Holiday Celebration

With the traditional Holiday Party on December 7, we have officially wrapped up our busy fall season. Harvard Neighbors’ guests enjoyed delicious homemade dishes, salads and desserts prepared by our wonderful members as well as Holiday fare from Crimson Catering and local restaurants. Everyone had a fantastic time! We want to express our gratitude to all the members who donated non-perishable food, books and toys for Neighbors’ Food Drive. The donations will be delivered to local homeless shelters at the end of the month.

With the winter recess beginning on December 24, many of Interest Groups will conclude their fall semester meetings by the middle of next week. Please check our website for the most updated calendar of the meetings and classes. Most of the groups will resume their activities at the week of January 20, but some will return by the end of the first week of the new year.

New Group Leaders Needed!

We’re looking for new leaders for the following groups: Infant and Toddler Group - you don’t need to be a current parent of small children! Responsibilities are to email reminders to the group and set out and put away toys on meeting days. If you’d like to share with one or two other people, that would be fine as well! Knitting group - send out reminders weekly. You don’t need to attend every meeting. As always, we’d love to hear your ideas for a new group if there’s one you’d like to start! Please email us if you are interested at neighbors@harvard.edu

On December 21, we will visit Y2Y Harvard Square Organization’s Shelter for Homeless Youth to donate the goods collected during our Food Drive. There is still time if you want to contribute and help fill up their pantry for the winter season! Food donations of non-perishable items are gladly accepted in our office each weekday until December 20, between 9 am and 4 pm! Don’t forget to check Harvard Neighbors’ calendar for the most up to date information on group’s meetings and events. Most of our groups will resume their regular schedules on the second week of January, 2019 except for of English Conversation groups which classes will begin on the week of January 20. During this week, After Hours Interest Group will have their first get together! Stay tuned for details and check your emails for an invitation at the beginning of January. Living Green Interest Group is planning its second workshop for the month of February! The group leader Irina Brandina will be in touch with the members of the group with news about the event and ideas for the future of Living Green. At the beginning of February, we will have the second edition of the Celtic Night. After last year’s instant success, Cultural Traditions Interest Group is adding a Swedish Fika to interesting customs of the world. More information and invitations are coming at the end of January.
The bazaar takes place on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17 to celebrate the season with a beautiful memento of your local trip around the world. Travel to Guatemala, Colombia, Peru, Uzbekistan, India, Nepal, Madagascar, Ghana, Thailand, Laos, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and more! Listen to live Indigenous music, chat with Indigenous artists about their crafts and cultures, and celebrate the season with a beautiful memento of your local trip around the world. The bazaar takes place on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17.

Harvard Neighbors’ Winter Appeal

We couldn’t be Harvard Neighbors without your support! Your contributions support our mission: “to enrich the lives of members of the Harvard community through cultural programs and events.” Thanks to generous gifts from our members, we are able to bring to you varied events and activities with no charge for participation. This fall alone our members enjoyed Ice Cream, Social, Apple Social, Cranberry Social, Thanksgiving Demo and Celebration, Spring Celebration, Celtic Night, Tea and Talk at Harvard Faculty Club and a an awesome Holiday Party! To our longer-term members, thanks for all you have done to make Harvard Neighbors a vibrant and welcoming community. To help sustain and expand our diverse programming at no (or very low) cost to participants, please consider continuing (or increasing) your current level of financial support. To our new members, please consider supporting our mission with a tax-deductible donation of $10.00 or more. Click on this link to donate online. Checks are also gladly accepted! Thank you for your support!

Events around Boston

Celebrate Saturnalia at Isabella Gardner’s Museum
On Dec. 20, celebrate the winter solstice with traditions from across the globe during the Isabel-la Stewart Gardner Museum’s Third Thursday event. Literally try to party the night away like the ancient Romans and stroll through the Museum with “Unsilent Night” — a participatory music procession by composer Phil Kline.

Berklee Symphonic Winds: American Legends
On Monday, December 17 at 8pm at Berklee Performance Center 136 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, The Berklee Symphonic Winds will present a free performance of contemporary American music for wind ensemble, featuring the music of Leonard Bernstein and a commemorative tribute to the life of John F. Kennedy.

Complimentary Panettone Festa Class at Eataly
The holidays in Italy wouldn’t be complete without panettone. They are as iconic as a tree, wreath, or mistletoe in other cultures. Italians give the festively wrapped cakes as gifts, as they symbolize luck and prosperity through the New Year. If you want to learn the history about panettone and try up to 10 different flavors, join Complimentary Panettone Festa Class at Eataly from 10 am to 6 pm at 459 Broadway, Cambridge.

The Christmas Revels: A Nordic Celebration of the Winter Solstice
Christmas Revels celebrates the traditions and musical culture of the Nordic nations — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden — countries with some of the strongest traditions of solstice celebration and ritual. The ensemble will tell the story of the creation of the world and the sealing of the sun and moon in song, music, dance and puppetry. Combined with Swedish carols and Danish Wassails, Norwegian ballads and swirling dances, Icelandic hymns and Finnish rune songs, banter and belly laughs, and familiar touchstones like Lord of the Dance. There will be 18 performances starting on December 14 at Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge.

Weekend Ideas

Take a Holiday trip to Conway, New Hampshire
Whether you like to shop or ski, or both, you’ll love North Conway in the wintertime. The town is nestled in the heart of Mount Washington Valley in New Hampshire’s picturesque White Mountains. Its location means access to scores of outdoor activities, and its quaint downtown village is full of shops and restaurants, making it a popular tourist destination. Skiers can enjoy a day on the slopes at the 57-trail Cranmore Mountain Resort, while non-skiers can try out the zipline course, Giant Swing, or 10 lanes of tubing. Not interested in shopping or skiing? Hop aboard the Conway Scenic Railroad to take in some mountain views from the comfort of your train seat, or grab your skates and head to the outdoor rink at Schouler Park. Are you fascinated by weather? At the Weather Discovery Center in North Conway Village, you can enjoy plenty of hands-on weather-related exhibits, such as a wind room and air cannon. Mount Washington, at 6,288 feet above sea level, is the tallest peak in the northeast and dubbed “Home of the World’s Worst Weather.” Admission to the center is a mere $2 for adults and $1 for kids 7 and up.

Happening Around Harvard

Christmas Eve Cookies and Crafts at the Democratic Center
Don’t have plans for Christmas Eve? Come hang out at the Democratic Center, 45 Mt Auburn St, Cambridge, MA for a low-key, and festive evening with free cookies (even a gluten-free option), crafts, and warm beverages! There would be materials available for coloring and crafting, but feel free to bring your own.

Cultural Survival Bazaar
Take a local trip around the world at Cultural Survival’s 43rd annual Indigenous arts market in Cambridge, MA! Immerse yourself in the songs, colors, textures, and stories of Indigenous arts and cultures from around the world at this free admission, family friendly festival. Shop fair trade from artists from the US, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru, Uzbekistan, India, Nepal, Madagascar, Ghana, Thailand, Laos, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and more! Listen to live Indigenous music, chat with Indigenous artists about their crafts and cultures, and celebrate the season with a beautiful memento of your local trip around the world. The bazaar takes place on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17.