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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Kids solstice winter magic at Manitou Dec. 19

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 The Manitou Project is hosting a woods-inspired Winter
5 Solstice community gathering Friday, Dec. 19, 3 to 5:15 p.m. in
6 Williamsville. All are welcome to this youth-centered celebration
7 of the season, and return of the light to the longest night, with
8 woods lantern walk, music, stories, bonfire, and treats.

9 It will be led by Melissa Hudasko, who describes herself
10 as a Waldorf-inspired forest school leader, homeschooling mother
11 with a deep reverence for the wonderment of childhood, and

12 "Fairy entrepreneur who brings storytelling magic to inspire the
13 imagination and cultivate devotion for the diverse gifts of the
14 natural world." Joining her will be Michael Mayer, self-described
15 forest protector and Manitou steward, "long committed to the
16 land, its beings, and regenerative practices in West Africa and
17 beyond to heal our relationship with the earth and one another."

18 Special musical guests include Peter Siegel of the
19 Gaslight Tinkers.

20 Event promoters welcome all song-spinners and
21 musicians to "make a joyful noise" for singing back the sun.
22 "Warm hearts, stories, song, and tasty treats kindle the spark
23 within, as together we transform the darkest night and summon
24 return of the light," say organizers.

25 Celebrants should plan to arrive by 3 p.m. for a short
26 hike up the stone stairway to walk the Winter Solstice Spiral at
27 dusk, share storytelling magic around the warmth of the hogan's
28 wood stove, and gather in song around the bonfire. The
29 ceremony ends by 5:15 p.m., then moves indoors for all who
30 wish to stay on for a stone soup potluck — please bring a soup or
31 other delight to share.

32 Manitouproject.org is the 223-acre woodland sanctuary
33 where community with nature has been brewing for 35 years in
34 collaboration with the Vermont Wilderness School and other
35 local organizations, schools, and families from across the region.
36 It is located at 300 Sunset Lake Rd. in Williamsville (which GPS
37 may read as Newfane). Carpooling is encouraged. Dress warmly
38 for a forest walk and outdoor activities. For more information,
39 call 802-258-8598.

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