



HURAnews

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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HURA experiments with Eventbrite for registrations

For some time, many HURA members have indicated that they would like the option of registering for events online and paying event fees and annual dues by credit card or PayPal. The HURA Board has authorized the exploratory use of a system called Eventbrite, a service that many other organizations use for event registrations and payments.

Eventbrite handles all of the functions of event registration and accepts payment of fees by credit card or PayPal. HURA members choosing to pay by check will register for the event through Eventbrite to reserve their places and will need to bring their personal check to the event for payment. Credit cards will not be accepted at the event itself, only personal checks made out to HURA.

HURA members do not need to sign up for Eventbrite or have their own personal account to be able to access the program registration forms. A link to Eventbrite registration for each event will be sent in an email program flyer. The signup process is simple and fast—and it's all online.

For our trial run, we are using Eventbrite as the registration tool for the MIT Museum tour on February 22nd. This tour is free so you will use Eventbrite only to reserve your spot for this exciting event. By the time you are reading this article, details have already been sent with the flyer to the HURA E-list.

As we switch to electronic program registrations, there will be unanticipated problems, so be patient—this is all new to us, too. And members who do not have email will continue to register by U.S. mail.

MIT Museum's exhibits

Delve into the experimental culture and collaborative spirit of the MIT community in this dynamic and interactive exploration of groundbreaking projects and ongoing innovation. Here are a few of the current exhibitions.

Mind the Gap: The irony of artificial intelligence is that it inspires new perspectives on human intelligence.

From AI in the home to robots in the workplace, the presence of AI all around us compels us to

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Notes in bottles 13 months to Ireland 26 years to France

HURA member Linda Collins reports that her message in a bottle found its way from East Falmouth, Mass. to Connemara, County Galway, in the west of Ireland!

"I released the bottle on August 20, 2022," she says. "It was found by the Lishman family in Ireland on September 15, 2023—13 months later."

"I received a sweet message from them saying, 'I believe we found a message in a bottle that you had sent to sea last year. Just wanted to let you know it was a very exciting find for our family.' I don't want to promote adding to the rubbish in the Gulf Stream gyre, but this one and done was pretty exciting for me, too!"

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508-243-2184
johnwcollinsiii@gmail.com

HURA MEMBERSHIP

Secretary: Carleen Farrell
617-285-9390
huramembership@gmail.com

HURA NEWS & E-LIST

Managing Editor: Malcolm Hamilton
781-641-2942
MCH12938@comcast.net

Editor: Ann Flentje
Editor: Ann Walter

Design/Production: Anne Parker

HURA WEBSITE

<https://HURA.Harvard.edu>

HURA FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook.com/HUretirees



MIT Museum
314 Main Street
Gambrell Center
Cambridge, MA 02142



MIT
MUSEUM

HURA visits the new MIT Museum

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Eventbrite tickets for HURA's tours of the new MIT Museum sold out (free) within just a few hours. Members who cannot attend with the group on February 22nd may still visit on their own.

The opening hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except some holidays. Cambridge residents enter free. Without HURA's subsidy, these are the entrance fees:

Adults \$18
Seniors (65+) \$15
Youth under 18 \$10
Child under 5 free

The new Museum in Kendall Square is a total reset: new building, new museum spaces, new galleries and exhibitions, new store, new brand, new website. <https://mitmuseum.mit.edu/>

314 Main Street, Building E-28, Gambrell Center
Cambridge, MA 02142

The museum is across from the MBTA Red Line station.
Driving is not recommended, but parking is available at
798 Main Street and 355 Main Street.

Also see a list of some of the current and permanent exhibitions in this issue on pages one and five.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 22, 10:00 & 10:50
MIT Museum, Gambrell Center, 314
Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02142.
Registration details were previously sent by email.

In process for later this spring

- Tour of Boston Athenaeum
- Trip to Arnold Arboretum

Monday, March 25, 1:00-4:00

Author talk: Cynthia Wight Rossano and

illustrator Mark Steele discuss Cynthia's latest book *Harvard & Cambridge: A Brilliance of Bells*, in the Living Room, Phillips Brooks House. Registration details will be sent by email or Eventbrite in early March.

Wednesday, June 5, 11:30-2:00:

Annual Meeting, Loeb House. Former provost, Prof. Harvey Fineberg, featured speaker. Details will be in *April/May/June HURA News*.

A jolly time at HURA's Holiday Luncheon



It is always a festive affair, and this year 165 HURA members and guests signed up. Conversations among friends old and new filled the air. The menu from Oakley Country Club's excellent kitchen brought only praise.



Marian Neutra and Sheila Nutt.



Caroline Jacobs, Kathy Coviello, and Cathy Downey.



Emily Moss and Barbara Cone.



Oles and Ginette Berleus and Gregston Maxwell. Ginette was excited to win the centerpiece at their table.



Sharing a laugh at this table.



The table decoration was gifted to one person seated at each table.

Now we don our gay apparel.

IN BRIEF

A Harvard degree

According to Jasmine N. Wynn '27, a Crimson Editorial "comper" who lives in Thayer Hall, eight United States presidents, 22 Supreme Court justices, and 29 Massachusetts governors have one thing in common: the transformative experience of a Harvard education.

Boston approves new Allston home for A.R.T.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency has approved an innovative new University project in Allston that will serve as the new home for the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) and will add 276 residential units as part of the complex.



Artist's rendering: American Repertory Theatre expects to open a new home and include residential units to the complex.

The 70,000 square-foot David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity and Performance will include two flexible performance spaces, rehearsal studios, teaching spaces, a spacious public lobby, and an outdoor performance yard. The 175 North Harvard Street project will also include a residential building that can accommodate about 500 Harvard affiliates in units ranging in size from studios to four-bedroom townhouses.

<https://tinyurl.com/hcv7d8mx>

Harvard College international enrollment rises

After the COVID recovery, Harvard College saw an increase in enrolled international students for the third year in a row, with demographic data from the enrolled Class of 2027 indicating a 32 % increase in international students compared to the Class of 2024.

The proportion of international students committed to the class each year has risen steadily from 11.8 % for the Class of 2024 to 15.6 % for the Class of 2027.

The number of countries represented among students admitted to the College has similarly risen each year, from 92 in the Class of 2024 to 102 in the Class of 2027.

To put this into perspective, there are 195 countries in the world

today. This total comprises 193 countries that are member states of the United Nations and 2 countries that are non-member observer states: the Holy See and the State of Palestine.

India and China combined represent about one-third of the world's population.

<http://tinyurl.com/32h49hvx>

Harvard-UCSF Study finds life expectancy gap between men and women

American men on average die nearly six years earlier than American women, according to a new Harvard School of Public Health and University of California, San Francisco study.

The report found that overall life expectancy in the United States has continued to drop as the gap between men and women grew to the largest it has been in nearly 30 years. Researchers pointed to the COVID pandemic and the opioid overdose epidemic as the factors behind the widening gap.

<http://tinyurl.com/4j7v6n4r>

Centigrade to Fahrenheit conversions

It was 30 degrees Centigrade in Brazil today. How hot is that?

There is a formula to convert Centigrade (also called Celsius) temperatures to Fahrenheit—and vice versa; double the Centigrade reading and add 30.

So, 30 degrees Centigrade x 2 equals 60, plus 30 equals 90 degrees Fahrenheit. It was 90 in Brazil.

You can do the reverse to find Centigrade when you have Fahrenheit: 76 degrees Fahrenheit minus 30 equals 46; divided by 2 equals 23 degrees Centigrade. That is, 76 degrees Fahrenheit is the same as 23 degrees Centigrade.

It's not exact, but close enough for most purposes, and more useful than you might think because Fahrenheit is used officially by only five countries in the world, the United States, Belize, Cayman Islands, Palau, and the Bahamas.

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U.S. Population projections

The U.S. population on New Year's day was 335,893,238. There is one birth every 9 seconds, one death every 10 seconds, and one international migrant (net) every 28 seconds—with a net overall gain of one person every 19 seconds.



The population is projected to reach a high of nearly 370 million in 2080 before edging downward to 366 million in 2100. By 2100, the total U.S. resident population is projected to increase only 9.7% from 2022, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau population projections. The projections provide possible scenarios of population change for the nation through the end of the century.

The 2023 National Population Projections is an update to the last series of projections, published in 2017, to account for the impact of COVID and to reflect the results of the 2020 Census as a base. It also extends the population projections to 2100, the first time since 2000 that the Census Bureau projections have stretched this far into the future.

Notes in bottles

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A similar bottle released into Nantucket Sound by Ben Lyons, then a 5th grader in Sandwich, Mass. in 1997, took 26 years to be picked up by a fisherman collecting trash on a beach in Les Sables-d'Olonne, a seaside town in western France, on the Atlantic Ocean between La Rochelle and Saint-Nazaire.

The Teacher's Secret



He was once quite a teacher
A thinking man
Respected and listened to
Even loved
But in the end became like all of us
A wobbly step
Yet unshaken
He'd sit on his porch as in a classroom
--I know a secret were his words
For neighbors passing
Who'd smile
Then one day a little girl came up
--Will you tell
And in the the gentlest
Sweetest voice the teacher said
--Look around you and see the rabbits
Eating quietly in the grass
And the squirrels digging nuts
And chasing in circles around a tree
And how the sparrows
Can make a whole bush sing
Isn't it beautiful
Isn't it beautiful

©Raymond Comeau, November 2023

MIT Museum's exhibits

Continued from page 1

question its potential and recognize the risks. What has become clear is that the more we advance AI technology and consider machine ability versus human ability, the more we need to mind the gap.

Gene cultures: As the pace of technological advances in the field of genetic discovery quickens, questions arise.

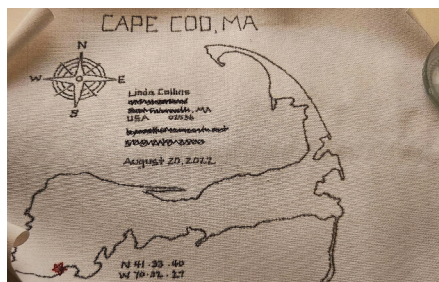
Who decides how and when transformative new biotechnologies will be used? What questions do we need to ask before making decisions leading to irrevocable results?

In Concert: Ganson & Cavatorta. Arthur Ganson's interactive, meditative sculptures have delighted and inspired thousands of MIT Museum visitors over the years, including artist Andy Cavatorta. For the first time, the work of these two artists is shown side-by-side in a harmony of sound and motion. Enjoy this unique gallery that connects and questions the overlapping worlds of art and science in this delightful pairing of two exceptional artists.

Modeling Everything: Models and model-making, both the objects and the action, are vital to every research area at MIT and to the life of the Institute itself. Explore a wide array of models for teaching, discovery, research, and documentation, from ships to crystal structures to architectural design.

Abbott's Super Sight: In 1939, relentless experimenter and inventor Berenice Abbott's new project allies photography with science.

You can read more about Ben's bottle at <https://tinyurl.com/ymd4tw3h>.



HEALTH MATTERS

COVID shots

The pandemic is over, but COVID is still among us. Late last fall, the National Immunization Survey reported that less than 20 % of American adults had received the updated coronavirus vaccine. Another 24.6% of adults said they will get vaccinated, but 37.6% said they probably or definitely will not.

Wastewater surveillance is showing very high levels of the virus circulating in all of New England. The current variant, JN.1, is a subvariant of omicron. While fast-spreading, it doesn't appear to be any more severe than earlier omicron subvariants, scientists have said. Nonetheless, the CDC urges that people aged 12 years

and older who got COVID vaccines before September 12, 2023, should get the new one as immunity wanes and the updated version better targets currently circulating strains.

<https://tinyurl.com/4v5w3h59>

Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA)

Medicare beneficiaries whose income is over \$103,000 (single) or \$206,000 (joint) will be charged extra for Parts B & D. The Social Security Administration determines the IRMAA based on the income reported two years prior, so it looks at 2022 tax returns to see if they must pay an IRMAA in 2024. (It had to make the calculation before the end of 2023, so 2022 was the last full year available.) See below.

IRMAA for 2024

Single	Married filing jointly	Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount	Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount
Less than or equal to \$103,000	Less than or equal to \$206,000	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greater than \$103,000 and less than or equal to \$129,000	Greater than \$206,000 and less than or equal to \$258,000	\$69.90	\$12.90
Greater than \$129,000 and less than or equal to \$161,000	Greater than \$258,000 and less than or equal to \$322,000	\$174.70	\$33.30
Greater than \$161,000 and less than or equal to \$193,000	Greater than \$322,000 and less than or equal to \$386,000	\$279.50	\$53.80
Greater than \$193,000 and less than \$500,000	Greater than \$386,000 and less than \$750,000	\$384.30	\$74.20
Greater than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than or equal to \$750,000	\$419.30	\$81.00

RSV

RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) affects about 64 million people and causes some 160,000 deaths every year. There are now three new products available for the prevention of RSV.

“RSV can be a nasty respiratory virus,” says William Hanage, associate director at the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “It can cause very serious illness, hospitalization, and death.”

How many people get the flu?

During the 2022–2023 U.S. flu season, approximately 31.91 million people had flu symptoms and about 21,410 people died from the flu.

The CDC estimated that the 2017–18 flu season had the highest number of flu deaths in more than a decade: 52,000. The lowest was the 2020–21 flu season, with 4,900 deaths. During the pandemic, more people were masked and avoided group settings, so flu instances were lower.

CDC report on tuberculosis

Commonly known as Consumption, tuberculosis (TB) killed one in seven people in the United States in the 1800s, so we've come a long way from the previous pandemic, but TB still exists.

The reported number of cases in the United States increased from 7,870 cases in 2021 to 8,331 cases in 2022, a 5.9% increase.

The national TB incidence rate increased from 2.4 cases per 100,000 persons in 2021 to 2.5 cases per 100,000 in 2022.

As in past years, cases of TB disease were not evenly distributed across the United States. Four states

Continued to next page

When should an older driver stop driving?

Be alert to red flags suggesting that a family member—or you—should consider hanging up the keys.

How safe are older drivers on the road?

Fatal traffic accidents have risen in both young drivers and older drivers, according to data from the National Safety Council.

- Fatalities occurring in crashes involving a driver ages 15 to 20 rose nearly 10% between 2020 and 2021, accounting for 5,565 deaths.

- Among drivers 65 or older, fatalities rose 15% between 2020 and 2021, accounting for more than 8,200 deaths.

While younger drivers may be inexperienced or more likely to be distracted or reckless, older drivers often overestimate their driving abilities. That may be one reason many unsafe older drivers continue to drive despite failing driving skills.

Per mile driven, the rate of motor vehicle accidents is higher for drivers ages 80 and older than for almost every other age group, according to the Insurance



Institute for Highway Safety. Only the youngest drivers have higher rates. And the rate of fatal motor vehicle accidents per mile driven is higher for drivers aged 85 and older than for every other age group.

Find the red flags to watch for in this article from *Harvard Health Publishing* by Robert H. Shmerling, MD, senior faculty editor, at <https://tinyurl.com/4k7v38nc>.

Continued from page 6
account for half of all reported U.S. cases: California, Texas, New York (including New York City), and Florida.

Cost per dose

Ever wonder what those free shots for COVID, pneumonia, RSV, or other conditions cost? The CDC Vaccine Price List might surprise you. It shows the CDC cost per dose and the private sector cost per dose. For instance, Pfizer's new COVID shot costs the CDC \$85.10 and private sector purchasers \$115. Pevnar 20 is \$176.83 and \$253.21. There are three available for RSV. Abrysvo by Pfizer is \$219.72 and \$295 per dose.

Find the whole list at <http://tinyurl.com/ycxzvy34>.

Shingles vaccine

It has been called a spectacularly successful vaccine, and the CDC recommends people 50 and older get two doses of the Shingrix vaccine, regardless of whether they've had a shingles outbreak in the past or received the previous shingles vaccine (Zostavax) that is no longer used in the U.S.

Age ready homes: Perception vs. reality of aging-accessibility needs

To examine whether U.S. homes are prepared for an aging population,

the Census Bureau prepared a report that shows the number of housing units with select aging-accessible features. It examines the number of households with older adults who have difficulty using some feature of their home and how their demographic and economic characteristics differ from those who report no difficulty. The report also looks at older adults' beliefs and expectations about aging in place. Do older adults think their home meets their aging-accessibility needs and do they plan to renovate in the near future to prepare their home for those needs?

Find the full report at <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p23-219.pdf>.

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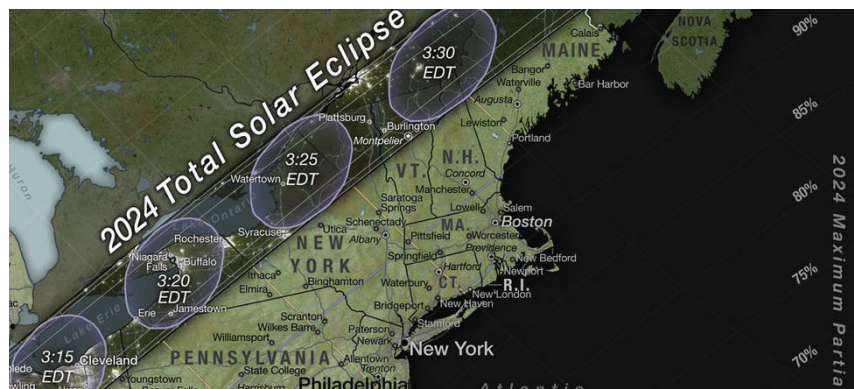
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Coming: total solar eclipse

On April 8, a total solar eclipse will blot out the sun across a wide swath of North America for the first time since 2017. The eclipse will begin in Mazatlán, Mexico, and sweep across 13 U.S. states from Texas to Maine. In some places, total darkness could last up to four and a half minutes.



People in northern New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine will get spectacular views.

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/mryxfdv> and <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com>.

HURA is a tax-exempt 501 (c) 7 all-volunteer organization. Membership is open to benefits-eligible retirees of Harvard University and is complimentary until the renewal period the following June 30. Thereafter dues are \$20 annually. Visit HURA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HUretirees or at www.HURA.harvard.edu.