



A Publication of
**The Fenway
Alliance**

The Fenway Alliance member institutions strive to achieve an improved physical environment, sense of community, and quality of life for members, residents, and constituent patrons of the Fenway Cultural District.

Members of The Alliance:

Berklee College of Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Emmanuel College

*The First Church
of Christ, Scientist*

The Forsyth Institute

Harvard School of Public Health

Huntington Theatre Company

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

*The Mary Baker Eddy Library
for the Betterment of Humanity*

Massachusetts College of Art

*Massachusetts College of
Pharmacy and Health Sciences*

Museum of Fine Arts

New England Conservatory

Northeastern University

Simmons College

*Wentworth Institute of
Technology*

Wheelock College

YMCA of Greater Boston

ALLIANCE NEWS

Northeastern Opens New Behrakis Health Sciences Center



The new Behrakis Health Sciences Center

Northeastern University's newest building project, the Behrakis Health Sciences Center, opened its doors this fall to rave reviews by students, faculty, staff and alumni. The building, named for alumnus and pharmaceutical executive George Behrakis, offers students an interdisciplinary practice site where they learn patient care in a variety of medical fields. The dedication of the building took place on November 12, and brought together several hundred members of the NU community with notables from Boston, including Mayor Menino.

Standing seven stories with a curved facade of tinted green glass, the \$37 million complex, replete with state-of-the-art equipment, labs, computers, and spectacular views of the Boston skyline, is the latest in a series of building projects the university has completed to enhance its on-campus offerings and its increasingly residential style. The building lies in tandem with a new residence hall on the western edge of campus and above a much-needed but smartly concealed underground parking facility. The architectural team responsible for the project was Rothman Partners, Architect of Record, and Kyu Sung Woo Architect, Design Architect.

The Behrakis Center is helping to fill what President Richard M. Freeland calls the "university's urgent need for more instructional space in the health sciences" and showcases the university's commitment to the expansion of student resources and faculty support in the health sciences. Labs in the new facility simulate real-world environments, with mock E.R.s, exam rooms, and high-tech simulations, including a new, \$35K "Sim-Man," a life-sized dummy that exhibits a variety of ailments that students diagnose and then treat, as well as Noelle, a life-sized female dummy that simulates live birth.



NU alumnus George Behrakis and President Richard Freeland

Letter from the Director:

The Fenway Alliance is experiencing an unprecedented period of growth. During the past two years we have expanded our programs to respond to our appropriately broad mission: to enhance the cultural, economic, and environmental aspects of this uniquely wonderful part of Boston. The momentum that began with the inaugural *Opening Our Doors* celebration on Columbus Day and continued with our participation in First Night and the Grande Procession shows no sign of slowing (see page 5 for a description of members' First Night activities). *Opening Our Doors 2003* will build on this year's success, while planning for the Fenway Alliance's role in welcoming Democratic Conventioneers in 2004 to enjoy the treasures of art, culture and academia that are the proud heritage of our City. The Fenway Alliance, along with its largest initiative -- the Fenway Cultural District, is becoming a force to be reckoned with. Fenway Alliance members, individually and collectively, represent that which gives a city its heart, spirit, and vitality, particularly during difficult economic times. Our programs and presence

Letter from the Director Continues on Next Page

From Our Neighbors:



Sociedad Latina Celebrates 3 Kings Day

Sociedad Latina is dedicated to helping Latino youth discover the positive within themselves and their community. Located on Tremont Street in Mission Hill, its programs, which are principally led by Youth Leaders, help young people gain a sense of pride and personal responsibility, recognize their inherent strengths, and strive for success within a context that celebrates a wonderfully rich cultural heritage.

Celebrating Three Kings Day has been an on-going event for Sociedad Latina for the past 12 years. "El Dia de los Reyes Magos" is a Latino cultural event that takes place each year on January 6th. Each year Sociedad Latina provides over 200 low-income families with toys donated to the organization by various charity and toy drives. Parents in attendance also participate in educational workshops. Daycare is provided on site for smaller children. Families enjoy special guest speakers, music, dance, and cultural food.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about the services of Sociedad Latina please contact them at 617-442-4299, or check out their Web site at www.sociedadlatina.org.

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have never been needed more.

The current economic downturn, coupled with the Fenway Alliance's expanded agenda, has increased our need for support from fellow cultural citizens. I am very proud to report that our Corporate Partners Program initiated just one year ago now includes thirteen generous supporters. I especially want to thank McCourt Construction for its flagship contribution. By being part of the Corporate Partners Program, a corporation not only identifies itself as a premier cultural citizen but also is the beneficiary of numerous cultural, political, environmental, and promotional assets. To find out more about these benefits and a list of our current contributors, please visit our Web site www.fenwayculture.org.

To create a cultural district, corporate partners are essential. Equally important are individuals who care about the development of a community on the verge of greatness. Individuals who are interested in the proliferation of cultural life in Boston -- not just for those with means, but for community members who normally do not have the opportunities or resources to experience what this area has to offer - are critical to the viability of our cultural district. Toward this end I am also pleased to tell you that this year The Fenway Alliance was selected for inclusion in *The Catalogue for Philanthropy*, along with 43 other small nonprofit organizations. This wonderful resource allows donors to give quickly and easily to the nonprofit of their choice. To find out more about the *Catalogue* and how to contribute to The Fenway Alliance and the making of a cultural district, please visit our Web site or just give us a call.

I am energized by the strides The Fenway Alliance has made, and, with your continued support, I am even more prepared to reach for the possibilities ahead.

--Kelly Brilliant, Executive Director

The Blue Demon Visits Children's Museum



Writer/Director Darko Tresnjak shows the kids how the puppet works.

In December, the Huntington Theatre Company visited the Boston Children's Museum to perform excerpts from *The Blue Demon*, an original play written and directed by Darko Tresnjak, featured at the Huntington Theatre in January 2003. At the Children's Museum event, Tresnjak's introduction of the play to young audiences was followed by a reenactment of a scene performed by actors Brian Sgambati and Anna Belknap who play the Prince and Princess, and a puppet demonstration by cast member Paul Cortez. A theatrical spectacle for all ages, *The Blue Demon* combines original music, dance, and puppetry in a creative staging of a brand new fable. More about Huntington Theatre productions can be found online at www.huntingtontheatre.org

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BSO and Northeastern Team Up to Bring Online Conservatory to Life

Starting in February, music lovers across the country and around the world will be able to visit www.bso.org and participate in the Boston Symphony Orchestra's newest educational initiative - the BSO Online Conservatory, an interactive multimedia addition to its Web site. Developed in partnership with Northeastern University, the BSO Online Conservatory will offer browsers an opportunity to explore some of the fascinating dimensions of the orchestra's performances. The first release of the BSO Online Conservatory will focus on the music program for the world premiere and BSO commission of acclaimed Chinese-American composer Tan Dun's *The Map*, a multimedia concerto for cello and orchestra, featuring the world-renowned Yo-Yo Ma as soloist. In conjunction with this program, the BSO will also be presenting two panel discussions, free to the public, which will include Tan Dun himself, along with several special guests. The first will take place at Northeastern on February 21, and the second on February 22 at a Chinatown location. Both events will be accompanied by premiere screenings of two short films, one being the story behind *The Map* and the other about the challenge of saving disappearing arts in China.

The BSO Online Conservatory was created to provide Web site visitors with the opportunity to develop a more rounded appreciation of music. Key features of the BSO Online Conservatory include biographical material on each composer in the program as well as the historical context in which each music piece was written. The most anticipated feature, however, will be the basic analysis of each piece of music that will help identify key passages of the piece to broaden appreciation for the concert-going experience. To supplement the entire learning process, a glossary of musical terms will be provided as well as an additional resources list.

Led at Northeastern by Professor Anthony De Ritis, the Online Conservatory illustrates the expertise of Northeastern's faculty in the Department of Music and points to the significant success of the university's new Multimedia Studies program, which is quickly garnering national attention. The Online Conservatory is an outstanding example of Northeastern's practice-oriented educational philosophy.

A Place for Thinkers

Since The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity™ opened its doors in late September, nearly 40,000 visitors have come through its doors to engage with the Library's interactive exhibits, delve into its historic archival collections, attend its varied programs, and revisit one of Boston's icons, the Mapparium, now enhanced by a dynamic and adaptive sound and light show. The Library, with its exhibits, collections and programs, is becoming that "place for thinkers" that was promised at the opening ceremony.



A *Living Ideas* performance in the Hall of Ideas

The Library's voice can be heard in a diversity of free public programs that now include a weekly dramaturge called *Living Ideas*™ and a lively series on *Works in Progress*.™ On weekday evenings the Library's front entrance atrium is filled with music, and their new café, *Quotes*, is open to all. The Library is also offering space for book clubs to meet -- if you're interested in moving your club, joining one, or forming one -- contact the Programs unit at 1-800-261-2006.

In the past five months, three original *Living Ideas* programs have been developed and enhanced by text programmed into the Hall of Ideas' one-of-a-kind fountain. The first program focused on Freedom, the second on Discovery and the current show focuses on humanity's wrestlings with conflict and conscience. *Living Ideas* are performed every Sunday afternoon and are open and free to the public.

The Library's evening series, *Works In Progress*, features writers and artists who are in the process of creating something -- a book, a piece of music or art, or a new dance. The fourth program in this series featured historian Allen Weinstein and aired by C-SPAN in late January. Current schedules and information about these programs can be found on the Library's Web site www.marybakereddylibrary.org.

Forsyth Promotes Evidence-Based Dentistry

The launch of a unique search engine for evidence-based dentistry at The Forsyth Center for Evidence Based Dentistry (EBD) was announced at a conference held in January. The conference theme, *Evidence Into Action*, brought together insurers, product makers, health care providers, policy makers, and academics concerned with the need for a systems approach to health care. "At present, without such an approach, it can take 20 years to bring evidence-based care to patients. This lag results in enormous variability in the quality and cost of care," said Dr. Niederman DMD, Director of the Forsyth Center for EBD.

The search engine, called EviDents, has created "a unique electronic resource that allows patients and clinicians to sort through vast amounts of information to find the best oral health evidence available," according to Dr. Niederman. (URL: <http://medinformatics.uthscsa.edu/EviDents>)



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For current information on what's happening in the Fenway Cultural District, visit us online at www.fenwayculture.org

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to Celebrate Centennial Anniversary

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum will celebrate 100 years of artistic innovations and inspiration with a year-and-a-half Centennial celebration, launched in January, 2003. One hundred years ago, Isabella Stewart Gardner created a new context for art in America by creating a museum - the first of its kind - where visitors could experience visual arts, music and horticulture within a highly personal setting. This dynamic interplay of the arts has inspired visual artists, musicians, scholars, writers and visitors for a century and is today, more than ever, an important and enchanting source of inspiration and learning.

"The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum has been something special from the start," says Anne Hawley, Norma Jean Calderwood Director. "In a world where encounters with such beauty and cultural richness are increasingly rare, its mission - to fire the imagination of all who visit - is particularly relevant, as we celebrate and honor Isabella Stewart Gardner's vision and legacy one hundred years ago."

In celebration of this milestone, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum will present an array of exciting new exhibitions and programs throughout the Centennial (2003-2004), with a focus on the intermingling of the arts. "One of the most compelling aspects of the Isabella Stewart

Gardner Museum is its juxtaposition of contemporary and historical art," says Hawley. "It is particularly suitable to launch our Centennial celebration with an exhibition of installations by Joseph Kosuth, a pioneer in conceptual art."

Throughout the Centennial, the Museum will also present innovative new works and programs in new spaces. Two new Centennial concert series will present musical performances in new areas of the Museum, classical music in the central courtyard (Vivaldi) and jazz

and Brazilian music in the Rose Gardens. In April, *The Making of a Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect & Designer* will take an unprecedented look at the Museum's founder and creation and showcase never-before-released archival material among the permanent collection and galleries. Find out more about the Centennial at www.gardnermuseum.org.



Anne Hawley, Director of the Gardner Museum, standing next to a bronze bust of Bindo Altoziti by Cellini, circa 1550