



October 2012

## Brunch October 2012

### DEAR FRIENDS

Our friends were once again present for brunch. An abundance of food was served throughout the month; including highlights of Fazileh-Khanum's vegetable lasagna and Mary-Jon's delicious pumpkin pie with whipped cream was served for the brief festivities of an October birthday (how suitable for a birthday celebration in the fall!). OCC had volunteered for the first time Fazileh-Khanum had prepared Asian style beef and rice; serving again as kindest coordinator. Rachel was present as kinder coordinator and brought forth a stewed beets and carrot dish. The reddish texture of the vegetables was quite aesthetically very complimentary and appetizing to the beef and rice. Romaine lettuce and tomatoes were prepared for salad. Coffee and orange juice served as beverages along with the milk.

It was learned that the vegetables came from Rachel's farmshare in Maine...fresh vegetables from local farmers who are supported by investors who own shares in the farms in return for the vegetables provided...a system that seems mutually beneficial. The farmers are able to produce food with additional investments from shareholders. The shareholders in return are able to literally reap the fruits of the farmers' labor. The items were put away by 3:30 pm with everyone pitching in once again for a smooth operation.

*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."  
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 ~*

What is noticeable is the speed that is put forth during preparation; especially with foods that are prepared ahead of time. Less time is then needed with preparation so that more of our effort can be in enjoying the company of our friends, with whom we share our meals. Such occasions promote an air of felicity so that our tasks are kept to a minimum and more time is available to share the joy our friends bring while serving them.



### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are pleased to announce Peter Grossi as our new Charity Initiative Coordinators. He can be reached at (617) 595-1553 or email [pgrossi73@yahoo.com](mailto:pgrossi73@yahoo.com)
- **In the coming holidays we are in need of help.** Please join the Charity Committee and become of our roster of volunteers!

With appreciation and thanks to the volunteers from  
The House of Sufism  
for your commitment to service & support of our tenants in permanent housing

  
Pine Street Inn  
1000 Pine Street  
Boston, MA 02114

We have always been exposed to various forms of service to our fellow man and community. On a large scale we have born witness to organizations providing humanitarian relief to countries in crises, and locally many of us have either personally scribbled or act of neighborhood kindness onto our resumes or otherwise known someone who has. In either situation there may always have been a hidden agenda under the premise of the act of charity. Perhaps it serves strengthen an organization as a leader during emergency times, or commonly an act that views our reputation in better light and beneficial to us in the future. Clearly, the least benefit is seen in the latter situation.

Whether charity is performed on an individual level or higher, when its basis is the intellect

it is always as temporary as it coincides with the benefactor's needs. Unfortunately the majority of acts of service are subconsciously performed under this condition. Thus, we see that they are ultimately deeds driven by the self to benefit the self.

Seldom practiced is the spiritual form of charity based on Divine Love. Objectively, it is performed identically to any other form of service. The needy are given the help they need and the volunteer performs the same physical tasks. However, an approach through Divine Love has some distinguishing features:

The truly selfless volunteer finds that a cardinal aspect of their service is its unconditionality. There is no expectation of a reward to the self,

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*Our purpose in this world is nothing other than being compassionate and loving to each other. If we can't do that we have completely missed the purpose of our lives." -Master Alireza Nurbakhsh*

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whose conscious needs are put aside. Thus it is a service that can be maintained on a constant basis, as the agenda is only to benefit the ones in need, and would not be discontinued as a result of conflict of self-interest. The volunteer is expecting no outcome, even for the one he or she is helping, aware of nothing but the inherent good being performed and the joy they feel doing it.

Service that is based on a spiritual approach also speaks to the manifestation of Divine Love. In order to express love for the Divine, recognizing that it is transcendent in all things, especially human beings, we express our love to creation. This makes the volunteer blind to any discriminatory characteristics as so long as need is established. This critical feature is what enables us to experience Unity of Being, as we are making connections in our heart with any and all who enter our path.

## WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

1. **Volunteer:** 2-4pm every Sunday. Help us cook and clean or just by spending time with our friends. It is only 2 hours of your time but the impact of these two is tremendous!
2. **Monetary Donations:** If you would like to make a contribution to the House of Sufism Charity Initiative, you can write a check or use any credit card. All your donations are tax deductible.
3. **Email the report to friends and family to share information about this great cause!**

**Hard copies of the monthly report** are available. Those who prefer to receive it, please furnish us with your address.

With the aim of **transparency in our service**, we ask that any inquiries on financial matters of Khaniqah be individually requested and we shall respond to you in a timely manner. Names of donors have been withheld for privacy reasons. Every January, all **donors receive a letter** acknowledging their contribution along with federal tax identification **for tax deductibility**.

*In gratitude and affection,*

KN Boston Charities