

# 5 Qualifications

intelligent  
rugged  
feminist  
Spanish-speaking  
indigenous mentality:

- being vs. doing
- community vs. individual
- collaboration w/nature vs. domination of nature

peaceful  
restorative  
friendly  
supportive  
loving

Sustainable  
Fostering + Nurturing  
Red hair  
Other colors too  
Love

- water on the wind
- walks I can get lost on
- a place I can learn
- new
- small

- ★ Sunny
- ★ Women's Health
- ★ Catholic Worker
- ★ Singles
- ★ Medium-large

- ★ funny
- ★ interested in the world
- ★ intelligent
- ★ caring
- ★ open-minded

# 2012 stuff to do

\* make out with lots of men <sup>AND</sup> women!

\* have an art show

\* EXPLORE all 9 counties of KC

\* Connect with feminist people

\* New Albums for two projects (music)

\* be a better gardener

\* learn how to cook from scratch, cook with the seasons, & study how to live off the land locally.

\* find me a man

\* explore feminist art shows

\* Be artsy and crafty and creative with friends.

\* get a house w/ friends

\* be liquid

\* meet people who are into similar values of anti capitalism and that believe in their values strongly.

\* meet pacifists with deep spirituality

\* A kiss that makes me say "holy cow"

# BOOKS that influenced us in the year OF 2011

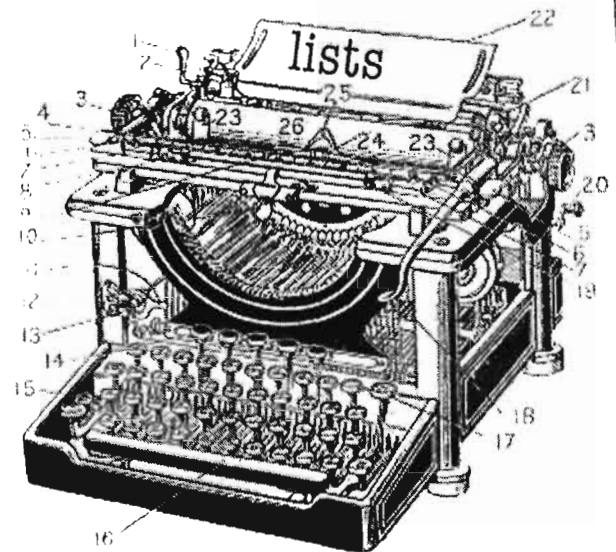
- The Female Brain - Louann Brizendine
- The Dance of Anger - Harriet Lerner

- Aphrodite - Isabel Allen de
- The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
- A Grief Observed - C.S. Lewis

- The Last Female Shaman - Tele Starhawk Lake
- The Help - Kathryn Stockett
- Eat, Pray, Love - Elizabeth Gilbert

- Feminism Is for Everybody - bell hooks
- Air Guitar - David Hickey

- The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman
- Debt - David Graeber



by us!



Dear Sprout:

I am proud and honored to be living this life that we create together. I am happy that you have gathered the courage to move forward and start taking care of all the things that needed attention. The house is a much cozier and welcoming environment now that we've completed the renovation, and we are more likely to attract the type of roommates that we'd get along with.

One of the bravest things you did this year was see a shamanistic healer. You reached out for help and I'm glad you did this because it makes it easier to be aware of what's going on. This was a very necessary part in letting go of anxiety.

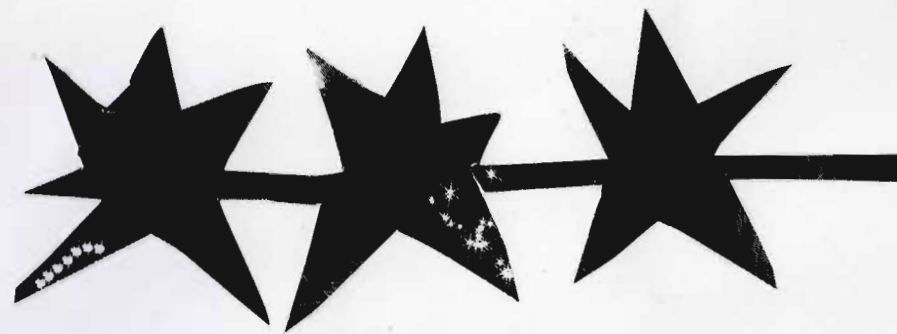
I am super proud of you for reaching out and making friends. It has been about 15 years since we could call anyone a close friend, or felt comfortable hanging out with someone on a regular basis. I believe you have what it takes to sustain beautiful and loving relationships with friends. Let's make some more.

I know that sometimes at night you hold hands and kiss some amazing people in your dreams. I think 2012 is going to be the year that these actions take place in daily life. I know it's a scary step and it feels unsafe to get close to someone again. We will take it slow and go at your pace because you are awesome and deserve to call the shots.

We feel grateful that your husband, soon to be ex, has been so friendly. That we have two beautiful dogs. Some awesome housemates. And Great friends! A great and awesome part-time job with amazing flexibility. And an awesome community group to participate in that is slowly transitioning into a very real community village.

Let's continue our path of taking it day to day, trying new things, sustaining beautiful relationships, and helping provide resources. Let's forge on and see what the future brings us. Let's keep shining on.

Love,  
me



## Holiday Cheer



The only reason  
they like music so  
much is because  
they can't feel  
anything without it.  
Why are they dead?



SORRY for being  
so melodramatic

## Simple DIY Gifts by Shhh...

-Baked goods such as sugar and spice nuts (really easy, but nuts can be costly), quick bread recipes, or caramel corn (messy but cheap, easy, and YUMMY!)

-Handmade Journal for people who like to write

-Decoupage ornaments – just need paper, glue and ornaments

-Bag or purse

Just in time for the  
holidays!

\*I made my sister a bag and embroidered on an outline of her profile with some thick, bright thread. The bag was a drab brownish gray color, but the stitching was magenta and it turned out really fun. I just used a simple crosshatch stitch on the entire thing.

\*Another year I just did a bag with an iron-on transfer of an image of some power lines. It was kind of funky. Very easy!

-Photo gifts are really easy too. Old family photos put in a cool format (like a family tree, if you're a geni-nerd like me!)

-Framed poem – its simple but can have a lot of meaning! I find cheap frames at thrift stores and then spray paint it to make it look new again.



## I grew up in 2011

♥ I grew strong emotionally,  
able to weather the storms  
of life.

★ I learned how to set  
boundaries that empowered  
and encouraged me to blossom.

© I was able to see beyond  
the surface... to see what's  
in it for me... to cast aside  
the glitter for gold

# I began the process of taking  
the reins in life – understanding  
my power – knowing my abilities






## How did I do it?

- ★ I tried unconventional healing  
methods. Working with crystals,  
meditation, seeing a shaman, & developing a spirituality.
- ★ I reached out to a girl that changed my life.  
She became a good friend, and encouraged me to  
keep going simply by listening and offering her support.  
She loved me and appreciated me for who I am.
- ★ I started following my intuition. Listening to my  
self and giving her credit.



# My Accomplishments 2011\*

by Chuck

- ① Taught Urdu to a nomadic band of preschoolers
- ② Walked across two Midwestern states in August 
- ③ Beat a Japanese robot in a ping pong tournament
- ④ Played bass in an all girl band
- ⑤ Found a proof for Fermat's Last Theorem
- ⑥ Determined that the missing dark matter in the  universe is actually located in a friend's back yard
- ⑦ Walked the dog 
- ⑧ Discovered that brussels sprouts could be used as an alternative fuel source.
- ⑨ Wrote a letter for Stephanie's zine 
- ⑩ Found that 'Roadhouse' the movie synchs with Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side of the moon' at the 5:01 minute mark
- ⑪ Discovered that Troost Ave. doesn't have an ending point
- ⑫ Defended my Iron Chef victory in 'Battle Hazelnut'
- ⑬ Wrote some actual code  for me
- ⑭ Developed a computer program which ghost writes bestsellers for Ann Coulter
- ⑮ #OccupyThisList

\* Some of these may have been made up!

## ZINE as Gifts

**Recipe Booklet** – make a zine that features favorite recipes. Include a basket with some of the recipe ingredients or a vintage kitchen thrift find.

**Ode to the family** – Create a zine with family photos that are paired with interesting quotes, thoughtful stories, or ode-like poems to each family member. This could be done with complete reverence or with a lot of fun humor.

**Zine Star** – Create a story about a niece, nephew, or whatever little child occupies your heart. Use photos of them to include in your story. Leave pages at the end of the zine to let them finish the story or rewrite the ending.

2012 survival guide playing on the fearful apocalypse, write a sincere zine booklet to family and friends that thanks them for time spent together and gives tips for the upcoming apocalypse. *Surviving*

**Children's Activity Journal** – Create a zine with children's activities and coloring pages, complete with ad-libs and games on paper. Give away with some art supplies such as a pack of coloring pencils.


**internet meme zine** – create a zine with the best of internet memes in 2011! Other ideas: best facebook status updates, best pet photos shared on FB, most embarrassing facebook!



Give away this zine as a gift, because it's SOOO awesome, people will REALLY LOVE IT!


# Radical carols

Human Rights (Sung to the tune of Silent Night)



Human Rights, Immigrant Rights  
Everyone, Join the fight  
Fight for dignity, justice and peace  
In your living and working place  
Where your children are born  
Where you make your home.  
Human Rights, Immigrant Rights  
Hear the Sweatshop workers plight  
Broken families, INS raids  
Child labor, owners greed  
Everyone, open your eyes  
Stand up, organize! (For revolution!)

Sung to the tune of "We Wish you a Merry Christmas"



We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
Treat workers fair-ly!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
Treat workers fair-ly!  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kids,  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
Stop capitalist's greed,  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
And end corporate greed!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
We wish you would do the right thing!  
And end corporate greed!

I could take the easy way and dwell on the year lacking in luster or any "breakthroughs." But that just wouldn't be fair, because I would simply be succumbing to the average desire to focus on "what went wrong." I think, instead, I'll remember the things that shaped my life in a wonderful way. But maybe that's still a lot to write about, and it could get entirely too vague or long-winded.

I keep thinking, "this is gonna be the year." You know, the year that things go better or change in a significant manner toward the positive side of the balance of things. Well here it is, one month from the end of the year and time for retrospect, I guess.

So it's you, my dear. I just want to thank you for helping me realize that my life is so much more wonderful and amazing without you!!



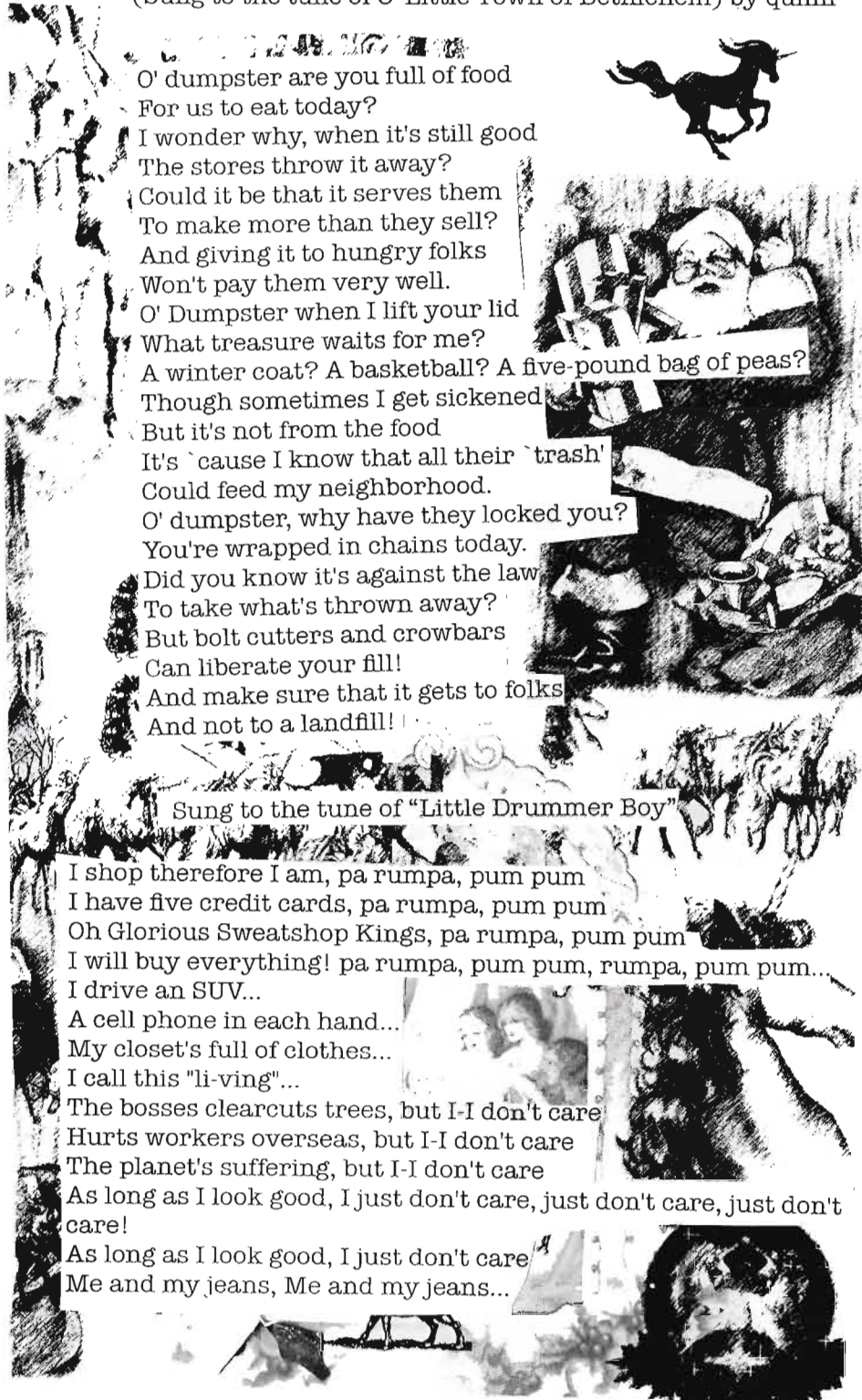
7. The **Page of Wands**, reversed, is how you see yourself. You are well aware of your lack of motivation and general negativity and by habit keep yourself locked in these wasteful cycles. Wands represent growth and creativity, passion and motivation, but you seem to deny these things in yourself. Perhaps you refuse to express them. Remember: the Queen of Wands is still inside you.
8. Those close to you play the **6 of Wands**. They are positive and successful. They have accomplished much and no doubt have many things to teach you. Listen to them; they can help you.
9. What you deeply hope for in this situation is to become the **Knight of Pentacles**, to work towards your goals and make the best practical use of your skills and knowledge. He is someone who is stable, secure, and standing firm within himself.
10. If you continue on your current path, you shall meet the **8 of Wands**, reversed. More energy will be wasted on stagnation, more energy than you need to exert. You must learn to be patient, for growth will come slow.

This has not been an easy year for you, dearest *Querent*, and there is still much uncertainty in your future. Yet there is much potential for stability and renewed motivation within you, if only you will listen. Focus your energies and be thoughtful and judicious in your decisions. Let go of the pessimism and negativity. Yes, the lack of money, time, and resources limits you, but there is still much strength and passion remaining. Be patience and do not waste what is available to you.

Remain focused and positive, my friend, and I know that you will find your way in the coming year. Remain in the present and do not fear for your future. I wish you well.

*Sincerely,  
Your Inner Self.*

O' Dumpster Are You Full of Food  
(Sung to the tune of O' Little Town of Bethlehem) by quinn



O' dumpster are you full of food  
For us to eat today?  
I wonder why, when it's still good  
The stores throw it away?  
Could it be that it serves them  
To make more than they sell?  
And giving it to hungry folks  
Won't pay them very well.  
O' Dumpster when I lift your lid  
What treasure waits for me?  
A winter coat? A basketball? A five-pound bag of peas?  
Though sometimes I get sickened  
But it's not from the food  
It's 'cause I know that all their 'trash'  
Could feed my neighborhood.  
O' dumpster, why have they locked you?  
You're wrapped in chains today.  
Did you know it's against the law  
To take what's thrown away?  
But bolt cutters and crowbars  
Can liberate your fill!  
And make sure that it gets to folks  
And not to a landfill!

Sung to the tune of "Little Drummer Boy"

I shop therefore I am, pa rumpa, pum pum  
I have five credit cards, pa rumpa, pum pum  
Oh Glorious Sweatshop Kings, pa rumpa, pum pum  
I will buy everything! pa rumpa, pum pum, rumpa, pum pum...  
I drive an SUV...  
A cell phone in each hand...  
My closet's full of clothes...  
I call this "li-ving"...

The bosses clearcuts trees, but I-I don't care  
Hurts workers overseas, but I-I don't care  
The planet's suffering, but I-I don't care  
As long as I look good, I just don't care, just don't care, just don't care!  
As long as I look good, I just don't care  
Me and my jeans, Me and my jeans...

Kids these days... i hate the games they play... Kids these days 27



**Dear Querent:**

This is a tarot reading for 2011 in 10 parts. This is where you are and where you have been and perhaps where you are going.

1. This is your current state: the **Page of Pentacles**, reversed. You are feeling unfocused and uncertain about your future in practical/financial terms. There has been much wastefulness and excess, and now you are left with very few resources to draw from. There is never enough money, never enough time. Passion and motivation have been weakened.
2. **The Star** crosses you, again in reverse. Laid right side up, The Star signifies inspiration and connection to the source. But you are disconnected, lacking inspiration, and mired in pessimism regarding your future and the current state of affairs.
3. Lying at the root of this situation is the **Queen of Wands**. She is you: someone who is passionate, motivated, and has grown quite a bit within the last year—all this despite your negativity and lack of focus. You have, at various points, proven your ability to stay motivated, though now you feel drained by wasted energies, unable to move forward and grow.
4. The **9 of Pentacles**, reversed, tells us of your recent past, something that happened within the past year. Projects were canceled, left incomplete, prevented from moving forward. *Procrastination*. There was something you lacked, perhaps time, perhaps money.
5. **Justice**, reversed, is your goal. Right side up, Justice represents balance and the ability to make judicious decisions. Why is She reversed? Perhaps you fear balance simply because you lack it. Perhaps you feel incapable of making good decisions. Bad habits have blinded you from these abilities.
6. Perhaps in the near future, you shall find yourself the **Page of Swords**. But you will be reversed. The wastefulness continues. You are still frivolous in your thoughts and lacking the clarity necessary to see projects through to completion. Be careful, my friend.





## Light Minestrone Soup (25-30 min)

### Ingredients:

1/2 med. cabbage coarsley chopped

1 med. onion coarsley chopped

1/4 c. chopped parsley, 1 clove garlic

1 tsp. oregano, pepper, some oil

5 c. water

2 veg. bullion cubes

1 16 oz. can organic tomatoes

1/4 lb. spaghetti or other pasta

1 med. zucchini sliced

1 can beans - you decide

step 1

step 2

step 4

1. Sauté cabbage, onion, parsley, garlic, oregano + pepper in oil
2. Add water, bullion + tomatoes
3. Bring to boil
4. Stir in pasta, zucchini, + beans
5. Cook 10 minutes more, stirring occasionally, or until pasta is done



# Vegetarian Chili



3 tablespoons vegetable oil,  
divided  
1-1/2 to 2 cups onion, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
4 ounces fresh mushrooms,  
sliced  
1 large green pepper, chopped  
3 stalks celery, sliced  
1/2 cup chopped carrot  
2 tablespoons chili powder  
1-1/2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon basil, crushed  
1/4 teaspoon oregano, ground  
1/4 teaspoon marjoram, crushed  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
1 can (15 ounces) tomato  
sauce  
1 can (14 ounces) plum toma-  
toes in juice  
1/3 cup extra-spicy catsup  
1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire  
sauce

You can sub  
TVP for bulgur

3/4 cup medium grain bulgur  
wheat  
1 can (6 ounces) vegetable juice  
1 can (19 ounces) red kidney  
beans, drained  
1 can (19 ounces) cannellini  
beans, drained  
1 can (3.25 ounces) pitted ripe  
olives, drained and sliced

In large kettle, heat 2 tablespoons oil. Add  
onion and garlic. Cook 5 minutes until  
onion is tender. Add mushrooms, green

peppers, celery, carrot, chili powder,  
cumin, basil, oregano, marjoram and pep-  
per. Saute 8 minutes or until vegetables  
are tender. Add tomato sauce, tomatoes  
and juice, catsup and Worcestershire  
sauce. Cover and simmer 30 minutes.  
Meanwhile, heat remaining 1 tablespoon  
oil in skillet. Add bulgur wheat; cook for  
10 minutes. Add vegetable juice; cover  
and simmer 10-15 minutes. Stir wheat  
and beans into kettle. Simmer, uncov-  
ered, 30 minutes. Stir in olives. Yield:  
2-1/4 quarts.

Valuable lessons

I have learned this  
year.....

- My kids are amazing artists.
- Dont live above meth addicts.
- Buy renters insurance.
- Dont expect things from your own flesh and  
blood. They are sure to dissappoint.
- Try to figure things out on your own. Dont  
allow other people to dictate your beliefs.
- Little dogs make for immense happiness.
- A well thought out plan goes along way.
- Spend as much time as you can with the  
people you love.
- Pick one things that is really important to  
you and go with it. Live it. Develop it.
- Read. A lot.

I suppose most/all of these seem ~~like~~ like  
elementary concepts. But this year has really  
been the first time that I have applied them  
in day to day life. ~~More~~ Physically/mentally  
this year has been a knee deep shit storm.  
With some practical application, though, it  
is beginning to seem bearable.



over the course of this year my family has been accused of "praising darkness" (yep), gone through a foreclosure, had our apartment burn down (thank you meth addicts), lived in a camper for over a month (did I mention there are 6 of us?), had a visit from both my in-laws, ~~passed~~ ~~stayed~~ ~~amounts of money into cars and~~ ~~were continually~~ ~~without exception~~ ~~out of money~~. Also over the course of this year we have come into a new community, found a new 100+ yr old 5000+ sqft "apartment" to call home, experienced the most amazing exhibit of generosity (seriously, it was practically paralyzing), and found a ~~new~~ ~~lighter~~ rhythm for our family that seems to be working... mostly. I think the good has mostly outweighed the bad. My goals for next year include learning to spell and doubling my list of valuable lessons learned.

♥ Emily

## Vegetable Vindaloo for a Crowd SLOWCOOKER Style (3HRS cooktime)

- 6 cups Cauliflower florets
- 2-15.5oz cans chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 Large leeks, white and light green parts chopped
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 2 tablesp minced fresh ginger

- 2 tablesp curry powder
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 2 teasp ground cinnamon
- 1 tspoon red pepper sauce
- 3 tablesp chopped cilantro
- 3 cups cooked basmati Rice OR Cous cous

1. COMBINE CAULIFLOWER, chickpeas, leeks, tomato sauce, vinegar, ginger, curry powder, garlic, cumin, cinnamon, red pepper sauce, and 1/4 cup water into 4 quart slow cooker
2. SEASON with salt and pepper and cook on high for 3 hours, stirring occasionally.
3. transfer vindaloo to large bowl and cool for 15 minutes. Stir in cilantro and serve over basmati rice.





# EASY LASAGNA

BUY: 2 JARS PASTA SAUCE  
 1 LG Cottage Cheese, small curd  
 2 bags mozzarella cheese  
 parsley  
 1 bag of parmesan cheese  
 1 box of lasagna noodles

## Directions - i

1. in large pan, dump some pasta sauce to put a decent layer of sauce on pan bottom (4L inch?)
2. place 4 noodles on top of sauce.
3. mix cottage cheese (2 cups worth), with about 1/2 cup of parmesan cheese and 2 chopped tablespoons of parsley. Apply mixture to noodle tops
4. cover with noodles again, so it sandwiches the mixture. top with about 2 cups of sauce and cover with a layer of mozzarella cheese (about 1-2 cups)
5. Now keep layering it. If I was doing the recipe, I'd probably top it with another four noodles, with sauce on top, then cheese again. Layer as much as you like, however you like. But always put cheese on top.
6. cook in oven covered with foil for 30 minutes. Then take foil off, let bubble an extra 30 minutes. 350° in oven.

CROWD PLEASER

sprinkle parmesan cheese on the very top!

constant. You were there, Mr. Iranian Flower Man, with your flowers and kind smile brightening up my day, every day. And when it rained, your palpable absence, the absence of your flowers, left only a drab, unpainted wooden cart sitting dejectedly on the concrete curb. And I truly missed you then, wondered about you. Not romantically, nothing like that. Just curiously. Who is this man? Is he really Iranian as I assumed, or from some other country? What language was he speaking to his friends, and what happened to make him leave his homeland? Does he go home to a wife and children? And where do they live? What happened to make him such a humble and compassionate being, his soul shining up through his eyes so passionately and intensely, making words and names unnecessary?

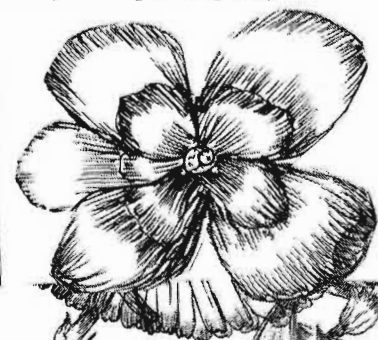
And during that sorrowful year called 2011; as the food ran out, as I went for a few days without eating until I finally received the food-stamps I so resisted applying for, when it was apparent I would not be able to pay the next months rent and would need to leave my home, my neighborhood, my life as I knew it, you were the first one I confessed to. My first real conversation with you as I told you I would be leaving, going back to North Carolina where I had family, how I lost my job, lost everything. And tears rolled down your cheeks. "I will Pray," you said. "I will pray for a miracle. Miracles can happen you know?"

And on that last day, I knew I would have to face you, face the truth. As I hesitantly approached you at your cart, you somehow sensed my intent. "Don't tell me," you said. "I don't want to hear." I stepped close and hugged you, and you held me tightly back. And as you smiled so sweetly and sorrowfully back at me, in that humble, honest way you had, I snapped one photo, then turned and walked away.



I never even knew your name. I never bought a flower from you. But you were my friend. And I miss you. This is my year end letter to you.

With love,  
 The Dog Walking Smiling Lady



By Floating Clouds





Dear Iranian Flower Man:  
I was asked to write a mock year end letter for publication in a zine. You know, one of those sweet, but often shallow letters that folks send out around Christmas time, full of cheer and good news about how wonderful the children are doing, how great the job is, how nice the vacation was, how fantastic the holiday meal was. At first I was stumped. My head swam. My eyes glazed over. How to make sense of 2011. It all flew by so quickly, the dominoes stacking up and then falling down in such rapid succession, I barely had time to pay close attention to detail, nuance, milestones and memory markers. What would I write about? Who would I address the letter to? Was there even one human being out there who actually cared enough to read a full letter written by and about me? How

could I even begin to be honest after the secrets and silences I maintained over the past year; silences maintained to protect others from the truth of my situation, or to keep others from judging me or casting shame and blame. And then, Mr. Iranian Flower Man, I thought of you. Your warm smile beaming out at me day after day; bright and warm like the sunflowers you sold on that patch of concrete across the street from my apartment building. I never even knew your name, nor you mine. We never asked. It didn't matter anyway. For there was love. There was kindness. There was empathy and understanding and human compassion in our brief but daily interactions. I passed by you every day with my little doggie Daisy Mae; as we strolled to the park so she could do her business. No matter what you were doing, no matter if you were busy with a customer, or arranging flowers, or counting out change, you would stop and make full eye contact with me. "Hi, good to see you, how are you today?" You would ask with complete sincerity. "I'm fine, it's a lovely day, how are you doing?" I'd honestly reply. Somehow, whenever I saw you, I momentarily felt better. I felt real and alive, present and recognized. Recognized!

As hours and money were whittled from my library job. As my income rapidly decreased with no obvious help in sight. As I intuited the crash that was coming and applied for hundreds of jobs, while receiving none, not even one interview. As I depleted my savings account, then cashed in my retirement funds. As I started selling off my books and clothes at consignment shops, then my furniture on Craigslist, then whatever items I had left at weekend garage sales, you were my

## "Meaty" Italian Mushroom Chili

- 1/4 cup water
- 4 green onions, white and some green parts, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tbsp Italian herb mix
- 1 tsp crushed dried fennel
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp ground red pepper
- Freshly ground black pepper (to taste)
- 1/2 cup Chianti or other dry red wine
- 3 portobello mushrooms, coarsely chopped
- 3 cans (14.5oz) diced tomatoes with juices
- 2 cans (15oz) cannellini beans, rinsed, drained
- Parsley, for garnish
- Vegan Parmesan (optional)

Heat water over medium-high heat. Add onions and garlic, chili powder, Italian herb mix, fennel, salt, red pepper and black pepper; cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add wine and mushrooms; cook, stirring, until mushrooms have softened slightly, about 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and beans. Heat to a boil; reduce heat to simmer.

Cook, stirring occasionally, until liquid has reduced somewhat, about 15 minutes. Garnish with parsley and vegan parmesan, if desired..

Makes 6 servings

Adapted from the Chicago Tribune, Dec. 1, 2004



## Recipes for cleaning

Quit Wasting money on toxic products! Clean your home with these recipes that call for simple and non-toxic ingredients!

### Baking Soda Scrub

Usage: Grout, Stove Top, Sinks

- 1 container
- 2 Tablespoons Baking Soda
- Liquid Soap (Non-toxic)

Put baking soda into a container and mix in soap a little bit at time until you have a nice foamy paste.

Work onto surface using a rag, sponge, or cleaning brush. Let it sit 1 to 15 minutes and spray with vinegar to rinse. If working with a surface that is sensitive to acid, rinse immediately with water.

Are you polluting the world or cleaning it up?

→ To the kitchen they all raced.

There they found the fire  
still burning.

### Glass Cleaner

Usage: Glass and mirrors

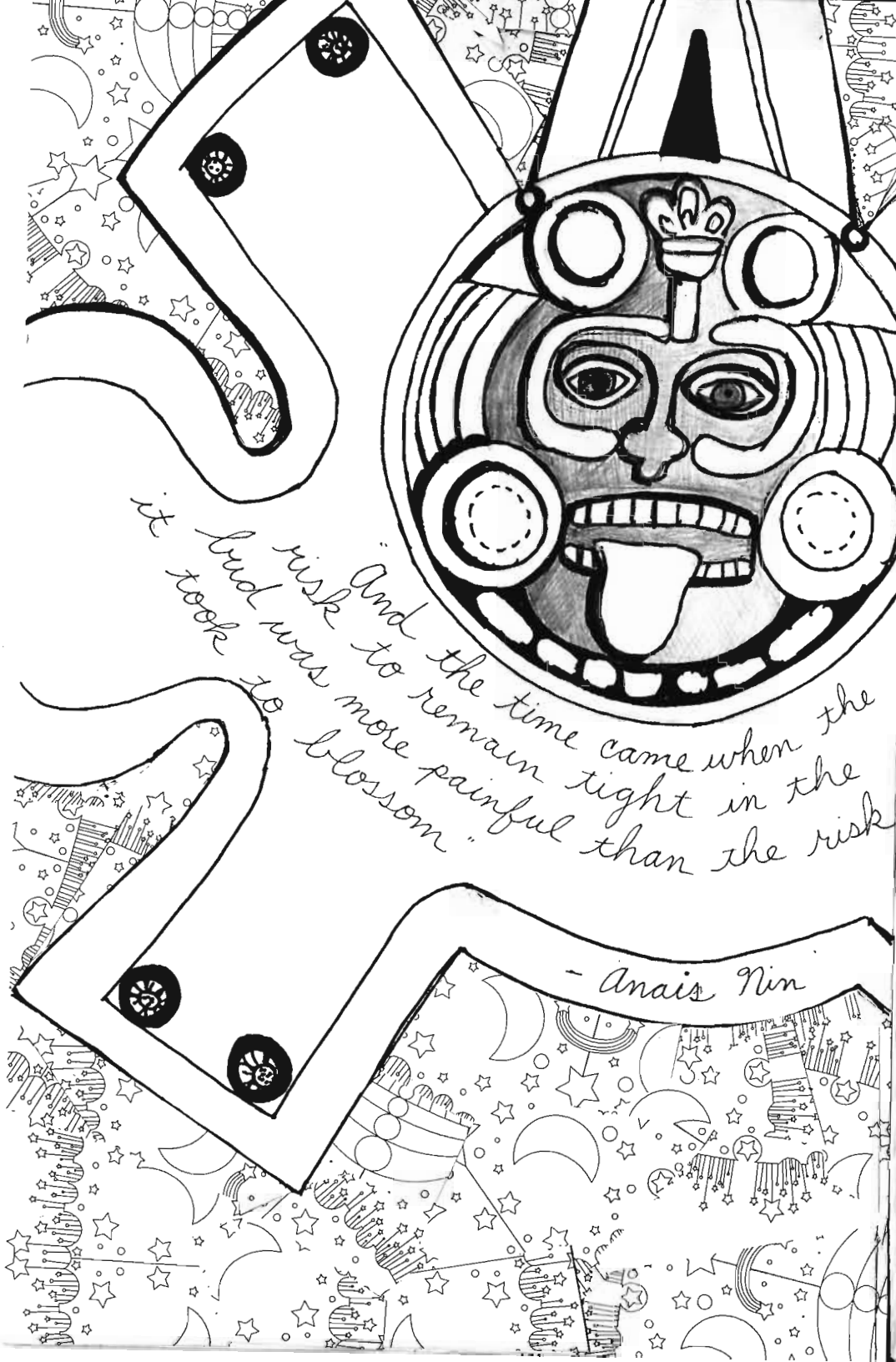
- 1 spray bottle
- 1 cup distilled white vinegar
- 1 cup water
- ½ teaspoon liquid soap (optional)
- 3-8 drops essential oil (optional)

Fill spray bottle with water and vinegar and shake gently. If vinegar is annoying to scent, add essential oil. Soap is only needed to dissolve away the waxy buildup left by conventional cleaners. Once the buildup is gone, leave the soup out.

Tip: Use a Squeegee brush to avoid having to use paper towels. Vacuum window screens or remove and hose down and gently remove dirt with a soft brush when dried.

Annual Reports  
Correspondence  
Year End Letters  
Thought Processes  
Transmissions &  
Messages





And the time came when the  
risk to remain tight in the  
bud was more painful than the risk  
it took to blossom.

- Anais Nin

### All Purpose Liquid Cleaner

Usage: Car (interior and exterior) floors, other large jobs

Gallon Bucket

1 Gallon Hot Water

1 tablespoon baking soda

2 tablespoon liquid soap

Instructions: Put baking soda and liquid soap in a bucket and fill with hot water. Add an extra tablespoon of baking soda if you have a heavy grease to remove, or 1 tablespoon of borax if you also want to disinfect or kill mildew.

### Mildew and Germ Killer

Usage: Kitchen and bathroom

1 spray bottle, 16 oz

2 cups of water

$\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon (25 drops) tea tree oil

$\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon (25 drops) lavender oil

Fill spray bottle with water and add tea tree and lavender oil. Shake gently before use. Spray on surface and let dry. Do not wipe.

### All Surface Spray

Usage: Counters and Walls

1 16 oz bottle

2 teaspoons borax

$\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon

hot water

Put borax in spray bottle, fill with hot water, shake until the borax is dissolved, and then add the soap. Spray on surfaces, let it sit a minute or two, and then wipe off with a sponge or microfiber cloth.

dear Stephanie!

thank you for letting me write a story for your zine!

I asked Sophie to help with the buttons and Leia made sure we got it done.

This is my favorite year ever! I don't even know how many years I've been here but I know my nose has been through some really amazing things and there's still more to go! Me and Sophie love you so much Stephanie, you are our best friend and I know this is going out to everyone but Sophie and I wanted to let you know that we will always be your best friends in the world! Leia is howling really loud right now so we think she is saying she thinks you are awesome too!

Thank you so much for letting us run around the neighborhood whenever we want! sorry about the refrigerator. Thank you for introducing us to all of your cool friends! Maybe more people will come to the St Patrick's Day petting zoo next year! Thanks for letting us sleep on your bed also even if you don't want us to sometimes. The new colors all over are totally incredible! The fire thing outside at night is really cool!

Sophie wanted me to tell you she is really excited about being grown-up and is sure it will be a lot of fun!

Well, I was supposed to tell a cool story about a squirrel that I chased in the front yard and then how I rolled in some poop and then ran over behind Mary's for awhile, cause there was this pack of nacho chips in the trash, so I had a few, then I smelled some pee on a rock, so I peed on it, then I went over by those flowers, I peed more there, and then I came back to the house and ran up the steps all on my own and then you and Sophie gave me a hug! ... but I never got around to it because you're home now and it's time for ...

LOVE AND HUGS AND KISSES!!

Your best pals, Kona & Sophie!

ps Sophie got in the picture with me, I look pretty handsome though right



librarians that helped create this zine and no of them were hurt in the process. Other helpers included were feminists, anarchists, goth musicians, holy people, as well as a few mutts.

Will I be making more zines? Yes. I find them to be powerful and self affirming. I believe that self reflecting is important and zines are a way to not only help us take time to be thoughtful, but they require from us a commitment to words and way of being. I almost see it as an accountability tool to help us really think about what we believe in, express it, and commit to it. Through a zine, we might feel obligated to stick behind the words that we say, and they create a permanent record for us to understand ourselves, where we are headed, and where we are going. Zines are a way for us to pen, ink, and collage our way into existence.

And what I love most about zines is that they empower us to be our authors. Whoever said writing was just for professionals? In many formal English classes, I learned my opinion did not matter because I needed to quote experts in order for my paper to be accepted. This can discourage self reflection and the empowerment that comes from thinking for oneself and expressing one's beliefs. Well, fuck off american education system research paper! I don't need statistics to be valid. This is me, I am who I am, I matter, I am in this world, and I am going to change it without statistics or credentials. I don't need to go through any bureaucratic democratic processes to make a difference.

Again, I want to thank everyone that participated in the zine making process. Having finally produced my first zine at the age of 30, I feel glad. It took me so long to have the courage and confidence to do-it-myself. You can do it too. Let's make zines together because we matter and we don't need the mass media to prove it.

<3 sprout

PS, I hope that you survived the fire.





# Welcome home!

This zine was conceptualized at the public library in a conversation with a coworker. We talked about how funny it would be to write tongue-in-cheek letters to send during the holiday season to family and friends. We laughed about a confessional style letter in which grandma learns too-much-information when personal stories are shared. This idea sounded too fun to let die with our passing conversation. And thus, I was inspired to bring the idea into a reality by creating a zine with the theme of year-end holiday letters. And even though most of the letters didn't end up quite so silly and ridiculous, they did end up very valuable, reflective, and worth reading into.

Most of the submissions received for this zine project reflected a year of transition and hardship. For many people, 2011 was about creating something positive out of a transition that felt unsafe, chaotic, sometimes depressing and insecure. Many of our writers were able to self reflect and make positive accounts from the hardship experienced.

One of my friends suggested that we name this zine, "a year of the fire". She did not realize at the time that one of our letters was written from someone who had lost most of their material belongings in a fire. As I thought about it further, I realized that a common theme in the zine is making sense of the past to bring hope into the future. There is a sense of rebirth and purification, with the fire testing us and seeing how adaptable we can be. The fire motif seemed an excellent way to invoke the rebirth and purification elements discussed in the zine.

This zine is also about the holiday season and having fun. I invited some friends to a zine making party to help create content. We came up with a few interesting lists such as the "5 Qualifications", in which we listed our qualifications for a certain experience, person, or thing to come into our life. It's interesting to see our goals for 2012 on paper because the print almost requires us to follow up on our commitments. Now that we are publishing our goals, we actually have to do something.

We've also included some seasonal material in the zine. You'll find DIY gift ideas, radical christmas carols, and recipes that would be great to try out during the winter season.

I had help from lots of amazing people to put this zine together. The majority of the writers are from Kansas City, largely because the zine was created with the help of friends from my town. There were 5

Start Here

Thank you for reading our zine!

If you have submissions for future zines, please send them to: [collaboratyn@gmail.com](mailto:collaboratyn@gmail.com)  
I'm looking for some more collaborators to keep the ball rolling...

## Future Topics

"STAYING IN KC"  
why we love, live,  
and stay in  
Kansas city

"Why Community  
what Community  
whose Community"  
why do we need community  
in KC? What does your  
community look like? What do  
you want from a community?

I RAN OUT OF ROOM FOR  
OUR CONTRIBUTORS to  
be acknowledged in the  
introduction, so here  
it goes'. My thanks  
to our contributors:

JASON E LECTRIC    Shorty  
AR                      Shorty's sister  
chuckO                Emily  
Floating clouds      Kona  
Shhh                    Sophie  
                             and "the ex"

SUBMIT  
OR...



