



# Grant Park

## Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2022

## More Changes at Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

By Stacey Tipp

The GPNA board has reluctantly accepted the resignations of two highly valued members. They are long-time secretary MaryCal Hanson and at-large member Marion Horna. The board thanked MaryCal and Marion for their service with thank-you cards and fruit baskets from the Sheridan Fruit Company. The board wishes MaryCal and Marion the very best in their future endeavors but would like to remind them both that one can always return to the board later after a period of absence (!).

At-large member Kara Caselas becomes the new board secretary, and Mary Artz has stepped up to become the manager of the GPNA website (<http://grantpark-na.org>). Stacey Tipp takes on the role of co-vice president with Neon Brooks, who is currently acting president.



MaryCal Hanson



Marion Horna

## Land Use and Transportation Update

By Neon Brooks

While sanding work has been done on the interior of the *Aircraft Factory Building*, formerly Gordon's Fireplace Shop, progress on hiring a new general contractor is ongoing. A key bottleneck for the project is the limited availability of materials and labor to conduct necessary upgrades to the foundation for seismic stability. The developers remain hopeful that construction of the 18 apartment units and ground floor retail could be complete by late 2023. The developers have also been working with a security company to address trespassing and camping on the property.

**NE 33rd Avenue** is again fully operational following the prolonged sewer work conducted at **33rd and Knott** in October. At **33rd and Hancock**, a new traffic

*continued page 2*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- January 10, 2023
- April 11, 2023  
(Annual Meeting, including election of officers and changes to GPNA bylaws).

### LOCATION:

All meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual rather than in person. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, [grantpark-na.org](http://grantpark-na.org).

### MEETINGS:

GPNA holds elections at the Annual Meeting in April. Necessary special or emergency meetings may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open to the public. ALL persons living, working, or attending high school within its boundaries are members of Grant Park Neighborhood Association. If you need special accommodation, please contact a Board member.

### GPNA

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

##### Acting President:

*Neon Brooks*

##### Vice President:

*Stacey Tipp*

##### Secretary:

*Kara Caselas*

##### Treasurer:

*Jessica Decker*

##### Land Use Chair:

*Neon Brooks*

##### Newsletter Editor:

*Stacey Tipp*

##### At Large:

*Mary Artz, Linda Burch,  
Tom Fawell, Ron Laster,  
Laurene Mullen, Gary Stamps*

##### Contact the Board at:

[general@grantpark-na.org](mailto:general@grantpark-na.org)

## Land Use and Transportation, continued

pattern has been implemented, making the intersection right-turn only for cars traveling on Hancock in both directions and prohibiting left turns onto Hancock for cars traveling South on 33rd. Please note that cars are now prohibited from traveling straight on Hancock in both directions. People walking and riding bikes are not expecting cars to travel straight and going around the traffic barriers to go straight here risks a serious crash. If you see cars traveling East on Hancock through this intersection, please report it to the city by calling 503-823-SAFE or filling out

an online form at <https://www.portland.gov/transportation/report-non-urgent-traffic-safety-concern>.

Finally, please remember that **our neighborhood streets are very dark in the evening and early morning hours this time of year**. Drivers should be extra alert for people walking and biking, and people on foot or bike should consider wearing or carrying lights or reflective gear to increase their visibility. I have noticed a big difference in driver behavior just from adding a small light-up beacon to my dog's leash when I take him for walks at sunset.

*Do you like walking  
in your neighborhood?*

We need volunteers to help deliver this newsletter to homes and businesses in Grant Park. The average route is 30-40 homes, and the newsletter is published quarterly. If interested, please e mail us at [general@grantpark-na.org](mailto:general@grantpark-na.org).

*Be Part of the Community*

### ATTEND AN UPCOMING GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING:

- **January 10, 2023**
- **April 11, 2023** (Annual Meeting, including election of officers and changes to GPNA bylaws)

#### LOCATION:

All meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual rather than in person. To obtain the agenda and the Zoom meeting link, go to the meetings page on our website, [grantpark-na.org](http://grantpark-na.org).

## Letters to the Editor and Articles

Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) welcomes letters to the editor and original articles for publication from those residing or working within neighborhood boundaries. Letters concerning prior published articles must be submitted within 30 days of newsletter distribution. Letters or articles that include profanity, libelous statements, personal attacks against individuals or specific organizations, or that are unreasonably long, will be rejected. Articles should be original or with attribution stated, and should address topics of local interest. Letters and articles submitted anonymously will be evaluated on a case by case basis for publication, but the editor must be able to verify the identity of the writer to ensure authenticity. Letters or articles that support or oppose individual candidates for public office cannot be published, but those concerning ballot measures will be considered. All submissions must be in Word or other text-based format, no PDFs.

## GPNA Newsletter Ads

The GPNA newsletter reaches over 2,000 homes and businesses between NE Broadway and NE Knott and from NE 26th to NE 47th, with some overlap around the outside edges. Distribution of the newsletter occurs quarterly.

There is a per-issue standard rate, due upon receipt of an invoice with an attached copy of the issue in which the ad has run, and a per-year 10% discounted rate, which must be paid in advance. A copy of each issue will be sent to the advertiser.

For information on advertising in this newsletter, please contact Linda Burch, [lindaburch11@gmail.com](mailto:lindaburch11@gmail.com).

## RATES/SIZES

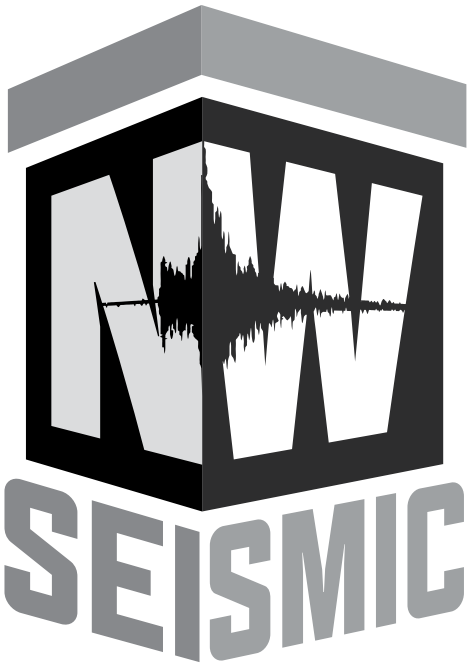
Business card	2"H x 3.5/3.625"W	per issue \$45	per year \$162
Quarter page	4.5"H x 3.5/ 3. 625"W	per issue \$75	per year \$270
Half page (horizontal)	4.5"H x 7.5"W	per issue \$120	per year \$432
Half page (vertical)	9.5"H x 3.5/ 3. 625"W	per issue \$120	per year \$432
Full page	9.5"H x 7.5"W	per issue \$210	per year \$756

## Leave the Leaves

By Kara Caselas

As our annual neighborhood leaf pickups roll around it is important to remember to leave some of the leaf litter behind. It may be habitual or a holdover of outdated gardening practices, but for whatever reason, we just can't seem to help ourselves from wanting to tidy up the garden by raking, mowing, or blowing away every leaf that has fallen to the ground.

Leaving a few leaves behind can be one of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates. Leaves and other organic debris provide these critters with the winter cover they need to survive until spring. Additionally, leaves provide valuable organic matter that helps build up healthy soils in your yard. Fallen leaves also offer the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties as shredded wood. So, throughout the gardening year, and especially the next time our leaf pickups approach, remember to leave some leaves behind.

**SEISMIC RETROFITS | GAS VALVES | FOUNDATION REPAIR**

**NWSEISMIC.COM | 503.741.8311**

CCB# 186559



**1000 homes sold since 2014!**

**Don't take a chance. Use proven experience.**

Over 90% of today's real estate agents  
have never sold a home in a market like this.

Mark is your experienced agent! With in-depth market knowledge and decades in the industry, Mark has the skills and expertise to sell your property at the best price!

For a **FREE** instant home valuation

**Call Mark Today!**  
**503-807-9911**

or visit  
[www.markcharlesworth.com/homevalue](http://www.markcharlesworth.com/homevalue)

Scan me 

**mc** mark charlesworth  
real estate team

**kw** PORTLAND  
CENTRAL  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

## Central Northeast Neighbors: Meet Our District Coalition

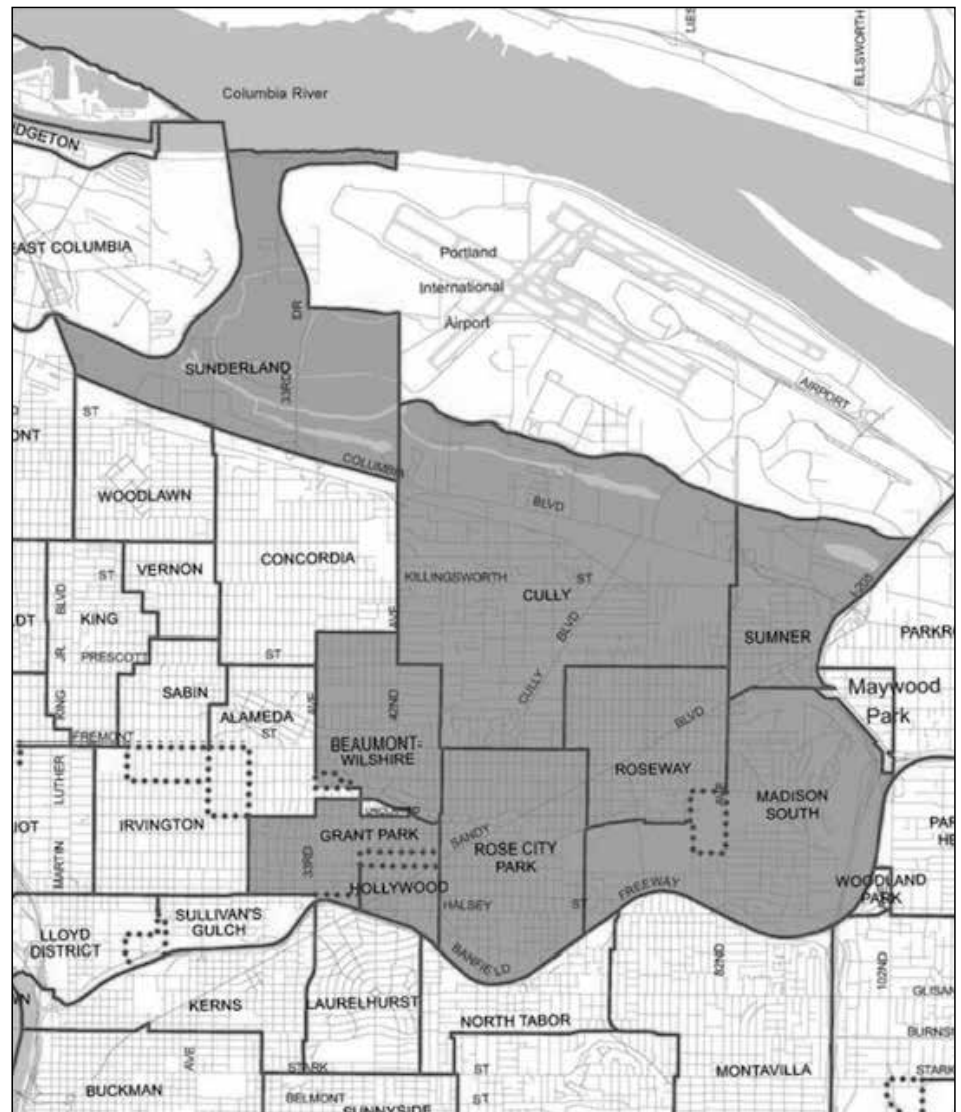
By Stacey Tipp

Grant Park is one of Portland's 95 geographically defined neighborhoods. The neighborhood association system began in the 1970s to increase grassroots citizen participation and bridge the gap between neighbors and Portland's leaders who were elected city-wide. The system also eventually grouped geographically proximate neighborhoods into seven district coalitions, each now affiliated with the Portland Office of Community and Civic Life.

Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) is the name of our district coalition. Together with Grant Park, the other neighborhoods in the coalition are Beaumont-Wilshire, Hollywood, Rose City Park, Madison South, Roseway, Sumner, Cully and Sunderland (see map). The Sunderland Neighborhood Association is currently inactive (this is because there are not 200 homes there to qualify as a neighborhood). However, the Dignity Village membership-based community in Sunderland, that shelters 60 people a night from the streets, has a representative on the CNN Board, who reports on issues affecting both Dignity Village and Sunderland. Each neighborhood in the CNN coalition has two seats (and two votes) on the coalition's board of directors.

The CNN office is located at 4415 NE 87<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, where it shares space with Portland Fire & Rescue Station 12. The longtime executive director of CNN is Alison Stoll (pictured), who is supported by volunteers and a small staff. The role of CNN is to assist and empower the neighborhood associations, community groups, businesses, and individuals living and working within its boundaries. Through focused meetings, such as public safety and LUTOP (Land Use, Transportation, Open space and Planning), technical assistance, education, trainings, and small grants, CNN works to improve the livability, safety, and vitality of its neighborhoods.

The CNN Board welcomes all neighbors to their monthly meeting, which is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Go to the CNN website, <http://www.cnncoalition.org> to learn more, to join meetings and trainings, and to sign up for the CNN monthly newsletter. The newsletter is full of useful information about upcoming events and issues affecting our city, district, and neighborhood. You can also follow Central Northeast Neighbors Coalition on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNcoalition/>



## Just How Harmful Is a Fire?

By The Multnomah County Health Department

Brendon Haggerty crouched beside a Solo Stove fire pit in his Portland backyard and stacked a few pieces of well-cured wood. This is a common scene for many households, hanging out with friends and family around a warm, bright fire. He crumpled sheets of newsprint and lit the flame.

Haggerty supervises the wood smoke curtailment program at the Multnomah County Health Department and illustrated the impact of fires on air quality for his friends as they gathered in his backyard. Within moments, the air quality monitor he was also holding began to beep. As smoke from the flames blew across his backyard, the air quality shot right through the hazardous level, maxing out the device's ability to measure air pollution.

Haggerty's demonstration proved what public health officials have long warned: cozy backyard fires might feel good on a cool night but even fire pits marketed as "efficient" or "smokeless" are not harmless. It's a key reason why Multnomah County regulates indoor and outdoor fires year-round.

"Most of us probably don't imagine that one fire could be a problem, but to a vulnerable neighbor it really could be harmful," Haggerty said. "So even if that fire brings some people closer together, chances are someone lives nearby who is going to suffer the consequences."

The problem is that wood smoke contains fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), a dangerous pollutant for human health due to its prevalence. The particulates, smaller than the diameter of a human hair, can cause respiratory irritation, coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath. Long-term exposure to PM 2.5 may lead to preterm births in pregnant mothers, decreased lung function, bronchitis, diabetes, and increased mortality from cancer and heart disease.

### Why Do We Burn Wood?

With rising costs, many assume that people burn wood to stay warm. As an affordable source of energy, especially during hard times, wood is readily available and for a good price. Yet consumer data shows that most households in Multnomah County are not building fires to stay warm, but for enjoyment.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality estimates that in the Portland area, about 3,500 households in Multnomah County rely on wood as their primary source of heat, or just about two percent of the population. Comparisons of income data from the Census Bureau and burning behavior from American Community Survey underscores that most of the burning occurs in higher-income households that have other sources of heat. In particular, higher-income households in the inner-East Portland area burn

more wood than communities in East Portland, often as a recreational or discretionary activity rather than a primary source of heat.

### Why Does My Fire Matter?

Wood burning may seem like a personal choice, since it is often done in one's own home or backyard. But the health impacts of smoke affect everyone in the community. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that emissions from residential wood smoke account for 11% of cancer risk from air toxics in Multnomah County. Residential wood smoke is a significant source of human caused particulate matter in Multnomah County. Wood smoke can also reach far more people because of the sheer volume of emissions and the dense urban distribution of people across the County.

"Talking to your neighbors is the best way we can help people understand the impact of this problem," Jonathan Cruz, a program specialist for the county's wood smoke program, said. "It can be difficult to explain to people who burn wood that their actions are having negative consequences, but it's worth having a conversation."

Air quality has improved overall since the 1970's under the Clean Air Act, but the benefits are not shared by all residents. Air quality is among many environmental justice concerns in environmental justice (EJ) communities in Multnomah County. EJ communities are low-income households and communities of color, and face environmental injustices due to historically discriminatory policies, building codes, and development that concentrated these communities along high traffic corridors. Unintentionally, higher-income neighborhoods, whose air has gotten cleaner over time, may be contributing more wood smoke and worsening disparities in air quality across the County through recreational burning.

The County is working to improve air quality for everyone and reduce these disparities by regulating wood burning and educating residents about the problem. Exemptions remain for residents with low incomes and in situations where wood burning is the primary source of someone's heat, for ceremonial purposes, or during an emergency. Cooking food is also exempt.

Cruz says the regulation is expected to improve conditions throughout Multnomah County and will benefit everyone affected by woodsmoke. "The good news about air pollution is that it is a solvable problem," Cruz said. "To protect your health, check the status before you burn."

More information can be found at [multco.us/woodsmokes-tatus](http://multco.us/woodsmokes-tatus).

## A Taste of Disaster

By Nanci Tangeman, NET Volunteer



NET members Steve and Debbie Haines taste test emergency provisions

It's a rainy November afternoon. Eight members of the Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) gather in a garage in Hollywood. Forks and spoons in hand, they watch as their neighbor fires up his camp stove. It's time to get a taste of disaster. Will it taste like scrambled eggs and bacon? Or roasted vegetables?

The menu is part of NET's latest meeting. This month, emergency supply kits are on the agenda. The goal is to store two weeks' worth of supplies, including water. One member shows his family's emergency supplies. NET members share their own experiences.

Finally, there's the taste test of emergency rations: Mountain House scrambled eggs and bacon and roasted vegetables. Just add water! The group discusses everything from sodium content to gluten-free options for prepared food, as well as everyday pantry items that can be consumed if power and running water are unavailable.

### Disasters Don't Wait

November's meeting was a new spark for the established Grant Park NET. During Covid, the team met infrequently – either online or outside – and focused a lot of their service on helping with vaccine rollouts. But preparation for major disasters shouldn't wait.

In October, Grant Park NET members joined NET volunteers from around the city in an exercise simulating a volcanic eruption of Mt. Hood. NET volunteers from Grant Park, Irvington, and Sullivan's Gulch worked together to help neighbors deal with [simulated] volcanic ash, live power lines, collapsed roofs, and power outages. Citywide



NET volunteer Chris Blumenthal and team members discuss emergency supplies

exercises like these help volunteers refresh their training and skills.

### Neighbors Lead NET

As Grant Park NET moves into its next phase, a special thank you goes out to Peter Maxfield, who served an incredibly long stint as interim Grant Park NET leader though a pandemic, heat domes, and wildfires. Molly Hamill is the new Grant Park team leader.

If you're interested in volunteering on NET, training is available and includes light search and rescue, basic disaster medicine and triage, radio communications, fire suppression, disaster psychology, and trauma intervention. Anyone who lives or works in Portland can become a NET member.

To learn more about Grant Park NET, please visit [bit.ly/GrantParkNET](https://bit.ly/GrantParkNET) For more information about Portland NET and CERT National, see [portlandprepares.org/net-teams](https://portlandprepares.org/net-teams)

**New Year's Resolution** Download a copy of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management handout Weekly Steps for Emergency Preparedness: A budget-friendly plan to build a family disaster supply kit in 24 weeks at [www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/678731](https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/article/678731)

**Start Your Own Kit** See GPNA Summer 2022 newsletter ([www.grantpark-na.org](https://www.grantpark-na.org)) to learn to make your own kit.



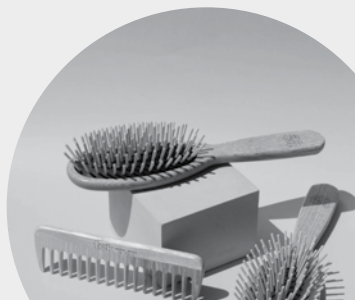
**Way.f  
Being**

Shop in store at  
Lloyd Center PDX  
and online at wayofbeing.co



## Sustainable home and personal care essentials for more intentional living.

Use code **GRANTPARK** for free local delivery (valid for Grant Park residents only).



## Beyond Lawns: The Backyard Habitat

By Kara Caselas

While walking through the neighborhood, have you ever noticed signs in front yards with the label “Certified Backyard Habitats”? You may have wondered, what exactly does that mean? The program, led by the Portland Audubon Society and the Columbia Land Trust, provides urban gardeners the tools and support needed to create yard space landscapes that mimic our natural environment. Participation in the program involves incorporating five elements into your backyard – removing invasive species and weeds, reduction of pesticide use, incorporating wildlife features, stormwater management tools, and installing native plants. Native plants are adapted to our climate and are naturally resistant to local pests and diseases. They require less maintenance than traditional nursery plants and provide year-round foraging and pollinating habitat for wildlife.



If these concepts are new to you, but you want to build a backyard that works with our climate, soils, and wildlife, the program is designed to assist you in the creation of a more sustainable yard. Interested participants can enroll online (<http://backyardhabitats.org>), and a program technician will contact you to schedule a site visit. During the visit, program technicians will walk through your entire yard – not just the backyard – and help you identify harmful weeds, discuss your goals and desires for the space, and make plant recommendations based on your conversation. Following the visit, you receive a site report documenting the steps necessary to reach certification. The program also offers annual training and workshop events, tours of certified yards, and plant sales to help you work towards your goals. Together we can make our cities a healthier place for ourselves and wildlife!

## ORA ET LABORA INTRODUCING YOUR NEW FAVORITE WINE SHOP

**Grand Opening December 21 - 24!**

12 to 8pm, Wednesday - Friday  
12 to 4pm, Saturday

*All day tastings, evening small bites & raffle prizes!*



Find us: 3928 N. Williams Ave.  
Reach us: [info@oraetlabora.wine](mailto:info@oraetlabora.wine) / 503.444.7482  
Shop our wines: [www.oraetlabora.wine](http://www.oraetlabora.wine)

**The  
Emerson  
School**  
428 NW 20th Ave.  
503.525.6124

*We are a welcoming, inclusive learning community committed to equity for all students. In addition to comprehensive literacy and mathematics instruction, students are actively engaged through project-based learning using the outside community as an extension of the classroom.*

**Come celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year with us!**

### We offer:

- Small class sizes
- Engaging and challenging Project-Based learning
- A strong, cohesive community

**Spaces still available in grades K-5!**

Apply here: <http://www.emersonschool.org/enrollment>

## Pagan Roots of Christmas Traditions

By Linda Burch

Christmas is so beautiful in Grant Park. Neighbors offer warm lighting and festive displays to offset the darkness and gloom. Many people, however, don't know that most modern Christmas traditions, from the yule log to the Christmas tree, come from Pagan culture. Pagans encompassed people from Romans to the Norse in Scandinavia. Early Christians lumped non-Christians together under this term.

When early Christians were trying to convert the Pagan people, they realized that winter solstice traditions ran deep, so they found ways to incorporate cherished Pagan customs into Christian ones. We can thank the Romans and Celts for most modern Christmas traditions.

Pagans celebrated Saturnalia, honoring the Roman god Saturn, between December 17th and 24th each year. Marked by eating, drinking, and giving presents, it coincided with the winter solstice, which the Celts rejoiced at because it meant that warmer and lighter days would return.

Though the early Christians tried to ban Pagan customs, the Pagans were not having it. Winter was a depressing and scary time, and they wanted to keep their traditions. Pope Julius I chose December 25th in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the Saturnalia festival. First called the Feast of the Nativity, the idea of Christmas spread to Egypt by 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century.

Because evergreen trees signaled the "return of life" to Pagans, the winter solstice tree they loved became a Christmas tree. They hung red apples on them, the root of the custom of ornamenting the trees.

Christmas caroling began as wassailing. Wassailers went from door to door, singing and drinking to the health of their neighbors. They beat on trees to urge them to come to life again, and they traveled through fields and orchards around the solstice as they sang and shouted to drive away any evil spirits that might keep their future crops from thriving. Waes hael in Old English meant good health. In the 13th Century, St. Francis revived the idea, replacing the old revelry with the Christmas theme.

Mistletoe was considered a magical plant by everyone from the Druids to the Vikings. The ancient Romans honored Saturn by conducting fertility rituals under the mistletoe, which likely explains the kissing ritual. In Norse mythology, mistletoe was associated with Frigga, the goddess of love. Mistletoe was also a Druid tradition. They believed that it was an all-powerful healing gift from the sacred oak tree. If you met someone in the forest, you gave them a sign of peace under the mistletoe, so people started hanging mistletoe over their doorways as a sym-

bol of peace. It was such a powerful symbol that the early English churches banned the use of it.

Holly was associated with the god of winter--and Pagans believed the Holly King had an annual battle with the Oak King during the solstice. Holly was known as a wood that could drive off evil spirits, so it came in handy during the darkest days of the year when most of the other trees and shrubs were bare.

The yule log comes from the Norse in Scandinavia. They celebrated Yule on December 21st, the winter solstice, through January. To honor the anticipated return of the sun, fathers and sons brought home large logs, which they would light. People would feast until the log burned out, which could take as long as twelve days. The Norse believed that each spark of the fire represented a new pig or calf that would be born in the coming year.

Fruitcake has roots in Egypt, where people placed cakes of fermented fruit and honey on the tombs of their deceased loved ones in hopes that the cakes would last as long as the pyramids would. There are records of Roman soldiers carrying such cakes, often made of mashed pomegranate and barley, into battle and crusades.

Finally, it is somewhat amusing to me that the idea of a "war on Christmas" was a Puritan idea. Knowing that the Christmas date and all the traditions were Pagan, they banned Christmas for twenty years upon their arrival in America--until they realized that the traditions were just too hard to extinguish. All of this history is helpful to keep in mind when people accuse places like Starbucks of making a "war on Christmas." Different traditions make our culture richer.

