This native prairie at Clinton Lake is one of many native prairies in the area that you can visit this time of year. Native oak hickory woodlands are also easy to hike in at Clinton Lake and elsewhere right now; no bugs, decent weather and grand vistas await you this week including along the Kaw, Baker Wetlands, area reservoirs, Fitch Nature Preserve, Prairie Park Nature Center and more.

Nature Notes

In this week that our year flips over, turn from the continuous loop of your thinking to what this time is saying: the pattern of slim chevrons of geese still migrating, the one brindle rabbit zipping from sight to vanishing point, the return of sunlight amplifying how much closer the sun is to us in winter.

Let the new year’s newest weather loosen the grip of ideas about the real so that you can walk outside in the dark, and listen to how the night composes itself in the Barred Owl’s questioning call, the shifting of cedar branches, the grasses knocked over by deer.

Pay close attention to the changing of day to night, and night to day as the sky jewels itself rose or gold.

Let the deep blue of the day and the charcoal black of the night turn over your time, bringing you back to the cusp of change where you live.

-poem by Caryn Mirriam Goldberg

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Happy New Year to all as we look both forward and back from the continuous present, awed by all three.