

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

BUFFALO, NEW YORK: My family and I recently spent some time in Buffalo, New York to visit friends. Buffalo (www.visit-buffaloniagara.com) is the commercial, political and entertainment hub of an eight-county region of western New York State consisting of nearly 1.6 million people.

WHAT TO DO: We saw a movie at the Regal Transit Center Stadium 18 & IMAX at 6707 Transit Road in Williamsville, a mere 10 minutes from our hotel. I always enjoy seeing a movie at the Regal chain (www.regmovies.com). As the name of the complex says, this is stadium seating. There is a large parking lot and very friendly staff.

WHERE TO STAY: In terms of accommodations, we were very fortunate to come across the

brand new Staybridge Suites Buffalo Amherst, at 1290 Sweet Home Road, adjacent to the University at Buffalo-SUNY North Campus. Resting on the eastern shore of Lake Erie, the suburb of Amherst provides great access to entertainment, restaurants and attractions. Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BUF) is eight miles away. It turned out to be an excellent location. Having only opened on November 11, 2013, general manager Shannon Ruth, assistant GM Sarah Esposito and their team really provide a welcoming atmosphere.

This is an extended stay pet friendly hotel, which offers studios, one bedroom and two bedroom/two bathroom suites, as well as an indoor saltwater pool, a fitness room, an in-

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MARK ADLER, MP YORK-CENTRE, ACCOMPANIED Prime Minister Harper on his recent visit to Israel. Pictured above Mr. Adler is seen with families of fallen Israeli soldiers at the headquarters of IDFWO (Widows and Orphans).



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WITHHOLDING EVIDENCE

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revealed in a private interview that he discovered a statement by Harry Truman in 1945, in which the president used the term "Jew boys" to disparage Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr. and adviser Bernard Baruch. Blum withheld the statement from publication.

- William Hillman, the first editor of Harry Truman's papers, obtained

a 1945 memo in which Truman lambasted Jews for believing that God "picked 'em out for special privilege." But when Hillman's volume was published in 1953, that passage was altered to read simply: "...I never thought God picked any favorites. It is my studied opinion that any race, creed or color can be God's favorites if they act the part - and very few of 'em do that."

TRAVEL TALES

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season BBQ Pavillion with grills and complimentary guest laundry. You also get a full hot breakfast each morning, along with evening social receptions Tuesday through Thursdays. We chose the two bedroom option and for three of us it offered the kind of personal space one is not normally accustomed to during a family stay in a hotel. With a king size bed (and one amazingly comfortable reading chair) in the master bedroom, two double beds in the other and a pullout couch in the living room two families could comfortably share the premises. We also appreciated the 24 hour free coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk, juices and soft drinks, the "Great Room" where you can hang out with business associates and the "Den," filled with books, games and lots of comfy little nooks.

Each hotel room is furnished with a 42 inch flat screen HD TV, DVD players, iPod docking stations, alarm clocks and fully equipped kitchens, complete with pots, pans and utensils. There is good workspace and wireless internet. This property even has additional storage units available on each floor.

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next couple of years they plan many more. You can see the others at <http://www.ellicottdevelopment.com/portfolio/hotels>. They range from luxury boutique to other extended stay locales. Readers can call 1 877 660 8550 for reservations or do so online at www.staybridgesuites.com/amherstny.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: According to Ellen Goldstein of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, their newest and just completed demographic study indicates that there are 12,500 Jews in Western New York. Erie County, Amherst, East Amherst and Williamsville are suburbs with large Jewish populations.

The first Jew to arrive in the Buffalo area was during the war of 1812, when Captain Mordechai Myers was assigned to the region. In 1825 the politician and playwright Mordechai Manuel Noah bought Grand Island (just north of Buffalo) and established it as "Ararat," a refuge for the Jewish peo-

ple. It did not attract many residents and the idea was soon abandoned.

The first Jew to settle in the city of Buffalo was L. H. Flersheim, who had immigrated from Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, and arrived in 1835. The town's first retail clothing store was opened in the 1840's by a nephew of Mordechai Noah. The city's first synagogue, Congregation Beth El, was established by Polish and German Jews in 1847. It was the first synagogue established between New York and Chicago. Differences led the German Jews to form their own congregation, Beth Zion, in 1850. Beth Zion is still in existence as a reform congregation; Temple Beth El was in existence as a conservative synagogue until 2008, when it merged with another conservative congregation to form Temple Beth Tzedek.

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

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