Recently in Neighbors News...

Two weeks ago on Friday, April 3, Harvard Neighbors hosted a wine tasting. We would like to thank long-time member Jose Lopez for helping us to host this special event. Without Jose we would not be able to host such fun tastings! Another thank you goes out to Rhea and Danila who made food to be served at the wine tasting. Both dishes were delicious and much appreciated by the guests! We hope to host another wine tasting in the fall so if you are upset you missed it be ready for another this coming fall!

The week of April 13th was a very active one on Harvard’s campus. This past week, known as “Heat Week” was a week of protests by students and faculty demanding that the University divest its $35.9 billion endowment from fossil fuels. Students blocked access to Mass Hall as well as several other campus buildings. University staff who work in these buildings were forced to find alternate locations to work. Harvard Neighbors would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in moving as many group meetings as possible in order to allow for increased security around our building for heat week. Your understanding is much appreciated! If you would like to read more on “Heat Week” see the Harvard Crimson for more complete coverage.

What’s Coming up for Harvard Neighbors

Looking forward to Harvard Neighbors activities taking place in April and May there are several meetings and activities of interest. On April 23, After Hours will host a Happy Hour at the Beat Hotel in Harvard Square. Join our After Hours members for a post work cocktail or just some good company and Conversation. The Beat Hotel is a unique restaurant and bar located in Harvard Square just past the Harvard Coop. They offer a seasonal menu paired with American wine a spirits. They also feature daily live music to include jazz, blues and world music. The Happy Hour is sure to be a good time, all are welcome but please RSVP by registering on the calendar or by emailing Harvard Neighbors.

Also coming up is the MIT Women’s Chorale spring concert on Saturday, May 2 at 6 pm at the Harvard-Epworth Church. The group will be singing Brahms “Four Songs” accompanied by two French horns, harp and a chorus, “Five Hebrew Love Songs” accompanied by violin, “Prayer of a Woman” by David Hamilton and “Set Me As a Seal” by Richard Nance. Following the concert refreshments will be served. This concert is free and open to the public! There are fourteen members of the MIT Women’s Chorale that have a Harvard affiliation so please come out to this lovely event and support your colleagues while enjoying beautiful music!

English Conversation group members, please remember that the last meetings of the English Conversation group before the summer break will take place during the week of May 11th. The last meetings of the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday group will all take place this week. Harvard Neighbors will close for the summer on Friday, May 22.
Poetic Striding

April is National Poetry Month and, to celebrate, Harvard has designed a Harvard University poetry walking tour. This walking tour can be completed in an hour or less and highlights Harvard’s connection to several famous poets. The audio portion of the tour is composed of recordings that are housed at the Woodberry Poetry Room with the addition of some new recordings. The tour also commemorates the birth of poet Seamus Heaney, a Nobel Prize winner and a past Harvard Boylston Professor and poet-in-residence. Some of the stops on this walking tour include the Old Yard, John Harvard Statue, Memorial Hall, and Memorial Church among others. Visit here for more information, a printable map, and the recordings.

Boston Shines

Next Friday, April 24, Harvard Employees will team up with colleagues from across the university, students, Allston businesses and neighbors by volunteering to work on cleanup projects in the neighborhood’s parks, streets, and schools. The community cleanup day will include raking, weeding, sweeping, painting, planting and other landscaping activities. If you are interested in volunteering email community@harvard.edu or call 617.495.4955. Volunteers should plan to meet at 224 Western Ave., Allston at the Harvard Ed Portal. Here volunteers will be given their project assignments as well as provided with coffee and donuts! At 12 pm a free lunch will be offered back at the Harvard Ed Portal for all volunteers. There will be a shuttle service from the Smith Campus Center to the Harvard Ed Portal at 8:30 am and 8:50 am with return service at 12:30 pm and 12:50 pm. For more information on Boston Shines read the Gazette article here. Click here for the Boston Shines website.

Cinco De Mayo

Coming up on Tuesday, May 5 is Cinco De Mayo. Cinco De Mayo - the fifth of May - commemorates the Mexican army’s victory over the French at the Battle of Pueblo in 1862 during the Franco - Mexican War. In Mexico the holiday is primarily celebrated in the state of Puebla, the site of the victory which the holiday commemorates. Aside from the state of Puebla, Cinco de Mayo is minor compared to other Mexican holidays. In the United States, however, Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration of Mexican culture, heritage, and history. Some typical Cinco de Mayo celebrations are parades, musical performances and festivals. If you would like to celebrate Cinco de Mayo this year click here for an article on some of Boston’s good Mexican restaurants.