

Dear Subscriber,

12/02/2013

Welcome October



In the Northern Hemisphere, we celebrate the autumn crispness that begins with the cooler temperatures that cause the leaves to change color and loosen their connection to the trees they sprang from. It is a time where one half of the world begins the preparation for the colder winter ahead and basks in the harvest of the past nine months. So named for the number eight in the Roman calendar as "Octo", it retains its name even after the insertion of the months of January and February which make up the twelve months of the Gregorian calendar.

October is more familiarly known for the permanent holidays such as Columbus Day, United Nations Day and Halloween in the U.S., as well as Thanksgiving Day in Canada. Though outside our hemisphere it is the month of many National Days in the world as well.

The Labyrinth by the Sea photo credits to planet astrology

October Focus

Return is the focus for October. It is when we bring our thoughts to the change of seasons. As the summer comes to a close in September and fall begins to emerge, we are reminded of the feeling of harvest when the stores for winter will be refueled. We are reminded of our youth in going back to school and we recall the feeling of rededicating that is a bit different than our spring time of new growth, as it is more a reflection stimulated. Our Gathering has come and gone and in its wake we have the reminders in the body of what was repurposed, rededicated in the mind and as being reconnected by the heart.



Return again to what is important and what matters. Let the return of your daily walk reflect the change in you and what you see differently. *Photo credit to Debbie Wilkinsin*

Notes from the Gathering



As always, the gathering is rich and resplendent in the variety of individuals it brings together as the array of topics and opportunities to grow into the knowing of the labyrinth. It proves how rich and diverse a group we are and how vital it is to take a moment in the year to reconnect. Among the many changes that we evolve with each year, there is a note of consistency in the purpose and flow. The staples such as the Annual Meeting, Auctions and new elements such as Rick Scott's Labyrinth Song added to the ways we might measure, change or build our memories upon.

Tucked away on the secret island of Vancouver the



Tigh Na Mara resort held a vast setting for participants to preconference and gather with a rich variety in touring the labyrinths to instilling new ideas in workshops. The conference itself felt as if it was over before it began with the rich wisdom that rolled from one event to the next. The expressions of Carol Matthews awakened and invited us to take ourselves beyond what we define in our sight and to look for the blessing of what the maze in the labyrinth might be all about. It was rich in the way it invited us to realize beyond our familiar and comfortable is a way to realize the depth in our living.



There is much to take away and much to contribute to every gathering, in all it asks that you be present to do both and when you are, what gifts are available.

Jean Shinoda Bolen mesmerized with a two hour conveyance of rich metaphor and examination of our evolution with notes on the compelling way we are evolving to the circle. From the familiar patriarchal structure of hierarchy she suggest some poignant ideas that arose curiosity in our understanding of what we know to what is natural and more of our innate and true wisdom.

What was new was the Welcome Reception and the Ceremony of Rememberance and Life. Ushering in a way to greet everyone that arrived at registration time and a powerful opportunity to reflect on those who have made a difference to us in the spirit of how the labyrinth has meaning for our life. A ceremony with ritual held special meaning for those touched by Carol House and Judi Hopen.

There was a tremendous take away from being a part of the gathering and as the remainder of the year unfolds, more insight and connection will trickle out in our news.



*About 30 Labyrinths were designed by school children on the beach of the Public Park
Photos in this section credit Jerry Etzkorn, Mary Silvaroli Daul and Lynda Turloukis*

The 365 Club Reception

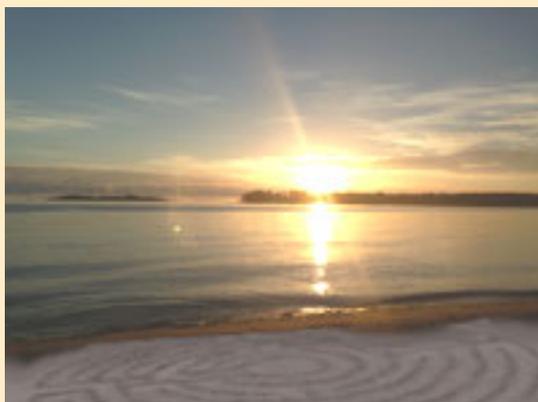
We were glad to have shared time with members at the Annual Gathering. So often we are caught up in the online world that being able to meet and greet in the flesh takes on a special meaning and puts a personality to a name in a way that we walk away remembering. It puts people on the other end of the spectrum and as much for you as for us, reminds us of the nature and character of those who walk everyday like ourselves. It is a blessing to be able to make the connection and build the rapport that will help us



in our quest to make this more user friendly, inviting and interactive. We loved meeting you all and look forward to hearing more of your stories in the future.

Pictured are members during the reception's walk with Mary, photo credits Mary and Lynda.

Mary led the way for the reception and greeting of the members who curiously came to greet each other and support the concept of the 365 Club. Three ferries later Lynda arrived and because neither of us have had the fortune of meeting physically it was a delight in many ways to finally connect the minds that have collaborated on this idea for the past two years.



Those who took part in the morning walks, were rewarded in their commitment by the beauty that is Vancouver Island. The beach labyrinth provided the walk and the Earth provided the ambience as the sunrise of the morning mixed with the crisp breeze and the sounds of the waves lapping upon the shores taking one into the oneness of the moment. It was to invigorate the soul and rededicate the commitment to find the steps in every day that are the purpose and the passion of what we do.

Questions of our Membership...

We thank our members for the responses from last month and urge you all to help us help. In our focus of finding purpose we again ask a question of members to simply click and reply to.

September Question:

What is helpful about our communications with you monthly?

School Labyrinths



With the idea of return as a focus for the month, the idea of going back to school tends to sit with many who were brought up in the September to May school year. Our minds may grow on, retire or move away from the school year, however our bodies know the season instinctively. Somehow a little bit of excitement comes in the fall when we begin anew with ideas and projects as if we were beginning a new year.



This labyrinth located at the Dr. McRae School in Ft. Worth, TX displays an artistic design that is clearly different in design. It is part of an outreach program called *Real School Gardens*, where children learn in experiential settings. This organization builds learning environments in low income communities improving student engagement and academic achievement. It is an imitative that trains the teachers how to use the garden and invites the families and community to be a part. Their claim to increase test scores by 15% is impressive. [Read more about this organization](#) and perhaps partner a project for your community with a labyrinth design in mind. This labyrinth was designed in 2004.

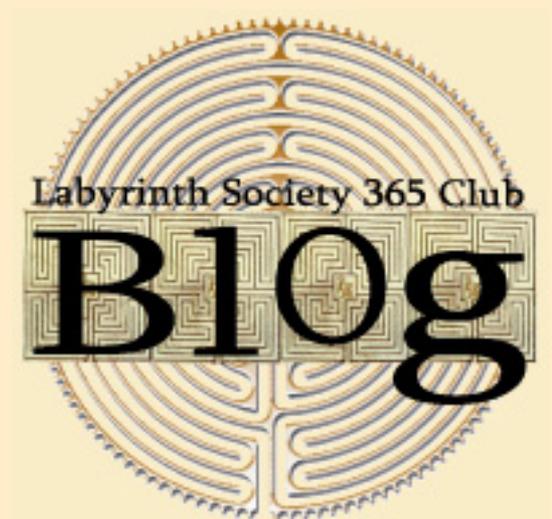
[Gael D. Hancock](#) wrote of 108 ways to use a labyrinth in the school setting and it spans across many curriculums and age levels, what a great way to introduce and initiate youth into this movement of learning and understanding that we are all so drawn to. Reasoned reflections for labyrinths in schools can be found by [Lisa Gidlow Moriarty](#) and the [Labyrinth Resource Group](#) of Santa Fe provides a listing of support publications for children, and even more information can be found on the Labyrinth Society [website](#).

This demonstrates that a new generation is exploring the path and finding unique and interesting ways to navigate its various journeys. *Photo credits to the school's website*

Blog Update

Concentrating on the month's focus of *Return*, This is a wonderful time to walk in reflection or on purpose. It gives us pause to realize that wherever we have been in this wild and wooly year, we can always return to what is significant, important and of value in our lives. It has been a year of contradiction for many and in the process of turbulence, who do we become? Are we stronger, fearful, or more engaged? It is all a choice and often times we find ourselves in struggle at first, and if present, we remember and grow from the lessons that present themselves. Return to what is important and add to that the footsteps that have enriched as nothing else is as important.

Share your thoughts...and we grow. [Contact us](#) to be added as a contributing writer.



A Mission for 2014



Our great joy in finally meeting created great collaborative moments to enjoy and share many ideas that were a combination of many thoughts about where are next steps would take us. In the first two years we created a structure and an awareness emerging with a monthly newsletter and a blog for further development. In our next year we look at the idea of engagement to truly make ourselves more of a circle within the club so that we might all enjoy the ideas and gifts we each have to share.

Our first step is a mission to invite 365 stories from our membership in the 365 days of 2014. In hearing about you through feedback, survey, and collaborative blog sharing, we hope to truly create the idea of engagement so that your club becomes something of value.

Our second step is to take a look at our guidelines to review if they are truly fitting what seems to be an emerging needs as we look to retain value in what our club and group is all about. Look for more on both of these new missions as we move from this month into the year of 2014. *Photo credits originally by Dubai w/adjustments*

May your walk return you well,

Blessings to all we connected with, all we walked with and all who walk the path and may we all become the sum of all our experiences out loud.



With all Joy in returning,
Lynda Turloukis and Mary Silvaroli Daul

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