



Dear Harvard Neighbor,

As outgoing and incoming presidents of Harvard Neighbors (Elizabeth MacKay-Gray and Linda Braden), we thank you for making the past year such a success. Warmest appreciation goes also to our Coordinator Silva Panchev (neighbors@harvard.edu), who brings so many talents to organizing our annual offerings.

For a quick overview, our key priorities were increasing membership, improving communications, and expanding our outreach across the university. Harvard Neighbors is now over 1610 household members strong and we continue to grow year over year. Thank you to each of you for helping build our community! Last year, our new-member growth nearly doubled, in part reflecting welcoming events at the Schools of Divinity, Education, Law, and Public Health and 124 Mt. Auburn St. Our improved website keeps us connected online, offers a popular newsletter, and makes it easy to sign up for our many Interest Groups and special events. The number of special events nearly doubled last year, and many events are quickly filled and waitlisted. Looking ahead, our challenges are positive “side effects” of an expanding organization: finding space and funding for our thriving programs and growing membership.

Interest Groups are in many ways the heart and soul of Harvard Neighbors. The number of participants in each group can range from 3-20. The current roster includes book groups, four English Conversation Practice groups, Italian, Japanese and French Conversation groups, Community Service and Outreach, Memoir writing, Cultural Traditions groups, Arts Exploration, Infant and Toddler Play group, Knitting group, MIT Women’s Chorale, and the always popular Out and About and After Hours groups, with others in the works. The English Conversation groups, children’s play groups, and the Arts and Exploration Group play especially significant roles in welcoming newcomers from other countries to the Harvard family.

And now for finances. In order to accommodate the larger community and maintain the high quality of events we offer, we rely on donations from our members. If you are new to Harvard Neighbors, please consider supporting our mission, “to enrich the lives of members of the Harvard community through cultural programs and events,” with a tax-deductible donation of \$10.00 or more through our streamlined donation website portal (Checks are also welcome). [Give “\\$ten for HN!”](#) To our longer-term members, thank you for sustaining Harvard Neighbors as a vibrant and welcoming community. We are deeply appreciative of your reliable support and ask that you continue or increase your current level of financial support.

We also hope that you will share your thoughts and suggestions regarding Harvard Neighbors either with us or with Silva, especially in regard to possible new offerings. We want to hear how we can make HN your community.

With best wishes,

Elizabeth MacKay-Gray

President, Harvard Neighbors, 2016-18
Email: elizabeth_gray@harvard.edu
Phone: (781) 777-2354

Linda Braden

President, Harvard Neighbors, 2018-2020
Email: lbraden@law.harvard.edu
Phone: (614) 580-8731



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