

NEW JERSEY LIFESTYLE

FALL 2010



Autumn Rides

INSIDE BOARDWALK EMPIRE • CASA DEL CIELO: HOME IN THE SKY • NJ WINERIES

5 Flings FOR Fall



National Museum of American Jewish History – Grand Opening Weekend November 12, 13, 14

Though the falling leaves will soon yield to falling flakes, the yen to travel knows no season. The multiple options of autumn range from southern climes, where summer lingers longer, to towns, tours, and museums within easy driving distance.

The location of the **National Museum of American Jewish History**, opening in Philadelphia November 14, was chosen deliberately. Across from the Liberty Bell, a block north of Independence Hall, and a block south of the National Constitution Center, the five-story, \$150 million museum represents the freedom Jewish refugees found in America.

Its west facade is a glass prism showing the openness of America and the fragility of democracy, while its terracotta north wall stands for the strength of Jewish survival and the protection offered by American freedom. A top-floor beacon, visible blocks away, suggests both the



Typewriter of Nathan Fleisher, ca. 1920
Jewish newspapers and magazines enabled immigrants to follow current events, social trends, and political and cultural developments. The first Yiddish newspapers appeared in 1870 and others quickly followed. In the early 1900s, New York City alone boasted more than 150 Yiddish publications along with dozens of others in Hebrew, Russian, English, German, and Ladino (a combination of Hebrew and Spanish). Nathan Fleisher (1885-1962) used this Yiddish Hammond Multiplex typewriter as manager of Philadelphia's Jewish World newspaper from 1920-1935.
National Museum of American Jewish History, 1982.38.1a

Statue of Liberty and the Eternal Light revered by religious Jews.

Featuring films, artifacts, and an Only in America gallery, the museum is organized by eras, tracing the 350-year history of the American Jewish experience. Among the first honorees in the museum's Hall of Fame are Louis Brandeis, Albert Einstein, Estée Lauder, Jonas Salk, Steven Spielberg, and Barbra Streisand. Even Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is included; he was one of several prominent American Jews who provided filmed testimonials supporting the first 18 individuals to be honored by the museum.

The only U.S. museum dedicated to tracing

the history of Jews in America has 100,000 square feet, more than six times the space it occupied in its original location down the street. Its design suggests three other museums: the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, the Rose Center for Earth and Space at New York's Museum of Natural History, and Washington's Newseum. All of them, along with the new Jewish museum, were created by renowned architect James Stewart Polshek.



Caribbean Hanukkah Lamp
This silver Hanukkah lamp belonged to a Sephardic family that traced its ancestry to eighteenth-century merchants in Curaçao, a Dutch colony in the Caribbean.
National Museum of American Jewish History, 1981.1.1a



Steven Spielberg's First 8mm Camera
that his parents bought for him in the late 1950s. As a young boy he would film family trips and Boy Scout activities. The camera will appear in the Museum's Only in America® Gallery/Hall of Fame, which showcases the challenges and opportunities a select group of extraordinary Jewish Americans encountered on the road to remarkable achievement. Located on the first floor of the Museum's new home, the Only in America® Gallery/Hall of Fame is an innovative combination of multimedia, original artifacts and interactive experiences.
Courtesy of Steven Spielberg.

More than anything else, the museum shows how neither poverty nor a language barrier precluded Jewish immigrants from flourish under freedom for more than three centuries. Nowhere is that more apparent than in an 85-foot-high atrium illuminated by natural light from above. From there, it's an easy walk, via a network of bridge-like stairs, to the exhibitions above or the theater and education center below.

Like the Jews fleeing the persecution and pogroms of Europe, the Wright Brothers also had a dream. They wanted to swap the shackles of gravity for the freedom of flight—giving man the ability to share the sky with the free-flying birds.

The **Wright Brothers National Memorial** shows how well they succeeded. Perched near the northern end of North Carolina's Outer Banks, the memorial occupies land where Wilbur and Orville Wright made their first successful flight on Dec. 17, 1903.

They selected the spot because of its climate, wind conditions, and seclusion, as well as its sandy landing surface and absence of obstacles. More than crafty bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio, the Wright Brothers were students willing to work hard, learn from their setbacks, and apply scientific principles to find the secrets of flight. Other would-be pilots were working on the same idea—motivated by the success of balloons and gliders—but Wilbur and Orville found the Wright stuff first.

During daily orientation talks at the Visitors Center, volunteers unveil the background of the Wright Brothers, who found their Kitty Hawk site after receiving recommendations from the U.S. Weather Bureau in Washington. Blessed by a benign climate and steady winds, they conducted three years of experiments before succeeding in a primitive craft that had to be redesigned numerous times.

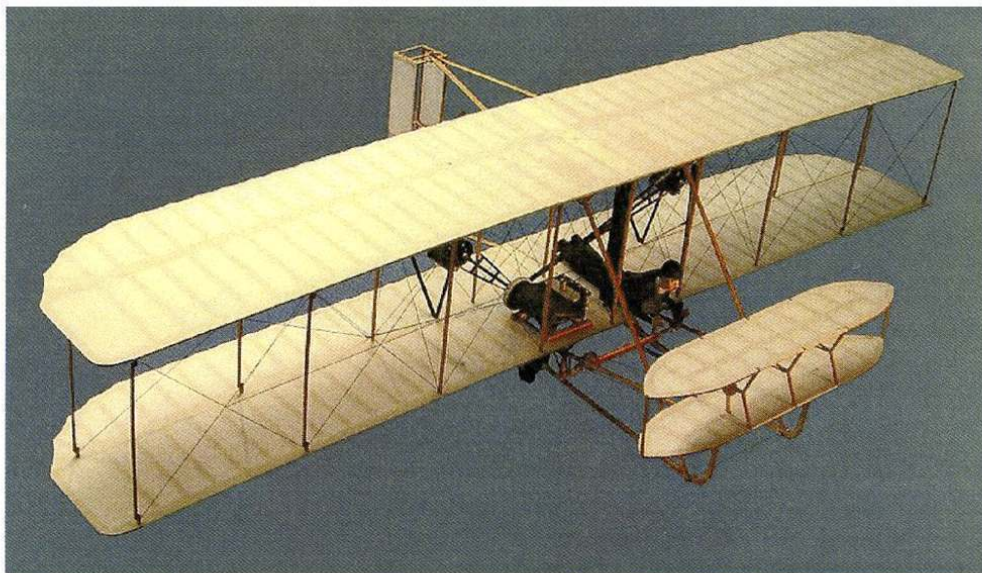
Years later, in a salute to the aviation pioneers, pieces of their 1903 plane were among the carefully-chosen items that landed on the moon with astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

Wooden hangars used to house the plane and its equipment still stand at the Wright Brothers Memorial, where the most prominent object is a granite tower that tops the giant dune where the plane was launched.

In 1932, Orville Wright attended the dedication of the monument, the largest American edifice ever built to honor a living person.

The Wright Brothers National Memorial features a full schedule of films, talks, shows, and demonstrations—including kite-flying classes for kids interested in instantly applying newly-learned lessons in aeronautics.

It also has proximity to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the nation's first; four light-houses; the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum; and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, where the English established their first New World



Wright Brothers Flyer.

settlement in 1584. The town of Manteo is home to the Outer Banks Visitors Center, an attractive aquarium; and a small but bustling harbor where schooners give sunset cruises.

The sunsets are also spectacular in Hyde Park, New York, where the **Culinary Institute of America** sits on a bluff high above the Hudson River.

Founded as the New Haven Restaurant Institute in 1946, the CIA took on its present name in 1951 and current location in 1972. The only residential college in the world devoted entirely to culinary education, its facilities include more than 40 professionally-equipped kitchens and bakeshops and five public restaurants staffed by students learning all aspects of their future trade.

Waiters and waitresses, working under the

watchful eyes of instructors, are overly pleasant, efficient, and accommodating. And the gourmet fare they serve—prepared by chefs who are also in training—shows the benefits of close scrutiny.

More than 145 chefs and instructors, from a dozen different countries, comprise the CIA's prestigious faculty. They supervise some 2,300 students, most studying for bachelor's degree programs in culinary arts management or baking and pastry arts management.

Students work so hard and take their lessons so seriously that a book about the school is called *Culinary Boot Camp*.

In addition, more than 6,000 working professionals study in the CIA's continuing education programs and another 1,600 take CIA-run adult education courses.

Culinary Institute of America sits on a bluff high above the Hudson River.



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Because the CIA blends 21st century technology with time-tested methods of food preparation and service, all U.S. restaurants could take lessons from the CIA's Fab Four, the American Bounty, Escoffier, Caterina de Medici, and St. Andrew's Cafe. It's no surprise they are often booked weeks in advance.

Located on a handsome 150-acre tract three miles north of Poughkeepsie, the CIA's main building is a one-time Jesuit seminary dating to 1901. With its wooded hills, river views, and stained-glass windows, the CIA's setting is one of the most striking in the Hudson Valley.

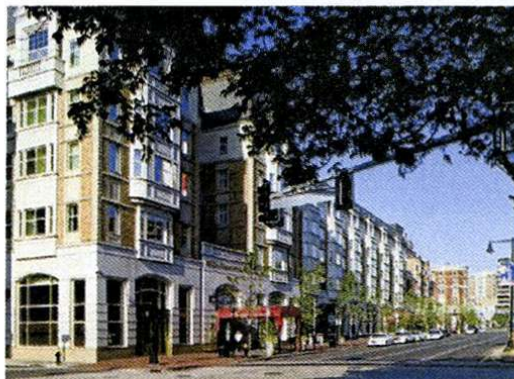
Tours for the general public are given on Mondays while tours for prospective students are held on Wednesdays. Student-run tours include visits to classes in session.

Coupled with Greystone, its sister facility in California's Napa Valley, the Culinary Institute of America is widely regarded as the nation's oldest and most respected culinary college.

Not far from Rhinebeck, where Chelsea Clinton's storybook wedding topped the nation's summer social calendar, the CIA is even closer to the Hyde Park home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Springwood, the only home occupied by an American president from birth to death, first opened to the public in 1945, shortly after FDR died in office. The adjacent museum includes the Roosevelt Library, the only one used by a sitting president, with 14,000 volumes from FDR's personal collection. He visited the library often during World War II and even delivered some of his fireside chats from the study.

The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites include four properties, all administered by the National Park Service: FDR's home, his Top Cottage retirement retreat, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill cottage, and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Most were built under the close watch of Roosevelt, the most architecturally-involved president since Thomas Jefferson.

Vintage baseball architecture is the hallmark of Fenway Park, the nation's oldest ballpark, and the adjacent **Hotel Commonwealth**, where a



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vintage-themed baseball suite opened earlier this year. Although the Fenway Park centennial celebration is still two years away, well-heeled Red Sox fans and admirers of baseball history can start celebrating early: the suite is stocked with baseball DVDs and books, including this writer's *The 300 Club: Have We Seen the Last of Baseball's 300-Game Winners?*

There are photos everywhere, from local icon Ted Williams to close-ups of the Green Monster scoreboard, including individual pictures of the BALL, STRIKE, and OUT signs that permit the imaginative guest to envision sleeping under the legendary Fenway scoreboard.

Architect E. Kevin Schopfer, noted for interior hotel designs, captured both a masculine and historic flavor by incorporating hardwood floors, oriental rugs, leather furniture, and a poster bed with a steamer trunk similar to those players hauled when they took road trips by rail during the '30s and '40s.

Nostalgia fills the two-room suite: there are Cracker Jacks, chocolate baseballs, Baby Ruths, and retro Coke bottles to be taken, and framed Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Jackie Robinson baseball cards to be admired.

The guest list has already included Red Sox legends Johnny Pesky, Carlton Fisk, Bill Lee, and Nomar Garciaparra—plus anyone willing to shell out the nightly stipend of \$755, representing Hank Aaron's home run total (a record since erased by Barry Bonds).

The Baseball Suite is the brainchild of Hotel Commonwealth general manager Adam Sperling, a rabid fan himself. "We wanted to create a unique experience within the luxury hotel environment," he explained. "We feel an attachment to baseball."

He's right—patrons waiting for the elevator can peer right into Fenway itself. For many, that's baseball heaven.

Watching *Seinfeld* is also a popular pastime; the show ran nine years of original episodes and has been off for ten but is so popular that syndication sales cost \$3 million an episode. Kenny Kramer, inspiration for the Cosmo Kramer character played by Michael Richards, has also taken advantage of its popularity.

For the past 16 years, he's run **Kramer's Reality Tour**, combining an hour of commentary with two hours of touring Manhattan sites seen on the show. The \$37.50 tour is so good that it was once spoofed on an actual *Seinfeld* episode.

Host Kenny Kramer, who brags about working one day a week five months per year, happened to live across the hall from Larry David, a one-time

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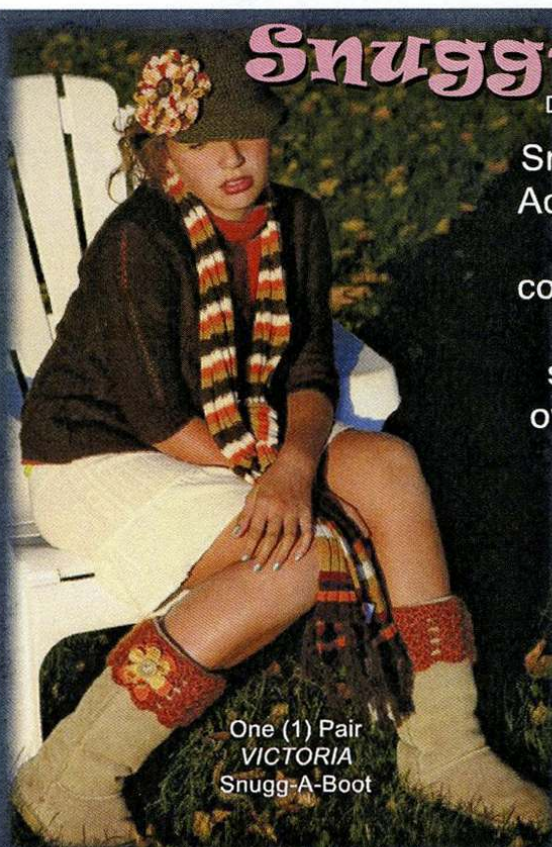
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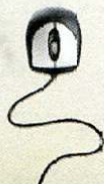
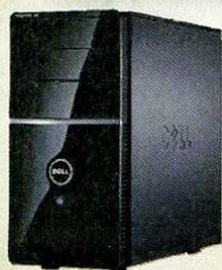


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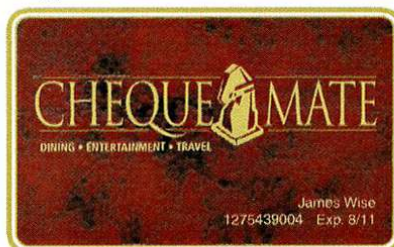


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See page 48
for a list of member restaurants.



Lifestyle Travel

writer for *Saturday Night Live* whose mother begged him to give up "this comedy thing." In fact, she asked Kramer to convince him.

Instead, David came up with "the show about nothing," teamed with Jerry Seinfeld to turn it into an enterprise worth \$3 million an episode in syndication, and starred in a show of his own (HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*).

During his tour, Kramer reveals that David played numerous cameo roles—including George Steinbrenner—on *Seinfeld* and modeled many of the characters and incidents after his own life. For example, David's father was named Morty, sold raincoats, and was president of his condo association in Florida. David himself was the inspiration for George Costanza, an old girlfriend inspired Elaine Benes, and Kramer inspired Kramer—though he denied sliding into a room after opening the door.

The tour passes Julliard, where Jerry made Elaine laugh during a concert by putting a Pez dispenser on her knee; Roosevelt Hospital, where a mental patient plunged onto the roof of George's perfectly-parked car; the West Side Y, where Jerry and George met Keith Hernandez; and the Central Park diamond where George flattened Bette Midler during a softball game.

There's a pass-by at the storefront of the Soup Nazi and a stop for pictures at Tom's, the 112th Street restaurant with the neon sign that passed for Monk's coffee shop on the show.

"Since it's a show about nothing, I'll take you to places that don't exist," says Kramer, whose video clips on the bus include a hirsute Larry David talking to a young Richard Belzer on a short-lived show called *Friday*. There's also a clip of Mayor Giuliani saluting Kenny Kramer by name.

Seinfeld and Kramer's Reality Tour memorabilia, including a video that includes his pre-tour monologue, were a big bonus for many of the out-of-towners who packed his 53-passenger bus. He even gave out a rookie card of Jay Buhner (the future star Steinbrenner foolishly swapped for Ken Phelps) to a guest who remembered what kind of operation was underway when Kramer and Jerry accidentally dropped a Junior Mint into a patient undergoing surgery. It was a spleenectomy. ■

Former AP newsman Dan Schlossberg is travel editor of *New Jersey Lifestyle*, *Hooters Magazine*, and Sirius XM Satellite Radio's *Maggie Linton Show* as well as author of 35 baseball books, including this year's *The 300 Club: Have We Seen the Last of Baseball's 300-Game Winners?*