

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

under

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

11-3166443
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1400 Old Country Road, Westbury, New York 11590
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC. 1998 STOCK OPTION PLAN
(Full Title of the Plan)

Wayne Norbitz, President
Nathan's Famous, Inc.
1400 Old Country Road
Westbury, New York 11590
(Name and address of agent for service)

(516) 338-8500
(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

copy to:
Nancy D. Lieberman, Esq.
Blau, Kramer, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C.
100 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 822-4820

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities To be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Security (1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share together with the associated common stock purchase rights	500,000 shs. (2)	\$3.50	\$1,750,000	\$487

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee, based upon the average of the bid and asked prices of the Company's Common Stock on the NASDAQ National Market System on August 24, 1999.

(2) This Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate number of additional shares of Common Stock which may become issuable pursuant to anti-dilution and adjustment provisions of the Plan.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The Registrant hereby incorporates by reference into this Registration Statement the documents listed in (a) and (b) below:

- (a) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 28, 1999;
- (b) The Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 27, 1999; and
- (c) The description of the class of securities to be offered which is contained in a registration statement filed under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (File No. 0-3189) including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all such securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Under the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws of Registrant, each person who is or was a director or officer of Registrant shall be indemnified by Registrant as of right to the full extent permitted or authorized by the General Corporation Law of Delaware.

Under such law, to the extent that such person is successful on the merits of defense of a suit or proceeding brought against him by reason of the fact that he is a director or officer of Registrant, he shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) reasonably incurred in connection with such action.

If unsuccessful in defense of a third-party civil suit or a criminal suit is settled, such a person shall be indemnified under such law against both (1) expenses (including attorneys' fees) and (2) judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of Registrant, and with respect to any criminal action, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

If unsuccessful in defense of a suit brought by or in the right of Registrant, or if such suit is settled, such a person shall be indemnified under such law only against expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in the defense or settlement of such suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of Registrant except that if such a person is adjudicated to be liable in such suit for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to Registrant, he cannot be made whole even for expenses unless the court determines that he is fairly and reasonably entitled to be indemnified for such expenses.

The officers and directors of the Company are covered by officers' and directors' liability insurance. The policy coverage is \$10,000,000 which includes reimbursement for costs and fees. There is a maximum aggregate deductible for each loss under the policy of \$150,000. The Company has entered into Indemnification Agreements with certain of its officers and directors. The Agreements provide for reimbursement for all direct and indirect costs of any type or nature whatsoever (including attorneys' fees and related disbursements) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with either the investigation, defense or appeal of a Proceeding, as defined, including amounts paid in settlement by or on behalf of an indemnitee.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Westbury, New York on the 24 th day of August, 1999.

NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC.

By: /s/ Wayne Norbitz

Wayne Norbitz
President and Chief Operating Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed on August 24, 1999 by the following persons in the capacities indicated. Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Wayne Norbitz and Ronald G. DeVos, and each of them acting individually, with full power of substitution, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents to do any and all acts and things in our name and on our behalf in our capacities indicated below which they or either of them may deem necessary or advisable to enable Nathan's Famous, Inc. to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with this Registration Statement including specifically, but not limited to, power and authority to sign for us or any of us in our names in the capacities stated below, any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) thereto, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in such connection, as fully to all intents and purposes as we might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Signature -----	Title -----
/s/ Howard M. Lorber Howard M. Lorber	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
/s/ Wayne Norbitz Wayne Norbitz	President, Chief Operating Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Ronald G. DeVos Ronald G. DeVos	Vice President - Finance Chief Financial Officer and Secretary (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
/s/ Robert J. Eide Robert J. Eide	Director
/s/ Barry Leistner Barry Leistner	Director
/s/ Jeffrey A. Lichtenberg Jeffrey A. Lichtenberg	Director
/s/ Attilio F. Petrocelli Attilio F. Petrocelli	Director

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NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC.

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Form S-8 Registration Statement

E X H I B I T I N D E X

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Page No. in Sequential Numbering of all Pages, including Exhibit Pages
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4	1998 Stock Option Plan	4
5	Opinion and Consent of Counsel	13
23.1	Consent of Counsel	See Exhibit 5
23.2	Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP	15
24	Powers of Attorney	See signature pages

Nathan's Famous, Inc.
1998 Stock Option Plan

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. Name and General Purpose

The name of this plan is the Nathan's Famous, Inc. 1998 Stock Option Plan (hereinafter called the "Plan"). The purpose of the Plan is to enable Nathan's Famous, Inc. (the "Company") and its subsidiaries and affiliates to foster and promote the interests of the Company by attracting and retaining directors, officers and employees of the Company, and consultants to the Company, who contribute to the Company's success by their ability, ingenuity and industry, to enable such directors, officers, employees and consultants to participate in the long-term success and growth of the Company by giving them a proprietary interest in the Company and to provide incentive compensation opportunities competitive with those of competing corporation.

1.2 Definitions

- a. "Affiliate" means any person or entity controlled by or under common control with the Company, by virtue of the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.
- b. "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.
- c. "Change in Control" means a change of control of the Company, or in any person directly or indirectly controlling the Company, which shall mean:
 - (a) a change in control as such term is presently defined in Regulation 240.12b-(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"); or
 - (b) if any "person" (as such term is used in Section 13(d) and 14(d) of the Exchange Act) other than the Company or any "person" who on the date of this Agreement is a director or officer of the Company, becomes the "beneficial owner" (as defined in Rule 13(d)-3 under the Exchange Act) directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing twenty percent (20%) or more of the voting power of the Company's then outstanding securities; or
 - (c) if during any period of two (2) consecutive years during the term of this Plan, individuals who at the beginning of such period constitute the Board of Directors, cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority thereof.
- d. "Committee" means the Committee referred to in Section 1.3 of the Plan.
- e. "Common Stock" means shares of the Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, of the Company.
- f. "Company" means Nathan's Famous, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware (or any successor corporation).
- g. "Fair Market Value" means the market price of the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange consolidated reporting system on the date of the grant or on any other date on which the Common Stock is to be valued hereunder. If no sale shall have been reported on the New York Stock Exchange consolidated reporting system on such date, Fair Market Value shall be determined by the Committee.
- h. "Non-Employee Director" shall have the meaning set forth in Rule 16(b) promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").
- i. "Option" means any option to purchase Common Stock under Section 2 of the Plan.

- j. "Option Agreement" means the option agreement described in Section 2.4 of the Plan.
- k. "Participant" means any director, officer, employee or consultant of the Company, a Subsidiary or an Affiliate who is selected by the Committee to participate in the Plan.
- l. "Subsidiary" means any corporation in which the Company possesses directly or indirectly 50% or more of the combined voting power of all classes of stock of such corporation.
- m. "Total Disability" means accidental bodily injury or sickness which wholly and continuously disabled an optionee. The Committee, whose decisions shall be final, shall make a determination of Total Disability.

1.3 Administration of the Plan

The Plan shall be administered by the Committee appointed by the Board consisting of two or more members of the Board all of whom shall be Non-Employee Directors. The Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and shall have such powers as the Board may, from time to time, confer upon it.

Subject to this Section 1.3, the Committee shall have sole and complete authority to adopt, alter, amend or revoke such administrative rules, guidelines and practices governing the operation of the Plan as it shall, from time to time, deem advisable, and to interpret the terms and provisions of the Plan.

The Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and of action taken by it without a meeting. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, and the acts of a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, or acts approved in writing by all of the members of the Committee without a meeting, shall constitute the acts of the Committee.

1.4 Eligibility

Stock Options may be granted only to directors, officers, employees or consultants of the Company or a Subsidiary or Affiliate. Subject to Section 2.3, any person who has been granted any Option may, if he is otherwise eligible, be granted an additional Option or Options.

1.5 Shares

The aggregate number of shares reserved for issuance pursuant to the Plan shall be 500,000 shares of Common Stock, or the number and kind of shares of stock or other securities which shall be substituted for such shares or to which such shares shall be adjusted as provided in Section 1.6.

Such number of shares may be set aside out of the authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock or out of issued shares of Common Stock acquired for and held in the Treasury of the Company, not reserved for any other purpose. Shares subject to, but not sold or issued under, any Option terminating or expiring for any reason prior to its exercise in full will again be available for Options thereafter granted during the balance of the term of the Plan.

1.6 Adjustments Due to Stock Splits,
Mergers, Consolidation, Etc.

If, at any time, the Company shall take any action, whether by stock dividend, stock split, combination of shares or otherwise, which results in a proportionate increase or decrease in the number of shares of Common Stock theretofore issued and outstanding, the number of shares which are reserved for issuance under the Plan and the number of shares which, at such time, are subject to Options shall, to the extent deemed appropriate by the Committee, be increased or decreased in the same proportion, provided, however, that the Company shall not be obligated to issue fractional shares.

Likewise, in the event of any change in the outstanding shares of Common Stock by reason of any recapitalization, merger, consolidation, reorganization, combination or exchange of shares or other corporate change, the Committee shall make such substitution or adjustments, if any, as it deems to be appropriate, as to the number or kind of shares of Common Stock or other securities which are reserved for issuance under the Plan and the number of shares or other securities which, at such time are subject to Options.

In the event of a Change in Control, at the option of the Board or Committee, (a) all Options outstanding on the date of such Change in Control shall, for a period of sixty (60) days following such Change in Control, become immediately and fully exercisable, and (b) an optionee will be permitted to surrender for cancellation within sixty (60) days after such Change in Control any Option or portion of an Option which was granted more than six (6) months prior to the date of such surrender, to the extent not yet exercised, and to receive a cash payment in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the Fair Market Value (on the date of surrender) of the shares of Common Stock subject to the Option or portion thereof surrendered, over the aggregate purchase price for such Shares under the Option.

1.7 Non-Alienation of Benefits

Except as herein specifically provided, no right or unpaid benefit under the Plan shall be subject to alienation, assignment, pledge or charge and any attempt to alienate, assign, pledge or charge the same shall be void. If any Participant or other person entitled to benefits hereunder should attempt to alienate, assign, pledge or charge any benefit hereunder, then such benefit shall, in the discretion of the Committee, cease.

1.8 Withholding or Deduction for Taxes

If, at any time, the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate is required, under applicable laws and regulations, to withhold, or to make any deduction for any taxes, or take any other action in connection with any Option exercise, the Participant shall be required to pay to the Company or such Subsidiary or Affiliate, the amount of any taxes required to be withheld, or, in lieu thereof, at the option of the Company, the Company or such Subsidiary or Affiliate may accept a sufficient number of shares of Common Stock to cover the amount required to be withheld.

1.9 Administrative Expenses

The entire expense of administering the Plan shall be borne by the Company.

1.10 General Conditions

- a. The Board or the Committee may, from time to time, amend, suspend or terminate any or all of the provisions of the Plan, provided that, without the Participant's approval, no change may be made which would alter or impair any right theretofore granted to any Participant.

- b. With the consent of the Participant affected thereby, the Committee may amend or modify any outstanding Option in any manner not inconsistent with the terms of the Plan, including, without limitation, and irrespective of the provisions of Section 2.3(c) below, to accelerate the date or dates as of which an installment of an Option becomes exercisable.
- c. Nothing contained in the Plan shall prohibit the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate from establishing other additional incentive compensation arrangements for employees of the Company or such Subsidiary or Affiliate.
- d. Nothing in the Plan shall be deemed to limit, in any way, the right of the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate to terminate a Participant's employment with the Company (or such Subsidiary or Affiliate) at any time.
- e. Any decision or action taken by the Board or the Committee arising out of or in connection with the construction, administration, interpretation and effect of the Plan shall be conclusive and binding upon all Participants and any person claiming under or through any Participant.
- f. No member of the Board or of the Committee shall be liable for any act or action, whether of commission or omission, (i) by such member except in circumstances involving actual bad faith, nor (ii) by any other member or by any officer, agent or employee.

1.11 Compliance with Applicable Law

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Company shall not be obligated to issue any shares of Common Stock, or grant any Option with respect thereto, unless it is advised by counsel of its selection that it may do so without violation of the applicable Federal and State laws pertaining to the issuance of securities and the Company may require any stock certificate so issued to bear a legend, may give its transfer agent instructions limiting the transfer thereof, and may take such other steps, as in its judgment are reasonably required to prevent any such violation.

1.12 Effective Dates

The Plan was adopted by the Board on April 6, 1998. The Plan shall terminate on April 5, 2008.

Section 2. OPTION GRANTS

2.1 Authority of Committee

Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall have the sole and complete authority to determine (i) the Participants to whom Options shall be granted; (ii) the number of shares to be covered by each Option; and (iii) the conditions and limitations, if any, in addition to those set forth in Sections 2 and 3 hereof, applicable to the exercise of an Option, including without limitation, the nature and duration of the restrictions, if any, to be imposed upon the sale or other disposition of shares acquired upon exercise of an Option.

Stock Options granted under the Plan shall be non-qualified stock options.

The Committee shall have the authority to grant Options.

2.2 Option Exercise Price

The price of stock purchased upon the exercise of Options granted pursuant to the Plan shall be the Fair Market Value thereof at the time that the Option is granted.

The purchase price is to be paid in full in cash, certified or bank cashier's check or, at the option of the Company, Common Stock valued at its Fair Market Value on the date of exercise, or a combination thereof, when the Option is exercised and stock certificates will be delivered only against such payment.

2.3 Option Grants

Each Option will be subject to the following provisions:

a. Term of Option

An Option will be for a term of not more than ten years from the date of grant.

b. Exercise

(i) By an Employee:

Subject to the power of the Committee under Section 1.10(b) above and except in the manner described below upon the death of the optionee, an Option may be exercised only in installments as follows: up to one-half of the subject shares on and after the first anniversary of the date of grant, up to all of the subject shares on and after the second such anniversary of the date of the grant of such Option but in no event later than the expiration of the term of the Option.

An Option shall be exercisable during the optionee's lifetime only by the optionee and shall not be exercisable by the optionee unless, at all times since the date of grant and at the time of exercise, such optionee is an employee of or providing services to the Company, any parent corporation of the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate, except that, upon termination of all such employment or provision of services (other than by death, Total Disability, or by Total Disability followed by death in the circumstances provided below), the optionee may exercise an Option at any time within three months thereafter but only to the extent such Option is exercisable on the date of such termination.

Upon termination of all such employment by Total Disability, the optionee may exercise such Options at any time within three years thereafter, but only to the extent such Option is exercisable on the date of such termination.

In the event of the death of an optionee (i) while an employee of or providing services to the Company, any parent corporation of the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate, or (ii) within three months after termination of all such employment or provision of services (other than for Total Disability) or (iii) within three years after termination on account of Total Disability of all such employment or provision of services, such optionee's estate or any person who acquires the right to exercise such option by bequest or inheritance or by reason of the death of the optionee may exercise such optionee's Option at any time within the period of three years from the date of death. In the case of clauses (i) and (iii) above, such Option shall be exercisable in full for all the remaining shares covered thereby, but in the case of clause (ii) such Option shall be exercisable only to the extent it was exercisable on the date of such termination.

(ii) By Persons other than Employees:

If the optionee is not an employee of the Company or the parent corporation of the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate, expiration of such optionee's right to exercise his Options shall be established and determined by the Committee in the Option Agreement covering the Options granted to such optionee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions regarding the exercise of an Option in the event of death, Total Disability, other termination of employment or provision of services or otherwise, in no event shall an Option be exercisable in whole or in part after the termination date provided in the Option Agreement.

c. Transferability

An Option granted under the Plan shall not be transferable otherwise than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, except as may be permitted by the Board or the Committee.

2.4 Agreements

In consideration of any Options granted to a Participant under the Plan, each such Participant shall enter into an Option Agreement with the Company providing, consistent with the Plan, such terms as the Committee may deem advisable.

August 25, 1999

Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: Nathan's Famous, Inc.
Registration Statement on Form S-8

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the filing by Nathan's Famous, Inc. (the "Corporation") of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, covering the registration of 500,000 shares of the Corporation's Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share, in connection with the Corporation's 1998 Stock Option Plan (the "Plan").

As counsel for the Corporation, we have examined its corporate records, including its Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, By-Laws, its corporate minutes, the form of its Common Stock certificate, the Plan, related documents under the Plan and such other documents as we have deemed necessary or relevant under the circumstances.

Based upon our examination, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Corporation is duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the State of Delaware.
2. There have been reserved for issuance by the Board of Directors of the Corporation 500,000 shares of its Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share. The shares of the Corporation's Common Stock, when issued pursuant to the Plan, will be validly authorized, legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

We hereby consent to be named in the Registration Statement and in the Prospectus which constitutes a part thereof as counsel of the Corporation, and we hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5 to the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Blau, Kramer, Wactlar & Lieberman, P.C.
BLAU, KRAMER, WACTLAR &
LIEBERMAN, P.C.

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Form S-8 registration statement of our report dated June 15, 1999 included in the Nathan's Famous, Inc. and Subsidiaries Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 1999 and to all references to our Firm included in this Form S-8 registration statement.

/s/ Arthur Andersen LLP

Roseland, New Jersey
August 27, 1999