

TRAVEL

Visit Boston this Summer to Experience America's Rich History

Being from Chicago, one doesn't sense a great deal of the past when walking the streets of the city. Yes, we have Clarke House, a



Mira Temkin

timber structure built in 1836, but it just can't compare with Boston, founded in 1630 by the Puritans. Here, American history is something you breathe in everywhere you go.

Omni Parker House – A Boston Landmark since 1855

From the moment we entered the Omni Parker House, we knew we'd arrived at someplace special. An air of romance pervades the oak-paneled lobby, and then we discover that Dickens called this hotel home when stateside. Or that Jack Kennedy proposed to Jacqueline in Parker's Restaurant, at the same table where we were sitting. Famous for its Parker House Rolls, Boston Scrod and Boston Cream Pie, the restaurant continues its rich tradition of culinary excellence.

The Omni Parker House remains America's longest continuously operating hotel, but it hardly rests on its laurels. This is modern luxury at its best. The recently renovated guest rooms blend authentic colonial decor with contemporary amenities. What's more, the hotel is located along the Freedom Trail, so it's walking distance to Beacon Hill, Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market.

With the Omni's special family packages and suites, you'll find it a great place to share

American history with your kids. Omnihotels.com/boston.

Walk the Freedom Trail

We took the 2½-mile walk along the Freedom Trail with a costumed guide who led us around 16 nationally significant historic sites. This was a great way to understand the people, places and events that led up to the American Revolution. It includes museums, churches, meeting houses, burial grounds and other sites that tell the story of our ancestors' fight for freedom. Our guide was extremely knowledgeable and passionate about American history and we came away with a renewed sense of pride. Thefreedomtrail.org.

Legal Seafood Harborside – What a Catch!

This new 20,000-square-foot flagship property is set right on the Boston Waterfront, comprising three floors and three restaurant concepts under one roof. There's good reason why Esquire Magazine named it of one of the "Best New Restaurants 2011." You can't get much fresher than fish being caught right out the window. We took in the view with a kalamata and fig spread, then dined on Pineland Farms Skirt Steak and Atlantic Salmon. How could we not end the meal with their fabulous Boston Cream Pie? Legalharborside.com

Eat, Drink and Be Merry at Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Built in 1742, the Marketplace combines the glories of Boston's past with urban sophistication. Where orators once stood speaking out against Britain, today you'll find shops, pushcarts and stands galore, including the largest international food hall in New England. Currently being renovated, Faneuil Hall reopens this spring.



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Visitors will enjoy walking Boston's Freedom Trail, complete with costumed guides.

Red Beantown Trolley Tour – Best Way to See it All

Take one of the Trolley Tours where you can enjoy a two-hour narrated tour or hop on and off at any of the 16 sites. Bostontours.us.com

Ways to Save More Beans

Stop by the two BosTix locations and save on theater, music and dance shows, or visit online at bostix.org.

Save on tickets for museums, Skywalk Observatory and more with the Boston City Pass at citypass.com.

For grins, take the Boston TV and Movie Sites Tour to see where "Cheers" and "Ally

McBeal" were made. Screentours.com.

Fill your summer with unforgettable experiences – visit Boston! Bostonusa.com.

Mira Temkin is a Highland-Park based freelance writer whose articles have appeared in Chicago Tribune, Family Time Magazine, and six-00-three-five magazine. In addition, she's a high-energy copywriter working with advertising and marketing services clients. Reach her at miratemkin@gmail.com.

Email questions and comments to editorial@whats happeningonline.com.

MADGUYS

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Contact Jim Ardito • Ardito Creative Enterprises (ACE)
(847) 902-6562 or arditoj@gmail.com

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Recent Happenings

- Loyola Academy senior **Carlin O'Brien** received the What's Happening! Newspaper Award during the Wilmette Arts Guild's Student Art Celebration and Scholarship Presentation, held Feb. 16 at the Wilmette Recreation Center. New Trier Township School District students received a variety of awards and certificates.
- Chuck Balling**, Executive Director of Glenview Park District for the past five years, was presented with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Fellow Award Jan. 27 at the association's annual conference. The award is given to a past or present park and recreation professional who has shown excellence in promoting the parks and recreation movement on a statewide basis. IPRA honored Balling based on his passion for parks and recreation and dedication as an industry advocate over his 35-year career.
- Congregation Beth Judea's Men's Club of Long Grove named Buffalo Grove resident **Jerry Sakol** its 2012 Man of the Year. The honor took place Feb. 19 at the Midwest Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs' Man of the Year Brunch, held at Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah in Wilmette. Sakol, a member of Beth Judea and its adult choir since 1994, is on its Board of Directors.
- Waukegan High School senior **Adrian Diaz** has been awarded the Presidential Environmental Youth Award. Diaz's project, Environmental Advocates Reaching Through Hearts (E.A.R.T.H.), was part of a certificate program offered by the Center for Conservation Leadership (CCL) at Lake Forest Open Lands Association. More than 400 bags of garbage were collected from Waukegan streets, parkways and open spaces.