



HARVARD MAGAZINE'S Commencement & Reunion

GUIDE 2012

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Photograph by Jon Chase/Harvard News Office

Pride, Elation...and Relief?

Families gather to see their children graduate. • Nell Porter Brown



COMMENCEMENT—the culmination of so much hard work, financial planning, and even anguish—has special meaning for the parents of seniors. We asked five families for their views on what their children's graduation connotes, and how they are planning to celebrate this momentous event.

Mary and Willie Luntao

Stockton, California

Parents of **Lange Luntao**, second marshal of the class of 2012

THANKS TO A feasible tuition-aid package, it wasn't the money that led to familial sacrifices for the Luntaos. It was their son's choice to go to college on the East Coast. "My heart was a little broken because I knew he would be so far away. That's been the biggest sacrifice of all," Mary Luntao says of her only child. "But I knew it wasn't about me, that's what I kept telling myself. And coming east has been very eye-open-

ing for him." Every fall, she has stayed for a week in Kirkland House's guest suite, enabling her to spend time with her son and his friends—having dinner and going to concerts and other events on campus. "He is one of those kids who doesn't mind my coming," she adds. "It's been wonderful for our family to have him here and wonderful for us to explore Boston and New England. It's just a very different way of life from central California" (where she is a second-grade teacher and her husband, whose family moved to America from the Philippines when he was five years old, is an assistant principal).

That traveling is not likely to end after Lange graduates. A social studies concentrator, with a minor in modern Middle Eastern studies, he has learned Arabic and is a finalist for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program. He wants to spend a year in Malaysia teaching Arabic-speaking children. "We get to visit him," his mother adds, "wherever he goes! He's a very ambitious young

man and I give him all the credit for doing things in life. We might have suggested something, but he takes the ball and runs with it."

They credit the University's financial aid with making it possible for their son to benefit from a Harvard education. "Harvard paid about 50 percent of his tuition," she reports. "Without that, it would not have been in the cards. We could've sold the house, but that probably wasn't the best thing to do."

Nearly 20 family members and friends will attend Lange's graduation. Many plan to stay for about a week at a townhouse they found online through VRBO.com (Vacation Rental By Owner). As for the restaurant? Lange is looking for reservations at a casual place, perhaps a spacious pub: "any place that can hold 20 people, with a special emphasis on Irish pubs because my mom's German-Irish family would love that," he reports. "It's a very exciting time," Mary concludes. "That young man has been working hard since he was 12 years old—he has always pushed himself and we're very proud of everything. This will be a very special week for our family."

Jill Colombosian and Jay Hachigian

Weston, Massachusetts

Parents of **Lea Hachigian**

LEA HACHIGIAN HAD some qualms about choosing a college so close to home. Her mother asked, "What are you afraid of? That I will stand outside your classroom door and call your name?" Despite that initial hesitation, four years later the proximity appears to have worked out for everyone. The two women, along with Lea's younger sister, Amy, a student at Boston



Lea Hachigian

College, have had dinner with each other about once a week at a fun, new restaurant. “I wanted to keep in touch with both of my children and their friend group and hear what they are doing and share what’s happening at home,” Jill Colombosian explains. “This was a way for them to see each other, too—and yet they felt that their space was being respected.” Colombosian has also hosted her daughters and their friends at their Weston home, a manageable commuter-train ride from both their campuses.

As a volunteer with the Harvard College Parents Fund (<http://alumni.harvard.edu/give/college/parents>), Colombosian had her own reasons to be in Cambridge. At one point, she also took an evening marketing class at the Harvard Extension School, which made dinner meetings even more convenient, and a break for her daughter from lab work. Hachigian is a neurobiology concentrator getting a certificate in mind, brain, and behavior. “I would like to elucidate the mechanisms behind dysfunction in disorders like autism, and hopefully in the future schizo-

phrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, et cetera,” Hachigian notes. “For a little while I was a bit scared to leave Harvard,” she adds, “but now I’m just incredibly excited to go out and begin putting my education to use. I feel like we are at this amazing point where we have so much potential and now we’re about to take everything we’ve been given and start making a real impact.” Colombosian calls Harvard “a wonderful growing experience” for her daughter, “with all the different types of people she has met from all over the world. She has had access to wonderful labs and has had great mentors there.”

Commencement signifies a move forward into the professional world. What’s truly important, Colombosian says, is “finding your place, finding your happiness. I want my kids to find something that’s right for them. Does

it give you satisfaction? Pleasure? Does it make you feel good at the end of the day? I want them to do something they want to get up for every day, that they think is important.” By mid March, Hachigian had narrowed her graduate school choices to MIT, Stanford, and the University of California, San Francisco; should a West Coast school prevail, Colombosian has made her peace with that. Will she continue working for the parents fund? “I tried not to get too attached to the place because this is her thing, not mine,” Colombosian answers. “I believe and support the work they do to enrich the students’ experience and I found all

the folks there truly wonderful. I wouldn’t have traded the experience for her or us, and I look forward to remaining involved.”

As for Commencement plans, the family is thinking of two celebrations: one for family members and one for the new graduate and her friends. Hachigian favors Ten Tables or Oleana in Cambridge—although dim sum with friends and family in Chinatown also appeals. “That’s her day,” Colombosian explains. “Whatever Lea wants, that’ll be what we do.”

Wenqing “Wendy” Tang and Liansheng “George” Cao

Arcadia, California

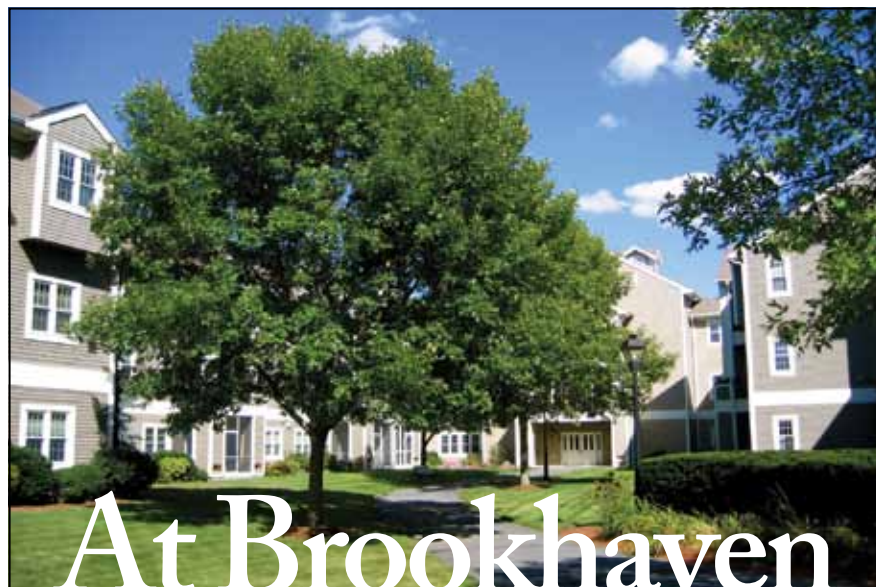
Parents of Bonnie Cao, first marshal of the class of 2012

• FOR WENDY TANG, Commencement means spending time with her daughter’s friends—and saying thank you. “I have known a lot of them through stories Bonnie has told me, or through my own Facebook stalking,” says the trained physicist, a research staff member at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. “But this is my chance to say thank you because I know Bonnie has had many ups and downs in the past four years and she has been surrounded by excellent friends who always gave her a hug” when her mother could not.

Aside from this lack of physical closeness, Tang never felt her daughter was too far away because of what she herself experienced while growing up in China. “I left my parents after high school and went to



Bonnie Cao



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the countryside to be re-educated during the Cultural Revolution," she explains. "I always valued leaving my family early because of the positive side: we learn society better." The bigger worry was whether "Bonnie would fit in and do well at school and live up to the high standards. I didn't know," she recalls. "But she immediately was involved in everything. And as part of the dorm crew cleaning bathrooms—it's very tiring work—she made a lot of friends even before school started." Tang has not only kept in close touch with her daughter, she has also learned about Bonnie's world on campus through reading *The Crimson* online every morning. Last September, Tang was in Shanghai for her mother's funeral when she read that her daughter had been elected first marshal of the senior class.

Though Commencement signals Cao's entry into the world—a government concentrator with a secondary focus in computer science, she will be working as a business analyst for McKinsey & Company—it also means Tang's departure from Harvard. "It is hard for the parents; I feel I have become part of the big Harvard family," she explains. "It is really hard to say good-bye now."

Cao's parents and family friends who have known her since she was born will all come to Commencement—but not before they stop off to explore Niagara Falls. (Tang has been there and wants the other couple to see it.) They will spend three days in Cambridge after that. As for gifts? "It's the other way around in our culture," Tang notes. "It's the people who are graduating, meaning Bonnie, who give gifts to the family and relatives—something small and meaningful. I know she has been thinking about it. I just hope she has saved enough money."

Miles and Suzana Karabasevic

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Parents of Aleksandra Karabasevic, senior class gift co-chair

THE KARABASEVICS plan to celebrate their daughter's achievement with a trip to London or Rome, combined with traveling to see all their family members in Serbia. "We are just the four of us in the

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Aleksandra Karabasevic

U.S.," says Miles Karabasevic, an IT expert in database management (who also enjoys the chickens and ducks on his five-acre farm near Palm Beach). "We'll all spend a few weeks together this summer. It is a good time to go and it helps the kids keep their roots." He recalls dropping his older daughter off in Cambridge for her new adventure four years ago, and says the news that she had been accepted "was amazing, unbelievable, especially at a time when so many kids are applying. She was accepted at top places, but Harvard was a remote dream. So we were all very happy—we're still very happy!" He has not been back to Cambridge since, although his wife and younger daughter, Sofia, a high-school senior who has applied to the College, have visited several times. "Harvard does a great job of making parents feel welcome during Junior Parents weekend," Suzana Karabasevic says. "We were able to explore so many of the sights and museums the area has to offer. We sat in on some lectures as well, and it was amazing to see for myself the academic resources available to the students."

Her husband credits Harvard's new financial-aid initiative with making tuition affordable without huge familial sacrifices. Aleksandra herself says, "I think there are a lot more first-generation Americans at Harvard over the past few years, mainly

because of the initiative. Harvard is so unique with its financial-aid program, since it reaches out to middle-class families that often get overlooked by other schools." An economics concentrator, the senior will work after graduation in investment banking at Barclays. (On campus, she has been involved with the Charles River Growth Fund and the Harvard Investment Association.)

The family will stay through much of Commencement Day, but will not sleep over because Sofia receives *her* high-school degree on May 25. "It would be wonderful if we could go back to Cambridge to drop Sofia off for freshman year," Miles Karabasevic adds. "We hope this is not the last time we will visit Harvard!"

Greg Rosenbaum '74, J.D.-M.P.P. '77, and Marti (Radlo) Rosenbaum '74

Bethesda, Maryland

Parents of Eve and of Elliott, senior class gift co-chair

• HARVARD GRADUATION is old hat—or should that be "old top hat"?—to the Rosenbaums, who have attended almost every Commencement Day (and class reunion) since proceeding down the Tercenary Theatre aisles themselves. "We're

among that small group of people who come back for random-year reunions," says Marti. Greg is also a proud member of the Harvard Alumni Association's "Happy Committee," whose duties include donning top hats and tails (or crimson sashes, for the women) to usher imminent graduates' family members and friends around on the big day. "Commencement is a tremendous event generally for us," Greg says, "but it is squared, or cubed, when it's our own kids." (Their older son, Eli '05, earned his J.D. and M.P.P. in 2009; his wife is Meghan Haggerty '06, M.P.P. '10.)

Marti has opted not to usher this year, because she wants to focus on her kids. But Greg still plans to engage fully in the morning exercises: he enjoys helping families find seats, assuring them that the best photo opportunities come at the Houses, where the actual diplomas are awarded, and showing them the glory of Harvard's pageantry. "I do appreciate it all the more because I understand the singular sensation of having a child graduate from Harvard," he explains. "I try to be a good host because I am representing the whole University and I want the memory that these parents take home to be that it was a great experience!"

No degree of passion, however, can overcome the several logistical challenges presented by this particular Commencement



Eve Rosenbaum and Elliott Rosenbaum

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day. The twins are in different Houses and their extracurricular activities—Eve is on the softball team, Elliott is a member of the Krokodiloes—have their own respective fetes. “When it comes to getting the diplomas, we hope to get one of them moved forward in the lineup so that we can be at both of the ceremonies,” Greg notes. “Fortunately, they’re at Mather and Quincy, both river Houses. The only difficulty is that they won’t be able to see each other.” They will all reconvene in the late afternoon and go on to a restaurant, although where and with whom has yet to be decided.

After graduation, Eve plans to move to New York City to work for the National Football League’s sports-management training program while Elliott heads to the opposite coast to work in global business development for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. “For us this will be the *real* change,” their mother says. “This will be the first time they will live apart.”

College is “a four-year continuation, in most cases, of the academic pattern they’ve followed for the past several years,” Marti explains. “They are still kids and in many ways have some connection/dependence on you as parents.” But moving to a new city, with jobs and new colleagues, at a time in life when timelines and plans are unpredictable, means that parents have a much weaker sense of where their children really are and what they are doing. “Many parents feel this way,” she says, “although we have it perhaps more so because we have had all of our kids in the same place.” And it is their parents’ *alma mater*.

As for leaving Harvard, “It’s not going to be saying good-bye in any way,” Marti notes. “But it is definitely a shift, for the kids as well as for us. While there is always an amazing connection to the University, it is a different outlook on life once you are away from it as a student.” Greg agrees. “We hope that the enthusiasm and love that we have for Harvard has worn off on them,” he adds. “Harvard has made such a difference in our lives that we try to give back in any way we can. We hope they will do the same to make Harvard educations available to future students.” ♡

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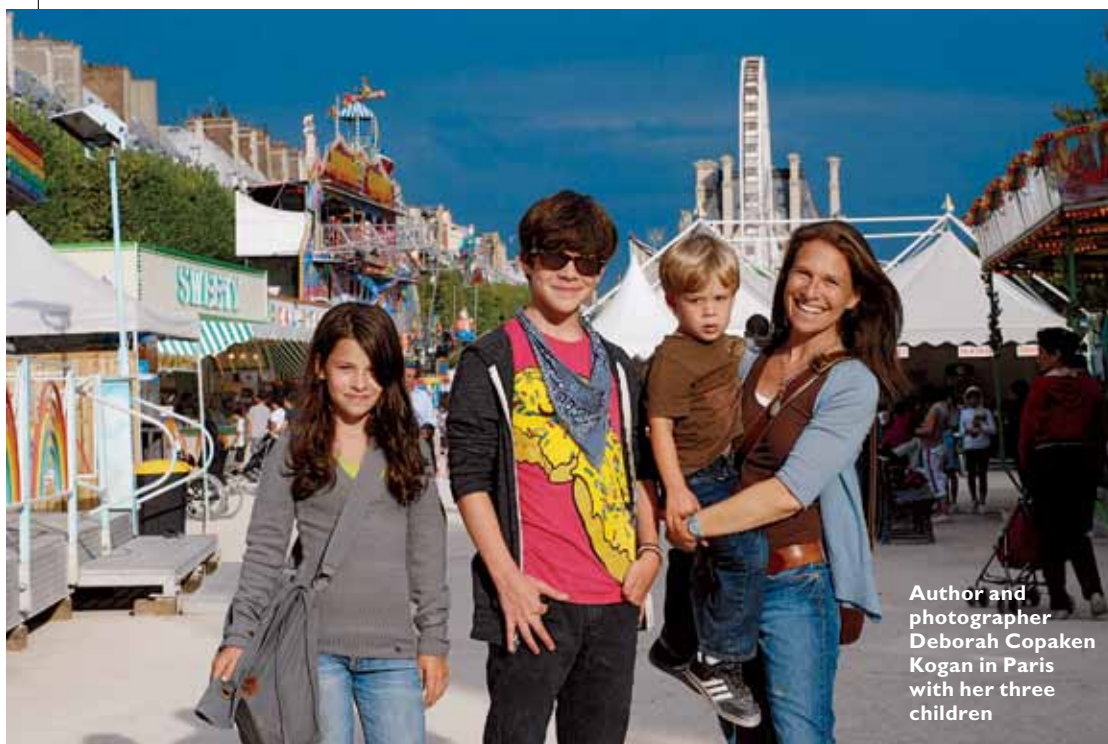
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Class Reports, Redux

Harvard-flavored midlife melodramas make breezy summer reading.



Author and photographer Deborah Copaken Kogan in Paris with her three children

READING *The Red Book*, an often funny and entertaining Harvard-inspired fluffy confection, is a bit like watching the women of *Sex and The City* return for their twentieth college reunion. Except we don't get to see their splashy designer outfits. The new novel by Deborah Copaken Kogan '88 chronicles the midlife stories of four fictitious friends from the class of 1989 as problems in their messy lives of privilege come to a head during a long weekend in Cambridge. (The title comes from the nickname for the anniversary books put out by the Class Report Office every five years—part of the Harvard Alumni Association [HAA]—every five years, in conjunction with class reunions.)

One unhappily married character, a dabbling artist questioning her sexual identity, is arrested for a mountain of unpaid

parking tickets from her undergraduate years. A Vietnamese adoptee and international journalist mourns the death of her mother, while grappling with a partner's infidelity. A third roommate tends perfectly to four children in place of her once-promising acting career. And their biracial friend, raised in a hippie commune in Berkeley, hopes to solve her infertility problems with the unwitting aid of her once Adonis-like freshman-year boyfriend (whose WASP parents rejected her so long ago). Oh, and she was also recently laid off from Lehman Brothers.

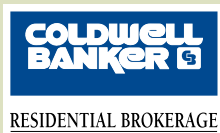
In the words of one reader: "It's trash, but it's *good* trash." No source of melodrama is left unexamined. And all reflect the novel's primary theme, veiled in sometimes frenetically paced humor: coping with loss, failure, and disappointment while confronting the exuberant ghosts of the char-

acters' youthful selves at Harvard. "The impetus to write the book came out of the vortex of loss and insanity in my own life," says Kogan, a writer, photographer, and married mother of three in New York City. "I was envisioning what dreams you have to let go of, all the compromises you have to make." In short: life as it once was expected to be has morphed into life as it is.

Kogan began the book in 2009, after her father, Richard D. Kogan '63, had died of pancreatic cancer and her husband, an information technologist, had been out of work for eight months due to the recession. Their financial situation had already led the

couple to let their full-time babysitter go, pull their youngest from private school, and move to a series of lower-rent abodes. Now settled in a Harlem apartment, they are paying "\$2,000 less a month for a larger place," Kogan asserts, "although we are still paying back debt from my husband's job loss and I still wake up asking how we are going to make ends meet." These experiences were redefining the Kogans and others they knew: "The only way to deal with it was to put it into words and atomize the experience in these characters." The novel centers on the class of 1989 because they wrote their class-report entries in 2008, *before* the recession fully hit, yet their reunion occurred in the spring of 2009, "when things were just awful," she says. "That historic event just exacerbated all the mid-life issues that people deal with."

The class reports, of course, are a trea-



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sure trove of such “issues.” Like many alumni, Kogan devours the essays as fascinating human narratives. “We’re all these fragile, imperfect characters in our own lives,” she says. “It’s comforting to read about other fragile, imperfect people and their lives.” Truths, half-truths, and lies of omission happen all the time, she adds. “People say things are all hunky-dory when they have just gotten divorced, and

plenty of people say work is great when they really don’t like what they do.”

In doing research she had access not only to her own classmates’ entries, but to those of her father and sisters (Jennifer Copaken Yellin ’90 and twins Julie and Laura Copaken of the class of ’94). She views the Harvard tradition of submitting class reports, which dates back at least to the mid 1800s, as a useful personal

exercise: “It forces alumni to sit down and take stock of their lives every five years and account for themselves.” It’s one thing, she notes, to do that in a private diary that gets shut in a drawer, but quite another when the entries are published and distributed within the Harvard community. “They say a lot about how honest you can be with classmates—and that is a measure of how honest you can be with yourself.”

KOGAN’S OWN twentieth class report (written in 2007) finds her admitting “with no lack of shame” that the last few years have been “marked mostly by professional and financial hardship. My husband insists ‘failure’ is the wrong word to use here, but if there is a right word, I’m not

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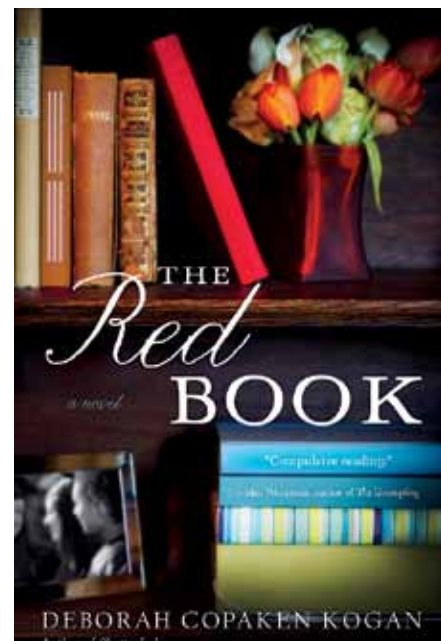


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sure I know it.” She goes on to discuss a third pregnancy, hustling for writing jobs just to make ends meet, an emergency appendectomy—and a large red bump that “kept spontaneously bursting and bleeding in the center of my forehead.” And this was all *before* the death of her father and the recession.

Published personal revelations are typical for Kogan. Her other books—*Shutterbabe*, *Between Here and April*, and *Hell Is Other Parents: And Other Tales of Maternal Combustion*—cover, respectively, her years as a war photographer (1988-1992); the disappearance of a childhood friend while growing up in an upper-

middle-class enclave in Potomac, Maryland; and her experiences as a modern, urban parent.

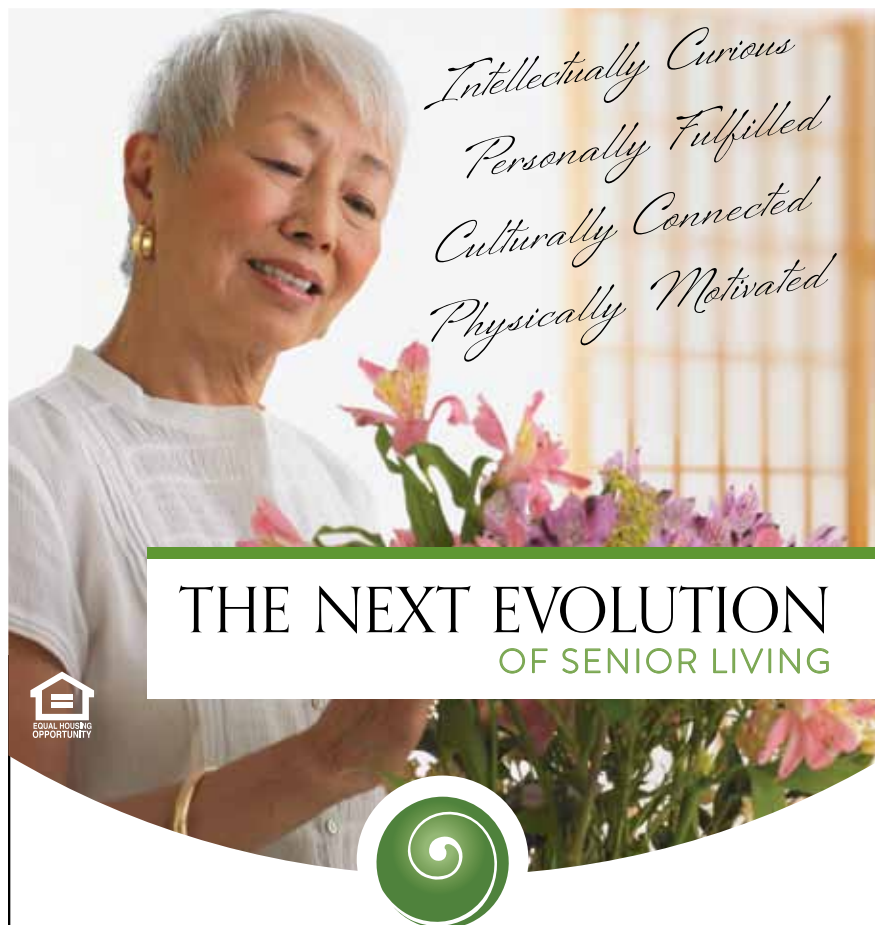
The female characters in *The Red Book* are similarly inclined to “tell all,” down to the bodily needs of a woman spending the night in a prison cell. They echo different aspects of their author, giving voice to her anger and struggles over personal and professional choices. “We’re a generation of women who grew up with bra-burning and feminism flags flying high and yet we entered the workforce when men still believed that women should be doing all the work at home,” Kogan asserts. “The next generation has different expectations around work and children, but we are still stuck inside this bizarre generation where there is no subsidized daycare and the school day ends at three o’clock. It’s hard to be a working mother in this day.”

The “push and pull” of the novel, she continues, comes in comparing the “public faces” of the class reports with the protagonists’ true, three-dimensional selves. Addison, jailed overnight for blithely throwing away what ultimately adds up to \$100,000 in parking tickets, is a “trustafarian” who lives in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, with her absentee “novelist” husband, bulimic daughter, and two sons who spend much of the reunion watching Internet porn on handheld devices. Her class report reveals a busy mom of hard-working kids who is pushing her career to the next level. But she’s sprung from the pokey not by her husband, who has scurried off to the local library to write, but by her freshman-year lesbian girlfriend, who easily pays the fine because she is among the early Google millionaires. Only to her does Addison sadly reveal, “I suddenly feel like I am disintegrating.”

At reunions, the narratives people tell themselves can suddenly unravel. The promising undergraduate actress, Mia, returns to Cambridge with her husband, a Hollywood director, and their four children, the youngest of whom is still nursing. She avows supreme satisfaction with motherhood, yet bumping into a less talented classmate who has nevertheless become a major celebrity leaves her angry and anxious. They exchange niceties and vague promises to meet that evening,

but Mia “has no intention of exposing her fragile ego to Viveca Snow’s anytime soon. After...kissing each of Viveca’s Juvéderm-injected cheeks, she pivots on her feet, gripping Zoe’s little fingers just a tad too tightly, and marches her own jiggling thighs up Dunster Street toward the taxi stand in Harvard Square.” “People do judge themselves against their classmates. How could they not?” Kogan asks.

One of the more discomfiting vignettes occurs during a reunion picnic when Mia and Clover, the newly jobless wannabe mother, meet classmate Lytton Hepworth, a schizophrenic with a searing stare whose “cocktail of meds seemed to be working well enough for him to engage in actual conversation with an old friend.” He questions why his old roommate, who once aspired to be a poet, now operates a Subaru dealer-



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ship, and why Mia did not use her gifts as an actress. “What the hell is wrong with you? All of you?” Lytton cries out. “You went to Harvard. You had every opportunity in the world laid out on a silver platter at your goddamned feet.” He then quotes Horace

“You went to Harvard. You had every opportunity in the world laid out on a silver platter at your goddamned feet.”

Mann: “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity,” violently upends the entire picnic table, and walks away from the stunned crowd.

Mia subsequently crashes an audition at the Loeb and aces the monologue, proving to herself that she still can act—and later applies her skills to selling real estate. But the Hepworth scene goes to the heart of what everyone faces at reunions. “Do any of us live up to our potential?” Kogan wonders.

“The rare few. And it’s wonderful when that happens. But 99 percent of us do not and we have to come to terms with that.”

The novel does its best to show how these characters do so. And although its plotlines may not necessarily end satis-

factorily, alumni will likely find shades of themselves and their college friends amid Kogan’s imagined protagonists. Kogan is quick to reassure that no one in the book is based on a real person, yet some are amalgamated versions of people she knows. She contacted the HAA and the Class Report Office only after the book was finished, “to let them know about it,” she says, “and I got a lovely reply from both.” Kogan says HAA president Ellen Gordon Reeves,

also a published author, gave her ideas about how to publicize the novel, and a class-report editor sent “a warm e-mail... which she ended with (and I just loved this, for its hall-of-mirrors effect), ‘We will look forward to hearing much more about where *The Red Book* has taken you in the next installment of your own class report.’”

A myriad of answers to the novel’s midlife questions can be found by leafing through any red book from an older class and reading the ruminations of alumni spread across the globe. Kogan, a quick study, knows this better than anyone. In the novel’s acknowledgments, she rightly thanks the nonfictitious class of 1988 for “consistently and collectively writing, every five years, the most engrossing book on my nightstand.” ~NELL PORTER BROWN

Kogan will read from and discuss *The Red Book* at the Harvard Book Store in Cambridge on May 3 at 7 P.M.

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The Week's Events



COMMENCEMENT WEEK includes addresses by Harvard president Drew Faust and international-affairs expert Fareed Zakaria, Ph.D. '93. For details and updates, visit www.harvardmagazine.com/commencement.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

Phi Beta Kappa Exercises, at 11, with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Kay Ryan and orator Derek Bok, Three Hundredth Anniversary University Research Professor and former Harvard president. Sanders Theatre.

Baccalaureate Service for the Class of 2012, at 2, Memorial Church, followed by class picture, Widener steps.

Senior Class Family Dinner and Party, at 6. Athletic complex.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, at 11, with President Drew Faust and speaker TBA. Tercentenary Theatre.

Kennedy School Commencement Address by Christine LeGarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, followed by a reception. JFK Jr. Forum. Time TBA.

Senior Class Day Exercises, at 2, with the Harvard and Ivy Orations and a guest speaker TBA. Tercentenary Theatre.

Law School Class Day, 2:30, with U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder as speaker, followed by a reception. Holmes Field.

Business School Class Day Ceremony, 2:30, with speaker Sheryl Sandberg '91, M.B.A. '95, COO of Facebook, followed by a reception at 4. Baker Lawn.

Graduate School of Education Convocation, at 3. Radcliffe Yard.

Graduate School of Design Class Day,

at 4, with designer Brue Mau as speaker, followed by a reception. Gund Hall.

Divinity School Multireligious Service of Thanksgiving for the Class of 2012, at 4. Memorial Church.

Masters' Receptions for seniors and guests, at 5. The Undergraduate Houses.

Harvard University Band, Harvard Glee Club, and Radcliffe Choral Society Concert, at 8. Tercentenary Theatre.

The SIGnboard

VISIT harvardmagazine.com/commencement for news of SIG gatherings.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Commencement Day. Gates open at 6:45.

The 361st Commencement Exercises, 9:45. Tercentenary Theatre.

All Alumni Spread, 11:30. The Old Yard. Tickets available at <http://annualmeeting.alumni.harvard.edu>.

The Tree Spread, for College classes of

A Special Notice Regarding Commencement Exercises

Thursday, May 24, 2012

Morning Exercises

TO ACCOMMODATE the increasing number of those wishing to attend Harvard's Commencement Exercises, the following guidelines are proposed to facilitate admission into Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement Morning:

- Degree candidates will receive a limited number of tickets to Commencement. Parents and guests of degree candidates must have tickets, which they will be required to show at the gates in order to enter Tercentenary Theatre. Seating capacity is limited. However, there is standing room on the Widener steps and at the rear and sides of the Theatre for viewing the exercises.

Note: A ticket allows admission into the Theatre, but does not guarantee a seat. Seats are on a first-come basis and can not be reserved. The sale of Commencement tickets is prohibited.

- Alumni/ae attending their reunions (25th, 35th, 50th) will receive tickets at their reunions. Alumni/ae in classes beyond the 50th may obtain tickets from the College Alumni Programs Office by calling (617) 496-7001, or through the annual Tree Spread mailing sent out in March with an RSVP date of April 13th.

- Alumni/ae from non-reunion years and their spouses are requested to view the Morning Exercises over large-screen televisions in the Science Center, and at designated locations in most of the undergraduate Houses and graduate and professional Schools. These locations provide ample seating, and tickets are not required.

- A very limited supply of tickets will be made available to all other alumni/ae on a first-come, first-served basis through the Harvard Alumni Association by calling (617) 496-7001.

Afternoon Exercises

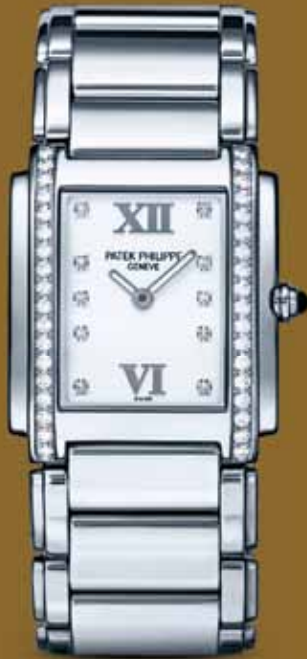
THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Harvard Alumni Association convenes in Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement afternoon. All alumni and alumnae, faculty, students, parents, and guests are invited to attend and hear Harvard's President and featured Commencement Speaker deliver their addresses. Tickets for the afternoon ceremony will be available through the Harvard Alumni Association by calling (617) 496-7001.

—Jacqueline A. O'Neill, University Marshal



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1919-1961, 11:30. Holden Quadrangle. Tickets required.

Graduate School Diploma Ceremonies, from 11:30 (time varies by school).

GSAS Luncheon and Reception, 11:30 to 3. Maxwell Dworkin lawn on Oxford Street. Tickets required.

Alumni Procession, 1:45. The Old Yard.

The Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA), 2:30, with HAA president Ellen Gordon Reeves '83, Ed.M. '86; Overseer and HAA director election results; Harvard Medal presentations; and speeches by President Drew Gilpin Faust and Commencement speaker Fareed Zakaria. Tercentenary Theatre.

Medical and Dental Schools Class Day Ceremony, at 2, with speaker Donald Berwick '68, M.D.-M.P.P. '72, former administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the Obama administration, former president and CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and lecturer on healthcare policy at HMS. HMS Quadrangle.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Radcliffe Day panel discussion, 10:30 to noon, "From Front Lines to High Courts: The Law and Social Change," moderated by Harvard Law School dean and Smith professor of law Martha L. Minow. (For details on the panelists, visit www.radcliffe.edu/events/calendar_2012radday.aspx.) Luncheon at 12:30, with a speech by Radcliffe Medal recipient Margaret H. Marshall, Ed.M. '69, former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and now senior counsel, Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, and senior research fellow and lecturer at HLS. Radcliffe Yard.

For updates on Harvard reunions, Radcliffe Day, and events for graduating seniors, visit www.commencementoffice.harvard.edu, or contact the Harvard Alumni Association (124 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge) at 617-495-2555; haa@harvard.edu; or www.haa.harvard.edu. For information on all other professional or graduate-school events, visit their respective websites.

The Harvard Information Center, Holyoke Center, is open every day except Sunday, 9 to 5 (telephone: 617-495-1573).



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Fine-Art Construction

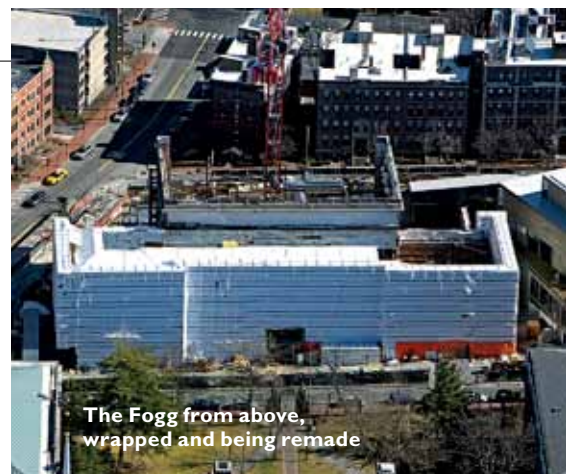
Remaking a museum, delicately

EVEN THE HEAVIEST of heavy construction can seem like precision watchmaking. Take the reconstruction of the Fogg Art Museum.

It began in early 2010 by removing much of the original structure beyond the Quincy Street façade, then propping up what remained while excavating deep underground to create new spaces. That required shoehorning massive concrete pumps onto the narrow site (hemmed in by Quincy and Prescott streets, Broadway, and the swooping Carpenter Center ramp) to drop tons of slurry, just so, into forms far below. During this mild winter, an enormous crane was anchored to the new subterranean structure; it finally be-

gan lifting the steel girders into place for the new structure that will rise within, around, and over the skeletal Fogg—a rebirth, timed to the early arrival of spring in New England. (Harvard Art Museums documents the project's progression in a stunning set of elevated and aerial photographs taken through the changing seasons; see <http://tiny.cc/dhbubw>).

As this multihundred-million-dollar task has proceeded, the Quincy Street façade has been wrapped in white tarps to protect the work and craftsmen within—almost as if Christo had been retained to make the site one of his monumental sculptures. The project, surrounded by the campus and hard by Cambridge Rindge and Latin high school,



The Fogg from above, wrapped and being remade

has been a feast for sidewalk superintendents, as intimate a viewing experience as watching a painter at work in her studio. (And it has been timely for construction fans, given the completion of the Law School's massive multiuse building; the still-early work on the Business School's Tata Hall for executive-education students; and the dearth of other Harvard mega-projects in this post-recession era.)

Befitting the nation's preeminent academic art museum, the reconstruction of the Fogg is a work of art.

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Think Locally, Eat Globally

A roundup of some of the Square's best international cuisine

Orinoco



BOLDLY DELICIOUS Venezuelan food is served in an intimate dining room at the newly opened Orinoco (56 JFK Street, 617-354-6900; orinocokitchen.com). *Arepas*, grilled corn-pocket sandwiches, come with a variety of fillings; we liked the black beans and a white salty cheese called *palmizulia* (\$5.75). For entrées, the *cordero tradicional*, pistachio-encrusted lamb chops with mint mojo, a spicy sauce with garlic and olive oil, is delicious (\$19). For dessert-lovers, the *torta fluida*, a molten chocolate cake as beautiful as it sounds, is a must (\$5). Try to sit on the outdoor patio, set way back from the street; it's a romantic spot on a summer evening.

If you crave Indian food, step across the

street to a 2011 newcomer to the Square: Maharaja (57 JFK Street, 617-547-2757; maharajaboston.com). With windows overlooking Winthrop Park, this large, grandly decorated space (complete with a brass palace-like front door and ornately carved wooden dining chairs) works well for groups. The menu features a wide selection of vegetarian dishes along with some more unusual specialty appetizers, such as the lollipop chicken (\$9.95), an Indo-Chinese snack of wings stuffed with seafood, or the *jeera* (cumin) scallops, served in a creamy saffron sauce (\$9.95).

Since 1997 Sandrine's (8 Holyoke Street, 617-497-5300; sandrines.com) has offered richly prepared Alsatian food in a quiet, posh setting. The fare is essentially

COURTESY OF ORINOCO

COMMENCEMENT & REUNION GUIDE

French—with a thick German accent. Diners can tuck into the braised organic rabbit leg with comforting egg noodles flavored with *lardon* and a grainy mustard sauce (\$25). Or they may like the *choucroute garnie au Riesling*, which features *bauernwurst*, *boudin blanc* (a white sausage), grilled pork loin, and ham hock, all slow-cooked over a tangy mound of sauerkraut (\$25).

The traditional dish is the *tarte flambée*, or *flammekueche* (\$10-\$13), a crisp flatbread layered with creamy cheese and a choice of savory elements, from hickory-smoked bacon to artichoke hearts. One is plenty for a meal, we think, especially when coupled with the pear and gorgonzola salad (\$12) with spicy almonds.

For exquisite Italian food, Rialto (1 Bennett Street, 617-864-1200; rialto-restaurant.com) at the Charles Hotel is the place to go, especially with its pretty outdoor patio. The menu offers three courses, side dishes—and some of the most enticing desserts in the Square (e.g., try the tira-

misu parfait with candied chestnuts, walnuts, and maple fudge). For all those who don't often get to New England, the lobster *bucatini* (thick straws of spaghetti) prepared with green and red tomatoes, chilis, and saffron is a delicate delight (\$16/\$22), while the eggplant parmesan is atypically served with capers and pine nuts (\$25).

For more moderately priced ethnic food and a lively atmosphere, there's always the popular Border Café (32 Church Street, 617-864-6100; bordercafe.com), which serves large portions of Tex-Mex fare (fajitas, quesadillas, and such) along with Mexican beers and all styles of margaritas. It is a small chain and the place can border

on boisterous, but the food is fresh and the colorful Mexican-style décor and prevailing mood make it hard not to have fun.

Middle Eastern food can be found at both the Algiers Coffee House (40 Brattle Street, 617-492-1557; no website) and at the smaller, mostly takeout joint, Sabra Grill (20 Eliot Street, 617-868-5777; sabrafoods.com/sabra_restaurant.htm).



Sandrine's

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The charming Algiers, atop the Brattle Theatre, is a longtime favorite for a range of goodies, from richly brewed coffees and teas, Italian sodas, and a new menu of beers and wines, to homemade *merguez* (lamb sausage, \$9.95), expert omelets (\$7.75), fresh baba ghanoush (\$9.95), and a light lentil and rice dish with fried onions called *mujaddara*. (\$8.95). The restaurant's hours—8 A.M. to midnight—also allow plenty of time for noshing, studying, brooding, or long conversations. Sabra is a more utilitarian place. It has about 10 seats and offers the usual hummus and falafel sandwiches (\$6.95), along with a fine *kibbee* (baked meat pies, \$7.50) and *spanakopita* (spinach and feta cheese pies, \$7.50), lamb and chicken shish-kebab plates (\$16.95–\$19.95), and succulent *shawarma* (that vertical, rotating bulk of stacked meats grilled on a skewer) served with rice pilaf, beans, and tahini sauce (\$14.95).

To avoid crowds in the Square, take a short walk north on Mass. Ave. to the red-

fronted Chez Henri—a French bistro with Latin flair (1 Shephard Street, 617-354-8980; chezhenri.com). Superb cocktails, including mojitos, are served at the cozy bar. In the adjacent dining room, festive yet comfortably elegant, you may opt for the sassy *ceviche* appetizer with avocado and mango-lime sauce (\$14). The more traditional steak *frites* (\$29) or Cornish game hen with red kuri squash polenta (\$24) are perfectly cooked, or try the novel chickpea-flour crêpes with cardamom-scented eggplant, winter greens, and *chèvre* (\$27). For dessert, we could not resist the banana tart in a macadamia nut crust with

vanilla *crème*, toasted coconut, and dark chocolate (\$9). That's a sure way to celebrate anything.

—N.P.B.



Chez Henri

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