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March 25, 2014 10:00 AM Barri Bronston

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The third annual Taste New Orleans, Savor Literacy benefit takes place Wednesday (March 26) from 5 until 7 p.m. at the Lavin-Bernick Center Pocket Park on the Tulane University uptown campus, and your ticket is the ticket to a very full tummy. That's because 17 New Orleans restaurants will be setting up shop.



Food from 17 New Orleans restaurants, including Bayou Hot Wings, will be served up at the third annual Taste New Orleans, Savor Literacy benefit on Wednesday (March 26). (Photo by Jim Howell)

More important, proceeds from the event will benefit [STAIR](#), Start the Adventure in Reading, a nonprofit children's literacy organization that tutors at-risk second graders in reading and language arts.

It's a cause close to the heart of event chairman Joshua Weinberg, a junior who began the culinary affair as a first-year student at Tulane.

"The most peaceful times in my life were when my mother would read to me before bed," recalls Weinberg, a Philadelphia native. "I want future generations to spend time reading stories instead of reading status updates."

In its first year, the benefit raised \$4,000 and last year, \$6,000.

“Our biggest impact has been giving STAIR students bus access to their locations,” Weinberg says.

Restaurants donating food include Cafe Fresco, Squeal BBQ, Chiba, Basin Seafood, Baru Tapas, Naked Pizza, Phillips Bar, Bayou Hot Wings, Phil's Grill, Pinkberry, Liberty Cheesesteaks, Nacho Mamas, Sodexo, Panda Express, Tulane Hillel's Kitchen, Casablanca and Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Housing and Residence Life and STAIR, with assistance from Tulane student Victoria King, it will feature music by New Breed Brass Band, massages from licensed massage therapist Patrick Miller and a raffle.

Tickets, available [online](#) or at the event, are \$15 to \$20 and include unlimited food. The \$20 tickets include five raffle tickets for prizes including restaurant and massage gift cards and a year-round pass for two to the Prytania Theatre.