SAMHAIN - 1997

Materials:

pomegranate seeds / 6 bowls

white yam for maze

cards for maze phrases

extra holders to put sister’s candles in -

tarot / Death cards are on the alter

fire w/ coals

sage / matches

white tablecloth for food table owl feathers black cloth for alter paper / pens to write banishings bones for alter extra candles

\*sign for tarot cards..

 fire place sign (see below)

(As participants walk the labyrinth, there are 6 stations along the way that have cards with phrases written for them to read. There are also pomegranate seeds next to each card. As they complete the labyrinth, they are directed to the Circle.)

4:00 Marci instructs women to bring food to table, tarot cards, alter pieces and candle can go on the table by the folding doors, then they are to return to the deck (\*sign by folding doors says to pick up their cards, alter piece and candle after they go through the labyrinth to put onto the alter). Then, women return to the deck to enter one at a time... Marci brings each sister in, one at a time, and says something like ‘‘Welcome Kore, daughter of Demeter, Welcome guest of Kore. At Autumn Equinox you entered the labyrinth. Tonight you reach the core of the underworld.” Purify them with sage. They enter the labyrinth, read the cards, eat pomegranate seeds, and join sisters in the circle.

On Cards in Labyrinth: (at each card, there will be one pomegranate seed for them to eat)

“It is a time of completion and winding down in the world of matter.”

“The last of the harvest is gathered.”

“A time to create a haven against winter’s storms.”

“A time to honor the past and hope for the future but to remain timelessly suspended between them.”

“A time to descend to the place within, the place of Oneness ”

Last card: “Welcome Persephone, welcome guest of Persephone. Please join us at the circle and find that quiet place within yourself. It is the time when the veil between the two worlds is the thinnest. Take this time to communicate with your guest.”

Meanwhile: Debbv is drumming at the circle, each sister joins her quietly, and puts her alter piece on the circle and candle in front of her.. Three candles ? are lit at the center of the circle. When all are through the maze, Marcie comes to circle and closes curtains, f

Debbv Drumming stops. “We welcome the old ones to this circle; our own crone spirits and our crone selves. Welcome to Samhain (pronounced Sowane). We'd like to begin by introducing our ghost guests to our sisters. Please tell us why you chose to invite this spirit to our gathering. Begin by saying “I am **Deborah**, daughter of Demeter, and we’ll end by saying Welcome **Deborah** and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .”

**4:45 Together :“**What is this day” (see attached) \

**4:50 Marcie** Brief history of Samhain(2r>

**5:00 Together:** “Summoning of the Crones”

**5:05 Marcie:** Lead into Death/Fear visualization

“What is death, what does it mean to you? By confronting death, our respect and appreciation for being alive grows. We can see that the life around us is a circle. In the Spring, the tender new leaf buds sprout; in the Autumn, those leaves reach their old age. They dry, wither, and finally let go to become the mulch for the new generations.”

**5:06 Debbv:** Visualization on Death/Fear (see attached)

**5:30 Marcie:** “Banishings”

Form a semi-circle around the fire. “I banish .” Sisters respond

together, “As we weave it, so shall it be.

Complete the banishings by reading together the sign hanging from the fire place:

“Goddesses of the darkest night,

Send our troubles all to flight Burn them in thy sacred fires And replace them with our heart’s desires!”

Hold hands and sing:

“Rise up oh flame, by thy light glowing,

Bring to us beauty, wisdom and joy.

**5:55 Debbv:** Return to the circle. “ **What do you want to manifest during this time of darkness?** Focus on this question as you pick a card of divination.

Take time to think about it, then write down on the paper with the

your desires.” Each sister lights their candle, then shares what they want to manifest.

**6:25** SING: “We all come from the Goddess, and to Her we shall return,

Like a drop of rain, flowing to the ocean.”

**6:30** SING: Closing song. “May the circle be open...”