Neighbors News

What’s New in Neighbors News

Last week we hosted our first Tea & Talk of the year. A group of Neighbors met in the Widener Library rotunda and enjoyed tea, coffee, biscotti, and cookies. Sarah Thomas was gracious enough to make time in her busy schedule to speak to the group about her career path and experiences. One member who attended remarked that Sarah’s personal story was “inspiring.”

Yesterday we celebrated a successful Kick Off of the Spanish & Latin American Culture & Cinema Group. The group enjoyed chips, salsa, guacamole and sour cream and watched some short clips and videos in Spanish. Next Thursday, the group will show Todo Sobre Mi Madre, a film about an Argentine nurse in Madrid and her son, Esteban. Written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar, Todo Sobre Mi Madre won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2000. Please email us if you are interested in joining this group. No need to speak fluent Spanish and the films are shown with subtitles!

What’s Next?

Out & About will host its next tour on Wednesday, October 28 at 11 AM. The tour will be of the historic Mount Auburn Cemetery. Mount Auburn Cemetery was the first “rural cemetery” in the United States. The 72 acres in between Watertown and Cambridge were purchased in 1821 by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. More than 2,000 people came to witness the dedication of the cemetery. Mount Auburn Cemetery is also considered a “museum” as it reflects almost two centuries of trends in art, design, and attitudes toward death. Lastly, the cemetery is also an arboretum and is home to an extensive collection of trees, shrubs and other plants. Autumn is an especially beautiful time to visit Mount Auburn as a visit will provide an excellent opportunity to view New England’s exquisite fall foliage. If you are interested in joining this tour please email Harvard Neighbors. There is a $5 fee for the tour. The group will meet at Harvard Neighbors at 10:30 AM before taking the MBTA bus from Harvard Square to the cemetery.

Also coming up on November 20 at 10:30 AM is the annual Thanksgiving Dinner Demonstration. Mary Pope and a group of wonderful volunteers will put on a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for those who attend. All volunteers prepare a Thanksgiving dish and then present it to the group, explaining the origins of the dish as well how it is made. The group is then able to taste all of the dishes and enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Please email neighbors@harvard.edu to let us know if you plan to attend. 

The Trinity Church plot at Mount Auburn Cemetery

Our mission is to enrich the lives of members of the Harvard community through cultural and educational programs and events.
Community Service

Harvard Neighbors is, at its heart, a volunteer organization which strives to improve the lives of others. When possible we try to spread the word about other nonprofit organizations in need of help and, in the past, have assembled groups of volunteers to assist with holiday food and clothing drives. Our knitting group has also knit hats and scarves that were then donated to groups in need. Harvard Neighbors is now considering starting a new Community Service interest group that will be more deeply involved in volunteer efforts in the Cambridge and Boston areas. If you are interested in joining this group, or taking part in some volunteer opportunities, please email neighbors@harvard.edu to indicate your interest.

Noming Committee

The Nominating Committee for next year was appointed by the board and consists of Mia Metivier as Chair and Rhea Lesage and Barbara Powell as committee members. This committee is responsible for filling open positions on the board and in committees. If you are interested in getting more involved with Harvard Neighbors in any capacity, please get in touch with any of the Nominating Committee members to find out more about potential openings. New members are welcome as this is a great way to meet people, help the organization grow and make an impact throughout the university.

Harvard Toastmasters Club

If you are interested in becoming a better public speaker consider looking into the Harvard Toastmasters Club. The Harvard Toastmasters Club is a group committed to helping themselves and others develop the ability to speak and lead. The group gives insight on how to develop and deliver friendly and effective speeches. Members of Toastmasters often find that the group helps them to grow both personally and professionally. The Harvard Toastmasters meet every Tuesday from 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM in the Science Center, Room B10.

Boston Area Halloween Happenings

Are you looking for fun Halloween activities around the city? Below are some ideas for a Halloween themed outing! The Ghosts and Gravestones Tour takes guests on a tour of Boston’s more macabre side. A 17th century gravedigger will tell you spooky stories about some of Boston’s sinister locations as well as historical figures. The tour will also include walk around two of Boston’s oldest burying grounds. Another Halloween activity near Boston is the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at the Franklin Park Zoo in Providence, RI. Walk through a nighttime exhibit of 5,000 illuminated Jack-O-Lanterns. It has been called “one of the most brilliant displays of holiday artistry anywhere in the U.S.”

Want to Learn More about the Harvard Libraries?

Houghton Library offers tours that are open to the public. Houghton tours are offered every Friday at 2:00 PM. Attendees receive a general introduction followed by a tour of the Emily Dickinson, Amy Lowell and John Keats rooms as well as the portion of the library devoted to the Donald & Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson. Advance notice of small groups is appreciated.

Tours of Widener are open only to those who have a Harvard ID and their guests. Widener tours begin at 3:00 PM every Thursday. Tours are not offered on Commencement or University Holidays.

For more information on Widener and Houghton Library tours click here!