

June 2015



Thank you for your interest in **The Winter Solstice Program**

Just as supernovas celebrate the death of a star by giving forth intense light, so is The EDGE in its final days sharing its light with catalysts like you. The EDGE is offering sample programs which we designed and sponsored throughout our history as Sunseed/The EDGE. Because of budgetary cuts, and other considerations, The EDGE needs to close its doors June 30th, 2015. Program packets, however, are yours—free of charge.

Each packet includes sample announcements to the public, an event flyer, an outline, a timeline and other how-to information as a basis for your own creativity. Please check out the Table of Contents for specifics.

The area of ecological awareness is an exploding field. Hosting programs such as this one will surely bring inspired people together and promote cutting edge solutions to care for our Earth. As an organization leader, you have the vision, the knowledge, initiative and experience to help pave a positive road for our future. Whether you feel it or not, you are helping to bring about new and healthy perspectives energized by the universe story/evolutionary consciousness.

In a very real way, you are now entrusted with this sacred enterprise:

The Mission of The EDGE
*The EDGE is a ministry which
promotes ecological consciousness,
motivating adults and youth
to interact with self and with the rest of creation
in a beneficial way.
As an educational ministry,
The EDGE promotes the spiritual and scientific discovery
that all aspects of the Universe
are interconnected as one living whole.*

Programs can be accessed beginning June 1 by contacting theedge@ssndcp.org; 262-787-1011. Until June 19th, we are happy to assist you with the implementation of this program. And after June 19th, all programs can be accessed at this site: www.ssnd.org/resources/shalom-resources but the staff will not be on hand to provide any further assistance. However, the packet is quite adequate and contains helpful samples and suggestions.

We feel privileged to have been part of this ministry and hope you do, too,

Suzanne Moynihan, SSND
Director

Laura Harvancik
Volunteer Administrative Assistant

Winter Solstice Program (Dec 20th or 21st); check <http://www.archaeoastronomy.com/2016.html>

Purpose of Celebrating The Winter Solstice

- To honor the turning of Earth in relationship to the sun
- To help all participants realize we live as part of a fragile Earth system, the “blue marble” in space
- To celebrate with all peoples of the northern hemisphere the birthing of light and what it means to our food supply, our sense of hope, our need for warmth
- To provide all who participate with a deep sense of quiet, of the significance of darkness and light—that even in the deepest darkness, a light is born. (i.e. Many religions such as Christianity have sacred holidays around this time to honor this very value.)

For your convenience, this packet contains:

- A Welcome Letter
- Definition of Solstice
- Sample Announcements
- Sample Guest Programs (2)
- Information and Timeline Sheet
- Winter Solstice Symbols
- Flyers (3)
- Prayers (2)
- Program Schedule and Committee Assignments

Note: If choosing to use a DVD, these can be found at your local library, borrowed from the NDEG Shalom Library (262-782-1450) or from a local ecology organization

FUNDING is available from The EDGE to purchase/rent a film or print posters. Contact Tim Dewane at tdewane@ssndcp.org to request an amount.
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We are available to offer you any further assistance and answer any questions about this packet until June 19th. (Contact The EDGE at theedge@ssndcp.org or call 262-787-1011.) After this date, other packets can be accessed at this link: www.ssnd.org/resources/shalom-resources; however, the staff will no longer be available for help in implementing this program other than the materials you have at your fingertips and your own creativity.

If needing more resources, insert *Winter Solstice Ideas* into your browser and up pop a number of worthwhile sites. Even ideas for children’s crafts can be easily adapted to adults. And don’t be intimidated by the word, “pagan” in your research. That simple means people who live close to Earth and are sensitive to the Divine energy, the God presence within themselves and nature.

Winter Solstice Packet
Meaning of Solstice

Solstice is derived from “sol” meaning sun, and “sistere, to cause to stand still. The winter solstice, which usually falls on or around Dec. 21, is the shortest day of the year, the day when the sun appears lowest in the sky in the Northern Hemisphere. It is commonly known in modern times as the first day of winter. The cycle of the year reaches the other extreme on or around June 21, when the sun appears highest in the Northern Hemisphere sky—a day appropriately called the summer solstice.

The solstice was recognized by its darkness, if not by name, in pre-historic times by the aboriginal people in the northern latitudes. Winter was a harsh time for these people, and each year, they solemnly watched the life-giving sun disappear earlier day by day. Thus, when darkness reached its peak and the sun started regaining momentum, the people celebrated. Though the cold of winter was far from over, renewed life as assured. In this way, the concept of death/rebirth became associated with the winter solstice.



From Wikipedia: “Significance of the Winter Solstice 2012”
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter_solstice)

More evident from [high latitudes](#), a hemisphere’s winter [solstice](#) occurs on the shortest day and longest night of the year, when the sun’s daily maximum elevation in the sky is the lowest.^[5] Since the winter solstice lasts only a moment in time, other terms are often used for the day on which it occurs, such as “[midwinter](#)”, “the longest night”, “the shortest day” or “[the first day of winter](#)”. The seasonal significance of the winter solstice is in the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days. Worldwide, interpretation of the event has varied from culture to culture, but most northern hemisphere cultures have held a recognition of rebirth, involving [holidays](#), festivals, gatherings, [rituals](#) or other [celebrations](#) around that time.^[6]

From: <http://party.lovetoknow.com/party-themes/winter-solstice-decorations>

Winter solstice celebrations are held throughout the world in many different cultures. In many cases, these celebrations are referred to as the "celebration of light." More specifically, many European countries still refer to the winter solstice by its old Norse term of "Yule," and of course, Western countries typically refer to this time of year as Christmas. The history of winter solstice celebrations can be traced back to the early Pagan days of Rome in which December 25 was often referred to as the birthday of the "Invincible Sun." Eventually, Christians began to celebrate this day as Christ's birthday.



**Winter Solstice Packet
Sample Announcement**

In the midst of holiday preparations, you and your friends are invited to join us for a quieting of the heart.

Our Winter Solstice Celebration will be in harmony with the tilting of the planet towards our Star, the Sun—an annual event which has electrified and energized peoples throughout our planet since we humans first came into being.

Now that you are lining up your December calendar, I invite you to include the attached announcement in any of your publications.

You are also welcome to print, post and distribute the flyer.

If you have any questions, please let me know. By way of information, our Winter Solstice Celebration is a non-denominational experience and will include an indoor light reflection and a symbol-centered celebration to follow.



So, what is the Winter Solstice, exactly?

The tilt of Earth, about 23.5 degrees and the planet's daily orbit around the sun bring about the Winter Solstice which marks the turning point in the seasons. The days begin to grow longer in our northern hemisphere and shorter in the southern. The sun actually appears to stand still in the sky and for a few days before and after the actual solstice. "Solstice" literally means: "sun standing still".

Because of this cosmic event, the birth of a divine child at the Winter Solstice has formed a core spiritual belief throughout the world since the beginning of human history. Christians, for example, celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light, in the deepest darkness of night.

Specifically, in other numerous traditions, this time of year has held special meaning: Chanukah for Jewish people; Juul in Scandinavia; Saturnalia in Rome; Boxing Day in England.

The cosmic event of the solstice: dark/light have a spiritual significance. The history of evolution indicates that what is born is born out of chaos. As creation was brought into being by God, the great Mother of the Universe, so too are we transformed again and again, often through darkness—in the myriad ways we experience it. The Winter Solstice is a hope-filled celebration of the birth of the sun, yes, and also the spiritual Son, the: "Christ", within each one's consciousness.

This is a good time of the year to take advantage of the introspection which the dark and cold bring. It is an opportunity to look at behavior patterns or even people who no longer serve our ultimate good and be open to the universal Divine Power of transformation.



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*Winter Solstice 2014
Gift of Hope*

Reflective Entry: Quiet Music

Video: Winter Meditation

(www.youtube.com; Winter Meditation articbunny1)

Welcome

Suzanne Moynihan, SSND

First Reading: Hopelessness

Musical Interlude

Proclamation One, Two and Three

Response:

(www.youtube.com; Shine the Light (Sugarland))

Ritual: An Adaptation of a Navajo Chant

Symbol of Hope: Sharing by Participants

Closing Ritual followed by Refreshments

A gracious thank you to the committee and all those who assisted with setup, the NDEG staff, the readers, musicians, bakers, NDEG sisters for sharing their home

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*Winter Solstice 2013
The Return of the Light
Program*

Reflective Entry: Quiet Music

Meditative Video

Welcome

Suzanne Moynihan, SSND

First Reading: Explanation of Winter Solstice

Darlene Sailer, SSND PreAssociate

Musical Interlude:

Reverie on O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Jean Arthur Laubach, SSND

Second Reading: Mystic Christ

Karen Walther

Musical Interlude

Serenade

Rita Schweitzer, SSND

Litany

Response: *We trust your Divine Power within us.*

Symbol of Hope: Sharing by Participants

Closing Ritual followed by Refreshments

A gracious thank you to the committee, the NDEG staff, the readers, musicians, bakers, NDEG sisters for sharing their home and Darlene Sailer for donating the ornaments.

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A gracious thank you to the committee, the NDEG staff, the readers, musicians, bakers, NDEG sisters for sharing their home and Darlene Sailer for donating the ornaments.



Deck the halls with **boughs of holly***,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.
 Tis the season to be jolly,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our **gay apparel***,
 Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
 Troll the ancient **Yule tide carol***,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the **blazing Yule*** before us,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.
 Strike the **harp*** and join the chorus.
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.
 While I tell of **Yule tide treasure***,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the **old*** year passes,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.
 Hail the **new***, ye lads and lasses,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Sing we joyous, all together,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.
 Heedless of the wind and weather,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

***Winter Solstice symbols**

The music to Deck the Halls is believed to Welsh in origin and was reputed to have come from a tune called "Nos Galan" dating back to the sixteenth century. The author is unknown but the words are said to originate in America. The song was published in 1881.
http://www.carols.org.uk/deck_the_halls.html



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Winter Solstice Packet
Helpful information and Suggested Timeline

Suggested Dates	Suggested tasks to take care of
August	Research the date and time the winter solstice will occur that year
September	Begin a planning committee by sending emails to friends, fellow worshippers, and community members. A follow-up phone call is very helpful and might save you some headaches.
September	Once people volunteer, set up a date for all of you to meet. List the general purpose of the meeting. At the meeting, invite volunteers to introduce themselves by sharing what light/dark and what the winter solstice means to them. Then talk about some ideas for a theme. Choose a date for your celebration and find a local venue. Often libraries and places of worship would offer space.
October and any meetings you feel you need to have before December	Content of your meetings: At the follow-up meetings, determine what your theme is together as a group. Glean any ideas about how it is they would like to enact that theme: ritual? Presentation? Film? Other? How long would you want the program to be? Would you like it inside or outside? Begin to decide who will do what.
December	Hold one more meeting to talk about last minute details, what time volunteers need to arrive on the date of celebration. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brainstorm ideas with each one willing to do so, voice an idea 2. Organize ideas voiced by group and see which way the group leans—which ones excite them 3. Have a moment of prayerful silence 4. Go around the group and have people voice what they would prefer, if needed. 5. Make a decision as a group about the theme which everyone can support 6. If time, brainstorm ways that the theme could be expressed during the solstice
Final Meeting	As a committee, pretend that you are a person walking in the door and walk through, entrance, program and setting, step by step, determining what is needed and where volunteers need to be located to distribute programs, etc.
After Event	You might want to consider celebrating your endeavor as a committee!

**Winter Solstice 2014 Announcement
Elm Grove News Independent**

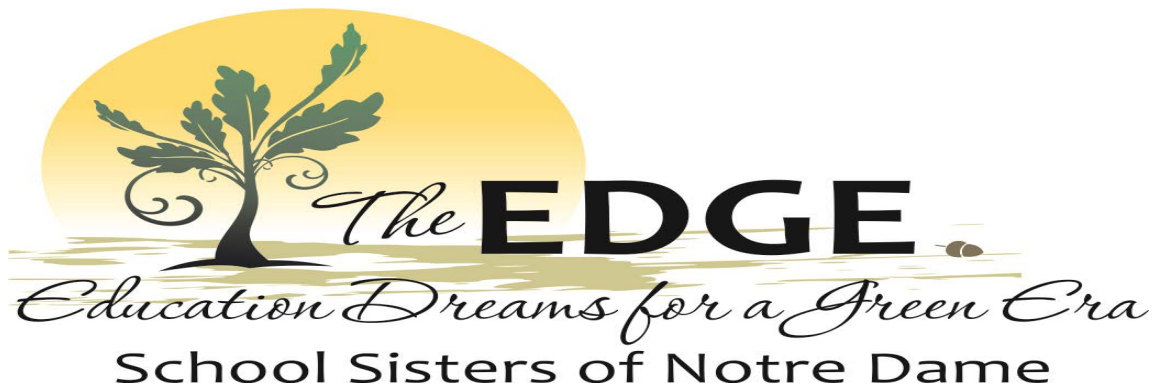
Due to Earth's position in relationship to the sun, our planet is experiencing growing darkness; we call them "shorter days". How aptly this gloom reflects some of the situations in our world and even in our own lives. Yet, nature shows us that in the midst of deepest darkness, light is born. It is time for the birth of the sun/Son. This Winter Solstice event will be commemorated in song, film, prayer, reflection and sharing with each other. This annual event, sponsored by The EDGE SSND is in its third year and is a popular event. It is best to register your place early on.

Date: December 18, 2014

Time: 7:00-8:30

Place: Notre Dame of Elm Grove; 13105 Watertown Plank Road; Elm Grove; All Purpose Room

To register: Email: theedge@ssndcp.org or call 262-787-1011



Winter Solstice 2013 *The Return of the Light*

December 21, 2013

7:00-8:30 PM

Notre Dame of Elm Grove

13105 Watertown Plank Road

All Purpose Room

**Because of limited seating,
we ask that you please pre-
register. You can conveniently
do so at theedge@ssndcp.org
or by calling 262-787-1011**

Experience the sense of hope known by our ancestors. They celebrated the return of the light after many dark, cold and fear-filled days.

Despite threats to our planet, our future, our economy; despite illness, discouragement and loss, there is the resilient Divine spirit within each of us which gives us a true sense of hope. This is what we celebrate today.

*The event is **FREE.***

Your presence is appreciated.

You are most welcome to share a symbol, prayer or poem related to hope during our ritual.

Please park in the large east lot and enter via the main door.

Resources

Agriculture

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/14279-the-terrorism-of-stealth-petrochemicals> re: use of chemicals harmful to Earth and all living things—to grow food

Alternate Energies

www.greenalphaadvisors.org

www.greenenergyinitiative

www.centralWIrenewableenergy.org

www.greenenergyprograms in WI

www.midwestrenewableenergy.org

www.WIgreenenergydirectory

www.RENEWwisconsin.org

Authors

- Mallory Mcduff
mmcduff@warren-wilson.edu; Included Sunseed (predecessor of The EDGE in her book: Natural Saints: How People of Faith Are Working to Save God's Earth)
- See attached listing of books and DVDs for additional suggested readings
- Films can be accessed from www.youtube.com;

Biodiversity

www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Conservation/Biodiversity.aspx

www.project@biodiverse.org

Birds

Birds of Paradise as example of evolution:

http://www.cornell.edu/video/?videoID=2398&utm_source=cornellcast_weekly_update&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2398

Birds and Wind Energy: www.awea.org/Issues/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=856

Carbon Footprint (Tools to Measure)

www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

<http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/measure-carbon-footprint-2582.html>

http://www.ehow.com/how_4900742_measure-carbon-footprint.html

<http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm>

Children

joann@joannmacken.com

www.weatherwizkids.com/optical

www.universestories.com

thegreatstory.org/beads-curric.pdf

www.infinityfoundation.com/univ.htm

www.forsmallhands.com/ideas-insights/cosmic-education

www.esa.int/esaKIDSen/StoryoftheUniverse.html

Conflicts

<http://www.ejatlas.org/>: details ecological conflicts throughout the world and what the resource is

Earth Day

www.earthday.net (Educators Network)

www.earthdaynetwork.org

www.pagan-wiccan-practice.suite101.com

www.earthdayconnect.org

Earth Consciousness

www.planeteearthclips

www.unmultimedia.org

https://www.youtube.com/embed/XE0aAZE0kp4?feature=player_embedded

(indicates size of Earth in comparison to rest of solar system and to largest known star)

Futurists/Paradigm Shift

www.peterrusseldreamhosters

www.frontiermentality.org

www.worldchanging.com

www.theshiftmovie.com

[International Jesuit Ecology Project \(IJE\)](#)

Food Issues

www.foodsecurity.org

www.sustainabletable.org

www.takeabite.cc/act

www.eatwellguide.org

www.eatlowcarbon.org

www.coolfoodscampaign.org

www.lovefoodhatewate.com

www.meatlessmonday.org

www.eaggrub.org

www.localharvest.org

www.foodroutes.org

www.centerforfoodsafety.org

www.growfood.org

www.icppc.pl.org

www.ran.org

www.carbonfarmersofamerica.com

www.plantphysiol.org/content/123/4/1201.full

gmo-awareness.com/all-about-gmos/gmo-fda

www.Nwei.org (Northwest Earth Institute with weekly series of study guides: [Menu for the Future](#)

Global Food Waste: <http://sonnenseite.kjm4.de/r/e1a726119616ms394.html>

Gardening

There are multiple resources in book stores, libraries and on line; therefore we are not listing resources here.

General Ecology

www.NWEI.org: Northwest Earth Institute—has study books for group discussion on various topics

[https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#lmsg/solidarity-](https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#lmsg/solidarity-sustainability/pxuvPthDCek/P6EI8SVhzlsJ)

[sustainability/pxuvPthDCek/P6EI8SVhzlsJ](https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#lmsg/solidarity-sustainability/pxuvPthDCek/P6EI8SVhzlsJ) This is the Pelican and contains TONS of articles, resources and assistance in writing newsletter. It is SPECTACULAR!

Global Warming

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/impacts/

(May 7, 2014); numerous effects of global warming)

<http://thegreatstory.org/new.html> tons of resources from Michael Dodd

www.stopglobalwarming.org

www.earthguagenews.org

Maureen McCarthy

mmcarthy@sssf.org

W: 414-384-1515

H: 414-486-1615

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/around-the-world-abc-news/extreme-global-weather-unprecedented-normal-022221532.html>

Sharon Astyk: author of “Depletion and Abundance”

<http://truth-out.org/opinion/item/13231-learning-from-europes-energy> Re: Tax Tariff

United Nations Environment Programme: see global climate change

Pope Francis Encyclical (June 18, 2015)

Also check on line, in local libraries and book stores as there are multiple resources

Great Lakes

www.listentoyourlakes.org

great-lakes.net

www.epa.gov/greatlakes/index.html

www.epa.gov/greatlakes/basicinfo.html

Great Lakes Compact

www.greatlakes.org/compact

www.nwf.org/.../Waters/Great-Lakes/Great-Lakes-Compact.aspx

Labyrinth Resources

www.ispiritual.com

labyrinthsociety.org/resources

<https://labyrinthsociety.org>

Laws: Right of Nature to Exist

Center for Jurisprudence:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=halZTRtvIPw>

Living Simply

<http://ecojesuit.com/living-lightly-and-lovingly/4830/>

zenhabits.net/simple-living-mani

simply-living-simply.com

theartofsimple.net

Magazines/News

www.EcoHomeMagazine.org

www.earthpolicynews (Lester Brown)

YES Magazine

Catalyst (Union of Concerned Scientists)

Sierra

Kosmos

Mother Pelican

Mother Earth News

Mandalas

www.expressingtheself.org

www.mandalaproject.org/What/Index.html

www.hellokids.com › [Coloring pages](#)

mandalaproject.org

Nature Sites

Check out your local area

Paradigm Shift

www.ions.org

[The International Society for Ec@mail.vresp.com](http://TheInternationalSocietyforEc@mail.vresp.com)

www.taketheleap.com/define.html

Pollution

environment.nationalgeographic.com/.../pollution-overview

www.worldwildlife.org

www.theguardian.com/environment/pollution

plastic-pollution.org

www.nrdc.org/oceans/plastic-ocean

ecowatch.com/2014/04/07/22-facts-plastic-pollution-10-things-can

Tree Planting

tree-planting.com

www.arborday.org/trees/tips/planting.cfm

www.arborday.org

www.treesforthefuture.org

Universe Story

www.storyoftheuniverse.org

www.amazon.com/The-Universe-Story-Primordial-Celebration/dp/0062508350

www.nasa.gov/externalflash/mather

www.goodreads.com/book/show/981818

www.mehstories.com/myspecial.html

<http://marcbrecy.perso.neuf.fr/history.html>

(a two minute video on the beginnings, the history of Earth, humankind, our violence and spiraling ecological decay)

<http://www.thomasberry.org/Biography/reflections.html>

Water Footprint Calculator

<http://gracelinks.org/1408/water-footprint-calculator>

<http://libertywater.com/?q=content/water-footprint-calculator>