

# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

**A NEW PLACE TO STAY IN POUGHKEEPSIE:** When travelling to New York City, our family has become fond in recent years of stop-

ping over in the Town of Poughkeepsie for the night in order to make the most of our first day in the Big Apple. It is just over 90 min-

utes from Manhattan and situated in Dutchess County (<https://www.dutchesstourism.com>).

There is a new hotel in Poughkeepsie, the perfect stopover en route to New York City. The arrival of a Homewood Suites by Hilton ([Hwpoughkeepsie.homewoodsuitesbyhilton.com](http://Hwpoughkeepsie.homewoodsuitesbyhilton.com)) has made the decision to spend the night in Poughkeepsie a lot easier.

Conveniently located off of Route 9 and I-84 at 900 Thomas Watson Drive, the hotel is within walking distance of IBM and is minutes away from the Culinary Institute of America, Vassar, Bard and Marist Colleges. The hotel also places guests close to Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall, rich historical sites and a variety of great restaurants, breweries and wineries.

The property is owned and managed by Briad Lodging Group, LLC,

the hotel division of Livingston, New Jersey-based The Briad Group. It offers a combination of spacious studio and one-bedroom suites, featuring fully-equipped kitchens and separate living and sleeping areas. Guests are also provided all the essentials needed for a smart, reliable and convenient stay including complimentary hot breakfast seven days a week, evening social with complimentary beer and wine\* served Monday to Thursday, complimentary shuttle service within a five-mile radius and complimentary advanced Wi-Fi.

The hotel makes it easy for travelers to unwind with an outdoor patio area, featuring multiple fire pits, an outdoor kitchen under a large pergola and a putting green. The property boasts a 750-square-foot fitness center with state-of-the-art

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equipment, including a Peloton bike, indoor saline swimming pool and an outdoor sports court. It also offers more than 1,000 square feet of flexible space that is ideal for meetings and social events.

For more information or to make reservations call 845-462-0030.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The Jewish community of Poughkeepsie numbers about 2,500. This is the home of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and the Jewish Community Centre. There is one orthodox synagogue, Congregation Schomre Israel and two reform congregations- Temple Beth El and Vassar Temple.

**THE BEACH AT DREAM HOTEL:** Last year I heard about New York City's most unique hotel pool — The Beach at Dream Downtown. The famed 4,800-square-foot beach boasts private cabanas, fresh sand imported from the Hamptons, flat screen TVs, lounge chairs and a glass bottom swimming pool looking into the hotel lobby. One side of this upscale 300

room hotel closely resembles that of a cruise ship.

Channeling the glamour of the Côte d'Azur in the heart of New York City's Chelsea neighborhood, my family and I were most fortunate to be invited to spend the day there. We have been to New York in the summer a number of times in recent years and frankly always sought a day at a pool on a hot and steamy day. Well we hit the jackpot for our chosen date. Community and Social Media Manager Lauren Saxe gave me a tour of the gorgeous facility and then set my family up with some chairs in a perfectly shaded area. There is a restaurant right next to the pool and servers will bring food and drinks right to your chair. Any of our troubles seemed a million miles away for that afternoon. There was complimentary Wi-Fi with a good signal as well. Pool passes are available to the public Monday to Friday from 11 am to 8 pm. They cost \$65 a day per person, and guests can purchase them on site from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Hotel guests can

access the facility from 8 am to 8 pm daily. The Dream Hotel Group has a Jewish CEO in Jay Stein. Dream Downtown Hotel is located at 355 West 16th Street near 9th Avenue. For more information readers can

call 646-625-4828 or e-mail [frontoffice@dream-downtown.com](mailto:frontoffice@dream-downtown.com)

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