RECLAIMING COLLECTIVE

and

THE GREATER BAY AREA RECLAIMING COMMUNITY

present

THE SPIRAL DANCE

A Ritual for the Feast of Samhain

Adapted from previous scripts dating from 1979
by Starhawk, Amber Khan, Lauren Liebling,
Mara June Quicklightning, Robin Weaver
and the Spiral Dance Committee

Coordinators: Julie Rabbit, RebeccaMilliker, Jody Logan

1993 Committee:

Julie Rabbit, Rebecca, Jody Logan, Brigid Lutrasong, Patti Martin, David Spinner, Tom Fuller, Judy Foster, David Miller, Kim Jack, Theresa Dutton, Rex, Leaf, Minerva Earthchild.

Address inquiries to:

The Spiral Dance Committee
Reclaiming
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SETTING:

Celebrants enter the sacred space/temple, where they are purified with sprinkling of salt water by children (coordinated by ___) and greeted by GRACES. GRACES for children, people with disabilities and the hearing-impaired are pointed out.

Four altars to each of the four directions, erected by Judy, Ceres, Laura and others, with pictures of the dead, candles, sculptures and much, much more. Celebrants invited to place pictures of their beloved dead on altars, to write names on paper skulls. Attach paper skulls to paper covered window adjacent to North alter. Soft, soothing music plays (harp, flute, violin, cello?).

The chorus on the risers (South side of room, opposite entry and North altar,) sings "This Ae Night," with refrain coming from all directions within the room.

GRACES help Celebrants settle and clear four aisles, center and circumference.

Lyke-Wake Dirge

Traditional Tune, lyrics by Richard Goering

Dark is the night, still is the earth
As the veil unfolds
Turn the shining wheel of rebirth
May earth receive thy soul

Walk the path that sets spirits free
As the veil unfolds
Let the clear light shine on thee
May earth receive thy soul

Peaceful gods are shining with light
As the veil unfolds
Be not blinded, take not flight
May earth receive thy soul

Wrathful gods wear masks of hell
As the veil unfolds
They are shadows of thy will
May earth receive thy soul

If with anger thou walkest here
As the veil unfolds
Fall into the cold light of fear
May earth receive thy soul

If with compassion thou walkest here
As the veil unfolds
From all suffering be thou clear
May earth receive thy soul

Gods and demons dwell within thee
As the veil unfolds
Knowing this will set thee free
May earth receive thy soul

Dancers process around the circle with lit candles, while chorus sings "The Earth, the Water, the Fire, the Air Returns....". They move into the circle, placing cauldron in center and light it.

The Burning Times

by Charlie Murphy and Deena Metzger[1]

In the cool of the evening they used to gather
'Neath stars in the meadow circled near an old oak tree
At the times appointed by the seasons of the Earth
and the phases of the Moon
In the center stood a woman, equal with the others
and respected for her worth
One of the many we call the witches,
the healers and the teachers of the wisdom of the Earth
The people grew through the knowledge she gave them
Herbs to heal their bodies, spells to make their spirits whole
Can't you hear them chanting healing incantations,
calling forth the wise ones
Celebrating in dance and song...

Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate
Demeter, Kali, Inanna

There were those who came to power through domination
and they bonded in their worship of a dead man on a cross
They sought control of the common people
by demanding allegiance to the church of Rome
And the pope declared the inquisition,
It was a war against the women whose powers they feared
In this holocaust against the nature people
Nine million European women died
And the tale is told of those who by the hundreds
Holding together chose their deaths in the sea
While chanting the praises of the Mother Goddess
A refusal of betrayal; women were dying to be free!

Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate
Demeter, Kali, Inanna

Now the Earth is a Witch and the men still burn her
Stripping Her down with mining and the poisons of their wars
Still to us the Earth is a healer, a teacher, our mother
The weaver of the web of life that keeps us all alive

1

She gives us the vision to see through the chaos
She gives us the courage, it is our will to survive!

Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate
Demeter, Kali, Inanna.

Spotlight on JULIE as she proclaims the Feast of Samhain. She puts lid on cauldron.

DECLARATION OF THE FEAST OF SAMHAIN[2]

This is the Feast of Samhain, when the veil is thin that divides the worlds, the seen from the unseen, the day-to-day from the Mysteries.

And now we pause on the threshold, and prepare to journey beyond the boundaries of the world, and the fading husk of the passing year, down into the darkness of Winter, and through to the joy and the boundless dance that is the bright heart of the promise of Spring.

For Samhain is our New Year, the New Year of the Witches.

And when we say Witches, we mean those with a certain wit--even wisdom--who follow the Old Religion of the Goddess.

And when we speak of the Goddess, Who is Moon, stone, star, and of the Horned God, the Sun, the life of animals, we recognize our kinship with all of life, the interwoven chain of connection that sustains all, and that this tapestry of life is our common trust and treasure; we are committed to its service.

When we call the Goddess as Maiden, Mother and Crone, we see Her in all women, all shapes and colors and ages, and we honor women for strength as well as beauty, for knowledge and experience and the power that comes from within, for She is the Mother of inspiration.

When we call the Horned One as Lover and Consort, we see Him in men, and we honor men for tenderness and kindness as well as courage. And He wears the horns because we honor the animal self in each of us, forever untamed and free, the heat of desire, our miracle bodies, the drumming of our hearts.

And when we invoke the Elements of life--Air and Fire, Water and Earth--we

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2 Starhawk, Robin Weaver, M. Macha NightMare, Samhain '88, '90, 91

know what is needed to sustain life, and we know what is needed to sustain hope, and we know, with breath and nerve and blood and bone, what is needed to sustain the balance of our lives.

And we pledge ourselves to care for this Earth, and to preserve It, even through these times of fear and sadness, when our culture has gone so far in the direction of death and destruction.

And so we will come to the Ocean of Tears, to look in that glistening mirror, and to hear the voice of low and ceaseless thunder, wrapped in the taste and smell of the spray, and to remember what has passed, what has passed beyond boundaries, gone beyond change.

And we too will cross, and renew ourselves, and reclaim the future.

And when we dance the Spiral of Joy, together we vow to release that brilliant hope for all life...

JULIE exits center taking cauldron with her.

OPENING:

KIM does grounding meditation (from either center or chorus risers).

Spotlight on center. Circle casting: VIBRA casts out a circle around the space, saying:

By the Earth that is Her body, by the Air that is Her breath, by the Fire that is

Her bright spirit and by the living Waters of Her womb, the circle is cast.

INVOCATIONS:

Chorus, musicians and dancers perform "The Guardian Song." Lights change color appropriate to Elements. Elements dancing as choreographed by YEMAYA.

The Guardian Song
by Amber Khan-Engel

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the East at dawn
Blessed be the South in fire
Blessed be the West water
Blessed be the north Earth

Homeland of the Lady and Lord

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
For they stand on a barren plain
Watching, watching all that goes round.
Guardians of the Lady and Lord
Guardians of the Earth our home
May life thrive, now and always.

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the East at dawn
Blessed be the winds of change
Blessed be the thoughts that flow onward in a new way
That is about to begin now.

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the South at noon
Blessed be the warm hearth fires
Blessed be the heart's desire
Sustenance of all life
And the bright will to live.

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardian of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the West twilight
Blessed be the womb waters
Blessed be dissolving love
Binding all and freeing
All who know that love is to give.

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Earth's midnight
Blessed be the corn and wheat
Blessed be the body's touch
Center of existence
Miracle healing, ground of all being.

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
For they stand on a barren plain
Watching, watching all that goes round.
Guardians of the Lady and Lord
Guardians of the Earth our home
May life thrive, now and always.

[musical notations to be inserted]

PATTI invokes the Mighty Dead and the Beloved Dead.

Goddess and god song and dance begin (Choreographed by MISHA):

There Is No End to the Circle--Goddess Variation

by Starhawk

3 Goddesses: For you can see me in your eyes
When they are mirrored by a friend

Chorus: There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Maiden: For I am the power to begin
I dream and bring to birth what's never been
There is no end to freedom, no end

Chorus: There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

3 Goddesses: For you can hear me in your voice
And feel me in each breath that you breathe in

Chorus: There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Mother: For I am the power to sustain
I am the ripened fruit and growing grain
There is no end to my abundance, no end

Chorus: There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

3 Goddesses: And you can feel me in your heart
When it beats with the heart of a friend

Chorus: There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Crone: And I am the power to end
I am the Crone who cuts the cord that I spin
Though all things that are born must die again

Chorus: There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

3 Goddesses: For all proceeds from me and all returns
All that returns to me comes forth again

Chorus: There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Goddesses: I am the honey taste of passion's heat,
The fear running through your heartbeat,
I am dancing through your lightened feet
Desire so fierce and love so sweet.

Chorus: There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

(Drums)

Instrumental piece integrated in.

There Is No End to the Circle--God Variation
by Starhawk and Michael Charnes

God: Oh, people,
Why is it so hard
for you to open your eyes and see me?
Oh, people,
How can you believe
that the names they've taught you describe me?
I am more
than you know
How does the seed begin to grow?

When you drink the poisoned water
you can't taste the river

And you can never hold me
in a hand that cannot open

Don't think
that I don't need you
I am always reaching for you

Don't think
that I don't want you
I am still calling to you

Don't think
that I don't want you
I am still calling to you

(Drums)

I am not what you expect to see
I will never tell you what to be
Look outside every boundary
Where there's nothing to hold to, there I'll be.

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

God: I'm the word that you can't define
I'm the color that runs outside the line
I'm the shiver running up your spine
Break the pattern, I'll make a new design

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

God: I am the wild bird that won't be tamed
The desires that you don't need to name
I'm the branch that becomes the flame
When the fire's done burning, I remain.

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

God: The sun arises and descends,
The seasons turn and turn again
The circle has no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Goddess(es): For all proceeds from me and all returns
All that returns to me comes forth again
The circle has no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end.
There is no end to life, there is no end.

Gods: I am the honey taste of passion's heat,
the fear running through your heartbeat,
I am dancing through your lightened feet,
desire so fierce and love so sweet.

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end.
There is no end to life, there is no end.

Goddesses and Gods together: I am the honey taste of passion's heat, [counterpoint]
the fear running through your heartbeat,
I am dancing through your lightened feet,
desire so fierce and love so sweet.

Chorus: And you can touch me with your hands
Reach out and take the hand of a friend
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

And you can touch me with your hands

Reach out and take the hand of a friend
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

And you can touch me with your hands
Reach out and take the hand of a friend
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

After God chant, we return to "There Is No End to the Circle." Goddesses and Gods sing "All proceeds/the Sun arises" verse and erotic verse, first separately, then together. Let it build into free-form drumming, chanting and dancing. GRACES lead celebrants into dancing in small circles if they need encouragement.

Builds to wild dancing.

LIGHTING: Colors play in center during formal dances, move out to form circles of light all over space during free dancing.

When energy has peaked and subsided,___ rings Tsingsha bells.

MACHA:

Remembering the waxing and waning of the Moon, the spinning of the Earth around the Sun. We remember you who have died this year, our mothers and fathers, our family, our friends, our sisters and brothers, children and lovers, companeros and companeras, you who we worked with, struggled with, you who shared our blood, you who shared our lives. We name you and honor you, your lives, your sorrows, your gifts, your deaths. And we release you to make your journey. What is remembered lives.

Reads the list of Dead. Soft chanting. ROBYN plays flute softly (?).

And you we haven't named, but who live in our hearts, we whisper your names, now, and call on you to take your place among our honored dead.

Call and response.

Whispered "What is remembered lives."

MINERVA is writing Poltical litany.

What is remembered lives to change!

Call and response.

DAVID SPINNER is writing the State of the Earth litany.

What is remembered lives to change!

Call and response.

ROSE MAY DANCE:

Remembering, all those who have been burned.

The women burned for being strong or obstinate;

burned for a small profit;

burned for being sexual,

for loving other women;

the men burned for loving men;

the heretics burned for unpopular opinions;

the scientists burned for revealing new truths;

the thinkers burned for their visions.

And the Witches,

who danced in the dark,

and were burned for remembering

that this life,

this Earth,

this world of day and night,

is the true body of the sacred.

And She is in us, and needs us

to care for Her.

We remember the flames rising,

the scorched smell of our own flesh, the pain

and the ecstacy of rising.

What is remembered lives to rise from ashes,

to be our beacon,

to change,

to be changed,

to change us.

So there is never again

the burning, the bomb, the bullet.

What is remembered lives,

so that we may live, in the turning wheel,

in the endless spiral dance of life,

renewing itself, endlessly.

Live to serve life.

Live so that all may thrive!

___ blows conch. [Alternatively, ___ rings Tshingsha bells.]

<u>THE JOURNEY</u>:

Lights misty. Trance drumming begins, slowly, in 3/4 or 6/8 time.

JODY/THERESA: (Mention grief/grieving)

Breath deep now, and feel how each breath is the full circle--birth, life, death, rebirth. Let your breath take you down, to the place of magic, where death and life are not separate, and though a dark ocean divides us from the Ancestors, this circle becomes the boat to ferry us across. Listen. Hear the lapping of the waves on the

shore. Smell the ocean breeze. See the water. And prepare to set sail for the island where birth and death meet. We are going to look for help from the Ancestors; help for our lives, and the threatened life of the Earth. We are going to the great cauldron womb of rebirth, where all possibilities are formed, and the dead walk with the unborn. Breathe deep. At the bottom of your breath is the way to the island, and you take a step on board that ship, and you feel it rock beneath you to the rhythm of the waters. Set sail. Together we set sail.

Musicians and chorus begin "Set Sail."

Set Sail - Samhain Version

by Starhawk and Mara June Quicklightning

Set sail, set sail

Over the waves where the spray blows white
Into the night, into the night

Set sail, set sail

Turn your face where the veil grows thin
Beyond the rim, beyond the rim

Set sail, set sail

Follow the twilight to the West
Where you may rest, where you may rest

Set sail, set sail

Make of your heart a burning fire
Build it higher, build it higher

Set sail, set sail

Pass in an instant through the open gate
It will not wait, it will not wait

Set sail, set sail

One thing gives way to another
In the Mother, in the Mother

Set sail, set sail

Back through the deep where life comes undone
And is begun, and is begun

Set sail, set sail

Over the dark of the sunless sea
You are free, you are free

Set sail, set sail

To the shining isle where your heart is led
To meet the dead, to meet the dead

Set sail, set sail.

[musical notation to be inserted]

Sing through "Set Sail" one or two times, then instrumental break, then another time, [however many times are necessary].

JODY/THERESA:

Smell the breeze. Hear the scraping of the ship as it reaches the shore, and see how the land is shining. Here is all that ever was--the Ancestors, Goddesses, Gods, Spirits, all the crowd around to greet us. Hold out your arms. They will help you ashore. The air is fragrant here, and you begin to hear music. Feel the earth of this island under your feet. They shine; they want to move, to dance. For this is the place everything is always dancing. The dead dance with the living, and the living with the not-yet-born. Let the music take you. Come and join the dance.

Drum begins, this time an 8-beat rhythm.

JODY/THERESA:

Oh, breathe deep, now. Our dancing has woken the air itself, and it hums with power. And here is somebody coming to greet you, one of your Beloved Dead, an Ancestor of the spirit or the body, somebody who has help for you, somebody who has something to give you. Hold out your hand; feel the clasp of a spirit hand, and look. Who is it? Who has come to you? Is it somebody you recognize? What is this being's name? What help does this being offer? What challenge? What advice? Take your time, and speak with your Beloved Dead. Walk together in the apple orchards of the Goddess, where blossom, fruit and seed are all on the bough, feeling the earth of this island under your feet, and the weight of your body shift from foot to foot. What do you pledge? What is your challenge for the new year?

(Long pause.)

And when you reach the rim, look out, back to the world of night and day. And feel how the earth calls to us, and what the world needs from us. And let the dead give you power, to heal and to create. Hold out your hands. Take in the power.

(Pause.)

And turn back toward the center, bring our power together. Together we have power to heal the world. Hold it strong in your hands. Whatever happens, don't let go, for in holding together is our strength and our magic. And in the center, in the cauldron, where all is generated, and all is possible, let yourself see the vision that can be born, the vision we can create together, the vision the power we raise can make real. See it take shape for you, that world we want to create. Smell its sweet air. Taste its clear waters. Imagine yourself in it. How does your body feel? And what do you do when you wake in the morning? What sounds do you hear? What does your own street look like? Feel like? What work do you do? Who do you love? Who cares for the children? What has changed? What is different? On your street? In this city? In our country? In the world?

What step can you take toward this vision, small or large, in this new year? What change can you make?

JODY/THERESA says:

What step can you take? What is the change that you can make? Breathe in and make a pledge. Ground what we commit ourselves to do and to be in this new year in your body, in the earth.

(Pause.)

Trance drumbeat begins again, in 4-beat.

And the time has come, now, to say goodbye to this island, and the spirits we've met here. Hold out your hand, and feel the hand of your Beloved Dead. Know what gifts you have been given, and thank them. Now you know the way here, and they will never be wholly gone from you, as long as you remember them. What is remembered lives.

Say goodbye.

(Pause.) Say goodbye to all the spirits, Goddesses and Gods, animals, powers

we've met here.

Maybe some of them will come back to us, bringing their powers back into the world, and remembering the dance, remembering what you've learned here. Thank them, and hear the creaking of the wind as the sails are unfurled. And smell the salt breeze, and step back aboard the ship. Feel it rock beneath your weight. Hear the bottom scrape on the sand as we push off, and let the spirits sing a healing song as we set sail, back into the world again.

GRACES encourage people to put arms around each other and rock to the music.

JODY/THERESA:

When we come from the island, we bring many sorts of life, creativity, inspiration, courage to sustain our struggles. And sometimes we bring new lives, the Ancestors who want to return through us. Look around you now, feel. Is someone hanging around you? And is this the time for you to bring someone through? Consider how many human lives the earth can bear, and choose. If you want a child, open your womb, your seed, and call. If you don't, tell the spirits firmly to look somewhere else. And in the days and weeks that follow, be careful. And if this ritual has roused your passion, and you find someone to share it with, tonight or any night, be safe!

And thank the ship, now, and feel it scrape on the shore of the living world. Say goodbye, remembering your pledge, your challenge for the new year. Step ashore. Smell the night air of this city. Feel the solid earth under your feet, and let the ship, and the sea, and the island fade back into the night.

JODY/THERESA (?) instructs people to get up and move to outer edge; explains double spiral dance.

GRACES encourage people to move out.

Litany begins, is sung through a capella once, then drums and instruments begin. Double Spiral begins when "Let It Begin Now" response begins. STARHAWK and___ (carring tall masks or banners) lead separate strands of slow double spiral dance.

Let It Begin Now

"Listen to the words of the spell as you sit."
A year of beauty
"Add your own imagery."
A year of plenty
"Focus your attention on the words;"
A year of planting
"Focus your attention on the earth."
A year of harvests
A year of forests
A year of healing
A year of vision A year passion
A year of rebirth
This year may we renew the earth

Let it begin with each step we take
And let it begin with each change we make
And let it begin with each chain we break
And let it begin every time we awake

Let it begin with the rains
Dancers move into center of circle and move to visually invoke words of the spell and to move people.
Let it begin with deep snows
On the granite bones of the mountains
on ancient, uncut forests
Oh, let it begin like a running stream
Like a wild whitewater river
Let it flow down through the valleys
the grasslands and the croplands
May they yield a good harvest
for all those who plant them
who tend them and who pick them
May all who hunger now be fed
May we heal the soil that grows our bread

And let it begin with each step we take
And let it begin with each change we make

Let the rivers flow into a bay
Of clear and living waters
May all the buried streams run free
and the salmon return each year from the sea
Oh, let it begin with the whales
as they pass on their long migrations
May flocks of seabirds darken the sky
and the great winged condor freely fly
May Summer bring back songbirds
from rain forests that grow and thrive
May they take wing in peace
May they fly over lands at peace
May all the cycles of life be saved
and all the risks of change be braved

And let it begin with each chain we break
And let it begin every time we awake

Oh, let it begin with fresh winds,
Dancers move people out to perimeter; dancers and graces get people to take hands and form the circle.
the breath of flourishing forests,
May they carry the voices of women
May they bring us the songs of our ancestors
and teach our hidden history
and awaken our ancient memory
Oh, let it begin in the streets
of this fog-ringed city,
May we walk these streets safely
May all who are ailing here find care
for the spirit and the body
May we shelter all who need a fire and bed
and be a refuge for those who've fled,
May this be a city of lovers,
of poets, singers and dancers,
of dreamers, drummers and changers
May the old ones and the young be loved
May all the forms of love be blessed
and all the colors of our skin be praised
like sisters, like brothers
May we take care of each other

And let it begin with each step we take
And let it begin with each change we make

***BEGIN SPIRAL DANCE HERE SLOWLY** Star and ??? lead double spiral dance*

with banners made by Patti.

Let it begin with the fire,
with the smoldering coals of an ancient hearth,
with the secret visions in our hearts,
May we fan the flames into life
May we tend the fires of life
May all the works of change be done
May we draw our power from the wind and sun
and weave our magic from the turning moon
and dance on the living earth
She is our mother
our healer, our lover
and we are of Her
We are Her circle,
circle of healing,
circle of planting,
the seeds of a new year
a year of rebirth
This year we shall renew the earth
This year we shall renew the earth

And let it begin with each chain we break
And let it begin every time we awake

A year of beauty

Let it begin now

A year of hope

Let it begin now

A year of freedom

Let it begin now

A year of healing
Let it begin now

A year of planting

Let it begin now

A year of plenty

Let it begin now

A year of harvests

Let it begin now

A year of forests

Let it begin now

A year of vision

Let it begin now

A year of passion

Let it begin now...

Choruses to repeat and interweave

egin with each step we take
egin with each change we make
egin with each chain we break
egin every time we wake

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in now

hunger now be fed,
l the soil that grows our bread

lter all who need a fire and bed
uge for those who've fled

And let it be
And let it be
And let it be
And let it be

A year of fre

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May all the buried streams run free
May the salmon return each year from the sea

May flocks of seabirds darken the sky
and the great winged condor freely fly

May all the cycles of life be saved
and all the risks of change be braved

May all the forms of love be blessed
and all the colors of our skin be praised

Like sisters, like brothers
May we take care of each other

May all the works of change be done
May we draw our power from the Moon and Sun

A year of rebirth
This year we shall renew the Earth.

GRACES are spread throughout spiral and around circle to help spiral form, keep it moving, and keep it from turning into crack-the whip. Litany can be sung through again on top of "Let It Begin Now" and repeating couplets. Play with it, free-form style chanting builds to cone of power. We will be responsive to timing and energy. This spiral may take a long time.

Ground cone of power.

Chorus sings "Through All the World Below".

ROBIN WEAVER blows conch.

Starhawk or Jamie:

We've named the dead. Now let's sing the names of those newcomers to life who've come to us this year. ___ reads names.

Chorus softly sings "Bless the shining jewels our love brings to ground."

<u>OPENING</u>:

DAVID MILLER holds aloft a chalice and a loaf of bread and says:

We bless the food and drink that sustains our living bodies, and we give thanks for it, for all that has nourished us this year, and all that will feed us in the coming year. May all who hunger now be fed. May we heal the soil that grows our bread. Blessed be. *(give thanks for the previous year, prayers for new year)*

Thank yous. REBECCA thanks some people specifically (Mary Ellen, et al.), most generically (chorus, musicians, volunteers, graces, dragons, technical crew, cooks, ticket takers, flyer designers, altar builders, coat checkers, etc.). *KEEP SHORT!!!*

PATTI says:

We thank the Mighty Dead, the Beloved Dead, the ancestors of all our cultures and traditions. We hope they've had a good time, here, and been fed through our songs, and our dance, and our offerings. Blessed be.

JULIE:

We thank the Goddess and God, the elements of Air and Fire and Water and Earth, that sustain life. May the power we've shared here inspire our work to preserve them. May all the cycles of life be saved, and all the risks of change be braved. This year may we renew the earth. This year may we renew the earth. (The last lines sung?)

<u>DEVOCATIONS</u>:

Devoking song begins: (same music as the invocations). DEITIES and ELEMENTS dance?

There Is No End to the Circle--Reprise

Chorus:	Now the old years fruit comes to your hand	} unison
	It is the seed of the year that now begins	} unison
	There is no end to the circle no end	} unison
	There is no end to life, there is no end	} harmony
	For we have danced the spiral dance	harmony
	The wheel of the year has turned again	harmony
	There is no end to the circle no end	harmony
	There is no end to life, there is no end	harmony

Maiden:Earth, we thank you for your strength
Air, we thank you for your cleansing wind

Mother: Fire, for our passion and bright will
Water, for the love that flows within

Crone:And now as we ask you to depart
Strength and love remain bright in our hearts

Chorus:There is no end to the circle no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

God: The God who is tender yet untamed
Who touches what is deep and soft within
Be with us as we lay the weapons down
For ours is the power to change

Crone:We remember how our hopes went up in flames
While poison and pain spread all around

Chorus:But our anger is a fire that brings change
For ours is the power to end

Mother:For we are the guardians of the world
And we can heal the earth again

Chorus:As the hills turn green with winter rain
Ours is the power to sustain

Maiden:And we can dream what's never been
Unbounded love for women and for men

Chorus: For all the grows, all that leaps and flies and swims
And ours is the power to begin

And you can see the power in your eyes
When they are mirrored by a friend
And you can hear the power in your voice
And feel it in each breath you breathe in
And you can know the power in your heart
When it beats with the heart of a friend
And you can feel the power in your hands
Reach out and take the hand of friend
There is no end to the circle no end
Together we have power to begin
There is no end to the circle no end

There is no end to life, there is no end
Reach out and take the hand of a friend
Reach out and take the power to begin [to fade]

At the end, over soft instrumental, whoever cast the circle opens it:

VIBRA:

By the Earth that is Her body, and by the Air that is Her breath, and by the Fire that is Her bright spirit, and by the living Waters of Her womb, the circle is open, but unbroken. May the peace of the Goddess go in our hearts. Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again. Blessed be!

Celebratory drumming and dancing. GRACES start it off, if necessary. Celebrants disperse to foyer. ***(Clean up begins and is finished by 11:30pm!!!)***

BLESSED BE!