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PANORAMA

February 26–March 11, 2007

The Official Guide to BOSTON

The Museums Issue

PLUS:

Boston Restaurant Week Returns

5 Questions with TV Icon Linda Evans

***U.S.S. JFK* Weighs Anchor in the Hub**

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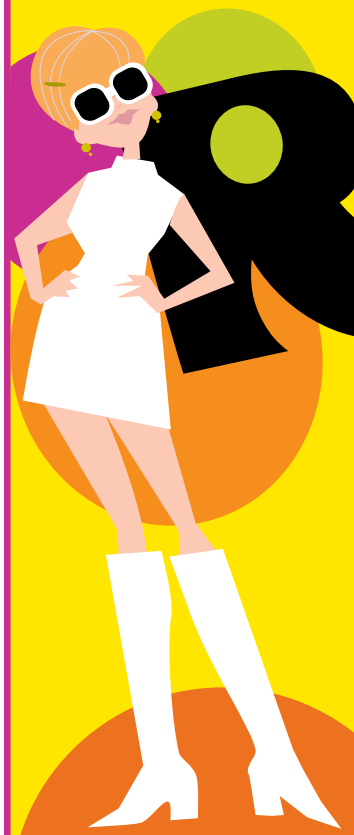

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78 5 questions with...
TV soap diva LINDA EVANS

on the cover: The unusual angles of the I.M. Pei-designed John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum cut a striking figure across the sky.
Photo: Ethan B. Backer

NIGHT LIGHTS: Located on Dorchester's Columbia Point overlooking the ocean, the Kennedy Library and Museum is a beloved Boston landmark. *Refer to story, page 15.*
PHOTO BY ETHAN B. BACKER

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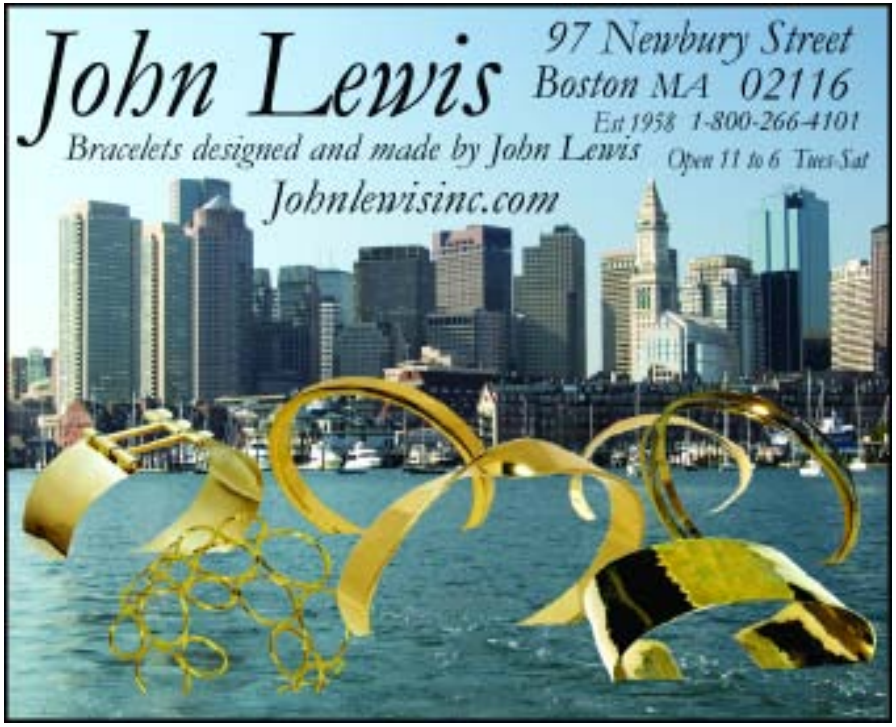

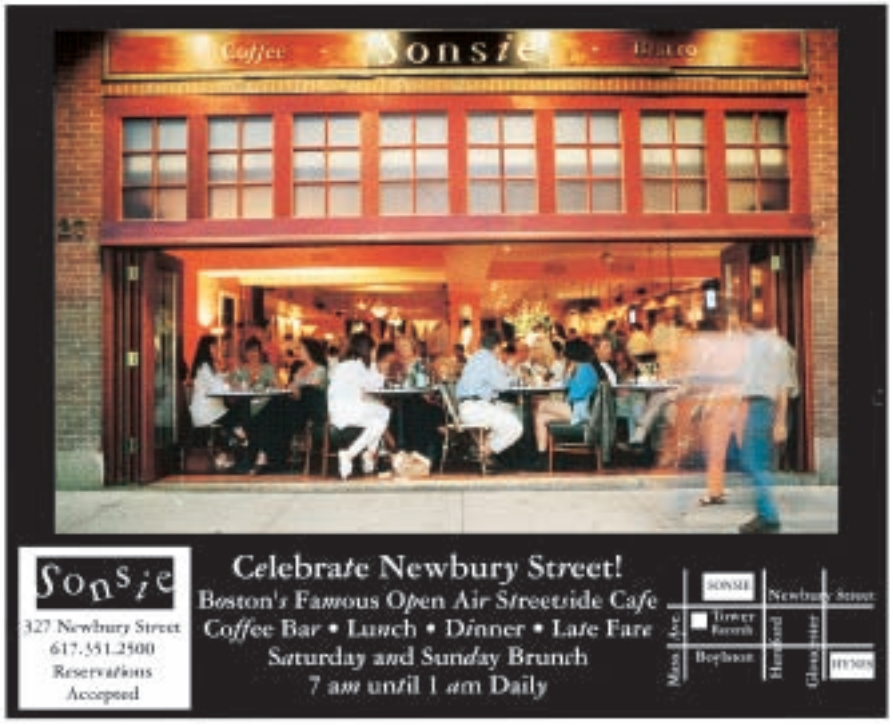

aroundthehub

NEWS&NOTES

by Josh B. Wardrop

Noshing on the Best for Less

Anyone who hears horror stories about how expensive Boston is might be convinced that their vacation meals will, out of fiscal necessity, all be eaten at an establishment with big golden arches in front of it. But fear not—you've arrived in the Hub during a thrifty gourmand's golden hour. **March 4–9** is **Boston Winter Restaurant Week**—six days during which nearly 100 of the city's top restaurants are allowing diners to sample their fare for fantastic prices. Eateries like Olives, Legal Sea Foods, Terramia Ristorante (pictured), Ruth's Chris Steak House, Lala Rokh and many more are offering three-course prix-fixe lunch menus for $20.07 and/or dinners for $30.07. A complete list of participating restaurants is available at www.restaurantweekboston.com, but with so many eateries taking part, chances are good even the one nearest you is on the list. *Refer to listing, page 25.*

news & notes **6** • on stage **10** • dining **11** • nightlife **12** • style **13** • on exhibit **14**

PHOTO BY BOB PERACHIO

BOSTON SAYS BON VOYAGE TO A GRAND OLD SHIP

The 40-year-old U.S. Navy aircraft carrier named for Massachusetts' brightest political star will make one more appearance in Boston before sailing off into the sunset, as the ***U.S.S. JFK*** (pictured above) returns to Boston for a final port of call **March 1–5**.

The 1,000-foot-long ship, built shortly after the death of Massachusetts native and 35th president John F. Kennedy, is being decommissioned later this year. The carrier—which houses 2,400 sailors and has seen military action during the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and most recently in 2004, during the current war in Iraq—will spend five days docked at the North Jetty in South Boston's Marine Industrial Park. The last time the *JFK* came to Boston, in May 2005, more than 60,000 visitors showed up to tour the ship.

Following its final visit to Boston, the *JFK* returns to its homeport in Mayport, Fla., to await a formal decommissioning ceremony sometime this fall.

cont. on page 8 >>

calendar of events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Indie rock legends and local heroes **The Lemonheads**, fronted by Evan Dando (pictured), will return to Boston to perform at the Paradise Rock Club. *Refer to listing, page 24.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Indie darling Conor Oberst, a.k.a. **Bright Eyes**, performs his poetic lyrics and haunting melodies at the Somerville Theatre. *Refer to listing, page 24.*

PHOTO BY GENE SCHIAVONE

THURSDAY, MARCH 1–SUNDAY, MARCH 4

The **Boston Ballet** will be performing ***New Visions***, a celebration of contemporary ballet showcasing three ballets that exemplify new ideas in choreography. Included are a premiere by resident choreographer Jorma Elo, Christopher Wheeldon's *Polyphonia* and *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* by Val Caniparoli. *Refer to listing, page 22.*

PHOTO BY KEVIN WESTENBERG

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

Fresh on the heels of releasing their fifth studio album, *For How We Operate*, British quintet **Gomez** brings their unique sound to Avalon. *Refer to listing, page 24.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Paul Pierce (pictured) and the **Boston Celtics** take on the visiting Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets at the TD Banknorth Garden. *Refer to listing, page 26.*

PHOTO BY CRAIG BAILEY/PERSPECTIVE PHOTO

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Tonight's your last chance to check out SpeakEasy Stage Company's production of John Cariani's charming romantic comedy ***Almost, Maine***, a story about the ups and downs of falling in and out of love. *Refer to listing, page 26.*

>> cont. from page 7

RELIVING THE MASSACRE

It may seem macabre to commemorate a violent conflagration that took place in the streets of Boston, but here in a city proud of the place it holds in the birth of our nation, it's a tradition to annually recall one of the triggering events of the American Revolution: the **Boston Massacre**.

Beginning **March 1**, the Bostonian Society and the Old State House join forces to present a week of events commemorating the 237th anniversary of the conflict between American colonists and British Redcoats that took the lives of five citizens and started Americans on the path toward the eventual Revolutionary War. On **March 2 & 5**, the Freedom Trail Foundation presents the short play *Witness to a Massacre*, offering a first-hand account of the incident. On **March 3**, youngsters are led in a re-enactment of the event by rangers from nearby Adams National Historical Park. And on **March 5** *at 8 p.m.*, the Massachusetts Council of Minutemen and Militia present a full re-enactment (pictured above) of this defining moment in American liberty. *Refer to listing, page 25.*

BOSTONIANS OBSERVE BASEMENT BARGAINING WITH BATED BREATH

One of Boston's most legendary retailers—as well as one of the city's largest attractions—is scheduled to shut down this fall, and everyone from shoppers to real estate developers to Mayor Thomas Menino himself are trying to find a way to keep Boston's beloved Basement in business.

The original **Filene's Basement** in Downtown Crossing is set to shut down for a period of almost two years while their current space—in the bottom floor of the original Filene's building—undergoes a massive renovation. However, with Filene's Basement (a bargain outlet that has offered great deals to shoppers for generations) being a huge commercial draw to the Downtown Crossing retail area, city officials have been trying to find ways to keep the store operating in a new location nearby until the old space is ready.

The latest news has "the Basement," as it's known to locals, exploring a move into a building on Washington Street recently vacated by the Barnes & Noble book chain. But no firm decisions have been made. Consider this story to be continued…

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Dynasty Divas Duel Anew

LEGENDS!
The Shubert Theatre
March 6–11

Fans of the '80s smash soap "Dynasty" will rejoice in the knowledge that the soap opera's iconic female leads—Linda Evans and Joan Collins—are resurrecting their famous rivalry onstage in James Kirkwood's hilarious comedy *Legends!* The two actresses, well-remembered for their melodramatic battles on "Dynasty," play fading movie stars (and hateful rivals) desperately clinging to fame. Separately, each agrees to star in the same Broadway show when a shady producer convinces them their co-star will be Paul Newman. The real fun begins when the arch-enemies realize the truth and are stuck working alongside each other. A hilarious romp for fans of "Dynasty" and campy comedy, *Legends!* proves that while actresses may get old, catfights never do. *Refer to listing, page 26.* *—Katie Veillette*

A TERRIFIC TEATRO TRIO

TEATRO LIRICO D'EUROPA
Cutler Majestic Theatre
at Emerson College
March 2–4

For one special weekend, opera fans in Boston will be treated to performances of three of the world's best-known and most beloved operas as Teatro Lirico D'Europa performs ***La Boheme***, ***Carmen*** and ***Madama Butterfly*** at Boston's historic Cutler Majestic Theatre. Giacomo Puccini's *Boheme* and *Butterfly* will be sung in Italian, and Georges Bizet's *Carmen* in French, and all will have accompanying English super titles. And if that isn't enough to fulfill your opera addiction, the company winds up its Boston run with a **March 6** gala, where the ensemble's soloists, chorus and orchestra will perform songs from popular Italian operas in a celebration of the art form at its finest. *Refer to listings, pages 24 & 25.* *—Erica Coray*

Good Clean *Dirty* Fun

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS
The Opera House
Beginning March 6

Nice guys may finish last, but that's not a problem for the underhanded and duplicitous anti-heroes of the hit Broadway musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, making its Boston debut this month. In the glitzy French Riviera, suave con man Lawrence and uncouth crook Freddy try meeting and cheating wealthy women as a team. But when they realize the town's not big enough for two flim-flam men, the devious duo make a bet wherein the first to swindle a young heiress wins claim to the town. Based on the 1988 hit film, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* promises audiences a wild ride full of music, mayhem and laughter that will have you cheering for these "bad guys" to finish first. *Refer to listing, page 26.* *—Josh B. Wardrop*

Rialto Redux

RIALTO
One Bennett St.
Charles Hotel, Cambridge
617-661-5050

Forget the ribbon-cutting—when popular Cambridge eatery Rialto reopened after a month-long renovation with a new Italian-influenced menu, only a pasta-cutting ceremony would do. Acclaimed chef Jody Adams (pictured above) closed the doors of her beloved restaurant in order to reinvent Rialto's culinary direction, moving away from Mediterranean influences to focus on her passion for Italian food. New pumpkin, olive and white décor evokes thoughts of the Italian countryside, while the menu offers new dishes like grilled guinea hen with pistachios and tomato-potato tart and spaghetti with lobster. However, Adams hasn't forgotten loyal Rialto customers, incorporating a "Rialto Classics" section into the menu including signature items like her slow roasted Long Island duck—making the new Rialto a successful fusion of old and new. *Refer to listing, page 57.* *—Erica Coray*

Dish of the Day

FRUIT, BREAD AND CHEESE PLATE
Other Side Cosmic Café
407 Newbury Street
617-536-8437

Newbury Street is known for chic restaurants and glitzy boutiques, but there's another side to Newbury that caters to a more boho crowd. The Other Side Cosmic Café is just that type of colorful, friendly hangout for Boston's artsy folk, and on their menu of healthy, low-budget fare, the Fruit, Bread and Cheese Plate stands out. An array of fresh fruit—including grapes, bananas and apples—is served with four different kinds of cheeses and two rolls with a deliciously refreshing honey yogurt dipping sauce. At $9.95, this is a perfect dish to share as you gaze out at the hoi polloi and enjoy a taste of how the Other Side lives. *—Erica Coray*

GO HOG WILD

WHOLE PIG DINNER
East Coast Grille
1271 Cambridge St.,
Cambridge
617-491-6568
March 5 at 7 p.m.

Fans of *Charlotte's Web* or *Babe* might want to skip to the next page, but those in search of a once-in-a-lifetime culinary experience, read on. Chef Chris Schlesinger is going whole hog on **March 5**, as he hosts a Whole Pig Dinner at his popular East Coast Grill. Embracing the tradition of this ritual feast—which includes appetizers and dessert, for $45 a person—the porker will be prepared Polynesian-style and presented and carved right in front of diners. Reservations are recommended for this limited and unique event, and bring your appetite—once you're there, you will be expected to pig out. *—Arielle Altman*

TOP RIGHT PHOTO BY ERIKA FIELDS;
BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO BY SARAH BOUWKAMP

A Taste of Honey

MANSION
1 Boylston Place • 617-351-7000

Decorated with oversized mirrors, giant chandeliers, curved balconies and an enormous fireplace, Mansion recalls the venue's original use as a theater—however, the most picturesque feature might be Mansion's sexy house band Honey (pictured above). These scantily clad lovely ladies, inspired by The Pussycat Dolls, cover today's biggest pop acts, including Christina Aguilera, Beyonce and Fergie, while performing hot dance routines. Add in a huge dancefloor where patrons can strut their own stuff, and Mansion has all the elements in place to treat patrons to the ultimate "house" party.
Refer to listing, page 33.
—Katie Veillette

POGUES IN VOGUE

THE POGUES
Avalon
March 9 & 10

Boston never finds itself lacking for great Irish music around Saint Paddy's Day. This year, the Hub welcomes one of the Auld Sod's classic combos with two shows at Avalon by the reunited Pogues. The combustible Celtic/punk pioneers, known as much for their wild antics and drug use as their rollicking, propulsive music, hit big in the '80s and '90s with revved up Irish folk anthems. Rejoined again by their notorious frontman Shane MacGowen (pictured above), expect the band that brought us songs like "Fairytale of New York" and "Tuesday Morning" to provide energy, excitement and a rowdy good time that will have Irish eyes (and ears) smiling.
Refer to listing, page 24.
—Katie Veillette

Cocktail of the Week

THE PERFECT VODKA MARTINI
Intermission Tavern
228 Tremont St.
617-451-5997

Some would say the measure of a good bar isn't its ability to invent crazy new fruit-infused cocktails, but rather in how well they can craft the classics. If so, Intermission Tavern has it mastered with their confidently-monikered Perfect Vodka Martini. Made with Grey Goose vodka and a splash of Italian vermouth, chilled and served straight up with bleu cheese stuffed olives, this cocktail supports the "oldie but goodie" way of thinking. Priced at just $9, this sterling take on a classic concoction proves that not all martinis are created equal.
—Erica Coray

TOP RIGHT PHOTO BY ERIKA FIELDS

by Marketa Hulpachova

Silverback

EST. 1887[AG]
Alan Bilzerian
34 Newbury St.
617-536-1001

Admit it, guys: when left to your own devices, most of you would happily wear the same shirt until it fell apart on your back—if not for the smell. Which is why you'll be thrilled to hear about Est. 1887[Ag], a new line of luxury men's tops made from a blend of Supima cotton and pure silver, thus creating a T-shirt that is ultra-soft, germ-repellent, and—get this—virtually stink-proof. Since silver acts as a natural anti-microbial, the shirt's fabric kills off odor-causing bacteria and other cooties while regulating your body temperature, keeping you warm when it's cold and cool when it's hot. At approximately $129–209, one shirt is a considerable investment, but just think—you'll be wearing it all week.

A New Spin

CODA ACCESSORIES
58 Winter St.
617-695-2632

Once upon a time, a music shop called CD Spins in Downtown Crossing drew throngs of headphone-rocking customers. But when the rise of digital media outdated the business, the owner transformed the shop into something that, by nature, never goes out of style: an accessories store. Filled with jewelry, hats, belts and other baubles from around the world, newly opened CoDa aims to adorn you from head to toe with stylish finds like wood bead stretch belts ($39.95), Classico beaded earrings in white, aqua, green or red ($19.95) and capiz shell necklace sets ($34.95), all designed to instantly (and affordably) spruce up any outfit.

ASIAN STYLE

COCO
192 Harvard Avenue, Allston
617-782-1547

Allston Village shopping is traditionally more for thrifty co-eds than femme fashionistas, but with Coco, an adorable Asian clothing and cosmetics boutique on Harvard Ave., local girly-girls have a haven of their own. Aside from hard-to-find Korean beauty products, the shop sells a spectrum of garments in eclectic styles—from hip Ya jersey dresses ($49.50) and Salt & Pepper pleated skirts ($37) to hot Dolce & Gabbana leather vests ($129.90), making it a pretty little hidden gem in this hipster neighborhood.

TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTOS BY SARAH BOUWKAMP

by Scott Roberto

Re-disovering the Past

DONATELLO TO GIAMBOLOGNA
Museum of Fine Arts • *Through July 8*

Even if you're lucky, the most valuable thing you'll probably ever unearth in your basement is on old baseball card or antique vase. Well, in 2004 curators at the Museum of Fine Arts went digging around in its storerooms and discovered a genuine lost treasure that had been collecting dust for nearly five decades. To celebrate the restoration of this piece—a terracotta statue of John the Baptist that has been recently attributed to a Leonardo da Vinci collaborator—the MFA has assembled about 100 of its finest Italian Renaissance sculptures in one spectacular show. Not only does it feature many works that have rarely been displayed, but it also illuminates the restoration process involved in the preservation of these sometime delicate treasures, as well as the problems of authenticity that often arise. *Refer to listing, page 29.*

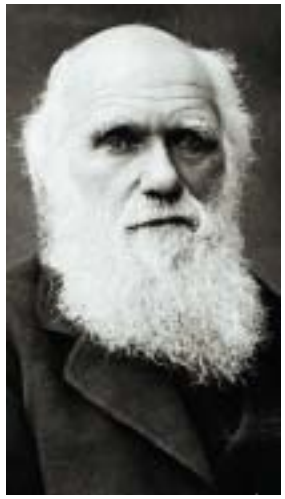
SPANNING THE CENTURIES

LUIGI ONTANI, *SALOMÉ-SALAMÉ*, 2002

SCULTURE & MEMORY: WORKS FROM THE GARDNER AND BY LUIGI ONTANI
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Through May 6

Back in her day, local art patron Isabella Stewart Gardner was a great benefactor of such contemporary artists as Anders Zorn and John Singer Sargent, as well as a collector of masterpieces from the past. Today, her namesake museum carries on that tradition with its artist-in-residence program. The museum's latest collaboration is with Italian artist Luigi Ontani, whose ceramic sculptures and photographs have been put on display alongside Mrs. Gardner's collection of 16th century European sculpture. These new and old works by Ontani are presented—much like Gardner's original placements of her sculptures—in a religious context, but with sly modern twists. *Refer to listing, page 28.*

Revival of the Fittest



DARWIN
Museum of Science
Through April 27

Many are familiar with the controversy surrounding the work of 19th century naturalist Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection. But fewer are probably as well-versed in the evolution of the man himself and his impact on the biological sciences. More than 20 years in the making, his groundbreaking 1859 book *The Origin of Species* led to a whole new understanding of life on this planet and how it might have developed. Consisting of personal documents, fossils, interactive displays and even live versions of some of the animals he studied on his landmark trip to South America aboard the *H.M.S. Beagle*, the new exhibit Darwin examines not only the progress of his studies, but of the man himself, as well as the debate over his theories that still rages to this day. *Refer to listing, page 29.*

TOP LEFT: ATTRIBUTED TO LUCA DELLA ROBBIA, *VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH LILIES*, 1399 OR 1400–1482

ALL THE WAY WITH JFK: I.M. Pei's JFK Presidential Library and Museum on Dorchester's Columbia Point is almost as iconic as the man it honors.

THE EXHIBITIONISTS

Panorama's guide to Boston's best museums
by Panorama staff

PHOTO BY ETHAN B. BACKER

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: Simply stated, the MFA is one of the most comprehensive arts museums in the world, and the crown jewel in Boston's museum community. The MFA first opened its doors in 1876 in Copley Square with a modest collection of approximately 5,600 works, moved to its current Huntington Ave. location in 1909, and today has built up a collection of more than 450,000 works in virtually every discipline from all over the world.

WHAT'S NEW?: The MFA always has a slew of temporary exhibits, but the newest development at the museum is an expansion project that will ultimately result in a new wing for the Art of the Americas, including four levels of galleries and a 150-seat auditorium, as well as a new glass courtyard facing the Fenway neighborhood.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: MFA Public Relations Representative Amelia Carignan offers a few suggestions to please fans of all disciplines and cultures: "For American art, highlights include John Singer Sargent's famed murals and our collection of paintings by John Singleton Copley. For Egyptian art, you'd want to make sure you saw King Menkaure and Queen, as well as the vibrantly decorated coffin of Nes-mut-Att-neru. And the MFA's French Impressionist paintings collection is world-renowned, including works by Monet, Cezanne, Gaughin, van Gogh and Pissaro." *—Erica Coray*

JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Columbia Point, 866-535-1960

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: Still Massachusetts' favorite son more than four decades after his untimely death, President John F. Kennedy's life, political career and societal and historical impact are chronicled within this I.M. Pei-designed library opened in 1979.

WHAT'S NEW?: In addition to the permanent collections dedicated to the Kennedy family legacy and JFK's presidency, the JFK Library features rotating temporary exhibits throughout the year. Currently, visitors can learn about the early life of the Kennedy family matriarch from **Rose Kennedy: In Her Own Words**; explore the Irish heritage JFK was so proud of, with a detailed look at his one visit to the Emerald Isle in **A Journey Home: JFK in Ireland**; and marvel at the diverse assortment of hand-crafted folk art sent to Kennedy from ordinary people all around the world in **Handmade and Heartfelt**.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: Unlike many of the historical figures from the distant past memorialized in museums, JFK had the advantage of being a public figure during the age of television and motion pictures. As such, the JFK Library is home to a great deal of archival video footage of this charismatic leader—press conferences, debates and classic speeches—that allow those who missed out on seeing Kennedy to still get a firsthand sense of what an exciting and passionate leader this young president was. *—Josh Wardrop*

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

280 The Fenway, 617-566-1401

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: It's a rare individual who can continue to influence the art scene in Boston 80 years after her death. But Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840–1924) was no ordinary woman. One of the last true art patrons, Gardner dedicated her life to the arts, purchasing foreign artwork during her travels, supporting the Boston Symphony Orchestra and befriending the leading artists of her time. The museum she established in 1903 displays her eclectic 4,000 piece art collection just as she arranged it—displaying masterpieces from separate cultures, eras and styles together, unlike other museums—and has remained virtually unchanged ever since.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: The vibrant indoor garden courtyard that sits at the center of the Gardner Museum is a beautiful sight in any season, and gives the museum a vibe that Curator of the Collection Alan Chong calls "much more personal and direct than larger institutions." Any art aficionado will want to make sure they catch the pieces by all-time masters like Michelangelo, Degas and Manet.

—Katie Veillette

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Science Park, 617-723-2500

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: Opened in 1951, the Museum of Science houses 700 interactive exhibits that cover every subject from space exploration to engineering, and the museum has always remained on the cutting edge of science and technology education. "We're situated right at the hub [between top hospitals and universities] of all the research activity and medical breakthroughs in Boston," says Carole McFall of the museum's media relations department. "This allows us to constantly host lectures and forums and showcase breakthrough technology, making us a real partner in the community."

WHAT NOT TO MISS: Just like the world of science itself, the possibilities are endless. Those fascinated by the natural world should check out the Butterfly Garden, an enclosure overlooking the Charles River that gets visitors up close with a variety of brilliantly colored specimens. Meanwhile, those seeking a larger-than-life experience should check out films like *Alaska: Spirit of the Wild* on the Mugar Omni Theatre's five-story-tall IMAX screen or gaze into outer space or enjoy a cosmic laser light show at the Hayden Planetarium. *—Arielle Altman*

DECORDOVA MUSEUM & SCULPTURE PARK

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: When art-loving Bostonians feel that the hustle and bustle of city life is too much to take, they have a

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW: Venerable institutions such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (top) and the Boston Athenaeum (middle) were recently joined on the Boston scene by the new Institute of Contemporary Art (bottom).

BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERTO

ready-made artistic oasis to escape to—the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, where the grounds on which the museum is situated perfectly complement the breath-taking abstract art inside. Located 15 miles west of the city in Lincoln, on the former estate of tea merchant/inventor Julian DeCordova, this art museum exhibits modern 20th and 21st-century art, with a special emphasis on New England artists.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: The 40,000 square foot gallery houses contemporary paintings and photography, but what truly sets DeCordova apart from other museums can be found outside—surrounding the castle-like building is New England's only Sculpture Park, where you can view 75 sculptures by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists (including Nina Levy's popular and striking oversized sculpture *Big Baby*) while strolling 35 acres of grassy woodlands. "It's a wonderful place to bring the family," says Corey Cronin, DeCordova's director of public relations. "Children love the Sculpture Park because it's a museum they can run around in." —*Arielle Altman*

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

46 Joy St., 617-725-0022

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: Not to be forgotten amidst Boston's overt celebration of its role as "the cradle of liberty" is Boston's rich African-American history. This museum celebrates the role Boston's heroic black community played in shaping the abolitionist movement of the 19th century, and includes The Abiel Smith School—the nation's oldest public school for black children which now contains galleries exhibiting significant African-American artifacts—and the adjacent African Meeting House, built in 1806, which is the nation's oldest standing black church structure.

WHAT'S NEW?: The newest exhibit **A Gathering Place for Freedom**—commemorating the Meeting House's bicentennial celebration—displays more than a hundred 19th-century African-American books, portraits, government documents and other artifacts that document and celebrate the astounding feats of the abolitionist movement's monumental figures.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: More than merely the sum of its historical artifacts, the Museum of African American History is most impressive simply for the history that happened on the premises. Visitors can stand in the spot where William Lloyd Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832, where Frederick Douglass' powerful voice spoke about abolition, and where Civil War Colonel Robert Gould Shaw recruited the North's first black regiment, immortalized in the feature film *Glory*. —*Katie Veillette*

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

100 Northern Ave., 617-478-3100

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: To be the first art museum built in Boston in close to a century, it's obvious you have to bring something new to the table. And that's always been precisely the mission of the Institute of Contemporary Art since it was founded in 1936 as the Boston Museum of Modern Art. Though humble in size and financial endowment, this upstart museum quickly built a reputation for identifying the most important new artists—exhibiting works from such visionaries as Georges Braque, Edvard Munch and Andy Warhol at the beginning of their careers—and was renamed the Institute of Contemporary Art in 1948. Housed in a small converted firehouse in the Back Bay for decades, the ICA moved into a new state-of-the-art 65,000-square-foot building in the emerging Seaport District in December.

WHAT'S NEW?: What isn't? The new ICA features galleries with movable walls, adjustable skylights, and 15 1/2 ft. ceilings, showcasing all types of media from paintings and drawings to animation, video, and sculpture, as well as a 325-seat theater, which has already hosted cutting-edge dance performances and spoken-word presentations by punk poet Patti Smith and choreographer Mark Morris.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: For the first time in its history, the ICA has space for a permanent collection, featuring artists envisioned to be among the next generation's defining talents. Among the collection of over two dozen works are pieces of "street" photography of Philip-Lorca diCorcia and thought-provoking video installations by Christian Jankowski. —*Erica Coray*

BOSTON ATHENAEUM

10½ Beacon St., 617-227-0270

WHAT'S THE DEAL?: The Boston Athenaeum doesn't draw nearly the crowds that bigger museums throughout the city do—which is as should be, frankly, for the Athenaeum is not only a library (shhhh!), but a membership library. Since 1807, men and women of letters have paid a yearly membership fee to have access to take out books from this startlingly diverse library, and to make use of the top four levels for private reading, reflection and writing. However, the bottom floor is always open to the public, and that's where a smattering of one-of-a-kind items from all over the world can be found and enjoyed.

WHAT'S NEW?: This year, the Athenaeum celebrates its bicentennial, and it's rolled out a new "best-of" exhibit titled **Acquired Tastes: 200 Years of Collecting for the Boston Athenaeum**. It's the largest exhibit the library has mounted in the past 150 years, and includes samplings of every facet of the Athenaeum's collections—from maps and manuscripts to paintings, sculpture and rare books.

WHAT NOT TO MISS: Since the Athenaeum's collections are so diverse, it's hard to pick one or two unifying attractions, but Acquired Tastes does include books straight from the personal library of the Father of our Country, George Washington, as well as *Los Caprichos*, an engraving by legendary artist Francisco Jose de Goya. Additionally, fans of American art will be intrigued by the sketchbook from 1863 containing work by the great Winslow Homer. —*Josh Wardrop* Ⓟ

For special exhibits and events, refer to Museums listings, pages 28–30

ANIMAL ATTRACTION

While they may not technically qualify as museums, there are a pair of institutions in Boston that belong on this list—even though they're dedicated to the exhibition not of ancient artifacts but vibrant living things. The **New England Aquarium** (*refer to listing, page 46*) has been a thriving tourist attraction and educational cornerstone for Boston's youth since 1969, home to a dizzying array of tropical fish, penguins, turtles, sharks, harbor seals, sea lions and other aquatic creatures. Visitors are enthralled by the Giant Ocean Tank that stands at the Aquarium's core, educated by the Aquarium's regular whale watches (which take visitors out to Stellwagen Bank to see nature's largest mammals in their natural habitat), and blown away by films shown larger-than-life at the Simons IMAX Theatre, the only 3D theater in Boston.

Meanwhile, the **Franklin Park Zoo** (*refer to listing, page 46*) is the Hub's top spot to see those marvelous mammals, birds and reptiles that live on the land. Founded in 1913, the zoo sits in the center of picturesque Franklin Park, and houses (on its 72 acres) everything from tigers and zebras, to ostriches, wallabies and kangaroos, to a family of Masai giraffes (Beau, Jana and their calf, Autumn), all under the auspices of Franklin Park's resident King of the Jungle, Christopher the Lion (pictured above). New at the zoo is an expanded exhibit area for Franklin Park's collection of western lowland gorillas, which allows visitors to get right up close to these amazing creatures. Combining a message of conservation with an opportunity to marvel at our amazing animal brethren, Franklin Park Zoo is so much fun your little ones won't even realize they're learning while they're laughing. —*Josh Wardrop*

thehubdirectory

OUR GUIDE TO WHAT TO DO, SEE, BUY AND EAT IN BOSTON

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GOING PUBLIC:
In snow or sun, the Boston Public Garden is one of the city's most beautiful spots year-round. *Refer to listing, page 43.*

PHOTO BY JESUS VALLINAS

COMPAÑÍA NACIONAL DE DANZA 2: Choreographer Nacho Duato brings his Spanish dance troupe to the Shubert Theatre March 1 & 2. **Refer to listing, page 22.**

CLASSICAL

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., 617-266-1200. *Tickets: $29–111.* Renowned throughout the world for its distinctive sound, impressive range and virtuosity, the Boston Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 125th year in a season that brings fresh perspectives to a well-known repertoire while offering insights into the future of classical music. ***Feb 27** at 8 p.m.*—Guest conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste and guest cellist Anssi Karttunen join the BSO for a performance of pieces by Debussy and Sibelius, as well as the world premiere of a new work for cello and orchestra by Kaija Saariaho, a commissioned piece for the BSO's 125th anniversary; ***Mar 2** at 1:30 p.m., **Mar 3 & 6** at 8 p.m.*—The BSO, conducted by Ingo Metzmacher, performs pieces by Bartok and Bruchner; ***Mar 8 & 10** at 8 p.m., **Mar 9** at 1:30 p.m.*—The BSO, accompanied by guest conductor Charles Dutoit and pianist Martha Argerich, performs pieces by Rimsky-Korsakov, Stravinsky and Beethoven.

CANTATA SINGERS, Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge, 617-868-5885. ***Mar 4** at 7 p.m. Tickets: $15.* The Cantata Singers continue their 2006–2007 concert series with One Man, Two Minds, a program of compositions and writings by Paul Bowles, Ivor Gurney, Virgil Thompson and Ned Rorem.

EMMANUEL MUSIC, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., 617-536-3356. *Admission: free will offering for weekly cantatas.* ***Mar 4** at 10 a.m.*—Conductor Craig Smith leads the Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music in the Weekly Cantata, Bach's *BWV 27;* ***Mar 4 & 11** at 4 p.m.*—Emmanuel Music presents the latest concerts in the Schumann Chamber Series, *tickets: $10–55;* ***Mar 11** at 10 a.m.*—Bach's *BWV 95.*

GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA OF LEIPZIG, Bank of America Celebrity Series, Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., 617-482-2595. ***Feb 28** at 8 p.m. Tickets: $38–78.* The acclaimed German orchestra, conducted by Riccardo Chailly, is joined by pianist Yundi Li for a concert of works by Strauss and Liszt.

COMEDY

ARDAL O'HANLON, The Burren, 247 Elm St, Davis Square, 617-776-6896. ***Mar 8–11** at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $25–30.* The award-winning Irish actor and comedian, best known for his role as Father Dougal McGuire on Britain's comedy series "Father Ted," comes to Somerville for four nights of stand-up presented by Off the Boat Comedy.

ARTIE LANGE, Symphony Hall, 301 Mssachusetts Ave., 617-266-1492. ***Mar 9** at 8 p.m. Tickets: $45–65.* The acclaimed comedian who has appeared on "MAD TV," The Howard Stern Show and in feature films like *The Bachelor* and *Elf,* performs his stand-up act.

THE COMEDY CONNECTION, Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-248-9700. *Cover and times may vary. Call for full schedule.* Named "The Best Comedy Club in the Country" (*USA Today*), this venue has featured national and local stand-up acts such as Chris Rock, Dane Cook and Dave Chappelle. *Tickets: $15–30.* ***Feb 26 & Mar 5** at 8 p.m.*—Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox; ***Feb 27 & Mar 6** at 8 p.m.*—Paul Nardizzi; ***Feb 28** at 8 p.m., **Mar 11** at 7 p.m.*—Frank Santorelli; ***Mar 1** at 8:30 p.m.*—Frank Santos "The R-Rated Hypnotist"; ***Mar 2 & 3** at 8 and 10:15 p.m.*—Dom Irrera; ***Mar 4** at 7 p.m.*—Jim Dunn; ***Mar 7** at 8 p.m.*—Mike Donovan; ***Mar 9** at 8 p.m., **Mar 10** at 8:15 and 10:30 p.m.*—Greg Giraldo; ***Mar 9** at 10:30 p.m.*—John Valby; ***Mar 10** at 6 p.m.*—Steve Sweeney.

THE COMEDY STUDIO AT THE HONG KONG, 1236 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-661-6507. *Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; shows begin at 8 p.m. Call for complete schedule. Cover: $8–10.* A place where fresh talent is discovered and headliners experiment. ***Feb 27***—Magic Lounge!; ***Feb 28***—Jim Blumenfield, Mike Del Ilano, Ellen Moschetto and others; ***Mar 1***—Maria Ciampa, Bob Hagearty, Dot Dwyer and others; ***Mar 2***—Mandy Bardsley, Maggie MacDonald, David Powell and others; ***Mar 3***—Renata Tutko, Neil Padover, Shaun Begood and others; ***Mar 4 & 11***—Erin Judge and guests; ***Mar 6***—The John Stetson Show!; ***Mar 7***—Janet Cormier, John Lincoln, Nate Johnson and others; ***Mar 8***—Paul Keenan, Drew Spangler, Matt Arthur and others; ***Mar 9***—Tom Caswell, Sean Sullivan, Taylor Connelly and others; ***Mar 10***—Taylor Connelly, Sean Sullivan, Alvin David and Maggie MacDonald.

DICK DOHERTY'S COMEDY VAULT, 124 Boylston St, 617-574-9676. *Shows Thu–Sun at 9 p.m. Tickets: $10–15.* Located in the downstairs portion of Remington's bar and restaurant, this comedy studio boasts open mic night every Sunday. ***Mar 9***—Dick Doherty; ***Mar 9 & 10***—Steve Donovan.

IMPROV ASYLUM, 216 Hanover St., 617-263-6887. *Wed & Thu at 8 p.m., Fri & Sat at 8 and 10 p.m. Tickets: $15–20, dinner packages available.* ***Feb 28 & Mar 7***—Improv Asylum's National Touring Company; ***Mar 1–3 & 8–10***—New Kids on the Blog; ***Mar 3 & 10***—Midnight Show.

IMPROVBOSTON, Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-576-1253. *Cover: $5–15.* This comedy troupe features sketch comedy, games, original music and audience participation.

Feb 28 & Mar 7 *at 8 p.m.*—The Hump; ***Mar 7*** *at 10 p.m.*—Naked Comedy Showcase; ***Mar 1 & 8*** *at 8 p.m.*—Comedy Thursday; *at 10 p.m.*—The Great and Secret Comedy Show; ***Mar 2 & 9*** *at 10 p.m.*—TheatreSports; ***Mar 3 & 10*** *at 6 p.m.*—Family Show; *at 8 and 10 p.m.*—Mainstage; ***Mar 4 & 11*** *at 7 p.m.*—Sgt. Culpepper's Comedy Jamboree; ***Mar 7*** *at 10 p.m.*—Naked Comedy Showcase.

JIMMY TINGLE'S OFF BROADWAY, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville, 617-591-1616. *Cover: $25–30. Call for reservations and complete schedule.* Founded by actor/comic/writer Jimmy Tingle, this venue features established and aspiring performers. ***Mar 2 & 3*** *at 7:30 p.m.*—Working the Room: An Evening with Jonathan Katz and Friends.

NICK'S COMEDY STOP, 100 Warrenton St., 617-423-2900. *Fri & Sat at 8:30 p.m. Cover: $20.* Nick's is the city's longest-running comedy club. ***Mar 2 & 3***—Mark Riley, Eric Tynan and Danny Kelly; ***Mar 9 & 10***—Spike Tobin, Charlie Daly and Danny Kelly.

CONVENTIONS & EXPOS

BAYSIDE EXPO CENTER, 200 Mount Vernon St., 617-474-6000. ***Mar 2*** *from 1–8 p.m.,* ***Mar 3*** *from 10 a.m.–7 p.m.,* ***Mar 4*** *from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.*—National Golf Expo, *tickets: $10, seniors $9, children (12 and under) free;* ***Mar 10 & 11*** *from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.*—American Baby Faire, *tickets: $8.*

BOSTON CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTER, 415 Summer St., 617-954-2000. ***Beginning Mar 11*** *from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.*—The International Boston Seafood Show, *tickets: $30–450.*

SEAPORT WORLD TRADE CENTER, 200 Seaport Blvd., 617-385-4212. ***Through Mar 4***—New England Home Show, shop for new housewares and get new ideas for the home and garden, *tickets: $11.*

DANCE

COMPANIA NACIONAL DE DANZA 2, Bank of America Celebrity Series, The Citi Shubert Theater, 617-482-2595. ***Mar 1*** *at 7:30 p.m.,* ***Mar 2*** *at 8 p.m. Tickets $42–60.* Artistic Director Nacho Duato leads his young Spanish dance troupe in a performance of a trio of modern ballet pieces in their Boston debut.

NEW VISIONS, Boston Ballet, The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., 800-447-7400. ***Mar 1*** *at 7 p.m.,* ***Mar 2*** *at 8 p.m.,* ***Mar 3*** *at 2 and 8 p.m.,* ***Mar 4*** *at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets $45–105.* This repertory program features choreographer Jorma Elo's much-anticipated new work for the company, as well as Christopher Wheeldon's award-winning *Polyphonia* and Val Caniparoli's exhilarating *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion*, a technically challenging ballet driven by Béla Bartók's powerful score created for Boston Ballet in 2004.

FILM

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE, 290 Harvard Ave., Brookline, 617-734-2500. *Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: $9.50; members, seniors & children $6.50.* This independent movie house screens recent indie films, as well as the classics. Now showing: *Notes on a Scandal, Shortbus, Jonestown.* Special events: ***Mar 2–8***—Chlotrudis Short Films; ***Mar 2, 3, 9 &10*** *at midnight* and ***Mar 5*** *at 7 p.m.*—*El Topo;* ***Mar 11*** *at 11 a.m.*—*Carmen Jones.*

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge, 617-495-4700. *Call for showtimes, complete schedule and ticket prices.* With more than 300 films shown per year, HFA is one of the most active art cinemas in New England. Now showing: ***Feb 26*** *at 7 p.m.*—*Thin;* ***Feb 27*** *at 7 p.m.*—*The Passion of Joan of Arc; at 9 p.m.*—*Under the Bridges;* ***Feb 28*** *at 7 p.m.*—*Panic in the Streets; at 9 p.m.*—*Pickup on South Street.*

MUGAR OMNI THEATER, Museum of Science, 617-723-2500 or 617-333-FILM. *Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: $9; seniors $8; children (3–11) $7. Discounted admission for showtimes after 6 p.m.* This IMAX theater presents larger-than-life images on a five-story high domed screen. Now showing: *Alaska: Spirit of the Wild; Hurricane on the Bayou.*

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300. *Screenings Thu–Sun, call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: $6–9.* The Museum of Fine Arts' Film Program has grown to become one of the nation's finest exhibitors of contemporary international cinema, restored classics and premieres of American independent films. Now showing: ***Feb 27*** *at 7 p.m.*—*In Treatment;* ***Feb 28*** *at 6 p.m.*—*51 Birch Street, at 8:30 p.m.*—Mirrorball #4/Global Selections; ***Mar 1*** *at 2:30 p.m.*—Das Alphorn, *at 4 p.m.*—*Namibia Crossing, at 6 p.m.*—*Eden, at 8 p.m.*—*Sophiiiie!;* ***Mar 3*** *at 11:30 a.m.*—*Eden, at 1:30 p.m.*—Mirrorball #3/Made in Japan; ***Mar 4*** *at 7 p.m.*—Friends of Film Sneak Preview: *The Namesake;* ***Mar 7*** *at 6:20 p.m.*—*Trouville Beach, at 8 p.m.*—*Close to Home;* ***Mar 8*** *at 2:30 p.m.*—*My African Family, at 8 p.m.*—*China Blue;* ***Mar 10*** *at 4 p.m.*—*Beauty and the Beast.*

SIMONS IMAX THEATER, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, 617-973-5200. *Sun–Wed 9:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Thu–Sat 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: $9.95; seniors & children (3–11) $7.95.* The Simons is the first large-format theater in Boston to have 3D viewing capability. Now Showing: *Deep Sea 3D; Sharks 3D; Lions 3D.*

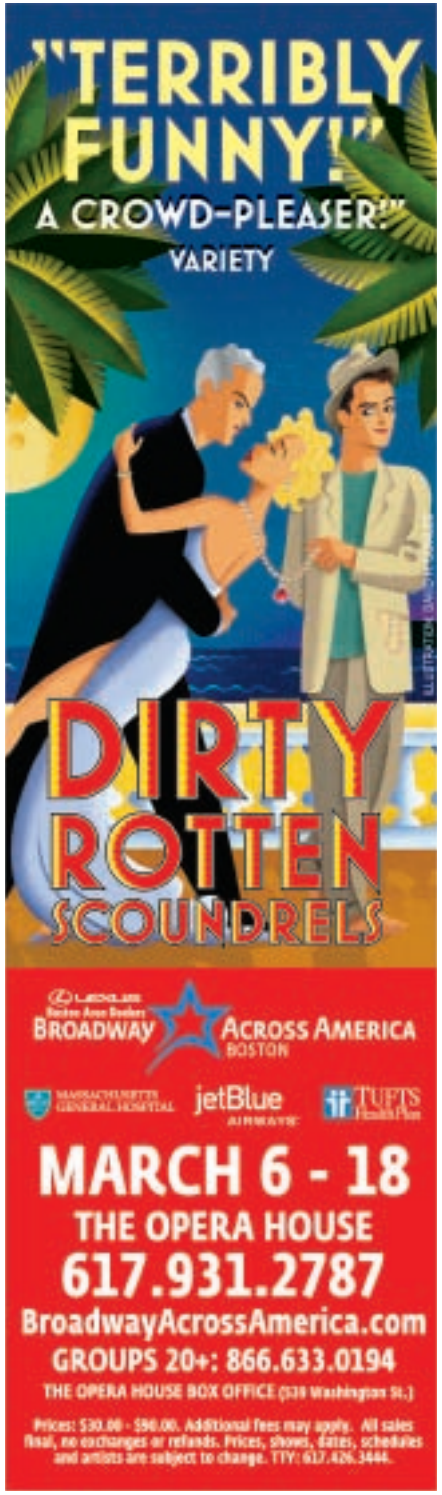
KIDS CORNER

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, 617-879-2300. ***Mar 2*** *at 7:30 p.m.,* ***Mar 3 & 4*** *at 3 p.m. Tickets: $15–23.* Angela Williams stars as Belle in this performance of a classic Disney musical about a small-town girl who finds love and adventure in an unexpected place.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 700 Boylston St., Copley Square, 617-536-5400. *Refer to listing in Sightseeing.* The first publicly supported municipal library in the world hosts many activities and special programs for children, including live performances, storytelling, interactive computer activities and films. ***Mar 3*** *at 10:15 a.m.*—Kid's Cinema; ***Mar 7*** *at 2:30 p.m.*—Reading Readiness.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATER, 290 Harvard Ave., Brookline, 617-735-2501. Presents live events and screens films just for kids. ***Mar 10 & 11*** *at 10:30 a.m.*—*Babe.*

PUPPET SHOWPLACE THEATRE, 32 Station St., Brookline, 617-731-6400. *Tickets: $9.50.* The first puppetry center in New England presents the magical world of puppet theater, enlightening audiences of all ages. Weekday morning shows are appropri-



ate for ages 3–6. Weekend matinee shows are appropriate for ages 4–9. ***Feb 28 & Mar 1*** *at 10:30 a.m.—Fox Tales;* ***Mar 3 & 4*** *at 1 and 3 p.m.—Leopard Learns a Lesson;* ***Mar 7 & 8*** *at 10:30 a.m.—Here Come the Clowns;* ***Mar 10 & 11*** *at 1 and 3 p.m.—Aesop's Fables.*

LIVE MUSIC

AVALON, 15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424. This popular nightclub hosts rock and pop music acts prior to evening dance nights with DJs. ***Mar 2*** *at 7 p.m.*—TV on the Radio, *tickets: $16;* ***Mar 3*** *at 7 p.m.*—Jonny Lang with Reeve Carney, *tickets: $25;* ***Mar 6*** *at 8 p.m.*—Gomez with Ben Kweller, *tickets: $25;* ***Mar 7*** *at 8 p.m.*—Sister Hazel with The Pat McGee Band, *tickets: $16.50;* ***Mar 9 & 10*** *at 7 p.m.*—The Pogues, *tickets: $53;* ***Mar 11*** *at 6:30 p.m.*—Of Montreal with Grand Buffet and Loney, Dear, *tickets: $16.50.*

AXIS, 13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437. *Call for full schedule.* This popular nightclub hosts rock, punk and alternative music acts prior to evening dance nights with DJs. ***Mar 3*** *at 6 p.m.*—Pepper with Mad Caddies, The Supervillains and Splinta, *tickets: $16.50;* ***Mar 11*** *at 7 p.m.*—Mute Math with The Cinematics and Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin, *tickets: $15.*

BERKLEE PERFORMANCE CENTER, 136 Mass. Ave., 617-747-2261. ***Mar 1*** *at 8 p.m.*—Singer-songwriter Keller Williams, *tickets: $25.50;* ***Mar 10*** *at 8 p.m.*—Cabaret performer Ute Lemper, *tickets: $28–37 (call 617-876-4275).*

CITIWANG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 270 Tremont St., 800-447-7400. The popular and luxurious theater hosts touring stage musicals and dramas, as well as dance, popular and classical music performances. ***Mar 9 & 10*** *at 8 p.m.*—Celtic Woman, *tickets: $40–75.*

CLUB PASSIM, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge, 617-492-7679. *Call for full schedule.* This intimate Harvard Square coffeehouse was a starting place for folk icons like Joan Baez and Bob Dylan. ***Mar 3*** *at 8 p.m.*—Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, *tickets: $20;* ***Mar 4*** *at 7:30 p.m.*—Kevin So, *tickets: $15;* ***Mar 7 & 8*** *at 8 p.m.*—Utah Phillips, *tickets: $25;* ***Mar 10 & 11*** *at 8 p.m.*—David Wilcox, *tickets: $50.*

HARPERS FERRY, 156 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-9743. *Shows start at 8 p.m. Call for complete schedule.* This club offers live music daily and is renowned for showcasing local classic rock and rhythm'n' blues cover bands. ***Mar 2***—Lifted, *tickets: $5;* ***Mar 3 & 4***—JT Grey and Mofro with Virginia Coalition, *tickets: $17;* ***Mar 6***—Chillset, *tickets: $5;* ***Mar 10***—The Mudhens, *tickets: $10.*

THE MIDDLE EAST, 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-864-EAST. *Doors open at 8 p.m., shows start at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Call for complete schedule.* Whether Upstairs, Downstairs or in the Corner, this club showcases the best in alternative/indie rock bands. ***Feb 27***—The Clipse with Low B, *tickets: $22;* ***Feb 28***—The Ataris with Asobi Seksu and Wax On Radio, *tickets: $15;* ***Mar 10***—Clinic, *tickets: $15.*

OPERA HOUSE, 539 Washington St., 617-259-3400. This magnificent venue for opera and musical theater also hosts pop and rock concerts. ***Mar 4*** *at 7 p.m.*—B.B. King, *tickets: $45–75.*

PARADISE ROCK CLUB, 967 Commonwealth Ave., 617-562-8800. An intimate setting with a big sound, Paradise is one of Boston's favorite rock clubs. *All shows 18+ unless otherwise noted.* ***Feb 26*** *at 8 p.m.*—Sparklehorse with Jesse Sykes and The Sweet Hereafter, *tickets: $18;* ***Feb 27*** *at 8 p.m.*—The Lemonheads with Vietnam, *tickets: $20;* ***Feb 28*** *at 8 p.m.*—4Peace, *tickets: $15;* ***Mar 2*** *at 9 p.m.*—Lotus, *tickets: $12;* ***Mar 3*** *at 9 p.m.*—Addison Groove Project, *tickets: $15;* ***Mar 9*** *at 9 p.m.*—Rhett Miller with Todd Thibaud, *tickets: $15;* ***Mar 10*** *at 9 p.m.*—Mr. Lif, *tickets: $18.*

REGATTABAR, third floor of The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5099. ***Feb 28*** *at 7:30 p.m.*—Stanton Moore with Oteil and The Peacemakers, *tickets: $20;* ***Mar 2*** *at 7:30 and 10 p.m.*—Los Amigos Invisibles, *tickets: $20;* ***Mar 3*** *at 7:30 and 10 p.m.*—Marc Cohn, *tickets: $38;* ***Mar 6*** *at 7:30 p.m.*—California Guitar Trio, *tickets: $20;* ***Mar 7*** *at 7:30 p.m.*—Laszlo Gardony Trio, *tickets: $14;* ***Mar 8*** *at 7:30 and 10 p.m.*—Jimmy Scott, *tickets: $28;* ***Mar 9 & 10*** *at 7:30 and 10 p.m.*—Nancy Griffith, *tickets: $35.*

SCULLERS JAZZ CLUB, DoubleTree Guest Suites Hotel, 400 Soldiers Field Road, 617-562-4111. *Showtimes: Tue–Thu at 8 and 10 p.m., Fri & Sat at 8 and 10:30 p.m., Sun at 7 and 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Combination tickets include dinner and show.* ***Feb 28***—BX3, *tickets: $22, $62 with dinner;* ***Mar 1***—Larry Watson, *tickets: $18, $58 with dinner;* ***Mar 2 & 3***—Spyro Gyra, *tickets: $40, $80 with dinner;* ***Mar 6***—Marc Cary, *tickets: $18, $58 with dinner;* ***Mar 7 & 8***—Christian McBride, *tickets: $20, $60 with dinner;* ***Mar 9 & 10***—Jerry Butler, *tickets: $40, $80 with dinner.*

SOMERVILLE THEATRE, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, 617-625-5700. ***Feb 28*** *at 8 p.m.*—Bright Eyes, *tickets: $25;* ***Mar 3*** *at 8 p.m.*—Eddie from Ohio, *tickets: $23.50 & 25.50;* ***Mar 5*** *at 7:30 p.m.*—Badly Drawn Boy, *tickets: $21;* ***Mar 10*** *at 8 p.m.*—English folk artists Waterson/Carthy, *tickets: $28 (call 617-876-4275).*

TD BANKNORTH GARDEN, 100 Legends Way (Causeway Street), 617-624-1000. The former FleetCenter not only hosts Celtics and Bruins home games, but is the premier indoor concert arena for the city of Boston. ***Mar 2*** *at 8 p.m.*—Josh Groban, *tickets: $42.50–92.50.*

TOP OF THE HUB, Prudential Tower, 52nd floor, 617-536-1775. Enjoy food, drink and the best view in Boston as you swing to live jazz and classics from the Great American Songbook. ***Feb 26*** *at 8 p.m.*—Marty Ballou Trio; ***Feb 27 & 28, Mar 1*** *at 8:30 p.m.*—The Chris Taylor Trio; ***Mar 2 & 3*** *at 9 p.m.*—The Chris Taylor Group; ***Mar 4 & 11*** *at noon*—Lee Childs Group.

T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE, 10 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-492-BEAR. *Shows start at 8:30 p.m. Call for complete schedule. Cover: $8–14.* ***Mar 2***—The Essex Green, The Specific Heats, Jeffrey Simmons and Left Hand Does; ***Mar 6***—Red Invasion, Caged Heat and The Esperantos; ***Mar 7***—Minky Starshine, The Broken West and Lorntell; ***Mar 8***—Red Sparowes and William Elliott Whitmore.

OPERA

CARMEN, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. ***Mar 3*** *at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $30–85.* Considered to be Georges Bizet's greatest work, this passionate opera is set in 19th century Spain, where an amorous passion for the gypsy Carmen upsets the dutiful soldier Don Jose. When Carmen's love of independence comes into conflict with his possessiveness, Don Jose acts like a true soldier and kills the disruptive element in his life.

LA BOHEME, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. ***Mar 2*** *at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $30–85.* Puccini's love story of young Parisian artists has become North America's most-produced opera. The tender yet tragic drama is appealing to a wide range of music lovers for its timeless story of young people struggling to follow their dreams, to become artists and to fall in love.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. ***Mar 4*** *at 3 p.m. Tickets $30–85.* In this tragic story of innocence betrayed, an abandoned young woman prays for her lover's return. Starring Olga Cherniheva and set in 19th century Japan, this Puccini masterpiece is highlighted by the memorable characters B.F. Pinkerton, the callous American officer, and Cio-Cio-San, the vulnerable Japanese heroine who he marries and leaves.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BOSTON MASSACRE COMMEMORATION EVENTS, Old State House, 206 Washington St., 617-720-1713. *Free and open to the public.* ***Mar 3*** *at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.*—Rangers from the Adams National Historical Site re-enact the Boston Massacre with young visitors; ***Mar 3*** *at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.*—Trial of the Century, watch patriot lawyers John Adams and Josiah Quincy defend the British soldiers accused of murdering Bostonians while Samuel Quincy prosecutes inside the historic Old State House; ***Mar 5*** *at 8 p.m.*—Boston Massacre Re-enactment by the Massachusetts Council of Minutemen and Militia outside the Old State House.

BOSTON WINE FESTIVAL, Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, 888-660-WINE. *Call for ticket prices and full event schedule or visit www.bostonwinefestival.net.* This annual event brings together some of the finest wines in the world for special theme nights devoted to individual styles and vineyards, paired with delectable cuisine by Chef Robert Bruce. ***Mar 1*** *at 7 p.m.*—Martin Ray Vineyards, *tickets: $145;* ***Mar 7*** *at 7 p.m.*—Neal Family Vineyards, *tickets: $145;* ***Mar 9*** *at 7 p.m.*—California Cabernet Reception, *tickets: $100.*

BOSTON WINTER RESTAURANT WEEK, Various locations in Boston and Cambridge. *For a complete list of participating restaurants, menus and hours, visit www.restaurantweekboston.com.* ***Mar 4–9.*** Sample the best dining in Boston for the best prices when nearly 100 top restaurants offer three-course prix fixe lunches for $20.07 and dinners for $30.07. Choose from hot new spots like Om, Miel and Pops, established faves like Olives and Icarus and many more.

GREAT CHEFS COOKING FOR A CURE 2007, 125 High St., 617-632-3021. ***Mar 8*** *from 6:30–9 p.m. Tickets: $90.* Top chefs from throughout Boston unite for this ninth annual fundraiser for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Patrons can enjoy signature nibbles from popular area restaurants includng Copia, Davio's, Great Bay, Olives, Prezza, Icarus and many others, as well as a delicious selection of wine and beer.

SPORTS

BOSTON BRUINS — **NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**
TD Banknorth Garden, 100 Legends Way, 617-624-1000

Feb 26 *at 7 p.m.*	vs. Atlanta Thrashers
Mar 1 *at 7 p.m.*	vs. Philadelphia Flyers
Mar 3 *at 7 p.m.*	vs. Montreal Canadiens

***Mar 6** at 7 p.m.* vs. Colorado Avalanche
***Mar 8** at 7 p.m.* vs. Minnesota Wild

BOSTON CELTICS NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
TD Banknorth Garden, 100 Legends Way, 617-523-3030
***Feb 28** at 7:30 p.m.* vs. New York Knicks
***Mar 4** at 12:30 p.m.* vs. Minnesota Timberwolves
***Mar 7** at 7:30 p.m.* vs. Houston Rockets
***Mar 9** at 7:30 p.m.* vs. Seattle Supersonics
***Mar 11** at 3:30 p.m.* vs. Chicago Bulls

THEATER

ALMOST, MAINE, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Studio Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. *Performances **through Mar 10**: Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: $42–46, $37–41 seniors.* Through a series of vignettes that hilariously capture the joys and perils of romance, we meet the residents of the small, mythical town of Almost, Maine, a village in the far northern part of the Pine Tree State where folks seem to be falling in and out of love at an alarming rate.

BLUE MAN GROUP, Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., 617-931-2787 or 617-426-6912. *Performances: Wed & Thu at 8 p.m., Fri at 7 p.m., Sat at 4, 7 and 10 p.m., Sun at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets: $48–58.* This giddily subversive off-Broadway hit features three muted, blue-painted performers who spoof both contemporary art and modern technology through wry commentary and bemusing antics. The show has been updated to include new performance pieces, new music and alterations to the sound and lighting design.

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS, The Opera House, 539 Washington St., 617-931-2787. *Performances **Mar 6–11**: Tue & Thu at 7:30 p.m., Wed at 7 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $27.50–82.50.* The con is on in this deliciously devilish comedy based on the hit film about a pair of swindlers who take on the luxurious lifestyle of the rich and unscrupulous, and find themselves in way over their heads. Featuring the music of David Yazbek and choreography by Jerry Mitchell, this is a side-splitting tale of chicanery and deceit.

HEAVEN AND HELL, The Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., 617-912-9222. *Performances **beginning Mar 7**: Wed–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: $14–16.* A modern take on the seven deadly sins, this world premiere performance musical, directed and conceived for the stage by Jason Slavick, is based on Joe Jackson's concept album of the same title.

KING OF THE JEWS, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Lane-Comley Studio 210 at Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., 866-811-4111. *Performances **through Mar 10**: Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 7 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets $30–40.* Adapted from his darkly comic novel of the same name, award-winning novelist and short story writer Leslie Epstein examines the role that some European Jews played as members of the Judenrat, a governing council of elders which controlled the Jewish population in the ghetto compounds in Poland.

LEGENDS!, The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., 800-447-7400. *Performances **Mar 6–11**: Tue, Wed & Fri at 7:30 p.m., Thu, Sat & Sun at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $39.50–69.50.* This comedy by Tony Award-winning author James Kirkwood (*A Chorus Line*) stars former "Dynasty" legends Joan Collins and Linda Evans as desperate and waning movie stars who are both courted by an unscrupulous young producer to star together in a Broadway show, despite the fact that they have hated each other for decades.

***SOUVENIR*: Local favorite Leigh Barrett (above) stars in the Lyric Stage Company's production of the story of rich eccentric Florence Foster Jenkins, who put on fanciful, sold-out shows to 1930s New York society despite her lack of vocal talent. Refer to listing, page 27.**

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Boston Theatre Works, Plaza Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., 617-728-4321. *Performances **through Mar 3**: Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: $30–35, seniors $27–32, students $22.* Shakespeare's lyrical romantic comedy follows lovers Hermia and Lysander, who defy father and king to elope. Meanwhile, Bottom the Weaver, and his troupe of actors, venture into the woods to rehearse a play. But once inside the charmed realm of warring Queen Titania and King Oberon, fantasy and reality reverse with the aid of Oberon's roguish sprite, Puck.

OLIVER TWIST, American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. *Performances Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $38–76.* Neil Bartlett's musical staging of Dickens' classic makes its U.S. premiere, using the original language of the novel to dramatize one of the most deeply felt stories about childhood ever written. A cast of unforgettable characters brings the underworld of 19th-century London back to thrilling life, all as seen through the eyes of an astonished child.

ORSON'S SHADOW, New Repertory Theatre, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 200 Dexter Ave., Watertown, 866-811-4111. *Performances: Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 3:30 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets $30–55.* In 1960, film director Orson Welles travels to London to direct a production of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* starring Laurence Olivier and his latest flame, Joan Plowright. Their romance is complicated, though, by a visit from Olivier's eccentric wife, Vivien Leigh. New Rep regular Austin Pendleton penned this off-Broadway hit comedy that is making its Boston premiere.

RESPECT: A MUSICAL JOURNEY, Stuart Street Playhouse, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., 800-447-7400. *Performances: Wed–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: $45; seniors $40.50.* This is the journey of women as told through Top 40 music—from the co-dependence of "I Will Follow Him," to the anger of "These Boots Are Made For Walking," to the cynicism of "What's Love Got to Do With It," and finally to the strength of "Hero." See the progress of women from property of their husbands to presidents of countries in this empowering and dramatic musical event.

SHEAR MADNESS, Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton St., 617-426-5225. *Performances: Tue–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., and Sun at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $34–50.* Boston's hilarious whodunnit where the audience takes a stab at catching the killer. Become an armchair sleuth in the longest-running play in U.S. history.

SIX ROUNDS/SIX LESSONS, Company One, Plaza Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. *Performances **beginning Mar 9**: Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 7 p.m. Tickets: $30.* This world premiere from local playwright John ADEkoje (*Love Jones*) is a no-holds-barred exploration of truth, mortality and fatherhood. Taking place entirely in a metaphysical boxing rink, the play tells the story of Ace, a strong black male who seeks redemption and understanding.

SOUVENIR: A FANTASIA ON THE LIFE OF FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS, Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., 617-437-7172. *Performances: Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: $23–48.* Real-life eccentric heiress Florence Foster Jenkins fancied herself a coloratura soprano—but the exact opposite was true. Despite being called "majestically awful," her concerts in the 1930s and '40s were not only sold-out but were attended by the top tier of Manhattan society. This is a hilarious portrait of a passionate music lover who believed that "what matters most is the music you hear in your head."

WELL, Huntington Theatre Company, Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., 617-266-0800. *Performances **beginning Mar 9**: Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: $15–70.* All Lisa Kron wants to do is put on a play about her family and their issues of illness and wellness, but her hypochondriac mother keeps interrupting, telling her own versions of Lisa's carefully constructed medical memories, and causing chaos with the cast. Playwright Lisa Kron (*2.5-Minute Ride, Oedipus at Palm Springs*) recreates her Tony-nominated role in this production.

TICKETS

BOSTIX, Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Copley Square, 617-723-5181. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Faneuil Hall location closed Mon); Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.* Information and tickets, including half-price seats on day of event, for the best performing arts around Boston. Subject to availability.

GO BOSTON CARD, Available at Bostix locations at Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Copley Square and at the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common, 617-742-5950. *Cards can be purchased in one, two, three, five and seven day increments, and range from $45–135 for adults, $25–65 for children.* The GO Boston card offers unlimited free admission to more than 60 area atttractions, as well as savings up to 20% at local shops and restaurants.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART: This free museum at Boston College currently features the show A New Key: Modern Belgian Art from the Simon Collection, which includes works by René Magritte, James Ensor and Paul Delvaux (pictured above). **Refer to listing, below.**

BOSTON

COMMONWEALTH MUSEUM, Massachusetts Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Blvd., 617-727-9268. *Mon–Fri from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., second and fourth Sat of the month 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Free admission.* Across from the JFK Presidential Library, this museum houses the collection of the Massachusetts Archives and is ideal for fans of history or genealogy. Special exhibits: Archaeology of the Big Dig; Le Grand Derangement: The Acadian Exile in Massachusetts, 1755–1766.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, 100 Northern Ave., 617-478-3100. *Open Sat, Sun, Tue & Wed 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thu & Fri 'til 9 p.m. Admission: $12; students & seniors $10; children (under 17) free. Free to all Thu 5–9 p.m. Film screenings: $9.* Boston's first new art museum in 100 years is a state-of-the-art, gleaming structure on the South Boston waterfront which presents installations of contemporary paintings, sculptures and photographs, as well as cutting edge live dance and musical performances. Special exhibits: Super Vision, featuring works by Jeff Koons, Anish Kapoor and others; ***through Mar 11***—The 2006 James and Audrey Foster Prize Finalist Exhibition, featuring art by Boston-based artists Sheila Gallagher, Jane D. Marsching, Kelly Sherman and Rachel Perry Welty; Momentum 6, Brazilian artist Sergio Vega provides a new view of Eden in his installation Tropicalounge. Special event: ***Mar 2*** *at 7:30 p.m.,* ***Mar 3*** *at 8 p.m.,* ***Mar 4*** *at 2 p.m.*—CRASHarts presents Marc Bamuthi Joseph, *tickets: $35;* ***Mar 7*** *at 6:30 p.m.*—A conversation with legendary choreographer and dancer Mark Morris, *tickets: $25.*

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, 280 The Fenway, 617-566-1401. *Open Tue–Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $12; seniors $10; students with I.D. $5; children (under 18) free. Visitors named Isabella are admitted free.* Commissioned by Boston aristocrat Isabella Stewart Gardner and modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palace, the museum exhibits 2,500 objects, including the works of Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian and Matisse. Special exhibit: Sculpture and Memory, works from the Gardner and by Luigi Ontani. Special event: ***Feb 28*** *at noon*—Conservators' Exhibition Talk: The Spanish Knight.

JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, off Morrissey Boulevard, next to UMass Boston, Dorchester, 866-535-1960. www.jfklibrary.org. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $10; students & seniors $8; children (13–17) $7; children (under 12) free; library forums free.* This museum portrays Kennedy's life, leadership and legacy in 21 exhibits, three theaters, 20 video presentations and more. Special exhibits: A Journey Home, John F. Kennedy and Ireland explores President Kennedy's relationship to his ancestral homeland; Rose Kennedy in her Own Words; Handmade and Heartfelt, folk art from the collection of the JFK Library.

LARZ ANDERSON AUTO MUSEUM, Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline, 617-522-6547. *Open Tue–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $5; students, seniors and children (6–18) $3; children (5 and under) free.* The oldest collection of historic automobiles in the nation is displayed in the owner's original home.

THE MARY BAKER EDDY LIBRARY, 200 Mass. Ave., 888-222-3711. *Open Tue–Sun from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Admission: $6; seniors, students with ID and youth (6–17) $4; children (under 6) and members free.* Home to the world-famous Mapparium, a three-story stained-glass globe depicting the world as it existed in 1934, which guests can walk through. Visitors to the library can follow Mary Baker Eddy's quest for insight and embark on one of their own through interactive exhibits in the Quest Gallery, or try out a "desk job" at the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Christian Science Monitor.* Special exhibit: Sensational Press, Radical Response.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART, Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill, 617-552-8100. *Mon–Fri 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat & Sun noon–5 p.m. Free admission.* Gallery tours held every *Sun at 12:30 p.m.* This museum is lauded for presenting interdisciplinary exhibits that spark new questions and renowned for its European, Asian and American collections. Special exhibit: A New Key, modern Belgian art from the Simon Collection.

THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, African Meeting House, 46 Joy St. (corner of Smith Court), Beacon Hill, 617-725-0022. www.afroammuseum.org. *Open Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free admission; donations welcome.* Explore the history of Boston's 19th-century African-American community at the African Meeting House, the oldest African-American church still standing in the United States. In addition, there are tour maps available for the Black Heritage Trail. Special exhibit: A Gathering Place for Freedom, commemorating the bicentennial of the historic African Meeting House. Special event: ***Mar 2*** *at 6 p.m.*—200th Anniversary Living Legends Awards Gala, *tickets: $200.*

THE MUSEUM OF THE NATIONAL CENTER OF AFRO-AMERICAN ARTISTS, 300 Walnut Ave., Roxbury, 617-442-8614. *Open Tue–Sun 1–5 p.m.; by appointment for groups. Admission: $4; students & seniors $3.* Housed in the former Oak Bend Mansion, a neo-Gothic structure built in the early 1870s, this museum holds a slide archive and an extensive collection of African artifacts, prints and drawings; it also hosts national and international traveling exhibits.

ABOVE: PAUL DELVAUX, *THE CONVERSATION* (DETAIL), 1944

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300. *Open Sat–Tue 10 a.m.–4:45 p.m., Wed–Fri 10 a.m.–9:45 p.m. (Thu & Fri after 5 p.m., west wing only). Admission (includes two visits in a 10-day period): $15; students & seniors $13; Thu & Fri after 5 p.m., $2 discount; Wed after 4 p.m., pay as you wish; children (7–17) $6.50 on weekdays before 3 p.m., free at all other times, youths 6 and under free. Separate ticketing for Gund Gallery exhibit.* The museum houses an outstanding collection of paintings, prints, sculptures, furnishings and other artwork from ancient times through the present, and the most comprehensive collection of Asiatic art in the world. Special exhibits: Fashion Show: Paris Collections 2006, *ticketed separately: $23;* Fashion Photography; Tsutsugaki Textiles from the Collection of David and Marita Paly; The Romance of Modernism: Paintings and Sculptures from the Scott M. Black Collection; Michael Mazur: The Art of the Print; Beyond Basketry: Japanese Bamboo Art; Sara Galner, the Saturday Evening Girls, and the Paul Revere Pottery: Selections from the Bloom Collection; Donatello to Giambologna: Italian Renaissance Sculpture; ***beginning Mar 10***—Through Six Generations: The Weng Collection of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy; ***through Mar 11***—SMFA Traveling Scholars.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, Science Park, 617-723-2500. *Open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri 'til 9 p.m. Admission: $16; seniors $14; children (3–11) $13; children (under 3) free. Planetarium, laser show and Omni theater tickets: $9; seniors $8; children (3–11) $7. Combination ticket prices and evening discounts available.* Interactive science exhibits, plus laser and astronomy shows in the Charles Hayden Planetarium. Special exhibits: Animation, exploring the technology of cartoons; Colossal, aerial landscape photography by Bradford Washburn; Darwin, an exhibit exploring Charles Darwin's theories and work. *Refer to Film listings in Current Events for complete Mugar Omni Theater schedule.* Showing at the Planetarium: *Destination Moon; Far, Far Away: The Worlds of Star Wars; The Sky Tonight.* At the Wright 3D Theater: *Misadventures in 3D!; Bugs!; Mars!; Majestic Leopards 3D!*

SPORTS MUSEUM OF NEW ENGLAND, 5th and 6th floor premium seating levels, TD Banknorth Garden, Causeway Street, 617-624-1234. *Open daily 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission on the hour only, until 3 p.m. Hours altered during TD Banknorth Garden events, call ahead. Admission: $6; seniors & children (6–17) $4; children (under 6) free.* The Sports Museum showcases New England's rich sports heritage through an unparalleled collection of artifacts, multimedia and artwork. Exhibits include the Boston Bruins Hall of Fame portraits, the Boston Garden Penalty Box and New England's Olympic Heroes.

USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, 617-426-1812. *Open daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Free admission.* The museum preserves the treasures of "Old Ironsides," the U.S. Navy's flagship and the world's oldest commissioned warship. Includes weapons, documents, journals and more. Interactive exhibits allow visitors to load and fire a cannon, try out a sailor's sleeping quarters and virtually command the *Constitution* in battle. Special exhibits: Old Ironsides in War and Peace; Sailors Speak: A Sailor's Life for Me? Special event: ***through Mar 10***—The 28th Annual Ship Model Show.

CAMBRIDGE

Due to limited parking, it is best to take the Red Line when traveling to Harvard, Central or Kendall squares. The Cambridge Discovery Booth located at the Harvard Square "T" entrance provides additional information.

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BUSCH-REISINGER MUSEUM, Werner Otto Hall, 32 Quincy St. (enter through the Fogg Art Museum), 617-495-9400. *Open Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun 1–5 p.m. Tours: Mon–Fri at 1 p.m. Admission: $9, seniors $7; students $6; children (under 18) free.* Central and Northern European artists, with an emphasis on German-speaking countries. Special exhibits: Art and Design from Central and Northern Europe since 1880; Multiple Strategies: Beuys, Maciunas, Fluxus.

FOGG ART MUSEUM, Quincy and Broadway streets, 617-495-9400. *Tours: Mon–Fri at 11 a.m.; see Busch-Reisinger Museum for hours and admission fees.* The museum displays European and American masterpieces from the Middle Ages to the present and hosts concerts and guided tours. Special exhibits: Modern Art, 1865–1965; American Art at Harvard; 18th-century European Ceramics and Paintings.

HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 26 Oxford St., 617-495-3045. *Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $9; college students & seniors $7; children (3–18) $6.* Among the museum's 17 galleries is the internationally acclaimed Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, a unique collection of over 3,000 glass flower models created between 1886 and 1936. Special exhibits: Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorites; Climate Change: Our Global Experiment; Meteorites; Arthropods: Creatures that Rule; Echoes in the Ice, Collages of Polar Explorers.

MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 20 Ames St., 617-253-4680. *Tue–Sun noon–6 p.m.; Fri 'til 8 p.m. Free admission.* One of Boston's premier showcases for contemporary art, the List Center reflects MIT's position as a cutting-edge research institution by presenting works from the world's leading contemporary artists. Special exhibits: Sensorium: Embodied Experience, Technology and Contemporary Art Part II; Nabila Irshaid: Flying Carpet.

THE MIT MUSEUM, 265 Mass. Ave., 617-253-4444. *Tue–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat & Sun noon–5 p.m. Admission: $5; students, seniors & youth (5–18) $2; children under 5 free.* Exhibits interpret themes and ideas related to MIT research and activities. Ongoing exhibits: Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers; Holography: The Light Fantastic; Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT; Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson; Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton; Deep Frontiers: Ocean Engineering at MIT; Ship Models: The Evolution of Ship Design. Special exhibit: Singular Beauty, simple microscopes from the Giordano collection.

SACKLER MUSEUM, Quincy and Broadway streets, 617-495-9400. *Tours: Mon–Fri at 2 p.m.; see Busch-Reisinger Museum for hours and admission fees.* Designed by James Stirling, Britain's famous post-modernist architect, the museum houses ancient Oriental and Islamic collections. Special exhibits: Cultivating Virtue: botanical motifs and symbols in East Asian art; Overlapping Realms: Arts of the Islamic World and India, 900–1900; Classified Documents: The Social Museum of Harvard University, 1903–1931.

BEYOND BOSTON

CONCORD MUSEUM, 200 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9763. *Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun 1–4 p.m. Admission: $8; seniors & students with I.D. $7; children (6–17) $5; family rates available. Ample free parking on Cambridge Turnpike.* Relive Concord's history, from Native American habitation and European settlement to the days of Emerson, Thoreau, the Alcotts and Hawthorne. Special exhibit: A Splash of Blue. Special events: ***Mar 1*** *at 1 p.m.*—Decorating with Blue from Washington to Whistler, *tickets: $26;* ***Mar 9*** *at 1 p.m.*—Listen, My Children...A museum story hour; *tickets: $8.*

DECORDOVA MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE PARK, 51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln, 781-259-8355. *Tue-Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $9; seniors, students & children (6–12) $6. Sculpture Park: open sunrise to sunset, free admission.* Tour one of the largest contemporary art museums and the only permanent public sculpture park in New England. Special exhibits: Big Bang!, abstract painting for the 21st century; Stephen DiRado: JUMP; ***beginning Mar 5***—2007 DeCordova Annual Exhibition. Special event: ***Mar 3***—Artist Talk: Terry Rose; ***Mar 7***—Art for Lunch: Trends in the Collection.

NATIONAL HERITAGE MUSEUM, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, 781-861-6559. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m. Free admission.* Devoted to presenting exhibitions on American history and popular culture as a way of preserving our national heritage. Special exhibits: Handled with Care, the function of form in Shaker life; A New and Useful Improvement, 19th century patents and their inventors; For Every Fighter, A Woman Worker: World War I Posters. Special events: ***Mar 3*** *at 8 p.m.*—Heritage Music Series presents Marshall Crenshaw, *tickets: $27.*

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM, East India Square, Salem, 866-745-1876. *Daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $13; seniors $11; students $9; children (16 and under) free.* The nation's oldest continually operating museum boasts a brand-new wing with a 190-seat auditorium and a glass-covered atrium. The collection showcases African, Asian, Pacific Island and American folk and decorative art, a maritime collection dating back to the museum's earliest days, and the first collection of Native American art in the hemisphere. Special exhibits: Intersections, Native American Art in a New Light; Of Gods and Mortals, traditional art from India; Sketched at Sea; The Emperor Looks West; All of My Life: contemporary works by Native American artists; Yin Yu Tang, the 16-bedroom home of a prosperous Chinese merchant of the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911), *ticketed separately: $4;* Epic India: Paintings by M.F. Husain; A Sense of Place; The Yachting Photography of Willard P. Jackson; ***through Mar 4***—Inspired by China, contemporary furniture-makers explore Chinese traditions.

THE ROSE ART MUSEUM, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham, 781-736-3434. *Tue–Sun noon–5 p.m. Admission: $3; museum members and children (under 12) free.* The Rose boasts a collection of modern and contemporary art by artists including de Kooning, Rauschenberg and Warhol. Special exhibits: Hope Springs Eternal, by Clare Rojas; Rose Art: Works from the Permanent Collection; Paper Trails: Artists Explore Unseen Works on Paper. Special event: ***Mar 7*** *at 7 p.m.*—Collecting Contemporary Art.

SALEM WITCH MUSEUM, 19½ Washington Square North, Salem, 978-744-1692. *Daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $7.50; seniors $6.50; children (6–14) $5.* Life-size stage settings and historically accurate narration recreate the hysteria of the Salem Witch Trials and executions of 1692. Translations available in Japanese, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Special exhibit: Witches: Evolving Perceptions.

GALLERIES

ARDEN GALLERY, 129 Newbury St., 617-247-0610. *Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* Arden specializes in contemporary oil paintings and sculpture by nationally and internationally renowned artists, whose styles range from super-realism to abstraction. Special exhibits: ***through Feb 27***—New paintings by Anthony James; Silent Sonnets by Anne Lilly; ***beginning Mar 1***—New Still Lifes by Steven Dinsmore.

ART INTERACTIVE, 130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, 617-498-0100. *Sat & Sun noon–6 p.m.* This non-profit experimental art space in Central Square offers a venue for Boston's cutting-edge and imaginative artists in all media to display their works, and for viewers to take an active and participatory role in relating to the pieces themselves. Special exhibit: ***beginning Mar 8***—Works by Camille Utterback.

BAAK GALLERY, 35 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-354-0407. *Mon–Sat 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 1–6 p.m.* BAAK presents collections of American and international designer jewelry, as well as a variety of 2D fine arts. The frequently changing exhibits showcase works by both established and emerging artists. Special exhibit: Carscapes by Chris French.

BARBARA KRAKOW GALLERY, 10 Newbury St., 617-262-4490. *Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* The Barbara Krakow Gallery attracts top contemporary artists from around the world, showcasing work that focuses on minimalism and conceptualism. Special exhibits: Cindy Sherman: Bus Riders, 1976/2006; Works by Eleanor Antin, Mel Bochner, Sophie Calle and others.

BOSTON SCULPTORS GALLERY, 486 Harrison Ave., 617-482-7781. *Tue–Sat noon–6 p.m.* A sculptors' cooperative that has served as an alternative venue for innovative solo sculpture exhibitions since 1992. Special exhibit: ***through Mar 10***—Works by Peter Lipsitt and Michelle Lougee.

BROMFIELD ART GALLERY, 450 Harrison Ave., 617-451-3605. *Wed–Sat noon–5 p.m.* Boston's oldest artist-run gallery features shows by members of the cooperative, while exhibitions by visiting artists are selected by current members. Special exhibit: ***beginning Mar 1***—Works by Charles Goss and Tim Nichols.

CHASE GALLERY, 129 Newbury St., 617-859-7222. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* Since 1990, Chase Gallery has been one of the city's top galleries for the exhibition of contemporary artists, both representational and abstract. Special exhibits: ***through Feb 26***—Works by Wayne McDowell; ***beginning Mar 1***—Works by Cynthia Packard.

CHILDS GALLERY, 169 Newbury St., 617-266-1108. *Tue–Fri 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Mon & Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.* The longest-running of the commercial Newbury Street galleries, Childs has one of the largest inventories of oil paintings, drawings, watercolors, and prints in the U.S. Special exhibits: ***through Mar 3***—Japanese Woodblock Prints; Elihu Vedder: Italian Landscape Drawings; Sally Michel: Celebrating 20 Years.

INTERNATIONAL POSTER GALLERY, 205 Newbury St., 617-375-0076. www.internationalposter.com. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* This internationally recognized fine art poster gallery displays original vintage posters from the 1890s through post-World War II modern masters. Special exhibit: New Acquisitions for the New Year.

JUDI ROTENBERG GALLERY, 130 Newbury St., 617-437-1518. *Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.* The Judi Rotenberg Gallery is one of the longest standing independent galleries in Boston and is committed to both established and emerging talent in all media. Special exhibit: ***beginning Mar 1***—Viewpoint, works by Dorothy Simpson Krause.

L'ATTITUDE GALLERY, 218 Newbury St., 617-927-4400 *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* This gallery boasts contemporary sculpture, crafts and art for the home, garden and commercial environments, as well as an outdoor sculpture garden. Over 75 U.S. and international artists are represented in various mediums, including glass, ceramics, wood, stone, mixed media and textiles. Special exhibit: Chase Away Your Winter Blues, a contemporary jewelry show.

NIELSEN GALLERY, 179 Newbury St., 617-266-4835. *Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* Renowned for its fine collection of contemporary paintings, drawings and sculptures. Special exhibit: ***beginning Mar 3***—Works by Gregory Gillespie.

PEPPER GALLERY, 38 Newbury St., 617-236-4495. *Tue–Fri 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sat 11 a.m.–5 p.m.* Committed to presenting contemporary representational and abstract works by living artists, the gallery rotates its exhibitions every five weeks to represent different members of the artistic community, both established and up-and-coming. Special exhibit: ***through Mar 3***—Paintings and Drawings by Phyllis Berman.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RESOURCE CENTER, Boston University, 832 Commonwealth Ave., 617-975-0600. *Tue, Wed & Fri 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thu 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat & Sun noon–5 p.m. Admission: $3; students and seniors $2, children under 18 free.* PRC exhibitions and educational programs are guided by a philosophical inquiry into the intersection of photography with aesthetic, professional and critical discourses. Special exhibit: 2007 PRC Student Exhibition.

PUCKER GALLERY, 171 Newbury St., 617-267-9473. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sun 1–5 p.m.* Features work by Israeli, American and internationally known contemporary artists. The *Boston Phoenix* writes, "You can make a case for the Pucker Gallery as Boston's best gallery—though it's really more like a wonderful miniature museum." Special exhibit: Together, new works by Joseph Ablow and Roz Karol Ablow.

SOCIETY OF ARTS AND CRAFTS, 175 Newbury St., 617-266-1810. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* The oldest non-profit crafts organization in the country specializes in contemporary American crafts. The jewelry, furniture, glass and ceramics range from cutting edge to traditional, from functional to sculptural. Special exhibit: Timeless Vessels.

VOSE GALLERIES, 238 Newbury St., 617-536-6176. *Mon–Fri 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* Established in 1841, Vose Galleries—the oldest family-owned art gallery in the United States—specializes in American artists from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Its new contemporary wing, expanding the collection to living artists, opened in 2001. Special exhibit: ***through Mar 8***—Mt. Auburn Cemetery 175th anniversary exhibition, featuring works by artists buried in Mt. Auburn in Cambridge, including Olive Parker Black, Sidney Lawrence Brackett, George L. Noyes, R.H. Ives Gammell, Susan Ricker Knox, Nelly Littlehale Murphy and Hermann Dudley Murphy.

CLUBS & BARS

DICK'S LAST RESORT: This down 'n' dirty bar and restaurant serves buckets of delicious grub, 74 different beers, creative cocktails and features live music and crazy antics every night. **Refer to listing, right.**

PUBS AND BARS

THE BELL IN HAND TAVERN, 45 Union St., 617-227-2098. *Daily 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.* Opened in 1795, the Bell in Hand is the oldest tavern in the U.S. This casual pub, offering pints, food and live music, attracts locals, students, and tourists alike. *Tue*—Karaoke night.

BILL'S BAR, 5.5 Lansdowne St., 617-421-9678. *Wed–Sat 9 p.m.–2 a.m.; Sun 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Call for cover and age restrictions.* A laid-back, no frills, no fuss bar with musical entertainment nightly. *Sun*—Reggae Sundays.

THE BLACK ROSE, 160 State St., next to Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-742-2286. *Daily 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.* Enjoy live Irish music nightly and on select afternoons in an authentic pub setting.

BRISTOL LOUNGE, Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., 617-351-2052. Jazz entertainers create sounds as lush as their setting on a Boston-made, antique Steinert piano. Live music nightly.

BUKOWSKI'S TAVERN, 50 Dalton St., 617-437-9999. *Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sun noon–2 a.m. Cash only.* Traditional pub-style food and more than 100 types of beer characterize this cozy and unpretentious hole-in-the-wall space near the Prudential Center Mall.

THE CACTUS CLUB, 939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200. *Restaurant: Sun 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Mon & Tue 4:30–10 p.m.; Wed–Thu 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m.; Fri & Sat 'til midnight; bar open 'til 2 a.m. daily.* Famous for its margaritas, this restaurant and bar offers a full lunch and dinner menu. *Sun 10 p.m.–midnight*—Free taco bar; *Mon–Thu 4–7 p.m.*—Half price appetizers at bar.

CASK 'N FLAGON, 62 Brookline Ave, 617-536-4840. *Sun–Wed 11 a.m.–1 a.m.; Thu–Sat 'til 2 a.m.* A hangout for Red Sox fans since the days of Yastrzemski and Fisk, this classic bar boasts tons of TVs for watching the Sox—if you get shut out of Fenway Park across the street—and is loaded with photos depicting the histories of Fenway and the Sox. Recently given a major facelift, the Cask now also boasts Oliver's, a new back room nightclub with a dance floor and second bar.

CHEERS, 84 Beacon St., 617-227-9605. *Daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m.* Also: Faneuil Hall Marketplace. The model for the beloved sitcom, this Back Bay pub is one of the top tourist attractions in Boston. Live weekend entertainment.

DAISY BUCHANAN'S, 240 Newbury St., 617-247-8516. *Daily 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m. No cover.* Cash only. Located on Boston's hopping Newbury Street, this casual singles spot attracts college students, businessmen and women, and even the occasional professional athlete, and remains one of the city's most popular bars. Full kitchen serves pub-style food seven nights a week.

DICK'S LAST RESORT, Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-267-8080. *Daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m.* Watch for the outrageous antics of Dick's sassy staff as they serve up buckets of sloppy ribs, succulent crab and shrimp, juicy steaks and chicken, two-fisted sandwiches, burgers and salads. If that isn't entertaining enough, there's live music every night with no cover. ***SEE LOCATOR #3 ON CENTER MAP.***

GRAND CANAL, 57 Canal St., 617-523-1112. *Daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Cover varies.* This Faneuil Hall area restaurant and pub transports the authentic style of the Victorian Irish pub scene to Boston with high ceilings, antiques, red wallpaper, a grandfather clock rising over the bar, photos of Dublin's Grand Canal, a balcony, an alcove and a working fireplace.

THE GREEN DRAGON TAVERN, 11 Marshall St., 617-367-0055. Boston's premier 18th-century tavern on the Freedom Trail. Serving lunch and dinner daily with lobster specials *Mon–Thu.* Entertainment nightly with a traditional Irish 'seisiun' every *Sat from 4–8 p.m.*

JAKE IVORY'S, 9 Lansdowne St., 617-247-1222. *Thu 9 p.m.–2 a.m.; Fri & Sat. 8:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: $4–10, table reservations available.* Come join the crowds who marvel at (and sing along with) the dueling pianists at this club in the heart of nightlife central, Lansdowne Street. Great for a casual night out, after work parties or friendly get-togethers.

JULIEN BAR, Langham Hotel, 250 Franklin St., 617-451-1900. *No cover.* Enjoy cocktails and piano entertainment in this historic lounge, voted Boston's "Best Fancy Bar." *Mon–Sat from 11 p.m.–1 a.m.*—Pianist Jeffrey Moore; *Sun from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.*—Sunday Jazz Brunch in Café Fleuri.

MR. DOOLEY'S BOSTON TAVERN, 77 Broad St., Financial District, 617-338-5656. *Open nightly. Fri & Sat $5 cover.* This authentic Irish pub features charming ambiance, 13 imported drafts on tap and live music six nights a week. Journalists, politicians and young professionals find Mr. Dooley's to be "a great place for a pint and a chat."

THE OAK BAR, Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Copley Square, 617-267-5300. *No cover.* Popular among the fine scotch and cigar crowd, The Oak Bar is a Boston favorite for upscale lounging. *Sun–Thu 11 a.m.–midnight; Fri & Sat 'til 1 a.m. Tue & Wed*—Pianist Rebecca Cline; *Thu*—Pianist Steve Heck; *Fri & Sat*—The Bill Laughlin Quartet.

THE PURPLE SHAMROCK, 1 Union St., 617-227-2060. *Daily 11:30 a.m.–1 a.m. Sat & Sun 10 a.m. brunch.* Located on the Freedom Trail, The Purple Shamrock offers an escape from the nearby activity of Quincy Market. Menu items include burgers, sandwiches, hearty pastas, fresh seafood, tender steaks and more. After dark, The Purple Shamrock has nightly entertainment, including a mix of live music. *Mon*—Trivia night; *Tue*—DJ; *Wed*—Karaoke and DJ.

TOP OF THE HUB, 800 Boylston St., 617-536-1775. Listen to the sounds of live jazz seven nights a week while experiencing the breathtaking view atop Boston's Prudential Center. Featuring a midnight menu, *Sun–Wed 'til 1 a.m.; Thu–Sat 'til 2 a.m.*

NIGHTCLUBS

THE ALLEY, One Boylston Place, 617-351-7000. *Fri & Sat 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: $5–10.* Located in the famous Boylston Street alleyway, this one-stop nightspot includes Sweetwater Cafe, Suite, Mansion and the Liquor Store, where you can ride Boston's only mechanical bull. Party Mardi Gras-style on Boston's version of Bourbon Street.

ARIA, 246 Tremont St., 617-338-7080. *Fri 11 p.m.–2 a.m.; Sat 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: $10–15. Call for age restrictions.* Located in the basement of the Wilbur Theatre, this nightspot features chic decor with plush red couches and dance music—from International to House. Dress to impress.

AVALON, 15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424. *Fri–Sun 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: $10–20. 19+ Thu & Fri.* One of Boston's premier nightclubs featuring Euro and Top 40 dance nights. It's also the city's largest club venue for live music acts. *Fri*—renowned DJs from around the world at Avaland; *Sat*—Tease with DJ Adilson; *Sun*—Gay Night.

AXIS, 13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437. *Daily 10 p.m.–2 a.m.; closed Tue, Wed & Sun. Cover: $5–20. 19+. Mon*—Static, gay night; *Thu*—La Vida with Hip-hop and R&B; *Fri & Sat*—Hip-hop and R&B.

BOSTON BILLIARD CLUB, 126 Brookline Ave., 617-536-POOL. *Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sun noon–2 a.m. 18+ Sun–Thu.* Ranked Number One Billiard Club in the country by *Billiards Digest*, this nightspot is perfect for pool aficionados and novices alike. Free parking. *Mon*—Free lessons; *Wed*—Music Trivia Night & Ladies' Night: each lady gets 25% off table time, four ladies per table play for free; *Mon, Tue & Thu*—League Night.

DISTRICT, 180 Lincoln St., 617-426-0180. *Wed–Sat 'til 1 a.m.* This distinctive nightspot in the heart of Boston's industrial chic Leather District mixes eclectic décor, shareable appetizers and hearty entrees such as tuna sashimi with delicious cocktails, while DJs spin nightly, setting a vibe that strikes a balance between exotic and sensual, laid-back and casual.

FOUNDATION LOUNGE, Hotel Commonwealth, Kenmore Square, 500 Commonwealth Ave., 617-859-9900. *Tue–Sun 5 p.m.–2 a.m.* Sophisticated and mature, this lounge fuses the L.A. hipster scene with the cool and funky elegance of European and Asian nightlife, boasting plush couches, exotic lighting, Zensai Japanese appetizers *'til 12:30 a.m.* and a wide array of creative cocktails. *Tue at 8 p.m.*—Torch Tuesdays; *Thu at 9 p.m.*—Soulicious Thursdays; *Wed, Fri & Sat at 10 p.m.*—DJs.

GAME ON, 82 Lansdowne St., 617-351-7001. *Mon–Fri 7 a.m.–10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sat & Sun 8 a.m.–2 a.m.* The ultimate for any sports club enthusiast: a bar/restaurant/nightclub built inside Fenway Park. The newest jewel in the renovation of the Fenway area, this nightspot offers a cool, sleek spot in which to sample a full menu and watch the Sox, and other sporting events, on any number of big-screen TVs.

HONG KONG, 1238 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-864-5311. *Thu–Sat from 10 p.m.–2:30 a.m. No cover charge.* This three-floor Chinese restaurant features a lounge, a bar with DirectTV satellite, and a lively dance club featuring techno to hip hop to Madonna. Try one of the Hong Kong's signature scorpion bowls while you rub elbows with the locals and Harvard University students.

JILLIAN'S BOSTON, 145 Ipswich St. (behind Fenway Park), 617-437-0300. *Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sun noon–2 a.m. Sun–Thu 18+.* One of Boston's largest entertainment complexes, this fun and diverse club features 50 pool tables, 200 high-tech games, blackjack for fun and six full bars. Lucky Strike Lanes bowling is located on the third floor, and there's late-night dancing at Tequila Rain ("spring break 52 weeks a year") on the first floor. Proper dress required.

SAINT, Copley Square Hotel, 90 Exeter St., 617-236-1134. *Thu–Sat 7 p.m.–2 a.m., Sun & Mon 10 p.m.–2 a.m.; closed Tue & Wed. Table reservations available.* One of Boston's hottest nightclubs, Saint offers gourmet dining, nightly DJs, and the chance to lounge on overstuffed couches (and even beds) in private and public rooms. Proper dress required.

SANCTUARY, 189 State St., 617-573-9333. *Open nightly 'til 2 a.m.* Spread out over three floors, Sanctuary bills itself as "Boston's premiere dining and lounge experience," featuring a full menu, outdoor seating for lunch and dinner, and resident DJs *Thu–Sat.* Voted one of the sexiest bars in Boston by *Boston* magazine.

GAY AND LESBIAN

CLUB CAFE, 209 Columbus Ave., 617-536-0966. *Open daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. No cover.* In the back of the 209 restaurant, you'll find the Moonshine and Satellite lounges, voted "Best of Boston" by *Boston* magazine and *The Improper Bostonian* for best gay and lesbian nightspot. *Wed–Sat at 9 p.m.*—Moonshine Video Bar.

JACQUES CABARET, 79 Broadway St., 617-426-8902. *Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–midnight; Sun noon–midnight. Cover: $6, $10 Fri & Sat. Cash only.* Featured in *Modern Bride* as the "best place for a bachelorette party," Jacques Cabaret allows its patrons to mingle and disco-dance with drag-queens. *Mon*—Tranny show; *Tue*—Karaoke; *Wed*—Delightful Divas; *Thu*—Jacques Angels; *Fri & Sat*—Miss Leading Ladies; *Sun*—Amateur Talent Night.

MACHINE, 1254 Boylston St., 617-536-1950. *Fri & Sat 12 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover varies. Cash only.* With two dance floors, four bars, six pool tables, pinball machines, video games and theme nights, this club offers Boston's gay and lesbian party-goers a plethora of nightlife options. *Thu at 10 p.m.*—Karaoke with Eve Adams; *Fri*—VJ Tom Yaz and DJ Darrin Friedman; *Sat*—Anthem Night featuring DJ Manuel Santiago.

PHOTO BY THOMAS NEILL

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE: This living museum in central Massachusetts recreates an early 19th-century New England village. Refer to listing, right.

SIGHTS OF INTEREST

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME, 1000 West Columbus Ave. Springfield, 413-781-6500. *Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tickets: $16.99; seniors $13.99; youths (5–15) $11.99; (under 5) free.* In 1891, James Naismith developed the game of basketball and its original 13 rules in Springfield, Mass. Now Springfield is home to the Hall of Fame, an edifice that pays homage to the greatest men to play and coach the game, like Bill Russell, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. The Hall of Fame also includes interactive basketball fun for visitors and numerous exhibits.

DR. SEUSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL SCULPTURE GARDEN, 220 State St., Springfield, 413-263-6800. *Sculpture Garden is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* This fitting artistic tribute—as well as a museum devoted to Theodore Seuss Geisel's literary accomplishments and favorite characters like the Lorax, Yertle the Turtle, the Sneeches and Horton the Elephant—was created by Geisel's step-daughter, Lark Grey Diamond-Cates. Besides the sculpture of Geisel sitting at a drawing board with the Cat in the Hat as his muse, pieces include the Yertle the Turtle Tower, the Grinch with his dog Max and Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose.

ELM BANK RESERVATION, Wellesley, 617-698-1802. *Reservation is open dawn to dusk year round, gates open at 8 a.m.* Bordered by the Charles River on three sides, the Elm Bank Reservation is 182 acres of woodlands, fields and old estate property. Deer and other wildlife live along the river banks of the reservation, which also contains areas for hiking, playing soccer, canoeing, kayaking, cross-country skiing and picnicking.

MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, Concord and Lexington (North Bridge Visitor Center, 174 Liberty St., Concord), 978-369-6993. *Park grounds open sunrise to sunset. Visitor Center open 11 a.m.–3 p.m.* Created in 1959 to preserve the sites associated with the opening battles of the American Revolution, Minute Man Park consists of over 900 acres of land along original segments of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, including Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge. The park also preserves The Wayside, the 19th-century home of literary greats Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott and Margaret Sidney.

NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM, Route 183, Stockbridge, 413-298-4100. *Open Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat & Sun 'til 5 p.m. Tickets: $12.50; students $7 (18 and under free). Audio tours: $5; children & seniors $4.* Boasting 574 original Norman Rockwell drawings and paintings, the museum—situated in the town where the artist lived the last 25 years of his life—houses the world's largest collection of Rockwell art. Visitors can also tour Rockwell's Stockbridge art studio building, complete with the original furnishings and equipment. Special exhibits: Picturing Health, Norman Rockwell and the Art of Illustration; ***through March 4***—21st Annual Berkshire County High School Art Show.

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd., 508-347-3362. *Open Tue–Sun 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Tickets: $20; seniors $18; children $6 (under 3 free).* Take a trip back in time at this recreation of an early 19th-century New England village where costumed educators show visitors what life in the early days of America was really like. Visit a tin shop, a cider mill and a blacksmith, while touring restorations of period New England homes and marveling at authentic remnants from a long-gone age.

YANKEE CANDLE FACTORY, 5 North St., South Deerfield, 800-839-6038. *Factory visitor's center is open 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Call for additional information.* The Yankee Candle Factory is one part of a larger complex devoted to the company. It also includes a museum, a candle store and the Bavarian Christmas Village. Visitors are able to dip their own creations at this one-of-a-kind must-see for fans of the popular scented candles.

DESTINATIONS

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION, Reservation Headquarters, 695 Hillside St., Milton, 617-698-1802. Covering over 7,000 acres in the suburbs of Boston, Blue Hills Reservation offers a scenic escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. With campgrounds, fishing, hiking and mountain biking among the activities, Blue Hills is a popular destination year-round. The reservation also offers a number of fun winter activities including ice-skating, and the 22 hills provide scenic views for outdoor enthusiasts.

NASHOBA VALLEY SKI AREA, Westford, 978-692-3033. *Open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat & Sun 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Nights 5-10 p.m. Lift Tickets: $27-40. Group rates (15+) available.* Nashoba Valley Ski Area offers skiing and snowboarding as well as New England's largest snow-tubing park. There are over 15 ski trails, varying in levels from beginner to advanced, with both private and group lessons available for skiers at any level. Those looking to snowboard can take advantage of Nashoba Valley's extensive terrain park which includes rails, boxes, and a feature jump. For something a little different, visitors can head over to the 15-lane snow-tubing park ($20 for 2 hrs), which provides fun for all ages. An on-site restaurant and a Marriot hotel located just two miles away offer a chance to relax and rejuvenate between activities. Special events: ***Mar 3***—Kiss 108 Winter Games; ***Mar 7***—Adult Team Racing Championships.

NORTH SHORE. Just north of Boston, the North Shore encompasses Cape Ann, Gloucester, Peabody, Salem, Swampscott, Marblehead, Newburyport and some of Massachusetts' other well-kept secrets. The area offers sandy beaches, deep sea fishing trips, historic houses and art festivals. Just an hour from the city of Boston, the North Shore is a relaxing region where visitors can sample Massachusetts' rich maritime heritage.

PLYMOUTH. The site of the Pilgrims' 1620 landing is still marked by Plymouth Rock, and the surrounding area is dotted by historical museums that celebrate the town's origins. Plimouth Plantation offers visitors a chance to step into a Pilgrim village from 1627 and explore the *Mayflower II*, a replica of the ship that dropped anchor in Plymouth Harbor nearly four centuries ago. Other favorite stops for history buffs include the 1749 Court House & Museum and the Plymouth National Wax Museum. Plymouth's coastal location also provides it with some great beaches, such as White Horse Beach and Nelson Beach.

SALEM. This North Shore town will always be known for the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, but Salem also boasts a bustling wharf with many bars and restaurants, and is regarded as an up-and-coming enclave for the young and trendy. Fans of spooky stuff can visit the New England Pirate Museum to see what life was like when Blackbeard roamed the high seas, or tiptoe through the Salem Witch Museum or Witch Dungeon Museum. On Halloween, the city transforms into one giant party for ghosts and ghouls, but 365 days a year, Salem is a charming place to explore and enjoy.

SOUTHERN MAINE. Contrary to its image as a far-flung, moose-filled wilderness, Maine has many points of interest within a couple hours' drive from Boston. Kittery is a mecca for bargain-hunters, boasting 100+ outlet stores ranging from Black & Decker to J Crew. The seaside community of Portland, known for its artsy boutiques, is also home to a burgeoning nightlife scene and the Red Sox AA affiliate, the Portland Sea Dogs. And Maine's coastal communities are renowned for their abundance of fresh lobster and beautiful beaches, including Kennebunk Beach and Ogunquit Beach.

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN, 978-464- 5101. *Open Mon-Fri 9 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat & Sun 8 a.m.–10 p.m. Lift Tickets: $23-49. Group rates (15+) available.* Reaching 2.006 feet above sea level at its peak, Wachusett Mountain is the highest peak in Massachusetts east of the Connecticut River. The mountain offers skiing and snowboarding trails on its more than 100 acres and provides lessons for anyone from beginners to aspiring racers. Along with the numerous trails, including a half-pipe and Polar Kid's Playground, Wachusett boasts a number of dining options such as The Black Diamond restaurant and The Coppertop Lounge. If you don't have a car, you can now get to Wachusett by taking the commuter rail "Ski Train," providing transportation from North Station to the mountain.

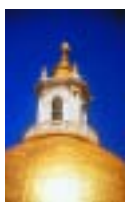
FREEDOM TRAIL

PHOTO BY SABA ALHADI

FREEDOM TRAIL: A red line marks the way on the popular, 2.5-mile historic journey through the streets of Boston. **Refer to listings, below.**

The Freedom Trail begins at the Boston Common Information Kiosk, where you can obtain a guide map for $2 or rent a self-guided audio tour complete with sound effects and anecdotes for $15. Park ranger-guided tours have ended for the season, but information to lead you on your way can also be found at the Boston National Historical Park Visitors Center. *Call 617-242-5642 for information.*

BOSTON COMMON. Set aside in 1634 as a military training field and grazing pasture, the Common is the oldest public park in America. The park served as quarters for British as well as Colonial troops, and later housed Civil War regiments. The British Army set out for the start of the Revolutionary War from what is now Park Square.



THE STATE HOUSE. Beacon Street, top of Beacon Hill facing Boston Common, 617-727-3676. *Open Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–4 p.m., except holidays. Guided tours by reservation.* The famous golden dome of the State House marks the government seat of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Samuel Adams laid the cornerstone, and the building stands on land bought from John Hancock. The red brick portion was designed by legendary architect Charles Bulfinch.

PARK STREET CHURCH. Corner of Park and Tremont streets, 617-523-3383. *Sunday services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 4 and 6 p.m. Morning services are traditional, evening services are contemporary.* Built in 1809, this church was described by Henry James as "the most interesting mass of brick and mortar in America."

OLD GRANARY BURYING GROUND. Tremont Street next to Park Street Church, 617-635-7389. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* This historic cemetery, formerly the town granary, is the final resting place of John Hancock, Paul Revere, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams, Peter Faneuil and the victims of the Boston Massacre. A stone inscribed "Mary Goose" (a.k.a. Elizabeth Goose) allegedly marks the grave of Mother Goose.

KING'S CHAPEL AND BURYING GROUND. Tremont and School streets, 617-227-2155. *Chapel open Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun 1:30–4 p.m. Services: Sun at 11 a.m., Wed at 12:15 p.m. Burying Ground open daily 9 a.m.–3 p.m.* Still an active house of worship, King's Chapel was established in 1687 as the first Anglican congregation in Boston. The second chapel, built in 1754, became the first Unitarian church in America after the Revolution.

SITE OF THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL AND BEN FRANKLIN'S STATUE. On School Street, marked by a column and commemorative plaque. On April 13, 1635, the town voted to establish the first public school in the country. Nearby is Benjamin Franklin's statue, built in 1856, the first portrait statue erected in the United States.

SITE OF THE OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE. School and Washington streets. Constructed as an apothecary in 1718, the ground floor was later a bookstore and literary center of Boston and a meeting place for notables like Emerson, Hawthorne and Thoreau.

OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE. 310 Washington St., 617-482-6439. *Open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Admission: $5; students & seniors $4; children (6–18) $1.* This building housed many town meetings, the most famous of which saw an outraged Samuel Adams signal the start of the Boston Tea Party.

OLD STATE HOUSE. Corner of Washington and State streets, 617-720-3292. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: $5; students & seniors $4; children (6–18) $1; children (under 6) free.* Built in 1713, this seat of colonial government was the center of activity for such patriots as John Hancock and Samuel and John Adams. It was from the east balcony that the Declaration of Independence was first read in Boston.

BOSTON MASSACRE SITE. State Street in front of the Old State House. At the next intersection below the State House, a ring of cobblestones marks the site of the clash between a jeering Boston crowd and a British guard of nine soldiers on March 5, 1770.

FANEUIL HALL. Merchants Row and Faneuil Hall Square, 617-242-5689. *Open Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9 p.m. and Sun noon–6 p.m. Historical talks given every half hour from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., when hall is not in use.* "The Cradle of Liberty" combines a free marketplace on the first floor with the town meeting hall upstairs, the site of fiery revolutionary debate.

PAUL REVERE HOUSE. 19 North Square, Hanover Street, 617-523-2338. *Open daily 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m. Admission: $3; students & seniors with I.D. $2.50; children (5–17) $1; (under 5) free.* The oldest home in Boston (built c. 1680), occupied by silversmith and patriot Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800.

OLD NORTH CHURCH. 193 Salem St., 617-523-6676. *Open Mon-Fri 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat & Sun 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun services at 9 and 11 a.m.* Known as Christ Church and erected in 1723, this is Boston's oldest standing church. Two lanterns were hung here April 18, 1775, signaling the Redcoats' departure by sea for Lexington and Concord.

COPP'S HILL BURIAL GROUND. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* Hull Street. Set out in 1660, Copp's Hill was Boston's second cemetery. Many remarkable people are interred here, including the Mather family of ministers and Edmund Hartt, builder of the *USS Constitution.*

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT. Breed's Hill, Charlestown, 617-242-5641. ***Monument closed for renovation until Spring 2007.*** *Lodge and museum open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* The site of the historic battle of June 17, 1775.

USS CONSTITUTION. Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, 617-242-5670. *Open Thu–Sun from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tours every half-hour 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.* This 44-gun frigate is the world's oldest commissioned warship, christened 'Old Ironsides' during the War of 1812 when the cannonballs of a British warship literally bounced off her triple hull.

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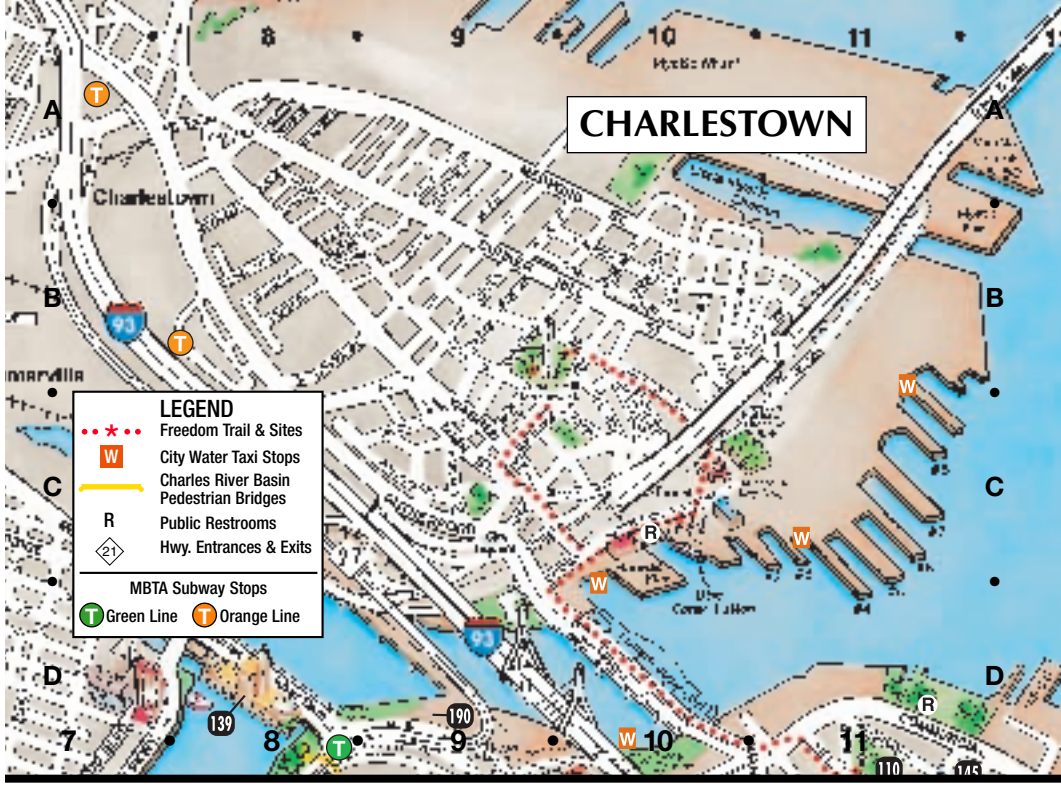
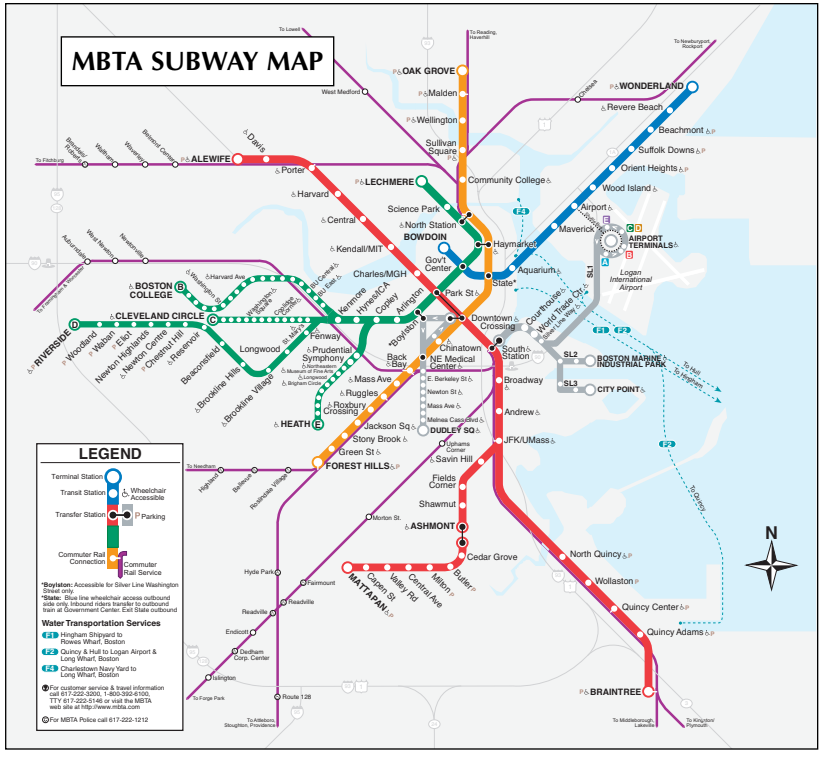
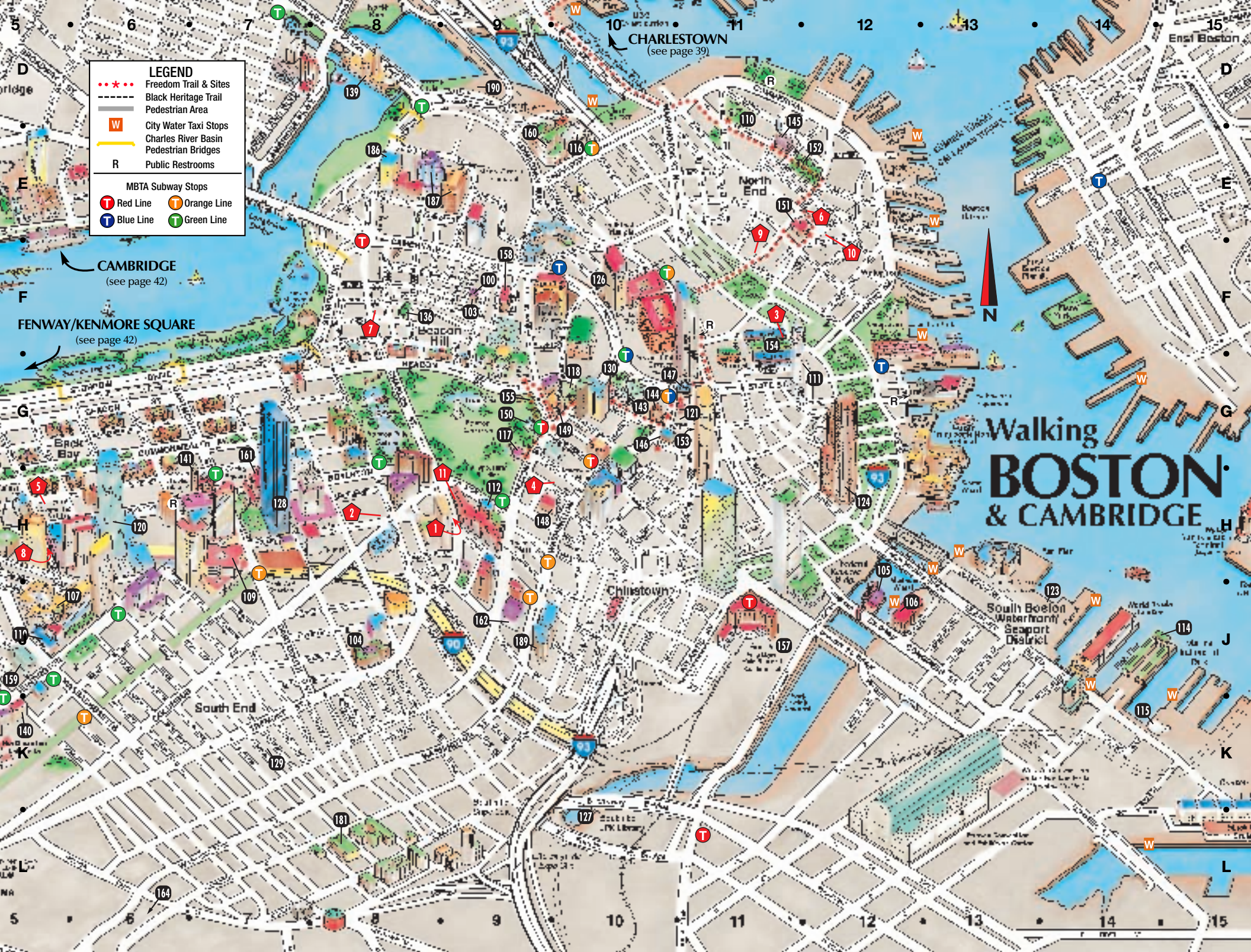
*closed for renovations



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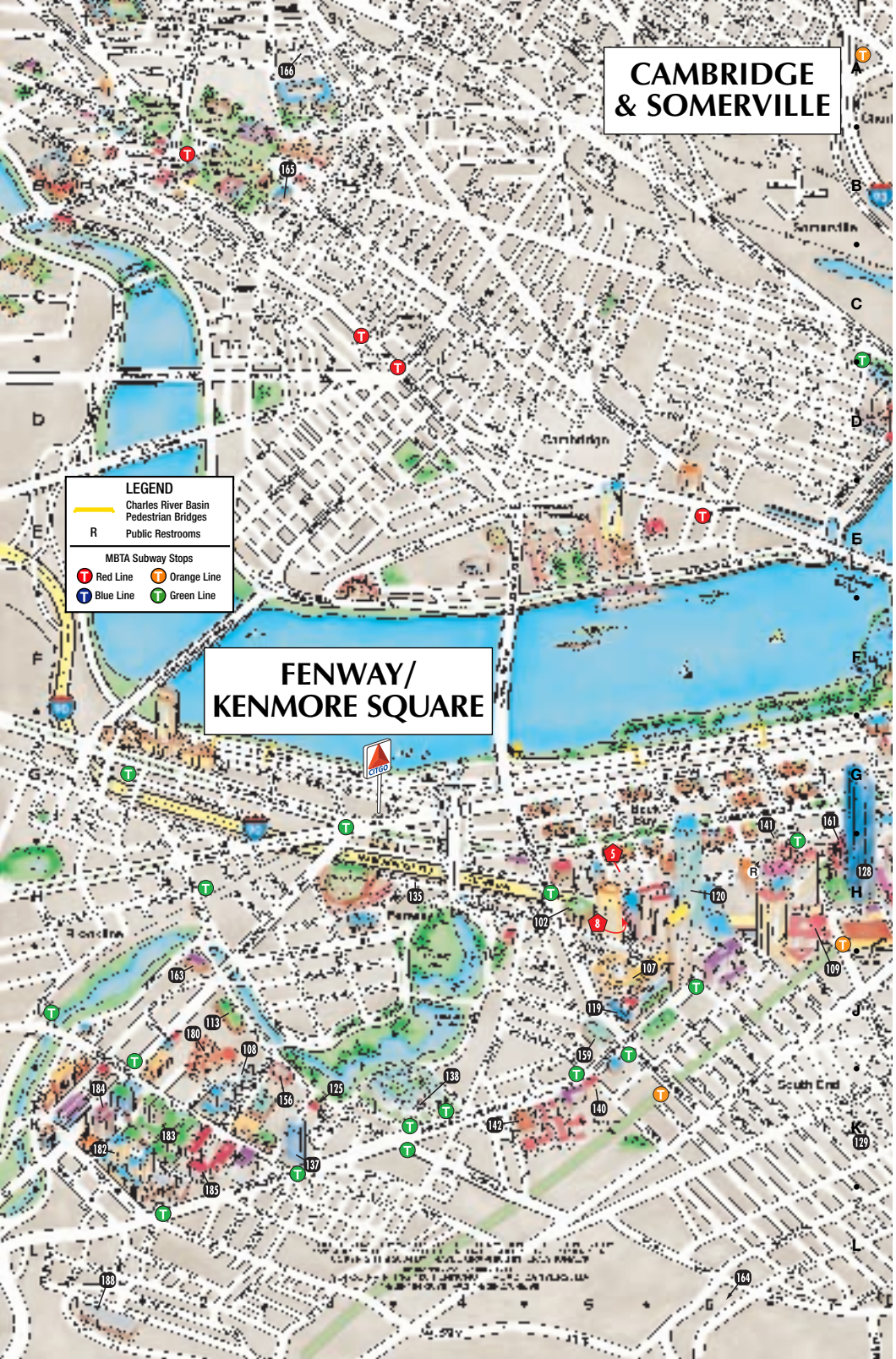


ICE SKATING

CHARLES HOTEL ICE SKATING RINK, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-234-8008. *Open: Mon–Fri from 2–8 p.m., Sat & Sun from 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Fees: $5; skate rental $5, children (under 12) $3.* This 2,900-square-foot, illuminated outdoor ice skating rink boasts refreshments from the New England-influenced restaurant Henrietta's Table, including hot toddies and vanilla-infused hot chocolate.

FROG POND ICE SKATING RINK, Boston Common, 617-635-2120. *Open: Mon 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tue–Thu & Sun 'til 9 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10 p.m. Fees: $4, children (under 13) free; rental skates $8, children (under 13) $5; skate sharpening $5; lockers $1. Seasonal passes available.* Ice skating on Boston Common's Frog Pond has become a staple of wintertime in Boston. The heated skate house offers hot chocolate, snacks and music.

LARZ ANDERSON SKATING RINK, 25 Newton St., Brookline, 617-739-7518. *Open: Tue & Thu 10 a.m.–noon, Fri 7:30–9:30 p.m., Sat & Sun noon–5 p.m. Fees: $7; children $4; rental skates $5; skate sharpening $6. Available for private parties.* Named one of the most romantic destinations in the Hub by *Boston* magazine, Larz Anderson Park was the former residence of the Anderson family and is now a 64-acre public park that is home to the Museum of Transportation, several themed gardens and historical artifacts. The skating pavillion sits atop a wooded hill in the middle of what was once an Italian garden designed by Charles A. Platt in 1901.

PHOTO BY DELLA HUFF

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST: The Romanesque Mother Church in the Back Bay stands at the heart of the Christian Science Center. **Refer to listing, below.**

SIGHTS OF INTEREST

ARNOLD ARBORETUM, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, 617-524-1718. *Grounds open year-round dawn to dusk. Free admission. Visitor Center open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun noon–4 p.m.* This 265-acre tree sanctuary designed by Emerald Necklace architect Frederick Law Olmsted opened in 1872. Now a National Historic Landmark, the arboretum and its gardens contain more than 7,000 varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers for your perusal.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM, 10½ Beacon St., 617-227-0270. *Open: Tue–Fri 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Mon 'til 8 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Art & Architecture tours: Tue & Thu at 3 p.m. Reservations required.* One of the oldest and most distinguished private libraries in the United States, the Athenaeum was founded in 1807. For nearly half a century, it was the unchallenged center of intellectual life in Boston, and by 1851 it had become one of the five largest libraries in the country. Special exhibit: Acquired Tastes: 200 Years of Collecting for the Boston Athenaeum.

BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN, bordered by Arlington, Charles, Beacon and Boylston streets. *Open daily dawn to dusk.* Established in 1837, the Public Garden is the nation's first public botanical garden. Its 24 acres are filled with scenic and diverse greenery, as well as sculptures, including one that commemorates the popular children's book *Make Way for Ducklings.* Other fixtures include the Lagoon—home to the famed Swan Boats from April through Labor Day—and the world's smallest suspension bridge.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 700 Boylston St., Copley Square, 617-536-5400. *Open Mon–Thu 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 5 p.m., Sun 1–5 p.m. Free admission. Art & Architecture tours offered Mon at 2:30 p.m., Tue & Thu at 6 p.m., Fri & Sat at 11 a.m., Sun at 2 p.m.* The first publicly supported municipal library in the world hosts one million visitors a year, who come to view this architectural masterpiece and its collection of more than five million books. Film festivals, exhibits and children's programs run throughout the year.

BUNKER HILL PAVILION, Boston National Historical Park Visitors Center, Charlestown, 617-242-5601. Located yards from the *USS Constitution. Visitor center and bookstore open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* ***Monument closed until Spring 2007.*** Check out "Whites of Their Eyes," a dramatic multimedia presentation of the Battle of Bunker Hill, one of the first major battles of the Revolution. Or climb the nearby Bunker Hill Monument, a 221-foot granite obelisk.

CUSTOM HOUSE TOWER, 3 McKinley Square, 617-310-6300. *Free historical tours offered Mon–Thu at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Fri & Sat at 4 p.m. Tours may be cancelled due to weather conditions, call ahead.* Boston's first skyscraper, the Custom House, stands high over Boston Harbor as one of the city's most impressive landmarks. Crowned by its distinctive clock tower and restored with modern luxuries, the building epitomizes the preservation of Boston's historic architecture. Today, the Marriott Corporation operates this landmark.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST, 175 Huntington Ave., 617-450-2000. *Free tours of The Mother Church Thu–Sat noon–4 p.m., every half hour, and Sun after 10 a.m. service. Services: Sun at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wed at noon and 7:30 p.m. Spanish language services: Sun at noon, Wed at 6 p.m.* The original Mother Church built in 1894 is at the heart of the Christian Science Center, situated on 14 acres in the Back Bay.

The Romanesque structure is made from New Hampshire granite with stained glass windows illustrating Biblical events.

FOREST HILLS CEMETERY, 95 Forest Hills Ave., 617-524-0128. *Gates open daily from dawn 'til dusk. Office open Mon–Fri 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sat 'til 1 p.m.* Created in 1848, this cemetery serves as the final resting place of Eugene O'Neill, Anne Sexton, e.e. cummings, William Lloyd Garrison and former Boston Celtic Reggie Lewis. The 275 acres of twisting paths also contain sculptural treasures, an arboretum, a "library" of life stories and an open-air museum.

HARRISON GRAY OTIS HOUSE, 141 Cambridge St., 617-227-3956. *Open Wed–Sun 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m., tours every half hour. Admission: $8; seniors $7; students & children (5-18) $4; free for children under 5, Historic New England members and Boston residents. $24 maximum per family.* Built in 1796 for Harrison Gray Otis and his wife, this grand mansion is an example of high-style Federal elegance. Tours offer insight into the social, business and family life of the post-Revolution American elite.

JOHN HANCOCK TOWER, 200 Clarendon St., 617-572-6000. Rising 62 stories into the sky, this I.M. Pei-designed, sliver-of-glass skyscraper is New England's tallest building and is considered by many to be one of the world's most beautiful skyscrapers. The building houses the headquarters of its namesake, insurance giant John Hancock Financial.

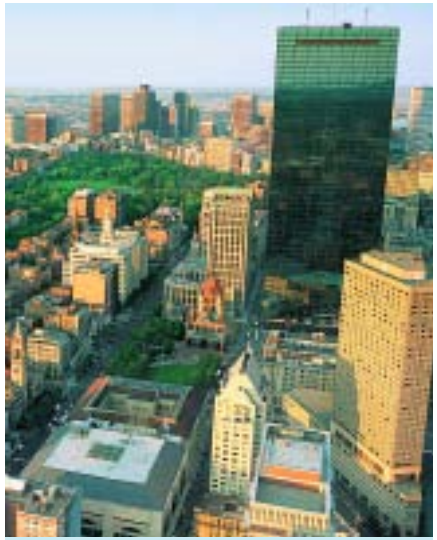
NEW ENGLAND HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, Congress Street near Faneuil Hall, 617-457-8755. *Tours available.* This haunting memorial features six luminous glass towers etched with the six million prisoner numbers of those who perished in the Holocaust. Visitors can walk under the towers and read the dramatic stories of the victims and heroes of this tremendous human tragedy.

THE SKYWALK OBSERVATORY AT THE PRUDENTIAL CENTER, 617-859-0648. *Open daily 10 a.m.–8 p.m;* ***beginning March 1****—10 a.m.–10 p.m. Skywalk kiosk closes at 6 p.m. Admission (including a headset audio tour of points of interest): $11; seniors and students $9; children (under 12) $7.50. Observatory may be closed due to weather conditions, please call ahead.* Enjoy spectacular 360-degree panoramic views of Boston and beyond and learn about the city's 375 years of culture and history on the Antennae Audio Tour. Displays include "Dreams of Freedom," about the Boston immigrant experience, and a theater showing "Wings Over Boston," a spectacular aerial tour of the entire city.

TRINITY CHURCH, Copley Square, 617-536-0944. *Open Sun 7 a.m.–7 p.m., Tue–Sat 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Tours available for $5; seniors & students $4; children under 16 free with an adult. Guided Tours: most weekdays at 11 a.m., 1 and 2 p.m., Sun at 12:15 p.m. (free). Self-Guided Tours: Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Sun 1–5 p.m.* Built in 1877, this house of worship, a combination of Victorian, Gothic and French Romanesque styles, is one of the great masterpieces of American church architecture. The church is located in Copley Square adjacent to the John Hancock Tower.

TOURS AND TRAILS

BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL, 46 Joy St., 617-742-5415. *Free tours: Mon–Sat 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Call at least 24 hours in advance for reservations.* A guided tour through the north side of Beacon Hill, including the homes of politicians and entrepreneurs; the African Meeting House, built in 1806; the oldest standing house built by an African-American (1797); and the home of Lewis and Harriet Hayden, who harbored runaway slaves. Maps are available at the Museum of Afro-American History.



THE SKYWALK OBSERVATORY AT THE PRUDENTIAL CENTER: Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding area from the top of one of the Hub's tallest buildings. **Refer to listing, left.**

BOSTON ART TOURS, 617-732-3920. *Call for full tour schedule. Tickets: $25; teens $15; children (under 12) free.* Boston Art Tours offers various excursions to area museums and galleries that highlight different historical time periods. Families may choose from age-appropriate tours offering lively descriptions of works to help further their understanding of art.

BOSTON AUDISSEY, Boston Commons Visitors Center, 617-734-9100. www.audisseyguides.com. *MP3 version $10.* Boston Audissey is a unique MP3/iPod walking tour through the city of Boston, presented with sound effects and music by 14 Bostonian narrators who lead you to the hidden secrets of the city, from slave meeting houses, to duels on the Common, to the former headquarters of the Boston Mafia.

BOSTON CHOCOLATE TOUR, departs from the corner of Boylston and Charles streets, 617-269-7010. *Sat at 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Tickets: $75. Reservations required.* Old Town Trolley takes chocoholics on a delicious tour of some of Boston's most decadent chocolate creations, including desserts at the glamorous Top of the Hub restaurant, authentic Boston Creme Pie at the Omni Parker House, and the piece de resistance, the Chocolate Bar buffet at the Langham Hotel.

FENWAY PARK TOURS, 4 Yawkey Way, 617-226-6666. *Tours: Mon–Sat from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun from noon–4 p.m., or three hours before game time, year round, rain or shine. Tickets: $12, seniors $11, children (2–15) & military personnel $10.* Tours originate at the Souvenir Store located on Yawkey Way across from Service Gate D, rain or shine. Have you dreamt of going behind-the-scenes of the legendary home of the Boston Red Sox? This tour offers an inside look at America's oldest active Major League ballpark, including a visit to the top of the famed "Green Monster."

THE FREEDOM TRAIL FOUNDATION'S FREEDOM TRAIL PLAYERS, 617-357-8300. *Private tours depart from the Visitor Center on Boston Common. Tickets: $12; seniors $10; children (12 and under) $6.* Explore the Freedom Trail with costumed actors portraying famous patriots such as James Otis, Abigail Adams and William Dawes in this 90-minute tour. Stops include the Park Street Church, the Boston Massacre Site, the Old State House and Faneuil Hall. Private tours may be tailored to individual needs and interests.

HARPOON BREWERY TOUR, 306 Northern Ave., 888-HARPOON ext. 522. *Tastings: Tue–Thu at 4 p.m., Fri at 2 and 4 p.m. and Sat at noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Free admission, proper ID required for samples.* This waterfront institution was the first brewery in 25 years granted a permit to brew and package beer commercially when it opened in 1987. Visitors gather in the Tasting Room, overlooking the brewery, for 30–45 minute tours of the plant.

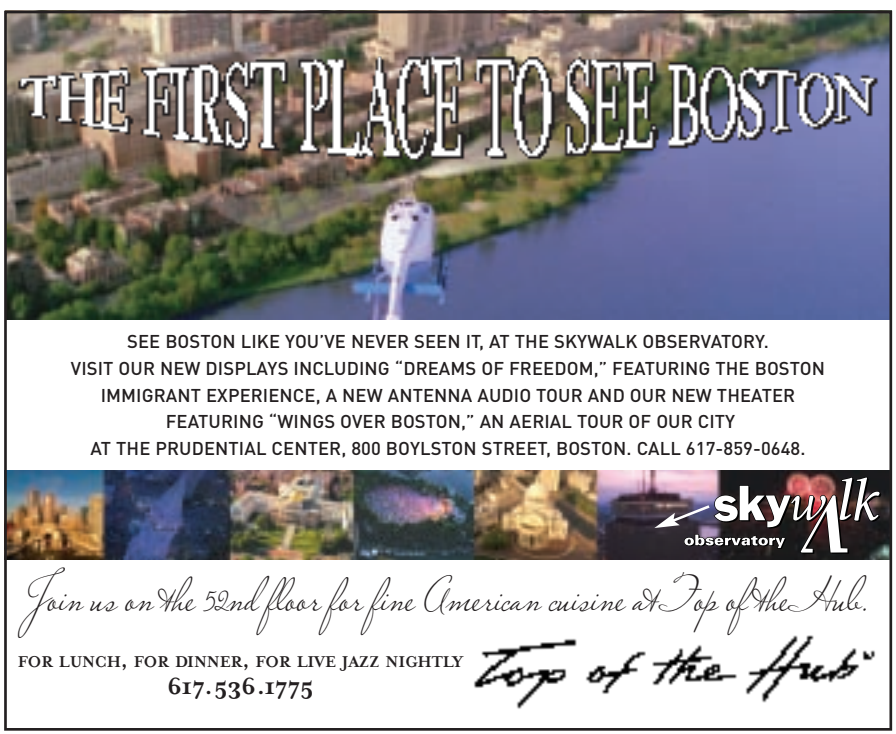
HISTORIC PUB CRAWL, BosTix Booth, Faneuil Hall, 617-357-8300. *Reservations required. Private tours for groups are available on most days. Tickets: $39.* ***Feb 27 & March 6*** *at 5:30 p.m.* The Freedom Trail Foundation's 18th-century costumed guide takes you on a tour of Boston's historic pubs where treasonous events were hatched 250 years ago. Enjoy plenty of beer and light fare along the way.

THE LITERARY TRAIL, departs from the Omni Parker House, 60 School St., 617-621-4020. *Call for full tour schedule. Tickets: $30; children (under 12) $26. Group tours also available. Tickets include entrance to all museums on the trail.* This 20-mile tour includes stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the Omni Parker House, Cambridge's Longfellow House, the Concord Museum (home to Ralph Waldo Emerson's study) and famed Walden Pond.

NORTH END MARKET TOUR, 64 Cross St., take the "T" to Haymarket, 617-523-6032. *Three-hour tours: Wed & Sat 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required. Custom tours for groups available. Tickets: $48.* Michele Topor, an authority on Italian cuisine and culture, hosts award-winning culinary walking tours through one of the nation's oldest Italian-American communities.

NORTH END SECRET TOURS, North Square (across from The Paul Revere House), 617-720-2283. *Tours: Fri & Sat 10 a.m., 1 and 4 p.m. Reservations required. Tickets: $30 per person.* This two-hour guided walking tour explores some of the hidden courtyards and passageways of the North End, visits the birthplace of Kennedy matriarch Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, and tells tales of Boston's oldest neighborhood, like the disastrous Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919 that devastated much of the historic city sector.

OLD TOWN TROLLEY TOURS OF BOSTON, 617-269-7150. *Departs every 25–30 minutes daily from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Tickets: $29; seniors & students $26; children (3–12) $5.* With 16 stops throughout the city, including the New England Aquarium, USS Constitution Museum, the Trolley Stop Store on the corner of South Charles and Boylston streets, and most



major hotels (see your concierge), patrons can enjoy a 110-minute, fully narrated sightseeing tour of more than 100 points of interest aboard the orange-and-green, all-weather trolley.

PHOTO WALKS, 617-851-2273. *Tours: daily, times vary either 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. depending on tour. Call for reservations and departure locations. Tickets: $25; students $20; children (ages 12–17) $12.* Explore Boston with your choice among four photographic journeys that reveal the scenic treasures of Beacon Hill, the Public Garden, the Waterfront, or the Freedom Trail. Each walking tour provides fascinating historical information and simple, creative tips on composing artistic photographs of area attractions.

SAMUEL ADAMS BREWERY TOUR: DRINK IN A LITTLE HISTORY, 30 Germania St., Jamaica Plain, 617-522-9080. *Tours: Thu at 2 p.m., Fri at 2 & 5:30 p.m., Sat 11 a.m.–2 p.m. every half-hour; one-hour tours include samples (ID required). Tickets: $2 donation given to a local charity. Call for complete hours, special events and closings.* Learn about the art of brewing beer and taste rich malts and spicy hops on this tour of the original Samuel Adams brewery.

WILDLIFE

FRANKLIN PARK ZOO, One Franklin Park Road, Franklin Park, 617-541-LION. *Open daily 10 a.m.–4 p.m.Admission: $8.50; seniors $7; children (2–12) $4.50; children (under 2) free.* Home to more than 210 species, many of them endangered. Roam the Australian Outback Trail with wallabies and kangaroos, explore the Tropical Forest and see the gorillas, marvel at the lions at Kalahari Kingdom, and visit zebras, ostriches, ibex and wildebeests at Serengeti Crossing.

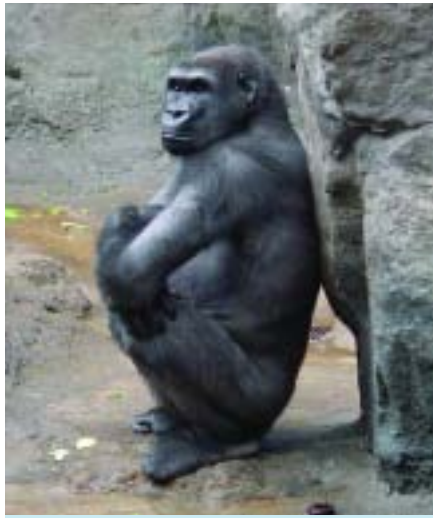
NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM, Central Wharf, 617-973-5200. *Open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat–Sun 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Admission: $17.95; children (3–11) $9.95; children (under 3) free. Refer to Current Events section under Film for IMAX theater listings. Combination ticket prices available.* Dedicated to advancing knowledge of the world of water, this outstanding aquatic zoo features a 187,000-gallon Giant Ocean Tank containing a Caribbean coral reef with sharks, sea turtles, moray eels and other aquatic life. Be sure to check out the popular penguin habitat. The adjacent Simons 3D IMAX Theater is the first theater of its kind in the Boston area. Special event: ***Mar 3*** *at 10 a.m.*—Aquarium Medical Center Tour.

STONE ZOO, 149 Pond St., Stoneham, 781-438-5100. *Open daily 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Admission: $6.50; seniors $5.50; children (2–12) $3.50; children (under 2) free.* Highlights include Snowy Owl creek, Mexican gray wolves, snow leopards, jaguars, reindeer, river otters, llamas and miniature donkeys, as well as educational programs at the Animal Discovery Center. The zoo is also home to the nation's first "Earth Park."

CAMBRIDGE

Due to limited parking, it is best to take the Red Line when traveling to Harvard, Central or Kendall squares. The Cambridge Discovery Booth located at the Harvard Square "T" entrance provides additional information.

CAMBRIDGE COMMON/OLD BURYING GROUND. A grazing pasture and cemetery for Puritan Newtowne, as well as a favorite meeting spot for public figures and a tent site for the Continental Army. Early college presidents and town residents were buried in "God's Acre" across from the Common.



FRANKLIN PARK ZOO: Little Joe, one of the zoo's western lowland gorillas, gets comfortable in the newly unveiled gorilla habitat designed to provide increased viewing opportunities for visitors. **Refer to listing, left.**

CHRIST CHURCH. This 1761 Tory house of worship was utilized as a Colonial barracks in the American Revolution.

FIRST CHURCH UNITARIAN/UNIVERSALIST. 617–876–7772. Harvard College provided the pews for its students in this 1833 building erected for the then-newly founded Unitarian Church.

HARVARD AND RADCLIFFE YARDS. The centers of two institutions that have played major educational roles since Harvard's founding in 1636.

HARVARD SQUARE/OLD CAMBRIDGE. The center of Cambridge activity since the 17th century, the Square is home to Harvard University, historic buildings, bookstores, cafes, restaurants and shops.

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY, 580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge, 617-547-7105. *Open daily, including holidays, from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.* Founded in 1831 by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Mount Auburn was the first landscaped cemetery in the country. Many prominent Americans are buried here, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Isabella Stewart Gardner and Winslow Homer. The cemetery is also an arboretum, sculpture garden and wildlife sanctuary.

TORY ROW (BRATTLE STREET). One of the nation's most beautiful residential streets, Tory Row is the site of Loyalist mansions and their elegant neighbors from every period of American architecture.

ART & ANTIQUES

PUCKER GALLERY, 171 Newbury St., 617-267-9473. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Sun 1–5 p.m.* Founded in 1967 as a showcase for the talents of Israeli artists, the gallery has displayed and sold a wide range of art by international artists, including works by Chagall, Picasso and Hundertwasser.

ARTS & CRAFTS

A KNIT AND NEEDLEPOINT STORE BY MARY JO COLE, 11 Newbury St., 617-536-9338. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun by chance.* The fine arts of handprinted needlepoint and gorgeous knitting yarns are showcased here. Instruction is available from the knowledgeable staff and lessons are free when the project is purchased here. Visit www.needlepoint-boston.com.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND CRAFTS, 175 Newbury St., 617-266-1810. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun noon–5 p.m.* The oldest nonprofit craft organization in the country, established in 1897. The Society specializes in contemporary American crafts, jewelry, furniture, glass and ceramics ranging from cutting edge to traditional, and from functional to sculptural.

BOOKS

BARNES & NOBLE, 800 Boylston St. (Prudential Center), 617-247-6959. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.–9 p.m.* One of America's largest booksellers boasts all the bestsellers, plus an extensive selection of back titles, audiobooks, magazines, CDs and more.

BORDERS, 10–24 School St., 617-557-7188; 511 Boylston St., 617-236-1444; CambridgeSide Galleria, Cambridge, 617-679-0887. School Street: *Mon–Fri 7 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.–8 p.m.* Boylston Street: *Mon–Fri 7 a.m.–11 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.–10 p.m.* Galleria: *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* This major retailer provides readers with seemingly limitless options regarding books and periodicals, as well as an extensive music section.

CLOTHING

ANTHROPOLOGIE, 799 Boylston St., 617-262-0545; 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill, 617-559-9995. Boylston: *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.;* Chestnut Hill: *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* With stores in more than 20 states and around the world, Anthropologie specializes in inspiring, upscale clothing, accessories and home decor with a vintage and global flair.

CHANEL BOUTIQUE, 5 Newbury St., on the ground floor of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 617-859-0055. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.* Modeled after the famed Chanel Boutique in Paris, the Boston outpost of this storied franchise offers a range of Chanel products, including a line of clothing designed by Karl Lagerfeld, as well as shoes, accessories, handbags and fragrances.

COSMOFURS, 224 Newbury St., 617-585-0080. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* Specializing in high-end Italian design, this European-owned shop offers an extensive range of luxurious ready-to-wear furs.

HELEN'S LEATHER: This shop on Beacon Hill's Charles Street offers genuine cowboy boots in exotic leathers from ostrich to alligator. **Refer to listing, page 51.**

JASMINE SOLA, 344 Newbury St., 617-867-4636; 800 Boylston St., Prudential Center, 617-578-0550; 199 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill, 617-332-1212; 37–39 Brattle St., Harvard Square, 617-354-6043. Newbury Street: *Mon–Thu 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 9 p.m., Sun noon–7 p.m.; call for hours of other locations.* This popular boutique carries an array of hip clothing from trendy designers like Diesel, Miss Sixty, Juicy Couture, Seven Jeans and Blue Cult.

LOUIS BOSTON, 234 Berkeley St., 617-262-6100. *Mon 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Tue & Wed 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til 7 p.m.* Housed in a historic former Back Bay museum building, this Boston institution maintains its cutting-edge allure by offering upscale men's fashions by up-and-coming designers, as well as women's fashions, bed and bath items and home accessories.

URBAN OUTFITTERS, 361 Newbury St., 617-236-0088. *Mon–Thu 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m., Sun noon–8 p.m.* Also: 11 JFK St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-864-0070. Where urban hipsters turn for funky men's and women's fashions. The store also features a wide array of housewares, shoes, accessories, gifts, books, cards and other bric-a-brac.

DEPARTMENT STORES

FILENE'S BASEMENT, 426 Washington St., 617-542-2011; 479 Boylston St., 617-424-5520. *Mon–Fri 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* For decades, the Basement has provided shoppers with huge deals, thanks to its automatic markdown system which guarantees greater

discounts the longer an item remains on the selling floor. A "must-visit" for bargain hunters.

H & M, 350 Washington St., 617-482-7081; 100 Newbury St., 617-859-3192. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* This youthful, cutting-edge department store opened its Boston shop in 2001. Its mission of "fashion and quality at the best price" translates to inexpensive, trendy clothes for men and women, as H & M boasts the freshest, most up-to-date fashion trends in color, material and style.

MACY'S, 450 Washington St., 617-357-3195. *Mon–Sat 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* This famous New York-based department giant features floor after floor of the latest culinary tools, bed and bath items, incredible gifts and hot fashions. Choose from your favorite designers—Polo, Liz Claiborne, Jones New York and DKNY—or Macy's exclusive labels.

MARSHALLS, 500 Boylston St., 617-262-6066. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.*; 350 Washington St., Downtown Crossing, 617-338-6205. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* Its mantra "Brand name clothing for less" has made this discount retailer a bargain-hunter's dream come true. From Ralph Lauren to Calvin Klein, Marshalls features designer clothing for men, women and children.

T.J. MAXX, 350 Washington St., 617-695-2424. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* This discount retailer offers brand name and designer fashions for men, women and kids, as well as accessories, fine jewelry and items for the home. Prices are slashed 20–60% off most department store rates. T.J. Maxx offers current trends of the highest quality.

EYEGLASS SALES & REPAIR

VISION HOUSE, 7 JFK St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-661-3676. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun 1–5 p.m.* Known for its stylish selection and superior service, Vision House has been a fixture in Harvard Square for more than 30 years. Its vast selection of eyewear includes such designers as Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Vera Wang, Burberry and Oakley. One-hour service is available, as well as an on-site optometrist for eye exams and contact lens fittings. Walk-in appointments are welcome.

FURNITURE & HOME GOODS

CRATE & BARREL, 777 Boylston St., 617-262-8700. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* Also: Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-742-6025; 48 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-876-6300. *Call for other location hours.* This fun yet sophisticated home fashions store features everything from kitchenware and furniture to flatware, glassware and bath and body accessories.

RESTORATION HARDWARE, 711 Boylston St., 617-578-0088. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* This hardware retailer features distinctive, high-quality items for the home—from home furnishings and lighting to kitchen accessories and garden supplies. Each product is imbued with the store's classic design, affordable pricing and whimsical product information.

GIFTS & STATIONERY

TEDDY BALLGAME'S, 1 South Station, 617-330-1230. Located at the South Station concierge desk, Teddy Ballgame's offers tours of Boston that leave right from South Station, a wide variety of Red Sox souvenirs, t-shirts and books about the history of Boston.

THE BOSTON BAKED BEAN, 291 Newbury St., 617-266-0050. *Tue–Sat 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* This fun new store features the Bean's unique collection of adult and children's apparel, souvenir and gift items, candy and treats, plush toys and collectible figurines, gift baskets and more. Whatever you're looking for, the Boston Bean has it all. www.thebostonbakedbean.com.

GOURMET FOOD & BEVERAGE

CARDULLO'S GOURMET SHOPPE, 6 Brattle St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-491-8888. *Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat 'til 9 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* www.cardullos.com. Since opening in 1950, Cardullo's has offered the best gourmet products the world has to offer, including a deli featuring a wide variety of imported meats and specialty wines, chocolates, teas and other unique items that make Cardullo's a must-see stop in Harvard Square.

TIMELESS TEAS, 85 Newbury St., 2nd floor, 617-236-5772. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* This Back Bay tea shop offers more than a hundred varieties of tea from around the world, including green, black, white and Yerba Mate teas, as well as gift baskets, biscuits, gourmet jams and tea accessories.

HOME ELECTRONICS

BANG & OLUFSEN, 30 Newbury St. and 1 Design Center Place, Suite 643, 617-262-4949. Newbury Street: *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun noon–5 p.m.;* Design Center: *Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* Founded in 1925, this leading innovator in both technology and aesthetics offers everything from complete home electronics systems and home phones to headphones, cell phones and assorted accesories. www.bang-olufsen.com.

JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES

ALPHA OMEGA, 1380 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-864-1227. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thu 'til 7 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* Also: The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-494-9030. Devoted to the art of timekeeping, Alpha Omega is an authorized agent for more than 20 prestigious watch brands such as Akteo, Breitling, Movado, Omega, Seiko, TAG Heuer and Raymond Weil.

BAAK GALLERY, 35 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-354-0407. *Mon–Sat 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 1–6 p.m.* BAAK presents collections of American and international designer jewelry, as well as a variety of 2D fine arts. The frequently changing exhibits showcase works by both established and emerging artists.

JOHN LEWIS, INC., 97 Newbury St., 617-266-6665. *Tue–Sat 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* John Lewis has been creating jewelry of imaginative design in Boston for more than 30 years. Using only solid precious metals and natural stones, Lewis' aim is "to make jewelry at a reasonable price, of excellent workmanship and uncommon beauty."

LUX BOND & GREEN, 416 Boylston St., 617-266-4747. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thu 'til 7 p.m.* Since 1898, Lux Bond

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& Green has provided its customers with diamonds, gold jewelry, watches and giftware from around the world. The store offers a corporate gift division, bridal and gift registry, a full-service repair department, gift certificates and elegant gift wrapping.

MALLS/SHOPPING CENTERS

CAMBRIDGESIDE GALLERIA, 100 CambridgeSide Place, Cambridge, 617-621-8666. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* This three-level mall features department stores such as Filene's, Sears and Best Buy, as well as more than 100 other stores and specialty shops including the largest Gap in Boston, J. Crew, Old Navy, Borders, Victoria's Secret and more.

COPLEY PLACE, Copley Square, 617-369-5000. The magnificent Copley Place features more than 100 upscale stores, including Neiman Marcus, Tiffany & Co., Gucci and Williams-Sonoma. A variety of restaurants, including Legal Sea Foods, offer shoppers numerous dining options. To receive a free Ultimate Shopping Excursions card, stop by one of the customer service kiosks.

THE CORNER MALL, corner of Winter and Washington streets. *Open daily.* One-stop shopping in Downtown Crossing. You'll find the latest styles at shops like Discovery Imports, Bath & Body Works and Aldo Shoes. In addition, the Corner Mall features an international food court to please every palate, including Cafe La Brioche, Sakkio Japan and India Express.

MARKETPLACE CENTER, located between Faneuil Hall and the Waterfront. Twenty-four distinctive shops surround an open court known as the Exedra, where you will always find a wide range of unusual pushcarts and entertainment events unique to this wonderful area. Within walking distance are literally hundreds of other shops, restaurants, pubs and nightspots.

THE HERITAGE ON THE GARDEN, 300 Boylston St., 617-426-9500. *Call for individual store hours.* This residential/office/retail complex located alongside the Public Garden features a handful of upscale retailers, including St. John Boutique, Sonia Rykiel, Escada, Hermes, Candela Spa and Anne Fontaine.

THE SHOPS AT PRUDENTIAL CENTER, 800 Boylston St., 800-SHOP-PRU. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* The Shops at Prudential Center features over 75 stores and restaurants including The Cheesecake Factory, Saks Fifth Avenue, Ann Taylor, J. Jill and Alpha Omega. It is also the launch spot for the city's renowned tourist resource, the Boston Duck Tours.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FIRST ACT GUITAR STUDIO, 745 Boylston St., 617-226-7899. This Boston-based leader in musical products specializes in custom-made guitars for musicians of all styles. Check out this popular line of guitars built for and inspired by some of the world's best musicians. First Act also boasts in-store performances and workshops from legendary acts, including past performances from Mason Jennings, Aerosmith guitarist Brad Whitford, Paul Westerberg of the Replacements, Death Cab for Cutie and countless others.

MUSIC/VIDEO

NEWBURY COMICS, 332 Newbury St., 617-236-4930. *Mon–Thu 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* Also: Government Center, 1 Washington Mall, 617-248-9992; 36 JFK St. (Garage Mall), Cambridge, 617-491-0337; 211 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, 617-491-7711. You'll have a "wicked good time" at this upstart local chain, which boasts the cheapest CD prices in town, including import, indie and major label releases, as well as T-shirts, comics, and other pop culture kitsch items.

SHOES

HELEN'S LEATHER, 110 Charles St., 617-742-2077. *Mon–Wed, Fri & Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thu noon–8 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* For more than 35 years, Helen's Leather has supplied New Englanders with quality Western boots by makers like Lucchese, Tony Lama, Justin, Nocona and Frye. In addition, Helen's sells Western belts, buckles, shirts and Stetson hats, as well as leather jackets and bags.

SPORTING GOODS

BILL RODGERS RUNNING CENTER, 353 North Market Bldg., Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-723-5612. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* Owned by the four-time Boston Marathon winner, the Bill Rodgers Running Center boasts the most experienced running staff in Boston. Since 1977, they have been helping fellow runners find the best shoes for their individual needs.

MARATHON SPORTS, 671 Boylston St., 617-267-4774; 1638 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-735-9373; 1654 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 617-354-4161; 255 Washington St., Wellesley, 781-237-0771; 134 Washington St., Norwell, 781-871-2979. *Mon–Fri 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m., ('til 7:30 in Boston), Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* For more than 29 years, Marathon Sports has provided experience and knowledge in footwear solutions for walkers, runners and those in search of an active lifestyle with the widest selection of apparel, footwear and accessories.

SPORTS MEMORABILIA

FENWAY SPORTSZONE, 306 Newbury St., 617-437-1010. *Open daily 11 a.m.–7 p.m., with extended hours on game days.* Boasting "The most balls in Boston," Fenway Sportszone is Boston's largest memorabilia shop, featuring the city's biggest selection of autographed items. They also have all your fan gear and souvenir needs as well as a huge selection of apparel from Majestic, MLB Authentic, Sully's Tees and many others. ***SEE LOCATOR #5 ON CENTER MAP.***

TOYS

BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 6 North Market St., 617-227-2478. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun noon–6 p.m.* Build-A-Bear Workshop offers guests a unique and exciting entertainment retail experience based on the premise that nearly everyone, regardless of age, has a special fondness for stuffed animals. When guests visit a Build-A-Bear Workshop store, they enter a lighthearted teddy-bear themed environment consisting of fun bear-making stations.

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RESTAURANTS

PHOTO BY MATT KALINOWSKI

THE UPPER CRUST: This gourmet pizza purveyor has locations in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill and the suburbs. **Refer to listing, page 56.**

ALLSTON/BRIGHTON

BIG CITY PIZZA KITCHEN & POOL HALL, 138 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-782-2020. In this renovated, two-floor bank building, you'll find one-of-a-kind "retro-metro" décor featuring life size murals, as well as 15 champion-size pool tables, 6 foosball tables, 80 beer taps and outrageous thin crust pizzas that always keep customers coming back. L, D, LS, Sat & SB. $

THE SUNSET GRILL & TAP, 130 Brighton Ave. (corner of Harvard and Brighton avenues), Allston, 617-254-1331. This popular Allston hangout features Boston's best beer selection, with more than 112 beers on tap and over 400 microbrews. Its food entices too, with award-winning steam beer burgers, famous curly fries, buffalo wings and giant nachos. L, D, C, LS, SB. $

BACK BAY

APROPOS, Sheraton Boston, 39 Dalton St., 617-375-6500. Drawing its influences from American regional cuisine with a strong New England flair, the menu at Apropos offers hearty, satisfying dishes ranging from pan-roasted Chilean sea bass to grilled New York sirloin and herb roasted chicken. The menu, created by executive chef Joseph Nartowicz, exudes the flavors of Boston. B, L, D, SB. $$$

AUJOURD'HUI, Four Seasons Hotel Boston, 200 Boylston St., 617-351-2037. An elegant eatery with the Public Garden as a backdrop, and a perennial recipient of the AAA Five Diamond Award. Enjoy exquisite modern French cuisine, accompanied by a selection from an 1,800-bottle wine library. Reservations recommended. D Mon–Sat 5:30–10:30 p.m., Sun 6–10 p.m.; SB 11 a.m.–2 p.m. $$$$

AZURE, The Lenox Hotel, 61 Exeter St., 617-933-4800. Azure's menu and concept are designed to be as clear and understated as the color palette itself. Nationally recognized executive chef Robert Fathman, known for his innovation and playful risk-taking in the kitchen, creates contemporary American cuisine with a sophisticated edge and an emphasis on fresh seafood. B, D. $$$

BANGKOK BLUE, 651 Boylston St., 617-266-1010. The experienced chefs at Bangkok Blue prepare authentic Thai food, with each dish individually suited to your taste, from mild to spicy, using quality, fresh ingredients. Low carb programs can be requested. Complement your food with a Thai beer or a glass of wine. Seasonal outdoor seating is available. L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Sat & Sun noon–3 p.m.; D daily 5–10 p.m. $$

BRASSERIE JO, The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., 617-425-3240. The "sister" of chef Jean Joho's award-winning Chicago restaurant combines traditional favorites (coq au vin and steak frites) with unique specialties (Uncle Hansi's onion tart). Home-brewed beer, a wine list and desserts made in the French tradition complete this Gallic experience. Seasonal outdoor patio. B, L, D. $$

CLIO, The Eliot Hotel, 370-A Commonwealth Ave., 617-536-7200. James Beard Award-winning chef Ken Oringer serves up French-American fare with some striking Asian influences in a sleek, sophisticated atmosphere that's styled after a Parisian supper club. Bacon-wrapped foie gras, caramelized swordfish au poivre and ginger-glazed oxtail keep customers coming back for more. D. $$$$

COTTONWOOD CAFE, 222 Berkeley St., 617-247-2225. Specialties include open-grill steaks, poultry, pasta and vegetarian dishes. Voted "Boston's Best Southwestern Restaurant" and "Boston's Best Margarita." Reservations recommended. Two hours free validated parking. L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; D Sun–Thu 'til 10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sat & SB 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. C, LS, VP. www.cottonwoodboston.com. $$

DAVIO'S NORTHERN ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE, 75 Arlington St., 617-357-4810. Enjoy fine steaks, pasta and seafood, or lighter fare in the spacious bar. L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D Sun–Tue 5–10 p.m., Wed–Sat 'til 11 p.m. C, VP. www.davios.com. $$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #2 ON CENTER MAP.***

GOURMELI'S SEAFOOD, Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., 617-236-5800 ext. 6741. Enjoy the sushi bar or indulge in

KEY		AVERAGE PRICE OF DINNER ENTREES	
B	Breakfast	$	Most less than $12
L	Lunch	$$	$12–18
D	Dinner	$$$	$19–25
BR	Brunch	$$$$	Most more than $25
SB	Sunday Brunch	*Many restaurants offer a wide range of entrees and prices; therefore, the classifications are only approximations.*	
C	Cocktails		
LS	Late Supper (serving after 10 p.m.)		
VP	Valet Parking		
NC	Credit Cards Not Accepted		
*	Entertainment	***Cuisine index on page 54.***	

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fresh lobster, swordfish and more at this eatery in the heart of the Back Bay. Gourmeli's offers an array of fresh New England seafood and entrees. B, L, D. $$$

JASPER WHITE'S SUMMER SHACK, 50 Dalton St., 617-867-9955; 149 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, 617-520-9500; Logan Airport, Terminal A, 617-569-9695. Top-notch fare such as pan-roasted lobster, award-winning fried chicken and an impressive raw bar in a casual setting. Boston: Sun–Wed 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til 11 p.m., raw bar Thu–Sat 'til 1 a.m. Cambridge: Mon–Thu 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m., Sun 3–9 p.m. $$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #8 ON CENTER MAP.***

L'AROMA CAFE, 85 Newbury St., 617-412-4001. This Italian cafe offers delicious soups, sandwiches and European pastries and desserts, as well as Italian coffee and assorted teas. Relax in its spacious interior or enjoy outdoor patio dining from April through October. B, L. $

***THE OAK ROOM,** 138 St. James Ave., Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 617-267-5300. This sophisticated spot offers a traditional steakhouse menu of prime steaks and chops and fresh seafood. Replete with stately wood paneling, rich draperies and wall ornaments for a comfortable yet elegant feel. B, L, D daily. The adjoining Oak Bar offers martinis, raw bar and full Oak Room menu. $$$$

SHINO EXPRESS SUSHI, 144 Newbury St., 617-262-4530. If your day of shopping has left you craving sushi, this tiny, subterranean sushi bar specializes in freshly prepared maki rolls and fun specials. Affordably priced, Shino Express offers Newbury Street shoppers a fast, cheap dining alternative. L & D. $

SKIPJACK'S SEAFOOD EMPORIUM, 199 Clarendon St., Copley Square, 617-536-3500; other locations outside Boston. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere and specialties such as blackened tuna sashimi, moonfish, Maryland crabcakes and lobster. Winner of Best of Boston 2003 award for seafood. Jazz Brunch Sun 11 a.m.–3 p.m. L & D Sun–Thu 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m. $$

SONSIE, 327 Newbury St., 617-351-2500. Recommended by *Boston* magazine as the place to "see and be seen." The lively restaurant features a streetside cafe, 50-foot mahogany bar, brick oven, creative takes on classic American cuisine and a colorful dining room. The restaurant's newest attraction is its downstairs candlelit wine bar, an intimate and lovely brick-walled spot in which to enjoy items from a 250-bottle menu. L, D, C, LS, VP. $$$

STEPHANIE'S ON NEWBURY, 190 Newbury St., 617-236-0990. Lauded by *The New York Times*, chef/owner Stephanie Sokolove's eatery showcases sophisticated cooking and classic comfort food. Casual elegance at its best with a sidewalk cafe, club-like bar and skylit dining space. Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.–10 p.m. L, D, SB 10 a.m.–3 p.m., C, VP Tue–Sat evenings. $$$

***THE TAJ BOSTON,** 15 Arlington St., 617-536-5700. This 1927 landmark offers award-winning contemporary French cuisine. The historic Dining Room is available for special events only. The Cafe: B, L, D, Sat & SB. The Lounge: L, D, C, LS. The Bar: L, D, C, LS. $$$$

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TURNER FISHERIES, Westin Hotel Copley Place, Stuart and Dartmouth streets, 617-424-7425. Known for its fresh seafood and winner of several regional awards, Turner features seven-foot-high French windows, swooping Hollywood banquettes, mahogany paneling and cobalt blue tile. Private dining rooms accommodate 10–140 guests. VP available on Dartmouth Street. B, L, D, C, LS. $$$

THE UPPER CRUST, 222 Newbury St. 617-262-0096; 20 Charles St. 617-723-9600, 286 Harvard St., Brookline, 617-734-4900; 41 Waltham St., Lexington, 781-274-0089. Traditional Neapolitan-style pizza (thin crust, chunky sauce) in an urban setting. Come sit with friends in the uniquely designed dining room, enjoy a specialty pizza and watch your favorite team on an HDTV screen. If you're on the go, call ahead for take-out (allow 20–25 minutes) or just pop in for a slice. Delivery is available. $$

BEACON HILL

ANTONIO'S, 288 Cambridge St., 617-367-3310. One of Boston's finest Italian restaurants (across from Mass. General Hospital on historic Beacon Hill). Traditional Italian food with nightly specials and complementing wine list. Specials include homemade fusilli, shrimp margarita and chicken/sausage vinegar peppers and potatoes. L, D Mon–Thu 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 11 a.m.–10:30 p.m. $

***CHEERS,** 84 Beacon St., 617-227-9605; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-227-0150. Both the original Beacon Hill pub and its spinoff offer a tasty selection of traditional fare and an abundant beverage selection, including their award-winning Bloody Mary and a variety of draft beers. Live entertainment Thu–Sat nights, and officially licensed Cheers merchandise sold on site. L, D, C, LS. $

THE FEDERALIST, Fifteen Beacon Hotel, 15 Beacon St., 617-670-2515. The menu at this elite spot brings artistic flair to dishes like tenderloin of beef Wellington and skillet-roasted French Dover sole, in an atmosphere evoking the stately class of the world's most private clubs. A rooftop herb garden and in-kitchen fish tanks help to ensure culinary perfection. B, D, Sat & SB, C, LS. $$$$

HUNGRY I, 71½ Charles St., 617-227-3524. In a two-story townhouse with three working fireplaces and an outdoor patio, Chef Peter Ballarin delights patrons with French country cuisine and creative desserts. Signature dishes include venison au poivre and braised rabbit a la moutard. L Thu and Fri only, noon–2 p.m.; D 5:30–9:30 p.m.; SB 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Private dining rooms available. $$$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #7 ON CENTER MAP.***

LALA ROKH, 97 Mt. Vernon St., 617-720-5511. Named for a legendary Persian princess, this elegant restaurant is owned by siblings Babak and Azita Bina. Using their mother's recipes, they've created a unique dining experience in the only restaurant of its kind in New England. L Mon–Fri noon–3 p.m.; D nightly 5:30–10 p.m. Reservations recommended. C, VP. www.lalarokh.com. $$

MA SOBA, 156 Cambridge St., 617-973-6680. Hailed for the "Best Sushi in Boston" by *Boston* magazine, this sleek eatery offers a variety of Asian cuisine, from Chinese and Thai to Korean and Japanese, as well as an extensive wine list. L & D Mon–Wed 11:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m., Thu & Fri 'til 11 p.m.; D Sat 4–11 p.m., Sun 'til 10:30 p.m. C. www.masobaboston.com. $$

CAMBRIDGE

ARROW STREET CREPES, 1 Arrow St. at Mass. Ave., 617-661-6999. This Harvard Square institution has been serving up delicious and healthy crepes for nearly ten years. Try the roasted wild mushroom, fresh thyme and melted swiss; the spicy Thai peanut chicken salad; the Nutella chocolate with fresh mixed berries; or caramelized sugar, lemon juice and fresh strawberries. L & D. Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–10:30 p.m., Sun 'til 5:30 p.m. $

HENRIETTA'S TABLE, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5005. Nothing but locally grown and organic produce is used to create a lively, textured menu of reinterpreted New England classics. Private dining room available. B Mon–Fri 6:30–11 a.m., Sat 7–11 a.m., Sun 7–10:30 a.m.; Sat and SB noon–3 p.m.; L Mon–Fri noon–3 p.m.; D daily 5:30–10 p.m. $

HONG KONG, 1238 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-864-5311. A local favorite for five decades, this Harvard Square fixture serves a full array of classic Chinese dishes and exotic drinks, including its infamous scorpion bowls. Perfect for a meal with friends anytime, including post-midnight to beat the late-night munchies. Open Sun–Thu 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m., Fri & Sat 'til 3 a.m. $

LA GROCERIA RESTAURANT, 853 Main St., Cambridge, 617-876-4162. Specializing in fresh handmade pasta, grilled fish and lobster, La Groceria has offered great Mediterranean cuisine for more than 35 years, and has been featured in *Gourmet* magazine and *Zagat Survey*. Children's menu available. Mon–Fri 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat 3–10 p.m., Sun 4–10 p.m. www.lagroceria.org. $$

OM, 92 Winthrop St., Cambridge, 617-576-2800. Acclaimed chef Rachel Klein serves New American cuisine in a beautifully lit and stunning upstairs dining room, while mixologist Clif Travers prepares his signature Aromatherapy concoctions at the popular Om ultra-lounge downstairs. Om's signature creations include Steak & Eggs and Zen Te'. D, C. $$$

RIALTO, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5050. One of Greater Boston's top restaurants, which recently underwent an extensive renovation, features fine wines and delectable Italian cuisine. Chef Jody Adams showcases her creative talents on a brand-new menu. D only. Reservations recommended. $$$$

SHERATON COMMANDER RESTAURANT, 16 Garden St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-234-1365. New England-style cuisine in a relaxed, elegant setting with a casual atmosphere. B, L, D, SB. $$

ZEPHYR ON THE CHARLES, Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, 617-441-6510. This restaurant serves small-portioned, tapas-like dishes, featuring eclectic fare like sushi-grade tuna tartare and wood-grilled tiger prawns. The setting features spectacular views of the Boston skyline. B, L, D, C. $$

ZOE'S, 1105 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-495-0055. Offering a menu of delicious homemade Greek and American food in a fun atmosphere, this retro establishment serves breakfast all day, and take-out and catering are available. A popular destination for the weekend brunch crowd, Zoe's is also a great place for dinner,

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DOWNTOWN

AVENUE ONE, Hyatt Regency (near The Opera House and Downtown Crossing), 1 Ave. de Lafayette, 617-422-5579. Enjoy Boston's most extensive fondue menu in a relaxed atmosphere. B, L, D, C, VP. $$

***CAFÉ FLEURI,** Langham Hotel Boston, 250 Franklin St., 617-451-1900. Enjoy what *Boston* magazine calls "the best Sunday brunch in Boston," or sample a la carte Mediterranean and American fare, and French desserts—all within a sunlit garden atrium. B Mon–Fri 6:30–11:30 a.m., Sat 7:30–11 a.m.; L daily 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D Mon–Sat 6–10 p.m., Sun 4–10 p.m.; SB 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. $$

CHART HOUSE, 60 Long Wharf, 617-227-1576. The Chart House boasts an impressive menu of fresh seafood, including specialties like the crab, avocado and mango stack appetizer, shrimp fresca, macadamia crusted mahi-mahi, slow roasted prime rib and its signature dessert—hot chocolate lava cake. Private parties for 30 or more by reservation only. L, D, C, free VP. $$$

FAJITAS & 'RITAS, 25 West St., 617-426-1222. Established in 1989, Fajitas & 'Ritas features fresh, healthy Tex-Mex and barbecue cuisine. The restaurant stresses generous portions, affordable prices, open casual space and prompt, friendly service. Mon–Tue 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Wed, Thu & Sat 'til 10 p.m., Fri 'til 11 p.m., Sun noon–8 p.m. C, LS. www.fajitasandritas.com. $. ***SEE LOCATOR #4 ON CENTER MAP.***

INTRIGUE, Boston Harbor Hotel at Rowes Wharf, 617-856-7744. Casual elegance surrounds this unique cafe. Beautiful decor and breathtaking harbor views are perfect for those who desire a cosmopolitan, relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy a global menu created by renowned chef Daniel Bruce. B, L, D, LS. $

***KENNEDY'S MIDTOWN,** 42 Province St., 617-426-3333. Kennedy's offers all the comforts of a traditional pub, featuring prime aged steaks, seafood and classic pub fare with a touch of class. Kennedy's upstairs location offers a relaxing dining atmosphere with a lively bar offering live piano music on Thu, Fri & Sun. Open daily; L 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; D Sun–Tue 4–10 p.m., Wed–Sat 'til 11 p.m.; B Sat & Sun 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m. www.kennedysmidtown.com. $$

MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave., 617-482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market, 617-720-5522. Renowned for fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, M & S also offers steak, chicken and pasta dishes. Daily 11 a.m.–11:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til midnight. Bar menu Mon–Fri 3:30–6:30 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 p.m.–midnight. $$$

MERITAGE, Boston Harbor Hotel at Rowes Wharf, 617-439-3995. Fresh, seasonal cuisine is carefully matched to an appropriate vintage from the 12,000-bottle wine collection. The restaurant's interior combines slate, marble, exotic wood and leather, creating a luxurious atmosphere to accompany a hearty meal. All menu items come in appetizer and entree sizes. D, LS. $$$$

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, Science Park, 617-723-2500. Forget dinner and a movie—now it's brunch and a movie at the noontime Skyline Sunday Brunch. The package includes tickets to the Museum's newest IMAX film, admission to the exhibit halls and free parking. *Tickets: $32; seniors $31; children $30.* Reservations recommended. $

OCEANA, Marriott Long Wharf Hotel, 296 State St., 617-227-3838. One of Boston's premier seafood spots. Boasting a breathtaking view of the harbor, Oceana offers uniquely prepared fresh seafood. B, L, D, SB. $$

PARKER'S RESTAURANT, Omni Parker House, 60 School St., 617-725-1600. Executive chef Gerry Tice celebrates nostalgic cuisine with a contemporary flair. The stately dining room reflects the rich culinary heritage that lives on at the birthplace of Boston cream pie and the Parker House roll. B, L, D. $$$$

SPIRE, Nine Zero Hotel, 90 Tremont St., 617-772-0202. Alluringly ensconced in Boston's most fashionable luxury boutique hotel, Spire features a striking interior and cuisine that combines flavors from France, Italy, Spain and Portugal with seasonal New England ingredients. Named one of "America's 50 Best Hotel Restaurants" by *Food and Wine.* B, L, D LS, VP. $$$$

YE OLDE UNION OYSTER HOUSE, 41 Union St., 617-227-2750. Steps from Quincy Market stands America's oldest restaurant, serving Yankee-style seafood, beef and chicken. Famed for its oyster bar where Daniel Webster dined daily. Specialties include clam chowder, swordfish and fresh lobster. L, D Sun–Thu 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10 p.m. VP. www.unionoysterhouse.com. $$$

EAST BOSTON/AIRPORT

HARBORSIDE GRILL, Hyatt Harborside, 101 Harborside Drive, 617-568-6060. The Harborside Grill offers panoramic views of the Boston skyline from every seat in the dining room. During the day, the Grill is a welcoming casual location for a bowl of chowder, and in the evening is transformed into a sophisticated seafood restaurant. Open daily 6 a.m.–10 p.m. B, L, D, SB, C, VP. $$$

FANEUIL HALL

DICK'S LAST RESORT,** Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-267-8080. Watch for the outrageous antics of Dick's sassy staff as they serve up buckets of sloppy ribs, succulent crab and shrimp, juicy steaks and chicken, two-fisted sandwiches, burgers and salads. If that isn't entertaining enough, there's live music every night with no cover. L, D, C. www.dickslastresort.com. $$. ***SEE LOCATOR #3 ON CENTER MAP.

FENWAY/KENMORE SQUARE

BRAVO, Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-369-3474. Chef Benjamin Cevelo brings his creative touch to an eclectic and contemporary menu. The restaurant's bold decor, created by famed restaurant designer Peter Niemitz, meshes with a rotating selection of the MFA's modern masterpieces. L daily 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D Wed–Fri 5:30–8:30 p.m.; SB 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. $$$

EASTERN STANDARD, Hotel Commonwealth, 528 Commonwealth Ave., 617-532-9100. This brasserie in the heart of Kenmore Square resembles an old hotel dining room with its decor, but the restaurant attracts a diverse crowd,

from businessmen to Red Sox fans seeking a pre-game bite. Its menu caters to both crowds, with offerings ranging from the Good Plate of Offal to veal schnitzel to sandwiches. B, L, D. $$

THE GARDNER CAFÉ, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, 617-566-1088. Chef Peter Crowley offers casual-yet-elegant, French-infused fare with an artistic twist. The seasonal menu changes every few weeks, often inspired by current events at the museum as well as Mrs. Gardner's own recipe books. Warmer weather allows seating amongst the lush vegetation of the museum's Monks Garden. L, SB. $$

GREAT BAY, Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Commonwealth Ave., 617-532-5300. Christopher Myers and chef Michael Schlow (Radius, Via Matta) present their unique take on seafood and raw bar concepts. This eclectic space serves delectable fare such as fish tacos and the acclaimed baked stuffed lobster. L, D, SB, C, LS. $$$

NORTH END

ANTICO FORNO, 93 Salem St., 617-723-6733. Antico Forno—Italian for "old stove"—features brick-oven classics such as roasted chicken with garlic and herbs; pizza with artichoke hearts, porcini mushrooms and buffalo mozzarella; and linguini with clams, mussels, calamari and shrimp, sautéed in a plum tomato sauce and baked in parchment. L Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; D Mon–Thu 3:30–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10:30 p.m., Sun 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m. $$

CAFFE VITTORIA, 296 Hanover St., 617-227-7606. This popular European-style cafe in the North End offers a variety of desserts, cappuccino and espresso. Sun–Thu 8 a.m.–midnight, Fri & Sat 'til 12:30 a.m. NC. $

FLORENTINE CAFE, 333 Hanover St., 617-227-1777. Revered by visitors and residents for decades, this historic cafe is one of Boston's culinary landmarks. Lobster ravioli with tomatoes and lobster cream sauce and seared veal with grilled shrimp in Frangelico mushroom sauce are just two of the Italian wonders awaiting you in this charming bistro setting. Daily noon–1 a.m. L, D, C. $$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #6 ON CENTER MAP.***

LUCCA RESTAURANT & BAR, 226 Hanover St., 617-742-9200. This North End eatery is still racking up accolades for its regional Italian cuisine, lively bar and elegant atmosphere. D nightly 5 p.m.–12:15 a.m. C, Valet Parking. $$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #9 ON CENTER MAP.***

MAMMA MARIA, 3 North Square, 617-523-0077. "Mamma Maria stands for what Italian food is. Simplicity, quality ingredients and fun…the food of love" (Emeril Lagasse, 2004). Mamma Maria offers charming views of the neighborhood and city skyline, as well as a Wine Spectator Award-winning wine list. D Sun–Thu 5–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m. VP. www.mammamaria.com. $$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #10 ON CENTER MAP.***

MASSIMINO'S CUCINA ITALIANA, 207 Endicott St., 617-523-5959. Owner/chef Massimino was formerly head chef of Naples' Hotel Astoria and Switzerland's Metropolitan Hotel. His eatery's specialties include veal chop stuffed with arugula, prosciutto, smoked mozzarella and black olives, amongst other delights. L, D, LS, C. Mon–Thu 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sun noon–9 p.m. $

SASSO RESTAURANT, 116 Huntington Ave., 617-247-2400. The newest endeavor from the restaurateurs behind popular North End eatery Lucca, Sasso offers contemporary and upscale regional Italian cuisine. Executive Chef David Ross serves delicious dishes complemented by an extensive wine list, as well as a menu of lighter fare for the after-hours crowd and C 'til 2 a.m. Reservations accepted. D beginning nightly at 5 p.m.; late-night menu available 'til 1:30 a.m. VP. $$$

STANZA DEI SIGARI, 292 Hanover St., 617-227-0295. This classic cigar parlor in the North End serves fine food, cigars and liqueurs. Open daily 5 p.m.–1 a.m. $

TERRAMIA RISTORANTE, 98 Salem St., 617-523-3112. Since opening in 1993, Terramia has aimed to convince North End diners that there was always more to Italian food than red sauce. Specializing in creative interpretations of Italian classics, Terramia offers seasonally based dishes and an extensive wine list in a cozy, rustic atmosphere. D Sun–Thu 5–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10:30 p.m. $$

SOUTH BOSTON WATERFRONT

AURA, Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, 617-385-4300. Aura's seasonal menus showcase a passion for using fresh, local ingredients. Chef John Merrill partners with local farmers and fishermen to select freshly harvested vegetables, seafood that is just off the boat and specially aged meats and cheeses to create his award-winning meals. B, L, D, SB. $$$

SOUTH END

B&G OYSTERS, 550 Tremont St., 617-423-0550. This sophisticated South End raw bar from James Beard Award-winning chef Barbara Lynch (No. 9 Park) and partner Garrett Harker features bivalves from Wellfleet to the West Coast, as well as signature dishes like the lobster BLT and the Maine lobster roll. L, D, LS, VP. $$

***BOB'S SOUTHERN BISTRO,** 604 Columbus Ave., 617-536-6204. Boston's premier soul food restaurant features performances by talented local jazz musicians which accent a delightful assortment of southern and Cajun cuisines to satisfy any palate. Live jazz SB. L, D, LS, C. $$

HAMERSLEY'S BISTRO, 533 Tremont St., 617-423-2700. This pioneering French-American classic, helmed by the husband and wife team of Gordon and Fiona Hamersley, first put the South End dining scene on the map. Try the duck confit or the roast chicken with garlic, lemon and parsley. Long regarded as one of the city's top tables. D. $$$$

TORO, 1704 Washington St., 617-536-4400. Chef Ken Oringer's latest restaurant aims for a highly social dining experience. The seating is a series of communal tables and the small, perfect-for-sharing tapas dishes—such as salt cod fritters, rainbow beet salad and salty fried chili peppers—blend a variety of vibrant styles and flavors. D, C. $$$

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200 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
Boston

THEATRE DISTRICT

AVILA MODERN MEDITERRANEAN, One Charles Street South, 617-267-4810. Enjoy flavors of Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Greece with a modern flair. The menu includes small plates of cod fritters, fried cheese and chicken livers, appetizers of tuna ceviche, onion soup and watercress salad, as well as the finest quality all natural beef and fresh seafood entrees, with breads, desserts and ice creams made fresh daily. L, D, C. $$$. ***SEE LOCATOR #1 ON CENTER MAP.***

JER-NE RESTAURANT & BAR, The Ritz-Carlton Boston Common, 12 Avery St., 617-574-7176. This lively hot spot takes center stage in the Theatre District and features chef Scott Gambone's signature seasonal surprises as well as "common dishes" for patrons to share. B, L, D, SB, C, LS. $$$$

LEGAL SEA FOODS RESTAURANT, 26 Park Plaza, Park Square Motor Mart, 617-426-4444; 255 State St., Long Wharf, 617-227-3115; Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-266-6800; other locations. For more than 50 years, Legal Sea Foods has served the freshest seafood possible, including oysters, succulent New England lobsters and its famous clam "chowda." Extensive wine list. L & D. $$$

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY, 4 Columbus Ave., Park Plaza Bldg., 617-542-3456. Set in a vibrant dining atmosphere, Maggiano's blends the tradition of family, friends and good times with authentic Italian cuisine. Offers old and new world Italian recipes, desserts and a full list of wines. Accommodations for small parties and large banquets are available. L Mon–Thu 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; D 5–10 p.m., Fri 'til 11 p.m.; L & D Sat 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun 'til 10 p.m. C. $$$

P.F. CHANG'S, 8 Park Plaza, 617-573-0821. Enjoy unforgettable Chinese cuisine, attentive service and delicious desserts all served in a stylish bistro setting. Featuring an award-winning wine list, P.F. Chang's offers an extensive wine-by-the-glass program as well as original cocktails like the Lucky Cat Martini. L, D & LS. Reservations accepted. Sun–Thu 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til midnight. www.pfchangs.com. $$. ***SEE LOCATOR #11 ON CENTER MAP.***

RUSTIC KITCHEN, Park Square, 210 Stuart St., 617-423-5700. This lively and classic Italian-Mediterranean bistro combines a distinctive award-winning menu with a comfortable, inviting and attractive rustic atmosphere. All breads, pastas and desserts are prepared fresh daily on the premises. Pre-theatre menu, three private dining rooms, garden lounge and weekly cooking classes are available. L 11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.; D 4 p.m.–2 a.m.; SB 11 a.m.–4 p.m. C, LS, VP. www.rustickitchen.biz. $$

THEATRE CAFE, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., 617-574-2752. Located in the heart of the Theatre District, this restaurant features traditional American fare in a comfortable atmosphere and is a great location for pre- and post-theater dining. Seasonal outdoor dining and discounted parking at on-site garage is available. B, L, D. $$

WISTERIA, Doubletree Hotel Boston, 821 Washington St., 617-956-7900. This restaurant and bar with a nouveau Asian twist offers an innovative menu that synthesizes New England seafood and Asian cuisine. Impeccable service and attention to detail are apparent, from the unique presentation of entrees on signature china to the welcoming hotel towel offered upon being seated. L & D. $$$

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T (617) 956 8751 www.langhamhotels.com

Langham Hotel Boston

Boston's Tables

Your guide to dining out in the Hub

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

ON THE MENU

RAW BAR
Crab, Avocado and Mango Stack ♦ Seared Peppered Ahi Tuna ♦ Shrimp Cocktail

APPETIZERS
Coconut Crunchy Shrimp ♦ Lobster Spring Rolls ♦ Jumbo Lump Crab Cake

SEAFOOD
Steamed Maine Lobster ♦ Dynamite Mahi Mahi ♦ Herb Crusted Salmon ♦ Spiced Yellowfin Ahi ♦ Pan Seared Sea Scallops ♦ Baked Stuffed Shrimp ♦ Alaskan King Crab Legs ♦ Dungeness Crab Clusters

PRIME RIB & STEAKS
Prime Rib ♦ Filet Mignon ♦ New York Strip ♦ Tenderloin Medallions

DESSERT
Hot Chocolate Lava Cake
Raspberry Crème Brulée

CHART HOUSE

60 Long Wharf • 617-227-1576 • chart-house.com

Let Chart House—the #1 rated seafood chain and waterfront restaurant by *Zagat*—take you to a place where time stands still, the historic Hancock Counting House. This Boston landmark once housed the offices of John Hancock, an American patriot. Experience their million-dollar renovations while savoring a seamless blend of high quality seafood and steaks—including whole, steamed lobster, cracked for you right at your table, and prime rib rubbed with aromatic herbs and spices and slow roasted to succulent perfection. Free valet parking is available.

ON THE MENU

APPETIZERS
Boneless Buffalo Tenders ♦ Scallops & Bacon ♦ Clam Chowder

STERLING® BEEF
Bourbon Street Sirloin ♦ Montreal Steak® ♦ "Hand-Cut" Filet Mignon ♦ Shepherds Pie

FRESH FISH
Fish & Chips ♦ Honey Bourbon Salmon ♦ Baked Seafood Casserole

PASTA & POULTRY
Chicken, Broccoli & Ziti ♦ Lobster Ravioli ♦ Classic Chicken Marsala

SANDWICHES
Kennedy's Sirloin Burger ♦ Mushroom Swiss Burger ♦ Dublin Chicken Sandwich ♦ Kennedy's Club

PHOTO BY BOB PERACHIO

KENNEDY'S MIDTOWN

42 Province St. • 617-426-3333
www.kennedysmidtown.com

Warm and enchanting, Kennedy's is an Irish pub and steak house offering all the comforts of a traditional pub with a touch of class. Old World-style dining rooms accented with historic photos and soft candlelight provide a classic setting, while the mahogany bar offers a relaxed experience. An upbeat piano bar is featured select nights and during brunch. Just steps from Boston Common, theaters and shopping, Kennedy's is a welcome respite for all.

ON THE MENU

APPETIZERS AND SOUPS
Soft Shell Crab ♦ Tempura ♦ Spring Roll Trio ♦ Miso Soup ♦ Hot and Sour Soup ♦ Wonton Soup

SUSHI
52 different kinds of Creative Giant Maki Rolls ♦ Fresh Sushi and Sashimi ♦ Special Sushi Boat

ENTREES
Crispy Sesame Chicken ♦ General Tao's Chicken ♦ Grilled Salmon Fillet ♦ Teriyaki (Salmon, Beef, Chicken) ♦ Short BBQ Rib (Kalbi) ♦ Bi Bim Bap ♦ Seafood Trio ♦ Pad Thai ♦ Udon ♦ Chow-Fun

DUMPLINGS
Pot Sticker
Dim Sum Basket

PHOTO BY HEIDI MOESINGER

MA SOBA

156 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill • 617-973-6680
www.MasobaBoston.com

Voted number one for sushi by Citysearch, AOL CityGuide and CBS A-List, Ma Soba serves the city's best blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by outstanding chefs. Relax in this Beacon Hill establishment with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the *Boston Herald*.

ON THE MENU

ANTIPASTI
Cozze con Senape: Prince Edward Island mussels in a sambuca tomato broth

PASTA
Rigatoni al Cinghiale: Pasta with braised wild boar in a tomato ragu

PESCE
Salmone Marinato: Marinated salmon filet with vegetables in a mustard seed vinaigrette

CARNE
Bistecca con Risotto: Seared beef tenderloin with a roasted cippolini and pancetta demi glaze

DESSERT
Zabaglione ♦ Tiramisu

LUCCA

226 Hanover St. • 617-742-9200
www.luccaboston.com

The chic yet inviting Lucca has not only earned raves as one of the best eateries in the North End, it has gained an ongoing reputation as one of the finest in the entire city, popular for both its food as well as its decor highlighted by the open-air French doors that invites the action of Hanover Street inside. And like its surroundings, the Tuscan-style fare possesses a confident swagger, complemented by an extensive wine list.

neighborhoods

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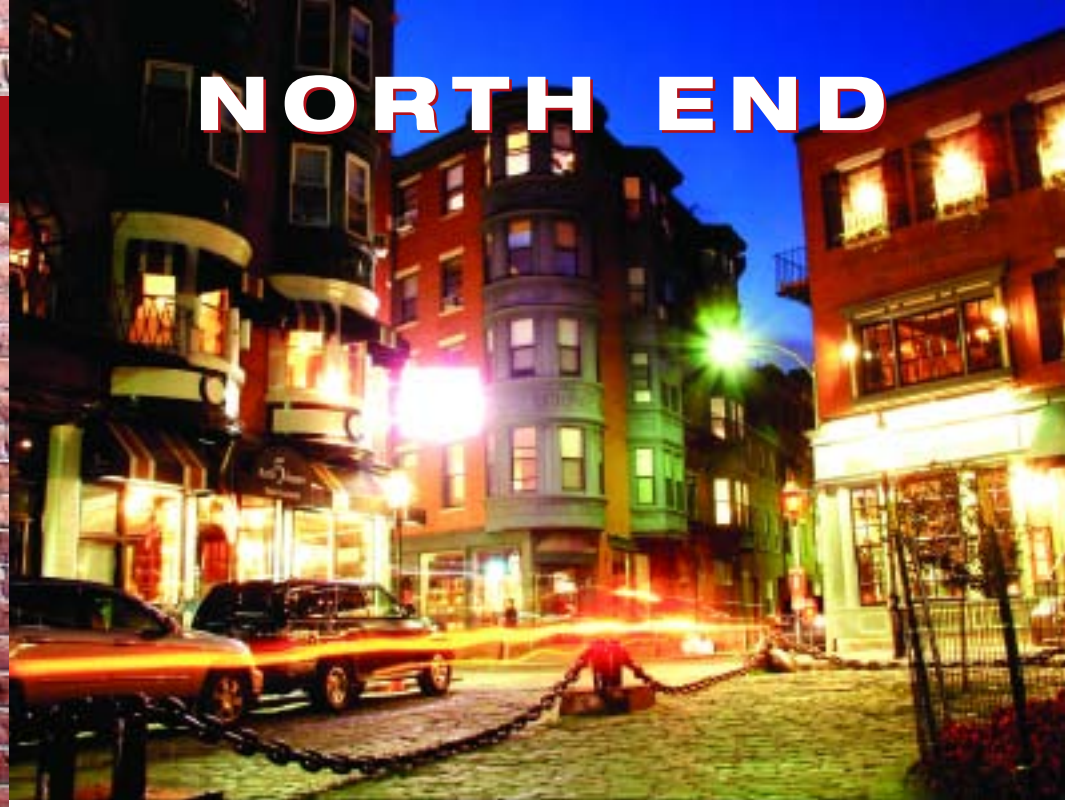
BRIGHT LIGHT: Gaslamps and brick buildings, such as these in Beacon Hill, are two hallmarks of the city's historic neighborhoods. *Refer to page 72.*

PHOTO BY DELLA HUFF

NORTH END



Old World Charm

TIME TRAVELING: North Square's cobblestoned streets play host to not only fine Italian eateries, but also to the historic Paul Revere House on the Freedom Trail.

Renowned as Boston's "Little Italy," the North End is constantly brimming with the aroma of garlic and freshly cooked cuisine. But much of the North End's charm comes from its storied history. The oldest neighborhood in the city, it gave birth to the American Revolution on its narrow cobblestone streets and has been home to wave after wave of new immigrants. Today, the North End remains one of the most European neighborhoods in America.

The North End is widely known for its abundance of Italian restaurants. The cuisine is authentic and consistently delicious, whether Old World Sicilian, traditional Northern Italian or Mediterranean fusion. And though the ambience can be boisterous, romantic or somewhere in between, the setting is usually intimate, with patrons rubbing elbows with one another in crowded dining rooms—it's all part of the European feel.

One of Boston's most well-known attractions is, of course, the Freedom Trail, and three of its sites are located in the North End. The Paul Revere House, Boston's oldest home (built circa 1680) was owned by the famed silversmith/patriot/midnight rider and his family (including 16 children!) from 1770–1800. Christ Church, a.k.a. the Old North Church, is Boston's oldest standing church (built in 1723) and served as the signal tower that spurred Revere on his jaunt through the countryside. And Copp's Hill Burying Ground, founded in 1660 as the Hub's second cemetery, provided the final resting place of many famous colonials, such as the Puritan preachers of the Mather family, including Salem Witch Trial-era firebrand Cotton Mather, and Edmund Hartt,

cont. on page 68 >>

ABOVE PHOTO BY DELLA HUFF

The Perfect Evening
La Serata Completa

FLORENTINE CAFE
BAR · BISTRO
333 Hanover St., North End, Boston
617.227.1777
www.florentinecafeboston.com

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617.227.7606 • www.vittoriacaffe.com

Stanza dei Sigari
A Classic Cigar Parlor
292 Hanover St., North End, Boston
617.227.0295 • www.stanzadeisigari.com
Hookahs available

Una Bella Serata

NORTH END

PHOTO BY DELLA HUFF

<< cont. from page 67

whose shipyard constructed the U.S. Navy's flagship *USS Constitution*.

In keeping with its Old World character, the North End observes many traditions imported from the shores of Europe. One such annual rite is the weekly Italian feasts and processions, kept alive by immigrants and their descendents, that take place throughout the summer and enliven this already spirited locale. These spectacles usually celebrate the patron saints of Italian villages and center around jubilant parades of the saints' statues through the North End's winding roadways. Food vendors, hawking everything from sausage to calamari, add their own flavor to the scene.

If you're looking for belly laughs instead of a full belly, have a seat at the Improv Asylum on Hanover Street to take in the wild antics of this innovative comedy troupe. The Asylum offers off-the-cuff fun and hilarity at its original North End venue.

And if you haven't had enough of good old Paul Revere, check out *Paul Revere Tonight*, which runs at the Old North Church during the summer and fall. Award-winning actor David Conner re-creates this legendary figure and tells the oft-untold stories of Revere's upbringing and his midnight ride. Ⓟ

AN INVITING GLOW: Restaurants offering everything from pizza to pasta and formal to informal dining can be found along the ancient streets of the North End.

ANTICO FORNO

Cucina a Legna

ANTICO FORNO—Italian for "old stove"— features brick-oven classics, all cooked in a **double-domed brick oven** custom-built by a native Neapolitan craftsman. **Antico Forno** is an inviting neighborhood trattoria that provides a truly authentic Neapolitan experience.

93 Salem St.,
North End, Boston
617-723-6733
www.anticofornoboston.com

Italian food lovers rave about the "*creative and substantial*" cooking at this North End "*keeper*" that's a "*new star*," providing "*classy modern Italian food*." The ever-changing menu incorporates seasonal vegetables and the catch of the day, and features homemade pasta dishes prepared in unconventional styles.

Terramia
Ristorante

98 Salem St.,
North End, Boston
617-523-3112
www.terramiaristorante.com

mamma maria

"BEST ITALIAN CUISINE.
By far the best restaurant in the North End, Mamma Maria might be the best in town."
Frommer's Boston 2005

three north square, boston (617) 523-0077
www.mammamaria.com

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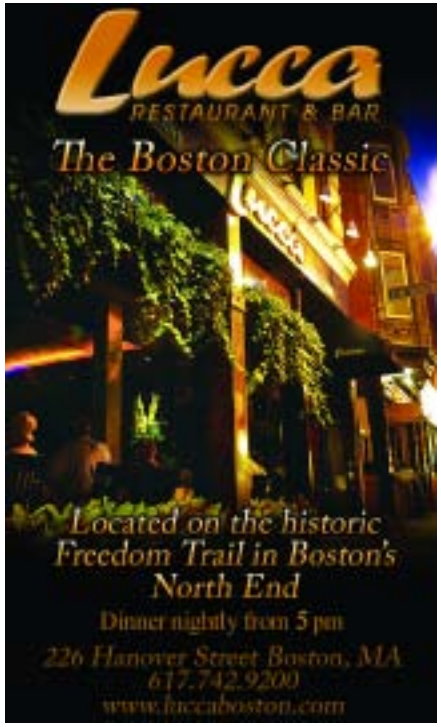

what to do
where to go
what to see

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BACK BAY

In Style

It's the great American success story: rising from the humblest of beginnings to achieve prestige and greatness. As such, Boston's chic Back Bay may well be the ultimate American neighborhood—classically beautiful brownstone residences, paired with block after block of high-end, glamorous retail space, all on a stretch of land that was once a fetid marsh.

Between 1857 and 1882, what we know as today's Back Bay was a tidewater flat for the Charles River. Gradually it was filled in, the largest part of a project that would more than double the size of the city. Once the swamp was gone, architect Arthur Gilman drew up the plans to build a largely uniform series of three- and four-story brownstones.

Real estate is pricey in this highly desired neighborhood—bordered on the north by the Charles River, Arlington Street to Park Square on the east, Columbus Avenue to Huntington Avenue, Dalton Street and the Massachusetts Turnpike on the south, and Charlesgate East on the west—and it's easy to understand why when one strolls past the gorgeous old brick buildings, amply shaded by trees, and within short walking distance of picturesque Boston Common and the Public Garden. Another prominent feature is the alphabetical cross streets, which intersect the main residential thoroughfares of Beacon Street, Marlborough Street and Commonwealth Avenue, as well as the commercial boulevards of Newbury and Boylston streets.

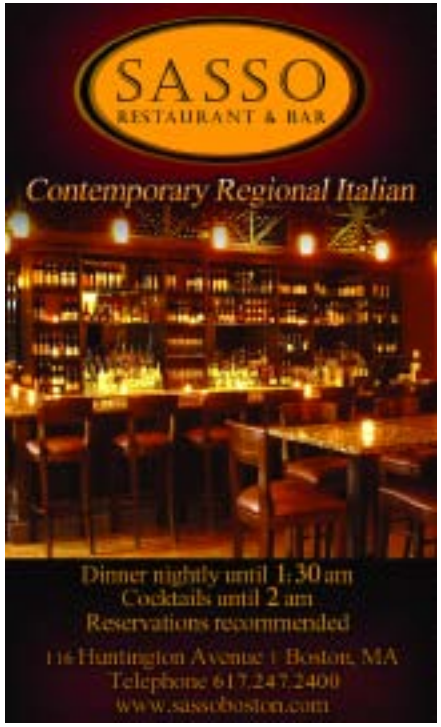
MIRROR IMAGE: The Back Bay skyline at night creates a dazzling reflection on the adjacent Charles River.

The Back Bay draws a high number of visitors because of Newbury Street, which has been referred to as "the East Coast's own Rodeo Drive." If you're itching to rev up the charge cards, and names like Gucci, Cartier and Chanel get your heart racing, then this is the place for you. Once your shopping is complete (or you just need to rest and reload), the street also boasts ice cream shops like JP Licks and Ben and Jerry's, and fashionable restaurants and bars like Sonsie and Stephanie's on Newbury, great for outdoor dining.

PHOTO BY DELLA HUFF

OLD AND NEW: Copley Square is home to some of the most prominent architectural landmarks in the city, including the striking Hancock Tower (above).

The Back Bay is also home to some of Boston's architectural standouts—from the classic beauty of Trinity Church (built in 1877) and the Boston Public Library to Boston's largest and most impressive modern skyscrapers, the 62-story John Hancock Tower and the Prudential Center, which houses offices, restaurants and shops. Ⓟ



BEACON HILL

Heart of the City

As much as early Bostonians struggled to define themselves as members of a new nation, remnants of the Old World's culture, morality and, particularly, its physical architecture were bound to live on in Boston. Today, there's nowhere in Boston that this still holds true more than the historically upper-class environs of the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Beacon Hill has traditionally been the home of leaders—Boston's first mayor, John Phillips, lived here, as well as instrumental figures in the formation of Boston, such as Harrison Gray Otis, William Scollay and Charles Bulfinch, who were all property owners here. Beyond that, Beacon Hill has remained the seat of political power in Boston. The Massachusetts State House was completed at the top of Beacon Hill in 1798, and in 1874 it received the gold leaf finish on its massive dome, which, thanks to diligent maintenance and renovations over the years, still shines brilliantly today.

It's here that visitors to the Freedom Trail begin their travels—passing by historical landmarks such as Park Street Church, the Old Granary Burying Ground (final resting place of John Hancock, Paul Revere, Samuel Adams and other Revolution-era luminaries), King's Chapel and, on School Street, the site of America's first public school (in 1856, a statue of Benjamin Franklin was erected near the site). One spot on the Trail not to be missed is the Old State House, at the corner of Washington and State streets. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read in Boston from the building's east balcony, and the building overlooks the site of the Boston Massacre in 1770.

Physically, the neighborhood still bears resemblance to its European roots—narrow cobblestone streets and gas-lit streetlamps still abound. While other areas of Boston are loaded with trendy restaurants and designer boutiques, visitors to Beacon Hill are more likely to find quaint antique shops along Charles Street and "local" restaurants, off the beaten path but beloved for generations. One exception is the original place "where everybody knows your name"—the Bull & Finch Pub, used as the inspiration for the classic sitcom "Cheers," can be found on Beacon Street and still draws in throngs of tourists annually.

And for those who cherish the outdoors, Beacon Hill shares the Boston Common with Downtown, offering visitors the opportunity to take advantage of a natural oasis upon which to throw a Frisbee, soak up some sun, ride a foot-pedaled Swan Boat through the Public Garden, or simply sit on a bench and watch the world go by, the way generations of Bostonians have done before. Ⓟ

ON THE MARCH: The Robert Gould Shaw Memorial across from the State House honors the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, the nation's first all-black regiment.

IT'S ALL UPHILL: Beacon Street along Boston Common features elegant and stately 19th century architecture.

ABOVE PHOTOS BY SABA ALHADI

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FULL SPIRITS MENU
PRIVATE ROOMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES

CAMBRIDGE

Square Deal

The people of Cambridge would like to inform the world that their fine city is not a neighborhood of Boston. Although it often gets lumped together with Beantown, Cambridge stands alone with all the sustaining qualities of an international city center. Throughout Kendall, Central, Inman, Harvard and Porter Squares, nearly 100,000 residents share a spirited range of cultural influences.

Central Square

Central Square sets a swift pace as the social center for Cambridge professionals. It's lined with coffee shops, burrito joints, down-home music stores, and its own share of great restaurants like La Groceria, Rendezvous and Cuchi Cuchi. Every night of the week, fans of rock, jazz, hip-hop and the blues line up at the doors of venues such as the Middle East Cafe, T.T. the Bear's Place and The Cantab Lounge.

Harvard Square

The grand cultural and geographical nucleus of Cambridge houses six performing arts theaters, three movie theaters, nine museums, over 100 restaurants and more than 400 retail stores. History is everywhere, including storied Harvard Yard, home of the homonymous Harvard University, which makes its quaint presence felt on the north side of the square. With all this intellectual energy flowing, it's no surprise that Harvard Square has been dubbed "the book mecca of the world." Not everyone here is a student, though. A walk along Massachusetts Avenue or JFK Street reveals musicians, magicians and street performers, who add color to the already bustling square. Diners flock to Harvard Square for the food as well, at favorites like Henrietta's Table, UpStairs on the Square and Rialto.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER: People aren't the only visitors to Cambridge's historic Mount Auburn Cemetery. The final burying place of such luminaries as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Winslow Homer is also an ideal area for birdwatching year-round.

ABOVE PHOTO © JOHN HARRISON

Inman Square

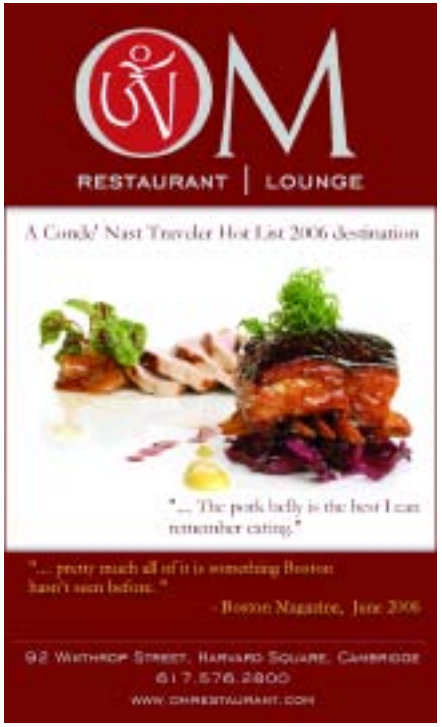
Just north of Central Square, the quieter, more residential Inman Square prides itself on its hometown sensibility, with a diverse working-class population, many of whom speak Portuguese. No elitism here: the area's only monument is the Cambridge Fireman's Mural. It is a place where food brings people together, whether at a range of local ethnic markets or at restaurants known for their bold flavors, like Chris Schlesinger's East Coast Grill. It does get rowdy over at ImprovBoston, where an acclaimed comedy troupe spoofs sports, mystery and pop culture with jamboree music and general "joyful chaos." Local and up-and-coming national jazz acts entertain music lovers at Ryles Jazz Club.

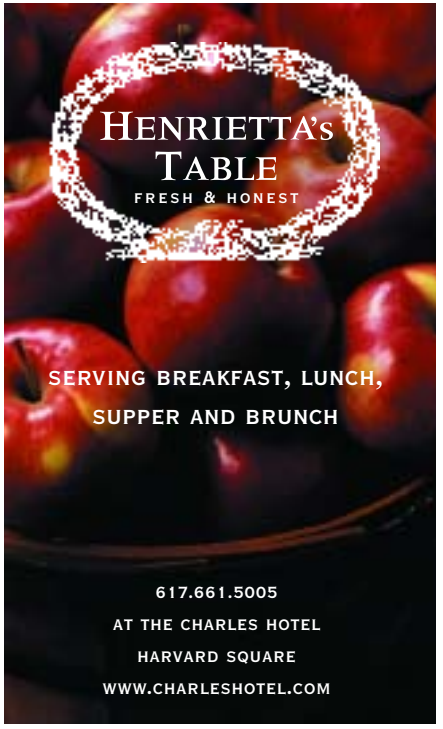
Kendall Square

Kendall Square, home to MIT—with its conspicuous concrete dome, the scene of many famous pranks—looks more like a high-brow business park than a neighborhood. Among the modern, sleek bio-tech firms and research labs, there are more than a few secret hiding places for fun. At the Kendall Square Cinema, movie buffs can check out foreign and independent films along with ice cream and espresso. And for shoppers, the CambridgeSide Galleria houses over 100 stores, including Banana Republic, J. Crew and Best Buy.

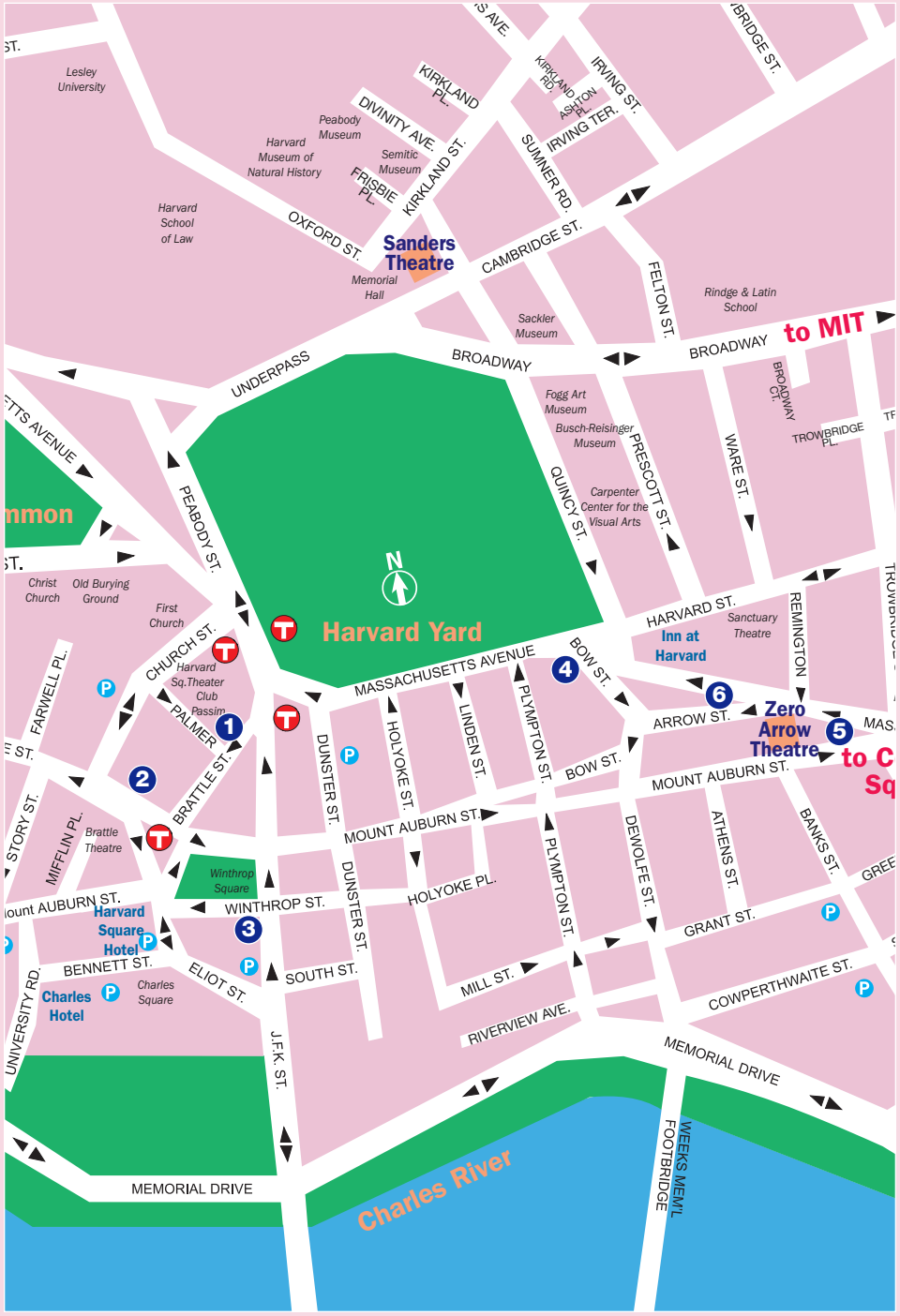
Porter Square

The young, artistic crowd influences the stretch of Cambridge just beyond Harvard Square. Porter Square, on the outskirts of Mass. Ave., is full of eclectic second-hand shops and home to restaurants like the Cambodian-French favorite Elephant Walk and the Temple Bar. For a feel of the avant-garde arts scene, head to the provocative Lizard Lounge for a poetry jam or live music. ℗





Harvard Square



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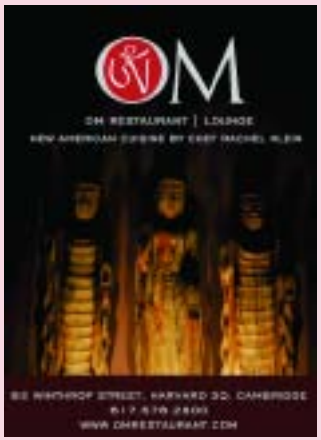

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5 questions with...

Linda Evans

by Josh B. Wardrop

Actress Linda Evans thrilled soap opera fans as Krystle Carrington in the 1980s mega-hit serial "Dynasty." Now, she's joined her former catfight opponent Joan Collins in a touring production of *Legends!*, a comedy about dueling showbiz divas (*refer to listing, page 26*). Evans talks to *Panorama* about art imitating art.

"The truth is, I have fun every night."

Q: The obvious question: how does it feel to be reunited with Joan?
A: What's really great about it is that we know how to do this rivalry thing. It really helps that we have this nine-year history where people remember us as women who loathe each other, which benefits *Legends!* immensely.

Q: People do have that image of you and Joan as adversaries. What is your working relationship like?
A: Acting is like any job: everyone has worked with people who are considered to be "difficult." But if you're a professional, you just go to work and do your job. People sometimes forget that co-stars don't have to be either best friends or bitter adversaries.

Q: After 40 years of acting, you're making your stage debut. Scary?
A: A complete shock to the system. The last time I was onstage was in junior high—I wouldn't get up to give a book report, so my principal forced me to take theater classes! It's been a steep learning curve, but I completely understand why people fall in love with theatrical performance.

Q: Have you had much opportunity to work in or visit Boston in the past?
A: I've never spent extended time here, but I do love the city—it's so exquisitely designed. What's particularly sweet about a touring show is getting to explore new cities!

Q: Is there one piece of audience feedback you've heard consistently about *Legends?*
A: The question I get most is 'Were you having as much fun up there as it seemed?' And the truth is, I have fun *every night*. Ⓟ

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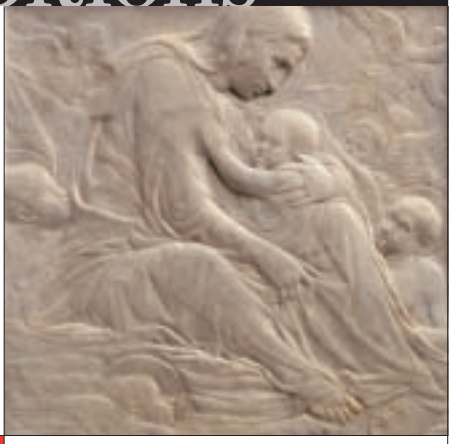

Donatello, *Madonna of the Clouds,* (detail), about 1425–35. Stone; marble. Gift of Quincy Adams Shaw through Quincy Adams Shaw, Jr. and Mrs. Marian Shaw Haughton.

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