

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

Holiday Celebrations at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The Gardner Museum heralds the season with holiday flora, festive fare, holiday fêtes, a free day for all – and, this year, the museum's first-ever New Year's Eve celebration!



Artful Holidays at the Gardner | Saturday, December 5, 2009, 7-9:30pm

Artful Holidays at the Gardner: A Family Event | Sunday, December 6, 2009, 4:30-7:00pm

Gardner After Hours: Saturnalia | Thursday, December 17, 2009, 5:30-9:30pm

Lunar Reflections | *The Gardner's first New Year's Eve event!* | Thursday, December 31, 2009, **6-9:30pm **NEW TIME****

First Day Free (in honor of Frank Hatch) | Friday, January 1, 2010, 11am-5pm

A Holiday Garden & Holiday Menu at The Gardner Café | December 2009, all month

BOSTON, OCTOBER 13, 2009 (*Updated 11/25/09*) – An enchanting destination any day of the year, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is particularly magical during the holidays, when the courtyard is abloom with festive flora, and special evening events invoke Isabella Gardner's passion for entertaining. A celebrated hostess in turn-of-the-century Boston society, Isabella Gardner curated gatherings of notable artists, thinkers, and social luminaries in her private home as well as in the museum after it opened in 1903. Every holiday season, the Gardner Museum – inspired by Isabella Gardner's legacy of holiday entertaining – offers a variety of festive celebrations and holiday traditions in the unparalleled ambiance of her Venetian-inspired palazzo.

This year, the Gardner celebrates the season with several **holiday fêtes**, delighting all the senses with festive evenings of live music and sumptuous fare – including the museum's first-ever New Year's Eve soirée, **Lunar Reflections!** – and continues favorite holiday traditions with the return of the dramatic **holiday courtyard display**, a **festive seasonal dessert** at The Gardner Café inspired by Isabella Gardner's favorite recipes, and **free admission for all** on New Year's Day. A perfect respite from Boston's winter weather – and a must-see for visiting friends and family – the Gardner and its holiday events have become a quintessential part of the season in Boston.

A sampling of what awaits this year to tempt and delight all the senses in unparalleled Gardner fashion...

ALL-NEW HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE GARDNER
A New Year's Eve Soirée • Holiday Family Fête • After Hours Holiday Event for all!

New Year's Eve Celebration -- A Gardner first!

LUNAR REFLECTIONS: A Magical New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31, 2009, 6:00-9:30pm **NOTE NEW TIME******

Ticketed event (\$60 General Admission; \$40 Members)

Celebrate New Year's Eve in the unparalleled atmosphere of the Gardner Museum! For the first time, the museum hosts a special evening of art and music on December 31st in celebration of the full moon, the New Year, and a lunar courtyard project by Artist-in-Residence Taro Shinoda. End 2009 on a Zen note as you immerse yourself in Shinoda's extraordinary films of the moon and mysterious nocturnal cityscapes; explore many of the museum's atmospheric galleries; and enjoy wine, beer, and Japanese tea with Asian-inspired small bites alongside the courtyard. A special performance of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, featuring Paula Robison, Sooyun Kim, Alexis Lanz, David Fulmer, Eric Jacobsen, and Steven Beck will be presented in the Tapestry Room at **7:30pm** (limited seating available). *Cash bar and light snacks will be available for purchase until 9pm.*

Holiday Fêtes

ARTFUL HOLIDAYS AT THE GARDNER

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 7:00-9:30pm | *Ticketed event (617 391 3949)*

ARTFUL HOLIDAYS AT THE GARDNER: A FAMILY EVENT

Sunday, December 6, 2009, 4:30-7:00 pm | *Ticketed event (617 391 3949)*

Holiday celebrations at the Gardner Museum, with music, food, and art evoking the elegance of the Golden Age of entertaining, have become a Boston tradition. Set amidst the museum's enchanting poinsettia-laden courtyard and treasure-filled galleries, two festive parties – an evening event and daytime family event – treat guests of all ages to jubilant holiday music, sumptuous food and libations, caroling around the courtyard, and more. On Saturday evening, attendees will enjoy a special concert in the Tapestry Room by the acclaimed ensemble *A Far Cry*, the Gardner's newest chamber orchestra in residence, as well as other musical performances throughout the evening. Guests to the family event will delight in special performances geared towards children ages 10 and under by the Gerwick Puppets and the PALS Children's Chorus, among other activities.

Tickets are \$125/adult and \$50/child for museum members and available to non-museum members with the purchase of a new membership. Discounted rates available. Please call the membership office at 617 566 5643 for information and pricing.

After Hours with a Holiday Twist: Cocktails, Culture, Celebration

GARDNER AFTER HOURS: SATURNALIA • Thursday, December 17, 5:30-9:30 pm

Ticketed event (After Hours tickets \$12 and down; After Hours PLUS tickets-including concert admission-\$23 and down)

On the third Thursday in December, the Gardner opens its doors *After Hours* for a fun, edgy, festive holiday event presented as part of the museum's new *Gardner After Hours* series of evening events. A new kind of night out in Boston, *After Hours* is art, music, atmosphere, cocktails and more every third Thursday evening – and at just the price of museum admission (and free for museum members!), a fun and affordable way to celebrate the magic of the holiday season. This month, eat, drink and be merry – Roman style – in a nod to the Roman art and pagan imagery found throughout the museum. Gallery talks and exploration, live music from the courtyard, celebratory cocktails and a small plates menu from The Gardner Café, and jazz performance by the Annette Philip Quintet as part of *After Hours PLUS* add to the festive ambiance.

BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AT THE GARDNER
Holiday Flora, Festive Fare, and a FREE Day!

Holiday Flora

A HOLIDAY GARDEN (SEASONAL COURTYARD DISPLAY)

Late-November – Early-January (Annual)

In a beloved holiday tradition, the Gardner Museum's interior courtyard is transformed into a festive holiday paradise each December, adorned with winter berries, dozens of red poinsettias, flowering jade, jasmine trees, white azaleas and lady's slipper orchids. The perfect winter escape for gardening enthusiasts, a must-see for families and visiting relatives, and an ever-fragrant and flower-filled escape from the winter weather, the central courtyard is itself a work of art, an oasis of sun, greenery, and beauty—all year long—in the heart of Boston's only Venetian-inspired palazzo.

Holiday Fare

A HOLIDAY MENU AT THE GARDNER CAFÉ

December 1st – 31st (Annual)

Each holiday season, The Gardner Café offers diners special holiday-themed dishes inspired by the fare served by Isabella Gardner herself at a holiday dinner party in the Dutch Room in December 1904. Chef/Owner Peter Crowley gives Gardner's own holiday recipes and Victorian-era favorites a 21st century twist, serving up such sweet and savory delicacies in years past as *Filets de Sole Florentine*, *Fonds d'Artichauts* (Filets of sole with spinach and artichokes) and *Bombe Nelusko* (Chocolate and praline ice cream truffle). This year, the Café offers *Ginger and Walnut Christmas Bread Pudding with candied fruit and creme anglaise* -- a modern riff on Isabella Gardner's favorite holiday dessert recipes – for \$7.00.

The Gardner Café, located on the first floor of the museum, offers a full lunch and dessert menu Tuesdays through Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (closed on Mondays). Reservations are available for the 11:30 a.m. seating on weekdays and the 11:00 a.m. seating on weekends. The Café is open to visitors without museum admission, and employs a pager system so that guests may tour the galleries while waiting for a table. Call (617) 566-1088 for information and/or reservations.

FREE Day for All!

FIRST DAY FREE (IN HONOR OF FRANK HATCH) • January 1, 2010 (Annual) | FREE

Each New Years Day, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum offers a *FREE* day of museum admission in conjunction with Boston's First Night celebration and to kick-off the new year in style. The annual event honors Frank Hatch, former Board member and President of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, for his lifelong dedication to public service and the arts. The day includes free admission for all, art-making activities, and more.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM • 280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 • Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm; plus third Thursdays for After Hours events 5:30-9:30 pm • Admission: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 students; FREE members, children under 18, everyone on their birthday, and all named "Isabella" • \$2 off regular admission with a same-day Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, receipt • Box Office 617.278.5156, boxoffice@isgm.org • www.gardnermuseum.org • Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palazzo surrounding a flowering courtyard garden, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum houses one of the most remarkable art collections in the world, featuring works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Degas and Sargent. Special exhibitions, concerts, seasonal garden displays, lectures, and monthly evening events enrich the collection and continue to fire the imagination of all who visit.

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