

## SPRINGWATER PARTY LINE

24 December 2020

by Katherine J. T. Humphrey

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To all the readers of my column, I thank you for your thoughts and wishes like the ones that follow: We wish you a season of peace and happiness. We wish you health, wellness, and peace now and in the New Year. Though we are miles apart, may this greeting bring warmth and love to you and your family. As 2020 comes to a close, we want to wish you and your family a healthy, safe and prosperous holiday season and happy New Year. We hope you will have a joyful time between now and kicking off the New Year. The same goes to everyone on my mailing list!

Do you realize that an artificial tree is bad for the environment in many ways – when Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone who is urging constituents to plant trees says “This isn't just about planting trees; it's about growing trees, and it's about ensuring that each one of us is part of the process,” she says. “A million trees is our city's small contribution to increasing the much-needed global carbon sink.” You can thank all the Christmas tree growers throughout the world that continue to plant two or three trees for every one that is cut down for the Christmas season. On the All Western Evergreen Nursery & Christmas Tree Farm in beautiful Springwater we plant over 2,000 trees each year. Over the 52 years of planting, the estimate is over 200 thousand trees planted because one year Bill Humphrey even grew 33 thousand seedlings from seed! The farm has anywhere from 20 to 30 thousand trees growing at one time and we are a small Christmas tree farm compared to many. Thank you for purchasing a real Christmas tree this season and every season, as they are planted like corn, to be cut down. It takes 7 to 12 years to grow a tree 7 to 10 feet high and young trees use more carbon dioxide and give off more oxygen than large mature trees, just like children need to consume more as they grow and mature.

Change is the order of the day. The Christmas Eve Service at Webster's Crossing United Methodist Church on Route 15 north of Springwater will be a short outdoor service beginning at 7 PM. Pastor Dorothy is planning to have a message, singing of traditional Christmas Carols, and the lighting of luminaries to celebrate the miracle of the birth of the Christ child. Vehicles are to park facing the center where Tom & Melody Bogdon have provided a crèche. Participants can stay in their cars with the windows rolled down or bring folding chairs to sit along-side their vehicle. Ralph will play his guitar & Lena will help lead the singing. Luminaries will be provided. Dress warm for the weather will be unpredictable.

John Larysz writes “Here are some pictures from the hike around Irondequoit Bay West Sunday, December 20, 2020. There were 8 of us on the hike. The whole set of pictures is here: <http://localhost/LaryszWebSite/Images/2020/December%20-%20Irondequoit%20West/index.php>

It was a very slippery hike – the snow was melting!” The next hike will be at Cumming Nature Center in Bristol on Sunday December 27 and the following one will be at Camp Cutler in Naples on January 3rd. For details, go to the Springwater Trails website or ask a regular hiker.

Tawn Feeney sends the upcoming events for the Little Lakes Community Center, 4705 S. Main Street, Hemlock, (585) 367-1046, [www.littlelakesny.org](http://www.littlelakesny.org) for January which follows:

Open Community Meeting, Monday, January 4, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 PM Community Room, the first Monday evening of each month is dedicated to community input. All are welcome to join in, to learn about the organization, to ask questions and make suggestions.

The Little Lakes Book Club meets Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:30 to 7:30 PM, \$5.00 donation. The club meets the first Wed. of each month. This month they will be discussing “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. You are welcome to join the discussion, even if you have not yet read the book or read it previously.

The Little Lakes History Club with Linda Auble meets on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 6:30 to 7:30 PM for a \$5 donation. This is a monthly meeting for fans of local History, family genealogies, and other topics of historical interest.

The Sixth Annual Ecological Sustainability Series, Session 1 will be a Round-Table Discussion about Regenerative Farming, Thursday, January 21, 6:30 to 8:00 PM in person and via Zoom. There is a cost of \$10 for registration in advance at [www.littlelakesny.org](http://www.littlelakesny.org). Participants include: Erin Bullock, Wild Hill Farm CSA, Steve Melcher, Odonata Sanctuary, and Deborah Denome, Shimmering Light Farm and Renewal Center, and Facilitator: Nikolas Varrone, Flying Bucket Farm and SUNY Geneseo Instructor. Several local farmers and gardeners will share their creative insights and current practices using regenerative farming techniques. The benefits and challenges of adopting this approach will be discussed, with ample opportunity for meeting participants to ask questions and share their ideas as well.

Happy Birthday to:

December 24 - Sharon Ingraham, Karen Hamilton

December 25 – Rebecca Wester

December 26 – Carol Hoerner, Kurt Hass

December 27 – Phillip West, Terri White, Morgan Hoppough

December 28 – Amy Goodwin

December 29 – Larry Lippincott, Robert Fox

December 30 – John Swift, Alex Decker, Rick Tripp Jr., Eden Stephenson

December 31 – Juergen Lein

Anniversaries: Congratulations!

December 31 – Ed & Sandra Freas #54