

Dear Subscriber,

06/03/2013

Test Sent 04.29.13 LT

Welcome to the month of May...

On our daily journey, today marks the 121st day of the story of 2013. For many it has brought forth great transitions and for many greater purpose. We are in the process of change and may we be transformed by the conscious steps we take. We have individual paths, though collectively we are reminded that we are not alone and as long as we are moving we can feel the presence of each other in this walk of life.



Presence

To truly feel each other and show up as the thriving importance we each are in the world, a suggestion to consider our 31 days of May...what it is to be present?

What characteristics will let us know we are indeed present and migrating mindful transition from the beginning of May to its end. From the celebration of May Day in its newness, the honoring of Mothers, to

the day of memorializing at the end of the month, it is much like the cycle of life, what better focus to have this month than on ourselves, our presence in the world and the contributions we make.

May we all find purposeful presence in this month. The image reflects the many colors and pieces that make up the whole of this labyrinth, not unlike how we all make up the world.

A Presence Around the World... *In step with May*

With presence this month, we may wish to walk in-step with some of the "special" days of May, fully present to ourselves, others and the world. We offer just a few highlights of the most common festivals and observances world-wide, in the hope of sprouting "seeds" of possibility for walking more familiar labyrinths, exploring "new" labyrinth experiences or remembering labyrinths you've honored this month. May we all be blessed in celebration, playfulness, solidarity and remembrance.

May Day *May 1*



May Day, related to the Celtic festival of Beltane, ushers in the month with merriment to take into our labyrinth walks! A brief look at the history and customs associated with this largely European festival just may inspire you to mark May Day as a special play date on your labyrinth calendar.

The earliest May Day celebrations of spring have been traced to the festival of Floralia, named for Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers, fertility and spring and Beltane, a festival of fertility, fire and the beginning of the summer season. As such, medieval festivities that went on for days included exuberant and colorful displays that matched the excitement and passion surrounding a season marked by new life in all of nature.

Modern day celebrations, though less lavish, carry-over a number of those seen in earlier times in England and Ireland. A few of the playful rituals that pay tribute to this springtime season of rebirth and renewal include dancing and singing around a maypole or bonfire, gathering flowers to make garlands, posies or crowns, decorating homes with branches and flowers, and crowning a May Day Queen.

We have only to recall the joyful repast of the TLS gathering in Indiana as the pumpkin labyrinth was brought to life with the whimsical Maypole and not a soul missed a beat in the dance of spirit that connected us all.

This MayPole Labyrinth was created by Cordelia Rose at the Whitewater Mesa Labyrinth in New Mexico

World Labyrinth Day *May 4*

The idea for World Labyrinth Day was initiated years ago, though fell away over time. In 2009 Dr. Stephanie Blackton was inspired to create a focus of a day to celebrate labyrinths and looked forward to resurrecting the idea. Like many involved with the Labyrinth Society, she knew she had a ready audience and formed a team of interested individuals who would collaborate on the ways and means to accomplish the task.



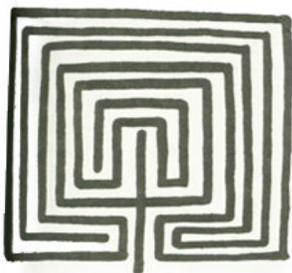
Over a period of time a consensus was formed on what to call the day and what it might represent. From an insiders point of view, Lynda was on that committee and contributed the concept of walking the world at one as one. It's an idea that took root, found consensus and is still used on the fifth anniversary. At one pm no matter where you are in the world, walk the world with other like minded souls and you will find the synergy with other enthusiasts and create awareness of labyrinths as a result.

In 2009 Labyrinths were installed on the National Mall in Washington DC on the first Saturday in May and it helped to form the first World Labyrinth Day. Carol House has taken over the annual commitment and is getting the word inspiring the idea to grow and develop over the years. Even if you don't have an opportunity to walk with others, the Labyrinth Society offers a downloadable image to print out and finger walk at one pm, so everyone can join in.

The image was created in 2009 by Lynda who offers it to any who wish

to use it in promotion of World Labyrinth Day.

Mother's Day *May 12*



Mother's Day, celebrated annually in the United States on the second Sunday of May, is a day to honor and celebrate mothers, motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is through the efforts of one woman, Anna Jarvis, that Mother's Day, gained recognition as a national American holiday in 1914. It was because of her efforts that many countries later adopted similar observances throughout the calendar year.

It is interesting and unfortunate that by the start of 1920, the holiday had become so highly commercialized, overshadowing Anna's original intent, that she spent the following years of her life working against what she called this commercialization, or "Hallmark" holiday, much as we know it today.

As we prepare ourselves to walk this year, perhaps we could try honoring our own mothers in the true spirit of the day for which was first intended. Might we suggest walking on a labyrinth that pays tribute to the special relationship between mother and child?

In the Native American tradition, the Hopi Indians of northern Arizona offer us a symbol of Emergence or birth and creation that seems well-suited for our Mother's Day walk. Let's make this holiday a little less "Hallmark" and a little more Hopi!

We offer a Native American labyrinth from the Hopi Indians of northern Arizona, - "...a symbol of Emergence, or birth and creation, and is known as Mother Earth. It appears in two forms, the first, Tapu'at, meaning Mother and Child, whose squared pathway lines simultaneously suggest the baby curled in the womb and the newborn infant cradled in loving arms. The straight line at the entrance/exit to the labyrinth represents both the umbilical cord and the birth canal." Sand, H. *The Healing Labyrinth*. New York. Gaia Books Ltd. 2001.

Memorial Day *May 27*



Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is an American holiday that originated in the years following the Civil War to honor all those who died while serving the country in war. In time, it came to honor all those who died in service to the United States armed forces in any war or military action.

Originally designated as a day of solemn remembrance and appreciation for those who died while serving their country, by the early twentieth century, it became customary for people to visit and "decorate" graves to honor all deceased loved ones, whether or not they had served in the military. Starting in 1971, following the passage of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Memorial Day was one of several national observances to be designated as a three-day federal holiday.

Many believe that the Holiday Act gradually led to a shift in focus from one of remembrance to one of celebration of the start of summer. In an effort to recapture the original intent of Memorial Day, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance resolution that calls for Americans to observe a moment of silence at 3 p.m. local time.



Maybe this year we can walk in solidarity at 3 p.m., in solemn remembrance.

The months and the seasons all present endless possibilities for experiencing the labyrinth in new and different ways...to play, celebrate, mourn, or remember. We wish you peace, joy, and blessings as you journey on the labyrinth, each and every one of your May days

Personal Presence...

This month of presence we thought to be present ourselves and share the story of ourselves and our labyrinth journey as we have about others. Consider your own great beginnings, where it has led and what inspires you for the future and feel free to share it with us. We think each story is a wonderful chapter penned in the Book of Labyrinths of the cosmos.



My journey began with a glimpse. I was on staff at our leadership experience with Women on a 17,000 acre ranch and in one of our excursions, I could see a curious image design in the ground off in the distance, I felt something tingle and wanted to explore taking the group along though time and task prevented it. I questioned Ranch personnel and those in charge about it later, no one seemed to have any answers as to what design I was talking about. I remained curious, though with no time to explore and heading back home soon, the feeling of it assimilated into all of the grand adventures of the leadership experience. When I returned to the ranch in the fall, 800 leadership individuals were introduced to the labyrinth amidst the twilight, candles, drums and synergy that only this mass of leadership graduates from all over the world could muster. It was an incredible satisfying opening experience for me and one I decided to take my time in exploring afterwards.

I know that the best of learning can come in gradual steps absorbing information more concretely than the large leap I took, so find it a curious beginning. From a quiet peek to a large mass exposure, I found myself taking more large leaps flying across the country and continent sometimes to experience those in the know...until I did know. Often times it was traveling on the path I was already on, so it was not like I dropped what I was doing, rather it became a part of what I was already involved in and the teachers appeared to enhance the experience. I take the steps as a process to enjoy the patterns, metaphors and designs that are reflective of my presence in the world and daily affirmation.

How I show up in the world is in knowing that the big leaps are a great opening and a style of which I can make great change happen and it is the small steps that keep me grounded in the change, which allow me to see more clearly my path. I coordinate the Heartland Labyrinth Circle for those in the Midwest Illinois region, coach with it professionally and include it in many of the workshops and retreats I offer. I've also had a wonderful pilgrimage in my larger backyard of Illinois, exploring, photographing and writing about the Labyrinths and their purposes here...what a journey! Artistically many of the labyrinths you find in the blog are designs I created.



Mostly, it is a simple and enjoyable walk of daily presence on the labyrinths in my yard or a finger walk among the variety of designs collected over the years. It has been a joyful exploration in sharing with like minded souls such as yourself and I look forward to the next steps ahead.

Lynda

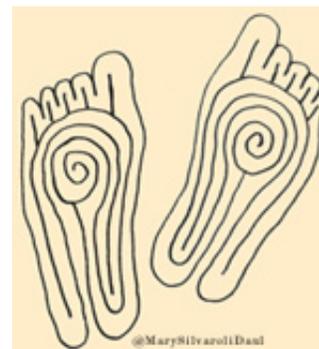


PRESENCE...a powerful presence and awareness...of Spirit, labyrinth, place, and people, has everything to do with the start of my labyrinth journey, a journey that began so very close to home 10 years ago.

I had been living just a few short blocks from Wisdom Ways Spiritual Retreat Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, home to a well-traveled and well-loved labyrinth. It would take several years before I understood its significance, but after my first workshop and walk, it became clear that it was - and is - fertile ground for learning, living and loving the labyrinth.

As the Buddhist Proverb goes - *when the student is ready, the teacher will appear!* When I was ready, my teachers did appear - with Wisdom Ways and Lisa Gidlow Moriarty most important in guiding my way. Through Lisa and others, I have completed labyrinth facilitator training, created felted, beaded and clay finger labyrinths, painted a personal canvas labyrinth and created labyrinth stepping stones for my garden.

Four years ago, Lisa's Dancing Woman Labyrinth© (www.pathsofpeace.com) was carefully chosen and planted in my garden, starting me on a much wider and purposeful path. I started formally sharing the labyrinth by combining it with my life coach programs for women and hosting special walks for friends and family. Over the past year I added a second garden labyrinth, a mini classical, and created my footprint finger labyrinths that I share with you today.



Looking back, it is clear that my first walk left an impression on my soul and my soles that fueled and empowered my steps on the path. I have no doubt that each small step has had a plan and a purpose, taking me places I never imagined I would go. Most of all, I now see myself walking each day, not only *on* the labyrinth, but very much *with* the labyrinth, leaving beautiful footprints everywhere I go. So happy and grateful to be sharing the journey with you...

Mary

Of note is the fact that change happens as the Wisdom Ways Spiritual Retreat Center at Carondolet is no longer in existence. What I can say however that it left a footprint on my heart to take into the world.

Blogs, Logs and Prose of the Labyrinth



As we become comfortable with the steps we take in sharing the news and being of service in our roles in the 365 Club, the stories are unfolding in our blog daily. You have been reading stories and reflections and we are happy that comments are coming in to ask questions, share a thought or simply say hello. We both encourage any who would like to share a story or picture, to simply email it along and we will include it as a blog entry. Title your thoughts and make sure your name is attached as this will be a great beginning to begin including thoughts of all our members

as we have been hearing some keen interest. Write us and send pictures, thoughts and your great ideas via email to Lynda and Mary

365Club@labyrinthsociety.org

Upcoming Events...

The TLS Auction Continues

It's an online venue where donations, bids, and auction items may include unique products and experiences, entertainment tickets, gift cards, wine, gourmet products, trips, hotels, retreats, art, collectibles, home decor, garden, books, jewelry, and of course, labyrinth items. There's also a new "gently used" category this year.

Go to labyrinthsociety.org and click on the auction site on the left column. If you need any help with your donation, please contact Jodi Lorimer at Jlorimer@easystreet.net or Sarah Nash at nashlee@gmail.com

May your presence be lifted in the merriment we create together in May,



365Club@labyrinthsociety.org

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