We would first like to welcome back all our Neighbors from the Thanksgiving break. We hope you were all able to spend time relaxing and laughing with family and friends.

This holiday season Harvard Neighbors will give back to the community by participating in some community service efforts in the Boston and Cambridge area. As a part of this effort Harvard Neighbors will help to support Y2Y Harvard Square over the holidays. Please see page two for more information on how you can become involved in this wonderful effort.

The Spanish and Latin American Film Group met last night and watched the film *Cama Adentro*. *Cama Adentro* is an Argentinian comedy about a wealthy woman and her live-in maid who both must adjust to a new lifestyle and relationship with each other when Buenos Aires is thrust into an economic crisis. The group will meet again this upcoming Thursday to discuss the film, among other topics. If you would like to attend feel free to grab something to eat before heading over. Beginners are welcome! Email neighbors@harvard.edu with questions.

Please be aware that because of the approaching holiday season English Conversation will hold their final fall meetings this month before beginning again after Martin Luther King Jr. day. Most final meetings of the group will occur the week of December 14. The group will begin to meet again after January 18, 2016.
‘Tis the Season for Giving

Help us help Y2Y Harvard Square, the first student run shelter in our area specifically for young adults. Because the shelter is student run Y2Y will need help during the holiday season when many student volunteers are away from campus. Y2Y will need volunteers to help staff the shelter’s four shifts. The shifts are as follows: breakfast (6:30 – 9 AM), Dinner (6:45 – 9:15 PM), Evening (9:00 – 11:15 PM) and Overnight (11:15 – 9 AM). Y2Y is located at 3 Church Street in the basement of the First Parish Church in Harvard Square. Sign up for shifts at the shelter here or email neighbors@harvard.edu with questions. Be on the lookout for an email later this week with more information on how to help and details about the different shifts.

What is the Winter Solstice?

The Winter Solstice, December 21, is the shortest day and the longest night of the year and is often considered the extreme of winter. After the solstice the days begin to lengthen again. While this may seem like an unpleasant part of the year many ancient cultures actually held feasts and celebrations around the winter solstice.

Early Europeans celebrated light and birth around the winter solstice, the darkest time of the year. The word “yuletide” which you may hear around the holidays comes from the Norse celebration known as Yule, celebrated from December 21 through January. During Yule the man of the family would bring home a large log and set it aight, they would then feast until the log burned out. Similarly, early Germans celebrated their god, Odin, around the solstice.

Early Germanic people believed Odin would fly through the winter sky, observe his people, and then decide who would prosper and who would perish. It was also at the end of December, around the solstice, when the early Europeans would slaughter the majority of their cattle so they wouldn’t have to feed them during the winter when food was scarce. This practice ensured there was plenty of meat for the long winter—certainly something to celebrate!*