

## UU Society in Stamford Serves Hot Cocoa to 900 People

On Sunday, December 4 the UU Society in Stamford opened our doors once again to serve free hot cocoa as part of the city of Stamford annual Holiday celebration. Over nine hundred people joined us during the event, which included a holiday gift boutique and a bake sale.

A wonderful addition to the atmosphere this year was the holiday music by our Musical Director on the Steinway and the spontaneous guest pianist... One eight-year-old beginning piano student, politely asked if she could perform "Silver Bells" on our grand piano. She did – and received a round of appreciative applause.

While we have hosted this event for many years, this year was truly special as it was the first collaborative effort with the newly formed Stamford Small Congregation Collaborative. The Collaborative is a group of five different faith congregations within Stamford committed to working together to strengthen our impact in serving the community. Many volunteers from the other congregations came out to help with the event by hosting the bake sale and even a (dare it be said) prayer table. People were welcomed to say a prayer with one of the two ministers or could write their prayers on a card to leave in a basket.

The event was truly remarkable in that it not only shared the holiday spirit with the Stamford community, it showed the true spirit of Unitarian Universalism as we embraced the diversity of religious beliefs and shared in an evening of joy, peace and love. May that spirit guide us into action in the coming year.