

book | *news*

from North Carolina

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Photo note: To download a photo or jacket image, see end of the release.

UNC PROFESSOR NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL CULINARY HONORS

Marcie Cohen Ferris's *Matzoh Ball Gumbo* Up for Beard Award

(Chapel Hill, N.C.) Marcie Cohen Ferris, author of *Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South*, is nominated for this year's James Beard Foundation Book Award in the "Writings on Food" category. Ferris is one of three nominees for this year's Beard Award.

James Beard is recognized as the father of American gastronomy and the James Beard Foundation is synonymous with the highest standards of culinary excellence. The Beard Awards honor the finest cookbook authors, restaurants, chefs, food and beverage journalists, broadcasters, and restaurant and graphic designers.

Ferris is associate director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and assistant professor of American studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also vice president of the Southern Foodways Alliance.

Matzoh Ball Gumbo, published in October by the University of North Carolina Press, has already garnered honors from the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as one the most notable cookbooks of 2005.

From the colonial era to the present, Ferris examines the expressive power of food throughout Southern Jewish history. She demonstrates how Southern Jews reinvented culinary traditions as they adjusted to living in a largely Christian region where forbidden foods such as pork, shrimp, oysters, and crab are widely popular. Richly illustrated, this culinary tour of the Jewish South includes anecdotes, oral histories, and more than thirty recipes to try at home.

The James Beard Award winners will be announced May 8 in New York City.

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[more]

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2-2-2 UNC Professor Nominated for National Culinary Honors

Jacket URL: http://www.ibiblio.org/uncp/media/ferris/jacket_ferris/ferris_matzoh.jpg

Photos of Marcie Cohen Ferris:

http://www.ibiblio.org/uncp/media/ferris/author_photos/

Publication information:

Matzoh Ball Gumbo

Culinary Tales of the Jewish South

by Marcie Cohen Ferris

The University of North Carolina Press

October 10, 2005

\$29.95 hardcover, ISBN 0-8078-2978-1

344 pp., 79 illus., notes, bibl., index

For more information: <http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7519.html>

Marcie Cohen Ferris's weblog:

http://matzohballgumbo.typepad.com/matzoh_ball_gumbo/

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