Harvard²
Cambridge, Boston, and beyond

16B Extracurriculars
Events through November and December

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Greater Boston’s cultural centers strive to enlighten

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A new, adult-themed exhibit

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Hearty East European fare in Newton

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Old Sturbridge Village serves up the season.
Extracurriculars
Events on and off campus during November and December

SEASONAL
The Game
www.gccrimson.com/sports/bballindex
The annual competition takes place in New Haven. (November 18)

Winter Reimagined
www.towerhill.org
Tower Hill Botanical Garden, in Boylston, Massachusetts, puts on a festival of lights outside, among its formal gardens and sculptures. Inside are nature-inspired gifts, an igloo made of recycled goods, and two conservatories filled with subtropical plants that offer hope of spring’s eventual return. (November 24-January 7)

Ceramics Program Holiday Show and Sale
https://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/ceramics
Works by more than 50 artisans—from mugs to jewelry to garden ornaments—are on display in this annual show. (December 7-10)

FILM
Harvard Film Archive
www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa
The Legends of William Wellman celebrates the versatile early Hollywood director. The line-up includes Wings (1927), Public Enemy (1931), A Star is Born (1937), and Goodbye, My Lady (1956), which offers one of the top canine performers ever to grace the screen. (Through November 26)

Shuji Terayama, Emperor of the Underworld
The writer, photographer, sports critic, cultural agent provocateur, and film director hugely influenced postwar Japanese avant-garde cinema. The archive calls Terayama’s best-known film, Emperor Tomato Ketchup, “a mesmerizing fever dream that follows the strange adventures of a child king wandering through his anarchic kingdom.” (November 3-27)

Theater
American Repertory Theater
www.americanrepertorytheater.org
Sense and Sensibility. Eric Tucker’s innovative production of Jane Austen’s novel explores the age-old question: at what price do we follow our hearts? Loeb Drama Center. (December 10-January 14)

A.R.T. Institute alumnus Dmitry Troya- novsky directs a cast of its current students in E.B. White’s timeless tale, Charlotte’s Web. Loeb Drama Center. (December 17-January 7)

Nature and Science
The Arnold Arboretum
www.arboretum.harvard.edu
Forest therapy guide Tam Willey, who is interested in my welfare.”

“Outside the Yard, there’s nowhere else in the city I feel so connected to such wonderful people. I get to enjoy marvelous architecture at the Back Bay Clubhouse and skyline views of the Charles River at the Downtown Clubhouse. I love attending the member events and visiting the great restaurants the two clubhouses offer.” -Christopher Cleveland ’14

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STAFF PICK: Antique Treasures

Find not only rare books, but Asian botanical prints, medieval maps, and Red Sox memorabilia—along with other ephemera typically seen only behind museum glass—at the forty-first annual Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair. More than 100 dealers proffer treasures ranging from under $100 to well over $100,000. Appraisers are on hand, and a panel discussion can help guide those new to the passion. Christine Nelson, curator at the Morgan Library & Museum, in New York City, lectures on “Of Books and Wild Beasts: Thoreau’s Wilderness Library,” and sleight-of-hand artist Ricky Jay reveals his own acclaimed stock of books and other materials related to “Magicians, Cheaters, & Remarkable Characters.”

N.P.B.

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HARVARD SQUARED

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Poetry

Woodberry Poetry Room
www.hcl.harvard.edu/poetryroom

A ProVocation: Poetry in the Age of Mass Incarceration features Joshua Bennet, Regina Dwayne Betts, Jill McDonough, Christopher Soto, and Jackie Wang (November 8)

The Artifactual Consciousness. Authors (And siblings) Alexandra Zapruder, Ed.M. ‘95 (Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film) and Matthew Zapruder (Why Poetry?) discuss what differentiates knowledge from information, and how each is dispersed. (December 3)

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

Spotlight

"Mark Dion: Misadventures of a 21st-Century Naturalist," at The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), is the first U.S. survey of the conceptual artist’s oeuvre. More than 20 sculptures and installations feature several hundred objects—from plant and animal specimens to books, vintage photographs, and trash—that he’s collected from around the world. Evoking curiosity cabinets for modern times, the works merge art and scientific inquiry to explore how humans perceive, interact with, and control the natural world. (They also offer prime “I spy” treasure hunting for younger museum-goers.)

Institute of Contemporary Art
www.icaboston.org
Through December 31

Making Global Local

Greater Boston’s international cultural centers strive to enlighten.

by NEll PORTER BROWN

Our library has 35,000 volumes and a children’s room, we hold 50 to 60 events a year—wine tastings and cooking demonstrations, discussion groups, and concerts,” Barbara Bouqueneau, executive director of the French Cultural Center, said while leading a tour around the 1860s Beaux-Arts-style Back Bay mansion that has housed the center since 1945. There’s a new “Behind the Scenes” fashion series kicked off on November 16 with a cocktail reception, fashion show, and guest speakers, and the annual Marché de Noël—quality nibbles, stylish gifts—on December 9. “And,” she notes, “we teach French to 700 students a year, starting from age one, until you can’t take it anymore.” The center is among many such international educational organizations in Greater Boston—the Iranian Association of Boston, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, the Goethe-Institut and the Turkish Cultural Center of Boston.

Clockwise from upper right: Cooking lessons, a discussion with guest speakers, and the children’s library at the French Cultural Center; German class and a festive dinner at the Goethe-Institut; and workshops in traditional art forms at the Turkish Cultural Center of Boston.

Photographs (clockwise from upper right) courtesy of the French Cultural Center, the Goethe-Institut, and the Turkish Cultural Center of Boston.
Historic-ish Holidays

The colder months might be the ideal time to visit Old Sturbridge Village. The craftspeople—blacksmiths, spinners, potters, and cooperers—ply their trades as other costumed interpreters bring early American history “to life,” yet the crowd of visitors has thinned. What’s more, Thanksgiving is celebrated throughout November, and for Christmas, there are carolers, Yule logs, roasting chestnuts, and candlelit tours.

The museum, an hour’s drive from Cambridge, highlights daily life in New England communities between 1790 and 1840. Even then, Thanksgiving was a big deal. “The Puritans and their descendants didn’t celebrate Christmas, so this was the time people got together,” says village communications director Michael Arnum. “Visitors can watch preparations for feasts of turkey, and meat or squash pies.

Two new exhibits are also open during November. “Armed & Equipped: Firearms and the Militia in New England, 1790-1840” highlights the village’s collection of weaponry, uniforms, and other artifacts. “Planed, Grained, and Dovetailed: Cabinetmaking in Rural New England” delves into the critical nineteenth-century industry through woodworking tools, techniques, and stories of prominent woodworkers, like Samuel Wing and Tilly Mead. Rare furniture is on display, along with cradles, coffins, drumsticks, boat frames, and beds.

That Puritan disdain for Christmas—not always celebrated as a Christian holiday back then, and often marked by drunkenness and dancing—prevailed in some semblance through several generations, slowly softening by the 1820s. (December 25 was officially named an American federal holiday in 1870.)

But Old Sturbridge Village fully decks the halls in December, resembling more of a Victorian town. It’s open Friday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., and the whole community is lit only by electric candles and strings of outdoor tree lights. There’s live music, along with horse-and-carriage rides, sing-alongs, children’s games, holiday food, a gingerbread-house contest, and traditional craft workshops. A model train set chugs along tracks in one gallery, and a miniature-sized “Little Town of Bethlehem” is on display at the Quaker Meeting House, where guides read the story of Christmas. They also lead village tours and talk about how modern Christmas traditions developed. Roasting chestnuts, for example, was already popular by the 1830s, but caroling came in later, says Arnum. “We also have a nightly tree-lighting ceremony—and, of course, Santa.” —ALFS

You never actually own a Patek Philippe.
You merely take care of it for the next generation.

Celebrating Thanksgiving at Old Sturbridge Village (above and at right); horse-drawn carriages and “villagers” are on hand for Christmas By Candlelight events.

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Annual Calendar Chronograph
Ref. 5960/1A
HARVARD SQUARED

Houghton Library is letting it all hang out. "Altered States: Sex, Drugs, and Transcendence in the Ludlow-Santo Domingo Library" offers pornographic comics and French erotic art, along with glimpses of psychoactive drug use by Thomas De Quincey and Samuel Taylor Coleridge through their books and letters. Or, attend the show just for the sensational graphics for pulp-fiction books like "Marjana Girl" and "Hippie Sex Communes.

The 120 objects on display through December 16 are from a private collector and jet-setter Julio Mario Santo Domingo, who died in 2009. Over many years, he amassed more than 100,000 items reflecting a range of fascinations: drugs, social taboos, sexuality, counterculture rebellion, nineteenth-century French culture and literature, the occult, and "the juxtaposition of 'high' and 'low' culture through a variety of activities, events, and programs, which promote and showcase Irish culture" across the region.

In addition to the Boston Irish Festival, held every June, it offers classes in Irish language and history, and music and dance (tin whistle, fiddle, bodhran, and accordion, and set dancing and percussive stepping), along with dramatic performances and readings of Irish plays and books. For sports enthusiasts, there are summer games (hurling and Gaelic football) played through the Northeast Division of the Gaelic Athletic Association. And the pub on site, open on weekends, features traditional Irish sessions on Friday nights.

For German language and culture, the Goethe-Institut Boston has been around since 1967. Its historic Back Bay townhouse sits on 46 acres and offers dramatic performances and readings of German plays and books. For sports enthusiasts, there are summer games (hurling and Gaelic football) played through the Northeast Division of the Gaelic Athletic Association. And the pub on site, open on weekends, features traditional Irish sessions on Saturday nights.

The Houghton exhibition reflects the unwieldy scope of the original collection and takes a broad view of humans’ age-old search for a “high”—something, anything, that’s pleasurable. Leslie A. Morris, curator of modern books and manuscripts. “He was very rich and interested in botany, how poppies were grown, the medicinal uses, legal constraints.”

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Still, she believes it’s the first time Houghton has posed a “parenatal discretion” disclaimer at the door.

Harvard received more than 50,000 of the items in 2012 and dispersed them by subject, among several of its libraries. A separate exhibit of Santo Domingo materials at the Schlesinger Library, “Altered Gazes: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll” (October 2-January 19), explores women’s roles in making and using counterculture products.

Getting High at Houghton

CURIOSITIES:

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**H A R V A R D  S Q U A R E D**

The Iranian Association of Boston, based in Watertown, runs Farsi classes as well as popular holiday gatherings. Students range from curiosity-seekers and those studying the Middle East to Iranian-American children “whose parents want them to understand the Persian/Iranian traditions,” says center president Saeed Pirouz.

The nonprofit association was established in 1989 specifically to “promote Iranian cultural exchange,” he says. Anyone can attend events. “The only things not welcome,” he adds, “are any kinds of religious or political statements, or agendas. IAB is not the venue for those discussions. The focus is on culture and art.”

“Folk-dancing Iranians are loud and fun,” he says, cheerfully. “And they try to really have a good time at parties. Everyone gets out on the floor.”

October marked Mehregan, a harvest festival featuring Persian-related poetry and live traditional music, he says. Participants can share poems they love, recite their own, or just come to listen and enjoy Persian food. (There are at least five year-round places for Persian fare in Watertown itself: Molana Restaurant, Shiraz Persian Cuisine, Tabrizi Bakery, Rokhsar's, and Dizin Fruteria ice cream.)

On December 16, the association hosts a Yalda Night party to celebrate the longest night of the year. “There are discussions about what families do on this holiday, what kinds of foods are eaten—food is a huge part of the culture, and I think it’s the best-tasting food, it was [developed] over thousands of years. But I may be biased in that,” he says. There’s also music and dancing. “Folk-dancing Iranians are loud and fun,” he says, cheerfully. “And they try to really have a good time at parties. Everyone gets out on the floor.” —Neil Porter Brown

**T A S T E S  &  T A B L E S:** Bites from Eastern Europe

Behind a sunny storefront in Newton is Greater Boston’s premier (if not only) Moldovan restaurant. This country is not much bigger than the state of Massachusetts, but offers a more robust culinary heritage.

Foods and flavors of neighboring Romania and Ukraine, as well as Turkey and Russia, show up on the menu at the Moldova Authentic Restaurant: lamb kabobs and stewed chicken, cabbage salad, stuffed grape leaves, pickled vegetables, and homemade noodles topped with butter and feta cheese. (Appetizers, $6.45-$11.45; entrées, $16.45-$24.95.) And for dessert? Cherry crêpes topped with whipped cream ($9.95).

Owners Artur and Sandra Andronic immigrated to the United States a few years ago, and ran an Italian restaurant before moving in—or back—to familial fare. They’re keen on cultural exchange. The dining room displays rosy images of Moldovan hills, flowers, and farmland. A black-and-white map of Europe shows the country, shaped like a baby bootie, in red. Some diners may need reminding that the Principality of Moldova was part of the Ottoman, and then the Russian, empires, but that Moldova (the poorest nation in the European Union) was established in 1991 upon the dissolution of the USSR.

The restaurant fits right in with the Newton neighborhood’s mix of unique stores: chicken and mushroom crêpes, chicken noodle soup—or try the traditional plov (pilaf) stuffed with apples: all evidence that big tastes turn up even in small places. —N.P.B.

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**TASTES & TABLES:** Bites from Eastern Europe

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