



Table of Plenty in Chelmsford Newsletter

Table of Plenty Has a New Home



Last summer, Table of Plenty knew it had to move to a temporary space while the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church was undergoing renovations. The Town of Chelmsford was gracious to offer the use of the Senior Center during this time. After many months of serving there, the Board voted to remain at this location for a number of reasons, including the size of the dining hall, ample parking with handicap accessibility, and air conditioning. We are eternally grateful to Reverend Ellen Rowse Spero and all of the wonderful people at the UUC for their commitment to Table of Plenty. We could never have gotten off the ground and served the community as we did for the past eight years without their faith and support.

We would also like to thank Deb Siriani, the Director of the Council on Aging in Chelmsford, and all the staff at the Senior Center for making us feel welcome and for their guidance during our transition.

In the end, though, as Billy Joel says, "Wherever we're together,

April 2019

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Some Thank You's...



Northern Bank



- * **Harbor of Hope Church**— for their generous donation. Harbor of Hope gives away at least 10% of their resources to local and global partners such as TOP; The Wish Project; Food for the Hungry; Operation Christmas Child; and gift cards for food, rent, and utility help.
- * **Northern Bank** - for their donation and support.
- * **John Volpe from St. Mary Church**— John is the Director of Music Ministries at St. Mary Parish and has offered to entertain our guests once each month.
- * **Micky Ward**—for his continued support of TOPIC by sponsoring and serving meals.
- * **KJs Caffè**— Opened in November (at 118 Chelmsford Street), [KJs Caffè](#) is operated by Kathryn and Justin Bastinelli. They partner with us to donate bagels and muffins each week.



Chefs' Update From Jim Comeau and Paul Windt



The Senior Center location has a lot to offer and we are now permanently serving at the new space. The Senior Center has been most welcoming.

Our meals continue to be well accepted by our guests. We always work with our local suppliers and supporters to serve nutritious, tasty, and comforting food. The Merrimack Valley Food Bank continues to be a close partner, as do Panera Bread in Westford, [KJ's Caffe](#) in Chelmsford, [Crosby's Marketplace](#) in Concord, [Gary's Ice Cream](#) and [Sullivan Farms Ice Cream](#), and local farmers and supporters. We benefit from the sponsors who support all the meals! In turn, we share with other local programs that provide food and meals. Every week, we also provide, on request, meals to My Father's House and any shut-ins, veterans, and others who might need some support.

The average attendance by guests and deliveries continues to increase.

Our kitchen staff continues to change. We miss old friends who moved away or spend the winter months in warmer climates. New volunteers are joining our group to support the effort of providing a three course meal every week. We are glad they help out and we welcome anyone who would like to be part of our effort. Do you love to cook? We need help cooking, prepping, and plating our weekly meal, from 2:00—7:00 on Tuesdays. We welcome all experience levels, and can work with any time commitment you would be able to make. For example, you could come as little as one Tuesday a month, or you could come every week!

We are looking forward to another great year in 2019, with the help of dedicated volunteers and generous supporters. Our grateful thanks to one and all!

The Kitchen Crew

Thank You to Our Meal Sponsors

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of our community. The number of donors and sponsors from the Chelmsford Business Association has increased. Additionally, we receive numerous private donations. Several families have sponsored a meal in honor of or in memory of a loved one. For the first time, we received a sponsorship in memory of a beloved chocolate lab named Mocha. How beautiful!

A milestone was reached in 2018 when Table of Plenty had a sponsor for every week during the year!

- ♦ Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
- ♦ In Memory of Janeice Janssen-Vasseur
- ♦ Team Micky Ward Charities
- ♦ In Memory of Ann Coddair
- ♦ Chelmsford Women of Today
- ♦ Blake Funeral Home
- ♦ Northern Bank in Littleton
- ♦ In Memory of Eric Sullivan
- ♦ Enterprise Bank
- ♦ The DiPietro Family
- ♦ Clarence
- ♦ In Memory of Doris David
- ♦ In Memory of Jim Fede
- ♦ Northern Bank in Chelmsford
- ♦ And many Anonymous Sponsors...



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

Table of Plenty in The Lowell Sun

Did you happen to see the [wonderful article](#) on Table of Plenty recently in The Lowell Sun? Thank you to Alana Melanson for highlighting our organization!

Hanscom Air Force Base Volunteers



For a few years now, employees from Hanscom Air Force Base have been coming to help out when volunteers are needed. Seen here serving dessert and smiles are Pauline Amirault, April Fitzgerald, Vicki Moore, and Chris Hearne who all work in Finance. They are members of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

Tales From the Table



A few weeks ago we started a new program at Table of Plenty called “***Tales From the Table***” which is modeled after WGBH’s program “Stories From the Stage”. At around 4:50, right before we start serving dinner at TOP, a guest is introduced who wants to share a little bit about themselves, tell a personal story, or entertain with a joke. Paule spoke at the inaugural “Tales”, telling a wonderful story of when she was a nine year old girl and had to share her room with an aunt whose house burned down. Paule enjoyed it at first, but at some point when she grew tired of sharing her room, she put tacks in her aunt’s bed, which as you can imagine did not go over well. But the point of her story was that her aunt forgave her, and they were as close as ever. Another week, John spoke of how he has been enjoying coming to Table of Plenty since the very first meal nine years ago. He then made us smile with a few “Chicken Crossing the Road” jokes.

President's Message

Reflecting on nine years of continual service by Table of Plenty allows me to realize how much our organization has grown. The number of businesses and individuals who recognize our presence in the community continues to increase each year. We continue to meet new demands on our resources thanks to this awareness. Although our departure from The First Parish UUC was a sad move, our relocation to the Chelmsford Senior Center has allowed us the luxury of increased seating and parking. Our organization has many original volunteers who continue to dedicate countless hours to our mission. We cannot fully express our gratitude to all who have dedicated themselves, in some way, to Table of Plenty.



Maureen McKeown

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Contact Us

Mailing Address:

Table of Plenty in Chelmsford, Inc.
P.O. Box 321
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Phone:

978-710-8EAT (8328)

Email:

tableofplentyinchelmsford@gmail.com

Website:

www.tableofplentyinchelmsford.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/tableofplenty

Ask a friend to join our mailing list by emailing us at: tableofplentyinchelmsford@gmail.com