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On the Occasion of
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TRAVEL TIPS

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

ALBANY, NEW YORK: Shopping in the United States has always been a delight for my family. Albany, the capital of the State of New York, is the home of the large Crossgates Mall and the smaller, but equally impres-

sive Colonie Center. We recently spent four days in Albany. With a great place to stay, excellent restaurants to choose from and, of course, the endless shopping experience, it proved to be the perfect mid-winter getaway. Albany has


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attracted visitors for 400 years with historic sites, fabulous attractions, family-friendly amenities, and entertaining events. World-class museums, unique galleries, stunning architecture, those enticing restaurants, and welcoming accommodations can indeed keep you busy for days. Enjoy everything from boating to skiing and biking to snow-shoeing. The Crossgates Mall is home to 250 stores, restaurants and kiosks, including big box tenants Macys, Sears, Dick's Sporting Goods and JC Penny (now called JCP).

A C C O M M O D A - T I O N S: When in Albany we enjoy staying at the Cresthill Suites (www.cresthillsuites.com),

an extended stay hotel located at 1415 Washington Avenue. It turned out to be most convenient for us. There were large Hannaford's and Price Chopper grocery stores nearby, as well as plenty of restaurants, the Crossgates Mall, the Colonie Center and two movie theatre complexes. Cresthill is in fact part of a small chain, with other locales in Syracuse, NY and Wichita, Kansas.

I would strongly recommend this hotel for families. Our spacious two bedroom suite had all of the comforts of home, including a fully equipped kitchen with a fridge and appliances and free wireless internet. We had a comfortable living room, with a couch, chair,

(Please turn to page 22)

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WEST BANK SECURITY

(Continued from preceding page)

The police cancelled a "women only" police unit as it would have institutionalized separation between men and women. There are a number of women in the intelligence services.

The security forces

are proud of the regular training they receive from American and European security forces. They say they are committed to stopping attacks, but call on Israel not to make their task harder.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 9)

table and chairs, three flat screen TVs and plenty of cupboard space. Whether you're staying for a night or a month in any one of these suites, the hotel offers an array of services to accommodate your travel needs. In the morning, you can enjoy a complimentary breakfast, and in the evening, a light fare reception and social hour is available every Monday through Thursday. There is daily housekeeping, same-day valet service, a grocery shopping service, free guest laundry, a fully equipped fitness center and a seasonal courtyard with a pool, patio and grills. The staff at the front desk was exceptionally helpful. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available 24 hours a day. For more information call 1.888.723.1655 or email info@cresthillsuites.com

WHERE TO DINE: We had a marvelous meal at Simpson's Grille, where five chefs have shared 83 years of experience to create menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner to tantalize even the most discriminating taste buds. This is the type of place where sole Françoise and grilled Atlantic salmon meet New York sirloin and filet mignon. The restaurant is located at The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, a magnificent facility at 660 Albany Shaker Road. The Desmond is also home to the AAA four diamond-rated Scrimshaw Restaurant and The Tavern, an English style pub. This is a popular spot for Jewish weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs.

AT THE MOVIES: The Albany area has some wonderful movie theatre complexes. We have a par-

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ticular fondness for the Regal Colonie Center Stadium 13. This five year old movie complex encompasses around 64,000 square feet, with more than 2,800 seats in a total of 13 auditoriums. It is right next to P.F. Chang's and a huge Barnes & Noble, great to know when you are planning an outing. The seats at this theatre are very comfortable as they swivel. We actually stopped by the evening before our show to pick up tickets in advance. You can also purchase them online at fandango.com.

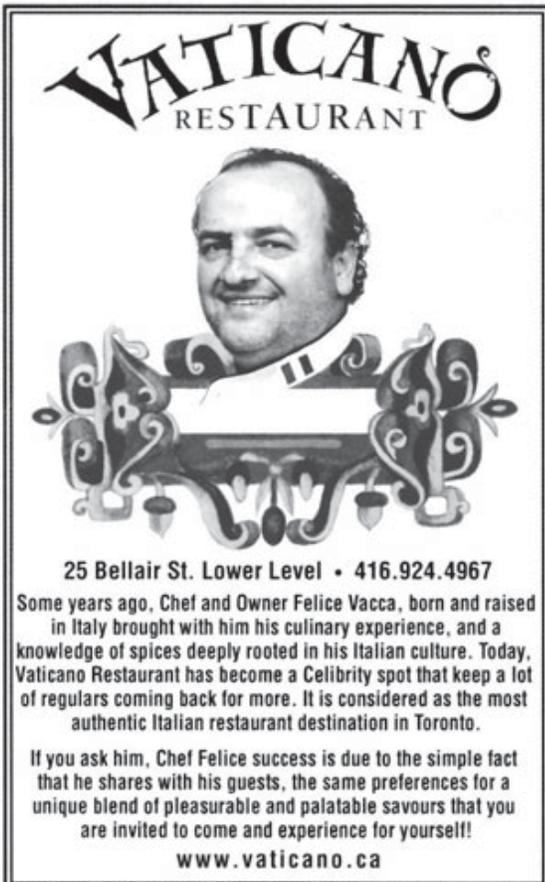
JEWISH COMMUNITY: There are an estimated 13,000 Jews in Albany. The hubs of Jewish life are the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center and the

United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. Regionally there are five reform congregations, five Conservative and three Orthodox. There is a Hillel Foundation for Jewish life at the local university campus. Price Chopper supermarket offers a year-round well-stocked full-service kosher store at 1892 Central in Colonie. The University at Albany (SUNY) operates a full-service Kosher Meal-Plan (Meat) in the Dutch Quad Cafeteria during the academic year, which is open to guests.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at <http://www.sandbox-world.com/travel> and on Twitter @mikecohencsl.

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If you ask him, Chef Felice success is due to the simple fact that he shares with his guests, the same preferences for a unique blend of pleasurable and palatable savours that you are invited to come and experience for yourself!

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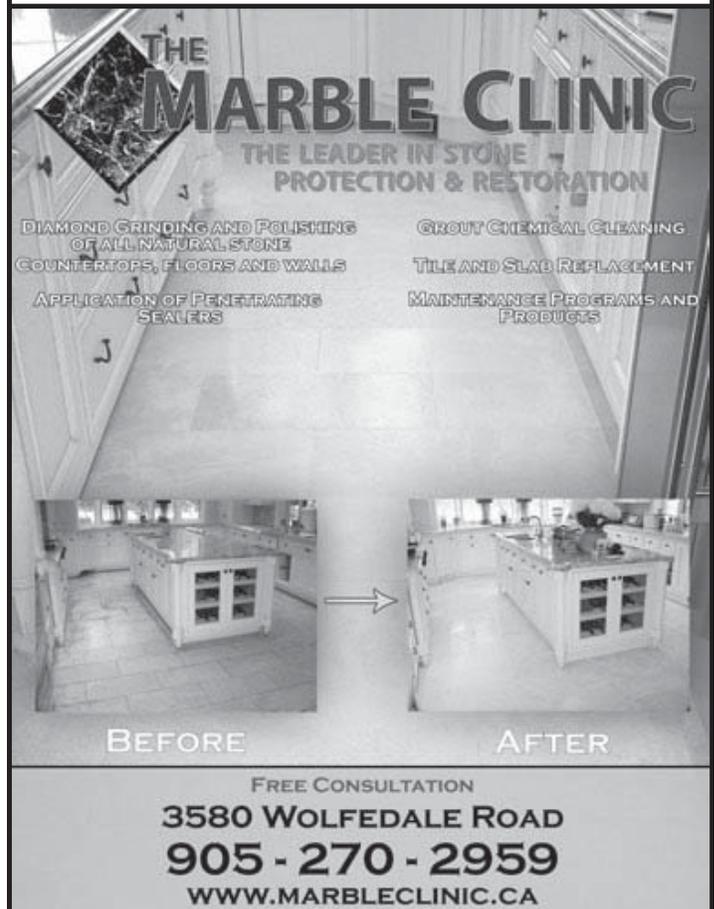
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