

APRIL 2019

Where To Go What To Do

A Guide for Chol Hamoed and the Spring



A Publication of

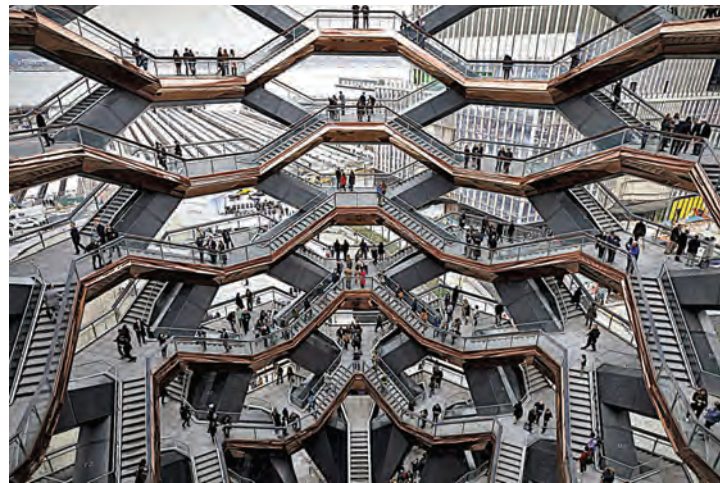
THE JEWISH PRESS

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THE VESSEL

By Linda Levin

Hudson Yards is a new development on Manhattan's West Side. It is roughly bounded by 10th and 11th Ave. between 30th and 34th St.

- The Vessel, a 150-foot tall structure, is at the center of the development's five-acre public park. The developer of the property is still searching for a final, permanent name for the structure which resembles a maze or, some say, a beehive.

- The Vessel actually serves as nothing more than a unique staircase. It has 154 staircases, 80 platforms and includes 2500 individual stairs. Visitors can see NYC from different points of view on the way up and down. From the top one can enjoy a breathtaking view of Manhattan and the Hudson River.

- If you walk up and down The Vessel in a circular path, you cover 1 mile. It takes approximately 15 minutes to get to the top.

- For those who cannot climb the stairs, there is an elevator.

- The cost of the structure was around \$150 million. It officially opened to the public on March 15.

- The Vessel was designed by Thomas Heatherwick. The design of The Vessel was kept secret and it was brought to NYC from Italy by ship bit by bit. Heatherwick called it "one of the most complex pieces of steelwork ever made."

- Surrounding The Vessel is a public plaza which will eventually have 30,000 native plants, a new entrance to the High Line and lots of outdoor seating. There is a Wi-Fi system throughout.

- The gardens/green space surrounding The Vessel are powered by technology. Hudson Yards is built on top of a train yard. Temperatures can climb very high in the ground below. Designers installed a ventilation system to keep the roots of the plants cool and the soil is especially engineered to protect the roots and allow them to grow and expand.

- The Vessel is also surrounded by a luxury shopping center.

- The Vessel is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (open all year). Admission is free but tickets are required.

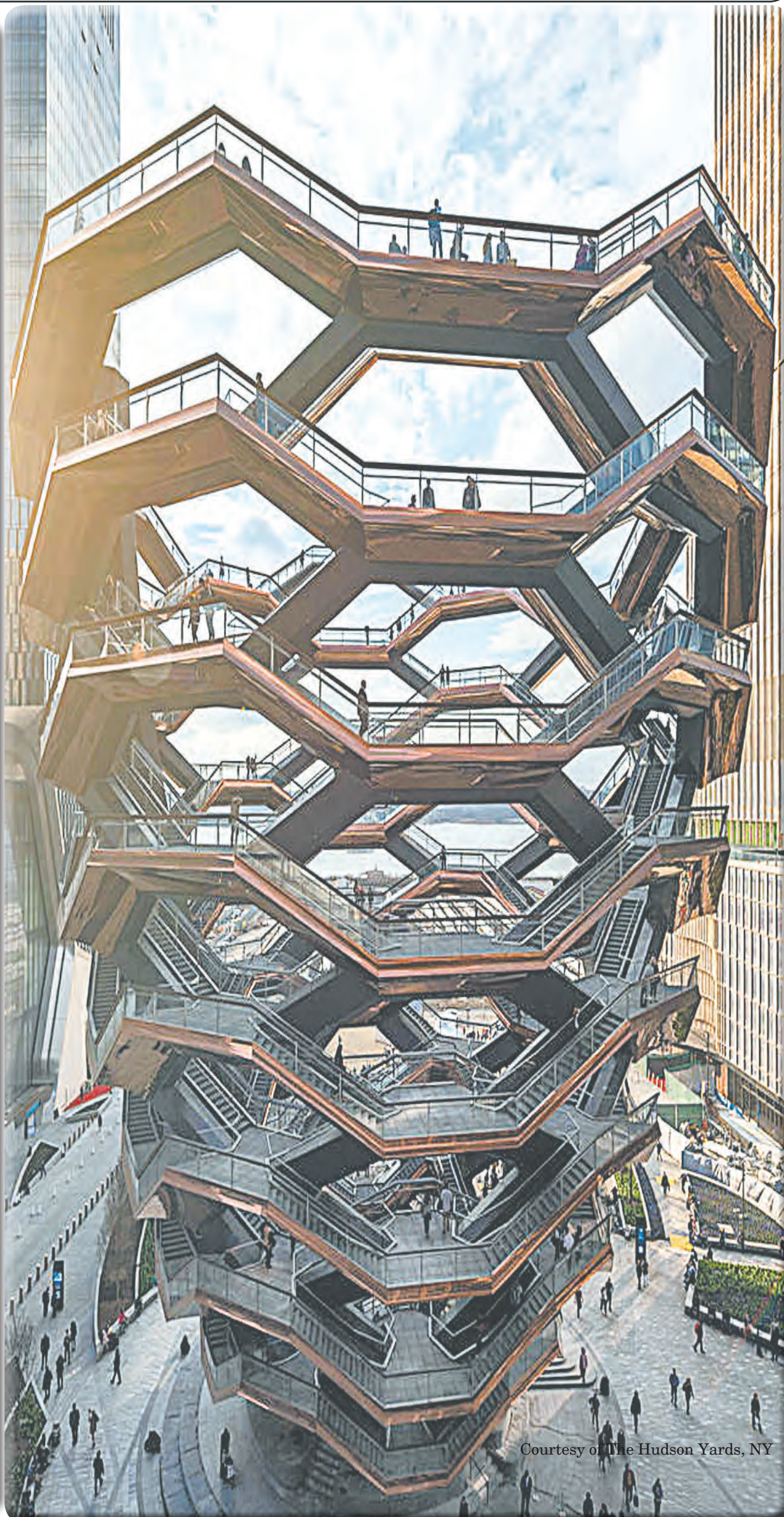
Photo Controversy at the Vessel

The Vessel in New York's Hudson Yards says you can now keep ownership of the pictures you take there, following an outburst of online criticism over its photo policy.

The Vessel's terms and conditions had previously stated that Hudson Yards could use any pictures, audio or video that visitors create or upload to social media showing the structure.

The company has updated that policy, explaining that visitors may "retain ownership of any photographs, text, audio recordings or video footage depicting or relating to The Vessel" that they may create. The Vessel can *repost* or *share* content visitors post to social media.

Visitors still have to agree that they may be filmed or photographed by Hudson Yards, and that media taken of them at The Vessel become the company's property. Hudson Yards can use those recordings for advertising, marketing and promotional purposes.



Courtesy of The Hudson Yards, NY



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Senator
Simcha Felder



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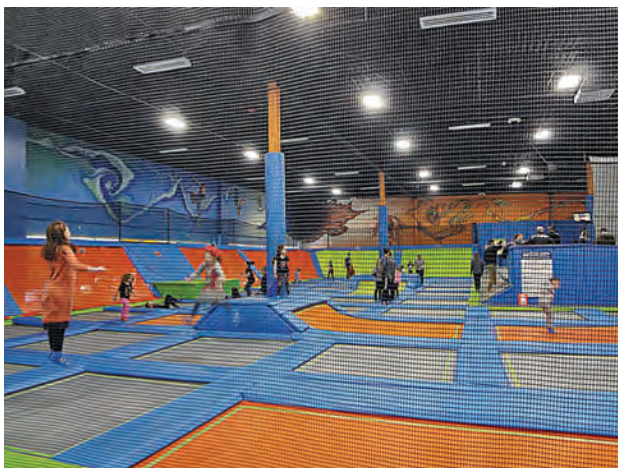
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800.555.2303

Chol Hamoed Trips Pesach, '19

Compiled and photographed by Sarah Einhorn

When people approach me for ideas of what to do on *Chol Hamoed* I try to gauge if they are looking for something indoor, outdoor, low key or adventurous. And I'll try to come up with a combination of types of trips for *Chol Hamoed* that cover all types of excursions; an amusement park, trampoline park, an escape room, craft place, scenic hike and whale watching. For additional ideas you can check been-theredonethattrips.com.

Flight Fit n Fun: Cliffwood, NJ



We spent the weekend in New Jersey and were looking for something fun to do on the way home. Flight Fit n Fun was just that: a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Flight Fit n Fun has everything you would expect at a trampoline park – and more.

There are trampoline courts, dodgeball courts, foam pits, the battle beam, slam dunk basketball courts, as well as a separate area with trampolines and foam blocks for children up to 40 inches tall. There is a lot of seating for adults who do not want to jump, so they can sit and watch their kids. In addition to all the trampoline-related activities, there are also some arcade games, a laser maze, and a café on site.

Flight Fit n Fun also has a climbing wall and challenging and exciting walking sticks. See how high you can climb on the rising sticks while attached to a harness and then jump down from the top.

Address:

111 NJ-35
Cliffwood, NJ 07721

Phone Number:
(732) 583-3000

Open Jump Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 4-8 p.m.
Friday: 3-8 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Price:

1 Hour: \$18
1.5 Hours: \$23
2 Hours: \$28
Monday: Student Night 1/2 off admission for students

Tuesday: \$10 Tuesdays
Thursday: Family Night Special
Flight Socks: \$3
Limited Edition Socks: \$5

Approximate Distance from:
Brooklyn Bridge: 50 minutes
Lakewood: 40 minutes
Monsey: 1 hour, 5 minutes

Website: flightfitnfun.com

Roosevelt Island: Manhattan, NY

There's nothing like seeing NYC traffic from above!

Roosevelt Island is a narrow two-mile-long Island in the East River of Manhattan located between Queens and Long Island. The Island is on the outskirts of the City and can be accessed through an Ariel Tramway.

The Ariel Tramway station is near the FDR. The tram ride lasts just for a couple of minutes but is fascinating. When we rode the tramway, there was loads of traffic on the street below. We were enthralled!

The Island has various playgrounds to accommodate different ages. There is also a walkway along-

Continued on p.S9

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Portion of the proceeds benefiting "The Matzoh Fund" www.MatzohFund.com - "Feeding the Poor on Pesach"

YBC picture by Esty B photography

Einhorn

Continued from p.S6



side the river where you can ride bikes or take a leisurely stroll. The open fields are great for ball games or flying kites.

The Price of the Aerial Tramway is very affordable since it is part of the Metro system. Up to three (3) children 44 inches tall and under ride for free on the Tram when accompanied by a fare-paying adult.

Tramway Station:

E 59th St. & 2nd Ave., Manhattan, NY 10022

Phone:

(212) 832-4583

Hours:

Sunday-Thursday: 6 a.m.-2 a.m.

Friday & Saturday: 6 a.m.-3:30 a.m.

Morning Rush Hours (M-F): 7 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Evening Rush Hours (M-F): 3 p.m.-8 p.m.

Price:

To ride the Tram, you must use a MTA MetroCard. MetroCards are available for purchase at either Tram Station and at subway stations throughout New York City. Full fare: \$2.50 per trip Reduced Fare MetroCard: \$1.25 per trip.

Approximate Distance from:

Monsey: 55 minutes

Brooklyn Bridge: 20 minutes

Lakewood: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Website: rioc.ny.gov/tramtransportation

High Exposure: Northvale, NJ



I was completely blown away by the quantity and variety of climbing options in the 14,000 square feet of climbing area at High Exposure.

Each of the different elements is designed in exciting ways. There aren't just rock climbing walls, although there are plenty of those too. There are walls with frames of all sizes and shapes, see if you can get to the top of the wall using frames as your foothold. There is a wall with "knots and bolts", a wall with pipes and even a toilet seat up on top! There are holes all the way up one wall and spinning wheels on another. If you are really brave you can try the 32-foot stunt jump and if you are really skilled you can try the most difficult 42-foot Crazy Climbing Cube.

In addition to all the climbing in the Action Ad-

venture section, there is the Ninja Warrior section with warped walls. There are also different ropes and swings to hang from, vaulting boxes, Devil Steps and cliff hanger. These are just a sampling of the many exciting and challenging activities at High Exposure.

Before entering the facility every guest must have a signed waiver. The waiver can be signed online before visiting and the staff can pull it up on their computer when you arrive. This saves lots of time. Once you've checked in the friendly staff will help fit you with a harness and you can begin your climbing adventure!

Address:

266 Union Street
Northvale, NJ 07647

Phone Number:

(201) 768-8600

Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Price:

2 Hour Pass: \$25

Toddler: \$12

Weekdays after 8 p.m.: \$10

10 Visit Pass (valid for 12 months):

10 Day Pass: \$195

10 Day Toddler: \$104

Approximate Distance from:

Brooklyn Bridge: 45 minutes

Lakewood: 1 hour, 35 minutes

Monsey: 25 minutes

Website: www.highexposureclimbing.com

Glassworks Studio: Morristown, NJ

Whatever you choose to create at Glassworks Studio, whether you choose to do an abstract design or a picture, ends up looking professional after they are

Continued on p.S10



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Einhorn Continued from p.S9

picture frames and many types of specialty items to decorate. Once you



fused. You don't need to be an artist and there is no right and wrong.

We visited Glassworks Studio one Sunday afternoon during walk-in sessions (reservations are necessary to guarantee that there will be enough space). The place was hopping. There was enough staff for everyone to get their own individualized attention. There was also a birthday party taking place in the adjoining party room.

When we arrived we were told to choose what we wanted to design. There is an incredible amount of options including vases, bowls, trays, coasters, circle shapes, heart shapes,

choose what to decorate and gain inspiration from the many samples, you get seated with the materials, tools and instructions.

Stacey, the owner explained to us how we can decorate our glass squares. Either we can decorate creating our own design or by tracing one of the many pictures they have and using that as the guide. We were given goggles for safety while cutting and glue to secure the glass pieces so that the glass stays in place.

Continued on p.S11

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Einhorn

Continued from p.S10

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It was an amazing experience cutting the glass and creating our masterpieces. We can't wait for projects to be ready!

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Approximate Distance from:
Brooklyn Bridge: 1 hour
Lakewood: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Monsey: 45 minutes

Website: www.umakeglass.com

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New Paltz, NY**

Although Mohonk is most famous for the Mountain House, a Victorian castle resort founded in 1869. This resort is famous for its incredible surroundings and unspoiled natural beauty. Mohonk is located on the Shawangunk Ridge in New Paltz, New York. Mohonk's property consists of 1,325 acres with many meadows and gardens. It connects to the Mohonk Preserve, which is criss-crossed by 85 miles of hiking trails and carriage roads. I've heard people who visit say that Mohonk is the "Swiss Alps of America."

Most of the sports and activities are only offered to resort guests but passes can be purchased at the gatehouse for a day visit to Mohonk's incredible grounds and enjoy the many hikes and picturesque lake with magnificent views of the Mountain House. At this time of year the boating on the lake will probably not be open but the outdoor ice skating may still be open. Options of activities and prices can be viewed on their website.

Address:
1000 Mountain Rest Road
New Paltz, NY 12561

Phone Number:
(866) 535-8692

Continued on p.S14

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THE HIGH LINE

By Linda Levin



Courtesy of The Hudson Yards, NY

The High Line is an elevated linear park, greenway and rail track on the west side of Manhattan. It is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the spring and fall and from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. in the summer months. Admission is free.

It used to be an old rail line: This gorgeous, elevated park used to be a fully functioning rail line. After the last train ran in 1980, the rail line was abandoned for almost 20 years. Mayor Giuliani actually signed the demolition order for the line before leaving office. Then two residents of the High Line neighborhood began petitioning for the repurposing of the area into a usable green space.

Thousands take the High Line journey: The repurposing of the railway into a park began in 2006; it was constructed in stages. It was finally opened in its entirety to the public in Sept. 2014. When the first section opened in 2009, over 300,000 walked the High Line in the first six weeks. Now, about 20,000 people visit the park each weekend.

The High Line is over a mile long: Throughout that distance, visitors can expect to see flowers, foliage, and old train tracks, and a beautiful cityscape.

Lots of flowers and plants: Over 350 different kinds of flowers, plants, shrubs, trees, grasses, perennials, vines and bulbs adorn the High Line.

Open all year: Rain or shine, this park is open to the public year-round.

Frozen Turkey (yeah, that's right - frozen turkey): The last train to operate on the tracks in 1980 carried three cars of frozen turkeys.

Don't forget the arts: The High Line is the only NYC park with a multi-media contemporary art program all for free. Works are presented by national and international artists.

EATERIES IN THE GENERAL AREA OPEN CHOL HAMOED PESACH:

- Mendy's - 61 E. 34th St.
- Mr. Broadway - 1372 Broadway between 37th-38th Sts.
- La Brochette - 340 Lexington Ave. between 39th-40th Sts.
- Le Marais - 150 W. 46th St.
- Eighteen Restaurant - 240 E. 81st St. off 2nd Ave.

Park Entrances:

Access to the High Line is possible via any of the access points listed below:

- Gansevoort Street and Washington Street (elevator access)
 - 14th Street (elevator access)
 - 16th Street (elevator access)
 - 18th Street
 - 20th Street
 - 23rd Street (elevator access)
 - 26th Street
 - 28th Street
 - 29th Street (elevator access)
 - 30th Street
 - 34th Street (ramp access) - open 7 a.m. to sunset
- The High Line is wheelchair accessible.**

How To Enjoy The Park and What To See:

The best way to experience the High Line is just simply to wander through it.

The High Line offers an official app which guides visitors through the gardens, to the various art projects and also relates the history of the park.

The High Line's gardens are varied and ever-changing, with more than fifteen different plant-

ing zones and approximately 110,000 plants.

The High Line's plantings were chosen to resemble the natural landscape that once grew wild here, before the park was open to the public. Visitors can explore the different planting zones; interestingly, each one is specifically adapted to the microclimate of sun, shade, water, and wind created by the cityscape around it.

Between 14th St. and 15th St., the Diller - von Furstenberg Sundeck & Water Feature is one of the High Line's most popular gathering spots and a favorite of children and barefoot visitors. Wetland species like cattails, rose mallow, and swamp milkweed grow in the raised steel planters along the pathway.

Between 21st St. and 22nd St. is the Chelsea Thicket. Check out where the original train tracks run along the pathway.

On 30th St. Pershing Square Beams, see the original steel beams and girders, which are safe for playing and climbing on.

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For more info call:
347-470-5770

RSVP: www.JewishTickets.com

Einhorn

Continued from p.S11

Hiking Day Pass Hours:
8 a.m.-Dusk

Hiking Pass Price:
Adults:
\$21 Monday-Friday
\$26 weekends/holidays

Children Under 12:
\$16 Monday-Friday
\$21 weekends/holidays

Families. (Families = 2 Adults and
2 Children Under the Age of 12)
\$55 Monday-Friday
\$70 weekends/holidays

Approximate Distance from:
Brooklyn Bridge: 1 hour, 55 minutes

Lakewood: 2 hours, 25 minutes
Monsey: 1 hour, 5 min.

Website: www.mohonk.com

Overpeck Park: Leonia, NJ

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Park Kayak Center. They rent out canoes as well as both single and tandem kayaks. They have a limited amount of tandem kayaks. It is always smart to arrive early to ensure availability. There is no reserving in advance. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 5 are not allowed onto the boats.

There is a scenic walkway alongside the water that leads to the playground. You can also drive to the playground and park there. The playground is huge! There is a large climbing area, a toddler climbing area, swings, a monkey bar area and the highlight of the park; the four connected 15-foot rope climbing structures with a small trampoline in the center. Children feel a real sense of accomplishment when they reach the top of the tower.

Address:
50 Fort Lee Rd
Leonia, NJ 07605

Kayaking Center Phone Number:
201-957-3085

Park Hours:
7 a.m.-10 p.m.

Kayaking Hours:
Monday-Tuesday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday: 2 p.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Last boat rental is two hours before closing.

Continued on p.S15



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Einhorn

Continued from p.S14



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Monsey: 35 minutes

Sarah Einhorn's maintains the website beenthe-redonethattrips.com.



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Tue April 23, 2019	11am - 6pm Family Fun *	* inflatable rides will only be available between 11am and 6pm
Wed April 24, 2019	11am - 6pm Family Fun*	8pm - 10pm Women's Skating
Thur April 25, 2019	by reservation only call 845-423-0404	

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National September 11 Memorial & Museum

By Linda Levin



About the Memorial

The objective of the memorial is to honor the lives of those who were lost. Spanning eight of the 16 acres at the World Trade Center, the Memorial pays tribute to the past and is intended as a place of hope for the future.

The nearly 3,000 names of the men, women and children killed in the attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 are inscribed in bronze slabs surrounding the Memorial's twin pools.

The display of these names focuses the visitor on the memory of those lost. Together with the water, the design invokes a feeling of quiet reflection and introspection in each visitor to the site.

The names are etched into the bronze slabs surrounding the pools allowing visitors to create paper impressions or rubbings of individual names. At night, light shines up through the voids created by each letter of a name.

Construction on the **9/11 Memorial Glade** began in the fall of 2018 to create a pathway to honor the ongoing sacrifice of rescue, recovery and relief workers, and the survivors and members of the broader lower Manhattan community, who are sick or have died from exposure to toxins in the aftermath of 9/11. The Glade will also recognize the courage, selflessness and perseverance of the men and women of the rescue and recovery effort.

The planned dedication for the 9/11 Memorial Glade is May 30, 2019, the 17th anniversary of the official end of the recovery mission at Ground Zero.

The design includes a pathway lined by six large stone pillars pointing skyward that are worn, but not beaten. This comes to symbolize strength and determination in the face of adversity and tragedy.

The Glade marks the placement of the main ramp which provided access to bedrock during the recovery period. This ramp played an important role during the recovery period following the horrific attacks. It allowed victims' families to access the site, as well as the workers who were removing debris and it established a pathway for rebuilding.

A Callery pear tree became known as the "**Survivor Tree**" after surviving the September 11, 2001 terror attacks at the World Trade Center. In October 2001, the tree was discovered at Ground Zero severely damaged. The tree was removed from the rubble and placed in the care of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. After its rebirth and recovery, the tree was returned to the Memorial in 2010. One could see new, smooth limbs growing from twisted stumps, clearly marking the tree's past and present. Today, the tree stands as a living reminder of survival in the aftermath of devastation.

About the Museum

The 9/11 Memorial Museum is the country's main institution concerned with exploring the effects of the events of 9/11, documenting the impact of those events and exploring 9/11's continuing significance in the world at large.

The Museum tells the story of 9/11 through interactive technology, archives, narratives and a collection of artifacts in a 110,000 square foot space.

In the museum's recording studio, visitors can respond to questions about how the world and their own lives were impacted by the 9/11 attacks and their ongoing effects.

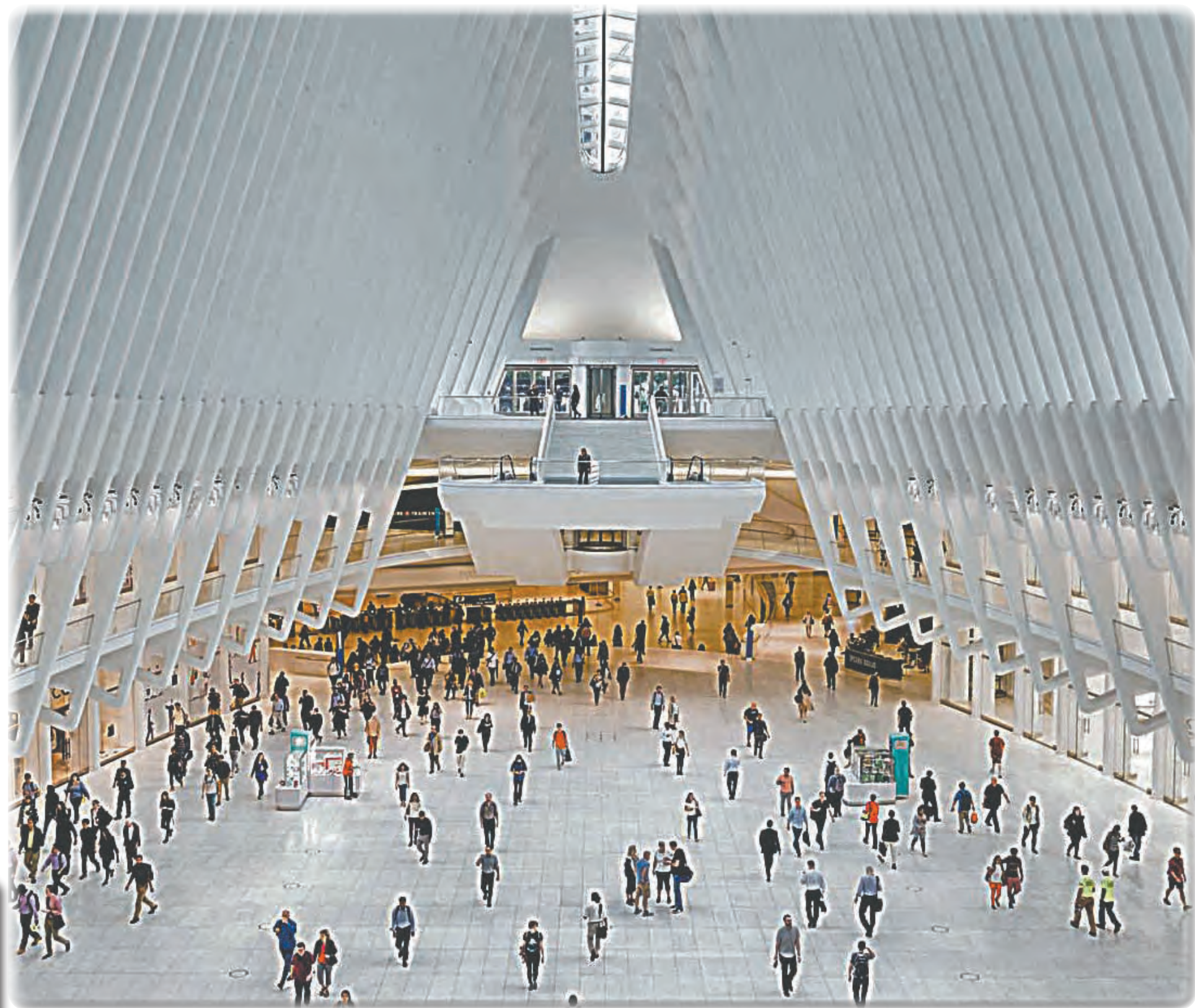
On view every 15 minutes is **Rebirth at Ground Zero**, a 270-degree panoramic media installation created exclusively for the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

Project Rebirth is a nonprofit organization founded by filmmaker Jim Whitaker. Six months after 9/11, they placed time-lapse cameras in different locations around Ground Zero. The cameras followed the physical transformation at the site and the project also chronicled the emotional journeys of individuals who were deeply affected by 9/11.

The 9/11 Memorial is free of charge and open to the public daily from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Oculus

By Linda Levin



About the Oculus

Seeing this mall + transportation hub is, by all accounts, a memorable experience. It's located right off the R line as you come downtown to see the World Trade Center. At night, The Oculus is illuminated, serving as a beacon of light in the reconstructed WTC site. On September 11th of each year, as well as on mild spring and summer days, the Oculus's skylight opens to bring a piece of the New York sky into the building.

A placard at the Oculus reads as follows:

"On 9/11 each year, weather permitting, the skylight of the Oculus will be opened to allow the sun to fill this entire space. Envisioned by Santiago Calatrava to symbolize a dove released from a child's hand, the Oculus is situated at an angle in contrast to neighboring buildings and even the entire grid of the city, thereby allowing the light to shine directly overhead and for the sun to move across its axis exactly on September 11th each year."

The most outstanding feature is the white domed ceiling. The architecture inside and out is magnificent. From the outside it looks like a winged dove with white ribs that interlock. Looking up through the roof on the inside, one can see One World Trade Center.

Visitors are awed by the color, light, complexity of the architecture, and the massive amount of people passing through. The Oculus is best experienced both from inside and outside. Visitors have said that it is unlike anything they have ever seen before. There is no admission fee and it is open 24 hours/day.

The Oculus has two underground floors housing the Westfield World Trade Center Mall. The mall consists of many upscale stores i.e. Kate Spade and also some more moderately priced ones.

The Oculus cost approximately \$4 Billion to build and as such is the most expensive train stop in the world. The Oculus was designed by the award-winning Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava and was built to replace the PATH station destroyed on 9/11. The construction took 8 years to complete. Of course, the construction and design were not without controversy. The price and the enormity of the project did trigger some criticism.

Constructed from glass and steel, The Oculus is enormous! It spans 800,000 sq. ft. At 325 feet long, the transit hall is 90 feet longer than Grand Central Station. It will serve 250,000 people per day.

Welcome Back To Jewish Newark

By Oscar Israelowitz

Noted “Children of Newark” – those who were either born or lived in Newark, New Jersey – include such Jewish personalities as Rabbi Zev Segal, *zt”l* (*rav* of the Young Israel of Newark); his son, Nachum Segal, host of the popular radio show *JM in the AM*; Rabbi Dovid Singer, *zt”l* (*rav* of the Sfardishe Shul in Borough Park); Rabbi Yitzchok Singer, *zt”l* (*rav* of the Bialystoker Shul on the Lower East Side); comedian Jerry Lewis; Paula Ben-Gurion (wife of famed Israeli statesman David Ben-Gurion); Pulitzer Prize-winning author Philip Roth; Mayor “Doc” Ellenstein (first and only Jewish mayor of Newark); Edward I. Koch, former mayor of New York City; singer Paul Simon (of Simon & Garfunkel); writer and poet Allen Ginsberg; and actor Jason Alexander (who played George on the TV show *Seinfeld*).

When did it all begin? It began when Uriah Hendricks started a metal business in 1764. He was born in Amsterdam, Holland, came to New York, and was president of Congregation Shearith Israel, America’s oldest synagogue. His son, Harmon Hendricks, established one of the first copper-rolling mills in the United States at the north end of Newark. Clients included the U.S. War Department and Paul Revere and Sons, silversmiths and bell makers.

There was no real Jewish community, however, until 1840, when Louis Trier arrived to found a tannery. Others followed, many becoming peddlers on Newark’s streets or in outlying areas. They sold stockings, thread, needles, and cheap crockery, quietly accumulating small savings in hopes of buying a horse and wagon or renting a small store. Before 1860, the leading dry goods stores in Newark were owned by Jews.

Louis Bamberger, who was born in Baltimore in 1855 and settled in Newark in 1892, purchased a bankrupt dry goods store. By 1912, the store occupied a full square block, and in 1924 employed 2,800 people. In 1928, store sales were \$38 million, ranking it as the fourth largest department store in the country.

Louis Bamberger and his brother-in-law Felix Fuld were major philanthropists and were involved in bringing a German-Jewish refugee, Albert Einstein, who had escaped from Nazi Germany, to America. They gave a five million dollar gift to establish the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton University. Some of the other institutions founded by Bamberger and Fuld include the Newark Museum, Newark Beth Israel Hospital, and the YMHA of Newark. Caroline Bamberger Fuld donated 2,000 Japanese flowering cherry trees to North Branch Park in 1927. The park is in full bloom in early May. It’s truly spectacular.

The first group to arrive in Newark were primarily German Jews. They founded Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in 1848. The last building in Newark used by that congregation was located at 785 High Street (today’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard). The congregation is now located in Short Hills, NJ.

The second group to found a synagogue in Newark were Polish Jews. They founded Congregation B’nai Abraham in 1853. Their last building in the Clinton Hill section was located at 621 Clinton Avenue. The exquisite elliptical building was consecrated by world renowned Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt in 1924. The building was designed by architect Nathan Myers, who also designed Congregation Anshe Russia at 224 West Kinney Avenue in Newark, the Art Deco Hersh Tower in Elizabeth, NJ, and Beth El Synagogue in Waterbury, CT. Temple B’nai Abraham is presently located in Livingston, NJ.

The third oldest congregation in Newark, Oheb Shalom, was organized in 1860 on Prince Street. Prince Street is where many of the Eastern European Jews lived. There were many small synagogues or “*shtiblech*” and many tenement buildings. There were several public bath houses in this section as well. Oheb Shalom’s first major synagogue building, located at 32 Prince Street, is still standing. It is now used by the Greater Newark Conservancy. In 1911, Oheb Shalom built a Classical Revival structure at 672 High Street. Governor Woodrow Wilson attended the inaugural services. Congregation Oheb Shalom is



The Young Israel of Newark

presently located in South Orange, NJ.

Some of the finest works of architecture in Newark were designed by the noted Jewish architect Frank Grad. They include: The Beaux-Arts YMHA on High Street, Spanish Colonial Stanley Theater at 983 Orange Avenue, the Classical Revival Symphony Hall on Broad Street, Newark Beth Israel Hospital, and the Lefcourt Newark Building, today called 1180 Raymond Boulevard.

The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company was chartered in 1845. It was known as the “Tiffany” of life insurance companies, a reference to its reputation as the provider of life insurance to the upper classes. Its last building, located at 520 Broad Street, was built in 1957, designed by Frank Grad in the International Style of architecture.

In 1999, the Mutual went out of business. Their last 20-story building was purchased by telecommunications company IDT, headed by Howard Jonas. The company incorporates the Yeshiva Bais Tzvi Yaakov. It is both a yeshiva and a college. The first half of the day is dedicated to lectures (*shiurim*) and one-on-one Torah study, while in the second half of the day students study toward a degree in either technology or business through Essex County College.

The yeshiva is sandwiched among floors of corporate hustle and bustle. But one visit will have you know that this international telecommunications and entertainment corporation – one of the largest in the world – is firmly rooted in Torah. The IDT Building is prominently visible as you drive west along Route 280 from the New Jersey Turnpike.

A visit to the Jewish Museum of Newark is a must. It is located at 145 Broadway. It contains the remains of an ark designed in 1874 for Congregation Beth El, which was located on Lexington Avenue at 63rd Street in Manhattan. The ark, standing about 50 feet high, was dismantled and put into storage in 1926. At that time, a small congregation in Newark, Ahavas Sholom, took possession of it.

However, since the floor-to-ceiling height in the small congregation was only about 25 feet, the ark had to be cut down to fit into this space. But what you now see in this museum are the remains of an extremely decorative wooden ark, on par with details found in the wooden arks of New York’s Central Synagogue or Eldridge Street Synagogue. It’s just breathtaking. For information, call (973) 485-2609.

One more bit of information about Jewish Newark. The Hotel Riviera was built in 1922 and became a Newark residence for businessmen and legal fig-

ures doing business with the country and city. It is located at the corner of High Street and Clinton Avenue. In the 1920s, the Hotel Riviera and its environs were so fine that Philip Roth’s parents chose it for their honeymoon. The notorious gangster from Newark, Abner “Longy” Zwillman, made the Hotel Riviera his residence.

According to Nat Bodian of the website *Old Newark Memories*, Zwillman was one of the organizers and a founding member of the nationwide crime syndicate known as “Murder Incorporated.” He started selling produce in his Third Ward neighborhood along Prince Street. He then started selling lottery numbers, and ultimately controlled the numbers business in most of Newark. His other criminal enterprises later included gambling and control of some labor unions. He had partnerships with large industrial establishments, hotels, and restaurants from Havana, Cuba, and Miami to Las Vegas and several Hollywood production companies.

In an interesting article in the July 2, 2018 issue of *Tablet Magazine*, Robert Rockaway writes about Zwillman:

[T]he Nazi Bund was active in Newark, New Jersey and its surrounding small towns. As a Jew, Abner “Longie” Zwillman, who bossed the rackets in that city, was not about to allow the Nazis to operate with impunity in his territory. In 1934, he turned to Nat Arno, a Jewish ex-prizefighter, and asked him to organize an anti-Nazi group. Arno recruited tough Newark Jews and ex-boxers, and called itself the Minutemen. Some of the tactics used to break up these meetings included the use of stink bombs.

As the Nazis came running out of the assembly room, the Minutemen were waiting for them with bats and iron bars. The local police were involved in informing the Minutemen of a Nazi meeting and would not interfere as they were being beaten up.

Oscar Israelowitz is the author of *Welcome Back to Newark* (2019). In honor of the 365th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Jews in North America in 1654, he will be conducting Jewish Harbor Tours on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 22, 24, 25, and on Sunday May 5. For further information, please call (718) 336-1690 or email oscari477@aol.com, or visit our brand new website at www.jewishheritagetoursny.com or www.israelowitzpublishing.com.

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