

ADVENTURES in Travel

If you are looking for some places to visit, Publisher Harriet Szabo and I have some tips for you. Harriet and her husband, Leslie, have been busy of late, stopping in Stowe, Vermont and Jackson, New Hampshire. Meanwhile, my family spent time in Maine and New Hampshire.

By Mike Cohen



TOPNOTCH RESORT AND SPA IN STOWE

offers a wide array of indoor and outdoor pursuits on a 120-acre estate at the foot of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. Renowned as one of the country's top-rated tennis academies, this four diamond property is equally celebrated for its full-service, award-winning spa and fitness centre. Topnotch offers 68 guest rooms, including eight suites, all dressed up in European country manor style. Topnotch also has 23 luxurious resort homes scattered across the property, all within a short walk of the hotel. The Fitness Centre showcases state-of-the-art exercise equipment, personal training and more. There is an inside solarium, featuring a whirlpool, cascading waterfall massage, lap pool, sauna and steam rooms. A large heated indoor



swimming pool is available year round. The spa is considered one of the world's top resort spas by Spa Finder, Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure. Topnotch caters to families, with attention given to activities and amenities designed to



award winning spa

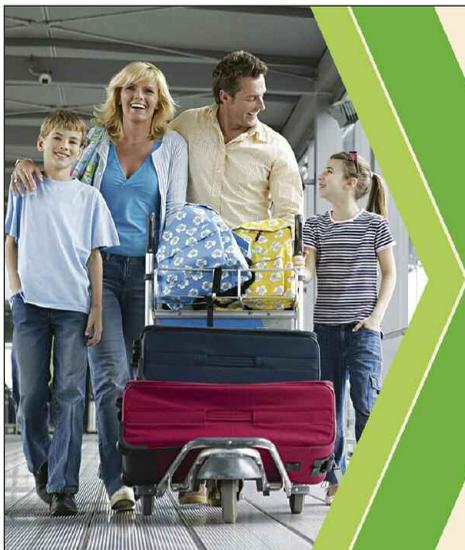
satisfy both two-year-olds and teens. Aaron Black is the manager and he leads a wonderful and helpful staff. This pet friendly facility is also home to the popular Norma's Restaurant.

Call: 1-800-451-8686 • www.topnotchresort.com



THE AAA 4-DIAMOND STOWEFLAKE MOUNTAIN RESORT & SPA

offers the ultimate, year-round vacation experience. With its celebrated world-class spa, luxurious accommodations, award-winning restaurants and Great for Kids programs, the Stoweflake offers outdoor adventure as well as romantic, relaxing escapes. Surrounded by the grace and serenity of the pristine Green Mountains of Vermont, the Spa at Stoweflake mirrors its peaceful environment through custom wellness programs and natural, non-invasive treatments. Using indigenous, therapeutic products, the Spa specializes in signature healing and anti-aging remedies for the body and soul. For over 50 years, the Baraw family has owned and operated this facility. Initially a modest motel built in 1963, it has evolved into a world-class resort. Today it is a full-service, year-round luxury property featuring the 50,000 sq. ft. Spa at Stoweflake, two award-winning restaurants, Charlie B's Pub &



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Restaurant and Winfield's Bistro, and the state-of-the-art Conference Centre at Stoweflake. Complemented with 120 luxury guest rooms and suites, townhouses and over 60 acres of meticulously manicured gardens, Stoweflake has become a preferred destination for both leisure and business travelers. There is a heated swimming pool and superb facilities for conventions and weddings, and it's right across the street from the Jewish Community Centre. www.stoweflake.com

STOWE MOUNTAIN LODGE

got top marks from Harriet, who alluded to five-star treatment all the way from when you drive up to the hotel and are greeted with valet parking, fine dining, spa treatment, golf and skiing experiences. There are different packages to meet everyone's needs. Built in the new "Vermont-Alpine" style, Stowe Mountain Lodge offers a truly luxurious setting, while still paying respect to the Vermont traditions of utilizing local artisan products and embracing the tranquility of nature. The six-storey, 139-room lodge draws on the architectural tradition of turn-of-the-



century summer camps created by the great families of New England. The lodge's exterior features a façade of woven timber and shingles that draw upon the natural harmony found in

nature, as well as stone veneer created from local quarries, and expansive glass to bring the beauty of the lodge's outdoor surroundings to the indoors. This extraordinary address offers excellent access to all resort amenities, including a world-class spa,



cozy Stowe Mountain Lodge lounge

wellness and fitness centre, upscale boutique shopping, fine and casual dining, an outdoor ice skating rink and village green, a performing arts centre and 18-hole championship mountain golf course. The place is an ideal setting for family and friends to spend time together. Check out the Solstice Restaurant, a true dining experience. Jonathan P. Quidore is the director of Food and Beverage while Josh Berry serves as the executive chef. www.stowemountainlodge.com

EAGLE MOUNTAIN HOUSE AND GOLF CLUB IN JACKSON VERMONT

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Eagle Mountain House-a winter wonderland



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a fall season oasis at Eagle Mountain House

north of the hustle and bustle of tax-free North Conway and only three miles away from Story Land. In the winter time you can cross-country ski from their door and explore Jackson Ski Touring, a 154-km. network of trails. Eagle Mountain House accommodations offer guest rooms and suites in a casual country decor. All rooms feature four-poster beds with custom-made cotton linens and plush embroidered duvet covers for the hypo allergenic down comforters and feather beds, a private bathroom, telephone, 20-inch screen cable television, iron and ironing boards, blow-dryers, digital alarm clock, Gilchrist & Soames toiletries and period fixtures and furnishings. Wireless internet access is now available in most rooms, all of which have air conditioners. Harriet and Leslie enjoyed their stay at this pet friendly hotel, which offers magnificent scenery, a beautiful nine-hole golf course (with lessons provided) and a heated swimming pool. It is a great spot for weddings. The one- and two-room suites offer roomier accommodations for families or those wishing to have a bit more space. Each suite offers a living area with sleep sofa in addition to a bedroom with a queen bed, as well as a small refrigerator. Dine on site at Highfields (great steaks). Manager Craig Boyer is there to please. You can call toll free at 1-800-966-5779 • www.eaglemt.com

MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE Summer 2012



My summer holiday featured stops in **Maine** and **New Hampshire**. The latter is home to a small, but vibrant Jewish community. According to Jeff Fladen of the Jewish Federation (www.jewishnh.org), there are about 10,000 Jews, representing 0.8 percent of the population. Eighteen synagogues and temples spread across the state. **We made stops in Manchester, Dover, Portsmouth and North Conway. In Maine, we visited Portland, York**

Harbour and Perkins Cove. Here are my recommendations: **Manchester** is now blessed with a new mega-outlet in the suburb of Merrimack. There is a brand new La Quinta Inn and Suites (www.lq.com), with four floors, and 109 rooms (including three suites). You get a free breakfast and a beautiful seasonal outdoor pool. While **Portsmouth** was projected as our prime New Hampshire destination, staying 20 minutes away in **Dover** made a lot of "cents." The Homewood Suites (www.dovernh.homewoodsuites.com) there is only six years old, well maintained and has all of the comforts of home. Portsmouth and Dover, by the way, are home to about 900 Jews. Portsmouth has wonderful live theatre at the Rep (www.seacoastrep.com), great fish at the **Oar House** (www.portsmouthoarhouse.com) and New England's largest water park, **Water Country** (www.watercountry.com). Dover is home to one of the best steakhouses in the region. The **Orchard Street Chop Shop** (www.orchardstreetchopshop.com) is the place to dine. **North Conway** is home to some of the best shopping outlets in New England. A great place to stay is the **Hampton Inn and Suites** (www.hamptoninnnorthconway.com),



the chef at The Orchard Street Chop Shop in Dover

which welcomes many Jewish guests. There are 97 rooms and suites here, an indoor water park, free hot breakfast and all kinds of other impressive amenities. Maine is home to about 11,000 Jews, almost 8,300 of whom reside in Portland. **Portland** (www.portland.embassysuites.com) represents an excellent base if you are looking to spend a few days in Maine. **The Embassy Suites Portland** hotel (www.portland.embassysuites.com) is centrally located and right next to the Portland Jetport. All of the 119 suites have refrigerators and microwave ovens. One of the city's most popular dining establishments, **David's Restaurant** (www.davidsrestaurant.com), at 22 Monument Square in the Arts District, is owned by a Russian Jew named David Turin. The menu contains a variety of excellent fish items for those who do not wish to eat meat.

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