Ritual Title: Lauching my new life

Ritual Category

- [ ] Separation
- [ ] Transition
- [x] Reincorporation

Ritual Intention

- [ ] Connection
- [ ] Control
- [ ] Consolidation
- [ ] Change

Ritual Focus

- [ ] Deceased
- [ ] Bereaved
- [x] Community

Natural Elements

- [ ] Earth
- [ ] Air
- [ ] Fire
- [ ] Water

Creative Elements

- [ ] Art & Images
- [ ] Movement
- [ ] Music & Sounds
- [ ] Words/Silence
- [ ] Technology
- [ ] Senses Engaged

Brief Description:

Timeframe: A Saturday evening

Participants: Four of my closest friends

Objects Needed:

Invitations, champagne, flowers, thank you cards, etc.

Preparation:

Reserve a table at a restaurant, order cake, send invitations.

Safety Concerns:

A designated driver

Ritual Outline:

After being a caregiver for my mom for six years I didn't know what I wanted to do. Fortunately, mom left me some money so I didn't have to go find a job right away. I had time to grieve and clear out the house slowly. The Realtor said it was a "tear-down" so fortunately I didn't have to do any work to it. I finally found a nice condo and found a job with a florist where I'm learning how to do flower arrangements. Turns out I'm pretty good at it!

I wanted to have a party to celebrate my new job and to thank my friends for being so supportive, especially while mom was so sick. So it was kind of a party to celebrate friendship, and to launch me into my new life.

I sent out invitations shaped like a boat, reserved the restaurant and asked my brother-in-law to be our designated "chauffeur." I also got a few bottles of pink champagne for the "launch." I also gave flowers to everybody as a thank you.

There were lots of toasts and laughs.

Evaluation & Mementos

It was a bit of a self-indulgent splurge, but I know mom was looking down on us and was happy for me. She always felt so bad, as she said, I was "stuck" with her and not having a good time with my friends. But, if I could have done it all over again I wouldn't have done anything different. Love you mom!

NOTE: If you are willing to share, please tell me about the ritual you created. If it was helpful for you, maybe it will be helpful for someone else. (Of course I will make sure your personal information remains confidential.) thomdennis@hotmail.com