

# Are Lady Sintana's critics on witch hunt?

## Lack of understanding about religion causes concerns, high priestess says

By Shelley Emling  
STAFF WRITER

May Tucker, a 20-year resident of southwest DeKalb County, has had coffee with her next-door neighbor many times. Ms. Tucker, a 76-year-old woman with arthritis, calls her neighbor "Candy" and refers to her as "or-

derly and quiet."

When Atlanta was buried under snow earlier this year, Candy sent somebody over to take the newspaper from the yard to the front door so that Ms. Tucker wouldn't have to go outside. When a young neighbor with a 2-year-old was thrown out of her house by an angry boyfriend,

Candy took her and the child in, then found a place for them to stay.

"She's not an evil person but a caring person," said Ms. Tucker of her neighbor of four years. "It's none of my business what goes on in her house."

Candy is Lady Sintana, the high priestess of a witch's coven that has come under fire in recent weeks by suspicious neighbors and county officials. These people say she should stop whatever it is that she's doing in her

house, although no one's sure exactly what that is.

Last week, DeKalb's Board of Appeals voted unanimously to forbid Lady Sintana from operating a church at her home on Rainbow Drive because of parking concerns. Lady Sintana said she will ignore the ruling because she doesn't think she's operating a church from her home.

Lady Sintana, whose name is Candy Lehrman, has until next week to appeal the ruling to the Board of Commissioners. If she

fails to appeal, and if she continues to hold what the county refers to as church services in her home, she could receive a court summons and ultimately be fined or asked to stop the so-called services.

"I'm not going to appeal because I have nothing to appeal," Lady Sintana said. "If they try to enforce this, we'll respond in a legal manner, and I will videotape all harassment."

Lady Sintana's troubles began in June, when a group of res-

idents, mostly members of the Rainbow Forest-Knollview Civic Association, met to discuss their concerns over the number of visitors to her house and the type of activities that were taking place. The residents recruited state Sen. John Parrish (D-Decatur) to be their spokesman.

"I know very little about this type of worship, but I am seriously concerned about what is taking place behind those doors,"

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