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GRACES

Thanks very much to the GRACES and your great efforts at Dress Rehearsal. We really appreciate your energy

The chief job of the GRACE is to make the ritual to go smoothly, i.e., the role of Priestess/Priest. In general, the GRACES are stationed around the hall, with one GRACE always returning to each altar after any movement or activity.

Michelle H. East  
Val South  
Joe D. West  
Carolyn Uno North

Deboran Xit is coordinator for wheelchair people and other differently abled, with help from Laurie W. and Mary Anne. Deborah will stay with her charges throughout the ritual, and Mary Anne and Laurie will help get these folks settled in and keep a general eye out for them when they are not needed for ritual movements.

ISLAND GRACES

Amy K, Carolyn U., Janie K, Joe D., John dB, Mary Anne, Rhea, Val, Michelle H., Rose D.

BOAT GRACES

Andy B., Bone B., Bonnie, Deborah C., Dianne L., Elspeth, Hilary McQ, Laurie W., Mikaila-mood, Rainbow, Roddy E., Geoff Y!

Trance Tenders

Amy K, Andy B., Bone B., Carolyn U., Deborah C., Dianne L, Hilary McQ, Janie K., rodody, E., Rose D., Geoff Y!, Val H.

Cues for the GRACES are underlined below

Creation

After the entire company has meditated together, the GRACES distribute themselves around the hall.

Entrance

GRACES usher people in, having them sit in the four quadrants, explaining the corridors need to be clear for dancers, leaving a path at the edges for the chorus to process. GRACES set the mood of quiet meditation.

please remind people about the coat check if they look too laden, reassuring them the room will be locked during ritual.

Door is Barred

GRACES return to periphery

(Susan sings "Spirits" as the cauldron burns. She snuffs cauldron)

"Burning Times" song dies away

GRACES quickly snuff all but one CANDLE on each altar

Geoff Yippie! to Balcony to be ready to light the chorus  
CANDLES

(Children sprinkle hall)

Children finish aspriging and exit West to Balcony

ISLAND GRACES snuff remaining CANDLES

Darkness, drumbeat

Geoff Y! lights CANDLES of chorus as they step down stairs

(Feast is Proclaimed by Macha, Grounding by Robin)

"The Earth the water the fire the air" Processional by Chorus

GRACES gradually relight altar CANDLES with TAPERS

GRACES make sure the aisles are clear for the dancers

GRACES return to periphery

(Elements invoked by "Guardian Song" and dance, Goddess/God invoked by Rose and "Goddess" and "God" songs and dances, Robin gives us a meditation for preparation to travel)

The Litanies "What is Remembered Lives"

GRACES gradually pick up bowls of ashes from the altars

Buffalo begins to talk about "we remember our own dead"

GRACES begin to pass out bowls of ashes, indicating that a participant is to mark her/himself with ashes and pass the bowl along.

GRACES remember their own dead and set the tone, encouraging a trend for several people to remember their dead and speak at the same time.

Trance Tenders gently glide around, tending the energy of the crowd, touching and hugging when there is need and permission, silently, gently, mentally grounding anyone who is crazed or agitated, assisting the bowls of ashes from place to place

Judy begins litany "What is remembered lives and love remembered never dies" and reads a list of dead people

GRACES gradually pick up bowls of ashes and return them to altars

(Chorus finishes song)

Drumbeat: Carol's speech "And now, breathe in the energy of the room . . . as we prepare to make this journey by honoring those who have gone before"

GRACES ready to go into center

"Gone, Gone, Gone Beyond"

GRACES snuff center CANDLES

ISLAND GRACES gently move crowd back, whispering "It is time to go, get ready to journey, time to get ready to set sail, time to go to the isle of the dead etc.

BOAT GRACES pick up ROPE to form BOAT

STERN GRACE informs Brigid that BOAT is formed

"Set Sail Set Sail"

ISLAND GRACES urge people to board from either side of BOAT, helping them step under the ROPES,

BOAT GRACES lift ROPES to admit passengers

ALL GRACES say "What do you say goodbye to? what do you leave behind? What must you give up in order to make this passage? (not encouraging conversation or answers out loud. If a passenger tries to make a confession to you, urge them into the BOAT and tell them to "Answer inside your Deep Self" etc)

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When all passengers aboard, chorus sings "Sail the Hidden Ocean"  
and dancers dance

ISLAND GRACES move to the West Altar, light TAPERS, and form the ISLAND, a circle around the children.

The ISLAND gradually expands as the circle moves toward the north altar, following the dancers.

The circle moves into position at the Bow of the BOAT, as the dancers move down to the side of the BOAT.

The ISLAND parts, following the taped lines on the floor, forming two lines which is the Gate. These lines squeeze together to leave space between the lines and the altar, for the passengers to disembark

(Bethany leads the children away)

Song. "These are the Gates". Passengers disembark

BOAT GRACES are last to leave BOAT, and they place the ROPE around the room

ISLAND GRACES snuff CANDLES. Rose collects them and equally distributes them to the altars

(The Spiral is danced, to the tune of "Let it Begin Now")

Cone of Power at the End of Spiral Dance

GRACES position themselves near the corridors

After silence, music will start. Holly sings "Through all the world below". GRACES very gently clear the corridors. No hurry.

GEOFF Y! stays in the center to clear it, eventually, for the dancers.

ISLAND GRACES take TAPERS from altars and distribute themselves evenly around room.

BOAT GRACES and Dragons finish clearing the aisles and take up the ROPE. BOAT GRACES should also be even distributed (Geoff still stays in center)

(Starhawk leads us in a trance of return. )

Holly and Chorus sing Gone Gonna Rise Again

ISLAND GRACES part at the east and return around either side of circle to the West. Six CANDLES are placed in little taper holders on West Altar. The other CANDLES are snuffed.

Starhawk tells us "We have come once again to the Shores of Winter"

BOAT GRACES and Dragons put down the ROPE

(Litany of the Newborn by Jamie, children pass out food, )

Demeter's Song by Susan

GRACES, are the aisles clear?

(Chorus sings there is no end to the circle, dancers dance, Raven opens circle, people dance)

Chorus exits

GRACES help people leave, whispering they will be let back in in a few minutes

GRACES exit last, (or they might just want to stay in the room, depending on the crush. ) GRACES go to balcony and come back down with the chorus into the hall.

(One last cadence, Silence. We send a sound to the center. silence. A bell is struck.)