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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE: For years I have heard people speak glowingly about Portsmouth, New Hampshire (<http://www.portsmouthnh.com>), a city of roughly 21,000 people that sits near the mouth of the Piscataqua River, which divides New Hampshire and Maine. Settled in 1623, Portsmouth claims to be the nation's third-oldest city. Visit portsmouthchamber.org for details.

WHERE TO STAY: Take my advice and stay in nearby Dover, a mere 20 minute drive from Portsmouth via Highway 16. We loved the accommodations at the Homewood Suites (www.dovernh.homewoodsuites.com). The Lafrance Hospitality Group

operates this property, as well as the nearby Hampton and Comfort Inns. The Homewood Suites is just off Highway 16, near plenty of shopping and restaurants and really has all of the comforts of "home." With 87 suites, there is plenty of space for a few family members. We loved the full kitchen, terrific drawer space, the morning breakfast and weekday manager's reception. You can cool off in the indoor pool (leading to an outdoor patio) and relax in the jacuzzi. Parking is free. Just so you know, most hotels in Portsmouth tend to be costly and during peak season rooms are not easy to find.

WATER COUNTRY: A trip to Portsmouth during
(Please turn to page 24)



ON DISPLAY AT THE POLICE STATION IN SDEROT, Israel are some of the hundreds of rockets that have rained down on the community since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. Sderot is a mere 840 meters from Gaza and, even during periods of relative calm, Sderot's 24,000 or so residents seldom feel at ease.

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TERROR FINANCING

(Continued from page 22)

are intended to disrupt this terrorist money trail. Under the legislation, U.S. financial institutions will be newly empowered to monitor and halt illicit activity between companies doing business with Iran, especially those based in the United States. By sanctioning Iran's transactions related to international oil sales, technology, shipping, and financial sectors, the act of Congress is a major step toward combating terrorist activity. Financial institutions and oil companies that help fund – wittingly or not – terror activities: you are on notice.

The members of Congress and organizations that courageously pushed for passage of the Iran Sanctions Bill – including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee – deserve to be recognized for their role in raising the stakes

against perpetrators of terror. Their collective effort, exemplified by a 421-6 majority vote, empowers our fight against a global terrorist network.

In a climate where we must be ever vigilant against terrorist threats, it is important to relish and savor these times of collective, bipartisan action. But we cannot rest on our laurels. We have to keep adapting, keep preempting, and keep fighting the fiscal lifeblood that keeps the heart of terrorist groups beating. This act of Congress is a powerful step in the right direction, but the international community must also join our efforts to ensure these sanctions have their desired effect. Otherwise, we will simply be fighting a terrorist Hydra – with new financial channels opening where others have already been closed.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

the summer months is certainly not complete without visiting Water Country (www.watercountry.com). This is New England's

largest water park, featuring signature thrill rides for a full day of fun for the entire family. Situated at *(Please turn to page 26)*

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 24)

2300 Lafayette Road, daily admission is \$37 for those 48 inches or taller and \$24.99 for those under that height and seniors. Children two years old and under enter free. Water Country is one of the few amusement parks in the United States to allow its guests to bring picnic lunches into the park, great for folks keeping kosher. A number of large picnic areas are available for free at various points throughout the park so guests can eat without having to leave. Owned by Palace Entertainment, Water Country tests the limits on Double Geronimo, Thunder Falls and the Screamer and allows one to take a break in the relaxing Adventure River. There are over 26 acres of fun here.

We went on a busy Sunday, opting for the preferred parking option (\$15). This represented a very short walk to the front entrance. We rented a locker, which had plenty of room for the three of us to store all of our gear. The wait in line for different slides was not exceptionally long.

SEACOAST REPERTORY: We were fortunate to be in town recently when the musical "Chicago" was playing at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (www.seacoastrep.org), located at 125 Bow Street and better known as the Rep. The Rep is a not-for-profit arts and educational institution and has been in business since 1988. Locally and regionally, I am told, people plan their summers around their productions and travel to the Seacoast to experience live theatre. In the winter its year-round subscribers engage in a dialogue around compelling and high quality work including packed pre-show symposiums and post-show discussions. The local com-

munity has ownership of the theatre as a vital component of its social fabric and the transient community supports the theatre for the dynamic, provocative and yet entertaining element to their summers and weekends. The presentation of "Chicago" was first class, featuring an excellent cast, great sound and terrific use of a small stage space. I loved the cozy layout of this oval theatre. There is truly not a bad seat in the house. Over the past two and a half decades, more than 300 Main Stage and youth productions have been presented. "Chicago" had been preceded this season by "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Things We Do For Love" and the "Full Monty". Coming soon will be "The Woman in Black" (October 5 to 28) and "Plaid Tidings" (November 30 to December 30). Details can be found on their website. Faulkner announced that "A Chorus Line" will be part of the 2013 series.

THE OAR HOUSE: With more than 40 restaurants in downtown alone, Portsmouth is one of the eating capitals of New England. The perfect spot for a pre-show dinner turned out to be the Portsmouth Oar House (www.portsmouthoarhouse.com), located at 55 Ceres Street in the historic Merchant's Row building at the edge of Portsmouth's old harbor. This spot serves fine food in a setting filled with mementos of the city's long and proud maritime heritage and features live music inside on Thursdays through Saturdays. The waterfront deck is open in summer and there is on-site valet parking. Seafood is their specialty.

JEWISH CONNECTION: The first mention of a Jewish family living in Portsmouth is found in Brewster's "Rambles About

Portsmouth." Abraham and Rachel Isaac settled in Portsmouth around 1780. They came to America from Prussia. Mr. Isaac became an auctioneer and later started a china shop. The Isaacs were a religious family, observed the Jewish holidays and kept their shop closed on Saturday. Temple Israel (www.templeisraelnh.org) has continued to enjoy a steady growth through the settlement of

Jewish families in the Seacoast area. In the past 10 years many young professionals have relocated here. Membership is at nearly 300 families and its Hebrew school has an enrollment of over 100 children. More than 600 Jews reside in Portsmouth.

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

GAS MASK SHORTAGE

(Continued from page 9)

crease in the past few days despite reports in the media about Syria's chemical weapons stores.

"The politicians seem more worried than the public," Shlomo Brom said. "I don't have a gas mask and I'm not concerned."

In recent days, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned that Israel might act against Hizbullah, which is based in Lebanon, if they obtained chemical weapons. "Can you imagine Hizbullah – the people who are conducting with Iran, all these terror attacks around the world – can you imagine them with chemical weapons?"

Netanyahu said on America's Fox News recently. "It would be like Al-Qa'ida having chemical weapons. It is something that is not acceptable to us."

Netanyahu would not say whether Israel would launch a pre-emptive strike on Hizbullah, although Israeli media has speculated that it could happen any time in the near future.

"Israel is permanently prepared for threats of these types," a defense official told The Media Line. "The defense establishment is continually training,"

(Please turn to following page)

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