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## 33 Arrested at Winter Solstice Observance

They waved sparkling wands. They chanted healing messages to the universe. They lit a small fire and burned offerings in the name of renewal. And then the police came.

Thirty-three celebrants of the winter solstice were rounded up last night on a Staten Island beach and charged with trespassing because the beach was closed for the evening, the police said. The suspects, participants in a ceremony on South Beach organized by Donna Henes, an artist, author and self-described urban shaman from Brooklyn, had come from as far away as Florida and ranged in age from 21 to 74, the police said.

Ms. Henes, 53, said she had held at least 15 solstice ceremonies on South Beach and never run into a problem before. "In the past," she said, "sometimes the Fire Department has come because someone has seen the fire, and we say, look, this is our religion, and they have been very respectful and let us finish the ceremony."

The celebrants arrived on the beach just before the solstice at 8:56 P.M., marking the beginning of winter. Those arrested were each given a desk appearance ticket and released. Ms. Henes said some were issued tickets with \$50 fines.