(L-R) Food King CEO and Co-owner Bernie Meizlish, Councilwoman Agnes Welsh and store co-owner Herb Beckenheimer lead the official kick-off of the opening of the Food King Supermarket's Reistertown Rd. Plaza store.

Food King opens

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

Herbie Beckenheimer and Bernie Meizlish have come one step further to their goal of establishing a food store whose name is synonymous with quality food, affordable prices and community involvement.

The pair were previously owners of Browns and Big B Supermarkets, which they sold in 1986 to B Green and Company. They later started the Food King Supermarket chain whose premier store was officially opened this week in the Reistertown Shopping Plaza.

Co-owner and CEO Bernie Meizlish said, "Although this is the first store in the Food King Supermarket chain, we are looking to open other stores as new locations become available.

The new Food King Supermarket is equipped with the latest technological wizardry including a scanner that prices merchandise verbally. The market's personnel are eager to assist and pleasant to customers.

A potential customer surveys the state of the art interior of Food King as they ponder the offerings at the salad bar.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Gentlemen Ten Hall

Gentlemen Ten Hall, 2135 Edmondson Ave. will host an Indoor Flea Market on Saturday, May 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by Midtown Edmondson Development Corp. Outside tables available if weather permits. Call 576-0455, 523-1408 or 947-2624.

Teacher Appreciation Banquet

The Annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet, sponsored by the Baltimore City Council of PTAs, Inc. will be held Sunday, May 6 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Martin's West. Entertainment by Baltimore City public school students. Call 254-0227.

Middle Branch Park

Middle Branch Park, 3301 Waterview Ave will host Communities Working Together Festival 1990. Special attractions include Festival Opening Ceremony and Awards on Friday, May 4, 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m; May 5, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Alunni Brunch, Baltimore Rowing Club and on Sunday, May 6 at 6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Raffle Drawing and Scholarship Awarding.

Liberty Medical Center

On Thursday, May 10, the Seniors Get HEP (Health Education and Promotion Program at Liberty Medical Center, 2600 Liberty Heights Ave. will sponsor its third annual Spring Fling Senior Prom to celebrate Older Americans Month. The event, which is open to people of all ages, will be held at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. from 7 to 11 p.m. and will feature dancing, door prizes, and a full dinner buffet. Call 383-4391.

Drug-Free Campaign

"Drug-Free Baltimore through the Church" campaign will kick off with a gospel concert, Friday, May 4 at Macedonia Baptist Church, 718 W. Lafayette Ave. Concert, which will begin at 7 p.m., is sponsored by the Baltimore City Health Department, WBGR Radio and others. Call 396-5096.

Mid-Term Celebration

Baltimore City Councilwoman, Sheila Dixon (D-4th) will hold a Mid-Term Celebration on Friday, May 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at The Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. Call 225-0748.

Sir Charles Ltd.

Sir Charles Ltd., 101 W. 22nd St., honoring Ms. Bea Gaddy with Mother Of The Year Award, Sunday, May 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, Pratt and Eutaw Sts. Call 727-6721.

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Metropolitan Baltimore, Inc. (AMI) will hold educational meeting on the mentally ill, Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5300 North Charles St. Call 539-0525.

Liberty Family Resource Center

"Balancing Work and Family" is the topic of a free workshop at the Liberty Family Resource Center, 8737-B Liberty Road on Thursday, May 10 at noon. Call 887-0600.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar Middle School

The Dunbar Middle School PTA, 500 N. Caroline St. is sponsoring its second Pre-Mother's Day Gospel Extravaganza on Friday, May 11 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Call 675-3031.

Montessori School

The Montessori School in Lutherville hosts its annual Children's Spring Festival on Saturday, May 12, 11 a.m to 4 p.m. at Emerson Farm, Falls and Greenspring Valley Roads. Call 321-8555.

Better Hearing and Speech Month

May is "Better Hearing and Speech Month." In honor of this, free hearing screenings will be offered Tuesday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at University Hospital, 22 S. Greene St. and on Wednesday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Montebello Hospital, 2201 Argonne Dr. Call 328-6101.

Norman V.A. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Norman V.A. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Committee, the Community College of Baltimore's Faculty/Staff Committee on Black Issues, the CCB Alumni Association and the CCB Foundation are sponsoring a luncheon on Saturday, May 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Martin's West to benefit the Norman V.A. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Community College of Baltimore. Call 396-1596.

Douglass High School Reunion

The Douglass High School February and June classes of 1950 are having their 40th Reunion Celebration, Friday, May 18 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., The Baltimore Grand, 401 W. Fayette St. On May 20, there will be 11 a.m. worship service at Union Baptist Church. For further information, call 730-1058 or 254-1895.

MANDELA CELEBRATION

Washington, D.C. will celebrate the release of Nelson Mandela at WUST, RADIO MUSIC HALL on May 4 at 815 V St., N.W. Featuring Nigerian Juju star, Admiral Dele Abiodun, African Heritage Dancers and Drummers and Chief Lanre Adepoju, The Ewi (Poet) King from Africa.

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BUSINESS PULSE DIRECTORY

Black women, book business

By Ivy Pittman

Disproving the myth that African Americans don't read, three enterprising Black women are successfully challenging this fallacy and proving that not only do we read, but that there is in fact a cultural hunger and need for more Afrocentric bookstores. The stories behind these bookstores are testimonials to the reality that Black women are no longer asking for a piece of the pie. They are becoming their own bakers.

Nancy Harris, a speech pathologist, always had a vision of someday owning her own bookstore. In 1987, provoked by the prevailing misconception that there aren't enough Black writers to warrant a Black bookstore, Ms. Harris opened "The Bookstore & Company, Inc." in East Orange, New Jersey.

Ms. Harris started by keeping a list of any books by and/or about people of African American, Native American or Caribbean background. "I started the list about two years before I opened the bookstore," says Harris. "The store? I came across that by accident. My mother lives down the street, so I would pass this building almost everyday," she explains. "One day I noticed a 'store for rent' sign. I didn't have a plan, I didn't say 'In 1987 I'm going to open my own bookstore.' "

Leothy Owens, part owner of "Nkiru Books" in Brooklyn, recalls a similar start in 1986. "I had no demographic business plan," she says. "I just took the chance. I was looking through the real estate section and saw a store for rent ad. By the end of the day the place was mine."

Ms. Owens's inspiration grew out of the publishing environment. A former Associate Editor at NOK (African Publishing House), she recognized that there wasn't a consistent, large distribution process for small presses and started her own wholesale distribution company in 1978 that still exists on a limited scale. "I saw people publishing everywhere," she says. "Backyards, basements, anywhere they could

due to the poor representation of literature."

While Ms. Owens's direct contact with retail people in the areas of African, African-American, Hispanic, Caribbean and Native American literature,

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