**2001 Imbolc Ritual Outline** -(Facilitators: Carol, Cheryl…)

The women were blessed: “Welcome to Imbolc. It is the time that Persephone lives in the underworld with Hades while her mother Ceres awaits her return. It is the time your deepest shadows and deepest dreams mingle together. It is the time to allow your buried germinating crone self to transform, shed off its hull, and begin the journey to the surface, casting light as the unborn child you are.”

Women were guided to the blanketed circle with their eyes closed. They were individually belled as they sat in darkness.

Next a visualization of release and gain. The source candle was lit. Then, individually, they were brought to the second altar to write down on a small red piece of tissue paper something they wanted to release. They tied that paper into a bundle and buried it into a basket of dirt. They voiced what they were releasing out loud.

Next, to the sound of a single drummer, (behind the altar), they lit a votive candle from the source candle. Carrying their votive candle, they walked over and picked a Mother Peace Card. They took their candle and their card back to where they were sitting in the blanketed circle. After every woman was finished, the second altar was lit-beautiful, full of light.

Sharing: Every woman talked of their intent for the year and what the card meant to them. They also made a wax symbol and placed it on a group candle for the year to burn at each celebration.

Closing song was around the second altar.