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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

A CONCERT IN BOSTON: One of film and stage's most extraordinary Jewish performers, Idina Menzel, headlined her own concert at Boston's Wang Theatre recently. It was the reason for my family's recent trip to the city for a brief weekend getaway. Menzel has starred in such hits as *Wicked* and *Rent* on Broadway. The latter was made into a motion picture. We got to meet her backstage after the show and she came across as very sweet and down to earth.

WHERE TO GO: The Citi Performing Arts Center includes the Wang, Colonial and Shubert Theatres. It is one of the nation's foremost non-profit performing arts institutions. The Center has a large number of Jewish members of its Board and senior management, with names like Elliot Surkin, Esta Gordon Epstein, Harry Nudelman, Fred Seigel and Barry Finegold. It has also been known to host events with Jewish themes. Such was the case with the 2011 world premiere of "A Melancholy Beauty Oratorio," celebrating the Rescue of 49,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

WHERE TO STAY: A mere five minutes from the theatre sits the magnificent Back Bay Hotel, part of the prestigious Doyle Collection ([www.doylecollection.com](http://www.doylecollection.com)). Located in the former headquarters of the Boston Police Department, it is now an even more arresting proposition after a stunning renovation program that has created a modern-day landmark in this magnificent

city. The stylish interior of The Back Bay Hotel offers vibrancy and warmth unique to this luxury Boston hotel and their team complements that warmth with a highly engaging and personal form of service that makes your stay a genuinely luxurious experience.

The hotel is equally well located for exploring the tourist riches of Boston or doing business in this strategically important business capital. Just by the Charles River, this is the perfect base from which to explore or exploit this compact and beautiful city. The Doyle Collection boasts a selection of eleven "collectively individual" hotels set in the most fashionable  
(Please turn to page 15)

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Ido Aharoni (Diplomat & creator of "Brand Israel" concept), David Saranga (A brilliant Israeli diplomat, former Consul for Media of Israel in the US, whom The Jewish Chronicle described as "The man whose campaigns are rebranding Israel"), Dan Gillerman (Israel's Longtime Representative at the UN) and every Jew who supports Israel in digital media in this era of citizen journalism.

**TRAVEL TALES**

*(Continued from page 8)*

quarters of six major cities across Ireland, the U.K. and the U.S. Each hotel has its own unique and contrasting character. Their portfolio of luxury hotels can be found in prime city centre locations in Dublin, Cork, London, Bristol, Boston and Washington DC.

There are 225 rooms and suites here in all: superior, deluxe, luxury and the Presidential Suite. Guest rooms at the Back Bay feature lush fabrics in tranquil shades, down-filled pillows and comforters, and bathrooms with marble and oak. The hotel has a restaurant, the stylish Stanhope Grille and Cuffs, an Irish Bar. It has valet parking, evening turndown service in deluxe rooms, 24-hour room

service, five dedicated meeting rooms, in-room safes, full audio, visual and complimentary wired and wireless internet service, a complimentary 24-hour fitness gym with state-of-the-art equipment, a 24-hour business center, 37" LCD TV's, all natural bath amenities, ADA accessibility and all non-smoking rooms.

**DINING OUT:** When in Boston, my first choice

for dining is always Legal Sea Foods([www.legalseafoods.com](http://www.legalseafoods.com)). The Jewish-owned chain was born in 1950 when George Berkowitz opened a fish market in the Inman Square neighborhood of Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1968, the Berkowitz family opened its first seafood restaurant, right next to the fish market. George's son, Roger, has been at the helm since 1992 and has expanded the

business into new markets while maintaining the company's focus on its proud tradition and core values. Besides, of course, Massachusetts, there are now Legal Seafood locales in Washington Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

We dined at the Boston Copley Place restaurant. *(Please turn to following page)*

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## TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

rant, located at the upper level of Copley Place (100 Huntington Avenue), with direct indoor access to both the Westin and Marriott hotels as well as to the Prudential Center. Keep in mind that there is also a Legal Seafoods in the Prudential Center and people often show up to the wrong locale. This can be a problem if you have reservations. Panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows overlook Boston's historic South End. Here the views and the seafood are second to none. Operating hours are Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 10 p.m.

Our party of three enjoyed a fabulous meal. We started off with a Caesar salad and two bowls of clam chowder, one of which was a clear broth with a lower calorie count. The main menu has so much to choose from. Specials on the night we visited included swordfish, salmon and haddock - all good choices if you are keeping a kosher-style dining choice.

Mike Cohen's email address is [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Read more about his travels at [www.sandbox-world.com/travel](http://www.sandbox-world.com/travel).



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