

BlogTalkRadio's, *Labyrinths In the News,*
with host, Christiana



This is my own program that grew out of my participation as the media person for the 2009 The Labyrinth Society (TLS) Gathering. I was frustrated by the lack of interest in the event from the local media and wanted to increase exposure through the fastest, most technologically advanced way possible and this seemed to fit the bill. It was an easy sell to persuade the main presenters to be my guests before the Gathering, and then I decided to continue the service to include any “labyrinth luminaries” who wished to use the 45 minute slot as a great way to advertise themselves and their labyrinth work. This is my way of being of service to the labyrinth community and I’m having such a good time doing it!

Here’s what BTR says about itself, “Launched in August 2006, BlogTalkRadio (www.blogtalkradio.com) is a free, Internet-based radio network that allows any user with a phone and computer to host a live, interactive radio show – no downloads or extra equipment needed. Each show can accommodate an unlimited number of live listeners. Upon completion of each broadcast, it is automatically archived “on demand” as a podcast. Since BTR’s launch, thousands of hosts have broadcast more than 100,000 episodes of its 3,000+ shows. Notable guests have included Brad Pitt, Robert Duval, Yoko Ono, Barack Obama, John McCain, Oliver Stone, Dennis Miller and Evander Holyfield.”

You will find, *Labyrinths In the News*, in the **LIFE** category on BTR. Each episode is 45 minutes and consists of me interviewing various “labyrinth luminaries” every Monday afternoon at 3:30pm pdt (unless otherwise stated). It is my intention to provide labyrinth neophytes and veterans access to guests who offer a depth of information and personal experience not available through other sources and to offer a forum for discussion and sharing of new information on the topic of “all things labyrinthine.” Currently, I have this information on my own website, www.turningtide-energetics.com,

with links to my Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as on the Labyrinth Network Northwest (LNN) website, and on TLS's Facebook page too.

At the present time, I am not paid for this service. I have only a basic membership which allows me access to the BTR site and its tools, but does not allow me to tap into the fee based revenue sharing of the premium package they offer – perhaps in the future. The presenters do not get paid either, but they can use their episode as a marketing tool. They can invite their community to call in and join the discussion live on the date of their guest appearance, they can download the archived episode and put it permanently on their own website, and, for 90 days afterward, they can direct friends, established and prospective clients, and any others interested in their work, to the website where they can listen to the archived show. Prior to the show they can also send me a list of email addresses and I can email these a link that will remind them of the upcoming show. Also, my guests don't pay to participate as such, but they must use their own phone line to make the initial call which establishes the live audio connection and which sometimes is a long distance phone charge. I am contemplating establishing a free long distance phone number for guests who are outside the contiguous US which BTR offers for a monthly fee. I'll probably have this available by May 2010.

When possible, I try to accommodate my guests and will sometimes change the air time to suit a guest's own schedule. Once I've contacted someone and they've agreed to be my guest, we set up a date and then I email them a BTR Guest Information sheet I created with all the pertinent information on it they will need to effectively promote this event themselves and prepare for the show. I also ask them to give me access to whatever information they have that will help me to be an effective host and promoter of their labyrinth work. Then, the Friday preceding the show, I send them a basic script that I've created using whatever information they've given me with the stipulation that I have their permission to deviate from this script if I think something they've said needs clarification or further exploration. This keeps the show fresh and lively and so far it's worked well.

My lead in music is the first cut off of Susan Alexander's cd, Sequencia, called Eikos which is short for Icosohedron, the water symbol in sacred geometry. Sequencia is music using tones recorded from DNA vibrations. Susan recorded these tones in 1988 with the help of Dr. David Deamer, at that time, a cell biologist at the Davis Campus of the University of California. I know Susan from many years ago, she knows Lauren Artress well, and Susan gave me permission to use anything on her cd for my show.

At the moment, I am attempting to learn the editing process so I can edit the uneven sound quality and empty pieces off of some of the episodes. Once I've edited them all I plan on making a cd of one year of these episodes which I hope to have available in time for this year's TLS Gathering in November. It would be a nice product to offer for the TLS Auction and it would allow people who are not so computer savvy to enjoy these informative, interesting interviews at their leisure. It will make a great cd for a road trip! Also, during the TLS Gathering this fall, I plan on setting up my laptop on site with headphones and the screen open to my BTR guest folder so people can sit and listen to any episode they want to during a free moment at the Gathering.

This experience has been such an eye opener for me. Even with over twelve years of labyrinth work and play under my belt, I am always astounded by the creative ways people are using labyrinths; designing new forms, incorporating the designs into all kinds of visual, experiential, and landscape art, and blending the form with dance and theatrical productions. And I am humbled by the continuous thread that weaves its way through all labyrinth endeavors; the shift in self awareness that occurs sometimes immediately, sometimes over time, and the subsequent desire to bless others with this same gift. I am always looking for new guests – I tell all who have embraced this archetypal tool that they are welcome on my show – and I look forward to continuing as I search for ways to increase my show's professionalism, market share, and pizzazz!

About the Author:

Christiana is a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator, dowser, and energy weaver, and an active member of The Labyrinth Society working on publicity for the 2010 International Labyrinth Gathering. Christiana is also a member of the LNN Planning Circle and chair of the LNN Membership Committee.