



Labyrinth Network Northwest News

Greetings LNNers and Pacific Northwest labyrinthines! Jodi and I have gotten off our duffs and compiled a winter newsletter with highlights from holiday 2011 events, interesting tidbits about a local labyrinth artist, labyrinth doings from Down Under and across the seas, and glimpses of local events on the horizon that will be of interest to all who love labyrinths and are in need of a late winter labyrinth tonic before spring bursts forth. Enjoy!

*All articles written and compiled by Jodi Lorimer
and Christiana Brinton unless otherwise noted.*



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL ICON LABYRINTH WALK, Dec 5th, 2011



This was the second year that the iconographers in the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Iconography Institute in Portland, OR agreed to share their exquisite artwork in a joint event with the Trinity Labyrinth Guild consisting of a viewing in the Morrison Room, a procession with icons from the Morrison Room to Kempton Hall and a viewing and labyrinth walk on Trinity's beloved, inlaid wood Chartres labyrinth. Christopher Armstrong-Stevenson, Director of the Institute, gathered a plethora of icon artwork by their best iconographers in the Institute's library and guided the Guild's volunteers in the selection of icons for each part of the evening. Prior to the

processional at 6pm, attendees were able to walk the Guild's Petite Chartres canvas labyrinth in the Morrison Room surrounded by icons of various sizes and motifs displayed upon table and pedestal stands illuminated by soft candlelight. Then at 6pm all those in attendance gingerly gathered up an icon or two and slowly walked to Kempton Hall accompanied by the lovely piano playing of Phyliss Brinkerhoff.

The themes of most Christian icons revolve around Christ, Mary, the saints and other Biblical subjects and each figure in an icon can be identified either by their clothes, what they are carrying, or what surrounds them in the painting: Mary always wears a blue mantle, grapes signify the Eucharist, Saint Barbara often has a watch tower behind her and a dragon attends St Margaret. But even without an understanding of these finer points, the icons are imbued with such a sense of mystery and reverence that it is impossible not to feel a shift in awareness when gazing at them.



While I am a Guild member, I am not particularly religious, but walking the labyrinth among these icons, with the soft candlelight and the piano playing was such a pleasure and a deeply transporting spiritual experience. I had friends who came for the first time and really enjoyed this uniquely beautiful, contemplative labyrinth walk. Many thanks to all the volunteers in the Guild for their dedication and attentiveness and thanks especially to Christopher and the iconographers for their willingness to share their art in such a special way. It's definitely worth putting on your calendar for next December.

Photos courtesy of Joy Lassiter



PIZZA PARTY AND TLS TAOS SLIDE SHOW

Last October, The Labyrinth Society hosted its 2011 Annual Gathering in the beautiful mountain community of Taos, New Mexico. As only three of us from Oregon were able to attend, we were entrusted with reporting back to the local membership on our experiences. Ansula Press and Jodi Lorimer put together a slide show, trying to capture as many of the events and labyrinths as we could to give people back home a sense of what the Gathering was all about. The weekend was jam-packed but we tried to cover as much as we could manage. A wonderful gathering of our own took place in early December at the Kennedy School in Portland where we feasted on pizza and salads and soaked up a little of the clear blue reflected light of the Taos skies.

Sandra Wasko-Flood was a primary organizer under the auspices of her "Living Labyrinths for Peace" organization. Held at the Taos Conference Center in perfect fall weather, there was plenty of room for all the excellent presentations and a selection of outdoor labyrinths. The most interesting of these was made of corn kernels by a descendant of Mayan ancestors, Ac Tah. It was unusual for us because he combined a labyrinth with a maze concept so that there were multiple routes in and out of the design. The many ravens enjoyed the corn offering as well. The Native American presence was further enhanced by a moving opening ceremony conducted by Flore de Mayo, one of the 13 Grandmothers. Native Pueblo Dancers entertained participants on the first evening. Saturday night found us all headed out to a huge local building usually used for cattle auctions where Ac Tah and others had created an enormous labyrinth out of candelarias.

He designed it with 'pods' designated separately for people who could pause en route for drumming, playing other instruments, meditating, and dancing. The very chilly night warmed up quite quickly as we were directed through the loops and turns of a very unique labyrinth accompanied by heart-lifting drumming and clapping. As we each exited the labyrinth, Ac Tah, dressed in an exotic white leather suit and magnificent Mayan headdress of orange feathers, directed us back in for a second trip through.

There were too many wonderful presentations to mention them all but most would agree that the most surprising and charming by far was Lucy Pringle who delivered a Keynote Address on her extensive research into crop circles. James Jareb shared his personal journey of awakening that led to his creation of the massive temples he has built of rare and beautiful stone called "Stardreaming". A later tour was available for people to see it, as well as one to the historic site of Bandolier and another to visit three other labyrinths in the area, ending with a visit to the mineral spring's spa and resort at Ojo Caliente. Unfortunately no one got a picture of us in the mud bath since we didn't care to subject our cameras to the mud. Thoroughly relaxed we headed back to the Center while a rare display of the Northern Lights hovered off the horizon!

Next year The Labyrinth Society will be holding their Gathering in Hudson, Wisconsin. I encourage people to look at the TLS website (<http://labyrinthociety.org/annual-gathering>) for further information and consider attending as the program for the 2012 Gathering takes shape. I have been to the last three Gatherings and each has been very unique, creative, a great networking opportunity, stimulating, and a lot of fun! You can see our pictures posted here on the LNN website under Photos.



WHITE CITY, OR LABYRINTH DEDICATED

(This was an article that should have appeared in an earlier newsletter, but was shelved for some reason. Kay reminded us about it and so here it is!)

A new and remarkable healing labyrinth at the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics was warmed and dedicated in June of 2011 in White City near Medford.

Growing from Occupational Therapist Carol

Berger's 'seed of a dream' it has at last become a manifest reality. In 2005 Ms. Berger was deeply moved to witness profound and positive behavior changes in Veterans who walked a labyrinth in Ashland, Oregon. She noted they became more relaxed and focused and open to additional therapy. Taking her idea of creating their own labyrinth to Dr. Charles Moore at SORCC, he developed a unique design to serve the needs of Veterans. Having two entrances, the Labyrinth design allows for either two-way or one-way journeys. Today, they have a 45-foot diameter labyrinth surrounded by a 22,600

square foot garden with butterfly section, reflection pond, Tai Chi circle and mosaic stepping stones created by Veterans.



This boulder is at the garden's main entrance.
The Master of Ceremonies, Wolfgang Agotta, delivered the following remarks;

“Imagine a time and a place where you can discover your own path to inner peace. Imagine a time and a place where you can temporarily suspend the insecurities of the world and go forward on a path that you can trust; one which will not deceive you or lead you astray. Imagine a time and

place where you can travel this path with full assurance that you will safely get to the end of your journey even though you may feel lost and not know what is around the next turn. This is the Labyrinth experience. This is a metaphor for trusting in the process of life.”

The amazing transformation of an unpaved parking lot into a healing labyrinth was made possible through the generous donations and efforts of: Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary, Donna Markle, NCOA, American Legion Auxiliary, Charles Moore, Pauline Balch, and the SORCC/Facility Management Staff. Thanks to the efforts of these and many other participants, the SORCC Labyrinth is in place to fulfill a role in the care and service to Veterans for many years to come. It is open to the public but visitors must check in at the security desk to let them know you are on the premises. Additional pictures can be viewed on flickr at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52791386@N07/sets/72157624905256686>



Thanks go to Rhonda K. Haney, community Resources Development/PAS at VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics for information and to Carol Berger for her photos.





TAKING ROOT: THE LABYRINTH IN MYANMAR, A PHOTO ESSAY by Jill Geoffrion



For those of us in the Pacific Northwest who enjoyed Jill Geoffrion's lectures at the Northwest Regional Labyrinth Gathering last June and want to follow her latest project, here is the link, <http://jillgeoffrion.wordpress.com/2012/02/23/taking-root-the-labyrinth-in-myanmar/> to Jill's lovely photo montage of the initial installation process at the seminary in Yangon

prior to the dedication in June 2012.



REPORT FROM OUR FRIENDS IN AUSTRALIA: Lauren Artress to visit Australia in 2012

Labyrinth activities are popping up all over Australia as more and more labyrinths of all shapes, styles and sizes are installed in parks, churchyards, institutional settings and on private property. Robert Ferré will be in the Sydney area in March and April of 2012 and is hoping to hold some workshops there while he's awaiting the start of another labyrinth installation in Sydney. Lauren Artress will be giving a lecture, workshop, and a facilitator training Thursday through Sunday, November 1-4, 2012 at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane and Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston, Queensland, Australia. For those of you planning a trip half way around the world, this might be of interest! Also, check with The Labyrinth Society's Australia listings for additional events,

<http://labyrinthsociety.org/events-calendar?start=1354320000&length=month&zipcode=&radius=50&country=Australia>.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Two labyrinth events of note are scheduled for the early spring in Portland at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's Kempton Hall: *A Day of Remembrance: The Aramaic Lord's Prayer*, Saturday, March 24, 2012; 9:30 am to 9 pm and *A Personal Path: Exploring the Enneagram with the Labyrinth*, Saturday, April 21, 2012; 10 am to 4 pm. Please go to the LNN calendar listing pages on those dates for more information about each.

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

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY, Saturday, May 5, 2012

Plans are underway for a Portland area multi-labyrinth event that will have designated outdoor and indoor, permanent and temporary labyrinths available to “Walk As One At 1:00 pm” allowing our area to participate in the rolling wave of peace, love, and unity flowing over the planet as labyrinth walkers all over the world walk labyrinths at 1pm in their time zones. The committee for World Labyrinth Day is now being formed, and we could use some help with planning and also on the day of the event.

Suggestions for World Labyrinth Day: Think about ways you could create extra interest at your labyrinth for World Labyrinth Day... live music, dance, drama, poetry reading, crafts for kids, an introduction to the labyrinth or other special program, healing prayers, creation of a temporary labyrinth; all centered around the “Walk As One at 1” theme. The possibilities are endless. It would be great if each labyrinth had some different special focus for that day to show the public the many different ways labyrinths can be used.

We need volunteers to help with some limited and easy preparations and if you know of a labyrinth that wants to be included, please contact Ansula Press, ansula@gmail.com. For more information about World Labyrinth Day go to: <http://www.labyrinthsociety.org/world-labyrinth-day>.

LABYRINTH WALK & LITURGY, Sunday, May 27, 2012

Submitted by Marlise Strobe

Private studio in North Clark County, Washington
Marlise Stroebe and David Zine, LNN members will be hosting a labyrinth walk in their studio about 40 minutes north of Portland, in North Clark County WA.

The walk begins at 11:00 am and will end at 12:30 pm. At 1:00 pm, there will be a liturgy following the walk celebrated by Toni Tortorilla and Helen Umphrey, (Roman Catholic Womanpriest and Deacon.)

The theme of the walk will be honoring motherhood and the nurturing spirit in us all. Marlise will play classical piano music during the walk.

Feel free to come for both events or only for the labyrinth walk. There will be light refreshments after the liturgy.

Call Marlise or Dave for directions, at [360 686 3342](tel:3606863342) or e-mail: soulofsophia@yahoo.com

All are welcome, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, come and celebrate.

For more information about Marlise Strobe, see Janet Goetze's article on the Oregon Live website about Marlises March 8 piano recital at Classic Pianos in Portland Oregon.

http://www.oregonlive.com/clark-county/index.ssf/2012/03/yacolt_pianist_marlise_stroebe.html



LNN PLANNING CIRCLE COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Marlise Strobe, additional contributor

LNN would like interested members to think about becoming part of the LNN Planning Team Circle. We would like to add 3-4 new planning team members in 2012.

The planning team has 2-3 phone meetings per year by conference call, and 2 in person meetings which includes one retreat weekend.

If you are interested, we can send you a short application. The main requirement is your interest in helping to plan our various quarterly labyrinth events. New ideas are always welcome.

If you are interested, see the LNN web page and contact one of the current team members.

We also have various committees which operate on a “per need” basis. When we decide upon an event to hold, our committees kick into gear. Right now we need volunteers for our World Labyrinth Day and Newsletter committees. The Newsletter committee is the only ongoing committee because we can always use additional articles from other areas in the Pacific Northwest from interested volunteers willing to write a paragraph or two and provide some photos too.

Thanks for helping to keep Labyrinth Network Northwest one of the few active regional labyrinth organizations in the world!



SPRINGWATER PRESBYTERIAN LABYRINTH

Treat yourself to a spring day on the labyrinth. A lovely little church, Springwater Presbyterian Church in Springwater, Oregon has a stone-and-

flower labyrinth designed by Stephen Shibley in 2005. It is a gravel path with bulbs planted along the avenues. The spring flowers are different kinds that bloom in a sequence until June when the paths become evident. It was described as a 'lovely bloomingness' by Eileen, our contact; a perfect place to spend a meditative, sunny day. It is always open but they ask that groups contact the church at 503-630-5480 for an appointment. There is no admission but donations are gratefully accepted. Please go to their website at www.springwater-pres.org for directions or call if you have any questions.



BEACH LABYRINTH ARTIST DENNY DYKE



Denny Dyke followed his labyrinthine path all the way to the beach. In 1996 he began four years of study at the Claremont Church of Religious Science where he became a licensed Religious Science Practitioner. He was later introduced to Rev. Pamela Kilbourne, founder of Sacred Space Ministries, who asked him to help at an event she was hosting where he met his first Chartres labyrinth. Rev. Kilbourne's comment

that 'the labyrinth is my church without walls' resonated with him and inspired him to study and create them out of any and all available materials. He founded Sacred Journeys to provide labyrinths for events made from a variety of materials; chalk, rope, light ropes at night and canvas for any occasion.



In 2007 he discovered "SAND!" as he puts it, when he and his wife moved to Coquille, Oregon. He began to make large temporary labyrinths on the beach and has now perfected the art of creating elegant Chartres, Santa Rosa and Baltic Wheel designs for everyone to enjoy. Some are as big as 50 feet and a complete round-trip journey of a mile of pathway. He estimates that



over a thousand people have walked his ephemeral labyrinths, before the tide returns and creates an empty canvas for a new design. Denny has named his passion "Circles in the Sand" and, weather permitting, he continues to draw labyrinths wherever and whenever he can. He facilitates workshops and labyrinth events indoors or

out and has a 12-foot canvas design that is great for children or small spaces. Please take a look at his website, <http://www.onepath.us> for additional information, to buy a tee shirt, contact Denn, and to see some pretty great photographs of his creations. As Denny says, 'Draw on!'