



Artist creates outdoor labyrinth exhibit at Hebrew College

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Taste of Somerville is ready to launch

More than 40 vendors expected at June 11 event

Joanna K. Tzouvelis
Wicked Local
USA TODAY NETWORK

With a variety of restaurants offering cuisine from throughout the world — including Los Amigos Taqueria, Juliet and Café Saint-Germain — Somerville has

become a destination for foodies.

That makes next month's Taste of Somerville, which will feature more than 40 food and beverage vendors from the city and its surrounding communities, all the more enticing. The event takes place from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11 (rain date is June 12), at Boynton Yards science and innovation campus in Union Square.

This outdoor food and beverage festival, in its 27th year, is organized by the

Somerville Chamber of Commerce and benefits the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

"There are so many diverse restaurants that Somerville has really become, in my opinion, like a food mecca capital," said Wendy Dalwin, executive director of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce.

People who attend will experience the best of what Somerville offers, she added. "This is a culinary delight for ev-

erybody."

There is public parking at Boynton Yards or you can take the Union Sq Line to the Union Sq

About the Somerville Homeless Coalition

The Somerville Homeless Coalition was founded 40 years ago.

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On a new path



"The Path: LABYRINTH" is an art exhibit at Hebrew College in Newton created by Shirah Rubin. It invites visitors to walk among the listening vessels, offering a feeling of peace. The exhibit is on display through Nov. 7. PROVIDED BY JONATHAN POLEF-SAEFFER

Artist creates outdoor labyrinth exhibit at Hebrew College

Ruth Thompson Wicked Local / USA TODAY NETWORK

A unique exhibit by Shirah Rubin, a multidisciplinary artist, is on display at Hebrew College in Newton through Nov. 7. The exhibit, titled "The Path: LABYRINTH," is a circular, outdoor single path leading to a pair of benches at its center — a metaphor for the spiritual journey to quiet one's mind and listen to an inner voice.

The installation invites both introspection and interaction, Rubin said.

Rubin installed a dozen "listening vessels" to form an outer circle around the labyrinth. The vessels, along with the benches in the labyrinth's center, offer a space to listen to whispers of purpose, compassion and connection, she said.

"I was inspired by a labyrinth that I walked in Abiquiu, New Mexico, at the Ghost Ranch, where painter Georgia O'Keeffe had her studio," Rubin told Wicked Local. "In walking the labyrinth, I felt it was in alignment with nature, and it was an experience in which the process of the walking awakened me to important insights."

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Rubin said she was inspired by a labyrinth at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. PROVIDED BY ANDREW CASTANDEA

Labyrinth

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Her heightened attention to the environment and feeling interconnected to the universe provided her with a state of calm and brought valuable takeaways, she said.

"The listening vessels are inspired by desert landscapes, and they function as symbolic witnesses and guides to our walking as well as symbolic storage jars for the essence of our labyrinth experiences," Rubin explained. "Inside of each are a collection of ceramic buttons that are reminders that each person has a story to tell."

Visitors are welcome to walk through the labyrinth — a set of

prompts is available to read and help guide walks; some correspond with specific times of the year.

"Walking the labyrinth promotes mindfulness and calm, which, in these uncertain times, is a useful tool," Rubin said. "I hope that visitors will gain from the walk a sense of clarity, wholeness, healing or compassion."

The invitation to reflect fosters an agency taking responsibility in our choices to respond instead of reacting to the events in our lives, she added.

There is no cost to visit the labyrinth.

"To me, the labyrinth is a metaphor for our life journey, and it represents change and growth," Rubin said. "It may not give us insights in every walk, but I hope it helps amplify our inner voice to provide calm, purpose and compassion."

a field or meadow, woods, even a rooftop garden.

What follows is a list of favorite spots, based on Yelp ratings. So pack up something on which to nosh — it can even be takeout — and enjoy the warmth of late spring.

Buckmaster Pond

350 Pond St., Westwood

This beautiful, tucked-away spot is perfect for rest and relaxation, and ideal for taking in its surrounding natural beauty. An open park area allows for an enjoyable picnic with a blanket or lawn chairs, and offers a nice view of the pond.

Open dawn until dusk daily.

Urban Park Roof Garden

4 Cambridge Center, Cambridge

An actual secret garden, this rooftop oasis offers stunning views of Boston and Cambridge. The elevators in the Kendall Center Green Garage at 90 Broadway will take you to the garden; just press "R." The garden can also be accessed using the street-level staircase on Main Street. This landscaped spot has a park-like feel to it, with trees, benches and tables. It's a great escape, right in the heart of the city.

Open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Coolidge Reservation

15 Coolidge Point, Manchester-by-the-Sea

A Trustees of Reservations property, Coolidge features 64 acres of trails, hills, lawns and a beach.

There is plenty to see and do, but picnicking is best at the seaside lawn with spectacular views of Massachusetts Bay. The Ocean Lawn is open Friday to Monday from sunrise to sunset. The remainder of the property is open daily.

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