

# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By ALEXANDRA COHEN

**VISIT TO ALBANY:** I have been to the city of Albany, New York (<https://www.albany.org>) many times. In January 2020, I made my last visit there just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, which put a pause on travel. Returning again more recently, I was reminded of why I like the state capital so much and wanted to return.

**JEWES OF ALBANY:** There are an estimated 13,000 Jews in Albany. The hubs of Jewish life are the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center and the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. Regionally, there are five reform congregations, five Conservative and three Orthodox. There is a Hillel Foundation for

Jewish life at the local university campus. The University in Albany (SUNY) operates a full-service kosher meal-plan in the Dutch Quad Cafeteria during the academic year, which is open to guests.

Jewishly speaking, the area is considered a gem! If you poke around on the Federation website (<https://www.jewishfedny.org/connect/community-concierge>), you'll see there's a congregation for every religious persuasion. There is a social group for Jewish professionals (and young Jewish professionals) in almost every field, community-wide trips to Israel, amazing events throughout the community, and the only kosher grocery between Monsey and Montreal!

#### WHERE TO STAY:

One of the bonuses of a visit to Albany is the ability to visit some American stores not available to us here in Canada. Therefore, it was convenient that the Residence Inn Albany Washington Avenue Extension was just adjacent to the Crossgates Mall. The Residence Inn is an extended-stay hotel which is also just minutes from the Albany International Airport, the Empire State Plaza, and more. It also under 30 minutes by car from the Saratoga Racetrack and the Global Foundries.

Staying at the Residence Inn feels like being at home, while still enjoying some excellent hotel services. You can choose between studios, one bedroom suites, and two-bedroom

suites, with the suites providing enough space for a full kitchen and separate areas where one can relax, work, and sleep. My family and I enjoyed the two-bedroom and two bathroom suite, which was incredibly spacious.

Hotel amenities include free WiFi, daily hot breakfast, coffee, and tea. There is also an indoor pool and hot tub, a fitness center, a small convenience shop, and a laundry room. The lobby is quite nice with a large amount of seating, including a pleasant outdoor space to relax when the weather is appropriate.

If you are keeping kosher, the Price Chopper store at 1892 Central Ave in Colonie has a complete line of products you can pick up and place in the refrigerator in your room. This is another benefit of having a full kitchen. You can email [kosher224@pricechopper.com](mailto:kosher224@pricechopper.com) for more information or go to their website.

The hotel is located at 124 Washington Avenue Extension. For more information can call 518-218-7240 or log onto the hotel website: <http://www.marriott.com/albwa>.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Albany truly is a great place to shop, with a wide array of stores for all to enjoy. While we stayed close to the Crossgates Mall, it was also a quick and easy drive to the nearby Colonie Center as well.

Albany lies at the foot of the Adirondacks and Catskill Mountains and is at  
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the tip of the historic Hudson Valley Region. Within a short ride are the neighboring towns of Cooperstown and Saratoga Springs. Albany is home to several museums, historic homes, and outdoor activities such

as boating, skiing, biking, and snowshoeing. Sights to consider exploring include the Million Dollar Staircase, and the "Egg" at the Empire State Plaza.

Albany is also less than three hours from New York and Boston, if you're looking to add more stops to your what will surely be an exciting trip

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**EYE ON MONREAL**

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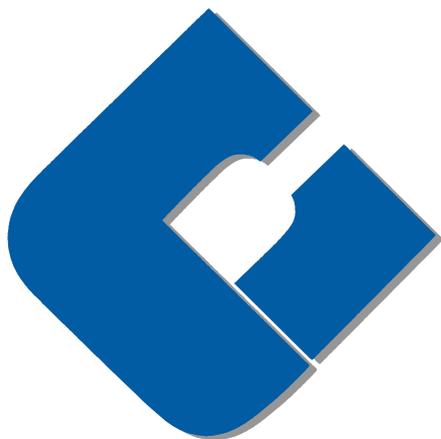
**FROM HIT SONGS TO REAL ESTATE:** It isn't rare these days for someone to discover a new talent later on in life and pursue it. Steven Eisenberg was in the music industry for almost 40 years and decided that he had made his mark writing hits for over 100 artists, including Celine Dion, Loverboy, The Nightcrawlers, 2Unlimited and so many others. He produced over 50 albums, including signing the worldwide success, Corneille and producing his first album "Parce Qu'on Vient de Loin," which sold millions worldwide. At 59 years young Steven decided that another of his true callings was real estate.

"I have always loved homes, architecture and renovations and wanted to be part of it all," he said.

After completing Real Estate School and passing his board exams (OACIQ), Steven joined the team of Royal LePage Heritage (The Mellor Group) on Greene Avenue in Westmount. He has used his outgoing personality and expansive knowledge and sphere of influence to help many buy, sell or lease their dream properties all over the island of Montreal and off island as well. Steven has a huge network of collaborators in Quebec, Asia and "partout" to accelerate the process for his clients.

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