

**Subject:** Sufi Service Committee of Boston June 2015 Brunch Update

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# Brunch Update Issue 71 - June 2015

Sufi Service Committee of Boston

*Addressing the most pressing needs of our community*



*Kristine is an artist in the kitchen as she works on her roasted pork tenderloin.*

## Happenings

"Thousands of candles can be lit from the light of a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases through sharing." - The Buddha



*Naghme serves hearty lasagna prepared by Ali & Sally.*

This past month has seen a warm and joyous spring arrive in Boston. We had the pleasure of celebrating Mother's Day with our friends at the residence, several of whom invited friends who were mothers themselves!

We also enjoyed a wonderful traditional American meal of ham, cranberry sauce, potatoes, mac and cheese, and string beans that evoked fond childhood memories from some residents. More than simple sustenance, food can have the power to bring us back to moments of love and companionship.



*Kristine's pork tenderloin covered with cranberries.*

As summer approaches, one of our volunteers launches into a 12 week charity project with Bike & Build, a nonprofit that organizes cross country bike trips to benefit affordable housing. As she pedals across the country, Flora will be advocating for the affordable housing cause and building houses with local chapters of Habitat for Humanity. Her inspiration for embarking on this trip came partly from a

background in architecture and urban planning, an obsession with bikes, and a desire to serve deepened by her experiences volunteering with the Sufi Service Committee. To learn more about the cause, visit [www.bikeandbuild.org](http://www.bikeandbuild.org).

## Quotes of Note

"A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people declares that she never did care for pie." - A mother and volunteer

"No gift to your mother can ever equal her gift to you: life." - Her daughter

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## VOLUNTEER REFLECTION

*Spring and all its flowers  
now joyously break their vow of silence.  
It is time for celebration, not for lying low;  
You too – weed out those roots of sadness from your heart.*

*Hafez (14th century Persian poet)*

In the past few weeks, the transition to spring and summer has elated many. I myself have felt extremely fortunate to have some time to soak in the sun's warmth and appreciate the fragrant and soothing breeze.



*Naghme and Mitra  
sharing a moment.*

Aside from the sensory experience, this time of the year also reminds one of rebirth, transformation and new possibilities. In the midst of activity, one is also propelled to reflect and see oneself as a part of this larger cycle - where vitality is renewed and not lost, where life resumes in full bloom without any sign of the harshest of winters. But it is the transience and not permanence that provides the contrast and leads one to appreciate it more.



Working sincerely with others to meet pressing needs in communities in a way reflects a similar creative process. One may be initially drawn together because of an appreciation of certain hardships one may have experienced. Yet past sorrows are



*Shakina eating Bill Bumpus's world-famous scrambled eggs.*

transformative potential lies in the process and not the outcome. Just as spring's value cannot be limited to the applause of the flowers in full bloom but rather the ability of nature to renew itself- our engagement with others requires patience and being present and consistent to truly catalyze an appreciate the silent transformation.

shed and one celebrates life and derives joy by collectively nurturing the strengths in others and oneself. However, the real



*Moh Noorae's beautifully prepared meal of salmon, chickpeas, and bell peppers.*

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED



*Another Naghme and Mitra moment.*

1. Volunteer! Sunday Brunch is a time commitment of only a few hours. Help us cook and clean or just spend time with our friends in need!
2. Monetary and in-kind donations: If you would like to make a contribution to the Sufi Service Committee Inc., you can write a check, use any credit card, or wire money through PayPal. We are always in need for milk, eggs, fruit, plastic bags, etc. for our Sunday Brunch. We also accept donations of clothes, household goods and furniture. Currently we need more clothes than household items. All donations are tax-deductible.

3. Drive! We need volunteers throughout the week to pick up bakery and food donations and deliver them to food pantries and shelters.

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