



Labyrinth Network Northwest News

Happy New Year 2011!

We have some catching up to do after the TLS Gathering and this long, rainy winter is the perfect time to do just that. We have received quite a few articles about new labyrinth installations and lovely photos to match. Plus, there are lots of events planned in the PNW that will provide opportunities to socialize, educate, and support labyrinth endeavors of all kinds so grab your calendars and make plans to join us as a volunteer or an attendee or both. So, without further ado, please enjoy this winter newsletter and don't forget to send us your labyrinth news to be included in our spring newsletter in March. Happy Schmoozing!



The Unity Labyrinth, the first of its kind in Oregon, was installed in the place of the outgoing Santa Rosa labyrinth at Labyrinth House this past summer in Portland, OR, just in time for the wedding of Paula Hills and Eric Starr, the owners in residence. Its unique design was conceived and executed by Stephen Shibley of Fertile Ground LLC with input from Paula who had specified numerological and geometrical elements that she hoped could be incorporated. The labyrinth is of the “reconciliation type” with two separate entrances that lead to a common center,

allowing two walkers to enter on their own path, meet in the middle and then walk out on the other's path thus giving each a chance to walk in the other's figurative shoes.

For the wedding Eric and Paula entered on separate paths to symbolize their single lives, met in the middle whose space is formed by two intersecting circles, the mystical geometric shape known as the Vesica Piscis, symbolizing the birthplace for new life, the intersection of Spirit and matter, and then exiting together along the central axis to greet family and friends who stood around the circular perimeter of the labyrinth.

The central axis is another unique feature of the labyrinth comprised of 7 repeated Vesica Piscis shapes symbolizing the 7 subtle energy centers of the body. The 4th center, or heart chakra, forms the labyrinth's center, thus accentuating the centrality of the



heart and the power of love in all of life. The walking path on both sides of the center is a five circuit path of mown grass.

Walkers who attend the quarterly solstice and equinox events at Labyrinth House have claimed the central axis as a deeply powerful part of their labyrinth walk, often taking time to walk it separately after they've completed the regular path. This becomes a meditation in and of itself in which each energy center is explored with respect to any issue or question that has been brought to the labyrinth.

The Unity Labyrinth is open to the public Fridays from 9am – Dusk, and Sundays from 9am – Noon. If you wish to receive email notice of upcoming labyrinth events please email Paula Starr at unity@spiritone.com or search the Classes and Events page of www.theearthplace.com

WYLD'N LABYRINTH

A very new and exciting-looking labyrinth has been created in the Nelson area of BC. The property is owned by Sam Relkoff and Lyn Maddix, but was named by Donna Nett when she was asked to do an energy reading of the site. She describes the site as an ancient one whose primary guardians are huge boulders, rather than the more familiar trees. As she tells it, "I had strong images of a large group of people being there, and I could see the fire pit with a horseshoe of benches around it facing the labyrinth, and the spot where people would put down their instruments and belongings before walking the labyrinth... I could see the picnic tables and the little curved bridge over the brook, and where the outhouse would be... it was a powerful experience to have such vivid images".



This powerful site let her know it wished to be known as wild, but because of its antiquity, she chose to spell it 'wyld'. Plus, the labyrinth is but one element in this ancient landscape so Donna called it 'Wild And', shortening it to Wyld'n. As you can see from the photos, the use of the natural local stone gives it a very rugged and primeval feel.

There will be a very large event held there with upwards of 1,000 people so Donna's vision is taking shape. Although the site is currently resting under a heavy blanket of snow the owners will be returning shortly and preparations for this event, to take place on September 22-24, 2011, will begin. For more information or to visit please contact Sam or Lyn at srelkoff@relus.net



“To Bless the Sacred Circle” — Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Orcas Island, WA Land Blessed for Labyrinth



Honoring the land -- a permanent labyrinth will be constructed on the waterfront land of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Pictured left to right are: Betty Hall, Rosie Cayou James, Bishop Craig Anderson, Heidi Hudlet, Luann Pamatian and Nancy Ayer

Contributed by Nancy Ayer (Revised Nov. 18 at 10:30 p.m.)

“My father was born here, went to school in Deer Harbor. We are here to honor the land of our ancestors. We are all different, beautiful flowers of the Master’s bouquet. My grandfather taught me that white people are the beautiful color of the blackberry blossom. My people knew not

envy, not hatred, not arrogance.”

Rosie Cayou James, Samish Tribal Leader

On a windy, cold November 14 Sunday morning, the rain held off and the lawn at Emmanuel Church lay witness to an ancient ceremony. Rosie Cayou James, her husband Bill Bailey, leaders of the Samish Tribe, along with Rosie’s cousin, Orcas Islander and tribal member, Betty Hall, led Emmanuel Parish and guests in a blessing of the land where a permanent community labyrinth will be built. Emmanuel’s rector, Bishop Craig Anderson, also played an important part in the ceremony. Bishop Craig served as a former bishop of South Dakota where 75 of the 109 churches in the Diocese are on the reservations of the Great Sioux Nation. He learned the language and the culture and was adopted by the Oglala Tribe. It is important to Native Americans to consecrate the land, held sacred by them for generations, prior to the commencement of construction of another sacred site.

In so blessing the land the Samish were asking the ancestors for permission. It was also important to the tribal leaders that this blessing be kept as low-key as possible with members attending last Sunday’s blessing were Emmanuel Parishioners, visitors to the church for that day, and key people involved in the labyrinth construction process involved in the ceremony. There will be a large blessing and completion ceremony held the end of May. At that time, the Orcas community will be invited to join with Emmanuel Parish and the Samish and Lummi for yet another joyful celebration.

As the clouds gathered last Sunday, so did the people, filling in around the outside edge of the temporary, painted labyrinth. Each person present dipped a cedar bough into a bowl of holy water to bless and add their energy to this most sacred space. It was a moving experience to observe the land imbued with so many powerful forces.

It’s been many generations, if ever, that Orcas Island has witnessed the merging of spiritual leaders from different cultures joining with the common goal of honoring each other and the ancient land. History was made last Sunday and permission granted by the ancestors to build a sacred space on top of another sacred space, repeating an act as old as the human race.

Rosie Cayou James said:

The Creator knows that each and every one of you is in one sacred circle today. Believe in your vision. The young ones are witnesses of this work. Go home and document this day with your

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memories. That's what keeps this alive today. The Creator recognizes the heart and soul of believers. That's what brings us all into this circle.



Coffee Creek Labyrinth Ministry

Last week seven LNNers met at Oregon's Coffee Creek Correctional Facility south of Portland for an introduction and labyrinth walk organized by the Chaplain, Emily Brault. The originator of the program, Anita Trudeau, died last September leaving no one to run the program so Emily contacted Kay Kinneavy asking for volunteers to facilitate the monthly walks for the women inmates. I attended and was as naïve as anyone could be about the environment, structure, culture, and regulations that exist in correctional institutions. I had done no research beforehand and I don't think anyone else had either. One LNNer who attended is a volunteer there in another program in the minimum security area so she had her own badge and knew the drill, and another had volunteered once or twice with a yoga program there, but otherwise, we were all newbies.

Three of us carpooled from Portland and as we drove up to the entrance our busy chatter slowed then stopped as we stared at the chain link fence with four feet of barbed wire on top that ran around the entire perimeter. We entered behind a man in a uniform who graciously held open the outside door for us and then we went into the main lobby. We wrote our names down and gave the sergeant on duty our drivers licenses which they kept while we were inside. Then the sergeant gave us a brief overview of the visitor rules, we went through a security scan, and then Emily came out, introduced herself and ushered us inside. She explained very little on the way to the room other than the labyrinth, which was painted on canvas by the woman who died, was already set out by her assistants along with a box of additional items that could be used to open the walk.



We went into the room which is used for religious services there. It has a lower level where the canvas was and a small, raised stage area where chairs were arranged in a semi-circle with the box of labyrinth supplies in the middle on a small table. Emily told us to sit, she called in on her walkie-talkie, and the women came in.

Life is, of course, very regulated there. The inmates must all must wear blue regulation shirts, jeans and sneakers. We had spread ourselves out among the seats and they sat amongst us. Emily led by explaining how the walk was going to proceed based upon how

they'd done it in the past and thanked us for coming. We went around and introduced ourselves and told why labyrinths were important to us. At the time, none of us knew that we were with women who were in prison for lengthy sentences, but, as they talked, it became evident that this was so. And yet, in spite of or because of this, they were all so happy to be walking the labyrinth again. They really missed the time to be quiet and many of them said this repeatedly. They also were so pleased to be honoring Anita and it was obvious they missed her very much. They were also surprised and happy that so many of us had come and we took every opportunity in our speaking to honor Anita's memory whose energy was quite evident in the room. We picked cards from the packs they had in the box then walked while music played on a CD

player and sat again afterward and shared our impressions of the walk. We all waited while one last LNNer walked and I shared that in that post-walk time of silence I experienced a very powerful sense of the sacredness of this group experience, and that I would imagine that this type of experience was rare and necessary in an environment like this one.

After the inmates left, we talked with Emily for quite awhile and were stunned to learn that there were lifers in the group and others who are serving ten to twenty year sentences. Emily took us on a tour and we saw how these women live daily. It was a deeply thought provoking experience and makes me still pensive and yet grateful when I revisit the experience in my mind. The labyrinth is truly a life-saving tool for the women who have found their way to it. Not all are allowed to attend and there are rules of conduct for that too, but while they are walking, they are their own persons; without rules, without noise and commotion, without threats to their person, able to access their most private thoughts in peace. And that is a gift and a blessing. I feel lucky and privileged to share this with them.

I encourage all LNNers to think about assisting in this program. We need additional volunteers. There will always be two volunteers per visit and it will be on Monday evenings from 5:30-9pm. You must first get clearance, then go through a training. The next training will be February 3rd. For more information, please see http://labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org/reflections/2011/110110_Coffee_Creek.pdf and contact Kay Kinneavy at, Kay@labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org.



LNN Afternoon Tea Social

Take a refreshing break during a dismal February day and join the LNN for tea in the cozy Fireside Room at Westminster Presbyterian Church. This will be an opportunity for any and all interested members to share ideas and experiences with labyrinths, discuss upcoming plans, see old friends and make new ones. Marlise Stroebe has entertained us in the past with lovely piano music and can be counted on to do so again.

In an auditorium nearby a portable labyrinth will be available for walking about 45 minutes before the Tea Party opens and an hour after it ends. The main purpose of the event will be to socialize. It will be a great opportunity for the folks who went to the TLS gathering in New Harmony this fall to tell us their experiences at the event. We will also discuss the plans for the NW regional gathering to be held in June.

We hope to have time for everyone attending to be able to share ideas, thought and possible plans. So come join us for sparkling conversation, friendship, and a mid-winter walk to bring on the spring. Best of all, it's free.

**Labyrinth
Network
Northwest**

Tea Party



**Saturday,
February 26th, 2011**

1:30-3:30pm

(The labyrinth will be open one hour before and after the party.)

In The Fireside Room

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1624 NE Hancock, Portland, OR

This is a free event.

More info: labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org

World Labyrinth Day, Saturday, May 7, 2011



Crystal Dawn Walker and Dr. Eunice Schroeder (from the Marylhurst University campus group *Labyrinth Alliance Balances You* (LABY) are co-hosting this event with *Labyrinth Network Northwest*. Eunice is asking for volunteers to help with the preparation for the Portland area's participation in this worldwide day of labyrinth walking. There was a wonderful turnout on that very breezy spring day last year with lots of labyrinths to walk and a maypole to dance around, so if you have a labyrinth you are eager to try out or more questions about this event, call or email **Eunice Schroeder, Sacred Journey Ministries, 360-695-4965 (hm office/cell)**

Northwest Regional Labyrinth Gathering, June 24-26, 2011, Portland, OR



The Rev. Jill K. H. Geoffrion, Ph.D. will be the NRLG's featured speaker for all three days, giving two different presentations on Friday and Saturday and meeting with all those interested on Sunday to talk about labyrinths in religious settings (see more information below.) The Rev. Jill K H Geoffrion, PhD, is the author of seven labyrinth-related books and a professional photographer. Through Faith, Hope and Love Global Ministries, Dr. Geoffrion travels to places of extreme suffering where she is privileged to introduce the labyrinth and offer labyrinth prayer experiences. Jill is the co-regional representative for the Labyrinth Society in the Midwest region, and care-taker of ten labyrinths at DeepHaven Labyrinths and Retreats in Minnesota. Jill

can often be found in Chartres, France studying and photographing the cathedral, leading pilgrimages, and walking the labyrinth. Current projects include books on pilgrimage, constructing Chartres labyrinths, and praying with images of Mary in the Chartres Cathedral. For more information see: www.jillgeoffrion.com & www.fhlglobal.org.

Here is a reminder from Kay Kinneavy regarding the very important meeting to plan our Northwest Regional Gathering. If you're interested in attending, helping or have a brilliant idea or two to contribute please contact Kay.

Planning Meeting for the NRLG

January 25, 2011

10 am - 2 PM

Mission of the Atonement Church

7400 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.,

Beaverton, Oregon 97008

[Map](#)

I've given you an overview map to show you how easy it is to get there....I-5 to Hwy 217.. then exit 4. Google will give you complete directions. It's easy.

If you saw the announcement about the event, you probably noticed that the regional labyrinth gathering will be a 3 day event, but each day is at a different location. This gives participants a chance to experience 3 of Portland's best labyrinths.

Friday evening, June 24 - Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR <http://www.trinity-episcopal.org/>

Saturday, June 25 - all day gathering - Mission of the Atonement, Beaverton, OR

<http://www.motaspirit.org/>

Sunday, June 26 - afternoon workshop for church labyrinth facilitators - St. Luke-s Episcopal Church,

Gresham, OR <http://www.saintlukesgresham.org/Welcome.html>

This planning meeting is very important. Since our committee members live far apart, we will not be able to meet often. So, we must work out a plan, decide what committees are needed, and work independently to prepare for the event. Think now about what committee you might like to be on. We are the core group. We need to find other people from throughout the Northwest Region to serve on the committees.

Think of who would be good for which jobs, and bring their names and contact info with you to the meeting.

We have a good team of people working on this event, and we have a fantastic featured speaker. This is going to be a really great event. I'm excited! I hope you are too.

If you know other people who would like to participate in this January 25 mtg., please send me their names and contact info.

Kay Kinneavy

Labyrinth Network Northwest

PO Box 722

Neskowin, OR 97149-0722

kay@labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org

<http://www.labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org/>