

# OPEN TABLE

FRESH FOOD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

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## *News from around the table*

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### **Month at a glance**

Even though it seems like November just got here, the days are flying by, and Thanksgiving will be here before you know it. PLEASE NOTE: Open Table will be CLOSED the week of Thanksgiving for regular pantry and dinners. We will be OPEN on Tuesday ONLY by prior appointment for turkey pick-up. Please plan accordingly.



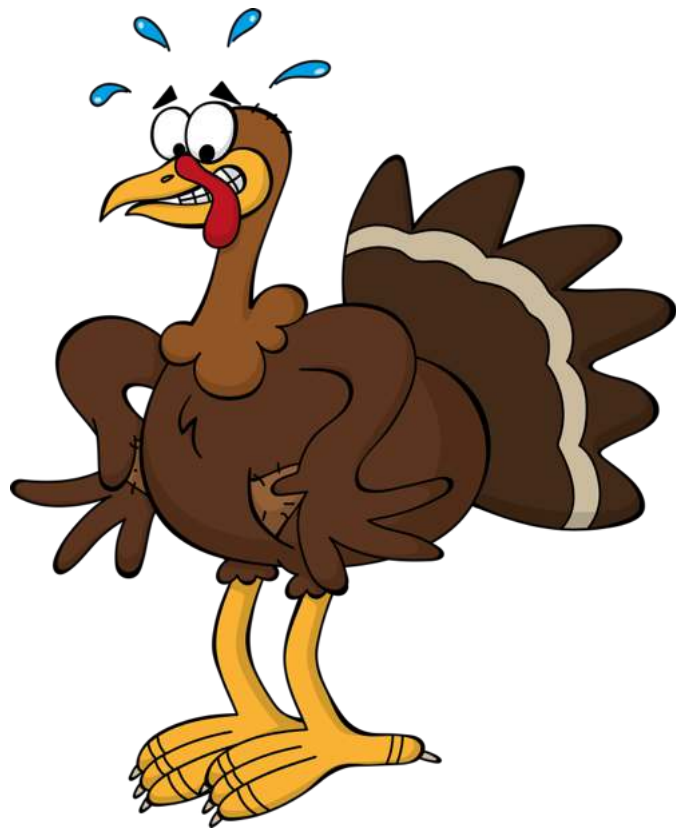
We will open back up again the week of November 26 for both pantry and community dinners. Regular pantry hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 3-6:30 pm, Tuesdays from 1-3 for seniors, all by appointment. To sign up for an appointment time, come to our pantry during our regular hours. Bring proof of date of birth and current residency for all family members who would like food assistance.

Dinners are Tuesdays at 33 Main St. in Maynard (doors open at 5, dinner is served at 6) and Thursdays at First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road

(doors open at 4:45, dinner is served at 5:30). All are welcome!

Upcoming specialty dinners planned for Maynard will be a holiday meal on December 18 and Breakfast for Dinner on January 8, so put those dates in your calendars.

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## Last Call for Turkey Trot

It's not too late to sign up to run in the Turkey Trot! Online registrations are happening through Friday, November 16; go [here](#) to register. You can also register the day of the race, if there are spots left. Sign up early and you can get a shirt! It's only \$35 to register and a great way to start off your Thanksgiving: burning calories and supporting food pantries. Race starts at 8:30 am over at Keyes Road in Concord.

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## Empty Bowls recap

Newbury Court hosted this year's Empty Bowls fundraiser, and it was a HUGE success: over \$10k raised! Most bowls sold within the first hour of the event, and the soup served was delicious.



Jill Crowley, Programs Coordinator at Newbury Court, said, "This has been the single most unifying event for residents, staff and community since working here."

Pantry volunteer Kim Kelly and Pantry Director Rose Saia were top bidders at

the silent auction portion of the fundraiser. Kim coveted the bunny-roo (a hare that Aussie Kim dubbed a kangaroo) and Rose took home this gentle elephant. A wonderful event full of smiles, soup and sunshine!



## Girl Power!

Two great groups of girls recently came to Open Table to make mini pumpkin breads: Stow's Girl Scout Troop #75252 and Concord's National Charity League (NCL). The 145 mini breads made with surplus food from donations will be given away with the rest of the Thanksgiving fixings to families who signed up to get this. We are grateful to these talented bakers, both for using their talents to feed people and for making the pantry smell so darn good!

## Hot jobs!

Got some time on a Tuesday afternoon? Come hang out with some great people and help out with these hot jobs! You don't need to commit to the whole time; even an hour is a huge help. Bring a friend and bond while helping out in your community.

Pantry crew: 12:45-4 pm

Bagging station crew: 1:15-4 pm

Pantry closing crew: 3:30-5 pm



**NOV/DEC** Tuesdays!

**HOT JOBS!**

Open Table is looking to fill the following jobs/times:

**PANTRY CREW**

Tuesday 12:45–4:00pm

**BAGGING STATION CREW**

Tuesday 1:15–4:00pm

**PANTRY CLOSING CREW**

Tuesday 3:30–5:00pm

If your Tuesday afternoons are free, *please* let one of the managers know, or email [volunteer@opentable.org](mailto:volunteer@opentable.org). *Thanks!*

They say helping others is a great way to stave off depression, so consider

doing this for your own mental health. To get more info or to sign up, email us at [volunteer@opentable.org](mailto:volunteer@opentable.org).

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## OT Spotlight: Mark Koenig

Mark Koenig has held many positions at Open Table over the years, including dishwasher at Clock Tower Place and currently as Guest Support Director. However, I am most familiar with his role as volunteer "Dinner Greeter" at the Tuesday night dinner in Maynard.

Mark greets all of the guests who arrive to dinner each Tuesday night (doors open at 5, dinner at 6pm) with a warm spoken "welcome," and acknowledges each guest with a warm smile. I also believe Mark has an actual "smile" in his voice; he is so friendly to all of us.

Mark makes everyone, both newcomers and those who have attended the dinners for a while, feel comfortable and safe.

He takes care of our immediate needs quickly such as making sure the beverage section is well stocked, which is especially appreciated during the hot summer days we had.

Approachable and accessible, Mark will often sit down with guests, especially before dinner, to "learn more of their 'stories,'" and sometimes refer guests to other services if appropriate. Mark shows great empathy to the guests and what they have had or are experiencing in their lives.

Living on a fixed income can be hard, and knowing that I will have such a pleasant experience at the Tuesday night dinner every week is in large part due to Mark's warm and inviting environment that he has helped to create.

Attending this dinner is really one of the highlights of my week. Mark's warm "Hello" along with the rest of the dinner experience helps me to forget about my problems, if only for a few hours, and that really helps.

I am so grateful to know Mark, and for all for the help he has given me.

-- Julie Neubauer



## Call for Volunteers

Do you have a flair for froufrou? A penchant for planning? Join our team of party planners putting together our 30th anniversary celebration. This enthusiastic and fun group could use a few extra hands, for all types of jobs, big and small. Need more details? Contact event planner extraordinaire Alannah Gustavson at [events@opentable.org](mailto:events@opentable.org) and she'll hook you up.

**Fall is when we count our blessings! Thank you to our amazing and dedicated volunteers and our generous donors!**



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