Welcome to Coney Detroit!

Tour the coney capital of the world in new book from Wayne State University Press

Any Detroiter knows that an authentic coney island hot dog is a natural-casing hot dog topped with an all-meat beanless chili, chopped white onions, and yellow mustard, but how well do you know its history? Have you met the people who run the hundreds of coney island restaurants in Michigan today? In Coney Detroit, authors Katherine Yung and Joe Grimm explore all aspects of this beloved regional delicacy in more than 150 mouth-watering photographs and lively text.

Coney Detroit showcases such Metro Detroit favorites as American Coney Island, Lafayette Coney Island, Duly’s Coney Island, Kerby’s Coney Island, National Coney Island, and Leo’s Coney Island. As Yung and Grimm uncover the secret ingredients of an authentic Detroit coney, they introduce readers to the suppliers who produce the hot dogs, chili sauce, and buns, and also reveal the many variations of the coney—including coney tacos, coney pizzas, and coney omelets. Coney Detroit also traces the history of the coney island restaurant, which existed in many cities but thrived nowhere as it did in Detroit. Readers will learn about the traditions, rivalries, and differences between the restaurants, some even located right next door to each other.

While the coney legend is centered in Detroit, Yung and Grimm explore coney traditions in other Michigan cities, including Flint, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Port Huron, Pontiac, and Traverse City, and even venture to some notable coney islands outside of Michigan, from the east coast to the west. Most importantly, the book introduces and celebrates the families and individuals that created and continue to proudly serve Detroit’s favorite food.

Not a book to be read on an empty stomach, Coney Detroit deserves a place in every Detroiter or Detroiter-at-heart’s collection.

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