

Places 2 Go, Things 2 Do!

Family Outings in and around NY's Capital-Saratoga Region

Prepared in conjunction with the Maimonides School - Albany NY and SaratogaChabad.com For inclusion in future listing please email: mendel@saratogachabad.com for informational purposes only, with no responsibility for the quality, availability or any other issue with activities and venues listed here. Please call ahead for details & verification.

Chol HaMoed Pesach 5767 / Passover 2007 Note that many seasonal venues are not open in early Spring and are not included here.

DAY TRIP IDEAS

SARATOGA SPRINGS

Children's Museum 584-5540 on Caroline Street is a great make believe place for little kids, the **NYS Military Museum** 583-0184 in the Armory on Lake Avenue is free and displays historic uniforms & weapons, the **Racing Museum** 584-0400 on Union showcases the best of Saratoga Horse-Racing, the **Bottle-Museum** 885-7589 (looks small, but has interesting stuff) is in nearby Ballston Spa on Route 50. **Saratoga Auto Museum** 587-1935 inside the Spa State Park on Avenue of the Pines. Plus Congress Park and Spa State Park (see Area Parks box) are not be missed. **The Bead-Store** on Henry Street isn't a museum, but a great activity/craft center kids enjoy.

GLENS FALLS NY

The **Chapman House Historic Museum** 793-2826 on Glen Street has no admission charge and is one of the finest historic house museums in the area. The **Hyde Collection** 792-1761 is a museum of fine art housed in a restored Spanish-style villa and extension. On selected days there are kids programs downstairs. Many paintings date back 400-500 years (or more) along the staircase in the house is a painting of Rivka by the Well with a strange camel depiction. **Explore!** also on Warren Street is a kids activity place of bounces, climbing, and activities - call for info: 793-7803.

BENNINGTON VT

Take Troy's NY-7 East to the VT-9 in Bennington for a very inexpensive scenic outing. The **Bennington Monument** costs only a dollar or two for a ride up, and has a gorgeous scenic view of 3 states on a clear day. Great photo-spot. The **Hemmings Auto Museum** (on VT-9 which was the NY-7) has 25 vintage cars on display in great condition, with bright color and old-fashioned detail. See license plates from every state in the Union. And the museum is free! **Bennington Museum** (802) 447-1571 showcases artwork including works by Grandma Moses. **Bennington Potters** has a store with thousands of ceramic pieces on display - not such a great idea with small kids. But out back you can go in and watch the potters at work. On the grounds of the senior/veterans home there's **Deer Park** where you can eat a picnic and look through the fence to see deer. Probably depends on the time of day on whether you can see them.

BERKSHIRES MA

Young & old appreciate Norman Rockwell's artwork, true to life and humorous. Kids will enjoy the paintings - especially if parents explain the background. The **Norman Rockwell Museum** is in Stockbridge MA (413) 298-4100. **Hancock Shaker Village** in Pittsfield MA (413) 443-0188 is a hands-on museum with livestock and old-fashioned living. **Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory** is in South Deerfield MA (413) 665-2805. BTW - West Stockbridge is a quaint place to stop, little village shtetl-like.

COOPERSTOWN NY

The **Baseball Hall of Fame** (607) 547-7200 is Cooperstown's claim to fame, but there's more to see in this great little village. The **Farmer's Museum** (607) 547-1450 is a kids' favorite, especially the outdoor old-fashioned village with a real blacksmith, pharmacist and housewife who churns butter. This time of year it's not fully operational and has a reduced admission, call ahead to see what's open. The **Fenimore Art Museum** is just across from the Farmers. Down at the southern **shore of Lake Otsego** is a great spot for a picnic on the grass (if it isn't too windy/muddy this time of year). The town itself is picturesque, a virtual heaven for baseball fans.

BLENHEIM-GILOBA NY

The unique storage-water power-plant at Blenheim-Gilboa has a hands-on **energy visitors center** nestled in the beautifully scenic mountainous country-side of Schoharie County. **Lansing Manor** is a historic well-kept house museum on the same property, also open for visitors. Both are free. 800 724-0309.

ANOTHER LOOK...

The **Albany Intl Airport** has a great viewing deck open to visitors on the 3rd level and there's also an Art Gallery which hosts small traveling exhibits. Or get a high-up view of Albany and east from the top of the **Corning Tower**. (If you park your car on the roof of the East Garage downtown you can try to find it from way up) Both views are fun and free.

Two local planetariums give a nice view of the stars in the sky. **Henry Hudson Planetarium** 434-1217 in Quackenbush Square downtown Albany or the **Suits-Beuche at the Schenectady Museum** 382-7890 (which has nice exhibits of its own. If

the model-trains are still running, kids love them). And Albany has **Aqua-Ducks** with a whole new dry/wet view - call for prices/info: 462-DUCK.

AMUSEMENT

Hoffman's Playland in Latham is a local favorite 785-3842 (no admission, pay per ride). **Fun-Plex** in East Greenbush 477-2651 go-karts, bumper-boats and batting-cages. Plus, mini-Golf-course should be beginning to open around this time...

AREA PARKS

THATCHER PARK in the Helderbergs south of Albany (after the thaw) is a great place to hike, melting snow creates stronger waterfalls. **VOORHEESVILLE SCHOOL** is the 85A (near 156) on the way to Thatcher Park still has the elaborate old-fashioned wooden park which kids love. **SIX MILE-PINE BUSH** on Fuller Rd has picnic areas near the lake, and there's a paved walking trail (great for bikes and strollers) that begins to the south-west of the lake and weaves its way under and around the 87-90 exchange. **THE CROSSINGS** in Colonie off Albany Shaker Rd is a recent park designed for walking, roller-blading, with a playground, facilities and a fountain pond **CONGRESS PARK** in Saratoga is always buzzing with people, has the 50 cent carousel, and a variety of old-fashioned mineral springs to taste for free. **SARATOGA SPA STATE PARK** is home to majestic pine trees, mineral springs, and running creeks to get your feet wet, but Pesach might be a little too early this year. **WASHINGTON PARK** in Albany is most beautiful when the tulips come out in May, but is an expansive park all year 'round with playgrounds, rolling hills and picnic areas surrounding the lake. **CORNING PRESERVE** at the Hudson Riverfront has long riverside paved walking/bike trails, playground, views of boats and bridges, and the elegant Hudson RiverWalk pedestrian bridge linking to downtown Albany. **PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK** is where the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers meet, a great place to walk and play, a walking bridge connects to Waterford with the boat-docks and locks. In season, many boats are moored there. On Delaware Ave, off Ontario Street in Cohoes. **EMPIRE PLAZA WOODEN PARK** south-east corner of the Plaza, interesting wooden structures. Then hop up to NYS Museum 4th Floor for the Carousel.