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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

TAKING A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE: New York City is indeed the place to dine, with an endless array of choices to please even the most discerning palate. Needless to say, there are no shortage of kosher restaurants here either. These include Reserve Cut, Grill 212, 2nd Avenue Deli, La Brochette and Nish Nush,

We enjoyed our first experience at Benjamin Steakhouse (www.benjaminsteakhouse.com), located at 52 East 41st Street, a block from Grand Central Station. From their

juicy cuts of dry aged beef, to old world charm and elegant ambiance, Benjamin's ensures that only the best USDA prime beef is used, and every cut is carefully dry-aged in specially hand-crafted aging boxes, chilled to the precise temperature and humidity level, for a minimum of 28 days. There is another locale just north of the Big Apple in Westchester County,

Since its opening in 2006, it is easy to see why this place has established itself as one of the Big Apple's premier steakhouses, *(Please turn to page 20)*

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CANTOR GIDEON ZELERMYER (LEFT) AND THE Synagogue Choir of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, conducted by Music Director Roi Azoulay, performed at the United Nations Holocaust Memorial Ceremony in January in New York. They are the first synagogue choir and first Canadians to be invited to participate in the event, which marks the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

WAR ON ISRAEL

(Continued from preceding page)

for Israel on this campus, as it is a testimony to people who refuse to be swayed, assimilated, and judged by the world's standards.

The next time you observe the extremist bandwagons of those who oppose Israel in the Student Centre, who oppose the Jewish people and deny them the refuge for which they have

for so long yearned, try putting yourself into the shoes of a Jew and simply ask yourself, what would coming home feel like after 3,000 years of being away from it? If you said it was good to come home from exile, then I say to you, *mazel tov!* You're a Zionist and being unapologetic for it is one of the bravest things you could be at York.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

attracting business professionals and celebrities alike. In fact there are wall to wall framed photos of owner Benjamin Prelvukaj with A-list celebs, from noted Jewish talk show host Jon Stewart to well known athletes. Prelvukaj and Chef Arturo McLeod have combined their 30 plus years of experience into a menu complete with amazing selections. Some of the restaurants private investors are Jewish.

Benjamin's also features delectable non-red meat dishes; such as rich and buttery Chilean sea bass or grilled Norwegian salmon, with its mild and delicate flavor. Diners are also passionate about the extravagant seafood platter. We first shared a delicious Benjamin's salad. We then indulged in porter house and rib steaks, both of which cut like butter and were cooked to perfection at medium. We chose three sides: the Benjamin home fries, steamed asparagus and sautéed mushrooms. It was a meal fit for a king! For dessert we settled on the decadent chocolate mousse cake and the tantalizing creme brûlée. For reservations call 212-297-9177.

And now for another culinary experience! Having

dined for the first time last summer at Maison Boulud at the iconic Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal, I was anxious to try one of famous chef Daniel Boulud's eight restaurants in the Big Apple. My choice was db Bistro Moderne (<http://www.dbbistro.com/nyc>), home of the famed "db Burger". It is located at 55 West 44th Street. The bistro is considered Boulud's contemporary interpretation of the Parisian classic and a restaurant where traditional French cuisine meets the flavors of the American market. The seasonal menu highlights the quality of fine ingredients served in a casual setting. This is one of New York's top-rated bistros offering easy going, and delicious dining at breakfast, lunch and dinner, and is a favorite pre- and post-theater destination.

I dined solo on this occasion and received a friendly welcome from their general manager Rachel Ossakow, a proud member of the New York Jewish community, I started off with a plate of smoked salmon, with bagel chips and cream cheese and sampled the roasted mushroom crostini, featuring house-made butter, garlic confit and chives. Before the main

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course I enjoyed a delicious bowl of fall squash soup, which contained spaghetti squash and pumpkin seeds. There were so many mouthwatering selections from which to choose, but I went for the house specialty – the original db Burger. This is a sirloin burger, served medium or rare, and filled with braised short ribs, foie gras and black truffle inside a parmesan bun and pommes frites on the side. I will have to go back to try the seafood dishes, the duck, lamb, chicken and steak. For dessert I settled on the Toasted Sesame Bavoise, a flourless chocolate biscuit with blood orange and mandarin sorbet. As well, a nice cup of chamomille tea concluded my order. The restaurant has a very extensive wine list and an on-site sommelier. Log on to www.danielnyc.com to see this menu and the others from the Boulud group. You can call 212-391-2400 for reservations.

Finally, a note on what is becoming a traditional stop for us while in New York. I am talking about the Jewish-owned TAO Uptown on East 58th Street near Madison Avenue. This spectacular Pan Asian restaurant spe-

cializes in authentic Hong Kong Chinese, Japanese and Thai cuisines. There is also a downtown location and another in Las Vegas.

JEWISH CONNECTION: New York's landmark historic Jewish neighborhood, the Lower East Side, was once home to the world's largest Jewish community. Covering the area between Houston and Canal Streets east of the Bowery, this neighborhood is where New York's garment industry began. Today it is a bargain hunter's paradise, with great deals to be found on everything from souvenir t-shirts to menorahs, especially along Orchard Street in the neighborhood's center. The overall New York Jewish community in the metropolitan area has remained stable at 1.4 million people; the population of New York City is just below a million. Congregation Kehilath Jeshuran, located on Manhattan's Upper East Side, has 1,100 members. Its new senior rabbi is Chaim Steinmetz, who for two decades was the spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Congregation in Côte Saint-Luc.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. See his travel advice column at www.sandbox-world.com/travel

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

time for him to “sort out” the growing anti-Semitism in his party it might be regarded as an attempt to score some political points. But when Jewish donors such as Michael Foster are wondering why they should continue their financial contributions, it's clear that Labour has a serious problem.

Clinton, Sanders Tied Among Jewish Voters

A recent Gallop Poll found that Jewish voters *(Please turn to following page*

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