We celebrated the beginning of the winter with our traditional Holiday Party! On December 8, close to 100 Neighbors gathered at our meeting hall at Loeb House. For the first time this year we had so many homemade dishes to complement the festive catering menu! A big thank you to the new and longtime members who took time to prepare the delicious treats!

Coming Up

Volunteer Over Winter Break!

If you'll be in the Cambridge area anytime between December 19th and January 23rd, Y2Y Shelter could really use your help as a volunteer! They love having both individuals and groups sign up for the winter break shifts! If you have any questions, please reach out to Y2Y and/or HSHS.

Here is the description of Shifts:

**DINNER (6:45 pm to 9:15 pm)** -- You'll be making and serving dinner, and perhaps be lucky enough to run on a food salvage trip or collect pastries from the many shops that donate to us.

**EVENING (9:00 pm to 11:15 pm)** -- This is a relaxed time to visit with guests as they prepare for bed. It's usually very quiet and a great opportunity for some wonderful conversations. Help is also often needed in the kitchen to clean up after dinner and prepare plates of food to hand out at the door.

**OVERNIGHT (11:00 pm to 8:30 am)** -- You'll stay awake with other volunteers and night-owl guests, basically having more good conversations, watching movies, doing laundry, reading, baking cookies, etc. This is a fantastic shift because it's a rare opportunity to have long conversations and get to know people well. People often say it's the best shift! And never fear, we do take turns sleeping -- the night is typically divided into three shifts (12-3 AM, 3-5 AM, and 5-8 AM) and you will be awake for one of them (there is a staff room with bunk beds, so you will be able to sleep when it is not your turn).

**BREAKFAST (7:30 am to 9:30 am)** -- Come in bright and early to greet our guests as they begin to wake up! You'll be making breakfast and helping to clean the shelter (an invaluable service!) after all the guests leave at 8 AM.
Weekend Ideas

Winter Reimagined at the Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA

One of the oldest botanical gardens in the nation is also home to one of the prettiest light displays in Massachusetts. The Tower Hill Botanic Garden’s winding paths and exotic plants offer the perfect atmosphere for a stunning holiday vista. The Garden is open both early and late, but charges slightly higher prices from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. to help offset operational costs.

Harvard Neighbors’ Winter Appeal

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 to 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, 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!

Events around Boston

Visit First Night Celebration in Boston

First Night Boston, the oldest New Year’s Eve event of this type in the U.S, is celebrating its 41st anniversary! This year the festivities will include: Ice sculptures and light shows in Copley Square and Boston Common. Family-friendly activities and arts performances in Copley Square from 12pm-4pm. Additional arts and musical performances in indoor and outdoor venues around Copley Square from noon to midnight. A spectacular People’s Procession down Boylston Street to the Common starting at 6pm. Free figure skating show on the Frog Pond ice rink on Boston Common, 6pm-7pm. Family Fireworks at Boston Common at 7pm.

Music and Dancing, Countdown to Midnight in Copley Square. Midnight Fireworks Show over Boston Harbor across from the North End and Seaport.

Shelter Music Boston Brings Classical Music To Homeless Shelters

Shelter Music Boston presents monthly chamber music concerts in Greater Boston homeless shelters, delivering live classical music as a social service. They return to the same shelters and recovery programs each month to build a sense of community and trust between the shelter guests, the musicians, the staff, and the music itself. All professional musicians are local artists, who bring the same quality concert one might hear at Symphony Hall, directly into the shelter environments.

SMB invites you to volunteer at a shelter concert. They perform between 6 to 7 concerts almost every month, so there is plenty of Opportunity and usually need 1-2 volunteers per concert. The next opening is Tuesday, December 19th at CASPAR Emergency Shelter in Cambridge. Please contact Erin Nelson erin@sheltermusicboston.org

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Happening Around Harvard

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