

# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

**ATLANTIC CITY AND THE PALM:** While in Wildwood, New Jersey last summer, our family decided to spend the day in Atlantic City ([www.atlanticcitynj.com](http://www.atlanticcitynj.com)). There are several kosher restaurants, both meat and dairy, in the area. Some local supermarkets carry a fairly wide selection of kosher food. For those tourists wanting to daven daily services are held at the Rodef Sholom Orthodox Synagogue. Jewish families began coming to Atlantic City as early as 1895 as a vacation destination. The Teplitzky influence on the city is readily apparent.

**THE PALM:** I have travelled to many cities where the Palm Restaurant ([www.thepalm.com](http://www.thepalm.com)) is the popular choice of many. There are 21 Palm restaurants across the United

States, plus a Palm Bar & Grille at JFK Airport. But it was not until Atlantic City when I finally experienced this culinary masterpiece inside the Quarter at the Tropicana Casino and Resort on Pacific Avenue. Prior to our reservation we took advantage of the valet parking covered by the restaurant and explored the hotel, visiting the different shops and of course trying our luck on the slot machines. But unquestionably our choice of the Palm was right on the mark. Friends had told me this was “the” best dining establishment in Atlantic City and based on our dinner I heartily concur.

The Palm’s menu features satisfying dishes that reflect the best of its Italian-American heritage – from prime aged steaks to Italian classics. It was not hard for us to see why The Palm has the reputation that it does in Atlantic City. It all starts with Paul Sandler, the happy go lucky general manager and a proud member of the Atlantic City Jewish community, who has been at the helm since this locale first opened in 2005. He is so hands on that when I called for a reservation he answered the phone himself.

There were three of us and to start we shared an amazing Seafood tower. All three of us then had the “Monday Night Salad” – finely chopped romaine, iceberg, tomato, onion, roasted pepper, radish, scallion and anchovy. Then we all dove into a gigantic Porter House steak. What a treat! And do save room for some of the Palm’s scrumptious desserts, among them, key lime pie.

If you are going to Atlantic City, Wildwood, Cape May or Philadelphia anytime soon, then make sure to experience this par-  
*(Please turn to page 13)*

Joignez vous à nous pour offrir les meilleurs voeux à nos amis juifs de partout à Montréal a l'occasion de Chanukah

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**TRAVEL TALES**

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ticular location for The Palm. It is worth the trip alone! The Palm is open from 4 pm to 9 p.m. Sundays, 5 to 10 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 5 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. For more information call 609-344-7256 or go to ThePalm.com.

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS POUGHKEEPSIE:** Our trip last summer began in New York City and in order to get an early start in the Big Apple we always like to stay over somewhere on the way. We did so for the second time in less than a year in the Town of Poughkeepsie, a mere 90 minutes from New York. On our previous trip to New York we stopped at the Holiday Inn Express in Poughkeepsie. At the time they were just beginning a \$3 million redecoration plan, so we decided to book ourselves another night and check out what was done there. The hotel is located at 2750 South Road, right on the main drag. My contact here is Robb Moskowitz, the Jewish senior vice-president of the Linchris

Corporation that owns the hotel.

While the guest rooms were already refurbished in 2014, the most recent work focused on giving the common areas, such as the lobby and corridors, a more modern look, Management is optimistic that all work will all be completed in early January of 2017. All rooms now feature modern furniture design, brand new 50 inch flat-screen televisions, Keurig coffee machines, new modern lightings and brand new bathroom fixtures. We always ask for the one bedroom suite, which includes a sleeper sofa and a Jacuzzi tub. There was a coffee maker, microwave oven, mini refrigerator, plates/glassware and silverware. We really like the layout. The bathroom is gigantic, with access from both rooms. This is very convenient for the person on the sleeper sofa who does not have to worry about waking anyone up.

The hotel has 121 rooms and attracts both leisure and corporate travellers. A free hot buffet breakfast, as well as one of the continental variety, is offered daily. The lobby is very welcoming to someone like me who likes to work on his laptop late into the night and not disturb others in the room. I set up shop at one of the comfortable tables, helped myself to some coffee and a freshly baked chocolate chip cookie from the front desk and got to work. It was a most comfortable work environment. The 24 hour fitness room features everything you'll need to stay on track with your routine: a treadmill, lifecycle, stair master, recumbent bicycle, free weights, and a two-stage universal gym. There is also a 24 hour business center and a seasonal outdoor

pool.

For more information readers can log on to [www.hiexpress.com/poughkeepsie](http://www.hiexpress.com/poughkeepsie) or call 1 877 660 8550.

*Mike Cohen can be reached at [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Follow his travels at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel) and on Twitter @mikecohencl.*

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