

New England

REGIONAL SECTION



Extracurriculars

SEASONAL

The Farmer's Market at Harvard

www.dining.harvard.edu/flp/ag_market.html

In Cambridge:

Tuesdays, noon-6 p.m. (rain or shine)

Lawn between the Science Center and Memorial Hall, at the corner of Oxford and Kirkland streets.

In Allston:

Fridays, 3-7 p.m.

Corner of North Harvard Street and Western Avenue.

Organized by Harvard University Dining Services, this outdoor market runs through October, emphasizing local goods—fresh produce, baked treats, jams, herbs (from Gilson's Farm, see page 12K), chocolates, and cheeses—and sponsoring cooking demonstrations and other events.

THEATER

American Repertory Theater

www.americanrepertorytheater.org

617-547-8300 (box office)

• August 17 through October 2

The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess. This

classic American story premiered at the Colonial Theater in Boston in 1935 and now returns featuring Audra McDonald, Norm Lewis, and David Alan Grier under the direction of Diane Paulus. Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street.

Continuing: *The Donkey Show*, a high-energy Studio 54 adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* featuring chiseled male fairies, an acrobatic Titania, and a cross-gendered mix-up of lovers. Wear your 1970s-era attire and prepare to "boogie... on down!"

Oberon Theater, 2 Arrow Street.

MUSIC

Harvard Summer Pops Band

• July 28 at 4 p.m. in Harvard Yard

• July 31 at 3 p.m. at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade in Boston
Concerts are free and open to the public.

Harvard Summer School Chorus

• August 5 at 8 p.m. Sanders Theatre.

Harvard Summer School Orchestra

• August 6 at 8 p.m. Sanders Theatre.

Both concerts are free and open to the public.

NATURE AND SCIENCE

The Arnold Arboretum

www.arboretum.harvard.edu; 617-495-2439

• July 30 through September 11, with an artist's reception on August 3, 6-8 p.m.

All Around Us features works by self-taught painter Ricardo Maldonado, who captures the ever-changing character of trees through varying degrees of light, shapes, and colors.

FILM

The Harvard Film Archive

<http://hcl.harvard.edu/hfa>; 617-495-4700

Visit the website for complete listings.

• July 22-24

World on a Wire, by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Recently restored and re-released, this visionary science-fiction thriller was made for German television in 1973.

• July 29-August 29

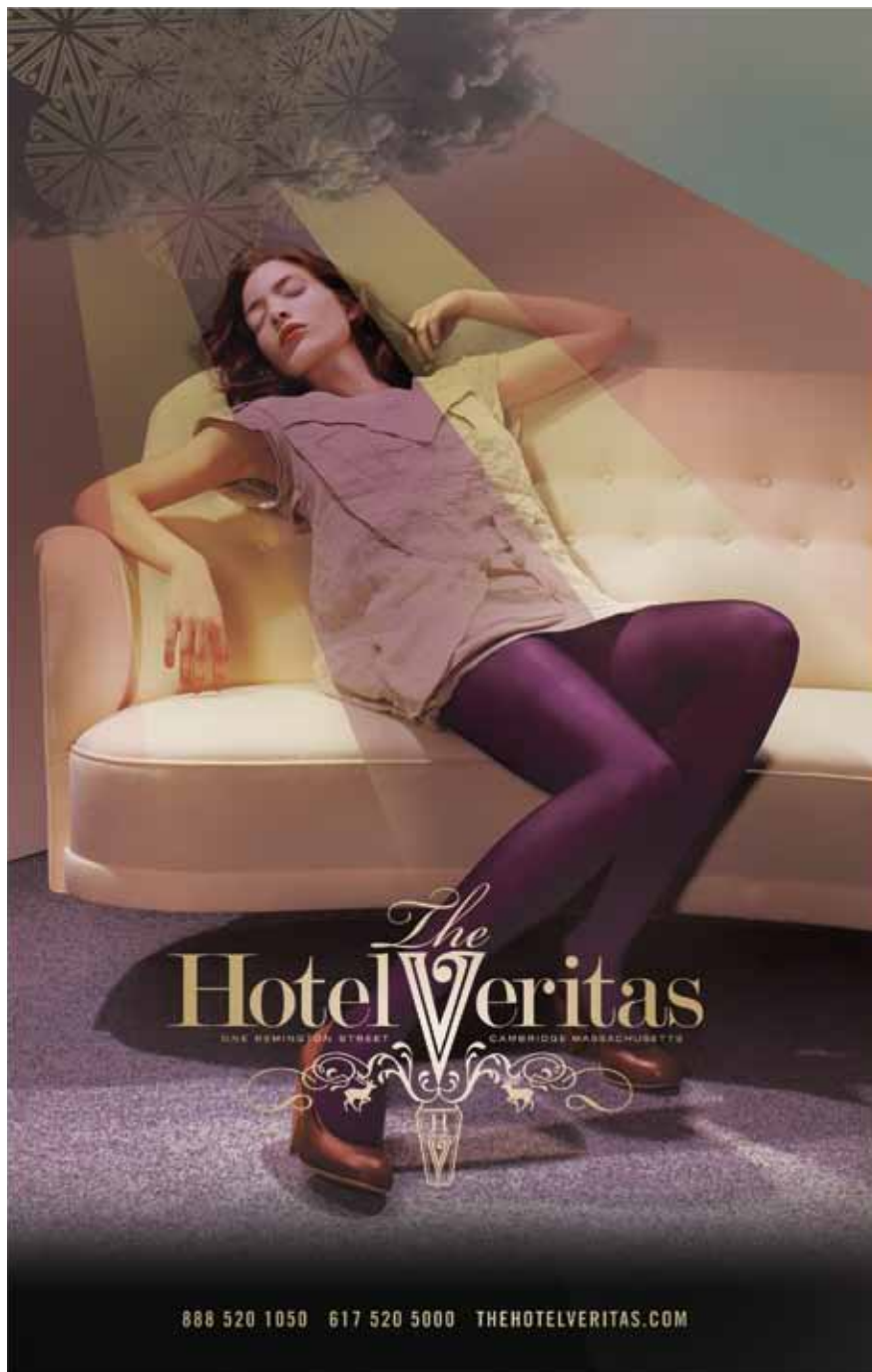
The Complete Joseph L. Mankiewicz offers a retrospective celebrating this prolific Hollywood writer, director, and producer, including *All About Eve*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Cleopatra*, and *Guys and Dolls*.

• August 12-13

George Kuchar's Weather Diaries. The director will appear in person to talk

Left to right: *Bankers Receive News from a Dak Runner* (detail), India, c. 1850, at the Harvard Art Museums; a painting by Ricardo Maldonado from *All Around Us*, at the Arnold Arboretum; do-it-yourself cuneiform at the Peabody Museum's Wonders of Writing family event

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KIM MASTELLER/HARVARD ART MUSEUMS; COURTESY PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE; RICARDO MALDONADO/ARNOLD ARBORETUM; PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY



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PATRICK ROGERS/©PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

Denizens of New England Forests, a new permanent exhibit at the Harvard Museum of Natural History

about and screen his favorite personal video journals, filmed while he was holed up in motels chasing tornadoes and other extreme weather conditions.

EXHIBITIONS

Harvard Art Museums

www.harvardartmuseum.org; 617-495-9400

• Continuing: *Company to Crown: Perceptions and Reactions in British India* highlights a hybrid Indo-European painting style.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

www.peabody.harvard.edu; 617-496-1027

• July 16, noon to 4 P.M.

Wonders of Writing

This drop-in family event provides the chance to explore cuneiform (from the ancient Middle East), Maya glyphs, and Aztec code-writing. Recommended for ages five and up.

• August 20, noon to 4 P.M.

Trash Tales

Learn about artifacts and the stories behind shoes made from tires, toys created from scrap wire, and other trash-to-treasure transformations. Recommended for ages five and up.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

www.hmn.h.harvard.edu; 617-495-3045

Oxford Street

New England Forests, opened in late May, is the museum's new permanent exhibit. This multimedia display with exquisite



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BELMONT, MA
Rarely available this close to Boston. Elegant & celebrated 16+ room brick Georgian Revival w/ unparalleled views of Boston. With its southeastern exposures, the residence is set on the crest of 3.6 acres of magnificently landscaped grounds on Belmont Hill. 2-room museum; terraces; 3-car garage. \$6,250,000



CAMBRIDGE, MA
Avon Hill - Exquisitely designed & renovated 11-room Victorian. Living room w/ bay & French doors; dining room w/ cove ceiling; chef's kitchen open to family room w/ fireplace. Master w/ walk-in, balcony & 4-piece bath. Library w/ built-ins & skylight. Deck & yard w/ stone patio. 3-car parking. \$2,250,000



CAMBRIDGE, MA
Agassiz – 2 completely renovated townhouses. Both units have open living/dining/kitchens, 3 beds & 3 1/2 baths (including a top floor master suites), lower level family rooms, skylights, hardwood floors & parking. Close to Harvard & Porter Squares. \$985,000



BELMONT, MA
Belmont Hill - Handsome, 13+ room brick Colonial Revival, c.1910, w/ exquisite details. Foyer w/ beautiful staircase; Living room w/ fireplace; dining room w/ fireplace; 5 beds, 4 full & 2 half baths. Solarium; deck; sep. ent. office suite w/ beamed ceiling & fireplace. Garage. Near the Center. \$1,200,000



CAMBRIDGE, MA
On a cul de sac in Harvard Sq., this single family has been magnificently renovated by America Dural. 2 fireplaces; pocket & French doors; chef's kitchen; 4+ beds, 3 1/2 baths (master w/ walk-in closet & marble bath); lower level guest suite; c/a; deck, patio & fenced yard. \$1,995,000



CAMBRIDGE, MA
Mid-Cambridge. Renovated 5 bed, 2 bath condominium with lovely details. Dining room with fireplace & built-in china cabinet; chef's kitchen with soapstone counters, island, stainless steel appliances & 2 skylights. Bay windows, pocket doors, radiant heat floors & deck. Parking. \$885,000



CAMBRIDGE, MA
Avon Hill – Set back from the street, this delightful 3 bed, 1 1/2 bath home is surrounded by lush gardens containing flowering trees & shrubs. Open living/dining room with fireplace & built-ins; chef's kitchen with island, SubZero & Miele cooktop; mahogany decks; patio & brick driveway. \$987,000



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HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

The Harvard Film Archive screens a restored print of Rainer Werner Fassbinder's sci-fi thriller *World on a Wire* in July.

dioramas and other features examines the natural history and ecology of regional forests and their responses to human activity. (The exhibit was made possible, in part, by a gift from Paul Zofnass '69, M.B.A.-J.D. '73, who grew up in nearby Belmont and enjoyed visiting the museum as a child.)

LIBRARIES

www.hcl.harvard.edu/info/exhibitions
 617-495-2417

Houghton Library

- Through August 26

Peace If Possible, or Justice At Any Rate: Wendell Phillips at 200 documents the influential career of this champion of civil rights. Letters from Harriet Tubman, Lucretia Mott, Charles Sumner, and William Lloyd Garrison are on display along with some of Phillips's papers. 617-496-4027.

Pusey Library

- Continuing: ***Going for Baroque: The Iconography of the Ornamental Map*** explores how decorative cartographic devices—cartouches, vignettes, figural borders, title pages, and frontispieces—could provide narrative underpinnings for the geo-spatial content of maps. 617-496-8717.

Tozzer Library

- Continuing: ***Native Life in the Americas: Artists' Views*** showcases the work of little-known Native American and women artists who were primarily illustrators, designers, and printmakers rather than painters. 617-495-1481.

Events listings also appear in the *University Gazette*, accessible via this magazine's website, www.harvardmagazine.com.

Celebrate Summer in New England

Forays within two hours' drive of Boston • by Nell Porter Brown



Wilcox Park



Watch Hill



Babcock-Smith House

Westerly, Rhode Island

LOCATED NEAR POPULAR public beaches and the Watch Hill seaside community, Westerly is a year-round center of arts activity and percolating revitalization.

Grand nineteenth- and twentieth-century brick and stone buildings in various states of refurbishment and occupancy sit around the wonderful Wilcox Park. This arboretum-styled landscape was designed by an associate of Frederick Law Olmsted and boasts old-growth trees, a giant cedar grove, and perennial gardens pleasant to walk in. An open meadow also slopes toward a renovated fish pond, offering sunny expanses for reading, napping, and playing on the grass.

The park is owned and operated by the Westerly Public Library, opened as a memorial to Civil War soldiers and sailors in 1894, during the community's heyday as a primary source of granite for buildings and monuments across the nation. The Babcock-Smith House Museum (www.babcock-smithhouse.com), near the spot where granite was discovered in the area in 1845, helps elucidate this industrial history.

The library itself, a private, nonprofit organization, is a town hub. It will soon reopen its Hoxie Gallery, which displays the work of local artists, and hosts many popular gatherings, including art festivals and summer concerts in the park.

There has been an on-again, off-again concerted effort to revitalize Westerly, which sits just across the Connecticut border, during the last two decades. Organizations like the Artists' Cooperative Gallery (www.westerlyarts.com)—started in 1992 as a focal point for regional artists, it now offers rotating monthly exhibits and juried shows—and the Westerly

Land Trust (www.westerlylandtrust.org), active in preserving both rural land and urban properties, have been instrumental in the process, as has the concentrated financing and attention of mutual-fund manager Charles Royce, a longtime summer resident.

In recent years the trust has bought the former United Theater, built in 1928, and the majestic, granite-faced Industrial Trust Bank. Plans are under way to preserve and try to re-adapt those sites. The Colonial Theater (www.thecolonialtheater.org) runs an annual Shakespeare festival—in July there are free outdoor performances of *The Tempest* in Wilcox Park—while the Granite Theatre (www.granitetheatre.com) offers plays and musicals year-round. A heralded jazz venue, the Knickerbocker Café (www.theknickerbockercafe.com) has been newly renovated and boasts a line-up of bands and danceable music.

Not every redevelopment effort comes to fruition, of course, or ultimately succeeds. Visitors may see some obvious lags in the local rebuilding efforts. But Westerly's clear draw lies in this very dynamic,

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in its eclectic, organic mix of funky and traditional: it has not been “quaintified.” The Corks and Perks (coffeehouse by day, dynamic bar by night) coexists smoothly with the “real drinks for real people” Danny’s Bar; the natural-foods store and the auto-parts outlet serve the same patrons.

Moreover, the number of independently owned, diverse restaurants is reassuring in this age of commercial sprawl and chain businesses. Take the Van Ghent Café (www.vanghentcafewesterly.com), a Belgian breakfast and lunch place, for example, and 84 High Street (www.84highstreet.com), known for generous portions of American food, or the Prime Time Café (www.ptcafe.com), a great place for dining with young children. The relatively new Bridge Restaurant (www.bridgeri.com) has a diverse menu with good vegetarian options along with fresh seafood. Its relaxing outdoor patio overlooks the Pawcatuck River, which separates Westerly and its neighboring sister community, Pawcatuck,

Connecticut (which is part of the town of Stonington and includes a historic district with sites ranging from shipworks and mills to worker housing).

The beaches, about a 15-minute drive from Westerly (or a longer but doable bike trip), tend to please everyone. Misquamicut State Park offers public access to sand and sun, and the usual assortment of snack bars and ice-cream and T-shirt shops. The more affluent Watch Hill, on a spit of land leading to Narragansett Bay and the Rhode Island Sound, is a car or bike ride away from the public beach and has restaurants, shops, and hotels. The most opulent is the Ocean House (www.oceanhouseri.com), a \$140-million hotel, resort, and condominium complex (that opened in 2009, once again through the efforts of Charles Royce). A replica of the eponymous Gilded Age hotel, the new version is beautiful to behold, and, not surprisingly, expensive.

For other options just minutes from


Misquamicut, try the quiet country setting of the Woody Hill B & B (www.woodyhill.com), the homey ambience of Grandview B & B (www.grandviewbandb.com), or head back downtown, take in a show you can easily walk to, and stay within sight of Wilcox Park at the Parkside East B & B (www.parksideeastbandb.com).

Worcester, Massachusetts

IT MAY SURPRISE some to know that this former industrial giant of a city is more than worth spending time in as a tourist. The urban center rivals Providence in size and offers not only a wide range of art, culture, and history but a disproportionate number of great restaurants, parks, a lake—and a string of fun vintage-clothing and home-goods stores.

Where to begin? The Higgins Armory (www.higgins.org) is a testament to founder John Woodman Higgins’s passion

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Higgins Armory

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Higgins Armory



Clark University Hadwen Arboretum

for steel. He spent his life collecting it, mostly in the form of armor, finally erecting a four-story Art Deco-style building (now on the National Register of Historic Places) to house most of it as an educational resource for the public. The building holds more than 5,000 items, including European swords, daggers, gauntlets, spears, and complete suits of armor, as well as elaborate helmets (including one from 550 B.C.E.), along with less familiar weapons and armor from African nations,

India, Turkey, and Japan. Weekend programs may offer combat demonstrations, living-history group reenactments, and explorations of the culture of knighthood. There is also a unique “OverKnight” interactive parent-child program for groups, and the building may be rented for parties.

Downtown’s Worcester Art Museum (www.worcesterart.org) has a dynamic permanent collection of creative works from around the world, as well as thought-provoking temporary exhibits,

such as *The Strange Life of Objects: The Art of Annette Lemieux* (through October 9) and an exploration of *Leisure, Pleasure, and the Debut of the Modern French Woman* (through September 11) featuring eighteenth- and nineteenth-century prints and illustrations. Children, teenagers, and adults can



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also take a range of art classes and workshops.

For outdoor fun, Regatta Point, on Quinsigamond Lake, a short drive from downtown, offers swimming, sailing, and inexpensive canoe rentals. There is also the 60-acre Elm Park, among the first parcels of land bought (28 initial acres in 1854) by a municipality with the intention of creating a park; it was later developed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted and is still an oasis with walking and biking paths, fountains, and places to picnic. Less well known is Clark University's Hadwen Arboretum (www.clarku.edu/students/outingclub/resources/Arboretum_historical_notes.pdf or www.massachusetts-mapsite.com/us_ma_hadwen_arboretum_vt.html). A 1907 bequest, it had at one time more than 400 varieties of trees; though it could be more

thoroughly cared for today, it is still a wonderful place to poke around in.

Worcester's long industrial history has always drawn immigrants; today, the city houses newer arrivals, including Brazilians, Iraqis, Southeast Asians, and immigrants from various African nations. Ethnic restaurants abound. Try the Vietnamese food at Pho Dakao (593 Park Avenue) and the vegetarian dishes at Quan Yin (56 Hamilton Street), or African fare at Tropical Gardens (344 Chandler Street). For big portions and a fun twist on pastas and Mexican food, go to the Flying Rhino (www.flyingrhinocafe.com) on Shrewsbury Street—Worcester's restaurant row.

The newer Haiku Sushi (www.haikurestaurant.com) doubles as a steakhouse: where else can you order the 14-ounce "cowboy rib-eye" steak with your miso soup? Seafood lovers who want a more buzzing social milieu might want to experience the favored Sole Proprietor (www.thesole.com), which features a giant inflatable crab on its roof during the summer. The menu offers classic New England maritime fare along with sushi specialties and irresistible desserts, such as whoopie pies and banana splits. For a full taste of the range of Worcester's restaurants, visit the city's weekly alternative newspaper at www.worcestermag.com/chow/reviews.

Worcester has a few shopping districts, but those looking for unusual items should stop into Unique Boutik and the Futon Co. (home goods and local art), across the street from the Sole Proprietor. Or drive across town to a burgeoning restaurant and retail area called the Blackstone Canal District and check out Blackstone Vignettes (a resale cooperative), vintage clothing store Alexis Grace, or two home goods/salvage places called

Provenance and Architectural Garage.

Lodging options are far more routine. The chains—Hilton, Marriott, Quality Inn, and Hampton—all have hotels in Worcester, and the "luxury" choice is the largely impersonal Beechwood Hotel and conference center (www.beechwoodhotel.com), located away from downtown near the University of Massachusetts medical center by Lake Quinsigamond.

Peterborough, New Hampshire

THE "PETERBOROUGH IDEA," conceived around the turn of the last century, was a way to give diverse artists a peaceful place to create in the company of their peers. It was the founding principle of the MacDowell Colony, started on a local farm by composer Edward MacDowell and his wife, Marian, and has since grown into a major force in the art world. It has also helped shape the course of this scenic New England town—immortalized in *Our Town*, written by Thornton Wilder, a one-time colony resident.

Nestled along the Contoocook River, Peterborough is home to about 3,000 residents. It was historically a prosperous mill town within the Monadnock region but has long reveled in its reputation as a serious center for the arts, summer residents, and culture-minded retirees. The Sharon Arts Fine Craft Gallery downtown (www.sharonarts.org/shop/fine-craft-gallery-info) offers works by regional artists and exhibits; it is an arm of the nearby Sharon Arts School of Art and Craft, which runs classes for all ages, year-round. The Mariposa Museum and World Culture Center (www.mariposamuseum.org) seeks to teach people about art and traditions across the globe. It holds a small but intriguing collection of international folk

art, and encourages visitors to "Please Touch"; children can dress up in kimonos, play musical instruments, and put on puppet shows.

The museum, co-founded by David Blair '70 and his late wife, Linda Marsella '70, also hosts unusual exhibits and events that explore world culture, art forms,



The Mariposa Museum...

and World Culture Center



Peterborough Players



NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL SECTION

and spirituality: this spring, for example, visitors could learn about an *ikonostasi* (a Greek Orthodox home altar) and an elephant orphanage in Kenya, or they could watch a Mevlevi Turning Ceremony, a sacred whirling exercise founded in Turkey hundreds of years ago.

The town has a rich theatrical tradition and still boasts the Peterborough Players (peterboroughplayers.org), a professional theater troupe established in 1933. Summer shows include *Arms and the Man*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Puss In Boots*.

Accommodations run the gamut. The Peteridge at the Pond (www.peteridge.com) has two guest houses for larger families or groups and the Three Maples (www.threemaples.com) in Sharon has hiking and walking trails from the back door. In nearby Troy, The Inn at East Hill Farm (www.east-hill-farm.com) is a great, old-style, low-key family resort, complete with bingo and ping-pong tournaments, while the Jack Daniels Motor Inn (www.jackdanielsmotorinn),

located right in downtown, is simply clean and comfortable—and an easy walk for coffee at Aesop's Tables in the welcoming Toadstool Bookstore.

Food choices downtown include the hearty American-style bistro lunch or dinner at Harlow's Deli, Café, and Pub (www.harlowspub.com) with great live jazz and dance music at night. Or visitors of all ages may enjoy sliding onto stools at the historic Peterborough Diner (www.peterboroughdiner.com), housed in an original 1950 Worcester Lunch Car.

For outdoor trips, the Monadnock region offers its eponymous mountain, one of the most-climbed in New England, but also has a surprising diversity of other parks and trails of interest, such as the 1,672-acre Wapack National Wildlife Re-

serve (www.fws.gov/wapack) southeast of Peterborough, which includes a 21-mile spur of the Appalachian Trail, or Casalis State Forest (www.greater-peterborough-chamber.com/new-hampshire-camping.html), with hikes that connect to Temple Mountain. For quiet contemplation, consider a trip to the Cathedral of the Pines (www.cathedralofthepines.org), an interfaith center and memorial grounds open May through October. ▢



Cathedral of the Pines



Sharon Arts Fine Craft Gallery

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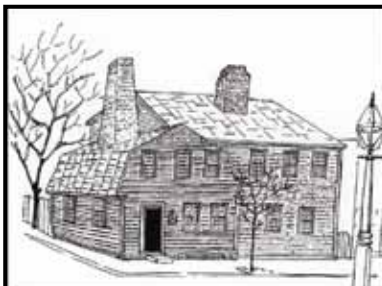
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MAGAZINE

Rustic Charms

Conviviality, slow food, and the freshest herbs around



COURTESY OF THE HERB LYCEUM AT GILSON'S FARM

DINNER GUESTS at The Herb Lyceum at Gilson's Farm are free to wander through the European-style gardens or the greenhouses filled with lush rosemary, thyme, and spearmint. Or they can sit out on a stone terrace with a glass of wine, breathing in the fragrant air, before settling in for a \$55 prix fixe, six-course meal in the handsome, wood-beamed barn.

Open year-round on Fridays and Saturdays, this largely unheralded restaurant is set amidst a charming, five-acre working herb farm in the historic town of Groton, Massachusetts, off Route 2. Proprietor David Gilson counseled special-needs kids before switching to farming in 1989. He greets guests, emphasizing the kitchen's "slow food" philosophy, then leaves the evening to chef Paul Callahan. A bouncy young man, Callahan seems to enjoy hanging out with diners, revealing how the food is prepared, just as much as cooking it. "I'm your personal chef for the evening," he said one

night. "Ask me anything you want." (One woman inquired, as the evening and wine-drinking wore on, if he was married.)

In all, about 28 diners sit together European-style at two tables: you are next to strangers if you don't come with your own large party. (Reservations are required.) There is also a BYOB policy, which can lead to sharing your wine and others' during the three-hour meal. People become chatty, and even loud. Because it's a self-selecting group, most of whom have traveled a good distance to dine in a beautiful spot, a jolly mood abounds, especially as each artfully prepared dish, on a menu that changes seasonally, arrives.

Callahan's *amuse-bouche* was a refreshing Vietnamese spring roll with Gilson's cilantro and edible Johnny jump-ups. This was followed by farm-raised Vermont lamb tartare, flavored with lemon and thyme. Each accompaniment—rye croustons, pickled Groton-grown ramps with a spicy Asian kick, a dollop of tomato-and-mirin sauce, and a bean

purée—paired interestingly with the meat.

The rich lamb was offset by the next course, a nuanced sweet-pea soup made with a twist of spearmint and goat's milk, "not as heavy as cream and an earthier flavor," Callahan noted. On the side were ravioli filled with barbecued pork and chopped cranberries.

Smoked salmon, quick-cured with salt, sugar, herbs, and citrus, had a nice crustiness and tasted of lavender, thyme, and basil. The fillets came with a Provençal-style stew (*barigoule*) of artichokes, leeks, and fennel mixed with navy beans, celery, carrots, and a scattering of pea tendrils—earth and sea combined. Then the small slabs of regionally made artisanal cheeses arrived with a homemade biscuit, a stellar green-tomato jam, and Marcona almonds encrusted with rosemary and lavender. (The farm also sells its herbs and jams at farmers' markets around Greater Boston.)

Dessert was a coconut and lemon verberna *panna cotta* served with spare elegance on a plate decorated with grapefruit slices and an innovative juniper-berry sauce; the cutting sweetness merged with the soft chunks of white cream in your mouth.

Sprigs of lemon verbena also graced each place setting and could be swirled in one's water glass, creating a delicious scent and flavor. At Gilson's, the focus is on the herbs, not surprisingly, and the subtle art of mixing and matching extracted flavors, just as a painter dabs to get just the right color. Or, as Callahan puts it, each course aims to be "performance art for the palate." —N.P.B.

Editor's note: Groton is also the site of the Kalliroscope Gallery, a converted church, that features chamber music, readings, and exhibits, and is owned by Paul Matisse '54 (www.harvardmagazine.com/2002/05/pure-fabrications.html).

Above: Meals are served at two communal tables in the restored barn.

THE HERB LYCEUM AT GILSON'S FARM

368 Main Street (Route 119)
Groton, Massachusetts
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