Another year full of exciting events and activities is almost over! December at the Neighbors started with a Tea and Talk at Harvard Faculty Club. Our Speaker, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Peter Girgis talked about "The Seas we’ve Hardly Seen," and all the guests were fascinated by the interesting facts and stories he shared.

On December 6, despite the cold weather our members gathered for the traditional Holiday Party at Neighbors meeting room. We enjoyed homemade dishes prepared by our members, appetizers from Crimson catering, nice conversations and a jolly good time!

Almost five years since their last event, Japanese Culture Group invited the members to an exclusive evening of celebrating the "Daily Traditions and a Thought of Japanese in December." The guests we treated to a live performance of flute music, delicious Japanese homemade cuisine, a talk about holiday traditions in Japan and even a raffle!

The last event of the month was a Cookies Decoration for a Homeless Shelter afternoon, hosted by Community Service and Outreach Interest Group on December 17.

We are wrapping this busy semester with a hope for a peaceful and happy New Year for all of our members! See you in 2020!

Coming Up

After a short winter recess a whole New Year full with events, programs, talks and interest groups’ meetings starts at the second week of January.

Check your emails in a few weeks for an invitation from our Out and About Interest Group. They are planning a tour of Harvard’s Smith Center and a lunch at The Heights in mid January and many more outings in the coming months. The traditional and loved by the Neighbors Celtic Night will take place at the beginning of February. We are in the works for another exciting Tea and Talk at the beginning of March! The topic will be "Women and Gender in Architectural History"!

Belgium Culture Interest Group are preparing a Waffle Bake afternoon at the end of March and we are waiting our Filipino Culture Group to announce a date for a Karaoke Night! Like previous years we will mark the arrival of the spring with a Spring Celebration at the Neighbors! In early May you can join us for another Tea Tasting adventure with Julia Cai! We will wrap the Academic year with our Annual Meeting at the Faculty Club. Check our website and calendar for the most up to date information on other Interest Groups’ events and activities!

Volunteer Opportunities
Did you attend the Ice cream social, Open house, Holiday party or the recent Tea & Talk? These wonderful outreach activities and Harvard Neighbors events were organized by a team of volunteers and our coordinator Silva Panchev. If you would like to help out and be a part of the creating process, we have openings for next Academic year (starting Fall 2020) on the Events, Membership and Outreach committees. Please contact Diana Doyle at di_doyle@hotmail.com for details.

Support our Mission! Give $10 to HN!

Our mission is to enrich the lives of members of the Harvard community through cultural and educational programs and events.
**Weekend Ideas**

**The Best Holiday Light Displays around Boston**
This time of year, Boston and the towns beyond it start to glow in the dark with elaborate displays. Being at the Stone Zoo after dark may be business as usual for its nocturnal creatures, but for the rest of us, this wintry extravaganza is worth staying up late for. Not only can visitors say hello to black bears, arctic foxes, snow leopards, and yes, even reindeer, but they can do so while skipping through paths sparkling with thousands of tiny lights. In addition to the living, breathing animals, you can spot more than 40 life-size lions, tigers, and elephants (see if you can count all 270,000 pieces that make up this one) made of LEGOs on a Brick Safari around the zoo. Kids should make their way over to Santa’s Castle, where they can pose for a photo with Saint Nick.

After a successful premiere last year, Trustees’ Winterlights returns and is bigger and better than ever with Naumkeag in Stockbridge, Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover, and, for the first time this year, Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton. Each site will be ablaze with tens of thousands of LEDs, but the lights will cater to the unique delights of each site. Bring the family for scavenger hunts, crafts, seasonal characters and experiences, food and refreshments, and more. Winterlights runs multiple evenings each week through the end of December.

**Lobster trap Christmas tree and Lobster treats for Christmas**
Kennebunkport, Maine, is said to be one of the best places to spend Christmas in the U.S. due to its lobster-filled holiday festivities. Every December, this tiny New England town bursts with holiday cheer during its annual Christmas Prelude, an 11-day bash that’s about as New England as it gets (one of the main attractions is a tree made of lobster traps). The lobster rolls at The Clam Shack — considered to be some of the best rolls in Maine — will make you forget about gingerbread and sugar plums altogether.

**Visit Seaport Skating Rink**
The newly open rink is part of the “Snowport Winter Village,” an “interactive winter wonderland” that features not only the rink, but a lineup of winter activities and tempting food and drink options. Located at the intersection of Seaport and Fan Pier Boulevards, the ring will be open through February, 7 days a week, after work hours on weekdays and throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. Admission to the rink is $5 for adults and $3 for children, and you can either BYO skates or rent a pair for $5. There are lockers and restrooms on site, and “skate aids” are also available for those who don’t love wiping out on the cold ice. There will be much more to enjoy at the Winter Village than just skating. Throughout the season, the installation will play host to a variety of winter activities, including light displays, yoga, “seasonal workshops,” live music, and themed skate nights. Some of the Village’s more unique offerings include an “iceless curling” setup and a tree market (closing December 21), where you can pick out a fresh evergreen tree or wreath and have it delivered to your home via bicycle.

**New Year’s Eve Ice Sculpture Stroll**
On New Year’s Eve, Boston Harbor Now is organizing several FREE fun events across the waterfront to ring in the new year such as the Ice Sculpture Stroll to over a dozen sites and other activities from 1:00pm – 4:00pm on December 31, 2019. Follow the Ice Sculpture Stroll to over a dozen sites and other activities from 1:00pm – 4:00pm on December 31, 2019. Enjoy waterfront activities like Harbor Map Tour at the Boston Harbor Hotel, Touch-a-Truck with First Responders at the Envoy Hotel and Walking Tour of the Wharf District with the Friends of the Boston Harborwalk.

Countdown to the new years with the return of New Year’s Eve Midnight Harbor Fireworks.

**Around Harvard**

**Visit the Christmas Revels: An American Celebration**
Visit the Christmas Revels: An American Celebration of the Winter Solstice performance at Sanders Theatre. A holiday tradition for nearly five decades, The Christmas Revels is a joyful theatrical celebration of the winter solstice that travels the world each year showcasing cultural traditions from around the world including music, dance, folktales, and rituals – and everyone, including the audience, plays a part!

**Celebrate Hanukkah at Harvard Square**
Celebrate Hanukkah at Harvard Square and have a complimentary latkes on Saturday, December 21st at the 13th Annual “Everyone Loves Latkes” Party! Hot and delicious potato pancakes will be sampled. Harvard Square’s latkes are tasty, diverse in shape, size and texture and are accompanied with creative condiments. Joe Kessler and his Klezmer band, Klezwoods, will be on hand to entertain the crowd with traditional songs of the season.

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