

**UPDAT ED**

**Friday, Dec. 1, 2017**

**Collect Moments, Not Things**

* Wow it’s December. It seems that the days between sitting on my deck in the sunshine and now living in my galoshes went by in a blur. Happily I am about to embark on a long holiday in the sunshine so will soon be basking in the light again. I will be away from the 8th of December, returning to the office on the 22nd of January. I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and encourage you to protect time to just be quiet and take care of yourself.
* Lene will be acting as ED in my absence. The only exception to that will be the Christmas and New Years weeks when Lene will be away as well, and Kathy C. will be the acting ED.
* The shout out this month goes to our agency elves. Firstly, Jennifer L and Laurel H. for taking the lead with the Xmas parade. I hear it went swimmingly! Then to our party elves, Robyn and Wendy – what a lovely gathering last night. My deep appreciation to them all for bringing the festive spirit to life.
* Don’t forget the agency Craft Fair to be held in the Board Room on Dec. 5th and 6th. Several of our talented artists will have their work for sale. There will be a special entry from the Friendship Project who have been working together to make soaps and bath salts to sell.
* The Lunch and Learn this month will be a summary from Meghan and Sarah on the workshop they attended on Child Protection concerns and Special Needs Children and Youth. They will be presenting at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 12th.
* Thanks to Dixie and Janice for taking the lead in organizing two reflective practice groups. The first Thursday of the month, we will have a community wide group come together from 12 – 1:30 in the Board Room. This starts Dec. 7th. Starting in the New Year, we will have a group for CVCDA staff twice a month. Get full dates and times from Robyn.
* Now a message from the Grinch. We have been having lots of challenges in getting people’s time sheets in on time, creating difficulties for Lene and Michelle on payroll days. Starting this month, we will not chase you to get your hours. Timesheets need to be completed by 9 a.m. on the due date. This month that will be the 21st of December. My suggestion to those of you who are not always on site, or maybe work part-time, is to complete the timesheet early. You can project your hours to the end of the month and then make any adjustments the following month if need be. If you have any questions, please see Lene.
* Also, year end is the time to confirm information for your benefits plan. Please let Lene know if you have any changes to your dependents.
* I am sure that it is not going to snow AT ALL in December or January, but just in case, a reminder of our Snow Day policy. If the schools are closed, so are we. We will make sure there is salt available to try and keep the walks clear of ice. Spreading the salt and shovelling the sidewalks is a communal job, so please take a turn if need be. We will arrange to have the courtyard cleared by a backhoe. But as I said…I am sure it isn’t going to snow.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun |  | Mon |  | Tue |  | Wed | |  | | Thu |  | Fri |  | Sat | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | 1 |  | 2 | | |
| 3 |  | 4 |  | 5    Craft Fair today and tomorrow |  | 6  Jennifer L. |  | | 7  Community Reflective Practice  12 – 1:30 | |  | 8 |  | 9 | | |
| 10 |  | 11 |  | 12  Lunch and Learn |  | 13First Day of Hanukkah |  | | 14 | |  | 15 |  | 16    Sandra | | |
| 17 |  | 18 |  | 19    Sean |  | 20 |  | | 21  Timesheets Due | |  | 22 |  | 23 | | |
| 24 |  | 25 |  | 26 |  | 27 |  | | 28 | |  | 29 |  | 30 | | |

**Hanukkah**

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with late November-late December on the secular calendar. In Hebrew, the word "hanukkah" means "dedication." The name reminds us that this holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.  
Every community has its unique Hanukkah traditions, but there are some traditions that are almost universally practiced. They are: lighting the hanukkiyah, spinning the dreidel and eating fried foods.

* **Lighting the hanukkiyah:** Every year it is customary to commemorate the miracle of the Hanukkah oil by lighting candles on a hanukkiyah. The hanukkiyah is lit every night for eight nights.
* **Spinning the dreidel:** A popular Hanukkah game is spinning the dreidel, which is a four-sided top with Hebrew letters written on each side.
* **Eating fried foods:** Because Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of oil, it is traditional to eat fried foods such as latkes and sufganiyot during the holiday. Latkes are pancakes made out of potatoes and onions, which are fried in oil and then served with applesauce. Sufganiyot (singular: sufganiyah) are jelly-filled donuts that are fried and sometimes dusted with confectioners’ sugar before eating.

**Cultural Corner**