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Cambridge, Boston, and beyond





16B Extracurriculars Events on and off campus through the end of 2016



16F Holly Day Fair A Cohasset farm celebrates the giving season

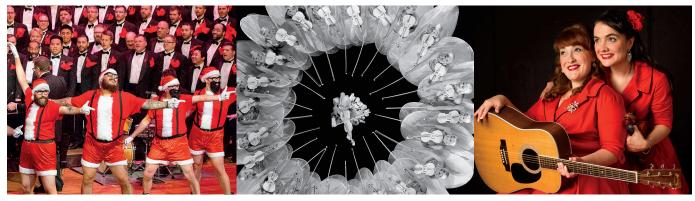


16] The Blue Hills Winter hikes with the Appalachian Mountain Club



16L Steampunk Art Reimagining Brockton's shoe-making legacy

DANITA DELIMONT / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



## Extracurriculars

Events on and off campus during November and December

## SEASONAL

#### The Game

www.gocrimson.com/sports/fball/index home. (November 19)

**Boston Gay Men's Chorus** www.bgmc.org

Jingle All the Way. Performances through-The annual competition takes place at out December, at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

From left to right: The Boston Gay Men's Chorus; an intricately staged dance scene from Busby Berkeley's Gold Diggers of 1933, at the Harvard Film Archive; The Sweetback Sisters combine Appalachian sounds and urbane sensibility at the A.R.T.'s Oberon stage.

## **Radcliffe Choral Society and Harvard Glee Club**

www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

Christmas in Sanders: A Community Holiday Sing! Traditional tunes, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec's Winter Songs. Sanders Theatre. (December 2)

## The 107th Annual **Christmas Carol Services**

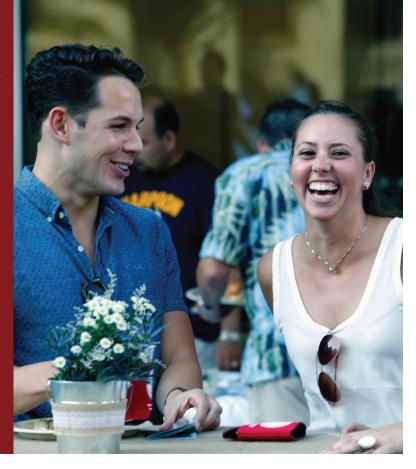
www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu This year, the popular event featuring the



## WHY I JOINED THE HARVARD **CLUB OF BOSTON**

There are many different reasons to join the Harvard Club of Boston. Kay Foley, 28, is a Harvard alum and former co-captain of the Harvard varsity women's swimming and diving team. Here's why she joined: "My time spent at Harvard was the best 4 years of my life so far. When I graduated, I wanted to maintain a connection to the tremendous people I had met and a connection to the College. I joined the Harvard Club of Boston to do just that. The Harvard Club has become my go-to spot in Boston. I go to the club for social events, to meet with people, and now to work out as well. It's a great feeling to have a place in the heart of the city to connect with existing friends and to make new ones along the way." - Kay Foley '10

For more information visit harvardclub.com





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#### HARVARD SQUARED

Harvard University Choir will be held at St. Paul's Church, in Harvard Square, because Memorial Church is being renovated. (December II and I3)

#### POETRY

## **Woodberry Poetry Room**

www.hcl.harvard.edu/poetryroom Award-winning poet and translator Forrest Gander discusses, and reads from, his latest book project, Then Come Back: The Lost Neruda Poems. (November 29)

Boston Originals: Season Finale highlights the Boston-area poets Keith Jones, Tanya Larkin, Sandra Lim, Jill Mc-Donough, and Clint Smith, among others. (December 8)

### FILM

## **Harvard Film Archive**

www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa

The Films of Busby Berkeley. Screenings of the Hollywood director and choreographer's iconic American entertainments, such as The Gang's All Here (1943), in which a chorus line wields giant bananas during Carmen Miranda's pioneering, sexually charged performance of "The Lady in the Tutti Frutti Hat." (December 9-January 20)

#### MUSIC

### **Antioch Chamber Ensemble**

www.harvardchoruses.fas.harvard.edu The ensemble presents compositions by students who have been working with American composer Robert Kyr, Ph.D. '89, as part of the "new music initiative." Holden Chapel. (November 12)

## The Harvard Department of Music www.boxoffice.harvard.edu

Conductor and Wolff Distinguished Visiting Scholar Nicholas McGegan leads Italian Baroque Music from the Jewish Ghetto, with music by Salamone Rossi and guest artists from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Paine Concert Hall. (November 17)

## **Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus**

www.harvardchoruses.fas.harvard.edu HRC: American Contemporary Choral Works features composers John Corigliano, Rick Sowash, and Gwyneth Walker. Sanders Theatre. (December 3)

### **EXHIBITIONS**

#### Harvard Art Museums

www.harvardartmuseums.org

Doris Salcedo: The Materiality of Mourning includes hanging "blouses" that are formed of woven raw silk and thousands of needles, from the Disremembered series (2014-16), and the museums' recently acquired A Flor de Piel (2013), a hand-sewn tapestry of preserved red-rose petals honoring a nurse tortured to death during the Colombian civil war. (Opens November 4)

## Johnson-Kulukundis Family Gallery www.radcliffe.harvard.edu

Calm. Smoke rises vertically. Artist Wendy Jacob, RI '05, often incorporates architectural design, physics, and tactile sensations. Byerly Hall. (November 16-January 7)

## Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art

www.coopergalleryhc.org Carrie Mae Weems: I Once Knew A Girl... offers 52 thought-provoking works of photography and video installation by Weems that explore social constructs of power, race, and space. (Through January 7)

#### **THEATER**

(December 15)

**American Repertory Theater** www.americanrepertorytheater.org The Sweetback Sisters' Country Music Singalong Spectacular. A meticulously harmonized duo, Emily Miller and Zara Bode perform with a fiddle-ful of good humor. Songbooks are provided! Oberon.

lames and the Giant Peach. The classic Roald Dahl tale, adapted by David Wood, stars actors studying at the A.R.T. Institute. Loeb Drama Center. (December 17-31)

## NATURE AND SCIENCE The Arnold Arboretum

www.arboretum.harvard.edu Boston University professor James Lawford

Anderson talks about "Six Ice Ages in One Billion Years, Climate Change, and Boston's Earthquake Problem"

## Spotlight

Mount Washington, the Northeast's highest peak, has always captured the imagination of climbers, artists, and naturalists. This winter, the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire, celebrates that iconic legacy with its new exhibit, Mount Washington: The Crown of New England. More than 40 paintings and photographs, along with historic prints, scientific reports, and guidebooks, are on display through January 16, including The Emerald Pool (1870), by Albert Bierstadtshown in New England for the first time since it was painted. The 10-foot-wide canvas, based on the Hudson River School artist's numerous trips to sketch the landscape, depicts an idyll near Pinkham Notch. Also featured is the 1854 photograph Reflected Ledge (above), by John Ad-

(November 30), then follows up by taking visitors on a roughly three-mile walk through the Arboretum to highlight evidence of ancient geological formations in the landscape. (December 3)

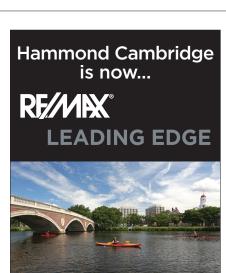
ams Whipple and James Wallace Black, on loan from the Harvard Art Museums. The mirror images of the region's rocky, undulating terrain and shoreline forest reveals a simple majesty often taken for granted. **Currier Museum of Art** 

www.currier.org

### **LECTURES**

## **Mahindra Humanities Center**

www.mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu University of Chicago Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of history Dipesh



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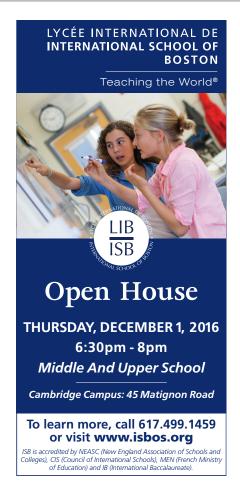
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#### HARVARD SQUARED

Chakrabarty discusses "The Human Condition in the Anthropocene." (November 10) Thomas professor of the history of art and architecture Joseph Koerner examines "Art in a Stage of Siege: Hieronymus Bosch in Retrospect" (see page 68). (November 15)

The Environment Forum features Duke University School of Law Everett professor of law Jedediah Purdy '97. (December 8)

**Radcliffe Institute** 

www.radcliffe.harvard.edu

In "American Amnesia: Forgetting What Made Us Prosper," Jacob S. Hacker, Resor professor of political science and director of Yale's Institute for Social and Policy Studies, emphasizes the critical role of an effective public sector. (December 1)

Events listings are also accessible at www.harvardmagazine.com.

## STAFF PICK: Holly Day Fair

Holly Hill Farm, in coastal Cohasset, Massachusetts, celebrates winter and nature at its annual Holly Day Fair.

Visitors gather in the greenhouse, where a wood stove burns amid pots of homemade soups and trays of cakes, cookies, and pies. Local food vendors and artisans also sell jams, breads, soaps, jewelry, ceramics, and other artwork great for wholesome holiday gifts. Fair-goers can check out the barnyard creatures, and make gingerbread, seeded pinecones for winter bird-feeding, and





and traditional wreath-making (below); Holly Hill Farm's picturesque working barn

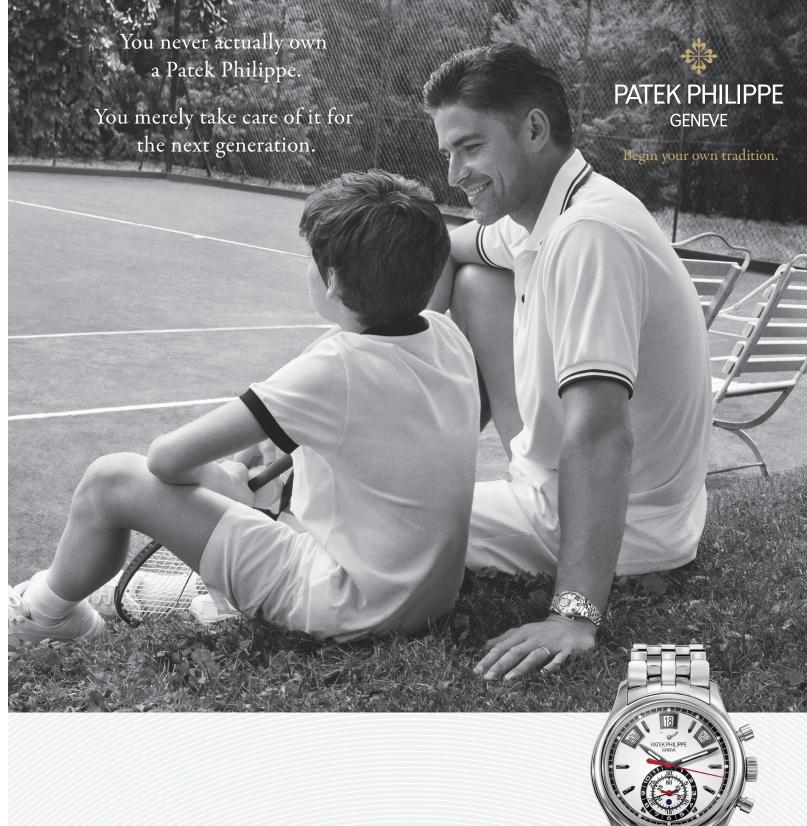
and sculptor, and the couple's daughter, Jennifer White '81, and nephew, Arthur White '94, are members of the Friends of Holly Hill Farm board of trustees.)

The fair crowd includes longtime customers and volunteers devoted to the nonprofit Friends group that manages not only the arable fields but also a summer camp and year-round educational programs for children, adults, and school groups. The core environmental mission incorporates the farm operations, historic structures, and di-



verse habitats—an ethos that also extends to fair vendor and nephew Malcolm White. A teacher and woodworker, he ingeniously entwines pieces of wood scavenged on the property to create rustic furniture "without nails or screws," his aunt reports. "He just fits it all together naturally."

Holly Hill Farm vww.hollyhillfarm.org December 3, 10 A.M.-3 P.M.



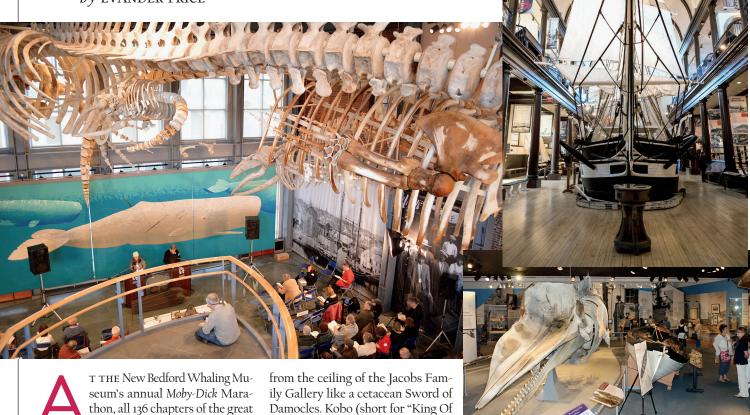
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## "Going Aboard?"

The New Bedford Whaling Museum's Moby-Dick marathon by Evander Price



American epic—from "Etymology" to "Epilogue"—are read nonstop, out loud, in a gallery overlooking the harbor. In years past, the reading took place under the sweating bones of Kobo, the rearticulated skeleton of a juvenile blue whale suspended

the Blue Ocean") is one of five whale skeletons the museum has on display, but he is unique. Because his bones weren't properly prepared, they have, for the past 16

years, wept whale oil, drop by drop, filling the gallery with an anachronistic musk that was ubiquitous in New Bedford 150 years ago.



Marathon-readers gather beneath whale bones and beside the Lagoda (top and below left). The museum's exhibit "From Pursuit to Preservation" (above) elucidates whales; its antique scrimshaw collection (detail below) is the largest in the world.

novelty, a means of olfactory time travel possible only in rare places like this museum. It smells of strenuous work and wealth, of a maritime economy responsible for keeping the world lit at night, of a century of environmental hubris; it is the smell of Melville, and it must be experienced in person. By the mid nineteenth century, New Bedford was the whaling capital of the world, responsible for nearly half the global industry. The museum, founded in 1903, is uniquely prepared to inspire the maritime muse, and to illustrate and grapple with its complex history.

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HARVARD SQUARED

Appalachian Mountain Club

Southeastern Chapter

## ALL IN A DAY: Take to the Hills

The Blue Hills Reservation spans more than 7,000 acres, forming a scenic chain of largely unspoiled nature, just south of Boston. It's the largest state-owned green space that caters to year-round recreation—and, even rarer, it's accessible by public transportation.

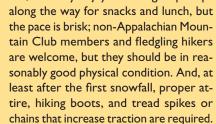
In the winter, the golf course is transformed into a crosscountry skiing haven, and other sections of the park are earmarked for downhill runs, mountain biking, rock climbing, and horseback riding. Urban-dwelling hikers especially flock to the reservation's 125 miles of trails, notes Catherine MacCurtain, a leader of the Appalachian Mountain Club's Southeastern Massachusetts chapter: "Otherwise we have to drive all the way to New Hampshire." The park's 22 hills offer a surprising array of treks, she assures, from beginner paths to the challenging Skyline Trail, which stretches across the range, offering perfect views of Boston's skyline and the harbor islands.

The chapter organizes free hiking trips throughout the year. MacCurtain herself prefers winter jaunts—"No bugs and it's cool"—and swears she's not alone. Consequently, she and fellow leader Paul Brookes have organized a weekly hiking series from December 27 to March 14 that roughly coincides with the winter solstice and spring equinox. The group will meet at different locations each Tuesday morning for four-hour expeditions. But anyone can take on the larg-

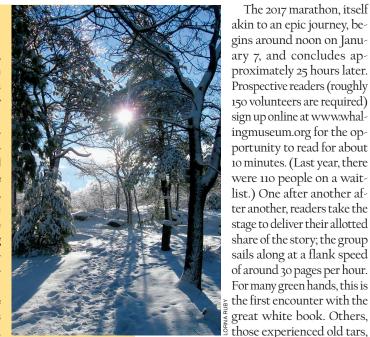
er goal: hiking the length of every single trail in the park during the wintertime—although not necessarily within one season. (To traverse all 125 miles in three months, "you would be out there at least three or four times a week, in addition to the Tuesday hike," MacCurtain concedes.) About 20 hardy hikers joined the series last winter and averaged six miles each week. (For those seeking a mellower outing of three miles or so, the park hosts its own SE Mass Adult Walking Club series; see the website for programs.)

The point, really, is getting people together to enjoy winter, instead of leaving them

to sit around the house. "We've found," MacCurtain adds, "that once they get the right clothing and get out there, they're not cold at all, and they enjoy it." The group stops



Even without the winds and ice, winter hiking is more arduous than sunnyweather climbs. "Last year we didn't have much snow," MacCurtain recalls, 'but we had many cold and rainy Tuesdays, which can be worse, because no matter what gear you wear, you get wet. We'd do five or six miles; then everyone vould want to go home. But at least you're all in it together, so it's always more fun that way."  $\sim$ N.P.B.



The Blue Hills **Reservation offers** winter treks, along with cross-country and

have read Moby-Dick more times than they can remember. Anyone is welcome to come and listen to any portion of the marathon; the truly tenacious Ishmaels try to sit and stay awake for the whole voyage. What is it about this book that entangles

The 2017 marathon, itself

akin to an epic journey, be-

gins around noon on Janu-

ary 7, and concludes ap-

proximately 25 hours later.

Prospective readers (roughly

150 volunteers are required)

sign up online at www.whal-

ingmuseum.org for the opportunity to read for about

10 minutes. (Last year, there

were 110 people on a wait-

list.) One after another af-

ter another, readers take the

stage to deliver their allotted

share of the story; the group sails along at a flank speed

of around 30 pages per hour.

For many green hands, this is

the first encounter with the

so many readers? How has this American epic maintained its steadily growing Rocky Horror-esque cult following of those who insist on a yearly migration to the New Bedford Whaling Museum to ship out, as Ishmael and Melville did nearly two centuries ago, in the dead of winter?

It could be the tight sense of community at the museum. The marathon draws a diverse crew of scholars, students, conservationists, art historians, teachers, scientists, sailors, politicians, musicians, museum professionals, and local residents, all of whom revel in the collective identity that binds them to a book in the lines, sheets, and monkey ropes; each reader demonstrating his or her claim to the title of "aficionado." One never quite knows who may show up. Even Melville's great-great-grandchildren, and now great-great grandchildren, come to read.

Perhaps it is the challenge of trying to swallow an epic in one big gulp. The book is a notoriously slippery fish, a hodgepodge of literary genres that has, since its publication in 1851, defied categorization and been invoked in an endless myriad of analogies. The casual reader generally sips Moby-Dick, drinking in a few chapters at a time. Marathoners strive to sail the seas of literary enHARVARD SQUARED

durance. Inevitably, this effort ends with a sudden, sublime perspectival shift of realizing one has been encapsulated by the very thing one was trying to contain, chased by the thing one was pursuing—swallowed whole by the great book.

What elevates New Bedford's Moby-Dick Marathon above all others held around the country is the whaling museum itself, which possesses deep collections of exhibitions and materials unparalleled for the task of illuminating a multisensory, multimedia performance of Melville's classic. No other marathon audience walks en masse from the galleries to the Seamen's Bethel across the street, the "Whaleman's Chapel" described by Melville: "few are the moody fishermen, shortly bound for the Indian Ocean or Pacific, who fail to make a Sunday visit to the spot." Built in 1832, the chapel is among the many structures that constitute the city's historic district; its interior walls bear the inscribed names of local whalers and fishermen who have died at sea. There, Father Mapple's sermon (part of the chapel scenes in chapters seven through nine) is performed live by a selected, talented reader who channels all the fire and brimstone of Ionathan Edwards himself from the bowshaped pulpit. Marathon readers become one of Mapple's flock, singing alongside Ishmael "The Ribs and Terrors in the Whale," the doleful foreshadowing hymn that Melville wrote to accompany the scene. Listeners can even sit in the same pew, according to a label affixed to it, that Melville used when he visited New Bedford.

Another advantage: for readers at the marathon, surrounded by the museum's collections, whaling jargon is no longer a mystery. Here one can cut through the Gordian knot of vocabulary: sheets, lines, sails, and slang are easily learned aboard the Lagoda, an 86foot, half-scale whale-ship model, the largest of its kind in the world, which is celebrating its centennial this year. Readers and listeners are free to roam the exhibitions around the Lagoda to see, and in some cases touch, all sorts of harpoons and whalecraft that animate the dangerous business of attempting to kill a 90,000-pound sperm whale with what is, compared to the whale's bulk, a metal-tipped toothpick. What could possibly compel men to pursue such a mad mission?

What of the whale itself, which Ishmael contemplates time and again? Chapter 32, "Cetology"—notorious for its difficult and lengthy taxonomy of the various species of By The Sea

## Sotheby's



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whales known in the 1850s—is performed with humor and insight with the help of the accompanying permanent exhibition, From Pursuit to Preservation, which corrects Melville's qualified—but mistaken—assertion that the whale is, in fact, a fish. The exhibition is full of marvelous ecological, biological, and historical information about whales, such as the strange fact that sperm whales do not grow teeth until around 10 years of age, and why they were known as the "carpenter fish," a fact which provides surprising insight into the ending of *Moby-*Dick. And then there is the euphemistically titled chapter 95, "The Cassock." Many an innocent reader has blithely overlooked this digression without realizing that Melville is hilariously describing the whale penis and its many uses. The whaling museum is happy to elaborate on those functions and uses, and, should curiosity strike, visitors

might well ask the staff to see the dried penis displayed prudently under the label "grandissimus."

Then there is the challenge of the evergrowing list of allusions and references Melville makes as the pages turn, which can be matched only by the depth of the museum's tremendous archive of maritime texts and artifacts—anything Melville read, it has acquired; anything Melville alludes to, it has examples of. Take the bedeviling catalog of art depicting the history of whaling mentioned in chapters 55, 56, and 57: "Of the Monstrous Pictures of Whales"; "Of the Less Erroneous Pictures of Whales": and "Of Whales in Paint, in Teeth, &C." During the author's smorgasbord of obscure art historical references, marathon-goers can meander through the galleries to see some examples of the works themselves—like Pêche du Cachalot, one of several aquatints by Ambroise Louis Garneray, or Baleinier Français en Pêche, a lithograph by Jean-Baptiste Henri Durand-Brager—which Ishmael believed depicted "by far the finest, though in some details not the most correct, presentations of whales and whaling scenes to be anywhere found."

Participants can also peruse the museum's collection of every edition of Moby-Dick ever published, and its shelves of scrimshaw: what Melville defines as "lively sketches of whales and whaling-scenes, graven by the fishermen themselves on Sperm Whaleteeth." Under the aegis of senior curator emeritus Stuart Frank, no fewer than three dictionaries have been published about scrimshaw; a fourth is dedicated solely to the museum's collection.

Marathoners come as close to the truth of whaling as Melville himself believed was possible without going to sea. The celebratory reading bridges the chasm between a



solo, silent reading of Moby-Dick at home, safe and comfortable in one's own bed, and the multimedia sensorium of the museum. That extends even to the tasting of food. In an often under-examined passage in chapter 15, Melville describes a bowl of New England clam chowder:

Oh, sweet friends! hearken to me. It was made of small juicy clams, scarcely bigger than hazel nuts, mixed with pounded ship biscuit, and salted pork cut up into little flakes; the whole en-

riched with butter, and plentifully seasoned with pepper and salt.

The passage comes paired with a steaming bowl of hot chowder: metaphor is made material; reading is made reality.

Midnight at the museum is a quieter affair, much like the scene evoked in Chapter 51, "The Spirit-Spout": through the "serene and moonlight night," the pages "roll by like scrolls of silver," under the watch of the skeleton crew of marathoners who keep the ship steady while others sleep.

Fast-forward to the early morning. The sun has risen and those stoic palinuruses who have endured for a whole night approach the finale. The monomania of Ahab and Melville has become their own.

A marathon described cannot compare to a mara-

thon read. For this year, the twenty-first anniversary of the Moby-Dick Marathon (which, coincidentally, is the very age Melville was when he set out on the whaler Acushnet in 1841), the titular question posed in chapter 21 abides: Going Aboard?

Evander Price, A.M. '15, a doctoral candidate in American studies and a Lowell House resident tutor, is a former intern at the whaling museum and two-time veteran of the Moby-Dick Marathon.

## CURIOSITIES: Steampunk's Sole

In Shumachine, a shoe-shinee's regal seat fronts what looks like a kooky scientist's air-propelled time machine housed within the skeletal frame of a covered wagon. This prime example of Steampunk's aesthetic playfully melds imaginary and historic constructs—and highlights the Fuller Craft Museum's exhibit "New Sole of the Old Machine: Steampunk Brockton—Reimagining the City of Shoes." Shumachine creator and guest curator Bruce Rosenbaum incorporated vintage machinery and equipment: the stand (salvaged from a Cape Cod hotel), curvaceous cast-iron legs from a McKay sole-sewing machine, and an early model of the "Krippendorf Kalculator" (used to optimize the amount of leather required to fabricate shoes). Steampunk, he explains, is "a fashion and a visual art, but also a maker's art, and a way of thinking and problem-solving"; ingenuity, he adds, is spawned by "fusing opposites: past and present, form and function, arts and science, man and machine."

Fuller Craft Museum www.fullercraft.org

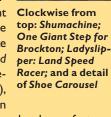


Science-fiction writer K.W. Jeter coined the term in the late 1980s, and the movement identifies with the fiction of H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. The style typically embodies technology-driven sci-fi motifs, Victorian-era "Great Explorer" adventurousness, and the Industrial Revolution's practical,



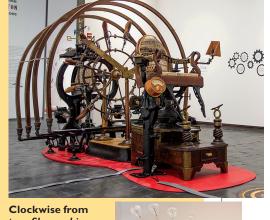
polished precision.

At the Fuller, regional artists made "Steampunk" works reflecting Brockton's foundation in footwear. By the turn of the twentieth century, Brockton's more than 90 factories employed thousands and shod citizens nationwide. For the whimsical Shoe Carousel, found-objects sculptor Michael UIman repurposed elegant metal and wooden shoe forms. John Belli's toy-like Ladyslipper: Land Speed Racer (named for a shoeindustry magnate's car), incorporates a wooden



pulley and drive-belt from a local manufacturer and a cockpit that mimics "a heavy boot upper." Artist Jim Bremer's mother worked in a shoe factory, inspiring him to honor the quality craftsmanship and "creativity, hard work, and team work" that built New England's manufacturing hives. (For The Sky's the Limit, Bremer and his wife, Ruth Buffington, hand-sewed hundreds of beads, buttons, watch gears, and pins onto the image of an airship.) In their One Giant Step for

Brockton, a statuesque mannequin sports gold leggings, platform shoes, and an antenna-topped aviator cap as she strides through a riveted doorframe: a benign Metropolis warrior princess, of the sort who might someday recharge a city, like Brockton. ~N.P.B.





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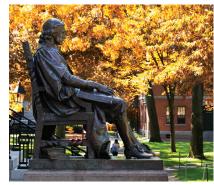
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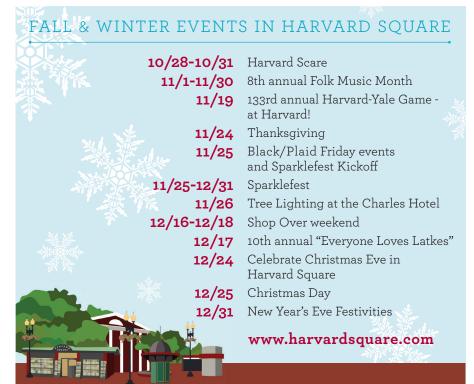




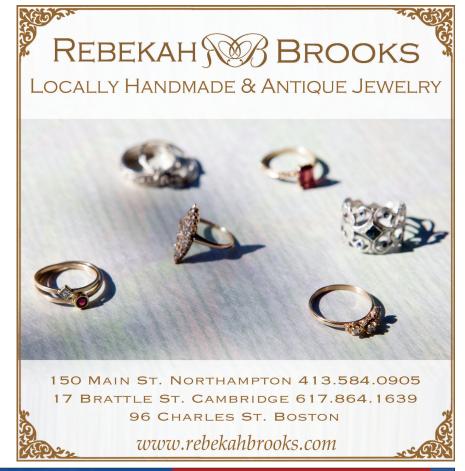


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