Hello!

After a well-deserved winter recess, our Interest group’s activities resumed on Monday, January 8th. Please, check our calendar for updated information on starting dates and registrations for some of our most popular groups: English Conversation Practice. Available spots are being filled quickly and some groups have very limited availability. You need to be a Harvard Neighbors member to attend the classes. If you have not already done so, please sign up for Harvard Neighbors Membership by clicking the “My Profile/Login” tab and entering your information. After your membership is confirmed, you may enroll in any of the Interest Groups. Join the English Conversation Practice Group by visiting our website and click on “ English Conversation Practice Group” under the Interest Group tab, then click on “Request Membership”. You will receive a Registration Form to fill in and email back to us. Please note: You must wait for the Group Leader to contact you before you can attend the first session! We have no rules on perfect attendance, but for your own benefit we encourage you to come to all the group meetings. Two new groups joined the Neighbors this fall and quickly gained popularity: Japanese Culture Group and Spanish/English Conversation Group. Make sure to check their sites for information on how to register for them if you are interested. Another new group, Greek Conversation will announce their first meeting soon!

After Hours Interest Group will have their first outing at the beginning of February. We have a bunch of events already in preparation. Stay tuned for an announcement regarding the Celtic Night celebration. Last year our members learned about the rich Celtic history and traditions from Marsha, and stories of the French Celtic culture from Josephine. We tasted delicious homemade food and sang Gaelic songs! This year we are looking for people who might: play Celtic music or wish to bring some tasty Celtic foods (Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Breton). If you are interested or have some other ideas what might make a fun evening event email us neighbors@harvard.edu

Happy New Year to All!

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 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!

Support our mission to enrich the lives of members of the Harvard community through cultural and educational programs and events!
Click on this link http://www.neighbors.harvard.edu/support to donate. Thank you!
Crafts Jewelry and Metalwork

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Happening Around Cambridge

**Taste of Chocolate Festival in Harvard Square**
The beloved annual festival begins on Friday, January 25th! On Saturday, January 26, between 1pm and 2pm, JP Licks, Milk Bar, Amorino Gelato, Seacoast Sweets and other Boston chocolatiers will be passing out free samples for the lucky chocolate-lovers of Cambridge. But don’t worry, if you can’t make it out on Saturday, other chocolate-themed events and promotions will be held all weekend. (Like midnight chocolate cake at Flour Bakery, and a special chocolate themed menu at Parsnip restaurant, to name a few.)

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**Kendall Square Ice Skating**
Learn to ice-skate in Kendall Square! The Community Ice Skating at Kendall Square is a open mid-December to mid-March (weather permitting). The rink is located at Kendall Square’s North Plaza, 300 Athenaeum Street, Cambridge. The Kendall Square Community Ice Skating Rink offers skate rentals, lessons, and private rink rentals. The facility is refrigerated, zamboni-maintained and located in a landscaped courtyard.

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**Festival for All Ages at Harvard Museum of History**
Awaken your love of science with activities led by Harvard scientists, graduate students, and enthusiastic explorers. Meet scientists who investigate fossils, microbes, and carnivorous plants. Hear short talks on current research at Harvard. Observe tiny, tough tardigrades (microscopic “water bears”), and make your own model of one. Bring your own collections to show to local shell and mineral clubs. This annual festival takes place on Saturday, February 9 from 10AM to 4PM, has something for everyone and is appropriate for children and adults of all ages. Free parking is available at the S2 Oxford Street Garage.

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**Weekend Ideas**

The winter in New England may be long and cold but there are plenty of indoor and outdoor activities to keep you and your family busy.

**Sledding in and around Boston**
Here are the best seven places to sled around Boston:
- Arnold Arboretum - JP (head to Peter’s Hill for the best slopes)
- Corey Hill Outlook - Brookline (risky as the hill is steep and there’re trees right at the bottom)
- Tufts University - Somerville/Medford (sledding is allowed on the President’s Lawn)
- Boston Common - Boston (there is a steep hill that faces Charles Street that is ideal for sledding)
- Prospect Hill Park - Waltham (great views of the city + great sledding)
- Larz Anderson Park - Brookline (various slopes throughout the park)

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**Chinese New Year Concert at Berklee College of Music**
In its eighth year, the concert focuses on the development of Chinese culture and music, condensed into a 90-minute program. Featuring unique arrangements of music styles, including pop, rock, jazz, R&B, and traditional Chinese music—along with dance and other forms of performance—the show provides the audience with a new perspective on China. The concert is on Friday, February 7, at 8PM. For details click here.

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**MIT Women’s Chorale**

One of our very popular groups, MIT Women’s Chorale, has openings for a few new singers for their spring semester. The group is open to members of the MIT and Harvard communities. Rehearsals with their inspiring director, Kevin Galliè, begin on January 16, and take place on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 pm in Emma Rogers Room (Building 10, room 340), at MIT, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge. The Chorale is made up of with interesting and friendly women who are serious about making music and serious about enjoying making music. Chorale spring concert is on Saturday, May 11th and will feature the Stabat Mater of Girolamo Abos and a selection of opera choruses for women’s voices. While an audition is not required members are expected to be able to sing on pitch and tone-match. If you are interested to become a member, email de-fazio@comcast.net or visit their website for more information: http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/womenschorale/