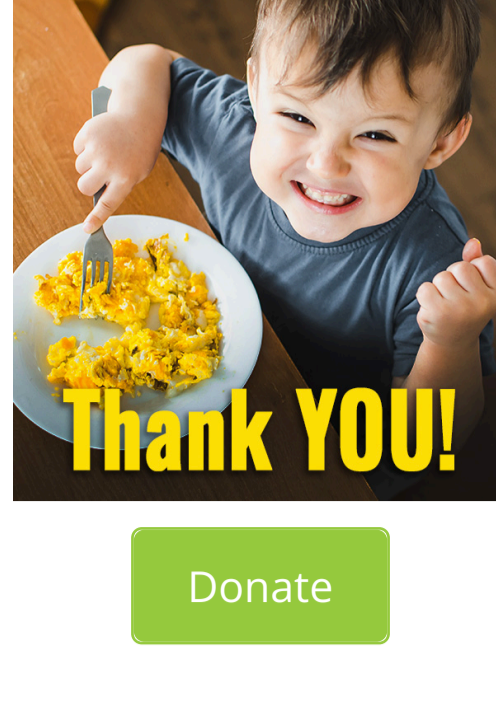


News from Around the Table

Thanks to YOU...

...Our Annual Appeal was a huge success! We asked for your financial support, and you really came through. Thanks to your generous donations, we are well situated to provide food and necessities to your neighbors, recent immigrants, and people adversely impacted by the ongoing pandemic.

Inflation and ongoing supply chain issues are making it increasingly difficult for people in need; more people are finding us every week. YOU have ensured we can continue to support them. So thank you!



Donate



When You Wish Upon a Star

Matt Baird is the kind of volunteer every organization hopes to get: dedicated and passionate, willing to do what needs to be done, and cheerful to boot. But we're the lucky ones because Matt is not only a wonderful volunteer, he's also an amazing person. As a teen with cancer, Matt had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to choose whatever his heart desired through the Make-A-Wish foundation. He wished for a donation to Open Table.

Matt says he did it because he felt so supported and cared for by Open Table staff and volunteers while going through not just his cancer treatment but also the death of his sister that he just wanted to give back. He's an amazing person, deserving of all the wonderful things the future can bring. We all should have a Matt Baird in our lives; we're lucky to have Matt in ours.

Wishing You a Happy & Healthy Lunar New Year

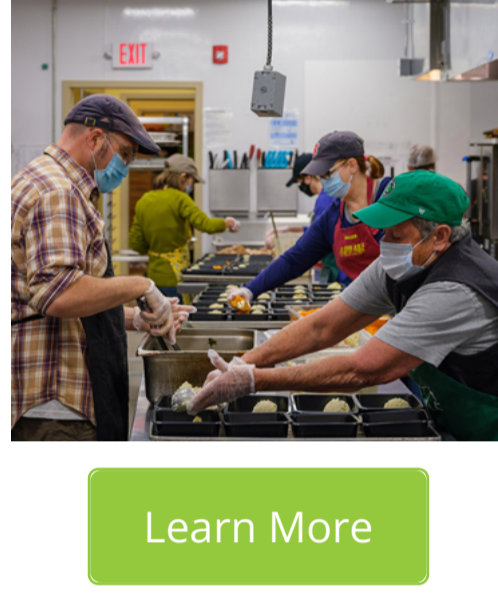
Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, is coming soon! On Tuesday February 1st, the first day of the Lunar New Year, the [Acton Chinese American Civic Society](#) (ACACS) will be providing treat bags for clients at our drive-thru pantry to celebrate. Members of the ACACS will help with distribution and greet clients when they arrive. Many thanks to the ACACS for their partnership!

In China, Lunar New Year is the most important holiday of the year and has been historically associated with great feasts to honor the family and the past as well as to look to the year ahead. In Vietnam, the new year is called Tet while in North and South Korea it is known as Seollal. Regardless of the name or the place, the New Year puts a premium on focusing on the family. And, of course, there's plenty of tradition centered around good, healthy food to nourish the body and celebrate being together (*bonus: a celebratory family recipe is shared here!*).

With the beginning of the New Year we are entering the Year of the Tiger. According to Susan Levitt, author of "Taoist Astrology: A Handbook of Chinese Astrology," Tiger years are about strength, bravery, wild creativity, and making big decisions. As we dive headfirst into 2022 with all of its challenges, Open Table is here to help support you. Whether you already celebrate Lunar New Year or are considering adding the holiday to your calendar, we wish you a very happy, healthy year ahead!



Jiao zi Recipe



Learn More

Needed: Cooking Team Leader

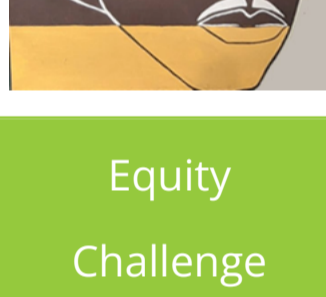
Passionate about using your culinary AND leadership skills to help feed people who need a helping hand? We've got the opportunity for you! We're looking for two people to share the load: dynamic, communicative and outgoing cooks who will lead and inspire volunteer teams to produce ready-to-eat meals. You'll have regular shifts Monday through Thursday, and participate in weekly virtual meetings. It's a great opportunity to flex your skills and expand your work experience while making a difference in your community. For more details, check out the listing [here](#).

Job Opening: Programs Operations Assistant

Open Table is seeking a Programs Operations Assistant. This internship position is a great fit for those interested in public health, social justice, or nutrition, and will help support the cultural needs of our Afghan and Brazilian clients. It includes the opportunity to pursue an in-depth project that most aligns with the candidate's interests and/or career objectives. See the full job description on our [Employment](#) page.



Learn More



Equity Challenge

More Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive

At Open Table we are continually working to ensure we have a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. This will help us better serve the needs of our varied population, and provide a better experience for our clients, volunteers, staff, and supporters.

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day this week and Black History Month in February, several of us at Open Table are participating in the [Acton-Boxborough United Way's Equity Challenge](#), a opportunity to expand our "shared knowledge and understanding of the historic and persistent inequities that play a role in our social and economic landscape" in our community. Join us!

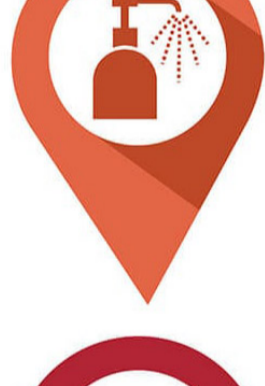
Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know that Trader Joe's (in Acton) is one of our major food donors, including produce and prepared foods - and we need help getting the food from the store to our clients! We are looking for a volunteer (or two!) to **pick up at Trader Joe's Tuesday and Thursday mornings** and deliver to our Maynard location. Must have a large vehicle and be able to lift 50lbs. Perk: you get to go to Trader Joe's more often! Contact us at volunteer@opentable.org if interested.



And we are unusually low on volunteers in our **student shifts (Mon. and Wed., 4-6pm)**. Does your high schooler need community service hours? Or just want to have a fulfilling after-school activity helping others? Have them sign up at opentable.org/volunteer!

Learn More



COVID Safety Protocols

Open Table Staff has decided to increase our safety protocol in response to the very contagious Omicron variant of Covid-19. All volunteers are asked to "double mask" **if** they come to Open Table with a cloth mask only. Open Table will provide a disposable surgical mask to wear under cloth masks or an KN-95. We encourage staff and volunteers to use their OT KN-95 mask when possible while working inside the building.

Team leads will space out work areas to 6' or farther to help distance volunteers. All clients are asked to wear masks while interacting with Staff/Volunteers during distribution. Open Table provides rapid tests for staff members who are concerned they may be sick or have had significant exposure to the virus. Vaccines are mandatory for all staff and volunteers at Open Table.

Open Table reserves the right to cancel programming if there isn't adequate staffing to manage the program safely. Please check your e-mail for any last minute cancellations from you pool coordinator.

Pistachios, non-Perishables, and Pillow Pets

Once again, you, our supporters have been so generous: donating culturally appropriate foods for our new Afghan neighbors, other much-needed non-perishable items, and Pillow Pets! We received a large donation of these soft friends from [Christmas in the City](#) - they added some holiday cheer to many families and comfort for recent immigrant children. Thank you to these wonderful organizations for their donations this month:



- [Apriori](#)
- [Aurelia's Garden](#)
- Diane Baker
- [Brimmer & May School](#)
- Boy Scout Troop 65, Sudbury
- Christine Brozek
- Carlisle Public School Student Council
- [Christmas in the City](#)
- [Concord Carlisle Human Rights Council](#)
- [CVS Health](#)
- [Discovery Museum](#)
- [Drumlin Farm Community Preschool](#)

- [Gaining Ground](#)
- [Hanscom AFB Commissary](#)
- [Holy Family Parish](#)
- Sarah Lemaire
- [Make-a-Wish](#)
- [Memorial Congregational Church](#)
- The Okie Family
- Roopa Rarekh
- The Peanamanda Family
- Kate Sexauer
- [Trinitarian Congregational Church](#)
- [Welch's](#)

Fun Food Facts: Ginger

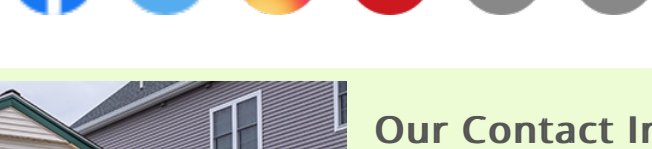


The rough, knobby, little ginger root you usually see in the grocery store won't be winning beauty contests any time soon, but in the hands of any cook this zesty rhizome can make an amazingly beautiful, flowering plant whose root can be sliced, grated, and juiced for use in both culinary and traditional medicinal concoctions.

While Western cultures may associate the use of ginger in sweet recipes such as ginger ale and gingerbread, Asian culinary traditions count ginger as an essential ingredient in many meat, fish, and vegetarian recipes. Ginger's spicy, pungent, peppery-sweet flavor brings a warming and energizing flavor to these dishes. Some evidence suggests that ginger can have a calming effect on the stomach and perhaps even aid in digestion. Potential health benefits aside, we just love the zing it brings to your taste buds.

Celebrate Lunar New Year with a taste of ginger in this Jiao zi dumplings recipe:

Get Recipe



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
 {{Organization Address}}
 {{Organization Phone}}
 {{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

Donate Now