

Dear Subscriber,

12/03/2015

Welcome April



A new evolving month in a year that opens and dances with the season of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

Nature unfolds and invites us to take a walk in the great outdoors again and feel the great emergence that takes place in the world on the natural level.

Explore, expand and use this month in natural ways to invite the transitory landscape of life to unfold and inspire.

The month of April is known for National Humor Month and quite a blessing when we realize our annual tax day deadline falls mid month. It might be perceived as a humorous border balancing what might be a stressful path. As a result we can appreciate the simple effects of peace having walked the fine line of drama and bliss to its center and reflective in its completion.

The Lighter side of the Labyrinth

The flamingo labyrinth at the most recent fall gathering, the whimsical spinning dials that lined the path of a labyrinth a few seasons ago, and the trampoline labyrinth are all examples of using the designs in more lighthearted ways to elicit perhaps a way to take ourselves less seriously. I personally look for ways to do so as it can take away much of the angst of getting it all right and help us to understand that we fail so much more than we ever succeed. We are so programmed to succeed that we can miss the message about accepting our failures as important learning.



Creativity is engaged when thinking of new ways to offer a message that fits a particular group and while there are a great many ways to share the simplicity of the labyrinth experience, taking a lighter approach can often allow for more receptivity to a deeper comprehension. When individuals can realize that it is just a path, they can relax and engage with it in more meaningful ways, our imaginations are so vibrantly active. There is no loss of reverence for those who might think it so; instead it is invited through appreciation. Think of it as a highly respectful way to engage the sense of humor, which holds a significant intelligence when activated. Discover your own lighter side when you add a touch of whimsy to the design.

Images credits to Alamart.com for the Michaelangelo Pistoletto Le Labyrinth Design

Labyrinth in Education



We have evidence of labyrinths being used in art, design, creative thinking, stress management, conflict resolution, creative and introspective writing and to further meditation and prayer in the educational setting for children. However there are so many patterns and math principles seeded naturally into the labyrinth that it is a wonder that more are not using it to

promote mathematical comprehension, especially in geometry.

In my work with teenagers I found that the stereotype of girls disenfranchised with math as a subject to be largely true, however of those that were appreciative of the subject, there appreciation came from a largely mental focal point. When I could establish patterns and principles in the labyrinth, I found those that were not necessarily enthusiastic of the mathematical nature became more engaged and actually in some cases were able to explain things to those more mathematically apt in some interesting ways. This is by no means a study, only an observation in working with several groups. I offer this as perhaps it may engage others professionally to explore the concept of labyrinths as a teaching tool.

Image credits to labyrinthsinstone.com (the labyrinth at the Institute for Math and Science in Aurora, IL. In the center there are several mathematical principles)

Creative Labyrinthing

Last month Suzan Scott wrote to express blessings in her foresight years ago to have a labyrinth tattooed on her leg and now faced with the restricted movement that comes with hip replacement surgery it has given her the opportunity to finger walk with ease during her time of recovery.

What foresight have you had with the labyrinth?

I love this creativity Suzan, it is both brilliant and amusing! I appreciate your sharing Suzan.



Travels with the Labyrinth



Throughout the month of March I have been overseas. I had the opportunity to engage in congresses in France and Spain and via travel spent brief time in Istanbul, Portugal too.

While the group and the tour we developed did not allow for a lot of personal exploration, I found that I could walk daily using my own devices.

I typically carry a double finger labyrinth as its flat and light nature makes for easy travel. Though drawing labyrinths daily can be an exercise in creativity for the mind and using opportunities to teach others, which I did is another way to engage with the labyrinth on a daily basis.

While engaged with the Spanish congress we were situated at a retreat center for just over two weeks so I found materials to design with including pine cones in a picnic area, gravel designs and as the dining hall served an inordinate amount of pudding, I had fun teaching the English immersion students how to make labyrinths in pudding. A tasty and educational experience. I also found that the extra bars of soap on a mirror make for a daily walk when you awake or the steam from the shower can give ample opportunity to finger walk while waiting for the evaporation effect. I find there are opportunities everywhere, never think you can't.

Bonjour from the path



I am currently in France on this April Fool's Day enjoying a four day festival of dance and light hearted connection with the village of St. Jean du Gard. The internet connection is down so the sending of this will most likely be part of the April Fool's Day events...as it won't come out on the first. I am happy to share that while I am happily among friends, I am sharing a small workshop on the labyrinth and laughter with the community. We are using all kinds of materials to create something wonderful in this very beautiful and natural setting, where I find the villagers harmonize and accept nature as a part of the daily occurrences. I look forward to the rest of this heartfelt trip and to arrive

in the states again mid April. Until then, I wish you the lightness, creativity

and curiosity in change this month as we explore the marvel of this path in step together as one world.

With joy and blessings,
Lynda Turloukis
365 Club Chair
Labyrinth Society

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