

Community CALENDAR

From holiday happenings to gallery exhibitions and community events, there is a lot going on in Back Bay and Beacon Hill this month.



Santa Claus onstage with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops.
Photograph by Hillary Scott

HOLIDAY FUN

Dec. 5-29

Holiday Pops

From classic carols to holiday hymns, Keith Lockhart and company bring merry music to the masses. Plus, there's a visit from Santa. Afternoon and evening performances all month. \$62-\$153. Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave. www.bso.org

Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m.

Boston Common Tree Lighting

Mayor Wu, Santa, and Rudolph flip the switch at 7:55 p.m. to illuminate the Nova Scotia Christmas tree and all the holiday lights on Boston Common and the Public Garden. Beforehand, festivities include live

music, entertainment, tasty treats and special guests. Boston Common Visitor Center plaza

Dec. 5, 7:55 p.m.

Holiday Lights at Commonwealth Avenue Mall Celebrate as the Friends of the Public Garden light up your favorite tree-lined boulevard to kick off the holidays. Lights run from Arlington Street all the way to Kenmore Square. Commonwealth Avenue Mall, 617-723-8144

Dec. 5, 6-9 p.m.

Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll

Hosted by Beacon Hill Business Association, this free event closes down traffic on Charles Street so pedestrians can shop for holiday gifts at the historic way's independent retailers and enjoy festive live music and refreshments. Parents can stop by the Hill House earlier in

the afternoon for photos with Santa from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-noon

Beacon Hill Civic Association Holiday Gas Lamp Decorating

Help bring holiday vibes to Beacon Hill by volunteering with your neighbors to decorate its 1,100 gas lamps. Free. BHCA Office, 74 Joy St. 617-227-1922

Dec. 8, noon and 4 p.m.

Hanukkah A Cappella Concert

Head to the Vilna Shul for these performances of songs featuring Jewish collegiate a cappella groups from Berklee, Brandeis, Tufts and Brown. \$18. 18 Phillips St.

Dec. 8, noon-4 p.m.

Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour

Start at the Nichols House Museum for a self-guided tour and handbell performances before walking to and experiencing select private Beacon Hill residences decorated for the holiday season. Wrap it up with a stop at the William Hickling Prescott House, and then a reception at King's Chapel Parish House (3-5 p.m.). \$150. 55 Mount Vernon St.

Dec. 13, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Back Bay Ringers

Handbells, chimes, percussion: This is a rhythmic holiday collaborative performance unlike others you'll find around. Beacon Hill Ringers (celebrating their 100th anniversary) join the Back Bay Ringers to perform classic carols and more. \$25. Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.



Back Bay Ringers take over Emmanuel Church in mid-December.
Photograph courtesy of Back Bay Ringers

Dec. 14, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
 Dec. 15, 2 p.m.

Candlelight Carols at Trinity Church

For more than 100 years, Copley Square's iconic church has been hosting these seasonal concerts that celebrate the story of Christ's birth. Hear scripture readings, carols and anthems by the Trinity Choirs and Orchestra. \$4-\$145. 206 Clarendon St.

Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.
 Dec. 21, 4 p.m.

Back Bay Chorale's A Boston Christmas

Sing along to carols and more at this merry holiday event featuring vocals from the 100-member chorus, along with organ and brass music. \$24-\$70. Old South Church, 645 Boylston St.

Dec. 27, 6-9 p.m.

Havurah on the Hill: Hanukkah Shabbat!

Local 20- and 30-somethings can gather for Chinese food, DIY doughnuts and a white elephant gift exchange at this festive Hanukkah version of shabbat. \$22. 18 Phillips St. 617-523-2324

Dec. 31

First Night Boston 2025

Back Bay and Beacon Hill residents are already at the heart of Boston's New Year's celebration with the option to

pick and choose what to attend, while stopping home to warm up between. Events are free and include concerts, cultural performances, arts and crafts, improv, ice sculptures, the First Night parade (6 p.m.), and the family fireworks (7 p.m.). Free.



Arts and culture come alive at First Night Boston.
Photographs by George Comeau and First Night Boston



Galerie d'Orsay presents "Samir Sammoun: The Way Home."
Photograph by Samir Sammoun

IN THE GALLERIES

All month

"Samir Sammoun" at Galerie d'Orsay, 33 Newbury St.

Until Dec. 21

"Peter Brooke: Devotions" at Gallery NAGA, 67 Newbury St.

Until Dec. 22

"Holiday Small Works 2024" at Copley Society, 158 Newbury St.

Until Jan. 5

"Tools of the Trade: A Visual Love Letter by Samuel Bak" at Pucker Gallery, 240 Newbury St.

Until Jan. 6

"New & Noteworthy 2024" at Vose Galleries, 238 Newbury St.

Starts Dec. 6

"Carlo Russo Solo Show" at Sloane Merrill Gallery, 75 Charles St.

Starts Dec. 7

"Members Winter Exhibition and Holiday Small Works" at Guild of Boston Artists, 162 Newbury St.



Beacon Hill residents and Beacon Hill Civic Association members Michelle Lavers, Caterina Madeira and Matt Saradjian decorate West Cedar Street.
Photograph courtesy of Beacon Hill Civic Association

EVENTS

All month

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

This special, limited-time exhibition lands in Boston and runs through February 2025. The interactive tour that assigns visitors a passenger profile takes you through replicas of the ship's rooms and grand staircase, as well as authentic artifacts. Reserve ahead. \$39.50. The Castle at Park Plaza, 130 Columbus Ave.

All month

Frog Pond Skating

Take a spin around the iconic Frog Pond, which just opened for the season last month. It's the perfect activity for a kids' afternoon or date night. Rentals available. Boston Common Frog Pond. 617-635-2120

Dec. 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Girls Who Code

Wentworth Institute of Technology hosts this excellent free event that introduces the foundations of computer science to 12- to 17-year-old girls and nonbinary students through female role models in the field. Free. Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St. 617-536-5400

Dec. 3, 2-4 p.m.

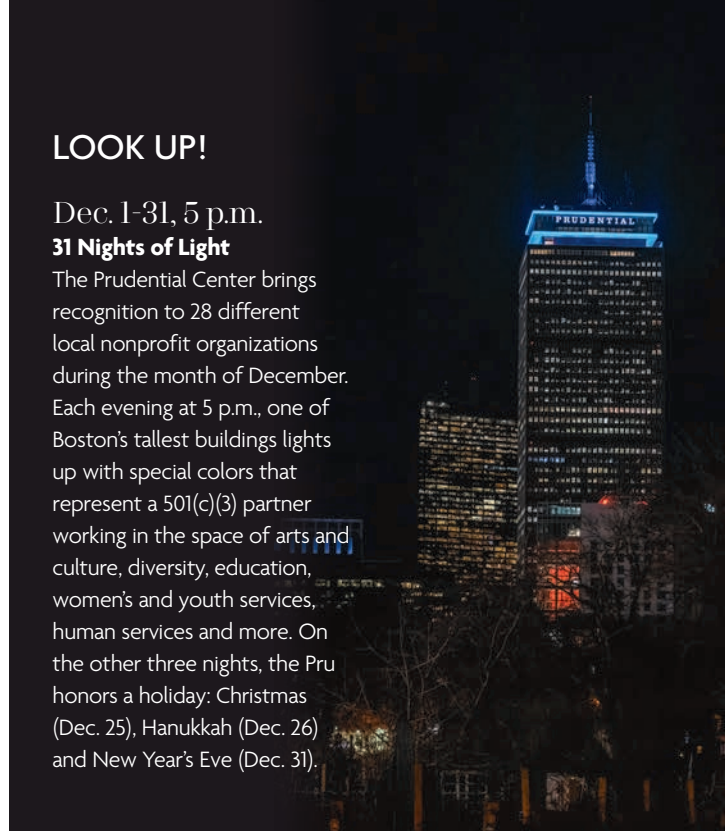
Boston Public Library Special Collections Open House: Food & Food Culture

Special Collections staff members share books, images and archival materials all related in some way to food. You can see these up close and ask questions. Free. 700 Boylston St. 617-859-2043

Dec. 5, 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Family Romance: John Singer Sargent & the Wertheimers

New England Biography Series



LOOK UP!

Dec. 1-31, 5 p.m.

31 Nights of Light

The Prudential Center brings recognition to 28 different local nonprofit organizations during the month of December. Each evening at 5 p.m., one of Boston's tallest buildings lights up with special colors that represent a 501(c)(3) partner working in the space of arts and culture, diversity, education, women's and youth services, human services and more. On the other three nights, the Pru honors a holiday: Christmas (Dec. 25), Hanukkah (Dec. 26) and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31).

The Pru lights up every night in December.
Photograph courtesy of Prudential Center

presents author and biographer Jean Strouse in a conversation about her new book "Family Romance," which examines 12 portraits of an English family painted by the Boston artist at the height of his career. Free. Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St. 617-646-0532

Dec. 8, 4 p.m.

A Little Mischief: A Midsummer Night's Dream Musical

Theater for Young Audiences Ensemble presents an original musical adaptation of this Shakespearean comedy featuring student performers, student orchestrations and a 12-piece band. Free. Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave.

Dec. 13, 12:30-2 p.m.

Botanical Talk and Tour

A horticulture staff member leads visitors through the Isabella Stewart Gardner

Museum's courtyard explaining the role of plants at the museum. A 60-minute guided gallery tour follows. 25 Evans Way. 617-566-1401

Dec. 16, 6-7 p.m.

Neurospicy Reads: A Book Group for ADHDers, Autistic Adults and Allies

Berklee College of Music and the BPL team up to offer this monthly nonfiction book discussion group for neurodivergent folks and their allies. The program centers around graphic novels, memoirs and self-help books with neurodivergence as a theme. Free. 700 Boylston St. 617-536-5400

Dec. 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Jewish Beacon Hill

Boston By Foot presents this special 1-mile walking tour that delves into Beacon Hill's Jewish heritage and includes a tour of the historic Vilna Shul. Visit the North Slope, learn how Jewish immigrants created a blended community, and see where they lived, worked and worshipped. 18 Phillips St. 617-367-2345