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There is plenty of Jewish flavour in Cape Cod



A look inside Congregation Beth Israel of Onset

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CAPE COD, MA - If you are looking for a fabulous place to vacation in the summer or early fall, Cape Cod has a lot to offer. And for the Jewish traveller, there are a number of synagogues, as well as hotels which do their best to cater to kosher needs.

My family and I recently returned from our first trip to the Cape in many years. We began with a four-night stay at the Red Jacket Beach Resort (www.redjacketresorts.com) in South Yarmouth. An excellent choice. Situated on the beach, we had a spacious family room with a balcony overlooking the ocean, only seconds from the heated outdoor and indoor pool, the latter of which also has a whirlpool. You can practice your swing on the private tennis court or enjoy a quiet afternoon game of shuffleboard. There is also a spa on the premises. Wireless internet is available throughout the complex and in each room. The resort has 148 guest rooms, houses, townhouses and other deluxe accommodations.

The convenience of being able to go back and forth to your room cannot be overstated.

Upon entering the private beach you are provided with towels, beach chairs and umbrellas. Because this is the south side of the Cape the water is exceptionally warm.

The Red Jacket hosts many Jewish guests. Over the years there have been groups that have booked Shabbat weekends.

General Manager Thomas Moore said that arrangements were made for kosher caterers to set up shop on the premises. "We even sent staff to individual rooms to

turn the lights on and off," he said.

Moore also notes that some Jewish guests who keep kosher have had all of their food shipped over in advance and kept in the main kitchen, eventually switched to the fridges in their own rooms.

The large Cape Cod Mall in Hyannis is an easy 15-minute drive from the hotel. That could be a little longer due to heavy traffic in season.

There are no kosher restaurants in Yarmouth, but check out the Skipper Restaurant (www.skipperrestaurant.com) at 152 South Shore Dr. It is open from mid-April until Oct. 31 and only minutes from the Red Jacket. The Skipper's swordfish, haddock, salmon and the yellow fin tuna are all good options. You can also choose from among the different salads or opt for a dish of angel hair pasta.

In terms of nearby synagogues, Congregation Beth Israel of Onset (www.capecodshul.org) is in Plymouth County and the town of East Wareham, near the very beginning of the Cape. During the summer there is a daily *minyan*. Friday night services begin at 7, while the Shabbos morning services start at 8:45. A resident director runs the *Minyan*, and reads the Torah on Shabbat, Mondays and Thursdays. This shul has been in operation every summer for the past 62 years.

"We have always had a good number of visitors from Toronto and Montreal over the years and it is a nice destination for the *shomer shabbos* or traditional visitor who would like to have a synagogue to attend while on vacation," said leading member Eli Hauser, a Boston native.

Major nearby supermar-

kets carry brand name kosher products. (The Boston Vaad symbol is KVH).

Hyannis is home to the Cape Cod Synagogue (<http://ccsynagogue.org>), which began its life when 15 young Jewish women met to discuss a need for Jewish education for their children and community life for their families. The Jewish Women's Club was organized in July 1933 and the Jewish Men's Club in November, the same month that the new congregation's first rabbi came to the Cape. The community affiliated with the conservative movement and remained there until 1950 when it voted to change its status to reform and become part of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Cape Cod Chabad Lubavitch (www.chabadcapecod.com) also operates in Hyannis at 745 West Main St. There is also the Falmouth Jewish Congregation (www.falmouthjewish.org), a reform synagogue at 7 Hatchville Rd. in East Falmouth.



A view of the beach at the Red Jacket Resort in South Yarmouth

EASTHAM: CAPE COD'S GATEWAY TO THE NATIONAL SEASHORE

With miles of sandy coastline, the Cape Cod towns of Eastham, Orleans and Wellfleet represent a haven for beachcombers and pail-toting youngsters. Only 25 miles up Route 6 from the bustle of shopping in Hyannis, this Gateway to the National Seashore is often referred to as the Cape's little secret. If you are planning a holiday here, consider the Four Points by Sheraton Eastham Cape Cod (<http://www.starwood-hotels.com/fourpoints/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=786>) as your base. The hotel has beautiful indoor and outdoor swimming pools and is close to the beaches. Some rooms have balconies overlooking the indoor pool, which is beautifully heated and a fabulous place to go after returning from the beach. There is also a jacuzzi. This hotel also has two of the most magnificent suites you will ever see, ideal for large families. The free wireless high-speed internet is indeed high speed and faster than most other hotels.

This hotel also has a fitness facility, a game room, refrigerators and coffee makers in each standard room, an on-site restaurant

(Bellamy's) and five meeting rooms in case you want to hold a company conference here. The front desk will get you anything you need.

The Four Points has a thriving Jewish clientele. There are many Jewish families in the area. "We have had many Bar and Bat Mitzvahs over the years," said sales manager Cindy Ladd. "Also many families stay here if they are coming to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and live off Cape. We are the only full-service hotel open year round in this area, which is very helpful."

There is an organized Jewish community in the Eastham area. Am HaYam Cape Cod (<http://www.ahycc.org>) is a Havurah Fellowship group. It promotes Jewish fellowship, traditions, culture and education. Services are held most often at Chapel-in-the-Pines, 220 Samoset Rd. in Eastham. The Sheraton Four Points is often used by members of the group for bar/bat mitzvahs. The Four Points has another significant Jewish connection as part of the noted Linchris Corporation. Vice-President Robb Markowitz oversees all operational aspects of the more than 20 hotels under the Linchris (www.linchris.com) umbrella.

JEWISH-OWNED RESORT IN CHATHAM

In the affluent Cape Cod town of Chatham, visitors are drawn to the expansive and magnificent beaches, the lighthouse, wildlife, nature trails, bike path and stunning views of the ocean.

Chatham (www.chathaminfo.com) has a special blend of the past and present with quaint streets lined with historic sea captains' homes, a fine selection of historic museums, and a walking downtown area with unique shops, galleries and restaurants. The Chatham Bars Inn (www.chathambarsinn.com) has been an idyllic Cape Cod family vacation retreat noted for its excellent service, fine cuisine and beautiful surroundings since 1914.

This is a Jewish-owned facility. In 2006 Capital Properties, the New York-based residential and commercial real estate development and management



PHOTO: AMY DYKENS

Jewish wedding ceremony on the beach at the Chatham Bars Inn

firm, purchased the property for \$166 million. The transaction marked the first venture into hospitality real estate for Capital Properties. "This year-round landmark resort holds a lot of personal significance for me," said Richard Cohen, founder and president of Capital

Properties. "I grew up in Brookline, MA and continue to maintain offices in Boston, so my ties to the East Coast remain strong, as does my commitment to maintaining the charm and integrity of this historic gem."

For more information go to www.capecodchamber.org.

THE TOWN OF ORLEANS

Nestled between spectacular Nauset Beach on the Atlantic and tranquil Skaket Beach on Cape Cod Bay, Orleans offers something for everyone. One of the prime draws in Orleans is its Academy of Performing Arts (www.apacape.org). Cape Cod's finest quality theatre and studio, 120 Main St. in what was once Orleans Town Hall. The Academy Playhouse delivers the best drama, musicals, comedies and original works you can find on the Cape.

The top restaurant on my list is the Orleans Waterfront Inn (www.orleansinn.com). Right on Route 6A, in a beautiful setting overlooking the water and next to Windmill Park. This is a family-owned establishment. Ed Maas, his wife Laurie and their eight children have all played a role in making this historic property a must stop since purchasing it 14 years ago. The restaurant offers the finest menus, from a varied selection of fresh local seafood, produce and grill specialties. There is a kids menu, offering everything from chicken fingers and burgers to pasta and pizza. Homemade desserts, specifically the chocolate layer cake, are to die for. The Inn boasts 11 beautiful guest rooms. Ed Maas told me that there have been many Jewish *simchas* held at the Inn. There are no kosher restaurants in Orleans, but the Inn offers a number of salads and items such as grilled Atlantic salmon, fish and chips and pastas.