

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish (Internet) Connection!

It's Not Too Late to Plan Your (Jewish) Summer Vacation!

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee – Written by Linda S Trapasso

Now that the warm weather and sunshine finally arrived, we all start thinking about vacations and traveling. You can go far away or stay close to home and have an equally great adventure.

Did you go to summer camp? Do you want to share that experience with your family? Then try a visit to Camp Yavneh (<http://www.campyavneh.org>). It's in Northwood, NH, east of Concord. Click on Family Camp in the horizontal menu to find out how you and your family can attend camp together. There are the usual camp experiences as well as preparing for and sharing Shabbat and Havdalah. Get to be a kid again!



If summer camp isn't your style, how about a farm vacation? Go to The Jew and the Carrot to learn about spending time at a farm (<http://jcarrot.org/resources/family-farm-vacations>). Closest to New Hampshire is Blue Heron Farm in Charlemont, MA (<http://www.blueheronfarm.com>). It's a 140-acre organic farm that accommodates guests. This could be just what you're looking for – a bucolic setting in which to relax and enjoy nature.

Maybe you'd like to do some studying this summer? The National Havurah Committee (<http://www.havurah.org/>) offers a week of study at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH. Click on Institute 2012 in the horizontal menu and then click on Courses. The variety of topics is wonderful. There is everything from studying texts and prayers to baking bread to creating art. Some courses I like are *Let Them Dance on the Mountaintops - Embodying Judaism Through Israeli Folk Dancing*; *Jokes in Midrash and Beyond*; *And You Shall Set These Words of Mine Upon Your Heart: An Artist's Beit Midrash*; and *American Idolatry: Exploring How Mass Media Can Thwart or Support Jewish Spirituality*. Sign up soon as some classes are already waitlisted.

Perhaps you're a foodie looking for the next best kosher restaurant? Check out Yeah That's Kosher, <http://yeahthatskosher.com/>, which serves up blogs on kosher establishments around the world along with travel information. For fun, I clicked on USA on the horizontal menu and then Massachusetts. I came to the blog *Keeping Kosher in Boston, MA (Updated)*. If you don't get into Boston regularly, this is a good resource for the Brookline, MA, area. Its sister site, Jewish Travel TV (<http://jewishtraveltv.com/>) offers video restaurant reviews. The restaurants are located in the US and abroad, and include barbecue, Mexican, oriental, and deli. So if you're traveling to NY, NJ, LA, or other locations, see what others have to say about the food.

If you're hankering for an Alaska cruise, go to Kosherica (<http://www.kosherica.com/>). Click Kosher Cruises on the horizontal menu and then click Alaska/N. America Cruises. There are several Alaska cruises coming up. If you look further, you'll discover information on kosher dining and the scholar in residence on each cruise. On the second menu bar, click All Kosher Cruises to get a list of available cruises around the world.



For those of you who enjoy Florida, I offer up <http://www.floridajewish.com/index.php>. On the left, click Florida Living for a list of topics, such as Florida Jewish History, Kosher Food & Wine, and Synagogues. Following up on Kosher Food & Wine, there are alphabetical listings by town, so it's easy to locate something wherever you are. Click on Resources on the left and you're offered a wide variety of topics from singles to the Jewish press to the Holocaust.

Do you want to figure out if a hotel is suitable from a kosher/Jewish viewpoint? Then read *The Traveler's Halachic Guide to Hotels* (<http://www.star-k.org/kashrus/kk-TheTravelersHalachicGuidetoHotels.htm>). It goes over food, electronic door locks, elevators, and various aspects of the hotel room and amenities.

So whether you stay close to home or travel across the US or abroad, you and your family can enjoy a great adventure the Jewish way!