MABON / AUTUMN EQUINOX 1996- (Prep: A ribbon for each woman leads into the forest to a meditation spot)

9:30: ARRIVAL/BREAKFAST (Blessing of food on back of flyer)

 Do history of Autumn Equinox during breakfast

10:00: Blessing at the entrance of the walk to the circle. (Women are carrying music, sit-things, & water)

 **“You are the maiden of autumn,**

**As a woman bearing many fruits, your labor is done and harvest is here.**

**What tools are you still carrying that you no longer need?**

**It’s time to let go of that which has served you well, but now is no longer needed.**

**Like the trees shedding leaves, creating space for new growth.**

**You are the Maiden of Autumn. What will you shed?”**

At the Circle: (Smudged as they enter the circle and given a broom stalk to prepare for their chosen space during the meditation time.)

“Kore becomes Persephone as she enters the realms of darkness. Seeds need a quiet dark place to germinate. This blessing honors the commitment you have made to yourself as you journey into the unknown. As you begin drumming send your roots deep into the Earth and feel her energy”.

10:45: “**Calling in the Circle**” (DEBBY; NORTH AND EAST DIANE; SOUTH AND WEST)

10:50: “**What is this Day**” (DEBBY)

10:55: **Calling out words that mean Autumn to each of us**. (DIANE)

(DEBBY)  ***“***Think of the words we’ve just said. How do you see these words connecting with where you’re at with your Candlemas affirmation? For a moment, close your eyes and**think about that beginning and reflect upon the path that affirmation has traveled so far this year. In what way are you stronger as a result of the journey you have traveled this past year?” (pause)**

**“Are you holding on to anything or anyone that you can let go of now?”**

11:10 (DIANE): **“We are going to go on a journey now. You will be given a leaf that no longer holds the moisture of life. As you walk, crumple the leaf and think what you want to release from your life. Let the leaf blow into the wind with any burdens you no longer need to carry. Follow the ribbon to your place of meditation. You will have about I5 minutes to be alone with yourself. When you hear the gong ring, it will be time to return.**

11:30: (DIANE) RING GONG- BEGIN US IN SHARING

11:50: CLOSING SONG