



Summer 2022

## Table of Plenty in Chelmsford Newsletter

### Remembering John Wadman



2013—Hasn't Missed a Meal Yet!



2014—Award at Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



2015—TOPIC's 15,000th meal is served to John



2019—John participates in "Tales from the Table"

In November of 2020, Table of Plenty lost a good friend, John Wadman. One of the seven guests at our inaugural dinner in May of 2010, John went years without missing a single meal with us. He first heard about our free community meal from Board member Debbie Kendrick, a family friend. He would often attend with his niece, but his company was enjoyed by all who sat with him. As his obituary said, he was "A friend to all he met".

Originally from Medford, John played hockey at Dartmouth College and then earned his PhD in Chemistry from Brooklyn Polytech. When John died, his family asked that Table of Plenty be

## Remembering John Wadman (continued from Page 1)

the recipient of memorials in his name. This June, a special meal was sponsored in his honor from these donations.

Additionally, Table of Plenty was extremely moved to find out that John included us in his will, leaving a generous gift. His sister, Sue said John so enjoyed the thought of including Table of Plenty in his will, as it was an important part of his life. He looked forward to the delicious meals and the socialization. Sue said that he appreciated the kindness of all who came and all who served, and felt that Table of Plenty graciously provided a service to those in need. She added that he liked to tell his jokes, whether they would good or not! We will remember the smiles he brought to our faces with his “Chicken Crossing the Road” jokes.

## Tribute Meal in Memory of Jim Comeau

In mid-June, we held a meal in memory of our long time chef, Jim Comeau. About a dozen of Jim’s family attended and were served his favorite and a favorite of many guests—meatloaf, prepared by Team Kirk. We had our largest crowd of the year—123 guests! Although we could never put into words what Jim meant to all of us, our chef Sue MacDonald spoke eloquently about Jim and his many wonderful deeds and qualities.

Until we meet again, Jim, save a place for us at the Table.



Sue MacDonald and Mary Jane Comeau

## Harrington School Donation



Thank you to the students, staff, and families of the Harrington Elementary School who raised over \$2600 through their Penny Wars for Table of Plenty!

## Chelmsford Grow A Row

Table of Plenty is excited to partner again this year with Chelmsford Grow A Row—but, we need volunteers! All ages and skill levels are welcome.

For the planting season, we need five or six volunteers who could help us plant and water the crops. The time commitment would be an hour or so two days a week. During the harvest, we could use additional volunteers daily for about an hour. We could also use volunteers during the season on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from about 10:30-noon to collect produce being dropped off for donation.

Let us know if you can help:

Chelmsford Grow A Row ~ John Bowles 978-256-0747

Table of Plenty ~ Mary Moriarty 978-710-8328



## Our “Special” Meals

Pork loin during Thanksgiving week, ham dinner at Christmastime, Taco Tuesday, start of summer burgers and dogs on the grill, and more...our Cooks know how to make the holidays special, and this St. Patrick’s Day was no exception. An amazing corned beef and cabbage dinner was prepared, with soda bread on the side! The Traveling Troubadors, comprised of our very own TOPIC volunteers and guests, delighted the diners with musical entertainment.



## Thank You to Our Meal Sponsors and Donors

The following donors either sponsored a meal, or contributed an amount equal or greater than a meal sponsorship:

- ◆ **The Adams Family**
- ◆ **Ira Carp**
- ◆ **Center School Student Council**
- ◆ **Chelmsford Business Association**
- ◆ **In Memory of Ellie Clancy**
- ◆ **Janet and Dan Dubner**
- ◆ **Emmanuel Church**
- ◆ **Enterprise Bank**
- ◆ **In Honor of Mary Fedele's Retirement from Enterprise Bank**
- ◆ **Matt Fichtenbaum**
- ◆ **Thomas Gagnon**
- ◆ **Joanne Gorham**
- ◆ **Harrington School Student Council**
- ◆ **Kathy and Mike Hogan**
- ◆ **Joanie's Pizza**
- ◆ **Ken Kriedberg**
- ◆ **In Memory of Gregory Leath**
- ◆ **L'Hussier Tax Services**
- ◆ **Lockheed Martin**
- ◆ **Barbara and Charles Ludinsky**
- ◆ **In Memory of Andrew and Eleanor Mayotte**
- ◆ **In Memory of our Founder, Maureen McKeown**

- ◆ **Mount Pleasant Golf Club**
- ◆ **Jim and Trish O' Donnell**
- ◆ **In Memory of Bernadette Queen**
- ◆ **Molly Rawling**
- ◆ **In Memory of Antonio Santos**
- ◆ **In Memory of Eric Sullivan**
- ◆ **TJX Companies**
- ◆ **In Memory of John Wadman**
- ◆ **Dan Ward**
- ◆ **In Memory of Michael White**

...and many more businesses and friends who wish to remain anonymous.

Many thanks to all for your generosity!



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

## Cooks' Report

The cooking teams are starting to get into a good routine at the Senior Center, since its renovation last year. It was a substantial change to go from serving 250 Grab 'N Go meals to 120 "Cook and Serve" meals. We decided to close TOPIC in January and February due to a spike in COVID cases and restrictions at the Senior Center. The crew is now getting used to the new kitchen design and are more comfortable after the brief lay off. They have plenty of space in the walk-in refrigerator and freezer. Many thanks to all the staff at the Senior Center who have been very accommodating with access to the kitchen.

Each week the plan is to cook 120 meals and so far, that seems to be the correct amount. We have had good luck with our traditional meals of hamburg and macaroni, shepherd's pie, and of course meatloaf. Fish was also a big hit recently. As the seasons change so does our menu. With summer upon us we will start changing into lighter meals.

We are always looking for good solid cooks as volunteers! The cooking teams are comprised of some really great people—some with top notch skills and all with a desire to serve a quality meal. Their dedication to TOPIC is amazing. We are very thankful for each and every one of them!



## President's Message

It's been a busy few months at Table of Plenty! We've been back serving each Tuesday since the beginning of March, and we're so happy to provide a meal each week. Our hosts at the Senior Center welcome us each week and accommodate all of our needs. We're grateful to have found our home here.

Our numbers have been steadily increasing each week, and we love seeing new faces at the meal. Many of our guests comment on how delicious everything tastes. Thanks to the generosity of our community through meal sponsorships and donations, we have been able to enhance the quality of our menus. Kudos to our cooking teams.

We're also seeing new team volunteers each week and welcome all the help. As I write this, two young men from Chelmsford High are coming in to do dishes tonight!

It doesn't seem possible, but we are embarking on our thirteenth year! It's been a great journey so far, and I'm looking forward to what the future holds for Table of Plenty!



*Mary Moriarty*

**Founder:** Maureen McKeown

### Board of Directors

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**Clerk:** Diane Taylor

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