Want to know which ice cream parlor offers a joke flavor each month? Where to buy ketchup ice cream? Or which parlor’s bathrooms were ranked among the world’s best by the Travel Channel? Then, check out EVERYBODY LOVES ICE CREAM: THE WHOLE SCOOP ON AMERICA’S FAVORITE TREAT (Emmis Books, $19.99, July 2004) by Shannon Jackson Arnold.

It’s a travel book, a cookbook, and a pop culture history all in one. In addition to more than 120 full-color, nostalgic photos, 115 easy-to-fix recipes and everything you’ve ever wanted to know about ice cream, the book includes 550 listings of the best ice cream parlors in the USA. Here are Arnold’s picks for the 10 most unique ice cream parlors in America:

1. **Brothers Bruce and Mark Becker of Max & Mina’s in Queens, New York**, turn out some of the most daring ice cream around. Imaginative flavors have included potato chip fudge, beer and nuts, ketchup, horseradish and Nova lox.

2. **Water Wheel Ice Cream in Dillard, Georgia**, is the only parlor in the world offering ice cream made from freezers powered by a water wheel.

3. **The Show Place Ice Cream Parlour in Beach Haven, New Jersey**, serves up huge sundaes during nightly performances where the waitstaff sings and dances and the customers get in on the act, too.

4. **Sloan’s in West Palm Beach, Florida**, is known for its inventive flavors and what the Travel Channel considers one of the 10 best bathrooms in the world.

5. At **Ron’s Gourmet Homemade Ice Cream & Bowling in Hyde Park, Massachusetts**, you can try one of their 32 homemade flavors, before or after you’ve bowled a few games.

6. At the six **Amy’s Ice Cream parlors in Texas**, there’s always fun on the menu. The counter staff, in particular, puts on quite a show with scoops tossed overhead and caught in the dish and regular costume theme days.

7. The **Walrus Ice Cream Company in Fort Collins, Colorado**, always features a “joke” flavor on the menu; past picks have included sardine and When Popeye Met Olive Oyl (made with spinach and olives).

8. **Ella’s Kosher Deli & Ice Cream in Madison, Wisconsin**, serves up scoops in a zany atmosphere, complete with kinetic mobiles, decorated diorama tables and a merry-go-round out front.

9. At **Tango Gelato in San Francisco, California**, there’s Argentinian-style gelato and tango lessons on select Sundays, too.
