

## Opening Dance/song for Samhain 2017

Based on a Sufi dance but words changed—

Formation:

Half the women stand on a rope laid out on the ground. They stay in the same position except when they find themselves at the North end of the rope.

The other half of the women face of the women on the rope line. They are the “movers”

There will be a facilitator standing at each end of the line up. They will guide the end people when it is time to move. They will always stand in the same place. With them as guides the participants don't have to understand the big picture movement for the dance.

As women face each other they both say the blessing to each other at the same time.

Round 1

**Start with women on the rope and movers all paired. Facilitators are solo standing at the ends.**

The “movers” will do the blessing, spin and then move South one space so they are facing the next person on the rope. The North facilitator will take the woman at the North end of the rope as a partner. The South facilitator will take the mover at the south end as a partner.

Round 2

**Start with all women paired, including facilitators.**

After spinning the North facilitator will guide the woman she was paired with to now be a “mover” and matched with the woman on the North end position of the rope.

The South facilitator will guide the woman she was paired with to be on the rope and matched with the South end mover. The two facilitators stand at the ends and do not have partners for the next round.

Repeat Round 1; Repeat Round 2

Continue this pattern until all the women have been paired for the blessing (the facilitators on the end will only do the blessing with half of the women – North with the rope women and South with the movers).



Song—(our own wording for this celebration)

Place your right hand on your partner's heart and your left hand on your own heart (over your partner's hand) and sing while looking into each other's eyes....

“Your ancestors hold you in Love. I am your sister and I love you so very much.”

Then each person spins in place singing the following with arms in the air, and then brought down across chest....

“Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. We all are one”

Then “movers” quickly shift to face the next person in line and start blessing over with them. Important to keep moving.