



OPEN TABLE

FRESH FOOD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

News from around the table

Big news -- we're expanding!

Open Table is bursting at the seams and it is impacting our ability to effectively serve the over 1,000 people a year who come through our doors. Our first priority is to our guests, which is why we've been using kitchen counters as desks, the utility closet as an office, and nooks and crannies in the pantry to store filing cabinets.

A number of generous supporters recognized the challenge of serving our guests and managing our growing



administrative needs in the same location – literally competing for space. In order to address this challenge they combined their resources to help Open Table fund office space in an adjacent building. On March 30, 2020, we will expand our footprint by moving our administrative function into office space next to our 33 Main Street location thereby relieving pressure on our current site. With improved infrastructure we can expand services, collaborate more efficiently with community partners, positively impact staff retention, and better meet the mission of Open Table.

We're always grateful for the support of our wonderful donors.

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Our Executive Director is taking a sabbatical

After seven years of leading Open Table through many major transitions, our

Executive Director Jeanine Calabria has requested an unpaid leave to recharge her battery. Starting March 1st through May 31st, she will be taking time to complete the memoir cookbook she has been working on for several years, and visit with family.

Our Board has hired two part-time temporary staff members to step in: Jill Tsakiris and Stephanie Chrobak. Both have extensive business and nonprofit experience, and will work to ensure the successful launch of new programming and the implementation of our strategic plan.

Jill Tsakiris served as the Community Consultant Team liaison to Open Table as well as participated on the Open Table task force for strategic planning last year. She will work with staff member Heather Hernandez to implement our new volunteer management system, as well as participate in Service Enterprise.

Stephanie Chrobak comes from a successful career in operations and non-profit funding. She will assist Samantha Hohl in launching our mobile programming. Stephanie has been leading our grant writing team for the past year and helped Open Table raise over \$90,000 in FY 2019.

We're excited to have Jill and Stephanie on board and look forward to seeing Jeanine when she returns in June!

Whole Foods drive a success!

Our community partner [Whole Foods in Sudbury](#) hosted a food drive over the February 8-9 weekend and collected nearly 1000 pounds of food. We could not provide food for all the people we do without companies like Whole Foods – thank you for being a part of Open Table's family!!

Who else supported Open Table with food drives this month?

Glad you asked! [NCL Middlesex Chapter](#) made hundreds of kids' bags; Concord's [Holy Family Church's](#) Middle School Service Project collected canned goods and homemade treats; the employees at [Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates](#) collected non-perishable food; the Alcott and Willard Elementary schools in Concord ran food drives; and [Revolutionary Concord](#) in Concord Center participated in our Souper Bowl promotion, collecting soup and other non-perishables through Valentine's Day.



Thanks to ALL of these people who gave their time and love for Open Table this month!



A Taste of Italy

This month's themed dinner takes us to Italy! Come enjoy Italian specialties and entertainment on Thursday, February 27, at our dinner at First Parish Church in Concord. Doors open at 4:45, dinner is served at 5:30. All are welcome and it's always free!

Upcoming specialty dinners include:

Vietnamese night, March 9, Maynard --

Guest chef Phan Ngyun of Gigi's returns with specialties from his restaurant
Spanish Fiesta, March 26, Concord

Chinese New Year in Concord

In January, the Acton Chinese American Civic Society (ACACS) helped us celebrate Chinese New Year in style. They brought an impressive array of items to view – table decorations, fans, dresses, hair accessories – and created an authentic dinner, including dumplings, seaweed salad, and tomato egg drop soup. Entertainment included dancers in colorful costumes and traditional music. We so appreciate our community groups sharing their culture with us through food and music. Such a great way to gain



understanding of others!



Buddy likes to help out in the kitchen, how about you?

If cleaning is your jam, we've got you covered! Come down and wash dishes with the fun crew at our dinners on Monday in Maynard or Thursday in Concord. We also need pantry closers at our Tuesday and Thursday afternoon pantries in Maynard. Contact us at volunteer@opentable.org or click [here](#).

Food For Fines

Pay off your library fines with non-perishable items for Open Table! During the month of February, you can clear your good name at the [Maynard Public Library](#) by donating boxed and canned food items. And from March 23-29, the same applies at [Concord Public Library](#). Thanks to our libraries for this creative way to solve two problems at once!





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