

Candlemas 2000
Anne, Carol, Colleen, Debby

Materials:

Debby:

- Scissors, Glue, Pens, Magazines,
- A way to hang books to dry
- Rocks, sand/dirt, tarp
- Paper for books for us to write on
- Type the dedication page for book
- Two hole punch
- Sign saying enter porch quietly
- Fire: Embers in fireplace w/materials ready to make it big

Anne: History for front porch
Wood for Banishing

Carol: Votive candles (red)-
Rose petals

Paper for us to write on w/Debby
Illuminaries if it doesn't rain

Begin at 3:00 p.m. Women stay on front porch until we let them in reading about history.

Setting: The Cave

(Prep.) Hang black curtain behind sliding door drapes, Cover window in kitchen, Embers only should be in the fire,

Blessing: (As a sister enters, Colleen (at kitchen entry, delivers food, then returns)

Bringing in the Four Directions:

Debby: East- (Water) 1st

“Welcome to Candlemas. As you enter the darkness of the cave, we, the four directions bring you our gifts. I am the East. I bring you the wisdom of your ancestors. May it illuminate your path.

Anne: West- (Bringing in the cave – Dirt)

Carol: South (Love-kiss)

Colleen: North (Touched w/ a Crystal or Oil? Could dip the crystal in an oil)

(Sister moves in to sit in the circle and begins drumming.-Pick a strong drummer)

(When we're done, we bless each other and join them for a short (for us) drumming.)

Carol: 3:30-3:35 Cave Story

Debby: 3:35-3:45 (Debby sits by fire so she can be last. _____ sits next to her so they can be first and lead the way.)- First Visualization: Grounding, Lead into the entrance of the cave- Meet a woman guide/helper/healer to walk with you- As you enter the depths of your cave you meet your shadow. Question: What is your shadow holding on to that you know longer need? What do you wish to banish? Your shadow gives you a word or token that represents that which you want to release. Thank your shadow and healer guide. Return to the room. **Write that which you wish to banish on the wood piece in front of you.**

3:45-4:00: Debby: We all stand and rotating in a circle, say that which we wish to banish as we lay our piece of wood on the grate. When everyone is done, Debby goes last and adds the fire stick to the embers so they can all flame up. *“We release that which we no longer need to the fires that purify and transform. A moment of silence to watch the flames release*

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4:00-4:10: Anne: 2nd Visualization-“*What do you want to manifest?*”

4:10-4:25 Visualization leads into sharing that which you want to manifest with your mirror (the person sitting directly across from you.) Sisters will move to sit next to their mirror/witness; one talks then the witness repeats what they heard. Then they fill in the **dedication page** for their book. Witness/mirror signs it. Then, the other shares that which they want to manifest, the Witness repeats what they hear, then signs.

4:25-4:35: Colleen (Calls us back to our places in the circle.; Discuss the importance of the dedication page; Leads us into the lighting of the candles) For example: *With the banishing, we created space for our new goals. There's power in the "knowing" that which we strive toward. There's power in the writing and there's power in stating it out loud.* (Reminds us that it is a time of initiation (possibility of choosing a new name) as well as a time for dedication.) Each sister reads their dedication page then tip their candle into the candle that is already lit. (To avoid dripping candle wax).

4:35 4:40: Anne leads us in song. _____ Meanwhile, Debby and Joy light the candles in the room and plug in the hearts on the mantle.

4:40-5:15: Carol: Carol leads us into the collage, invoking a meditative silence so that no one's sounds or actions permeate another's space. Pictures and words will be cut and pasted on the covers of a book. They look for symbols and words that represent that which they wish to manifest.

5:15-5:30: Colleen A very time for brief sharing the covers. We can continue to share while we feast if there is more you want to share.

5:45 FEAST!!!