

# Harvard<sup>2</sup>

Cambridge, Boston, and beyond



**16J** Life On a Tabletop  
*An ancient art form thrives at the Puppet Showplace Theater*

PUPPET SHOWPLACE THEATER



## **16B** Extracurriculars

*Events on and off campus through the end of 2015*



## **16D** The Art of Juxtapositions

*Lorraine O'Grady's outlook*



## **16M** Winterland

*Nature walks and talks at the Arnold Arboretum*



## **16N** Dinner Without the Din

*A little quiet...please!*



## **16P** Picking Up a Hobby

*The Fuller's fine folk art*





# Extracurriculars

Events on and off campus during November and December

## SEASONAL

### The 132nd Game

[www.gocrimson.com/sports/fball/index](http://www.gocrimson.com/sports/fball/index)

The annual competition takes place in New Haven. (November 21)

### Harvard Glee Club and Radcliffe Choral Society

[www.boxoffice.harvard.edu](http://www.boxoffice.harvard.edu)

**Christmas in Cambridge** with the Ashmont Boy Choir and the youth ensemble

(From left) *River Running Between Pastures*, c. 1850, by Christopher Pearse Cranch, Div 1835, at the Fruitlands Museum; vocalist Angélique Kidjo lectures at Harvard; and a glimpse of George Kuchar's holiday video diaries at the Harvard Film Archive

from Mother Caroline Academy.  
First Church Cambridge. (December 5)

### Harvard Ceramics Program Holiday Show and Sale

[www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/ceramics](http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/ceramics)

Works by more than 80 artists range from dinnerware, mugs, and teapots to wall hangings and sculptures. (December 10-13)

### The 106th Memorial Church Christmas Carol Services

[www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu](http://www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu)

FROM LEFT: FRUITLANDS MUSEUM; COURTESY OF ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO; HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE



## At Brookhaven

lifecare living is as good as it looks.

Brookhaven at Lexington offers an abundance of opportunities for intellectual growth, artistic expression and personal wellness. Our residents share your commitment to live a vibrant lifestyle in a lovely community.

Call today to set up an appointment for a tour!



A Full-Service Lifecare Retirement Community  
**BROOKHAVEN**  
AT LEXINGTON

[www.brookhavenatlexington.org](http://www.brookhavenatlexington.org)  
(781) 863-9660 • (800) 283-1114



Prepare your child to  
thrive at the next level



LYCÉE INTERNATIONAL DE  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF  
BOSTON

Teaching the World®

Learn about  
ISB's International  
Baccalaureate Program  
during the Upper School  
**INFORMATION NIGHT,**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2015**  
6:30pm to 8pm

To learn more, call 617.499.1459  
or visit [www.isbos.org](http://www.isbos.org)

ISB is accredited by NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), CIS (Council of International Schools), MEN (French Ministry of Education) and IB (International Baccalaureate).



# Hammond Residential

## Real Estate



**Cambridge...** Majestic free-standing renovated Mansard Victorian in Mid Cambridge between Harvard and MIT. High ceilings. Period detail. 378Broadway.com \$1,995,000



**Cambridge...** Huron Village condominium. Elegant details. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, and patio. One off-street parking space. \$970,000



**Belmont...** Perfectly located, well-maintained multi-family. Twelve rooms, period details, updated windows, screened porches, garage parking. \$915,000



**Somerville...** Bright, spacious two-bedroom Townhouse Condominium with spectacular kitchen, separate living and dining rooms, and great outdoor space. \$618,500



**Cambridge...** One-bedroom condo in a 1900 Hartwell Richardson mansion on Avon Hill. \$498,000



**Watertown...** Grand 1889 single with 4,881 square feet; 2,101 on 1st floor alone! High ceilings. 5 bedrooms. Large lot. Lovely side street. \$1,225,000



**Belmont...** Mid-century contemporary home with views of the Boston skyline. 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, 2-car garage, and landscaped grounds. \$1,250,000



**Cambridge...** Two short blocks to Porter Square T. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, second floor. Great afternoon sun. Clean, empty, and freshly painted. \$595,000



**Arlington...** Meticulously restored 2,200-square-foot Victorian with original period details. Bistro kitchen, high-end master bath, and lovely gardens. \$835,000

[www.hammondre.com](http://www.hammondre.com)

Cambridge, Belmont, Arlington, Watertown & Somerville  
Residential, Commercial, Rentals & Property Management  
Cambridge Office 617-497-4400 • Belmont Office 617-484-1900

View our latest interactive on-line magazine at: [www.hammondmagazines.com](http://www.hammondmagazines.com)



STAFF PICK: The Art of Juxtapositions

**Lorraine O’Grady** first drew attention in 1980 as her own rebellious creation, *Mlle Bourgeoise Noire*. The whip-wielding beauty queen, gowned in white dinner gloves, showed up at events, guerilla-style, to protest racial and class divides, notably in the New York-centered art world. At 81, the conceptual artist and writer is still mining the timely themes of racial identity, cultural legacies, and what it means to be female—as seen in *Lorraine O’Grady: Where Margins Become Centers*, at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts (CCVA), October 29-January 10. (O’Grady will discuss her life and career on November 17 at the Harvard Art Museums.)

The Carpenter show offers selections from five bodies of work (dating from 1980 to 2012) and highlights O’Grady’s use of “images and ideas that are seemingly disparate, juxtaposing them to reveal and inform new perspectives,” says CCVA director James Voorhies. On



Lorraine O’Grady

display are diptychs from *The First and the Last Modernists* (2010) that pair Michael Jackson with Charles Baudelaire; a 2010/2011 video, *Landscape (Western Hemisphere)*—essentially close-up footage of O’Grady’s hair moving in the wind; and a photographic montage, *The Fir-Palm* (1991/2012), in which a tree rooted into a curvaceous brown body under a wide sky streaked with clouds forms a sensuous landscape.

In a work from the *Miscegenated Family Album* series (1980/1994), left, the young woman is Kimberly, a daughter of O’Grady’s late sister, Devonia Evangeline O’Grady; the statue is of Nefertiti. It is among 16 diptychs that stem from a 1980 O’Grady performance titled *Nefertiti/Devonia Evangeline*; the diptychs compare the heterogeneity and legendary conflicts within ancient Egypt’s royal families to O’Grady’s own mixed-race heritage (she was born in Boston to middle- and upper-class Jamaican immigrants and graduated from Wellesley) and fraught relationship with Devonia. O’Grady works with personal and public images, collage, and text; she is not a traditional photographer, Voorhies notes. “She uses art as a means of cultural criticism.”

—N.P.B.

Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts  
www.ccva.fas.harvard.edu  
Through January 10

The annual event features the **Harvard University Choir**. (December 13 and 14)

**Harvard Film Archive**  
www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa

The **Vintage Holiday Show** includes cartoons, TV shows, and live-action short films suitable for all ages. (December 13)

**Dear Video Diary: Christmas with Anne Robertson and George Kuchar.** Autobiographical footage reflects “contrasting visions of sugar plums.” (December 18)

**Boston Baroque:**

**New Year’s Celebration**

www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

*The Four Seasons*, among other works by Vivaldi. Sanders Theatre. (December 31)

**LECTURES**

**The Harvard Department of Music**

www.music.fas.harvard.edu

www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

Singer-songwriter and activist **Angélique Kidjo** delivers the Louis C. Elson lecture on her life, work, and new book, *Spirit Rising*, in

Paine Hall (November 17). Kidjo also conducts a master class at Paine Hall on November 18, through Harvard’s Office for the Arts’ Learning From Performers series.

**MUSIC**

**Holden Voice Recital**

www.holdenchoruses.fas.harvard.edu

Members of the Holden Choruses perform solos, art songs, and arias accompanied by piano. Holden Chapel. (November 15)

**Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra**

www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

The winner of the 2015 Yannatos Concerto Competition performs with the orchestra. Sanders Theatre. (November 19)

**Jazz Masters Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, and Brian Blade**

www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

The trio performs *Children of the Light* with special guest Joey Alexander, a 12-year-old jazz pianist from Bali. Sanders Theatre. (November 20)

**Billy Collins and Aimee Mann**

www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

The country’s former poet laureate and the singer-songwriter team up for a night of guitar-strumming, verse, and conversation. Sanders Theatre. (November 21)

**Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum**

www.holdenchoruses.fas.harvard.edu

Handel’s *Messiah*, with an introduction by Knafel professor of music Thomas F. Kelly. Sanders Theatre. (December 4)

**NATURE AND SCIENCE**

**The Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics**

www.cfa.harvard.edu/events/mon.html

“Rediscovering Pluto” with *Sky & Telescope* magazine’s Kelly Beatty. (November 19)

**DANCE**

**The Harvard Dance Program**

www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance

**Gym Dances** features new Merce Cunningham-based works created by Harvard stu-

OYSTER PERPETUAL



**LUX BOND & GREEN**

416 Boylston Street BOSTON 617.266.4747  
60 Central Street WELLESLEY 781.235.9119  
West Hartford Glastonbury Mohegan Sun Greenwich Westport

ROLEX ® AND OYSTER PERPETUAL ARE ® TRADEMARKS.





**GODDARD**  
H.O.U.S.E.  
ASSISTED LIVING®  
www.goddardhouse.org

Where the heart never forgets

COME FOR A VISIT.  
MEET OUR STAFF.  
EXPERIENCE THE COMMUNITY.

A Not-For Profit  
Assisted Living Community



- Special Memory Support Neighborhood
- Daily Fitness and Social Events
- A Warm, Inclusive Community
- Two Acres of Secure Gardens and Walking Paths
- Private Studios now available
- \*Short Term Stays Available

165 CHESTNUT STREET, BROOKLINE  
WWW.GODDARDHOUSE.ORG  
CALL LANCE CHAPMAN AT  
617-731-8500 EXT. 105

## Step Outside with Outward Bound Professional!

"The team building activities challenged our group to function as a cohesive unit and were widely applicable in creating a more friendly and productive environment back at the hospital and in other settings."

- James Rhee, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital Partners

(617) 830-5114  
eharris@thompsonisland.org  
www.thompsonisland.org  
Boston Harbor Islands National Park

THOMPSON ISLAND  
OUTWARD BOUND PROFESSIONAL

### HARVARD SQUARED

dents, along with pieces by visiting artist Francesca Harper and dance program director Jill Johnson. (November 11-15)

### POETRY

**Woodberry Poetry Room**  
www.hcl.harvard.edu/poetryroom  
**Alicia Jo Rabin** reads from her award-

### Spotlight



**Look closely** through the monumental portal drawn on the wall just inside Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art. What appears to be a fearsome ocean vessel chugging madly toward the horizon is actually an aircraft carrier-cum-St. Paul's Cathedral in London (and a few other fantastical bits). The illustration, *Seastead*, is by the Boston-based artist Ethan Murrow, best known for creating massive, photorealistic graphite drawings that often depict (with humor and a whiff of melancholy) man's earnest struggles with forces of nature. *Seastead* is based on digital projections of found photographs; it took Murrow and three assistants two weeks—and 400 Sharpie markers—to complete the piece, which is essentially composed of countless infinitesimal marks and cross-hatchings. *Seastead* begs to be narrated; playfully, it seems, Murrow has left that far less laborious task to viewers.

**Institute of Contemporary Art**  
www.icaboston.org  
Through November 27

COURTESY OF THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

### HARVARD SQUARED

winning collection, *Divinity School*, and performs with her band, **Girls in Trouble**, whose music is inspired by stories of women in the Bible. At Harvard Hillel. (November 16)

**Reel Time: On the Astonishment Tapes** elucidates the life and work of poet **Robert Blaser**, who, among other things, sparked the influential Berkeley Poetry Renaissance in the 1940s with literary companions Robert Duncan and Jack Spicer. (December 6)

### THEATER

**American Repertory Theater**  
www.americanrepertorytheater.org  
**One Child Born: The Music of Laura Nyro**, starring Kate Ferber, celebrates the soulful singer-songwriter and pianist. Oberon theater. (December 2-4)

### EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

**Harvard Museum of Natural History**  
www.hmn.harvard.edu  
The new exhibit **Marine Life** features a floor-to-ceiling model of New England's coastal waters and a special focus on the "world of jellyfish." (Opens November 21)

Lecture (and book signing) by science journalist **Matt Kaplan**, author of *Science and the Magical: From the Holy Grail, to Love Potions, to Superpowers*. (December 5)

### Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art

www.coopergalleryhc.org  
The new gallery at Harvard's Hutchins Center offers **Black Chronicles II**, a stunning set of newly discovered portraits of black subjects, ranging from artists to missionaries

**1960s teak pepper mills by Danish designer Jens Herold Quistgaard (Dansk Designs)** at the Concord Museum



DAVID BOHL

Gibson | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## WE ARE INTERNATIONAL

Contact our international desk to get matched with an agent that speaks your language.

Contact us at  
**InternationalDesk@gibsonsir.com**



### Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge

West Cambridge. Located on the edge of Harvard Square and with a view of the Charles River and the Eliot Bridge, this 3 BR, 4.5 bath single family home was built in 2005, with great attention paid to seamlessly blending historic form with modern function. Amenities include a gorgeous patio, finished lower level, garage, and heated driveway. More information at [www.257MountAuburn.com](http://www.257MountAuburn.com). \$2,488,000 Lauren Holleran 617.913.2203



### Powder House Terrace, Somerville

Turn of the century condo, in a secluded neighborhood, across from Powder House Park and blocks from Davis Square. This Victorian condo offers original woodwork, bow windows, pocket doors, HW floors, and high ceilings. Configure as a 1 or 2 bed unit. Private porch and great storage with an original china hutch, pantry & private basement space. Easy access to Tufts, Harvard, MIT, Kendall & Porter Squares. \$438,000 Lauren Holleran 617.913.2203

### College Avenue, Cambridge

Desirable Tufts University area sits this rare 3-5 bedroom colonial on a large corner lot. Convenient location close to Medford Sq and public transportation. Layout features 3 levels of living. Most recent upgrades include the roof (4 yrs), heating system (6 yrs) and water heater (6yrs). 1 car detached garage. Solid rental area too! \$524,900

Kenneth J. Leva 978.877.8194

With offices in Boston, Cambridge, and Surrounding Areas  
www.GibsonSothebysRealty.com  
1008 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge | 844.667.6663



HARVARD SQUARED

to royalty (see [harvardmag.com/cooper-15](http://harvardmag.com/cooper-15)), from nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Britain. (Through December 5)

Harvard Art Museums

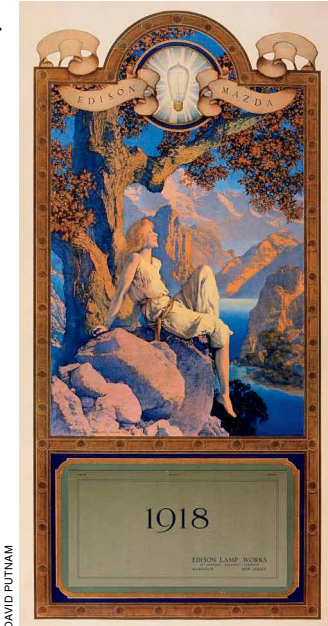
[www.harvardartmuseums.org](http://www.harvardartmuseums.org)

In conjunction with **Corita Kent and the Language of Pop** (see [harvardmag.com/kent-15](http://harvardmag.com/kent-15)), NYU professor Thomas Crow looks at works by Kent and New Zealand's Colin McCahon, in **"Reinventing Religious Art in the 1960s."** (December 10)

Houghton Library

[www.hcl.harvard.edu/info/exhibitions](http://www.hcl.harvard.edu/info/exhibitions)

**The World of Walter Crane** highlights the English illustrator, painter, interior designer, and decorator who was aligned with the Arts and Crafts Movement. (Through December 19)



Fruitlands Museum

[www.fruitlands.org](http://www.fruitlands.org)

**Hidden Hudson.** Rarely seen Hudson River School landscapes by George Inness, Sanford Gifford, and Frederick Church, among others. (Through November 22)

Currier Museum of Art

[www.currier.org](http://www.currier.org)

**Maxfield Parrish: The Power of Print** reveals the incalculable impact this classically trained artist had on the rise of mass media. (Through January 10)

RISD Museum

[www.risdmuseum.org](http://www.risdmuseum.org)

**Heads Up! Recent Gifts to the Collection.** Some 35 portraits—prints, drawings, and photographs—of

**Edison Mazda Lamp Works Calendar featuring Dawn, 1918, by Maxfield Parrish, at the Currier Museum of Art**



The Harvard Museum of Natural History's new exhibit, **Marine Life**, includes the hardy Northern Puffer.

the noggin by artists such as Sally Mann, Jim Dine, Nicole Eisenman, and Weegee. (Through January 10)

Concord Museum

[www.concordmuseum.org](http://www.concordmuseum.org)

**Middlesex County Modern** delves into the region's mid-century architectural revolution. (Through March 20)

Events listings are also accessible at [www.harvardmagazine.com](http://www.harvardmagazine.com).

COURTESY OF THE HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



GAIL ROBERTS & TEAM

1730 Massachusetts Ave  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617 245-4044



**Fresh Pond Ballet**

*Now enrolling!*

Age 3, youth,  
teen-adult-pointe  
Grace—energy—harmony

Visit us at:  
[Facebook.com/FreshPondBallet](https://www.facebook.com/FreshPondBallet)  
or  
[www.freshpondballet.com](http://www.freshpondballet.com)

Nina Alonso, Director, FPB  
1798a Mass Ave, Cambridge  
617.491.5865

*thank you*  
to Our Valued Advertising Partners

Black Ink	Carol & Myra/ Hammond Residential
Bob Slate Stationary	Harvest/Himmel Restaurant Group
Brookhaven at Lexington	Harvard Square Business Association
Cadbury Commons Cambridge	International School of Boston
Cambridge Office for Tourism	Irving House
The Charles Hotel	Leavitt & Peirce
Barbara Currier/Coldwell Banker	Lux Bond & Green
Gail Roberts/Coldwell Banker	McLean Hospital
Debby Ladd/ Country & Coastal Properties	Peter D. Watson Agency
Evelyn & Angel's Fine Candies	Oona's Boston
Fresh Pond Ballet	Rebekah Brooks Studio
Gibson Sotheby's International	St Paul's Choir School
Goddard House Assisted Living	Thompson Island -
Goorin Bros. Hat Shop	Outward Bound Professional
Brattle Office/Hammond Residential	Welch & Forbes, LLC

*Support from these advertisers helps us produce the independent, high-quality publication  
Harvard alumni rely on for information about the University and each other.*



BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE HOME AT A TIME

- Highly endorsed by clients and colleagues for exceptional integrity, commitment & performance
- Supporting: US Fund for UNICEF, The Mt. Auburn Hospital, Huntington Theatre Company, and The Guidance Center



© 2015 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker® and the Coldwell Banker logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. If your property is currently listed for sale, this is not intended as a solicitation. If your property is listed with a real estate broker, please disregard. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully.



# Life On a Tabletop

An ancient art form thrives at the Puppet Showplace Theater

by NELL PORTER BROWN



**B**END, A SOLO PERFORMANCE by theater artist and puppeteer Kimi Maeda, tells the story of her father, who crossed paths as a boy with the sculptor Isamu Noguchi at a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II. (Robert Maeda later became an Asian art history professor at Brandeis, focusing much of his research on Noguchi, who had volunteered to be interned.) On stage, Maeda creates images with wooden blocks and drawings in sand that are projected, along with 1940s archival footage, on a large screen behind her. She also uses artifacts, like a leather suitcase from which sand pours, as if in an hourglass, as she walks, and plays audio clips of wartime news reports and personal narratives spoken by her and her father, who now has dementia. Her artful animation of a painful slice of American history and its effects on both men is a meditation on loss, identity, and the fluidity of memories.

For Roxanna Myhrum '05, artistic direc-

**Brad Shur (above) performing in his new show, *Cardboard Explosion!*; Kimi Maeda in *Bend* (right); and puppeteers receding in a scene from *Anna Fitzgerald's Reverse Cascade***

tor of the Puppet Showplace Theater, in Brookline, Massachusetts, where *Bend* plays in February, artists like Maeda are using the ancient art form “to explore profound humanistic questions.” Many people think of puppetry as “dolly-wagging,” she adds, “which is what we in the biz call bad puppetry: ‘Oh, I’ve got a puppet on my hand. I’m going to wave it around and put on a show.’” What excites Myhrum, also president of the Puppeteers of America, is how the theater encompasses everything from sock puppets, Muppets, and marionettes to passionate amateur acts during “Puppet

Slams” and more conceptual pieces like *Bend* “that push the boundaries of visual and object theater.”



LIZ LINDER

A native of Springfield, Massachusetts, Myhrum began acting lessons locally at The Drama Studio in third grade, then discovered puppetry. At 15, she had a “mind-blowing experience: telling the story of the universe and of Chinese totalitarianism—with puppets” as the youngest person chosen to work on Hua Hua Zhang’s *The Bell*, based on mythological Chinese characters, at the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O’Neill Theater in New London, Connecticut. Myhrum also directs and produces opera and theater and has worked as a puppetry director or coach at almost all of Boston’s regional companies, in addition to serving as resident stage director of the Lowell House Opera.



STURGES



RICHARD TERMINE

**Clockwise from above: Roxanna Myhrum with the unflappable star of *Robin Hood*; Michelle Finston telling *Fairytale*; a scene from Bonnie Duncan’s “poignantly silly” *Squirrel Stole My Underpants*; students engaged in the art of shadow puppetry; duking it out in *Sherwood Forest***

Her role at the Brookline Village non-profit, she says, is like running a church-cum-start up: “Our theater is a cathedral of joy and wonder—and the audience is our congregation,” and yet “so much has changed economically for puppeteers, and we are in danger of losing this unique art form. It’s a huge priority for us to recruit new talent and support innovation and experimentation.” The theater was founded in 1974 by the late Mary Putnam Churchill ’52, who first began using puppets to engage students when she was a reading tutor. During 23 years she built the organization from a few weekend shows to an internationally recognized puppetry center; there are only a handful like it in the country.

A cozy space, it seats 95 and offers more than 300 shows annually, along with educational programs in schools, a summer youth camp, and year-round classes and workshops like “Introduction to Shadow

Puppetry” and “Furry Monsters 101” for adults. In 2013 Myhrum reconfigured the theater’s incubator program to support new works by local emerging artists, and has since premiered six new shows. Resident artist Brad Shur also gives about 60 performances a year and has eight original shows in his repertoire, including January’s interactive *Cardboard Explosion!*

But the majority of performances at the theater are by outside artists—local, national, and international—and are geared to younger audiences. Bonnie Duncan often combines puppetry, dance, and acrobatics in original works like *Squirrel Stole My Underpants* (about a girl’s imaginary journey to reclaim a beloved article of clothing), to be performed on November 27-29. The holiday season also brings Margaret Moody’s *The Monkey King* (December 10-13) and the National Marionette Theatre’s *Peter and the Wolf* (December 31-January 3) “We are often children’s first exposure to live theater,” says Myhrum. It’s electronic-free and often interactive, thereby stimulating imaginations, role-playing, and the practice of storytelling, she adds. For Susan Linn, Ed.M. ’75, Ed.D. ’90, a ventriloquist, children’s entertainer, and pioneer



in the use of puppets in psychotherapy, the theater (where she has also performed) is a critical forum for children and adults to “experience human creativity, firsthand,” free of the onslaught of commercialism and technology. “Puppeteers are swimming against a cultural tide,” adds Linn, who also founded the nonprofit Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. “So many children are immersed in the mainstream culture that’s basically run by three or four companies like Disney, Nickelodeon, and Fox...*Frozen* was a good movie, but then there is *Frozen* everything: video, apps, video games, zillions of toys. And so that creates an unfortunate norm for what people think children need in or-



der to enjoy themselves. The puppet theater is a whole different experience.”

At a recent performance of *The Swan*, an original, wordless work by Quebec’s Théâtre de Deux Mains, puppeteer Louis-Philippe Paulhus played all the parts amid an intimate stage set with hand-made trees and a pond (in fact, a monitor that changed colors) inspired by a Tiffany glass window. After the show he answered questions from the preschool audience. “Was the water real?” “What is the bird doing now?” “How do they talk?” To that, Paulhus gently answered, “When I make the mouth move, I have to make the sound at the same time.”

Like many puppets, the swan emitted not words but raw vocalizations that reverberated emotionally. That ability to engage in nonverbal communication, says Myhrum (who, like all serious puppeteers, had to learn the art of speaking gibberish) makes puppetry especially accessible to children and useful in therapeutic contexts and cross-cultural communications. The art form is more akin to dance and



pantomime than to traditional theater, she adds, because it readily conveys universal experiences: “Psychologically, puppetry demands an engaged audience. When a puppeteer is doing her job, an inanimate figure will activate our hearts, minds, and imaginations. It’s the audience’s job to bring the character to life.” As they process what’s going on, attendees are drawn into perceiving action on a metaphoric level, using their “puppetry sense,” she says: “a sensory capacity that is different from the verbal language of human actors’ theater.”

The intimate setting and often miniature scale of the productions—from the portable stage set to the cast of pint-sized “actors”—signify “small and vulnerable,” according to Myhrum. “Puppet shows trigger the part of us that says, ‘Care for pets, care for small animals.’” On the flip side, “characters can also be over-the-top, invincible,” she says. They can even be subversive or negative, hence the common use of puppets to engage in taboo subjects and political satire, or as a way to help those suffering from illnesses or as victims of trauma voice their experiences. Linn calls puppets “a valuable tool for expression because they are simultaneously ‘me and not me’”: puppets are like “a psychological screen. We don’t have to take responsibility for what we make them say—for that reason they are incredibly dis-



Visit [harvardmag.com](http://harvardmag.com) to view several puppet performance videos.

**The Monkey King (top left) features traditional Chinese puppets. At the Puppet Slams, almost anything goes: witness *Dentist* (Lindsey Z. Briggs), *Minimo* (Edgar Cardenas), and the “old man” who stars in a work set to music by Erik Satie (Brad Shur).**



inhibiting.” Puppets, Myhrum asserts, “can say and do things that human actors [and audiences] wouldn’t dare. That’s what makes them so powerful.”

And not just for kids. Although caregivers can and do enjoy shows with simple themes, the theater’s “Puppets at Night” events, like *Bend*, are strictly for adults. The bimonthly Puppet Slams (the next falls on January 16) offer a wide range of acts, including a bloody trip to the dentist. The theater began the slams in 1996; the movement has since expanded across the country and is financially supported by the Puppet Slam Network, founded by Heather Henson, daughter of the Muppets’ creators Jim and Jane Henson.

*The Muppet Show* and *Sesame Street* were a popular catalyst for the development of American puppetry in recent decades. But the art of animating inanimate objects has ancient origins across the globe, and at one time was restricted to a culture’s healers and religious figures. “There is always something profoundly sacred about the puppet, dwelling as it does on that indefinite border between life and its absence,” curator Leslee Asch, a former executive director of the Jim Henson Foundation and now head of the Silvermine Arts Center in Connecticut, wrote for the Katonah Museum’s 2010 exhibit, *The Art of Contemporary Puppet Theater*. “Puppetry serves as an extraordinarily powerful means of giving form to the internal or invisible.”

The willing suspension of disbelief, Asch continued, allows the audience to engage and accept that the created actors are “real.” Puppetry is so often relegated to children’s entertainment, she laments, because “sadly, in our society only children have been allowed to maintain the capacity for wonder, awe, and fantasy.”

Myhrum agrees. Puppetry’s “magic” is seducing an audience into identifying with characters composed of papier mâché, cardboard, cloth, plastic,



**Jonathan Little teaching “Furry Monsters 101” (for adults); and an “On-Camera Puppetry Intensive” with Ronald Binion (at far left)**

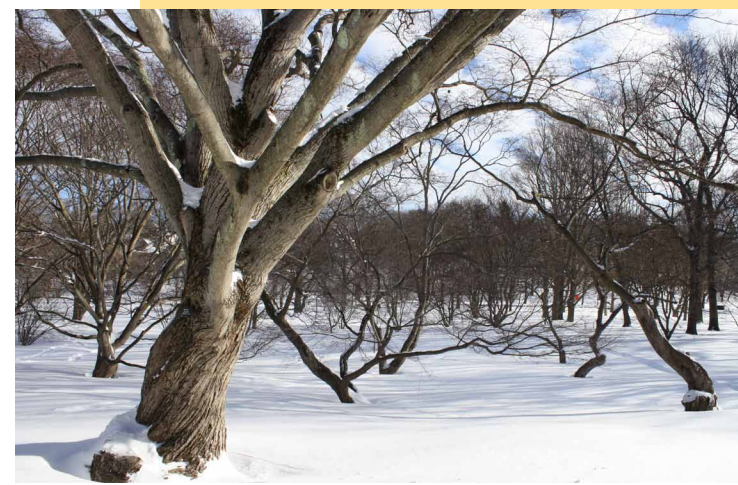


wood, or clay. In 2014 the theater premiered the adult show *Reverse Cascade*, by Anna Fitzgerald, a wordless story about circus performer Judy Finelli’s struggle with multiple sclerosis. Several black-clad, nearly invisible puppeteers create “Finelli,” the only character in the play, by tying together four silk scarves (the type jugglers use). The audience sees “her” miraculous circus tricks, the scarves moving in graceful arcs and dance steps, before her lithe body starts to fail—terribly. Cello music plays, the art-

ist flails and flops, trying to gain control of her body, which is fragile because it’s composed of scarves. Through a slow and painful process she manages to pull herself up to balance on aerial circus rings, but soon those rings become the wheels of her wheelchair. “The audience sees that this woman has knots in her leg because she has knots in her leg—the abstraction becomes real,” Myhrum notes. “A puppet is a visual metaphor for a human struggle that takes place on this little tabletop stage.”

## ALL IN A DAY: The Arboretum’s Winterland

**Winter is the best time** to get out and see New England’s trees in all their naked glory. The Arnold Arboretum, open year-round, offers just such forays with “Fall Into Health” (November 21), a brisk walk along lesser-known paths, and a “Winter Wellness Walk” (December 13), when the landscape is, perhaps, at its boniest. Those preferring an unguided jaunt followed by a stint inside to view nature on paper and canvas might enjoy *Drawing Trees, Painting the Landscape: Frank M. Rines (1892-1962)*, on display through February 14. Lectures and classes are also on tap. Writer, designer, and historian Kathryn Aalto reveals the magic, at least in the mind of A.A. Milne, of England’s Ashdown Forest in “The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: The



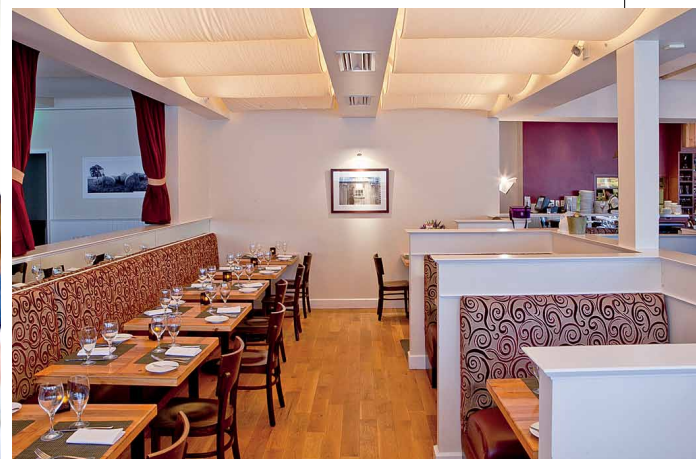
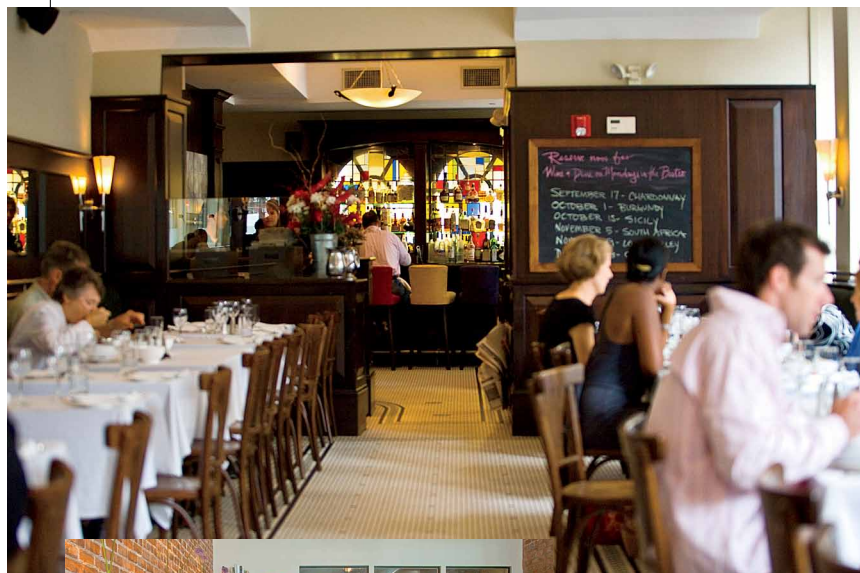
Forest That Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood” (the topic of her new book) on November 15. And on December 8, MIT physics professor Frank Wilczek explores “A Beautiful Question: Finding Nature’s Deep Design.” Check the arboretum’s website for full details. ~N.P.B.

The Arnold Arboretum  
[www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu)



# Dinner Without the Din

*In search of Greater Boston's quieter restaurants*



Clockwise from upper left: scenes from Beacon Hill Bistro, Lumière, Changsho, and Sycamore

**A**FTER SPENDING the evening at an unnamed establishment, hollering at fellow dinner guests just to be heard, we were inspired to find a few reliably conversation-friendly haunts. A call to the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, seeking guidance and maybe the names of a few of its 1,800 members who had successfully assuaged customers' concerns over noise levels, prompted an e-mail from president/CEO Bob Luz.

"I think restaurants purposely manage their environment to meet the expectations, needs and desires of their prospective guests," he wrote. "Most want to create a room that will exhibit a buzz and a certain level of excitement, and acoustically work towards achieving that goal within the buildout, furniture,

music systems, genre of music and volume. Others want to create a more businesslike atmosphere, where deals/business/or more intimate moments can occur."

Given that full industry disclosure, the following is a select list of places that we found—at least on the nights we were there (i.e., no guarantees)—conducive to conversation without feeling like a monastery.

The town of Belmont, it turns out, offers two such spots. For fresh, solid Italian food and evening themes—Wednesday is Girls Night Out and Thursday is reserved for live jazz—try Savinos Grill ([www.savinosgrill.com](http://www.savinosgrill.com)).

that jut out from the main walls, offering privacy to many tables, and welcome dimensionality in the otherwise boxy space. Most important: the bar, close to the entrance, is tiny, which precludes any gathering of loud drinkers.

Across the street is Kitchen On Common ([www.kitchenoncommon.com](http://www.kitchenoncommon.com)), where chef/owner Joh Kokubo serves simple, fresh meals in a casual setting with eight tables. There is no music. *At all*. Soft talk among diners seems to be the rule—except when the phone rings at the hostess station. (That jarring sound could be turned down.)

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE RESTAURANTS

## HARVARD SQUARED

More polished and a little less muted is West Newton's Lumière ([www.lumiereres-restaurant.com](http://www.lumiereres-restaurant.com)). From a nuanced color scheme and velvet curtains to flattering mood lighting, this established French bistro fosters calm consumption of its meticulously prepared food. Plan for an early movie at the West Newton Cinema, down the street, then linger over dinner and dessert. We recommend the dark chocolate *crèmeux* with coconut cream and salted rum caramel (\$12).

Sycamore ([www.sycamorenewton.com](http://www.sycamorenewton.com)) is newer, and newly lauded with a 2015 nod from *Boston Magazine's* "Best of Boston" list. The Newton Centre restaurant has a hip vibe amid naturalistic décor: lots of wood, exposed brick, and a few soft brown banquettes. Mature Newtonians mix with younger folks; all seem devoted to chef David Punch (formerly of Ten Tables in Cambridge) and his inventive Mediterranean-style dishes, which bring out the best in any vegetable. Pickled ramps, fried okra, charred Japanese eggplant, and a chanterelle mushroom soup topped the fall menu. Even smaller and quieter than Sycamore, however, is the nearby Farmstead Table ([www.farmsteadtable.com](http://www.farmsteadtable.com)). This modern space washed in white tones serves food with a rustic New England bent—slow-cooked meat and potatoes—and folksy desserts, like the "s'mores tart," dressed up with ganache (\$9).

For quiet and cozy, the Beacon Hill Bistro, on the first floor of the eponymous hotel ([www.beaconhillhotel.com](http://www.beaconhillhotel.com)), is a good bet. Even with 60 seats in a relatively small storefront space, the restaurant rarely seems overcrowded. Enjoy the French-styled comfort food in peace, then take a stroll down Charles Street, where window shopping at night can be more pleasurable than buying.

Late nights at the Museum of Fine Arts (Wednesday through Friday) are also the best time to view exhibits. Crowds have likely waned at *Class Distinctions: Dutch Paintings in the Age of Rembrandt and Vermeer*, up through January 18, and Bravo ([www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)) is open for drinks and "new American" cuisine at its festive bar or at a distinctly separate area with tables. Delightfully low-key jazz trios play on Friday nights.

Harvest, the Harvard Square mainstay, shares an equally equable ambience. Neutral tones and natural fibers offer a chic airiness, yet Harvest feels solid—like its "classic" shrimp cocktail (\$18)—and the bar is a snug haven on a cold, dark night.

Nobody would call Changsho ([www.changsho.com](http://www.changsho.com))

## PREMIER PROPERTIES

### SINGLE FAMILY PRIVATELY SITUATED IN HARVARD SQUARE



New construction. 3+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Open living, dining, and kitchen. Master suite on 2nd floor. Lower level with separate entry. Landscaped garden with terrace. *Call for details.*

**BARBARA CURRIER**

THE CURRIER TEAM | FINE PROPERTIES



WWW.BARBARACURRIER.COM  
171 Huron Avenue Cambridge, Mass. 02138  
617.593.7070 | [barbaracurrier50@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracurrier50@gmail.com)

### LITTLE COMPTON, RHODE ISLAND



Spectacular contemporary Colonial on expansive 5.75+ acre site, deeded access and water views of ocean coastline, abuts conservation land. 4,601+ sq. ft. of living space includes 6 bedrooms, 4 full and 3 half-baths, two separate living units, beautiful flower gardens, terraces, orchard, private pool complex. **\$3,200,000**

COUNTRY & COASTAL PROPERTIES  
**Deborah Ladd | 401-635-8887**  
[Debby@CountryAndCoastal.com](mailto:Debby@CountryAndCoastal.com)  
[www.countryandcoastal.com](http://www.countryandcoastal.com)



### CRAFTSBURY COMMON, VERMONT



Peace on Earth in sought-after, Northeast Kingdom of Vermont location. Remarkable home at the end of a private driveway in Historic Craftsbury Common is surrounded by 16.5 acres of mixed woods and open spaces for complete privacy. Much thought went into the year+ renovation of this incredible 5 BR, 4 BA, 1910 farmhouse. It includes 5 zone heat, 2 zone central air, and gorgeous mountain views. The village is a 5 min. walk up the driveway. Enjoy Craftsbury Common's cross country skiing, schools, church, libraries, PO, and the smallest accredited 4-year college in the country. See it at: [tinyurl.com/163slawson](http://tinyurl.com/163slawson). **\$1,250,000**



**Peter D. Watson Agency**  
PO Box 62, Craftsbury, VT 05826  
802.533.7077 | [wags@together.net](mailto:wags@together.net)  
[northernvtrealstate.com](http://northernvtrealstate.com) | [caspiantakereals.com](http://caspiantakereals.com)

### Hammond Residential Real Estate



#### MID CENTURY CONTEMPORARY

Belmont...Mid-century contemporary-style residence on Belmont Hill with views of the Boston skyline. On over 19,000 square feet of beautifully landscaped gardens, this home offers 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Unusual features include a two-story entrance hall and a wall of floor-to-ceiling glass windows on the entertaining level that face south and open to a large bluestone patio...**\$1,250,000**

**CAROL KELLY & MYRA VON TURKOVICH**  
Vice Presidents, Hammond Residential Real Estate  
[carolandmyra.com](mailto:carolandmyra.com) | [hammondre.com](http://hammondre.com)  
617.835.5008 & 617.834.0838

If you would like to list a property in our January-February issue, contact Abby Shepard: 617.496.4032

**HARVARD**  
MAGAZINE



changshorerestaurant.com), another cherished standby, snug. On Massachusetts Avenue a short walk from the Square, the restaurant seats upward of 180 people amid large-scale Chinese accoutrements that include vases, paintings, and string instruments. Yet Changsho is homey, thanks to all the family diners and to its well-spaced tables, warm spot lighting, and the large-patterned carpet that invisibly soaks up spilled

tea and soy sauce. Somehow the acoustics here dull sounds—even those emanating from the large parties of chin-wagging academics often in attendance.

For those desperate for serious quietude surrounded by floors of utter silence, there's always the Boston Public Library's Courtyard Restaurant ([www.thecateredaffair.com/bpl/courtyard](http://www.thecateredaffair.com/bpl/courtyard)). It's not open for dinner, but does serve a lovely, if pricey, lunch.

Try the poached hen egg and bitter greens (\$14) or the more grizzled open-face sirloin sandwich (\$21). And the afternoon tea—the sample menu mentions raspberry thumbprints, scones with lemon curd, and savory cucumber and lemon cream-cheese sandwiches—might please even the pickiest Anglophile. But no lusty munching, or exclamations...Please!

~N.P.B.

## CURIOSITIES: Picking Up a Hobby

**William Blake** saw “a World in a Grain of Sand.” Stan Munro saw the Taj Mahal in a toothpick—or, more precisely, thousands of toothpicks stuck together with Elmer's Glue. He also envisioned Stonehenge, the Eiffel Tower, and the International Space Station, and reproduced them, too, along with more than 200 other architectural wonders, at a scale of 1:164 in the basement of his home in North Syracuse, New York.

“We decided these would be very intriguing to see,” says Michael McMillan, associate curator at the Fuller Craft Museum. And so 22 of Munro's structures, including models of Boston landmarks Trinity Church, Fenway Park, and Hancock Place, will be on display at the Brockton, Massachusetts, museum in *Toothpick World: From Sliver to Skyline*, starting December 19.

Photographs don't do the work justice. Adults and children alike, looking for a day trip during school vacation especially, will enjoy seeing these astounding works up close. They are educational—lessons in architecture, engineering, and charm—but they also testify to a capacity for zeal. “We spend a lot of time, whether because of academic gravitas or the stigma often attached to ‘craft,’ differentiating between applied arts and fine arts,” says McMillan. “What Stan does gets to the core of what we do at the museum, which is to highlight the power of the handmade. This is an examination of the passion of working with the hands, and it's done in

a successful way that people can relate to.”

Munro has worked as a TV reporter, true-crime writer, and hospital administrator, and has been “toothpicking” (his term) for fun since fifth grade. It became a vocation around 2003, when he was staying home to care for his wife, who had been diagnosed with polycystic kidney-liver disease. She is now doing well—yet toothpicking stuck for Munro, and is now his full-time job. The iconic Basílica de la Sagrada Família in Barcelona, for example, took him about nine months to construct, but he erected the Washington Monument in one very long day.

He sold his first collection, *Toothpick City I*—50 of the world's tallest buildings—to a museum in Spain in 2006; it was later acquired by Ripley's Believe It or Not!, in Baltimore. He currently has two traveling exhibits—*Toothpick City II*, which includes Yankee Stadium, Tokyo City Hall, the *Queen Mary II*, and Burj Al Arab (the luxury hotel in Dubai)—and the larger but equally eclectic *Toothpick World*. Where else could the Stratosphere Tower (Las Vegas), Grand Mosque (Mecca), and headquarters of MI-6 (London) be corralled? In all, Munro has employed more than four million toothpicks (now bought wholesale), along with untold vats of glue.

“Stan's used to showing a lot of his work in libraries, more casual places, a bar or a restaurant,” says McMillan, who is excited to widen the audience for fine folk art. “When he came here to visit, he looked around and said, ‘Oh, this is a real museum.’”

~N.P.B.



The Fuller Craft Museum  
[www.fullercraft.org](http://www.fullercraft.org)  
December 19-March 27

**Towering over artist Stan Munro** are his “toothpicked” versions of the **Eiffel Tower** and the **Empire State** and **Chrysler buildings**. He's also built **St. Basil's Cathedral** (Moscow), the **White House**, and the **Statue of Liberty**.



# Harvard<sup>2</sup> SHOPPING GUIDE



Throughout its long history, Harvard Square has played a special role in the Harvard community, and it continues to do so year after year.

That is why each spring and fall *Harvard Magazine* dedicates several advertising pages to showcase the business members of the Harvard Square Business Association.

We invite you to support these local businesses and family-owned retailers, to ensure that the Square continues to thrive.

## FALL & WINTER EVENTS IN HARVARD SQUARE

- 10/30-11/1** Harvard Scare! Spooky and fun activities throughout the Square.
- November** 7th Annual Folk Music Month
- 11/26** Thanksgiving
- 11/27** Kick off the holiday season with Plaid and Black Friday events.
- 11/28** Tree Lighting Ceremony @ Charles Hotel
- December** Sparklefest
- 12/6** Victorian Carolers and Santa Event
- 12/12** 9th Ann. “Everyone Loves Latkes” Party!
- 12/18-20** Shop Over Weekend

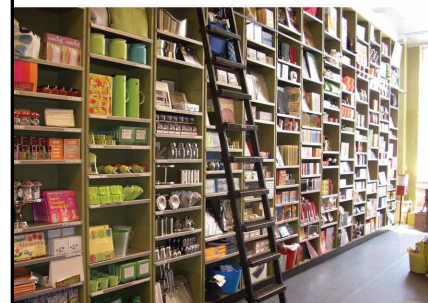
[www.harvardsquare.com](http://www.harvardsquare.com)



[www.harvardmagazine.com/harvardsquare](http://www.harvardmagazine.com/harvardsquare)



BLACK INK...what's in store?



5 Brattle Street, Cambridge  
101 Charles Street, Boston



[www.BlackInkBoston.com](http://www.BlackInkBoston.com)



**OONA'S**

Vintage + Modern  
Men + Women

1210 Massachusetts Avenue  
Harvard Square

[oonasboston.com](http://oonasboston.com)  
617.491.2654



**Bob Slate**  
Stationer

HOLIDAY CARDS & GIFT WRAP  
FINE STATIONERY  
& WRITING INSTRUMENTS  
OFFICE & ART SUPPLIES

30 Brattle Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617.547.1230  
[www.BobSlateStationer.com](http://www.BobSlateStationer.com)

Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30-6:30, Sun 12-5  
See website for extended holiday hours.

GIVE  
EXQUISITE  
CHOCOLATES



EVELYN & ANGEL'S  
Fine Candies • Roasted Nuts

40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
**BEST OF  
BOSTON  
2013**  
Awarded by *Boston* magazine

1702 MASS. AVE., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138  
btw HARVARD-PORTER Sq.)

f t EvelynandAngles  
[WWW.EVELYNANGELS.COM](http://WWW.EVELYNANGELS.COM)

IMAGINATION  
IS THE  
HIGHEST  
KITE ONE CAN  
FLY.  
-LAUREN BACALL




Friendly accommodations  
in the heart of Cambridge

24 Irving Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
P 617 547 4600  
[irvinghouse.com](http://irvinghouse.com)




IRVING  
HOUSE  
ST HARVARD



**GOORIN BROS.**  
EST. 1895  
**HAT SHOP**

43 BRATTLE STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138  
(617) 868-4287



The Church of St. Paul | Harvard Square presents

# Celebrations of Christmas

**A Christmas Celebration**  
The Choir of St. Paul's | Harvard Square  
Sunday, December 6 and 13, 3:00pm

**Benjamin Britten's  
Ceremony of Carols**  
Sunday, December 20, 3:00pm

TICKETS: \$35/\$25

29 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge MA 02138  
617 868-8658 | [www.stpaulchoirschool.com](http://www.stpaulchoirschool.com)



The boys of the St. Paul's Choir School are proud to continue the release of their debut international recording, *Christmas in Harvard Square!* CDs are available for purchase through the Choir School website, [www.stpaulchoirschool.com](http://www.stpaulchoirschool.com). Produced by AimHigher Recordings/Decca, the CD features 19 classic Christmas songs of both traditional and contemporary arrangements, including original arrangements by Director of Music, John Robinson.



St. Paul's Choir School is a musically intensive, academically rigorous Catholic day school for boys in grades 4-8. Boys who enjoy singing are welcome to audition. For more information, please contact John Robinson, Director of Music, [jrobinson@choirschool.net](mailto:jrobinson@choirschool.net).

# HARVEST

Located in the heart of Harvard Square, **HARVEST** celebrates the modern New England table. We present contemporary New England cuisine focused on the region's  *freshest ingredients*.

Call or visit our website to find out about special events, private dining options, or to book a table.



44 Brattle St. (on the walkway) Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA 02138 | 617-868-2255 | [harvestcambridge.com](http://harvestcambridge.com)  
serving lunch, dinner, bar menu & sunday brunch



## SHOPPING DIRECTORY



### **Black Ink**

www.blackink.com  
617-497-1221



### **Bob Slate Stationer**

www.bobslatestationer.com  
617-547-1230



### **Cambridge USA**

www.cambridge-usa.org



### **The Charles Hotel**

www.charleshotel.com  
617.864.1200



### **Evelyn & Angel's Fine Candies**

www.evelynangels.com  
617.547.0175



### **Fresh Pond Ballet**

www.freshpondballet.com  
617-491-5865



### **Goorin Bros. Hat Shop**

www.goorin.com  
617-868-4287



### **Harvard Square Business Association**

www.harvardsquare.com  
617-491-3434



### **Harvest**

harvestcambridge.com  
617-868-2255



### **Irving House**

www.irvinghouse.com  
617-547-4600



### **International School of Boston**

www.isbos.org  
617.499.1451



### **Oona's**

www.oonasboston.com  
617-491-2654



### **Rebekah Brooks Studio**

www.rebekahbrooks.com  
617-864-1639



### **St. Paul's Choir School**

www.choirschool.net  
617-491-8400



## REBEKAH BROOKS

17 BRATTLE ST. CAMBRIDGE MA 617.864.1639

*rebekahbrooks.com*



Good things come in **SQUARE** packages.

Shop the **SQUARES** of Cambridge  
this holiday season.

# CAMBRIDGE

office for tourism

CambridgeUSA.org

