

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

PORTLAND, MAINE- Three years after our first family vacation to Maine, we returned recently and once again chose Portland (www.portlandmaine.com) as our base. We really enjoyed the accommodations at the Embassy Suites last time, so that certainly helped with our decision when they had availability and the spacious two bedroom suite we had our eyes on. This was a significant upgrade for my family. The large living room in the middle was perfect for me to work late into the evening or early in the morning without disturbing anyone. Portland is Maine's business, financial and retail capital and the largest city in the state. Seascapes and cityscapes blend harmoniously in Portland, perched on a peninsula, jutting out.

WHERE TO STAY:
The Embassy Suites

Portland, Maine hotel (www.portland.embassy-suites.com) is centrally located and right next to the Portland Jetport. It is just four miles from the famed Old Port. Moreover, the hotel is just a few miles from Maine's beaches and scenic walking, hiking, and biking destinations. What I like best is the easy five minute drive to the beautiful Maine Mall and known chain restaurants.

All accommodations feature two flat screen televisions, a refrigerator, microwave oven and coffee maker, complimentary wireless high-speed internet access, two telephones and a comfortable work area with desk. There are 119 suites in the hotel. Only five are of the two bedroom variety so book those early. KTB Hospitality owns this hotel and five others in the state.

(Please turn to page 19)

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AP'S DOUBLE STANDARD

(Continued from page 17)

States."

And an April 2010 story directly explored the

debate over how such killings should be regarded. The piece, entitled "Legal Questions Raised Over CIA Drone Strikes," begins by asking: "Is the CIA's secret program of drone strikes against terrorists in Pakistan and Yemen a case of illegal assassinations or legitimate self defense?" Although the reporter noted that "four law professors offered conflicting views," she avoided backing any particular view.

So while the AP has recently asked whether the CIA's counter-terror drone program involves assassinations or legitimate killings, it leaves it to readers to decide. When it comes Israel's program, apparently there is no such debate. The wire service shoots first, and does not ask questions later.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

You can start your day here with a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast, including omelettes and pancakes. Grab a bagel and coffee on your way to a business event or to Portland's attractions. In the evening, the atrium lobby is the site for the complimentary Manager's Reception. Here you can sip a cocktail or refreshing beverage and enjoy a variety of snacks. You also have the option of savouring fresh local seafood and American cuisine at Café Stroudwater, their casual restaurant. They also have a fitness center, indoor pool and business center. The hotel is located at 1050 Westbrook Street. For more information call 207-775-2200 or 1-800-Embassy. The Embassy Suites serves as a popular base for Jewish families in town to attend bar and bat mitzvahs

(Please turn to following page)

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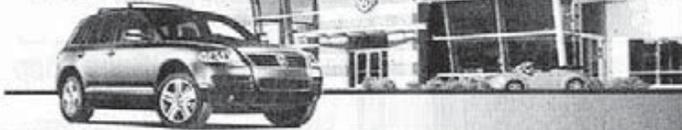
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TRAVEL TALES

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Out of town dinners are often hosted here

DINING: Greater Portland offers a robust selection of restaurants, specialty foods and brew-pubs, totalling over 200 dining choices.

We were directed towards David's Restaurant (www.davidsrestaurant.com), located at 22 Monument Square in the Arts District. Owner David Turin comes from a family of Russian Jews. He is an award winning chef and artist in residence. David's has a pretty extensive menu, from an array of soups, salads and appetizers to meat, seafood and pasta dishes. If you are looking for an interesting dining experience, then make a reservation at David's at 207- 773-4340.

OLD ORCHARD: While Old Orchard's seven-mile long stretch of wide sandy beach is understandably the major attraction, there is a full range of other things available to see and do in and around the area.

Palace Playland (www.palaceplayland.com) is New England's only beachfront amusement park. It features a giant arcade beautiful carousel, a

kiddieland, a new ferris wheel and the galaxi coaster. It is open Memorial Day to Labor Day and features fireworks every Thursday night by the Pier. What's great about this place is that you do not have to pay for admission, just for the rides. This can be done by buying tickets or a wrist band for unlimited access. There is no particular entrance or exit, so you can take a break anytime you want and explore the Old Orchard beach strip of shops and restaurants or take a walk on the Pier. The park is owned by Jewish businessman Joel Golder. His son Paul serves as executive vice-president and his brother Fred handles business affairs. Paul's wife Silvia works with him at the park. So do his mom Harriet, sister Stacey and Fred's wife Caron. His Aunt Carole operates two food stands as a tenant in the park. Her son, Adam, works with her, with his wife Thea. This year the park has added two brand new rides, Riptide and an upgraded kiddie Frog Hopper. Another new addition for the kids is called Dizzy Dragon. The new

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ferris wheel offers a spectacular light show. Old Orchard was an easy 25 minute drive from our hotel. Palace Playland is the perfect place to spend the evening with family and friends. In the summer you are sure to hear a lot of French being spoken as Quebecers travel to this part of Maine in droves.

JEWISH CONNECTION: Maine is home to about 11,000 Jews, almost 8,300 of whom reside in Portland. The Portland area is home to seven synagogues: the orthodox Shaarey Tphiloh, Chabad Lubavitch of Maine Etz

Chaim (combined orthodox and reform), the conservative Temple Beth El, the reform Congregation Bet Ha'am and Congregation Beth Israel in Old Orchard and another synagogue called Etz Chaim in nearby Biddleford. As I walked the strip in Old Orchard and went into some of the shops, the Hebrew language was in the air. Many Israelis, it turns out, spend the summers here.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel and on Twitter @mikecohencsl.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

Airport Security "Nabs" El Al Pilot

An El Al pilot was heading to his flight out of JFK a few weeks ago. In his bag was a retractable baton. Security at Terminal 4 detained the pilot. He was arrested by Port Authority police and charged with criminal possession of a weapon.

In a statement El Al said that "the first officer was detained following a routine security check after an item relating to martial arts was found in his luggage, against procedure. He

was questioned and released".

The pilot is awaiting arraignment by the Queens Criminal Court.

Jewish Pot Activist Wins His Fight

Mason Tvert was the face of the campaign to legalize marijuana in Colorado. Tvert grew up in a Jewish home in Scottsdale, Arizona. He began his fight while in college at the University of Richmond.

Tvert's long battle (Please turn to following page)

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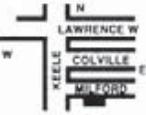
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