



## Labyrinth Network Northwest News

*Summer is upon us and before most of us zoom off to distant locales, Jodi and I thought we'd recap the 2012 spring labyrinth highlights, mention all the new labyrinths bursting forth across the PNW, and give LNNers a heads up about future labyrinth events in the making so scroll down, enjoy and have a lovely summer!*

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



### WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

#### Portland



On May 5, people around the globe walked labyrinths in a worldwide "Walk as One at 1:00". To honor World Labyrinth Day, Labyrinth Network Northwest invited the public to participate in this synchronized unification for peace.

In the greater Portland area there are many labyrinths that are free and open to the public. Since labyrinths are becoming more and more sought after as a means to meditate, to contemplate, to work through life changes, and to renew the spirit, it was LNN's intention to publicize their existence and their locations to encourage people to discover the experience of walking.



*Photos supplied by Judy Bevilacqua*

A brochure was compiled of 16 labyrinth sites. The brochure is available on the LNN Resources page.

[http://www.labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org/resources/2012/120505\\_WLD2012\\_portland\\_tours.pdf](http://www.labyrinthnetworknorthwest.org/resources/2012/120505_WLD2012_portland_tours.pdf)



## WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

Port Townsend, WA

By Margaret D. McGee

On Saturday May 5, World Labyrinth Day, a volunteer group of labyrinth lovers presented a day of labyrinth events and tours in and around Port Townsend, Washington.



The day began at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in uptown Port Townsend, home of a courtyard labyrinth that is open to the public. Margaret D. McGee, labyrinth maker and author of *Sacred Attention*, spoke about the meditative practice of walking labyrinths, and the year-long process and over 100 volunteers that built



St. Paul's courtyard labyrinth. Johanna G. Perkins, who led the community volunteer effort that created the labyrinth at H.J. Carroll Park in Chimacum, WA, presented a labyrinth-building workshop.

The afternoon session was devoted to a tour of private and public labyrinths in the region, including Xanadu's *Sylvan Labyrinth*, on the former estate of the late Frank Herbert, author of *Dune*.



Donations that were received at this benefit event will help pay for a bench for the labyrinth at H.J. Carroll Park.

*Photos supplied by Margaret McGee & Johanna Perkins*



## **TRIANGLE T TEXAS CANYON HARMONY LABYRINTH – REVISITED**

*By Christiana Brinton*

I drove to Dallas, TX this winter in late January, just before the first big snow in the Portland, OR area. I took my dog, Lucky, and stopped in Dragoon, AZ where I'd installed a quartzite rock labyrinth four years before. Linda Kelly, the owner of the [Triangle T Guest Ranch](#) where the labyrinth is located, had emailed me that it was looking a bit worse for wear and needed some TLC by someone who knew what they were doing, or, at least, more than anyone else did on the ranch.

I'd planned on stopping anyway, but was glad that I could revisit this very sacred place, say hi to old friends, and be of service in a labyrinth way. Dragoon, AZ is about an hour east of Tucson on I10 heading towards New Mexico. I10 goes right through Texas Canyon, and, if you've ever driven that route, you would remember this part well. From Tucson you come to a rise, Benson spreads out into the valley to the south with the Whetstone MTs to the right. You drive down into the valley briefly, then you start to climb and climb. At the top of the final rise you enter Texas Canyon where you are surrounded by huge boulders fancifully arranged as though giants were playing marbles with them. The only exit is the one to Dragoon.



The Triangle T has about 140 acres that span both sides of I10 and the entrance is about ½ mile from the I10 exit. The guest ranch is surrounded by the Little Dragoon MTs that extend southward to the Dragoon MTs in the distance. So lots of rocks, but there is no place like Texas Canyon. It's been a favorite location

spot for numerous westerns and TV shows and it was sacred to the



Chiricauhua Apaches and the ancient HoHoKum tribes. There are pictographs, mineral deposits and natural stone formations that take your breath away; leviathans, tors, yonni shapes, and a mini-Stone Henge natural amphitheater of flat rock with large upright tors that is ideal for sunrise and sunset meditation sojourns. It is high desert and the night sky is spectacular, the Milky Way brilliant. Indeed, there is an observatory in the vicinity.

I had plenty of time to reacquaint myself with these dear places as I walked Lucky up and down the horse trails that bisect the ranch property. There is a sense of waiting among these stone protector beings, much like the Saguaro in the low desert are said to be the Anastazi, these huge boulders feel as if they are holding space in a place that was once filled with waterfalls and verdant growth.



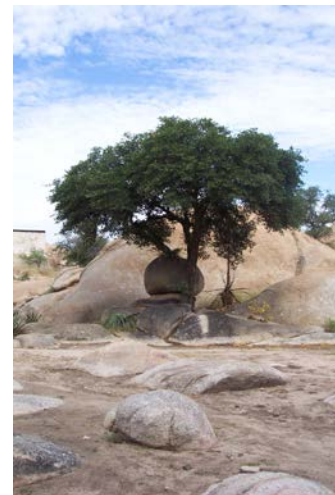
The labyrinth did need work, but all the rocks that I'd gathered were there so it was just a matter of repositioning them. The design is not quite what it was four years ago, not as pure a rendition of the Man-In-the-Maze design that I first placed there, but it felt right the way I did it.



Lucky loved lying amongst the stones, his coat blending in so well it's hard to pick him out in the photo. I love this labyrinth for so many reasons; how it sits perfectly nestled in amongst the huge boulders next to the dining hall, how one has to hug the rocks as one walks, how

the energy has shifted on the ranch (lots of ghosts reside there) since the labyrinth was installed, and how, when I hiked the land and asked for help, rocks rolled down the hillsides to my feet.

If you go, plan on staying at the Triangle T for a few days, they have charming rooms and Linda cooks a mean cowboy breakfast. She can take you on a guided horseback ride to all the special



rock formations. Linda is very dedicated to preserving this special place and loves having the Harmony labyrinth there nestled among the rocks and cabanas. And I always have a reason for going back.



## STUDIO LABYRINTH WALK IN MAY

*by Marlise Strobe*



On Sunday May 27, LNN members, Marlise and Dave hosted a labyrinth walk at their private studio in North Clark County Washington. The theme for the walk was honoring motherhood and the nurturing spirit in all of us.

Following the walk, a liturgy was held in the same space to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. It was a beautiful day and the rhodies on the grounds provided a welcome atmosphere for the 25 guests.

This private labyrinth is open by appointment only. Feel free to call Marlise or Dave at 360 686 3342 if you would like to walk the labyrinth.



## NEW LABYRINTHS IN THE PORTLAND AREA



**Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church/Tabor Space,** 5441 SE Belmont St, Portland dedicated their new permanent, outdoor, Classical labyrinth on June 2, 2012. It is grass with brick pavers for the lines. Designed by Stephen Shibley of

Fertile Grounds and built by the church and community volunteers, it is most easily accessed from the 54<sup>th</sup> St entrance into the backyard. It's 40 feet in diameter and always open to the public. This from Pastor Carley Friesen:

*“The Labyrinth at Mt. Tabor is the work of many hands and about 60 volunteer hours guided by the friends of the Community Built Association*

(<http://communitybuilt.org>), at their annual conference held here May 31 - June 2, 2012. Many thanks to Stephen Shibley of “Fertile Grounds,” for his design and leadership.



*It has been amazing to see people of all ages, experienced and novices walk the labyrinth. The beautiful design has so enhanced our back open space, and somehow, it seems to have centered it, given it purpose and meaning. We had a candlelight labyrinth walk on the summer solstice this year. For that we used the center diamond – created by Stephen for a focal object – for a candle. Next year a fire!”*



**Wilbur Neighborhood Piazza**, in the center of the intersection at N. Wilbur and N. Holman, Portland. Roman, Painted concrete. Part of a community art project done over Memorial Weekend 2012. Four trees are painted in each of the four directions extending out from the edges of the labyrinth with lots of other fanciful images all around it. Always open, but watch out for vehicular traffic!

**Shalom Prayer Center**, Queen of Angels Benedictine Monastery, Mt Angel, OR. Brick pavers and dirt. At the end of the building that houses the Shalom Prayer Center and Bookstore.



## NEW LABYRINTHS IN THE SEATTLE AREA

**Sylvan Sanctuary, Vashon Island, WA:** 38’, Classical Cretan “soft cross” grass lawn labyrinth created by Dan Niven (see LNN *Featured Artist* article)



below) using chalk-in-a-can then mowed. Private, owned by Sylvia Sohlt and dedicated June 23, 2012 during Vashon Island's Garden Tour event.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### LNN Summer Labyrinth Pilgrimage

On Thursday, August 23, 2012, LNN will host a labyrinth pilgrimage to 2 special labyrinth sites in the Columbia Gorge. In the morning we will visit the Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles. In the afternoon, we will proceed to the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge and visit the Quinn Mountain Retreat labyrinth.



The labyrinth walk in The Dalles will begin at 9:30 a.m. Joyce from the Medical Center will make a presentation about the history and building of this labyrinth. Folks who are carpooling to drive to The Dalles will meet at an area near Troutdale OR around 8:00 a.m. (yet to be decided).



We will bring sack lunches and around 11:30 a.m. will drive to the Washington side of the Gorge to enjoy the grounds and gardens at Quinn Mountain Retreat center in Skamania County. We will enjoy that space from 12:30 to around 3:00.

We will have more specific information posted on the LNN web page in July.

## LNN 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, LNN will be hosting a 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration from 1:30 to 4:30 at the Fireside Room in Westminster Presbyterian Church in NE Portland. The very first LNN planning meeting was held at this same space. Westminster has been very gracious to provide us this space for this celebration.

We will have a potluck meal of appetizers and desserts. The celebration Program will include time to honor all LNN Planning Circle members, past and present. We will hear reports from LNN members who attend the TLS annual gathering in October of 2012. We will also have a labyrinth walk space set-up and room for some labyrinth dances.

Check the LNN web page this fall for more details about this event.

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**TLS 2012 Gathering:** The 14th Annual TLS Conference Gathering, October 12-14, 2012, in Hudson, WI, will center on the theme "Timeless Flow ~ Reflections and Currents in the Labyrinth," and will explore the use of labyrinths throughout history, from the earliest known origins to contemporary applications. Keynote speakers include labyrinth historian, Jeff Saward of [Labyrinthos](#); The Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress of [Veriditas](#), and The Reverend Dr. Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion of [Faith, Hope and Love Global Ministries](#).

LNN member Stephen Shibley is currently serving on the TLS Board of Directors as Gathering Liason and has been working on planning for this event in Wisconsin. Two other LNN members have been nominated to serve on the TLS Board. Christiana Brinton has been nominated to serve as Chair of the TLS Nominating Committee, and Kay Kinneavy has been nominated to serve as the Chair of the Special Projects Committee.

All TLS members are eligible to vote. If you are unable to attend the election in person, please submit your ballot by mail."





## LNN FEATURED LABYRINTH ARTIST LABYRINTH “ARRANGER”, DAN NIVEN

Christiana conducted an over-the-phone interview with Dan for this newsletter recently and here’s what they talked about.



About ten and a half years ago Dan Niven, from Lynwood, WA, walked the canvas labyrinth in St Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle, WA. He’d just gotten engaged and his fiancé, Elizabeth, was recovering from surgery when they decided to stop one night and walk the labyrinth together. Dan relates that she got stuck behind a person moving very slowly which made her increasingly resentful and impatient because she’s a very high energy person, so she didn’t get what it was about. Elizabeth got to the center and had an AHA moment – *Patience*, she was counseled. Her walk out was a much difference experience. Dan met her at the exit and she looked shaken up and that’s when they both realized there was something to this.

Since both Dan and his wife have backgrounds in education they started reading everything they could find about labyrinths. Dan works in a Montessori environment and he was given carte blanche to incorporate the subject of labyrinths into his classroom work. Over the course of the next few years Dan created many different temporary labyrinths for his pupils, one of which was a ribbon installation as a 7 circuit color wheel labyrinth. At some point Dan realized that the children were teaching him just as much as he was teaching them. At one point his pupils created a game using the labyrinth and many times Dan saw that the children’s energetic joy when walking inspired their parents to run and laugh on the labyrinth too.



Out of these first portable labyrinth attempts came Dan’s idea for portable rope labyrinth kits; the first one created for a school picnic with little prep time.



Portland's Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Labyrinth Guild purchased one of Dan's kits in time for the 2011 Northwest Regional Labyrinth Gathering and the Guild intends to set it up every summer for their regularly scheduled third-Monday-of-the-month labyrinth walk as soon as the rains stop.



Once the word spread about Dan's labyrinth designing abilities, he was hired to build permanent labyrinths for churches and private residences around the Seattle area. The labyrinth at left is located at the McMurray Middle School, Vashon Is, WA and the one down below is at the Church of

the Good Sheppard, Federal Way, WA.

Dan is an accomplished singer, musician and thespian who thinks of himself as more of a labyrinth "arranger" than builder or designer. He is Veriditas trained, a trombonist, performs in at least three musicals or plays in the Seattle area every year, and has toured the world singing with



the Total Experience Gospel Choir for over five years. He created a monologue, *View From the Tent: Thoughts From A Homeless Man*, from a book compiled by M. Barrette Miller which has played at numerous venues all over the Pacific Northwest for the past three and a half years.

Dan shared that, during a Christian rave, his temporary luminaria labyrinth was used by a young woman to take a walk inward. It was a simple Cretan design and yet it took her an hour to walk to the center. He says that he hasn't had an AHA moment like his wife's or that woman's, but he loves arranging labyrinths so others can. It's the collaborative feature found in the theatre, musical ensembles and labyrinth building that fuels Dan's passion. He states that,

*"I'm a very messy ADD guy, but my music and labyrinth work grounds and centers me. To me, arranging labyrinths is the same as performing in a way; both build bridges; shrinking the world and bringing people together. It's less important what you choose than choosing and committing. My Feng Shui is very practical. I always ask my clients, "What is the population, and what do you want in the center?" I ask left brain questions so people can walk with their right brains."*

See the [LIST](#) of Dan's upcoming musical events and check out his [WEBSITE](#) to see photos of some of his temporary and permanent labyrinth installations and for more information about labyrinth events in the Seattle area visit [WWLN's website](#).



## LABYRINTH BOOK REVIEWS

As time for summer reading and travels kick in there are two books you may want to draw on for inspiration and direction if you include labyrinth visits in your vacation itinerary. The first, published in 2010 is "Labyrinths of British Columbia; A guide for your Journey" by Aryana Rayne and the second, just released in April of this year, "Girls Don't Ride Motorbikes; A Spiritual Adventure into Life's Labyrinth" by Dorit Brauer.



Aryana Rayne is well known in the labyrinth community. She is a labyrinth educator, special events presenter, owner of the Bralorne Bed & Breakfast in Bralorne, BC and coordinator of the Victoria Community Labyrinth Society, the supporter of Linda's Labyrinth, the world's first equal-access labyrinth for people of all abilities.

Her book is a comprehensive guide to labyrinths all over British Columbia, so for those of you headed that way, this should definitely be in your car's glovebox. Following an introductory chapter introducing the reader to some history, mythology and ways to approach labyrinths, she moves on to a listing of labyrinths by geographical location which includes contact information, availability, how and of what they are made, the design and other pertinent information about the setting or communities that created them. There are 97 listed that span the length and breadth of BC so you're sure to find more than a few on your travels.

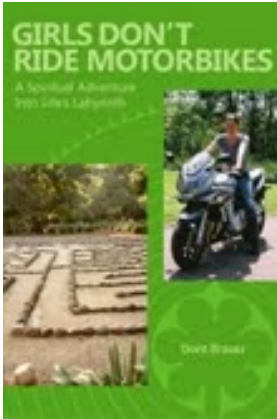
Part Three includes a selection of activities, events and artists. You can learn how to draw a labyrinth, use finger labyrinths, and find an event that celebrates the Solstice. A final listing introduces the reader to artists,



designers, workshop leaders, and facilitators in the BC area who use labyrinths in a wide variety of ways to explore a multitude of spiritual paths. For ordering or more information on the book visit Aryana's website.

<http://www.storycirclebookreviews.org/reviews/labyrinths.shtml>

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Dorit Brauer, staring down the barrel of her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, did what any sensible woman would do; hop on a motorcycle and brave almost 7500 miles of hideous weather, seek deep insight at retreat centers, probe the emotional minefields of her youth, and find spiritual enlightenment at the center of labyrinths all across the US. That is if that sensible woman was made of the same determined, strong and unwavering spiritual and emotional courage as herself. Personally on my 40<sup>th</sup> I think I pulled the covers up and went back to sleep.

Brauer is a Renaissance woman; artist, healer, writer and workshop facilitator and probably a mechanic as well. She has an enviable ease with her spirit-body connection, a sensitivity to Earth energies and a fierce determination to engage the difficulties of life for the joy of transcending them. As she puts miles behind her on the road, she muses on her girlhood on a farm in Germany, the death of a young friend that inspired her questioning the after-life, escaping her parents' vision of what should be 'her good life' to marry a nice man and have children, her life in Tel Aviv as a German among Jews during Desert Storm and the spiritual paths she has subsequently walked.

The occasional stops for gas, food and hobnobbing with baffled locals act as touch-down points along an otherwise ethereal landscape. Every storm, cast of shadow or random event becomes a metaphor for the life she is materializing into being from the past. The extended metaphor of life's journey along the highways of life wrap neatly into the labyrinthine spiritual experiences she finds, passing through frontiers of many makings. Serendipitous events abound reinforcing the theme of making manifest the life you desire and boldly engaging the necessary changes to fully embrace the responsibility and joy of a life well-lived.

Labyrinth enthusiasts will find mention of familiar names and places. Personally, I envy her fearless willingness and adept ability to enter into visionary altered states that act as cosmic signboards along her Road of Life. Walking naked through Toby Evan's Prairie Labyrinth is now on my bucket list. I only hope it is half as rewarding as Dorit's.

Brauer is an inspiration to shake off spirit-numbing habits and throw oneself into the stuff of life. As she quotes a friend, 'our heads are round so we can change direction.' Indeed, the circles, cycles and spirals of motion in her book propel us through a journey that is as fresh as summer breeze. One is encouraged to stick your head out the window like a puppy to lap up the joy. Or, better yet, get on a bike.

Dorit Brauer's book, [Girls Don't Ride Motorcycles](#) is available on Amazon or on Dorit's website. Click on the link to [order the book](#).