**1995 Candlemas Ritual Outline (Julia & Debby)**

**Set-up:** Gold cord entrance way / Have a basket to collect their altar items / Each place setting around the circle has: candle wax, toothpicks, foil plates, (for decorating their candle), paper & pencil / They put their white candle next to their plate / One red candle is lit in the center of the circle / water pitcher and sage by entrance

**6:30: To Begin:** As each woman enters, we smudge with sage and say, “With this sacred smoke we cleanse our outer selves, and the energy that surrounds us.”

Then, (with a sip of water) “With this sacred water we purify our inner self and the energy that is within us.” Then, light the red candle we give them. They carry it to the altar in the center. Then, they join in the drumming.

**Drumming Ends – Sing: “Power, Power, We Are Calling.”**

**7:00: Chant: “What is this Night”**

**Cave Visualization:** (See Attached) When it ends they write down what they want to release on the paper.

**7:35: Letting Go:** (passing around the large, red altar candle) Model lighting the paper with what you want to let go of onto the foil wrapped paper plate and model saying what we’re letting go of. Continue passing the red candle around as each woman lights their paper and speaks.

When the last woman is done, “Sometimes energy is held within our bodies. If you have an area you want to release this held energy, take some of the ashes and mark that area on your body. Now we’re going outside to send these ashes to the four directions. Release the ashes into the air as your spirit moves you.” (Go to the back porch.)

8:00: Re-enter to the circle: Sing: “Earth my Body”. Pass around sea salted water bowl. “This is the water of life washing away the residue of what you have released”. Each person has the opportunity to cleanse the woman next to her and say something about cleansing to her.

8:30: **Visualization:** “Focus on what you want to manifest in your life this year. What seed will you plant in relation to your inner fire? What symbol represents this? Who chooses to manifest this? What is her name? Does she have a spirit name? Consider this as you think about what you want to manifest this year. We’ll have about ½ hour to put symbols on our candle to represent these intentions. Please remain quiet.”

*(While candles are being made, the altar candles should be lit.)*

9:00: **Secret, Gorgeous, Altar Area:** We’ll each enter the altar area to light our candles. When you return with your candle, state silently or out loud that which you want to bring into your life. After you sit back down, please take a necklace and write a word that would describe what you’ve chosen as your intention for the year.

9:30: **Closing:** “On this eve of Candlemas, we have let go of the darkness and welcomed the light. Without light there is no darkness. Without darkness there is no light. Without Spring there comes no summer, without summer, no winter, without winter, no spring. Blessed be the Great Mother, Persephone, Demeter, Hecate. Blessed be the moon in all Her forms. Blessed Be.

Sing Closing Song