



Table of Plenty in Chelmsford Newsletter

Do You “Like” Table of Plenty?



Visit Table of Plenty's website:
www.tableofplentyinchelmsford.org
And “Like” us on Facebook!

February 2014

Ever wonder what is being served for dinner at Table of Plenty? Or maybe who to contact to volunteer? Maybe you need to give someone directions. **Visit our website or become a friend of Table of Plenty on Facebook!** Join the almost 200 people who have already “liked” us.

Caithlin O’Brien and Craig Bonaceto, our technical gurus, have been managing the Table of Plenty website, Facebook page, and voicemail system since our humble beginnings. They post and archive news-

letters on the site, provide information about our inclement weather policy and meal cancellations, post meal sponsors, and provide information about making a donation or sponsoring a meal. They also highlight events in the community that may be of interest to Table of Plenty volunteers, donors, or guests.

In 2013, the website was visited 14,830 times, an average of 1,234 visits per month! And, on average, 60 - 100 people view our Facebook posts about meal information each week.

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A Special Night of Thanks

At a recent meal, we honored some friends who have generously donated time and again to our dinners:

Gary Frascarelli of Gary's Ice Cream, Susan and Ted Rokas of Zesty's, Kelly Boshar who donates the birthday cake each month, and Charlie Dahlgren of Evergreen Signs who provides our sponsor signs and display signs for outside the church and around town.

We are happy they were able to join us for dinner and thank them for their many generous contributions to TOPIC. Unable to make the dinner but also receiving certificates: Parlee's Farm in Chelmsford, Panera in Westford, Friendly's in Chelmsford, Weston Nurseries in Chelmsford, Sunny D, The Sugar Bake Shoppe, Gentle Arms Daily, and The Power of Flowers.



Gary Frascarelli, Susan and Ted Rokas, Kelly Boshar, and Charlie Dahlgren

Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union - "We Share a Common Thread"



Table of Plenty has been fortunate in the past to have received a donation from Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union from their "Give a Click" campaign, where they donate \$1500 each quarter to a worthy area non-profit. In addition to this generosity, in October we also received a check for \$1000 from the donations Jeanne D'Arc re-

ceived from their "We Share a Common Thread" fundraiser. Here, their Vice President for Community Development, Steve Jones, presents Maureen McKeown with the check.

Social responsibility is an integral part of Jeanne D'Arc's mission. Their employees spend countless hours assisting worthwhile causes in the community. Last year, the "We Share A Common Thread" Foundation donated over \$30,000 to local causes to provide assistance with food, shelter, clothing, health, and education.

Once again, thank you to Jeanne D'Arc for their support of Table of Plenty!

Thank You to Our Meal Sponsors

- ◇ **Bill Dalton**
- ◇ **Finest Builders**
- ◇ **Dolan Funeral Home - sponsor and serve the first Tuesday of every month**
- ◇ **Chelmsford Women of Today**
- ◇ **Dunkin' Donuts**
- ◇ **Chelmsford Pickleball**
- ◇ **Clarence (Christmas Meal)**
- ◇ **Chelmsford Minutemen**
- ◇ **Zesty's**
- ◇ **Many more sponsors who wish to donate anonymously**



Why do they sponsor? For some, it is to give back to their community. For others, it is in memory of a loved one. Some sponsor as a gift - a birthday present, Mother's or Father's Day, Christmas.

Sponsoring a Meal



If you or your business are interested in sponsoring a meal, contact Table of Plenty at 978-710-8EAT (8328).

My Father's House—Donations Needed



Each Tuesday night, a volunteer from TOPIC brings meals to My Father's House for the moms and kids who live there. My Father's House is always in need of replacement items ranging from laundry detergent, diapers, and soap, to microwaves, washers, dryers, and air conditioners. They prefer new items, but will accept used items in good condition. If you think you have something they might need, please contact Nancy at 978-251-8191.

Meet One of Our Volunteer Teams

Note: In our last few newsletters, and in the next few editions of our newsletter, we will introduce you to our nine wonderful volunteer serving teams at Table of Plenty.



THE FIRST PARISH TEAM

Pictured: Carole Martin, Linda Newhard, Doloros Heredia-Wood, Don Hayden, Andrea (Don's daughter), Gayle Keene, Liz Peterson, Meg Bergan, Rev. Ellen Rowse Spero, Joan Keane, Tom Christiano, Jim and Andrew Dolan (from sponsor Dolan Funeral Home), Jim Curley, and Akiko Sano. Missing from picture: Cindy Gist, Cheryl Wilson, Kathy Brough, Theresa Popoloski, Joan Coyne, Cornelia and Kirk Kirkpatrick, Patrick Scollin, John Rowse Spero, Troop 77, and Bonnie Rankin.

This team is made up of friends and members of First Parish. Team Leader, Bonnie Rankin, has led this group since the beginning of TOPIC. Bonnie is a librarian, church leader, and a Dance Mom! The First Parish team is a large and wonderful team of volunteers who serve when they can. Their motto is:

Love People, Serve Them Good Food

SAVE THE DATE - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



All Table of Plenty Volunteers...please stop what you are doing and mark your calendars for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

- ◆ MAY 7, 2014 ~ Wednesday
- ◆ At Mount Pleasant Golf Club
- ◆ Watch your mailbox for your invitation

Cooks' Annual Report

This past year, we were blessed with the addition of new kitchen help and some great new cooks. All the cooks have input at our monthly meetings, where we work to improve our kitchen procedures and cooking techniques and to create the menus for future meals.

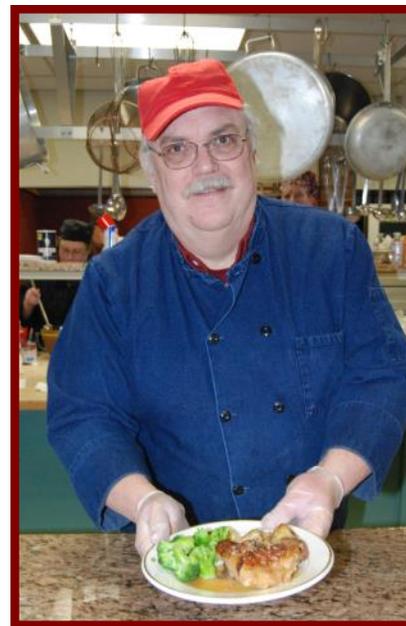
Our menus continue to be well accepted by the guests. We served special occasion meals of ham at our Thanksgiving meal and roast beef at our Christmas meal.

We continue to provide meals to My Father's House on a weekly basis and to any shut-ins and veterans who might need some support on an as-requested basis. This outreach program has been very well received.

We replaced the pizza ovens with two commercial convection ovens. This provided a great improvement in preparing meals. The new ovens have greater capacity, cook faster, and reduce our energy usage. Many thanks to First Parish for letting us replace the ovens and giving us a long term commitment to use the facilities.

We have been especially helped by many partners who have provided various assistances to us. The Merrimack Valley Food Bank has been a welcoming partner to us in producing nutritious and afford-

able meals. Many commercial groups, such as Panera Bread in Westford, Parlee's Farm, and Gary's Ice Cream in Chelmsford have regularly provided items. Other retailers and many individuals have also donated supplies. In turn, we also share with the Transitional Living Center in Lowell and Cor-Unum in Lawrence. We are looking forward to another great year in 2014.



One of our cooks, Paul Windt, with the ever popular, Cranberry Orange Chicken

Thank You

- Donna Parlee and Parlee's Farm for the donations of fresh vegetables.
- Keyks for their delicious desserts.
- St. Mary's Spirit of Christmas Program for once again donating Market Basket Gift Cards for all our guests at Christmas time.
- The Power of Flowers Project in Dunstable for the beautiful centerpieces.



President's Message - Annual Report

Table of Plenty in Chelmsford is approaching its fourth year of uninterrupted operation in the community. Our guest population has remained relatively stable with a slight drop off this fall. The numbers have returned to approximately the same as last year during the past few months. The Board has been diligent in attempting new outreach.

Public awareness of our organization has been highlighted several times during the past year. An outstanding recognition was TOP's nomination for Enterprise Bank's 2013 Celebration of Excellence Award.

Our excellent website has provided opportunities for new volunteers and for TOP to solicit help when needed.

We will keep exploring opportunities for our organization to reach those who might not be able to attend on Tuesdays. Certainly an excellent example of this is the weekly meals provided to My Father's House in North Chelmsford.

We will arrange to meet with members of Open Table in Concord. They have offered to share the results of their recent strategic planning session with our Board.

Thanks to the generosity of The First

Parish and the unfailing support of our community, we have been able to provide a welcome environment and nourishing meals for our guests. It is with deep gratitude I wish to acknowledge and thank the commitment of all our Board members, cooks and the multitude of volunteers who have made this endeavor a reality.



Maureen McKeown

Board of Directors

President: Maureen McKeown
Vice President: Jerry Serra
Treasurer: Deborah Kendrick
Clerk: Mary Moriarty

Craig Bonaceto
Kathy Clark
Jim Comeau
Joe Hehn
Marianne Hutchins
Mike Kendrick
Caithlin O'Brien
Merri Serra
Rev. Ellen Rowse Spero
Diane Taylor

Committee Members

Accountant
Gerry Paolilli

Attorney
Kevin S. Sullivan

Cooks Committee
Jim Comeau, Coordinator
Fran Geurard
Adelle Stavis
Paul Windt

First Parish Representative
Deidre Heck

Inventory Coordinator
Sharon Hehn

Publicity Coordinator
Diane Taylor

Technical Communications
Craig Bonaceto
Caithlin O'Brien

Volunteer Coordinator
Marianne Hutchins

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