

# Home Education Day at the State House - April 25, 2005

Sponsored by **Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts** €

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## How to register

We're glad that you are interested in joining us on April 25! To register, please:

- print and fill out the attached **registration form**,
- write **check** for any payment due and
- return it all in an envelope addressed to **AHEM, PO Box 1307, Arlington, MA 02474**.

Mailed registrations must be postmarked no later than **April 10, 2005**. Registration confirmation will be sent via email (preferred) or enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope or postcard.

## Letters to legislators

Upon receipt of your registration form, we will email or mail you two letters, one addressed to your state senator, one to your state representative, inviting them to come to the reception at the State House on Monday, April 25. Please feel free to personalize them – change the wording, make any corrections or additions, have the kids sign too if you like – and have each adult who plans to be there on Monday morning sign each one. Address an envelope for each one and affix 37¢ stamps. Send these letters to your legislators and let us know that you have done so by emailing [info@ahem.info](mailto:info@ahem.info). This way we will be able to keep track of which legislators have been invited by constituents.

## Displays

**How you can be featured on Home Education Day!**

**Get your display items in NOW before space is gone.**

Do you have photos, drawings, programs, portfolios, articles, event flyers, newsletters, certificates, news articles, or other items relating to your homeschooling life? Would you like to show them off at the State House on Home Education Day? We want to showcase achievements, activities, lifestyles, and accomplishments of Massachusetts homeschoolers.

The list below represents suggestions and ideas and does not preclude submission of other appropriate items. Exhibits will be broken down into the following categories:

- Sports: individual and team sports, homeschool teams, town teams, elite leagues.
- Fine Arts: Visual arts, dance, music, theater, creative writing.
- College/Academics: Awards, portfolios, acceptance letters.
- Civic Involvement: Volunteerism, internships, community service.
- Support Groups: Newsletters, photos/descriptions of activities.

Another simple and effective way to participate in the displays is to create a submission for Massachusetts homeschoolers albums. To have a page in one of these albums, submit a flat, 8.5 x 11" page with a one-inch left-hand margin. Adorn your page with photographs, drawings, calligraphy, collage, or any other representation of you and/or your homeschooling life. Your page might describe your accomplishments, explain what homeschooling means to you, discuss the challenges and rewards of homeschooling, or anything else you'd like to share about homeschooling.

While AHEM would love to display every item we receive, there are space limitations. We will do our best to represent the full spectrum of submissions. Unfortunately, we cannot return display items, so send only things you can part with, or make copies.

The displays are intended to promote education and awareness of homeschooling families and grassroots activities in the state. Advertisements or information relating to businesses will not be accepted for display.

For more information about submitting, email [info@ahem.info](mailto:info@ahem.info) or call 781-648-5579.

### Accommodations for out-of-towners

We have arranged for a group rate for people to stay Sunday night, April 24, at Hawthorn Suites, 1 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA, <http://www.hawthorn.com/>.

The hotel features spacious suites, full or efficiency kitchens, exercise facilities, video cassette players, on-site guest laundry, and daily complimentary hot breakfast buffet.

Queen Suite (Studio: Queen bed, sofa bed, microwave, fridge) \$94

King Suite (One bedroom: King bed, sofa bed, microwave, fridge, stovetop, door in between rooms) \$114

In addition, a 9.7% state and local tax will be added.

**To book at these special rates**, call 781-643-7258 before April 10. Specify name of group: "Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts (AHEM)." Special rate will be applied.

### APRIL 24, 2005

#### Sunday afternoon options: Explore Lexington & Concord

Minute Man National Historic Park Visitor Center, <http://www.nps.gov/mima/touringmima.html>.

Free. Watch the acclaimed program, "The Road to Revolution," a 26-minute multi-media presentation detailing the events of April 18-19, 1775, shown daily every half hour, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Obtain park newspaper and brochure and continue your explorations.

**National Heritage Museum:** A true discovery for anyone fascinated by American history and culture. Changing [exhibitions](#), from thematic shows such as Enterprising Women: 250 Years of Business or New England Neon to collections of toys, costumes, furniture, photographs, and paintings, thrill visitors from throughout the country and around the world. **Free admission and parking.** 33 Marrett Rd. (Route 2A), Lexington, MA 02421 <http://www.monh.org/>

AHEM has arranged for an optional educational program at the museum for which you must sign up in advance. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The program begins at 2 PM, cost \$4/child, and lasts 90 minutes:

#### Colonial Kids – for ages 5- 9

Travel in time back to Lexington's past! What was life like for children in colonial New England? How did kids help on the family farm? What was a day at school like? What did they do for fun? Try on colonial children's clothes, play with toys, and use household objects in our kitchen.

Parents are welcome to stay and quietly watch the program, or explore the museum with siblings from 2:00 – 3:30 PM. However, if parents want to take part in the program, they must pay the \$4 fee. Since space is limited and preference will be given to children, adults will be permitted as participants in the programs only after the registration deadline has passed, if space allows. Please note on your registration form if you would like to be put on the waiting list as an adult.

**The Concord Museum:** Concord, Massachusetts is a community rich in historical association, renowned as the site of the battle that began the American Revolution and as the home of the most original thinkers and writers of the American literary renaissance. The Concord Museum is

the one place where all of Concord's remarkable past is brought to life – Algonkians, Puritans, Revolutionaries, Loyalists, Farmers, Silversmiths, Transcendentalists, Cabinetmakers, Anti-Slavery Activists, Mill-Workers.

**Highlights of the Museum's renowned collection include:**

- The “one, if by land, and two, if by sea” lantern, immortalized by Longfellow's *Paul Revere's Ride*.
- Artifacts from the American Revolution, including powder horns, muskets, cannonballs and fifes
- The world's largest collection of Thoreau possessions, including furnishings from his cabin at Walden Pond
- The contents of Ralph Waldo Emerson's study where he wrote his influential essays

Free parking. 200 Lexington Road, Concord, MA. <http://www.concordmuseum.org/>.

AHEM has arranged for an optional group tour of the museum geared for **ages 10+** for which you must sign up in advance. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The program begins at 1:00 PM, discounted cost \$5, and lasts one hour:

**Our visit will include**

- Viewing the Museum's new 14-minute film, “Exploring Concord.” This exceptional documentary connects the exhibition to specific natural and cultural landscapes in town, uncovering the many layers of historical significance. A driving/walking tour brochure is available to guide visitors to the sites featured in the film.
- Exploring the museum galleries, with special focus on Thoreau and Emerson.
- Meeting with Henry Thoreau in person (or at least a reasonable facsimile of him).

Parents are welcome to take part in the program if they pay the \$5 fee. Space is limited.

**Other Attractions in the area include**

- The Old Manse [http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/346\\_old\\_manse.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/346_old_manse.cfm) (978) 369-3909
- The Orchard House, <http://www.louisamayalcott.org/>, (978) 369-4118
- Liberty Ride, <http://liberty.th.net/libertyride.html>, (781) 862-0500x702
- Walden Pond State Reservation, <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/wldn.htm>, 978 369-3254

Find **activities for students** as well as a comprehensive guide to lesson plans tied to the American Revolution here: <http://www.nps.gov/revwar/>.

Find information on **Henry David Thoreau** here <http://www.thoreau.niu.edu/>, or here [www.thoreausociety.org](http://www.thoreausociety.org) and info on **Ralph Waldo Emerson** here <http://www.rwe.org/>.

**Sunday dinner**

Your choice to have dinner in your suite at the hotel, or at one of the many restaurants in Arlington or Cambridge. Click here for a selection of ones close to the hotel and to the Sunday evening entertainment in Arlington center:

<http://www.arlcc.org/subdirectory.php?MAIN=85&SUB=-1>

**Sunday evening entertainment**

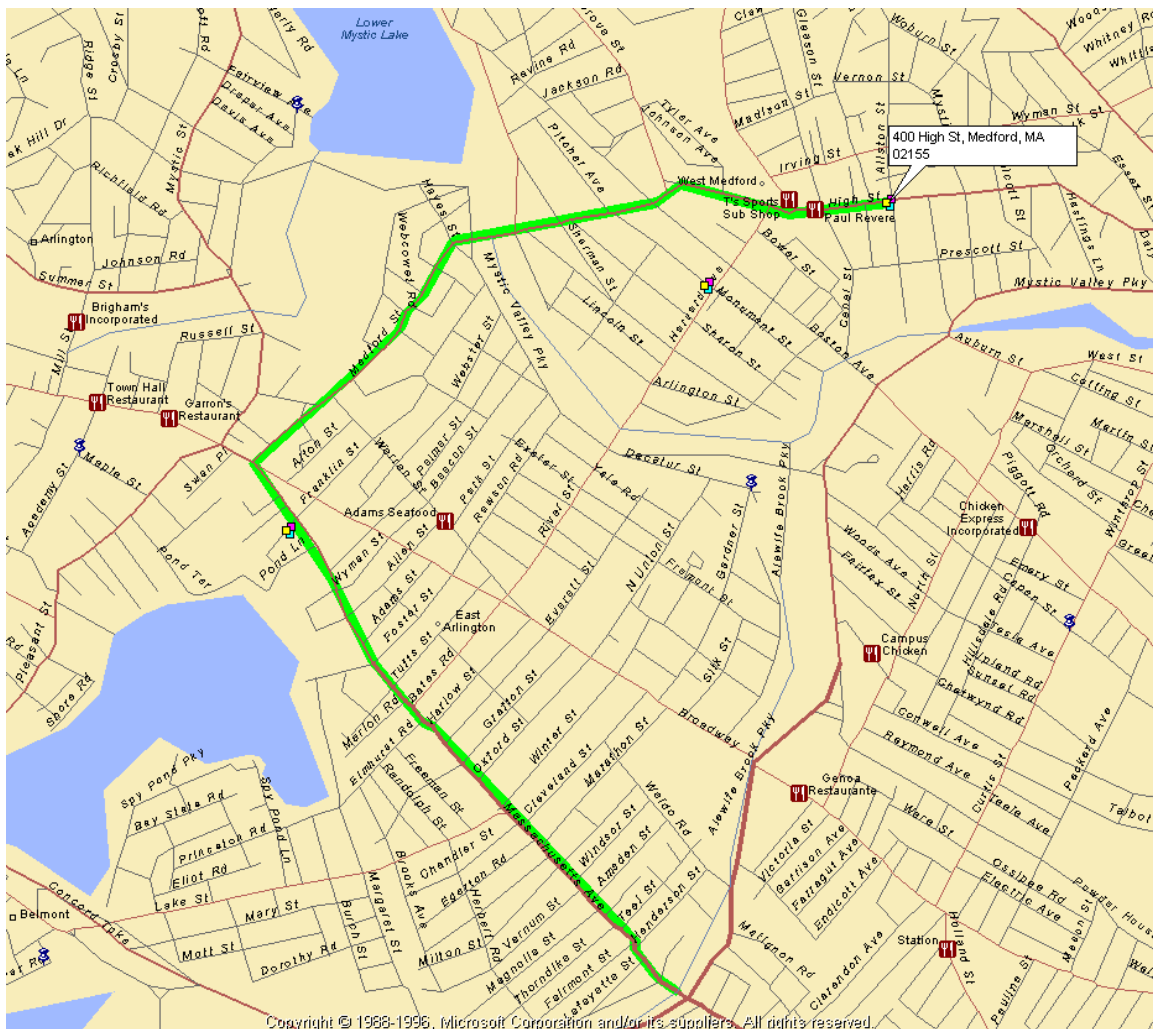
Kick up your heels, clap your hands, or just listen as we do-si-do in traditional New England contra, square, and folk dances. Inexperienced? Don't worry. Dances will be geared to beginners

and families. Don't like to dance? Come watch, listen, and socialize with other homeschoolers from around the state in an informal, relaxed, fun setting. Delicious goodies will be for sale to benefit AHM.

Free with pre-registration; \$5 at the door, \$10 family maximum. At the West Medford Congregational Church, 400 High St., Medford.

Directions: To get to Medford from Arlington, you will have to go “over the river”—yes *that* river—see historical note below. Not so many woods around here anymore though.

- From the corner of Route 16 (Alewife Brook Pkwy.) and Mass. Ave., drive toward the center of Arlington on Mass. Ave.;
- At the fifth traffic light, make a right onto Medford St. (Starbucks on the corner);
- Pass the Regent Theatre, stay to the right, and merge onto Route 60 East (still Medford St.);
- At rotary, take 2<sup>nd</sup> exit e.g. go straight, staying on Route 60 East;
- Go over the river, at rotary take 2<sup>nd</sup> exit, remaining on Route 60 (now called High St.);
- The church at 400 High St. is two blocks past the railroad tracks. You can park on High St. or on a side street, but avoid resident only parking spaces.



*Historical note:* Lydia Maria Child was an abolitionist and writer in the mid-1800s. Growing up in Medford during a time when it was unpopular to be an abolitionist, and hard to gain respect as a female writer, she was both. Many books and poems are unpublished, but her most popular published poem was “Over the River and Through the Wood” which was originally titled, “A Boy’s Thanksgiving Day.” She wrote this poem about her own trip to her grandfather’s house on

South Street in Medford. Her house, which was built in 1828, still stands today on the corner of Salem and Ashland Streets in Medford. *From [www.medford.org/History/book/1.htm#hist](http://www.medford.org/History/book/1.htm#hist).*

<http://www.medford.org/History/book/child.htm>

[http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio\\_child\\_lydia\\_maria.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_child_lydia_maria.htm)

**APRIL 25, 2005**

**Monday morning**

**Riding the T to the State House**

If you are staying at Hawthorn Suites, it's OK to leave cars parked at the hotel for the day. Leave the hotel around 9:00 AM and catch the #79 bus across Mass. Ave. from the hotel. Bus fare is 90 cents/adult, children aged 5-11 pay half fare. Take it to the end of the line, a short ride to Alewife Station. PDF bus schedule:

[http://www.mbta.com/traveling\\_t/schedules\\_buses\\_pdfschedules.asp](http://www.mbta.com/traveling_t/schedules_buses_pdfschedules.asp).

At Alewife Station, take the Red Line inbound to Park Station. Subway fare is \$1.25/adult (you will need to buy a token), children aged 5-11 pay half fare (use change).

When you come out of the Park Street subway station, you will be on Boston Common. Look to your left and you will see your destination: the gold-domed State House.

**Home Education Day at the State House!**

10:00 AM - noon Legislators' reception

At our reception in the Great Hall, you will be able to meet legislators, peruse displays showcasing the achievements and activities of Massachusetts homeschoolers, and chat with fellow homeschoolers. Light refreshments will be served. There will be opportunities to sit in on whatever legislative sessions should be scheduled that day. Come experience history, art, and the excitement of our state government in action!

11:30 AM State House tours

Tour our magnificent State House, a building which Oliver Wendell Holmes called "the hub of the solar system." The oldest building on Beacon Hill, the State House is brimming with history, art, and culture. Within its grandiose architecture are statues, paintings, flags from almost every town and city in Massachusetts, and, of course, legislators from the same. Tours last approximately 30 – 45 minutes and include an overview of the history and architecture of the State Capitol. Please register in advance so we can be sure to have enough tours scheduled to accommodate everyone who would like to go.

Websites:

**Secretary of the Commonwealth's Kids' Zone**

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/ciskid/kididx.htm>

**Interactive State House: an evolving collection of online history resources**

<http://www.mass.gov/statehouse/index.htm>

**Tips for Connecting with Legislators**

<http://www.ahem.info/TipsforConnectingwithLeg.htm>

## Monday afternoon

Lunch on your own. There are many options.

**Public Garden:** For families with young children a nice choice might be to picnic in the Public Garden, followed by a ride on the Swan Boats <http://www.swanboats.com/> and visit to the *Make Way for Ducklings* statues.

**Freedom Trail:** Or start the Freedom Trail and find lunch along the way, perhaps at one of the many options in the food court at Faneuil Hall.

The Freedom Trail is a 2.5 mile red brick or red painted line that travels through Beacon Hill, downtown Boston, the North End, and Charlestown. The Trail itself is an outdoor experience, but the sites it leads you to should be entered to be fully appreciated. Walking is easy and pleasant for able-bodied people of all ages.

The National Parks Boston Downtown Visitor Center, 15 State St., right in the heart of Boston, distributes free maps, brochures, and information on the Freedom Trail and the Boston area. Eastern National Bookstore sells books, maps, historical toys, and reproductions.

A free public Freedom Trail tour that accommodates 30 people leaves from here at 2:00 PM, first come, first served. Rangers will distribute free stickers 30 minutes before tour time.



Location of Downtown Visitor Center, 15 State Street

**Paul Revere House:** 19 North Square, Boston, on the Freedom Trail in Boston's North End. Follow the signs and the red line on the sidewalks; ten minutes from Faneuil Hall / Quincy Market. <http://www.paulreverehouse.org/>

On the night of April 18, 1775, silversmith Paul Revere left his small wooden home in Boston's North End and set out on a journey that would make him into a legend. Today that home is still standing at 19 North Square and has become a national historic landmark. It is downtown Boston's oldest building and one of the few remaining from an early era in the history of colonial America.

**Site Visit, 3:00 PM or 3:30 PM:** Outside the Revere House, a member of the museum staff tells the story of Revere's ride and presents a brief history of his home. Inside the building, museum staff provide a fascinating glimpse into everyday life for the Revere family, describing the intriguing furnishings and personal artifacts on display. Plenty of time is available for questions. Space is limited; pre-registration required. *You will be notified which tour you've been assigned to once you register.*

**Time:** 30 - 45 minutes

**Fee:** 75 cents per student 5-17, \$2.50 per adult.

## Boston and Cambridge Attractions

Perhaps you or your group would like to make this a multi-interest home education field trip and visit some of the following while you're in town. We've given MBTA stops for each. See MBTA map below to find the stops listed.

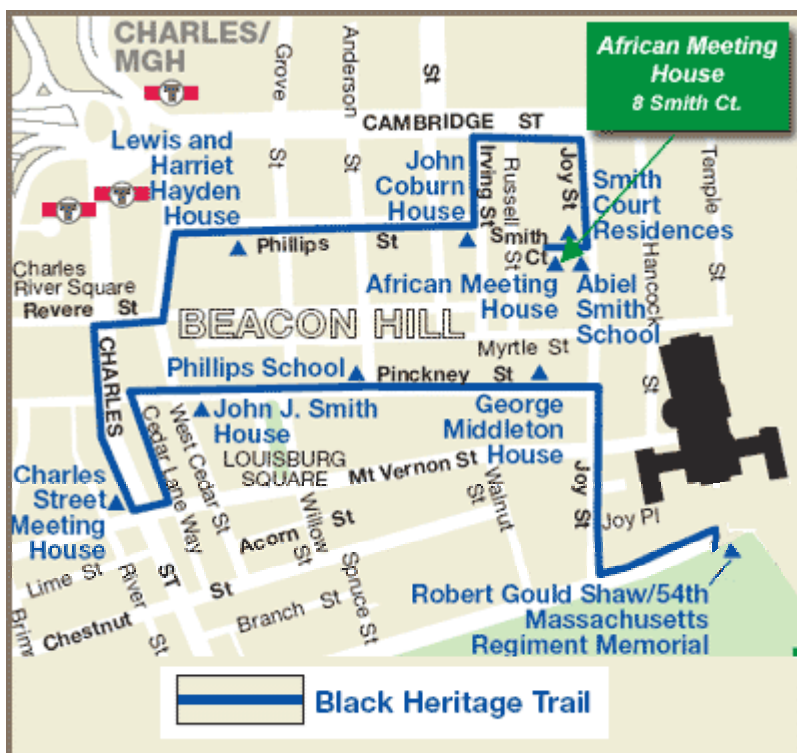
### Boston

**The Freedom Trail:** Beginning on Boston Common where hordes of red-clad British troops once trained, the redbrick Freedom Trail connects 16 of Boston's most storied landmarks that changed America's history forever. Wind your way through the same narrow streets Ben Franklin once walked. Re-live the mayhem of the Boston Tea Party. Listen closely and you'll still hear the shouts of protest reverberating through Faneuil Hall. Freedom Trail maps are free at the National Parks Boston Downtown Visitor Center, 15 State St. A free public Freedom Trail tour that accommodates 30 people leaves from here at 2:00 PM, first come, first served. Rangers will distribute free stickers 30 minutes before tour time. <http://www.iboston.org/pap/freedom.htm>

**Boston African American National Historic Site:** 8 Smith Court, Boston, MA 02114-4007. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Boston's Beacon Hill was home to a vibrant African-American community. Composed of 14 historic sites, the 1.6 mile walking trail tells a vivid story about the lives of free African Americans and white abolitionists whose efforts helped change the nation. A self-guided walking tour map is available.

At the corner of Park Street and Tremont Street, turn left and follow the Freedom Trail along the path until you see the gold dome of the Massachusetts State House. Cross Beacon Street; Joy Street is to the left of the State House. Follow Joy Street for .25 mi; Smith Court will be on your left. Self-guided tours can be conducted at any time, Monday through Sunday. Maps and site brochures can be obtained at the African Meeting House (8 Smith Court) during site hours or at the Boston Common Visitors Center, Tremont St.

**Telephone:** (617) 725 0022; **Website:** [www.afroammuseum.org](http://www.afroammuseum.org); **Transport:** Park Street subway station on the Red Line.



**Swan Boats:** Boston Public Garden. A Boston tradition operated by The Paget Family since 1877. Peaceful 15-minute paddleboat cruise of the Boston Public Garden lagoon. The only boats of their kind in the world. Inspired by the opera Lohengrin, a medieval German story of a knight who crosses a river in a boat to save his princess.

**Telephone:** 617-522-1966; **Website:** [www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com); **Transport:** Arlington Street subway station on the Green Line.

**Museum of Fine Arts:** 465 Huntington Ave. The MFA, a Boston institution since 1876, has occupied its current residence on Huntington Avenue since 1909. The museum houses a landmark Far Eastern art collection and a spectacular section of ancient Egyptian artifacts, in addition to its other fine galleries displaying European and American paintings, prints and sculptures. **Telephone:** 617-267-9300 **Website:** <http://www.mfa.org/> **Transport:** Museum of Fine Arts stop on the Green Line “E” train.

**New England Aquarium:** Central Wharf, Boston. Two thousand species of exotic fish, sharks, and sea turtles in giant ocean tank; penguin colony; hands-on tide pool exhibit; seal and sea otter tanks; IMAX Theatre. **Telephone:** 617-973-5200 **Website:** [www.newenglandaquarium.org](http://www.newenglandaquarium.org) **Transport:** Aquarium stop on the Blue Line.

**Museum of Science:** 1 Science Park, Boston. More than 400 participatory exhibits, from astronomy to zoology; Planetarium; Omni Theatre (reservations recommended, separate fee), films projected onto a four-story screen. We have more than 550 interactive exhibits, plus live presentations, planetarium shows, brunch, and Boston’s only 180-degree domed movie screen, the Mugar Omni Theater. Come let your mind play.

Your family can go on a “field trip” to the Museum at these rates if you follow these guidelines: Reservations by PHONE only. **Call Science Central to reserve at least 24 hours in advance.** All field trips must include Exhibit Halls admission, unless otherwise noted. Rates are per person: students, chaperones, and teachers. Teachers Free [one parent per homeschooling family counts as a teacher], Students and Chaperones: \$6.50 each. Chaperones and teachers may park cars in the Museum garage for flat fee of \$3. Multiple visits: If you return with the same students, you receive 50% off Exhibit Halls admission. When making reservations, inform Science Central that you will be visiting more than once with your students.

**Telephone:** 617-723-2500 **Website:** [www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org) **Transport:** Government Center stop on the Green line, transfer to shuttle bus to Science Park stop.

**Children’s Museum:** 300 Congress St., Boston. Imaginative, interactive exhibits that combine learning and fun: Japanese House, Climbing the Walls, Science Playground, ZoomZone, AIRPlay, and PlaySpace (just for babies and toddlers).

**Telephone:** 617-426-8855 **Website:** [www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org) **Transport:** South Station stop on the Red Line.

## Cambridge

Harvard Square and its lively cafes, shops, and nightclubs. A mouth-watering collection of ethnic restaurants in Harvard, Central, and Inman squares. The city’s vast array of bookstores – more than 30 at last count.

**Welcome to Harvard Square:** <http://www.harvardsquare.com/>

**Fogg Art Museum,** 32 Quincy St., Cambridge. The Fogg Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1895, is Harvard’s oldest art museum. Around its Italian Renaissance courtyard, based on a sixteenth-century façade in Montepulciano, Italy, are galleries illustrating the history of Western

art from the Middle Ages to the present, with particular strengths in Italian early Renaissance, British pre-Raphaelite, and nineteenth-century French art.

**Telephone:** 617-496-8576 **Website:** <http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/fogg/> **Transport:** Harvard stop on the Red Line.

**Harvard Museum of Natural History**, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge. The HMNH galleries present both permanent and changing exhibitions that draw from the collections of the parent museums. Exhibition highlights include the unique *Glass Flowers* collection, the historic Hall of Mammals, Romer Hall of Vertebrate Paleontology, and extraordinarily comprehensive displays of minerals, rocks, ores and meteorites.

**Telephone:** 617-495-3045 **Website:** <http://www.hmnh.harvard.edu/> **Transport:** Harvard stop on the Red Line

**Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology**, 11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge. Founded in 1866, the Peabody Museum is one of the oldest museums in the world devoted to anthropology and houses one of the most comprehensive records of human cultural history in the Western Hemisphere.

**Telephone:** 617-496-1027 **Website:** <http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/> **Transport:** Harvard stop on the Red Line.

**Getting back to the hotel:** If you decide to stop in Harvard Square on the way home from Boston, you can either continue on the Red Line to Alewife Station and take the #79 bus back to Hawthorn Suites, or you can take the #77 bus directly from Harvard Square back to the hotel. It travels up Mass. Ave and stops right in front of the hotel.



## MBTA: Tips for T Riders

**Inbound** is always toward downtown Boston, and **Outbound** is away from it. In the subway system, Inbound is toward four stations: Park Street, State, Downtown Crossing and Government Center. (Within those four stations, Inbound and Outbound are not used.) The MBTA Information Booth is located at Park Street (on the Green Line Westbound platform).

## Red Line Tips

Most Red Line trains stop at all stations between Alewife and Andrew, including Harvard and Park Street. During rush hours, some trains may terminate at Park Street. The last transfer point between the two Red Line branches (Braintree and Ashmont) is at JFK/UMass.

## Bus Tips

- Before boarding, know your bus! The destination sign above the windshield shows the bus's **route number** and **destination**. At some stops, all buses on a route stop to pick up passengers, no matter which direction they're going. Be sure to board the right bus by checking the destination sign or asking the operator.
- Most local routes are 90¢. The fare boxes accept passes, cash or tokens. Please avoid using dollar bills if at all possible.
- All buses are pay-as-you-board, except routes 71, 72 and 73 when heading Outbound. Pay when leaving these routes.
- You can make service move faster for everyone if you exit at the rear of the bus instead of the front. Thanks!



## Supporting AHEM

### Why donate to us?

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts (AHEM) is a nonprofit, independent, grassroots, volunteer-run, educational organization that gathers and disseminates information about homeschooling in Massachusetts through education, advocacy, and events. We believe that informed and active homeschoolers are their own best advocates in maintaining the right to independently homeschool. We welcome and value the participation of anyone interested in homeschooling in Massachusetts.

We understand that you work hard for your money and that you cannot give to every organization that you come across. Please consider:

- **Your donations keep this organization up and running.** Like every other nonprofit organization, we have costs which include maintaining our website, our PO box, photocopying, postage, etc., as well as sponsoring special events, such as Home Education Day.
- **Your donations go farther.** We understand that you want as much of your donation as possible to go towards the mission of Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc. For example, all of our members of the board of directors are volunteers who donate their time and energy and do so without compensation. When we do spend money, we do our best to make sure that we have found the most efficient and effective option that uses the least amount of resources.

### How to Donate

Please make out your checks to “Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc.” and send them to the following address:

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc.,  
PO Box 1307  
Arlington, MA 02474

### About the Deductibility of Your Contribution

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

### For further information

For further information about Home Education Day at the State House, please visit <http://www.ahem.info/>, email us at [info@ahem.info](mailto:info@ahem.info), or call 781-641-0566.

### Hope to see you on April 25!

*~The Home Education Day at the State House Planning Committee*