

Greetings!

The February edition of your monthly Source features the following:

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FOREWORD:

Dear friends and colleagues:

Greetings from Cambridge! We hope this edition of the Source finds you well and looking forward to the beginning of spring. Like many of you, our plans for summer are already taking shape here at the Outreach Program. As you may have already read in our most recent email and print newsletters, we are planning a summer curriculum development workshop for teachers, centered around Stalin and his legacy, which will take place at Harvard June 25-29, 2007. Space is limited, and registration materials will be made available online and through email this month. Before then, however, we expect to conduct a teacher workshop in late May on Russia in 2007. We will look at a variety of issues, including Vladimir Putin's legacy and the 2008 elections, Russia's foreign policy, as well as oil policy.

Even if you are unable to attend the workshops, please do feel free to visit us this summer and browse our collection of books, videos, and other curricular materials. As a reminder, our regular hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Thursday, at 17 Sumner Road, Cambridge.

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FEATURED RESOURCES OF THE MONTH:

\* *Russia: Beyond Utopia* by Andrew Moore:

This catalogue of 120 modern photographs documenting the traces that the Soviet Union left on Russia's landscape, in its publisher's words, "paints a rainbow-hued portrait of a somber country." The country's modern aesthetic includes vestiges of its past that collide with its present, reflected in such unusual imagery as an ornate palace which now houses a hip-hop rehearsal studio, and the stained-glass windows of a church that immortalize the icons of the proletariat.

\* *Handbook of the Former Soviet Union* by Michael G. Kort (grades 7 and up):

In the first half of this resource, the countries that made up the former Soviet Union are examined from historical and geographical perspectives before offering analysis of their first years of independence and the most serious economic, political, and cultural issues that they currently face. The other substantial section is an encyclopedia with entries on places, terms, and important individuals in the new nations' political and cultural spheres.

\* *Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf* by Janet Schulman (grades K-3):

This musical fantasy about a disobedient boy who leaves the safety of the garden for the unknown world of the meadow, cleverly conquering the danger he encounters, has been a childhood favorite since 1936. An opening page introduces the characters, naming and depicting the instrument associated with each one.

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AROUND HARVARD:

Currently on display:

\* "Nostalgic Technologies: Cities in Transit," CGIS South building, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge.

The first of two special exhibits by Davis Center associates the CGIS South building opened on February 15. "Nostalgic Technologies: Cities in Transit," an exhibit about art, culture, technology and teaching through art, has been presented by Professor Svetlana Boym. The exhibition will be followed by the display of Center Associate Gwendolyn Stewart's photography of Russia and China on April 23.

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Now—March 18:

\*"Project Zagreb: Transition as Condition > Strategy > Practice", Gund Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge.

An exhibition based on a research project in which a group of GSD students led by Eve Blau, professor of architectural history, researched the history of Zagreb's architecture and urban design and shared their findings with members of the city planning office. A book based on the project will be published in April. To read more about the project and the exhibit, see: <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2007/03.01/11-zagreb.html>

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#### COMMUNITY EVENTS:

March 6:

\*"El Perro Negro: Stories from the Spanish Civil War," Harvard Film Archive, 9 pm

Hungarian documentarian Peter Forgás used the remarkable home movies of two men from opposite sides of the Spanish Civil War—a Catalan industrialist and a student from Madrid—to weave an intimate and insightful composite portrait of the conflict. Forgás gives the amateur filmmakers' footage new life in an expertly crafted montage of image and voice-over quotations from other participants in the war to create an alternate narrative from the romanticized fictions that continue to prevail. For more information, see <http://hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/>.

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March 9:

\* "In Broad Daylight," Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St, Brookline, 8 pm

The Varpakhovsky Theatre will perform "In Broad Daylight," based on Ostrovsky's classic comedic play "Wolves and Sheep" The play features a talented cast of some of Moscow's and St. Petersburg's finest actors. Contact: [snovikov@verizon.net](mailto:snovikov@verizon.net) or 781-593-1405 to purchase tickets.

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March 16:

\* Russian National Orchestra, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Second and State Streets, Troy, NY, New York 12181, 8 pm

Troy Chromatic Concerts presents the Russian National Orchestra featuring piano soloist Nikolai Lugansky. The program includes the music of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Glazunov. Tickets are \$55/\$50. Call (518) 273-0038 for tickets. Free pre-concert talks are always held one hour before the performance at the Rensselaer County Historical Society, 57 Second Street, Troy. For further information, contact C. Ursula W. MacAffer at [UrsulaMacAffer@troychromatic.org](mailto:UrsulaMacAffer@troychromatic.org) Homepage: <http://www.troychromaticconcerts.org/>

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March 19:

\* "Poetry and Politics," Adam Zagajewski, *Polish poet, novelist, and essayist, In cooperation with the University Professors Program and the Humanities Foundation at Boston University and the literary journal AGNI*  
Colloquium Room, Boston University Photonics Center, 8 St. Mary's Street, Boston, 6:00 PM

Poet, novelist, and essayist Adam Zagajewski was born in Lwow, Poland in 1945. He spent his childhood in Silesia and then in Cracow, where he graduated from Jagiellonian University. He first became established as one of the leading poets of the Generation of '68' or the Polish New Wave (Nowa fala). Among his collections in Polish are *Pragnienie* (1999), *Ziemia ognista* (1994), *Jechac do Lwowa* (1985), *Sklepy miesne* (1975), and *Komunikat* (1972). His English collections of poetry include *Without End: New and Selected Poems* (2003, translated by Clare Cavanaugh), *Mysticism for Beginners* (1997, translated by Clare Cavanaugh), *Tremor* (1985, translated by Renata Gorczynski), and *Canvas* (1991, translated by Renata Gorczynski, B. Ivry, and C.K. Williams). Zagajewski's honors and awards include the prestigious Neustadt International Prize for Literature, a fellowship from the Berliner Künstlerprogramm, the Kurt Tucholsky Prize, a Prix de la Libert, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Reception to follow; free and open to the public.

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March 21:

\* Nauruz Celebration, Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus, CGIS-South, 1730 Cambridge St, Cambridge, 5 pm.

The Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus at the Davis Center is planning a very exciting event – the first-ever Nauruz Party. Nauruz is typically viewed as the Iranian New Year celebration, celebrated on the spring equinox. However, the holiday is now viewed as an indigenous celebration, and it is now celebrated throughout Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as in Afghanistan, India, Turkey, Zanzibar, and Albania. Therefore, it is the perfect occasion for scholars and students of Eurasian studies to meet each other and learn about the various departments and centers at Harvard which focus on this region.

The celebration, open to friends and family, will be held on March 21 from 5-7 p.m. on the concourse level of CGIS-South, 1730 Cambridge St. Food will be served, and there will be a cultural program. Please feel free to contact the Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus for further information about the region and the Program's activities at (617)496-2643 or email [centasia@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:centasia@fas.harvard.edu).

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March 22:

\*"Power, Petroleum, and Flawed Succession: The Roots and Impact of Putin's Russia" Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston, 6:30-8 pm

Marshall Goldman, Katherine Wasserman Davis Professor of Russian Economics at Wellesley College (Emeritus), associate director of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University; Uri Ra'an, director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology, and Policy, and professor of international relations at Boston University.

Russia is reemerging as an international power—as strong as in czarist or Soviet times—and President Vladimir Putin shows troubling tendencies of reverting to authoritarian and imperial habits. Russia recently overtook Saudi Arabia as the world's leading producer of oil, and it has demonstrated a clear willingness to flex this muscle on the world stage. Within its own borders, corruption, contract killing, and media censorship have become routine. Should we regard this nation as a threat to the West, or as an ally? How does its use of energy supplies as an instrument of foreign policy affect global markets? In a country that historically lacks a mechanism for legitimate succession, what should we expect as Putin steps down in 2008? Tonight, two renowned scholars Prof. Marshall Goldman and Prof. Uri Ra'an, join us to explore the impact of the Kremlin's concentrated political power in an age of booming oil and gas wealth.

Free and open to the public; no registration necessary. For more information, please call 617-373-5800 or log on to [www.fordhallforum.org](http://www.fordhallforum.org).

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March 23:

\* "The Armenian Homeland and Diaspora: Reflections of Two Filmmakers," Harvard Film Archive, 7 pm

From the HFA website:

This program offers two very different reflections on the diaspora in contemporary Armenian society. Examining the dialectical divide between Western and Eastern Armenians, these nonfiction portraits reveal the richness of Armenian culture both within the homeland and throughout diasporic communities. SPECIAL EVENT-\$10 Admission. Director Nigol Bezjian In Person

- Return of the Poet (Poeti Veradardze)

Directed by Harutyun Khachatryan  
Armenia 2005, color, 35mm, 82 min.  
Armenian with English subtitles

A truly cinematic oddity, this unique, virtually wordless documentary explores the legacy of Armenian poet and folk singer Ashugh Jivani. Eschewing conventional biography the filmmaker first follows the creation of a statue of the great poet, painstakingly hewn from a seemingly impervious chunk of rock. He then accompanies the statue's peculiar journey, and "so begins a cross-country odyssey in which sculptor and poet revisit ancient Armenian sites and traditions, folk dances, churchyards, peasants on carts and shantytowns filled with the poor and unemployed... Khachatryan leaves much unsaid and implicit, letting the viewer marvel at the timeless scenery as the statue glides by with its expression of supernatural calm." (Variety)

- Roads Full of Apricots

Directed by Nigol Bezjian  
Lebanon 2001, video, color, 35 min.

Addressing questions of cultural identity amidst tragic historical circumstances, this documentary relates the filmmaker's personal experience of being displaced from his civil war-torn country to a more universal exploration of memory. Using archival images, roads full of Apricots is a tribute to history, films, literature, and the inner experience of nostalgia.

- Verve

Directed by Nigol Bezjian, Appearing in Person  
Lebanon 2002, video, color, 15 min.

A reflection on folk dancing, whose ancient art form is one of the many ways in which Armenian culture has persevered in the face of national tragedy. Detailing the gentle, understated movements and passions of the dancer, Bezjian excerpts several dances, including a mesmerizing performance by Shakeh Avanesian.

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LINKS:

\* Russia-InfoCentre

I recently came across this website (<http://www.russia-ic.com/>), and I wanted to recommend the series of articles in the "Culture & Arts" category, particularly the ones about various musicians: they are brief and informative, and very heartfelt—no dry encyclopedia writing style here! Also, the "Russia in pictures" section has some lovely shots.

\* Learn the Cyrillic Alphabet with Some Familiar Sights

This website: <http://community.middlebury.edu/~beyer/RT/pages/signs/signs.shtml> offers a fun way to improve your Cyrillic reading skills, or merely to see what the McDonald's McChicken logo looks like when transliterated.

\* Way to Russia

For some practical tips for travel—visas, online tickets, even apartment rentals, plus some articles which help to demystify culture and customs, check out <http://waytorussia.net/>. Proviso: there is quite a bit of advertising masquerading as content, so be careful what you click on!

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APHORISMS:

\* A clever person hides his weakness, a wise person avoids situations in which he can be weak.

\* In psychiatric hospitals the special opinions of patients are called delirium. In the corridors of power the delirium of politicians is called special opinions.

\*Life is a surprising thing. Exams at the beginning, and then lessons afterward.

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All the best,  
Nicole