

Harvard²

Cambridge, Boston, and beyond



I2L The Neponset River Greenway
Getting out to explore new sights and neighborhoods in Boston and Milton



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Events on and off campus in May and June



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Paintings capture modern Native American culture



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A Gloucester mansion's lively creative spirit



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What toys can teach us



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Highlights of the week's events



I2V Latest Arrivals
A new crop of restaurants in and around Cambridge

Plus Harvard Commencement & Reunion Guide



Extracurriculars

Events on and off campus during May and June

SEASONAL

Ceramics Program Spring Show and Sale

<https://ofa.fas.harvard.edu>

Unique works—from vases and dinner-

ware to jewelry and garden sculptures—by more than 70 artists. (May 10-13)

Cambridge River Arts Festival
www.cambridgema.gov

From left: a scene from director Luchino Visconti's *Il Gattopardo* (*The Leopard*) at the Harvard Film Archive; the annual Ceramics Program Spring Show and Sale; and *Art Book*, by Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord, part of an exhibit at the Arnold Arboretum

Live performances of dance, theater, music, and poetry, along with community and art vendors, and all kinds of food from around the globe. Lechmere Canal Park. (June 2)

Park Fest

www.decordova.org

The day-long celebration of “art, nature, and creativity” at **DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum** in Lincoln, Massachusetts. The line-up includes a 5K run, sculpture hunts, food trucks, art demonstrations, and art-making opportunities (for any age) that are inspired by the museum’s spring ex-

FROM LEFT: HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE; HARVARD CERAMICS PROGRAM; SUSAN KAPUSCINSKI GAYLORD



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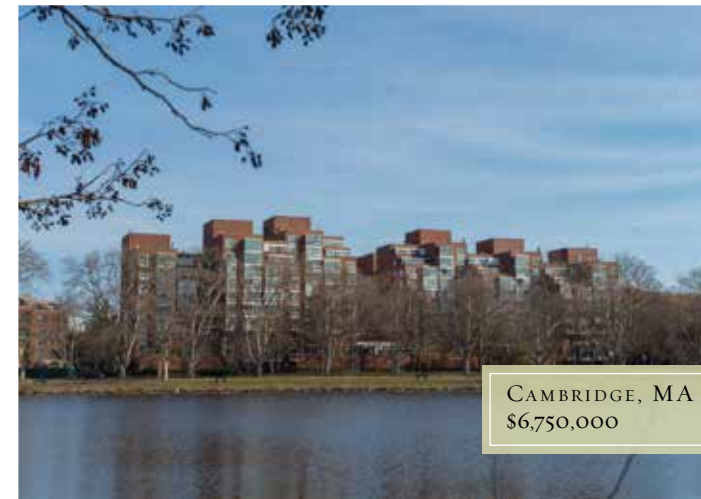
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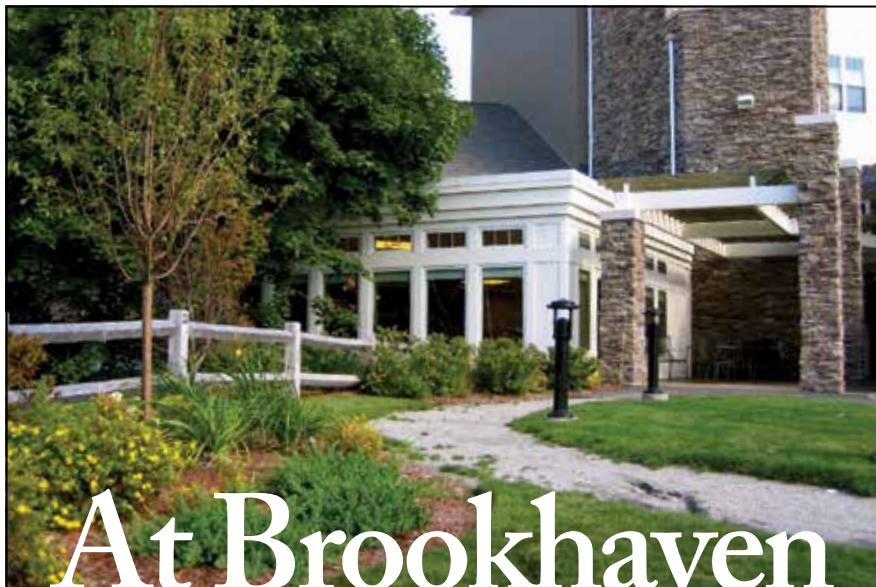
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HARVARD SQUARED

hibits—**Sculpting with Air: Ian McMahon and John Oh** and **Lived Space: Humans and Architecture.** (June 23)

Boston Historical Costumers' Picnic

Anyone can join in this second annual stylish homage to the past by showing up in outfits, from elaborate to vintage to casual, that pre-date 1960, and enjoying an afternoon by the river. Charles River Esplanade. (June 25)

Boston Harborfest

www.harborfest.com

More than a hundred events help celebrate America's birth, from historic reenactments and Freedom Trail tours to concerts, a "chowderfest," and an outdoor screening of *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. (June 29-July 1)

NATURE AND SCIENCE

The Arnold Arboretum

www.arboretum.harvard.edu

The Spirit Books. Artist Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord incorporates tree branches, roots, and vines in her hand-stitched, wordless book sculptures, and encourages viewers to "read" them as contemplative connections to nature. (Opens May 4)

Impressions of Woody Plants: Disjunction, Two Artists, and the Arnold Arboretum explores exotic and native plant life, along with the relationship between botany and art through copper etchings by Bobbi Angell and watercolor paintings by Beverly Duncan. (Opens May 11)

Tower Hill Botanic Garden

www.towerhillbg.org

Join docents for weekend tours, take gardening and art classes, or just stop by Tower Hill anytime—or on **Family Day**, which offers activities for all ages, including a talk and book-signing by Jana Milbocker, author of *The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast*. (June 16)

THEATER

American Repertory Theater

www.americanrepertorytheater.org

Little Jagged Pill explores the story behind the eponymous Grammy Award-winning 1995 album by Canadian-born singer and musician Alanis Morissette. Directed by A.R.T. artistic director Diane Paulus. Loeb Drama Center. (May 5- July 15)

HARVARD SQUARED



COURTESY OF THE CONCORD MUSEUM

Dainty blue boots (c. 1870-80) on display in "Fresh Goods: Shopping for Clothing in a New England Town: 1750-1900" at the Concord Museum

Wig Out! is a fun and illuminating look at the culture of "drag balls," in which contestants from respective family "houses" strut their stuff—attitude, dancing, costumes, impersonations, etc.—for applause and prizes. The show, presented with Company One Theatre, in Boston, was written by Tarell Alvin McCraney and directed by Summer L. Williams. Oberon. (Through May 13)

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

Houghton Library

www.hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton

Balanchine at Home and Abroad: Ballet as Cold War Cultural Exchange offers vibrant and historic souvenir programs from performances by George Balanchine's New York City Ballet in the Soviet Union and the Bolshoi and Kirov Ballets' visits to the United States in the 1960s and 1970s. (Opens May 1)

Drawing on collections from across the University's libraries, **Passports: Lives in Transition** examines the timely issue of travel and immigration through archival documents, as well as items related to a Harvard student's story of Latino immigration to the United States, and a multimedia art installation about contemporary geopolitics and activism.

Harvard Art Museums

www.harvardartmuseums.org

Analog Culture: Printer's Proofs from the Schneider/Erdman Photography Lab, 1981-2001 highlights master printer Gary Schneider and those he worked with, including Richard Avedon, James Casabere, Nan Goldin, and David Wojnarowicz. **A.K.**

Harvard Art Museums

Fogg Museum
Busch-Reisinger Museum
Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Analog



Printer's Proofs from the Schneider/Erdman Photography Lab, 1981-2001

Culture

May 19–August 12, 2018

harvardartmuseums.org/analogculture



2018 Commencement & Reunion Guide

Go to: harvardmagazine.com/commencement for a complete schedule and live coverage of events.

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Spotlight

Opening May 3 at the MIT Museum, “The Beautiful Brain: The Drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal” features 80 works by the Spanish neuroscientist and pathologist. His explorations into microscopic structures of the brain earned him the Nobel Prize in 1906, yet he was also an exceptional artist. He pursued medicine and science on the advice of his father, and easily combined



COURTESY OF THE MIT MUSEUM

drawing with his study of anatomical forms.

The renderings now on display at the museum date from the 1880s through the early 1930s. They depict neural pathways and cellular activity through squiggles, cross-hatchings, dots, blobs, and swirls

that swim elegantly across the pages. “Purkinje neurons from the human cerebellum” resembles a waving fan of sea coral; “tumor cells of the covering membranes of the brain” could be tree bark. The 1913 pen-and-ink drawing at right, of “a cut nerve outside the spinal cord,” evokes an aerial view of pent up streams and tributaries finally let loose. At once abstract, accurate, and beautiful, these intricate works speak to the dynamic universality among organic forms.

MIT Museum

<https://mitmuseum.mit.edu>



COURTESY OF INSTITUTO CAJAL

Burns: Survivors’ Remorse, a complementary installation, offers responses to the photographs. (Opening May 19) On May 21, Schneider and artist John Schabel will appear for a moderated discussion on “Photography as Performance.”

Nam June Paik: Screen Play. Examples drawn from the museums’ collections reflect central themes of the multimedia artist’s work, such as the “subversion of conventional technologies and media” and “the potential of moving images to explore alternative temporalities.” (Opens June 30)

Harvard Museums of Science and Culture

www.hmsc.harvard.edu

The **Summer Solstice Celebration** offers activities, live music, and free admission at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, Peabody Mu-

seum, Semitic Museum, and Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments. (June 21)

Schlesinger Library

www.schlesinger75radcliffe.org

75 Stories, 75 Years: Documenting the Lives of American Women at the Schlesinger Library reveals the richness of its holdings (established in 1943 with the Woman’s Rights Collection). Among the objects are a large-format camera used by early photojournalist Jessie Tarbox Beals, the 1986 “toilet paper diary” that itinerant poet Eleanor Skelton Cash kept while living in a homeless shelter, and a white Panama



HARVARD MUSEUMS OF SCIENCE AND CULTURE



THERESA GANZ

hat that belonged to surgeon Mildred Jefferson, M.D. '51, the first African-American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, and a longtime, influential anti-abortion activist.

Addison Gallery of American Art

www.addisongallery.org

Gun Country explores historical contexts and iconography through an array of firearms and related objects. **Photographers Among Us** highlights images dating from early reform movements, the Depression, and wartime to more modern portraits of communities and of the nation’s changing natural landscapes.

Celebrating the summer season at the Harvard Museums of Science and Culture

A still from Storm Diptych (2015), a video installation by Theresa Ganz on display at the RISD Museum

Institute of Contemporary Art

www.icaboston.org

Caitlin Keogh: Blank Melody presents works that combine the fine lines and delicate color sense of a graphic artist with the brainy exploration of female forms and decorative motifs. (Opens May 9)

Concord Museum

www.concordmuseum.org

Objects, vestiture, and stories offer insight into the early American industries and marketplace in **Fresh Goods: Shopping for Clothing in a New England Town: 1750-1900.**

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RISD Museum
www.risdmuseum.org

Theresa Ganz: Storm Diptych. The video installation by the artist (and assistant professor of visual art at Brown University) offers dramatic footage of rain-

storms and hurricanes set to the first movement of Mozart's String Quartet No. 19. The work captures the moodiness and volatility of Romantic-era paintings and underscores the current destruction of nature.

STAFF PICK: Art Reflecting a
“Declaration of Love and Guts”

In **T.C. Cannon's** *Two Guns Arikara*, a stately Native American sits in an armchair, loosely holding cartoonish blue fire-arms. He's dressed in a mash up of what looks like U.S. cavalry pants, Plains Indian and European garb, and sports ornate silver jewelry. His puffy violet hair cascades down against a riotous purple, polka-dotted background.

Like many of the 30 color-splashed paintings in “T.C. Cannon: At the Edge of America” (through June 10 at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem), the salon-style portrait below reflects works by van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse, and even Pop art. Yet Cannon's bold figurative images also stand on their own as what he once called “real art,” made as “a declaration of love and guts.”

Born in Oklahoma in 1948, Cannon was a member of the Kiowa Tribe. He went to art school, completing *Mama and Papa Have the Going Home Shipwreck Blues* (1966)—a simply rendered Navajo couple sitting unwittingly at the crossroads of American and Native American cultures—that influenced the New Indian Art movement, and then surprised those he knew by joining the U.S. Army, ultimately earning two Bronze Stars for his service during the Tet Offensive. Back home, Cannon was apparently conflicted about his role in violence and in suppressing other indigenous peoples. During the next decade, he produced a significant body of work that was at once deeply personal and political, developing his voice on canvas, and as a musician and writer. The art spoke to the inevitable co-existence of past and present, pain and triumph, and to the turbulence of the times. And it still does.

At the museum, his 22-foot mural *Epoch in Plain History: Mother Earth, Father Sun, the Children Themselves* (1976-77) streams across a wall reveling in moonlit early tribespeople in animal skins, bison and hieroglyphics, a shamanistic bare-breasted woman with an owl and eagle in flight, and, finally, a Native American in a Stetson standing on a swath of green grass under a sun rendered as a woven textile. Cannon's Kiowa name is Pai-doung-a-day: “One who stands in the sun.”

He completed about 50 major canvases, along with more than a hundred sketches, drawings, poems, and personal documents, many also on display. In all, they illuminate a flourishing artistic vision, albeit one cut short. Cannon died following a car crash in Santa Fe, at the age of 31.

—N.P.B.

Peabody Essex Museum
www.pem.org



Abbi of Bacabi (1978), among Cannon's last and unfinished works, and *Two Guns Arikara* (1974-1977), below

Museum of Fine Arts
www.mfa.org

Klimt and Schiele: Drawn compares and contrasts the artists' styles through rarely seen works on loan from the Albertina Museum in Vienna. (Through May 28)

FILM

Harvard Film Archive
www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa
The Complete Luchino Visconti presents *Ossessione*, *Rocco and His Brothers*, and *Death in Venice*, among other masterworks by the Italian theater, opera, and film director, who often explored themes of betrayal. (June 1-July 21)

The Complete Howard Hawks highlights the creative range of this hugely influential Hollywood director. Screenings include all of his extant works, including his silent films and *To Have and Have Not*, *The Big Sleep*, *The Thing from Another World*, and the newspaper-industry gem, *His Girl Friday*. (June 8-August 5)

LECTURES

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
www.radcliffe.harvard.edu
Composer Camilo Mendez, RI '18, presents “**Reimagining Musical Instruments: The Sounds of Impossible Objects in My Music**,” a concert of his recent works performed by the New York-based quartet Yarn/Wire. Knafel Center. (May 2)

MUSIC

Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu
The program includes *Three Places in New England*, by Charles Ives, and *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, by Richard Strauss. Sanders Theatre. (May 6)

Back Bay Choral
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu
The group performs “**Essential Voices: Ralph Vaughan Williams**.” Sanders Theatre. (May 13)

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



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Beauport's Lively Creative Spirit

An historic Gloucester mansion highlights decorative arts and Henry Davis Sleeper.

by NELL PORTER BROWN



BEAUPORT, perched on Gloucester's Eastern Point, is much more than a beautiful house. Touring its maze of rooms offers a romantic exploration of literary and historical themes through decorative arts. It's also a trip into the artistry of Henry Davis Sleeper, one of the

country's first professional interior designers. "Beauport feels as though he just walked out the door, even though he died in 1934," says Martha Van Koevering, site manager with Historic New England, which owns the property (also known as the Sleeper-McCann

Sleeper's summer home sprawls across Eastern Point with views of Gloucester Harbor (above left and opposite). Interior rooms (above) are inspired by the China trade, the octagon, and Colonial kitchens. (Opposite) A portrait of the pioneering interior designer



House). "It's a very personal place, his own creation. The whole composition is a work of art." Beauport's charm begins with lush gardens of perennial flowers and coastal grasses, and a rear brick terrace overlooking Gloucester Harbor. The home's fairy-tale exterior—

pitched rooflines, tower, belfry, diamond-paned leaded-glass windows, and chimneys are an amalgam of Arts and Crafts, Gothic, medieval, and early Colonial architecture.

The interior is just as eclectic. Sleeper originally built a modest Arts and Crafts-style cottage, but expanded it slowly during the years he summered there. The resulting 40 rooms (26 of which are shown on daily guided tours) are mostly packed together like a warren, with alcoves, odd-angled rafters, and linking stairways. And everywhere, exquisitely displayed, are the more than 10,000 objects and furnishings that Sleeper acquired, with special fondness for salvaged architectural artifacts.

Each space is a meticulous stage set with a specific theme. A two-story book tower, with a balcony and arched windows, was designed around antique carved wooden curtains that Sleeper had found. Three early bedrooms pay homage to English figures: Lord Byron, naval hero Horatio Nelson, and the Gothic novelist Horace Walpole. The "China Trade" room, with its soaring ceiling, features a pagoda-inspired gold-curtained balcony, a marble fireplace, and bold

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ALL IN A DAY: Neponset River Greenway

At Boston’s Pope John Paul II Park, in Dorchester, cyclists can hop on the Neponset River Greenway to enjoy scenery—from beaches and marshlands to parks and old industrial sites—and to explore neighborhoods that are rich with historic legacies and cultural diversity.

“The goal was to build the greenway as a really pleasant travel corridor between the Blue Hills Reservation and Boston Harbor, and to reconnect neighborhoods to the water,” says Jessica D. Mink, chair of the Neponset River Greenway Council, which has worked for decades, along with residents, government agencies, and organizations like the Neponset River Watershed Association, to clean up, conserve, and celebrate this “forgotten river.”

The park itself itself was once a landfill and a drive-in movie theater. Now there are playing fields, and visitors can walk its perimeter paths along the Neponset River under an open sky while listening to birds sing. Looking across toward Quincy, says Mink, an astronomical software developer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, “you can sometimes see harbor seals under the bridges.”

The greenway runs north of the park about a half a mile, offering digressions to the swimmable Tenean Beach and the Port Norfolk residential enclave.

But for a nearly five-mile trip, cyclists should head south. The trail snakes through Boston’s Adams Village and Lower Mills sections, crosses into Milton Village, and ends in Mattapan Square. It’s a car-free zone of relatively flat terrain, so adults and kids can easily do it while hunting for landmarks (murals and wildlife), and destinations (playgrounds and a wading pool).

Heading out, the trail soon passes the Neponset River Reservation, offering walking paths and marshland views. The historic Cedar Grove Cemetery looms up quickly, and within a mile is the Butler Street stop for the MBTA’s Ashmont-Mattapan trolley.

Veer off here in Lower Mills and follow Butler Street to Huntoon and Medway Streets, to Ventura Park to overlook the river, or ride inland half a mile on residential streets to the restorative Dorchester Park, listed on

the National Register of Historic Places. From there, it’s a short pedal to Adams Street, where the historic red-brick industrial complex (built between 1868 and 1947) once housed, among other factories, the landmark Walter Baker Chocolate Company (first makers of the rich stuff in America and co-founded by physician James Baker, Harvard class of 1760). Break for sustenance at the nearby Ice Creamsmith or Lower Mills Tavern.

Back on Butler, the trail soon enters Milton. Look for the Lower Mills Gorge, Mink says: “A lot of people don’t even know it’s there.” Then travel into Milton Village—passing the remains of a mill on the embankment, and the insect mural—before rolling on to the Central Avenue trolley station and the worthy food stops Steel & Rye and The Plate.

The greenway returns to Boston over the “basket-handle-style” Harvest River Bridge. Completed last year, it connects cyclists to Ryan Playground, where shady spots and a seasonal wading pool cool anyone in need of relief.

The last leg of the route rises up and over the Canopy Bridge. Stop at the top and gaze across the landscape or down to the maintenance shop for the vintage streetcars that trundle two and a half miles through Boston and Milton on the line that opened in 1929. Everyone, it seems to Mink, “loves to watch and ride the trolleys!”

The bridge ends in Mattapan Square. Try Brothers Deli and Restaurant for hot meals or the Le Foyer Bakery for Haitian-style sweets. Intrepid riders can follow the greenway another three and a half miles—although not always on a contiguous or car-free path—from Mattapan’s Blue Hill Avenue to Fowl Meadow, which is in the Blue Hills Reservation. Along the way are the Martini Band Shell, a site for summer concerts, and the Fairmont

Street business district.

The path, a remarkable and beautiful achievement, took decades of work, tenacity, and patient collaboration. And it’s not over yet. “What we’d like to do is complete the remaining parts of this trail,” Mink says, “continue it through Milton and Canton, and then keep going upstream as far as we can.” —N.P.B.

Cyclists at the Harvest River Bridge (above). An iconic Mattapan trolley car; a greenway view of Lower Mills; and the wading pool at Ryan Playground



Neponset River Greenway
www.masspaths.net



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CURIOSITIES: Learning from Dolls

In 2004, Debra Britt and her sisters, Felicia Walker and Tamara Mattison, began to collect and make dolls, doll clothes, and accessories. By 2012, the serious hobby had overrun their homes and “our husbands were, like, you got to get this stuff out of here,” Walker says. So they rented a storefront space in downtown Mansfield, Massachusetts, where they lived, and transformed it into the National Black Doll Museum of History and Culture.

The nonprofit now features about 2,000 of their figures, Britt says, roughly a quarter of their still-growing collection. Their mission is to “nurture self-esteem,” especially among children, and to preserve the legacy of black dolls. The toys also pointedly reflect aspects of the centuries-long African-American experience. One room is

packed with 780 African-style rag dolls (most crafted by the sisters), to recreate the inhumane conditions of a slave ship. “The Ugly Truth” display represents demeaning characterizations of black people: Buckwheat, Little Black Sambo, Aunt Jemima, and golliwogs, among them.

Yet there are also hundreds of more contemporary figures symbolizing triumphs, artistry, and power: pint-sized Obamas; comic-book superheroes, including Black Panther; plenty of athletes, like Michael Jordan and Serena and Venus Williams; and leaders Martin Luther King Jr., Condoleezza Rice, and Jesse Jackson—along with scientists, legal scholars, businesspeople, and other color-barrier-breakers.

“If we can’t find a doll, we make it,” Walker notes: those collaged “Stand-Ins” include boxing hall of famer Jack Johnson, Thurgood Marshall, and Angela Davis. “Record-Makers” highlights musical artists, from Josephine Baker and Louis Armstrong to Tupac Shakur and Beyoncé—and the sisters’ father, a teacher whose record store was an offshoot of his own 5,000-album reserve. “My other siblings are collectors, too,” Walker adds of the family habit. “I say ‘collecting’ is just a fancy word for hoarding.”

Both parents were also members of the Black Panthers, and patrolled their Dorchester neighborhood. Pride in black culture was paramount; the kids played with any



Debra Britt (below) in the glamorous “Fashion Doll” room; “Ugly Truth” figures (above); and musicians, including D.M.C.

black-focused toys and games were, and still can be, hard to find. One display explains how their grandmother, a maid, disassembled white dolls, “then dyed them all brown, and put them back together for us,” reports Walker. “Everyone wants to see something that represents them,” Britt has concluded. “It immortalizes you.” —N.P.B.

National Black Doll Museum of History and Culture
nbdmhc.org

antique 1780s wallpaper (originally ordered by Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence) depicting the rice and porcelain industries of China. There’s also a Jacobean-style dining room with a

wood-beamed and white-plaster ceiling and heavy oak furnishings that feels like an old English pub. “Yet he wasn’t a stickler for pure authenticity,” Van Koevering says. “The ‘Pine Kitchen,’ one of the later rooms, is Sleeper’s romanticized view of a Colonial-era kitchen.” It has a wide brick hearth hung with antique cast-iron pots and utensils, but he had a local furniture-maker create the simple wooden chairs, which are “a little different from what the Colonials would have had, and a little

more comfortable. So he would break the rules sometimes.”

He also freely repurposed historic materials: Beauport’s central hall is lined with pine paneling (rescued from the dilapidated eighteenth-century William Cogswell estate in nearby Essex); from the hall one can also see the bulk of one wall filled with a graceful double-wide, leaded-glass door, obtained from a home in Connecticut, that Sleeper altered to hold his perfectly arranged 130-piece collection of amber-glass objects. He cleverly installed a skylight in the pantry behind the door “so that the amber is always naturally back-lit,” Van Koevering notes. Nothing was collected in the name of investment. “He deliberately selected only objects that personally appealed to him, in as much as he didn’t have the deep pockets of other collectors in Boston at that time,” she says. “And he had this fabulous ability to showcase things.”

Sleeper’s light-filled “Golden Step” room, holding a bank of diamond-paned windows overlooking Gloucester Harbor, is a nod to New England’s maritime history. Woodwork, the trestle tables and chairs, and a cabinet painted a sea-foam green set off majolica and Wedgwood dishware. Prow ornaments of bare-chested mermen hang on the wall amid models of a China trading vessel and whaling and fishing ships.

Adjacent is the “Octagon Room.” Aubergine walls dramatize Sleeper’s amethyst and ruby-red glassware and red antique

toleware (tin objects, typically kitchenware) that he brought home from France. Visitors can hunt for the groups of “eights”: hooked rugs, chairs, sides of the table, scores in the ceiling, and even facets on the door knobs, Van Koevering points out. So excited was Sleeper about creating this space that in 1921 he wrote of his plans to his friend, the art patron Isabella Stewart Gardner (of the eponymous Boston museum), “Of course, I have all the details visualized and am enjoying it accordingly.”

GARDNER VISITED Beauport many times, as did other prominent members of Boston and New York society and art circles; Eastern Point itself was developed at the turn of the twentieth century as a wealthy summer enclave (which it still is). Yet the residents, at least those Sleeper socialized with, tended to be the less conventional members of the elite, more “bohemian-minded” and intellectual.

Sleeper himself came from a Boston family of comfortable means: his father, Jacob Henry Sleeper, was a revered Civil War veteran, and his grandfather, Jacob Sleeper, a founder of Boston University. Reportedly frail, the young Sleeper was presumably tutored at home, Van Koevering says, but no record of any formal education exists.

In 1906, as a 28-year-old bachelor, he was introduced to Eastern Point by Abram Piatt Andrew, Ph.D. 1900. An economics professor at Harvard, Andrew served as director of



Abram Piatt Andrew

the U.S. Mint in 1909 and 1910 and played a role in the creation of the Federal Reserve System. Also a bachelor, he had already built his own summer home, Red Roof, on Eastern Point’s rocky ledge. Enamored of the site’s beauty and “clearly besotted” with Andrew, Van Koevering says, Sleeper purchased a lot one house away, and by 1908 had moved into Beauport, named for French explorer Samuel de Champlain’s description of Gloucester Harbor. The two men became close, and years later during World War I, when Andrew founded the American Field Service, an organization of volunteer American ambulance drivers who worked on the front lines in France, Sleeper

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HARVARD SQUARED



Beauport's "Golden Step" room celebrates maritime history and culture.

served as its administrator and fundraiser both in Boston and in Paris.

That "besotted" assertion is based on 60 extant letters he wrote to Andrew between 1906 and 1915. There is no explicit proof the men were gay, or that they had a romantic or sexual relationship. (Sleeper's personal papers might have contained evidence of his preferences, but those items, although listed in inventories of Beauport's holdings following his death, were missing by the time the mansion was opened to the public in 1942.) Yet, about a decade ago, after a close friend of Sleeper's identified him as gay in an oral history, Van Koevering says, Historic New England began acknowledging that idea during its tours. The organization also encourages discussions on the subject. "A Celebration of Pride and History at Beauport Museum" (on June 10) highlights "the story of a gay man in the early twentieth century," according to the promotional blurb, and explores Sleeper's circle of family and friends. And on June 28, a tour of Beauport will be followed by "Codman, Sleeper, and the Gay Man Cave," a lecture at the nearby Rocky Neck Cultural Center by Wheaton College art-history professor Tripp Evans. He plans to discuss "how these men disarmed the stigma of same-sex attraction by creating spaces that asserted their authority, provided sanctuary, and reimagined the historical past." (Ogden Codman Jr., himself an interior designer, and co-author, with Edith Wharton, of *The Decoration of Houses*, contributed to alterations of the decorative scheme of the Codman Estate, in Lincoln, Massachusetts, now also owned by Historic New England.)

Other special tours offered throughout the 2018 season include "Nooks and Crannies" (the first of them on May 26 and June

HARVARD SQUARED

16), which take visitors on a longer, more detailed tour of rooms not seen on the regular tour, and "Designing Beauport, Room by Room" (beginning on June 8), which delves into Sleeper's personal process and progression in creating the mansion. "Touring the house, you can begin to see the early rooms with an English theme and then see the additions, in 1910 and 1912, and the emphasis on Americana—the Pine Kitchen, the Franklin Game Room—and see how he moved through different phases, and when he gave up wallpaper," Van Koevering explains. "He clearly loved glass, and displaying it, but he didn't start collecting it until 1917. The amber-glass window in the central hall was the last reconfiguration of the house, in around 1929."

BEYOND BEAUPORT, friends in Eastern Point and Boston sought Sleeper's artistic talents. After the war, he chose to work as a professional designer, opening an office in Boston (where he lived when he was not in Gloucester). His clients included Isabella Stewart Gardner and Henry Francis du Pont, for whom he worked on a Long Island estate and, in the latter 1920s, as a consultant on a remodeling at Winterthur, the Delaware estate that is now a premier museum of American decorative arts. In the early 1930s, Sleeper also traveled to Hollywood to work for several celebrities, and he was working on a Vanderbilt family home in Connecticut when his life was cut short by leukemia. He was buried in the family plot at Mount Auburn Cemetery, and Andrew wrote a *Gloucester Times* tribute to his friend, noting, among other assets, his "impeccable taste" and "ingenuity in color and design which was distinctly creative." (Andrew died two years later of influenza; his ashes, at his request, were scattered from an airplane flying over Eastern Point.)

Beauport drew crowds even during Sleeper's lifetime; it was not that unusual for people to show up at the front door requesting a tour, which Sleeper's longtime housekeeper, Mary Landergan Wonson (who stayed on after his death), typically obliged. He had earned a national reputation as a designer, curating decorative art exhibits and serving as a consultant to museums and collectors. In 1924, those planning the new American wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City spent several weeks at Beauport, soaking up the placement of antiques and color schemes of its period-



WHY I JOINED THE HARVARD CLUB OF BOSTON

There are many different reasons to join the Harvard Club of Boston. Mike Seward is a Harvard alum and former varsity hockey player for the Crimson. Here's why he joined.

"I joined the Harvard Club in my freshman year, and brought my Harvard friends as well as friends from other colleges to the fun events like Member Mixer at the Downtown Clubhouse. Seven years later, I'm still a member because of the people and the programs offered by the Club. Every month, there is an exceptional line-up of activities, like food and wine or beer tastings, networking events, and access to Red Sox and Bruins tickets. And the wide range of people in the Club is also a huge reason I stay. The Club has members from many different schools, like MIT, Boston University, and Holy Cross - not all the members are from Harvard. And I get great career and life advice from them."

-Mike Seward '15

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The Week's Events



COMMENCEMENT WEEK includes addresses by President Drew Gilpin Faust and Congressman John Lewis, LL.D. '12. For details and updates on event speakers, visit harvard-magazine.com/commencement.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

Phi Beta Kappa Exercises, at 11, with poet Kevin Young '92, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library and poetry editor at *The New Yorker*; and orator Neil Shubin, Ph.D. '87, a paleontologist who is Bensley professor of organismal biology and anatomy at the University of Chicago and author of *Your Inner Fish*. Sanders Theatre.

Baccalaureate Service for the Class of 2018, at 2, Memorial Church, followed by class photo, Widener steps.

Class of 2018 Family Reception, at 5. Tickets required. Science Center plaza.

Harvard Extension School Annual Commencement Banquet, at 6. Tickets required. Annenberg Hall.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, at 10:30, with President Faust and a guest speaker. Tercentenary Theatre.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Convocation at 11, with Mary Robinson, LL.M. '68, LL.D. '98, former president of the Republic of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. HMS Quad.

Senior Class Day Picnic, at noon. Tickets required. The Old Yard.

Senior Class Day Exercises, at 2, with

A Special Notice Regarding Harvard University's 367th Commencement Exercises

Thursday, May 24, 2018

commencement.harvard.edu

SINCE 1642, with just nine graduating students, Harvard's Commencement Exercises have brought together the community unlike any other tradition still observed in the University. Degree candidates with family and friends, faculty and administrators who supported them, and alumni from around the world are anticipated to participate in our 367th Commencement Exercises this spring. To accommodate the increasing number of people planning to attend, we ask that any interested readers carefully review the guidelines governing ticketing, regalia, security precautions, and other important details, which are available online at <https://commencement.harvard.edu/ticket-information>.

Commencement Day Overview

THE MORNING EXERCISES begin when the academic procession is seated in Tercentenary Theatre. Three student orators deliver addresses, and the dean of each School introduces the candidates for their respective degrees, which the president then confers. Toward the conclusion of the ceremony the graduating seniors are asked to rise, and their degrees are conferred on them as a group by the president. Honorary Degrees are then conferred before the Exercises are adjourned.

DIPLOMA-GRANTING CEREMONIES AND LUNCHEONS: Graduates and their guests return to their respective undergraduate Houses or graduate and professional Schools. Harvard and Radcliffe College alumni/ae who have celebrated their 50th Reunion are invited to join the Tree Spread luncheon, while all other alumni may pre-purchase tickets for boxed lunches at the Alumni Spread in Harvard Yard.

THE AFTERNOON PROGRAM features an address by Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust and the Commencement speaker. Officially called the Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association, this program includes the Overseer and HAA director election results, presentations of the Harvard Medal, and remarks by the HAA president.

— The Harvard Commencement Office and The Harvard Alumni Association

HARVARD SQUARED

Beaumont's verdant grounds (below) and Sleeper's cleverly back-lit display of amber glass

style rooms. From 1909 to 1911, Sleeper even served as the first "director of museum" (overseeing the collections) at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, which later became Historic New England.

Sleeper's brother inherited Beaumont, but couldn't afford to keep it. In 1935, the conservation-minded Helena Woolworth McCann, heir to the Woolworth department store chain, bought the mansion and preserved it virtually as Sleeper had left it. The McCann family spent several years summering there, but by 1941 both she and her husband had died. Their children, knowing their mother's wish that Beaumont be preserved as a house museum, donated it to Historic New England with the caveat that they could stay there whenever they wanted. One of them often did, into the 1970s, amicably closing the door to her quarters in the "Red Indian" room when tours came through.

And therein lies much of Beaumont's appeal. It's not stuffy, or built on a grand scale; and it lacks the ostentatious flash of many



of the Newport mansions. Instead, the place speaks to a generous creative spirit, and still holds a warmth that's unusual in a house museum. "It was a place that was lived in, was comfortable, and enjoyed," Van Koeveing says. And it will just stay that way. ☐

Visiting Gloucester

The city offers plenty of things to see and do, along with great restaurants and cafés. Some suggestions:

Good Harbor and Wingaersheek Beaches. Both have alluring sandy expanses, rocks to climb at low tide—and crowds. Best to arrive early, or late.

Rocky Neck Cultural District. Cape Ann has long drawn artists, from Winslow Homer to Milton Avery. Current art-makers regularly mount exhibits, open their studios, and hold other special events.

Cape Ann Museum is downtown. "Harold Rotenberg: An American Impressionist" (through June 17) features vibrant, textured works by the local art-

ist, and "Unfolding Histories: Cape Anne Before 1900" (through September 9) tells regional history through a range of archival materials.

From there, it's easy to walk to restaurants, shops, and the harbor. **Pleasant Street Tea Co.** serves lunch, smoothies, and caffeine, or stroll farther, up Main Street, to the lively local favorite **Lee's Diner**. For creative cuisine and cocktails, try **Franklin Cape Ann, Short and Main**, or **Tonno**. And don't miss stops at both **Dogtown Bookshop**—where proprietor Bob Ritchie presides over thousands of used, rare, antique, and out-of-print books—and, two doors down, **Main Street Arts and Antiques**, which holds something unique for everyone.

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the Harvard and Ivy Orations, remarks by incoming Harvard Alumni Association president Margaret Wang '09, and a guest speaker. Tickets required. Tercentenary Theatre.

Harvard Kennedy School Commencement Address, at 2, by Ohio governor John R. Kasich. JFK Memorial Park.

Law School Class Day, 2:30, with a featured speaker. Holmes Field.

Business School Class Day Ceremony,

2:30, with guest speaker Carla Harris '84, M.B.A. '87, managing director, investment management at Morgan Stanley. Baker Lawn.

Graduate School of Design Class Day, at 4, with Paola Antonelli, author, editor, and senior curator of the department of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art. Piper Auditorium, Gund Hall.

Divinity School Multireligious Commencement Service for the Class of 2018 at 4. Memorial Church.

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dudley House Faculty Dean's Reception, 4-6.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Award Presentation and Celebration, 4-7. Kresge Courtyard.

Faculty Deans' 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.



JIM HARRISON

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Commencement Day. Gates open at 6:45.

Academic Procession, 8:50. The Old Yard.

The 367th Commencement Exercises, 9:45 (concluding at 11:45). Tickets required. Tercentenary Theatre.

All Alumni Spread, 11:30. Tickets required. The Old Yard.

The Tree Spread, for the College classes through 1967, 11:30. Tickets required. Holden Quadrangle.

Graduate Schools Diploma Ceremonies,

from 11:30 (time varies by school).

GSAS Luncheon and Reception, 12 to 3. Tickets required. Behind Perkins Hall.

College Diploma Presentation Ceremonies and Luncheons, at noon. The Undergraduate Houses.

Alumni Procession, 1:45. The Old Yard.

The Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA): The Commencement Afternoon Program, 2:30, includes remarks by HAA president Susan Morris Novick '85, President Faust, and Commencement speaker John Lewis; Overseer and HAA director election results; and Harvard Medal presentations. Tercentenary Theatre.

Medical and Dental Schools Class Day Ceremony. Ticketed luncheon at noon, followed by a speech, at 2, by Neal Baer, Ed.M. '79, A.M. '82, M.D. '96, pediatrician, televi-

sion producer and writer, and HMS lecturer on global health and medicine. HMS Quad.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Radcliffe Day opens with a morning panel discussion, "Toward a New Global Architecture? America's Role in a Changing World," moderated by Nicholas Burns, Goodman Family professor of the practice of diplomacy and international relations. The panelists are foreign-policy experts Michèle Flournoy '83, a former undersecretary of defense; *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius '72; Kirkpatrick professor of the practice of international affairs Meghan O'Sullivan; and political scientist Anne-Marie Slaughter, J.D. '85, who served in the State Department under Hillary Clinton.

During the luncheon that follows (12:30-2), former Secretary of State Clinton is to receive the 2018 Radcliffe Medal. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (the 2001 Radcliffe Medalist) will deliver a personal tribute to Clinton, and a three-way conversation with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey '92 will follow. Tick-



JIM HARRISON

ets are required, and the events will be web-cast live at radcliffe.harvard.edu.

For updates on Commencement week and related activities, visit alumni.harvard.edu/annualmeeting or commencement.harvard.edu/morning-exercises.



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Clockwise from top center: Pammy's "Spaghetti 2.3" and jewel-box interior; mussels served in the plush Les Sablons dining room; Italian-style octopus at Benedetto, at the Charles Hotel

excels, matter when the goal is to make diners happy. Polished, caramel-colored

leather banquettes and tables line the white-painted brick walls; potted fronds, textured globe chandeliers, and a queen-sized gilt-framed mirror reflecting convivial subjects soften the room's sparseness. The waitress who set down our plate of "Spaghetti 2.3" (\$19) described the "cured pomodoro" sauce: tomatoes immersed in soy sauce and rice-wine vinegar for a day, then dehydrated, then soaked again, with honey added, before they're slow-roasted to condense the flavors. "It's so simple," she said,

plush, fancy spots to casual stop-ins, these restaurants are eager to feed a range of local appetites.

Pammy's, between Harvard and Central Squares, must be the prettiest (www.pammyscambridge.com). Flowers are always in bloom on a long communal table, amid glistening glassware so well-designed it feels naturally snug in the hand. Details like that, at which Pammy's

SAILING INTO Commencement Week and longer days to follow likely means more gatherings with friends and evenings out on the town. If the usual bistros and bars don't beckon, look to some of the newer restaurants around. From



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HARVARD SQUARED

“but the effect is intense.”
That’s Pammy’s. The husband-and-wife team, Chris and Pam Willis, hail from restaurants and restaurateur stock, respectively. He cooks, she hosts. They live down the street from their creative venture, and like to say that the place is an extension of their home. Patrons have responded, quickly making Pammy’s a favorite haunt for anyone seeking a warm welcome and inventive New American cuisine.

Chris Willis likes to mix it up on the menu. A salad of crisp, salty fingerling potatoes, chicory, and red ruby grapefruit, laced with garlic-chili pesto (\$13), cleansed the palate, and left us craving it as a daily diet. The mushroom bruschetta is also atypical: (\$14): chewy toast topped with fresh ricotta, sautéed fungi, and slices of jalapeño. The peppers don’t rock the mouth—they contextualize the soft rich cheese and meaty mushrooms. Just as playful was the branzino entrée (\$26). Braised sunchoke, that versatile, nutty vegetable, and honeycrisp apples were paired with the slightly salty fish, and the whole dish came together in whiffs and tastes of honey, ginger, and fine mustard. More bitter, thanks to strings of broccoli rabe, was the “Nodi Marini”—so-named for noodles resembling nautical knots (\$22). The pasta was tossed with rabe and bits of *guanciale* (cured pork) capped with a poached egg and a sprinkling of *bottarga* (salted cured fish roe).

For dessert, we shared a buttery apple crostada, with crème fraîche ice cream. Too much of a good thing? It wasn’t—just like everything else at Pammy’s.

Diners have also been flocking to another woman’s namesake, Giulia’s, outside of



Open from brunch until late at night, the small Momi Nonmi offers izakaya and contemporary Hawaiian specialties.

HIEN NGUYEN (2)



Harvard Square, but for perfect Italian food. That restaurant’s team has now opened Benedetto (www.benedettocambridge.com) in the space that formerly housed Rialto at the Charles Hotel.

The simple, crisp geometry and muted tones of Benedetto’s interior veil the painstaking preparation required for its range of traditional regional Italian dishes. Don’t resist the “house-pulled stracciatella” with white Cilento figs, prosciutto di Parma, and hazelnuts (\$19) or the roasted halibut replete with muscat grapes, capers, rhubarb, and tangy Swiss chard (\$32).

Or visit the nearby Les Sablons (www.lscambridge.com)—although upon entering this French-inspired restaurant, it’s difficult to know exactly what to expect: white tablecloths and velvet stools are lined up by the bar, but there’s also exposed brick and an installation of more than a hundred yellow tubs of Play-Doh framing a photograph of David Bowie.

It is, in fact, a high-end spot. Most en-

trées cost around \$40, but at least there’s no need to worry about sharing: Les Sablons bets against the small-plates trend. The brown-butter parsnips are the star of the scallop dish (\$42), and the duck with steamed bok choy is served with a crispy scallion pancake (\$39). Dessert is the underrated highlight here, though: Meyer lemon posset (\$10) is refreshing, and the grapefruit tart with rosé sorbet (\$10) is an unexpected way to enjoy that ideal summer wine.

For more explicitly French and French-Canadian cuisine, go to Café du Pays (www.cafedupays.com) in Kendall Square. It’s around the corner from the cinema (and typically offers discounted movie-ticket vouchers with dinner), but is well worth stopping by at any time for drinks at its intimate, kindly lit bar. Staple dinner dishes include pork and venison pie, *tourtière* (\$12), hearty pea soup (\$6), smoked chicken or duck (\$26), and *poutine*—fries topped with cheese curds and gravy (\$10).

Closer to Inman Square, Momi Nonmi (www.mominonmi.com) is tucked away on a busy Cambridge Street. It offers takes on both *izakaya* (casual Japanese) and modern Hawaiian cuisine. For seafood-lovers, the salmon sashimi with kiwi and avocado (\$12) and tuna poke with sweet onion and mung bean (\$16) are stellar alternatives to traditional New England recipes. And the tiny kitchen stays open late, when it turns out hot dumplings with indulgent heaps of wagyu beef (\$18).

Another newer Asian-food entrant, Wafu-Ya Japanese Kitchen (www.wafuyaboston.com), is

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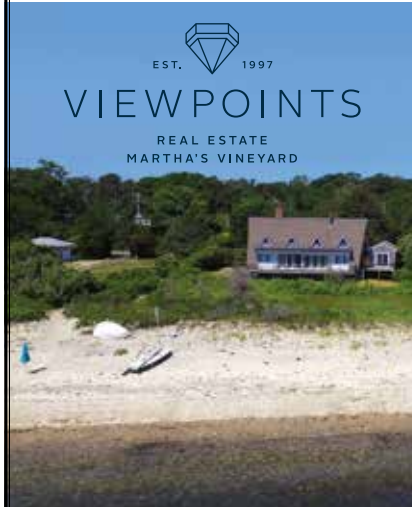
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HARVARD SQUARED

part of "Little Japan" inside the Porter Exchange Building. There's sushi and sashimi, but the cooks aren't afraid to experiment. One night, bacon figured heavily among the specials: bacon *okura*, bacon *enoki*, *shimeji* bacon. But so did quail eggs and ginkgo nuts (with or without sausage). There are all manner of skewered edibles and noodle soups, along with *tatsuta-age* (a.k.a., chicken nuggets). Regarding the flickering TVs, more than none are too many, but at least the sound was off. And the place was alive on a Friday with date-nighters, families, and students happily slurping broth and munching raw fish—and bacon.

Stepping outside of Cambridge, notable newer restaurants include Field and Vine, in Somerville's Union Square (www.fieldandvinesomerville.com). The owners used to produce



Looking for recommendations on where to eat, drink, and shop during Commencement week? Follow us on Twitter at [@harvardsqd](https://twitter.com/harvardsqd).

Our Fathers (www.ourfathers-boston.com), right across the river in Allston, serves what it terms "modern Jewish cooking"—Middle-Eastern and Mediterranean deli-style and hot food. Think: falafel, lamb kibbe, pastrami, matzo-ball soup, and za'atar-encrusted salmon (\$9-\$28).

A labor of love that entailed a Kickstarter campaign, La Bodega (see the Facebook page) is a Uruguayan-influenced tapas bar and restaurant in east Watertown. It deserves a full review, but here are some highlights: a unique wine list and charming, candle-lit ambiance (the owners, formerly of the beloved Salts in Cambridge, revamped a neighborhood bar and attached a vintage train car). The place is rustic, sleek, and authentic, just like the menu. Try the tenderloin beef *chivito* (a juicy slider), the beet salad with sections of orange, almonds, and shaved sheeps' milk cheese, and the mushroom *escabeche* with parsley, poached egg, and aged Manchego (\$5-\$27).

New is not always better, but, sometimes, maybe it is. ♥

Harvard² 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.

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SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS IN HARVARD SQUARE

- 5/6 35th Annual MayFair (rain date 5/20)
- 5/13 Mother's Day
- 5/24 367th Harvard Commencement
- 5/31 Patios in Bloom Kick-off
- 6/9 Jose Mateo Dance for World Community
- 6/16 11th Annual *Fête de la Musique* / Make Music Harvard Square
- 6/17 Father's Day
- 7/14 Bastille Day Celebration
- 7/27 5th Annual Salsa Squared
- 8/3 HSBA MovieNight

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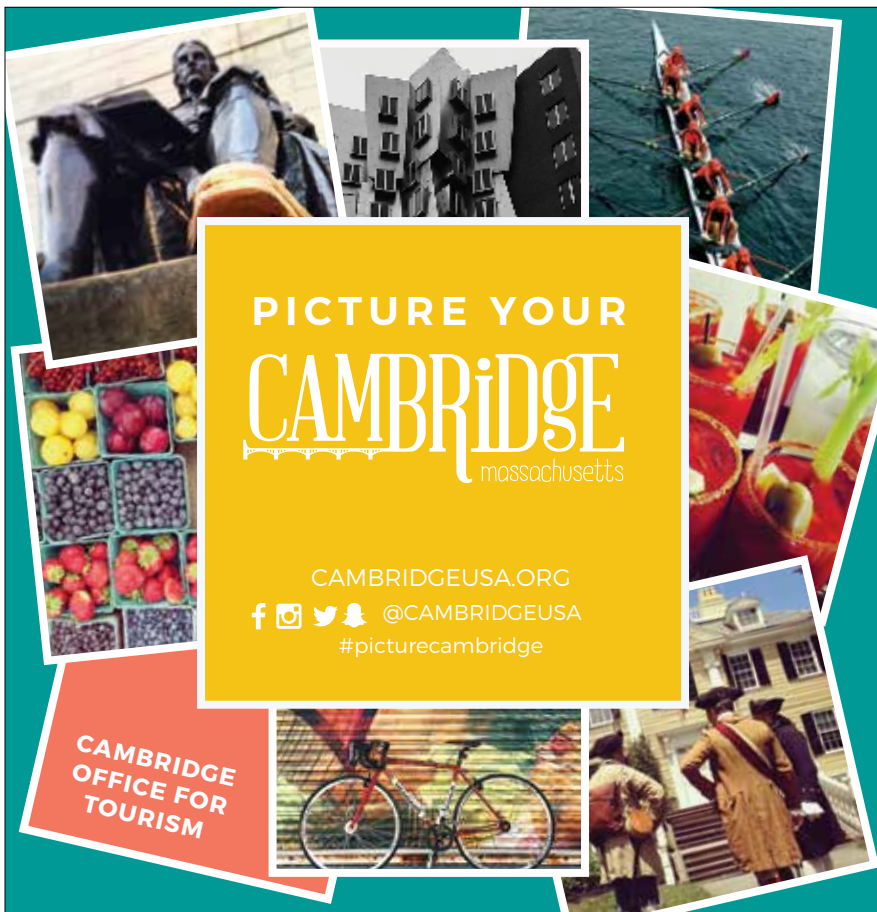
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