



The Volunteer Link

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2017



Sudbury Dinners to Resume

We are thrilled to announce that the renovations to the Sudbury United Methodist Church are complete and Open Table will resume serving dinners there on Tuesday evenings starting on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 6:00pm.**

We hope to see you there!



The Paint is on the Walls!

The construction of our new site continues, with paint going up on the walls. We're excited about the colors – warm golds and bright greens. New photos go up on the website regularly, so check them out [here](#)!

Saving the Planet, One Leftover at a Time

Open Table has a long history of being eco-friendly.

- We recycle cardboard, bags, jars and cans.
- We compost food scraps or give them to local farms as animal feed.
- We send leftover food home with guests.

That last one – sending leftover food home – is getting even friendlier, as we make

some changes to the containers they go in.



In 2016, the town of Concord voted to ban containers made of polystyrene, those white, spongy containers most restaurants use for take-out meals. We've taken that ban one step further by deciding to put all leftovers in reusable containers that guests can take home with them. Each person that dines at Open Table will receive a reusable container that they should bring with them to our community meals, so when it's their turn for leftovers, they'll have a way to take them home.

This new system is being launched mid-March. Information about the new policy will be available at the community dinners leading up to the change.

We will continue to make the distribution of leftovers as equitable as possible, with servers rotating distribution regularly to ensure everyone has an opportunity during the month to bring home a meal.



Record Turnout for President's Day

Monday holidays are typically lighter days for our community dinners – people go out of town, or aren't in their regular routine and don't show up. But this President's Day saw 87 people at our dinner – a new record for a holiday night! Thanks to our volunteers for being dedicated, and our guests for joining us.

Volunteer Spotlight: Karen Sullivan



"I have been an active volunteer at Open Table for over three years. It took only one night volunteering for Open Table in Maynard in the food pantry to know that this is where I would be spending my Monday evenings. It was not planned: many people volunteer once a month or just occasionally. For me, I felt drawn to be there, helping these wonderful people. I realized that, under different circumstances, it could be me and my family in need. I know that they would rather not have to be there, and in many ways, they rely on us for companionship, a smile and a laugh. I

talk to them about the weather, their kids, compliment them on a piece of clothing they have on or even ask them what they made from that nice piece of meat they received last week (yes a lot of food talk goes on). Yes, it is small talk, but it means something to them and they remember how I make them feel. I remember being thanked for smiling! The lady who thanked me said that she had been having a really bad day and that she appreciated my smiling at her. I was touched. I truly admire these people, and the relationships that I have formed with many of them is precious. I am nurtured as much from them as they are from me. In my own little way, I know I am making a difference in their lives."



Come Hear a Story

Fugitive Stories, a monthly story slam event hosted by Fugitive Productions of Acton, takes place at the Gallery at Villageworks in West Acton; people get up and tell short, funny, heartwarming, inspirational stories around a specific theme.

The March event will be held Sunday, March 26th. The theme of the night will be trust and two people involved with Open Table, a guest and a volunteer, will share a story about their experience with Open Table. Come support our storytellers while enjoying a night of great stories. It runs from 6:30-8:30, tickets are \$10 online or \$12 at the door. More

information can be found here:

<http://www.fugitiveproductions.com/calendar/stories>



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