

THE JEWISH TRAVELER

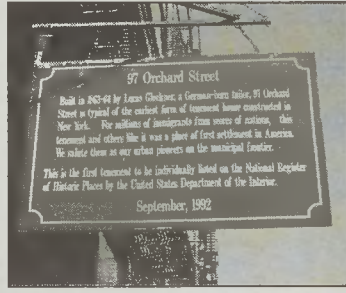
New York City - Lower East Side

By MAXINE SILVERSTEIN

One recent weekend brought me to New York City for a cousin's wedding. Usually we stay somewhere close to Fifth Avenue, but this time we decided to try a new part of the city and stayed in Soho. This fabulous area is booming with great galleries, wonderful shopping, world-class restaurants and is within walking distance of the Lower East Side. As a child living in Brooklyn, my family made lots of trips here to the Fulton Street Fish Market and to Ratner's Restaurant for great dairy food. Times have changed, and some of my favorite places have closed, but there are still great things to do and see. Home to a mix of the historic and the hip, New York's Lower East Side is where classic family-owned shops sit beside cutting-edge designs and culinary delights. From legendary bargains to home decorating and leather goods, from vintage and high-end fashion to nightlife and exotic foods, the Lower East Side has something for everyone.

For generations of immigrants, the Lower East side is where it all began. For a new generation of emerging artists and innovative merchants, the LES is where it's beginning ... again. Historically characterized by tenements and pushcarts, Orchard Street gained its flavor more than 200 years ago, where families squeezed into the tall, cramped buildings that filled lower Manhattan. Industrious immigrants became the Lower East Side's first business owners as they hit the streets, selling their wares from potato sacks to the thousands of local shoppers. Successful business owners expanded their inventory, purchased pushcarts, and eventually storefronts, making Orchard Street one of the busiest commercial districts in the world.

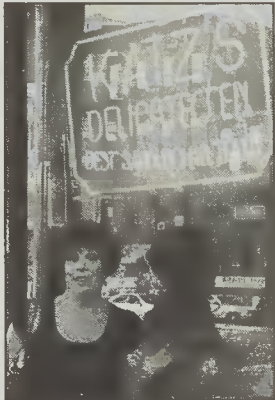
Start off with a Tenement Museum tour. This museum, located on Orchard Street, recreates life in the tenements in its restored building with apartments typical of the turn of the century. The museum also offers exciting tours, dramas, art installations,



The Tenement Museum on Orchard Street.

children's programs, exhibitions and more. Tours are available between 11 AM and 5:30 PM.

Inside the Tenement Museum, visitors can view restored apartments of past residents from different time periods. This museum is a National Historic Landmark and a National Trust Historic Site.



Maxine is ready to enjoy the food at Katz's Deli.

It's amazing to discover how immigrants weathered hard times at the beginning and end of 97 Orchard Street's life as a residence from 1863 to 1935. At the end of our visit we did a Lower East Side walking tour of a dozen sites important to immigrants past and present, including synagogues, schools and storefronts. We discovered how different waves of immigrants have transformed the

neighborhood landscape. We found this tour to be amazing and very educational.

Save some time for delicious food as the Jewish treats are fabulous. Katz's Delicatessen at 205 E. Houston Street is wonderful. You can step back in time in the city's oldest and largest deli, where the pastrami and hot dogs have been voted the best in the United States. Opened in 1888, Katz's is an institu-

tion. It's forever remembered for the oh-so-famous "When Harry Met Sally" scene. It's towering sandwiches, great chopped liver, potato latkes and egg creams are guaranteed to stuff you.

Located right down the street is Yonah Schimmel Knishery full of amazing knishes of all different flavors. They even had pumpkin knishes available for the fall season. We also went to Guss' Pickles at 85 Orchard Street. The inspiration behind one of the lead characters from the movie "Crossing Delancey," legendary Izzy Guss opened Guss' Pickles in 1920. The pickling tradition continues and pickles, peppers, olives and sauerkraut from a barrel are sold and shipped nationwide.

The Lower East Side is a delightful destination into the past grandeur of this wonderful city and not to be missed. I'm so glad that we took this journey into the past and had such fun doing it. ☆

New Travel Club at LJCC

The Levine Jewish Community Center is pleased to announce a new Travel Club benefit to its members. In connection with Mann Travels, two exciting trips are planned for members in early 2008.

Historic Charleston is an exciting weekend getaway that's close to home. Travel January 25-28, 2008, and enjoy two nights accommodations at the Hampton Inn Historic District, daily breakfast at the hotel, a private tour of Charleston's Temple, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim and tickets for a horse-drawn carriage tour of the Historic District for only \$209.00 per person, double occupancy or \$119.00 per person, quad occupancy, so take the kids. Payment is due by December 1 to reserve your room.

Pamper, refresh and renew yourself at the famed Canyon

Ranch in Lenox, MA. Travel March 9-12, 2008 for three nights of luxury in the Berkshires. Package includes deluxe accommodations, roundtrip airport transfers, three gourmet balanced meals daily, guided hikes and daily fitness classes, a Personal Program Advisor and more. Airfare is additional. Our special Levine Jewish Community Center Group Package cost is \$1,399.00 per person, double occupancy. First deposit of \$500.00 per person is due prior to January 3, 2008 to reserve your place, so grab a workout friend and join us.

For further exciting information on any of the Travel Club trips, or to request a reservation form, please contact Jodi Valenstein at the Levine JCC 704 944-6730 or jodi.valenstein@charlottejcc.org. ☆

Buyer's Agents Specializing in Homes, Condos & Townhomes in Southeast Charlotte



Richard Roskind
704-905-6175
rcroskind@aol.com



Mickey Gold
704-779-5859
mickeyau@aol.com

www.goldroskindhomes.com

GOLD/ROSKIND
homes

ARCH LENDING GROUP

your bridge home

**No 2 loans, No 2 clients
Are exactly alike.**

Lets find the solution that's right for YOU!

Refinance • Purchase • Investment
No Documentation • Stated • Interest Only



Sheldon Schreiber
LENDING SPECIALIST

Mobile 704.607.8555
Fax 866.455.1066
Office 704.335.1555

Honesty • Integrity • Professionalism

License # B-138074

**Please patronize
our advertisers...
and tell them
you saw it
in The Charlotte
Jewish News!**