sat.
too)
39 restaurants in the San
Diego County
www.dennys.com

El Torito

Wednesday kids 12 and

under eat free
9 Restaurants in San Diego
County
www.eltorito.com

Farmer Boys

Every day after 4 pm
Escondido
760-738-6188
925 W. Mission Ave.
Escondido
760-0700
1333 E. Valley Pkwy
www.farmerboys.com

Fusion Bar and Grill

Tuesdays
San Marcos
760-736-4343
1020 W. San Marcos Blvd.

Oggi's

Call your local Oggi's be-
cause date and promotion
vary by store
www.oggis.com

Pat & Oscar's

Tuesday all day
10 restaurants in San Diego
County
www.patandoscars.com

Roadhouse Grill

Tuesdays
San Marcos
760-510-3805
110 Knoll Road
Santee
619-562-1554
9816 Mission Gorge Road
Kids and their imaginary
friends eat free from Road-
ie's Rangers Menu on Tues-
days. Imaginary friends
over 10 pay full price.
www.originalroadhousegrill.
com

Ruby's Diner

Tuesdays after 4 pm
Carlsbad
760-931-7829
5630 Paseo Del Norte
#130D
Oceanside
760-433-7829
1 Oceanside Pier
www.rubys.com

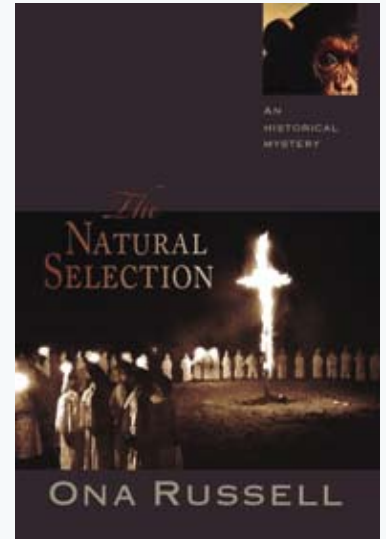
Tony Roma's

Tuesdays
Pacific Beach
858-272-7427
4110 Mission Blvd.
www.tonyromas.com

Book Review

Local Author Ona Russell Dazzles Read- ers with Second Sarah Kaufman Historical Mystery

When Solana Beach author, Ona Russell, sat down to write her second historical mystery, *The Natural Selection*, she wasn't sure what to expect. "Although my first novel was inspired by a family member, my second has been much more a project of my own passions and sensibility," said Russell. Her first novel, *O'Brien's Desk*, was nominated for a Pen/Faulkner award, and debuted to much critical and popular acclaim. But Russell needn't have worried; her sequel, *The Natural Selection*, has developed its own following and was nominated for the New Mexico Book Awards 2008 Best New Paperback.



The Natural Selection finds heroine Sarah Kaufman involved in another life-threatening mystery, this time while visiting her cousin Lena, an English professor at Tennessee's Edenville College. When one of Lena's colleagues is murdered, Sarah is drawn into an investigation that involves issues of racism, Southern pride, plagiarism, and the dispute over creationism vs. evolution. Set against the backdrop of the Scopes "Monkey" trial, Sarah discovers evidence that takes her to Dayton, Tennessee, where the showdown between the legendary lawyers William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow takes place. There she reacquaints herself with Darrow, and meets journalist H.L. Mencken, who provides her with information that brings about a tragic result in the Edenville murder case. While the Edenville investigation grows more dangerous, Sarah struggles with her newly discovered feelings for reporter Mitchell Dobrinski and seeks to set right the escalating sequence of events triggered by her own actions.

Like the highly-praised *O'Brien's Desk*, *The Natural Selection* is a must-read for historical mystery lovers who crave rich, evocative details, engaging characters, and sociological themes that are still relevant today. Masterfully written and researched, *The Natural Selection* introduces readers to the individuals behind the "Trial of the Century," while drawing us back into the world of Sarah Kaufman and her unending search for justice. Although spirited and intelligent, Sarah is also deliciously human, and her struggle to solve this latest murder delivers the same page-turning suspense and ultimate satisfaction that readers came to know in *O'Brien's Desk*.

"I've always been fascinated with the 1920s, and historical mystery is a perfect genre to represent the political and social complexity of that period," said Russell. "In *The Natural Selection* specifically, I invented what I believe to be a plausible mystery related to Charles Darwin, a still controversial historical figure whose bicentennial is being celebrated coincidentally this year."

Like her heroine, Russell delights in all things intellectual. She holds an M.A. in English from Clark University and a Ph.D. in literature from the University of California, San Diego. Teaching for years in various colleges and universities, she developed courses that combined her interdisciplinary interests, including "Poetry and the Workplace," "The Truth of Historical Fiction," and "Literature and the Law," a topic on which she also writes and speaks extensively. A regular contributor to *Orange County Lawyer Magazine*, she also has been published in newspapers, scholarly journals, and anthologies. She is currently at work on her third Sarah Kaufman mystery, set against the backdrop of the 1920s Los Angeles oil boom.

For more information on the author or *The Natural Selection*, please visit www.onarussell.com.

***The Natural Selection* (ISBN 978-0-86534-628-4) \$21.95**
***O'Brien's Desk* (ISBN 0-86534-416-7) \$28.95**
Sunstone Press
www.sunstone.com