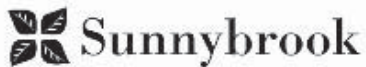


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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER, FLORIDA: St. Petersburg is Florida's fourth largest city, with 61 square miles. The St. Pete, Tampa and Clearwater areas have a combined Jewish population of about 60,000. This is a great

for a vacation. Log on to <http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com> for more details.

White-sand Florida beaches with crystal-clear water, a foodie and arts scene praised by *Travel & Leisure*. (Please turn to page 15)

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rhetorical cudgel with which to beat one's political rivals is not. Reckless blaming of those with whom one dis-

agrees, instead of blaming the anti-semites themselves, does a disservice to public discourse.

**TRAVEL TALES**

*(Continued from page 8)*

*Leisure*, and glittering nightlife options that range from craft beer bars to New York-style dance clubs - in the St Petersburg / Clearwater area, the options are endless for whatever kind of vacation you're yearning for, be it for rejuvenation or exhilaration. Along with award-winning beaches, St. Petersburg is home to the world-renowned Salvador Dali Museum, top-rated restaurants and beautiful Fort De Soto Park. This waterfront escape is a perfect family getaway with so much to explore. The city, which glimmers between the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, is known for its warm

weather and for holding the title of "most consecutive days with sunshine" at 768. Downtown St. Petersburg is the city's heart, home to great shopping, restaurants, bars and attractions. We spent some real quality time there and enjoyed excellent meals at Ruth's Chris Steak House and 400 Beach Seafood and Taphouse.

After making a stop to check out the largest collection of Dali's work outside of Spain, swing by the Chihuly Collection on picturesque Beach Drive to witness mind-blowing glasswork. Beach Drive anchors downtown shop-

*(Please turn to following page)*

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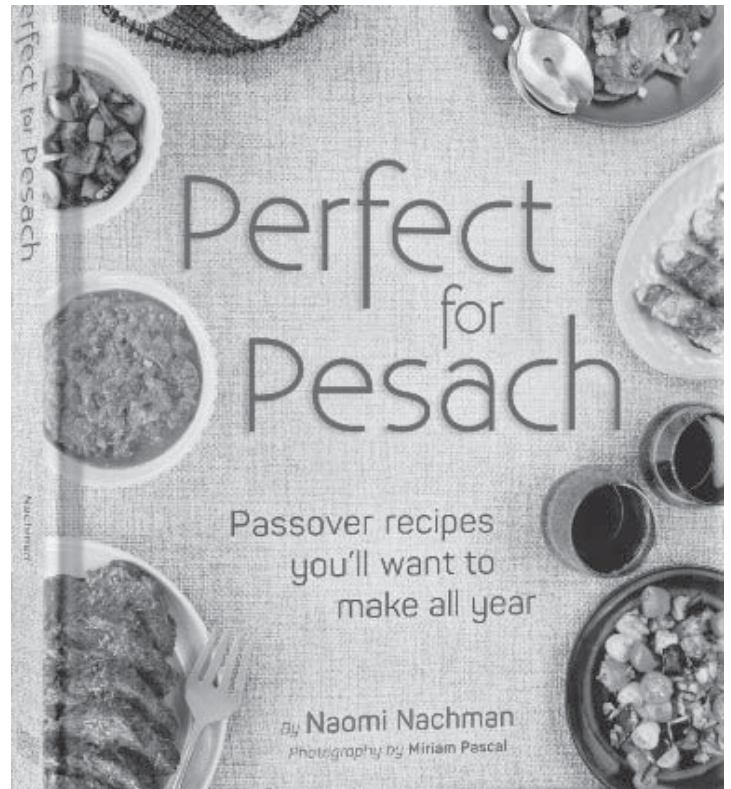
## TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

ping, dining and entertainment districts that include outdoor cafes and restaurants, world class museums and a dazzling array of shops, galleries, businesses hotels and bed and break-

fasts that line the city's pedestrian-friendly streets. Grab a sweet treat at Kilwin's Chocolate or browse along the many galleries and jewelry shops.

Downtown St. Pete's



*NEW COOKBOOK PROVIDES DELICIOUS AND innovative recipes that are Perfect for Pesach* Author Naomi Nachman, known as "The Aussie Gourmet," shares some of her favorite Passover recipes that make delicious meals all year round. In *Perfect for Pesach: Recipes You'll Want to Make All Year* (Artsroll/March 2017) Naomi shares some of her popular recipes from over two decades of cooking and catering for Pesach. Her recipes use innovative flavor combinations with ingredients that are easily accessible from local supermarkets and stores. In addition, while the recipes are all focused on Passover they can be served and enjoyed all year long. *Perfect for Pesach* features over 125 delicious recipes beautifully photographed by kosher blogger and cookbook author, Miriam Pascal. Each recipe features Cook's Tips culled from Naomi's years of professional experience and she has provided readers with Freezer Tips, Prep Ahead, How-to information and recommendations for basic kitchen equipment. This amazing cookbook can be purchased in Canada on Amazon.

is known for its urban art scene, where you can see dozens of painted murals on a stroll down Central Ave. The St. Pete Mural Tour takes you on a guided journey through the colorful streets of the city with tours led by local artists who uncover the vibrant stories of the creators behind the murals. You might also want to check out the Museum of Fine Arts or the Florida Holocaust Museum.

There are some live theatre options to consider. Visit the Sunken Gardens, a botanical paradise in the midst of the city. As St. Petersburg's oldest living museum, this 100-year-old garden is home to some of the oldest tropical plants in the region.

We met people with young kids who really enjoyed the Great Explorations Children's Museum. Designed for children 10 and under, the 24,000 square foot museum is filled with exhibits and activities to stimulate learning through creativity, play and exploration. The museum is a learning playground where children can make a discovery, make a mess, and even make a new friend.

In terms of parking

there are private valets. If you are going to one of the restaurants connected to a specific valet, there is generally validation where you can save half the price. One night I chose a public lot, which was double the price but unlike the valets at least there was no curfew to worry about.

What I appreciated most about St. Pete was that even though we visited during high season, tourist stops, shopping malls, restaurants and even the highways were not overly congested like we have seen too many times in the South Florida area. We only had nine days to explore, so a second trip to St. Pete/Clearwater is definitely on our wish list.

**H O L O C A U S T MUSEUM:** Opened in 1992 on the grounds of the former Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County in Madeira Beach, The Florida Holocaust Museum ([www.fholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.fholocaustmuseum.org)) - the fourth largest Holocaust museum in the U.S. - moved in 1998 to the heart of St. Petersburg's museum district. The permanent exhibit includes an original boxcar from Poland once used to transport prisoners

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**TRAVEL TALES**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

during the Holocaust. Traveling art and historical exhibitions change regularly, and the museum is currently the only one of its kind in the country to house a permanent art collection related to the Holocaust. The museum was begun as the vision of St. Petersburg philanthropist and busin-

essman Walter Loebenberg, who escaped Nazi Germany in 1939, together with a group of other business and community leaders.

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

**WORLD IN REVIEW**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Laacher (what Laacher actually said was that in Arab families anti-Semitism is in "the air that one breathes") without intention to incite hatred.

**Trump's Jewish Support Not Very High**

U.S. President Donald Trump has an overall approval rating of 42 percent. While this is not very good for a president who has been in office for only a few months, it is much better than his approval rating among American Jews. Only 31 percent of American Jews approve of the job Trump is doing.

There are several reasons that Gallup gives for these numbers. Trump, says Gallop, has given

"mixed signals to American Jews about their position  
*(Please turn to page 20)*

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