





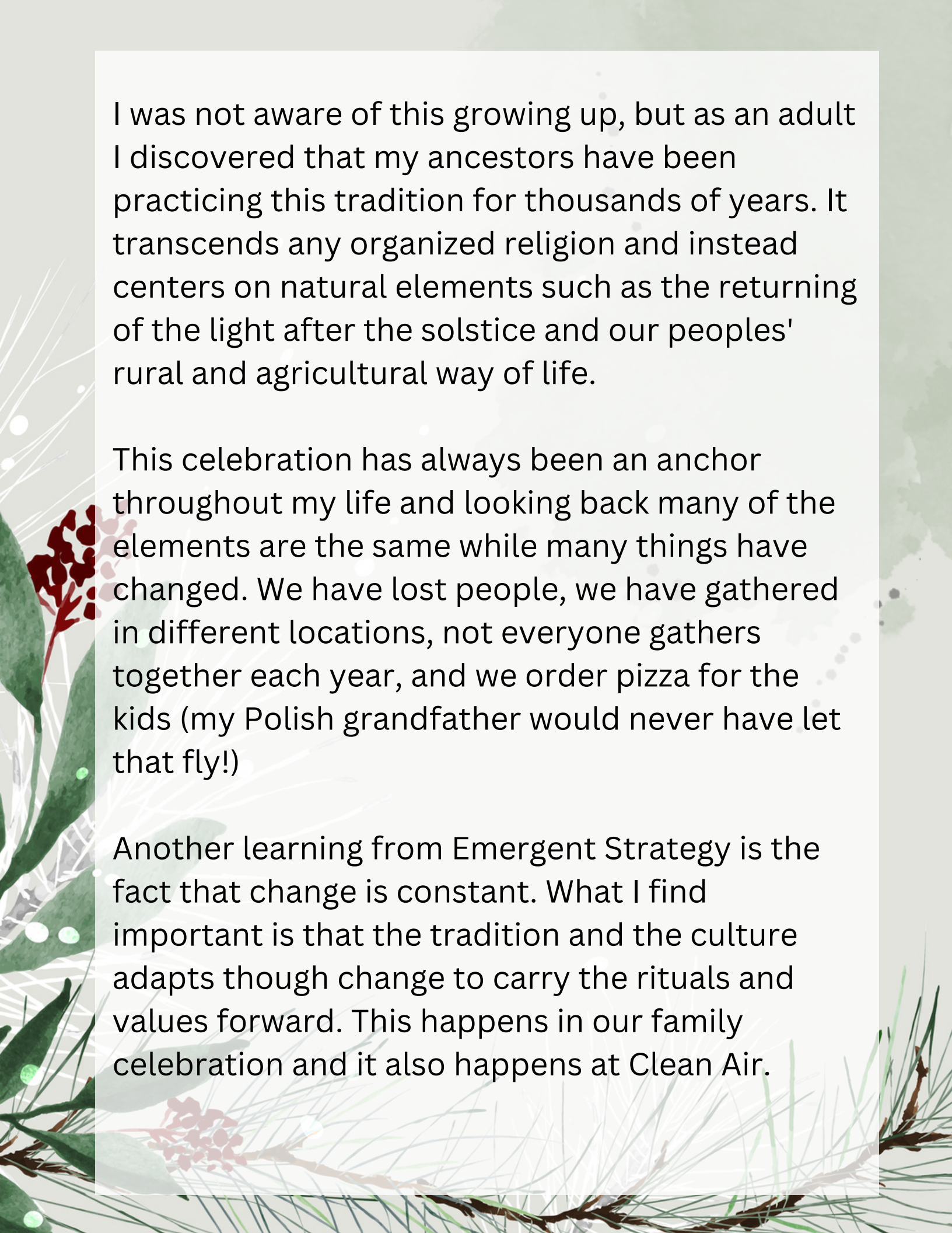
The Clean Air Coalition wishes
you and yours a joyous and
restful Holiday Season!



As we reflect on the year that has passed at Clean Air through the lens of Emergent Strategy by adrienne maree brown, one theme from the book that has shaped my thinking is that many of our rituals and cultural traditions and things we do to feel human have their roots in natural cycles. This is true even though we may seem detached from this history in our present society.

I look at the Polish side of my family's traditional celebration of Christmas Eve where close family members gather and share a very intentional meal with the same traditional dishes every year. Superstitions are followed; "You kids better behave because how you act on Christmas Eve is how you will be all year!" You leave an empty place setting for your ancestors who may visit (although sometimes that was not an option in my grandparents cramped living room). You share an unleavened wafer that represents the sacredness of bread which has provided life and sustenance to generations. Most importantly, you eat pierogies...lots and lots of pierogies.





I was not aware of this growing up, but as an adult I discovered that my ancestors have been practicing this tradition for thousands of years. It transcends any organized religion and instead centers on natural elements such as the returning of the light after the solstice and our peoples' rural and agricultural way of life.

This celebration has always been an anchor throughout my life and looking back many of the elements are the same while many things have changed. We have lost people, we have gathered in different locations, not everyone gathers together each year, and we order pizza for the kids (my Polish grandfather would never have let that fly!)

Another learning from Emergent Strategy is the fact that change is constant. What I find important is that the tradition and the culture adapts though change to carry the rituals and values forward. This happens in our family celebration and it also happens at Clean Air.



We have had many changes at Clean Air. New staff and board members, new members taking a larger role, others stepping back. Campaigns have shifted and changed and we have brand new campaigns and we have a new beautiful space. Through all of these changes, the rock solid constant is our values and our organizational culture. We carry this forward proudly as we set to work to continue the bold tradition of direct organizing while we intentionally adapt and plan for the next iteration of our work.

We hope you have a chance to reflect on what tradition roots you in our work throughout all of the changes as we all celebrate the return of the light!

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year and I look forward to continuing to work with you for justice in 2023!

With love and cheer,

Chris + the Clean Air team

P.S. We would love to see you in the New Year at our first Bi Monthly General Meeting Virtually on Thursday January 9th 2023. Register below!