FALL 2011 - VASHON ISLAND

Labyrinth Tour

Saturday, September 24, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SELF-GUIDED TOUR begins at
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS),
15420 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon Island, WA
Suggested Donation $10

Western Washington Labyrinth Network
www.WWLN.org

Visit or support our generous LABYRINTH TOUR SPONSORS:

Dance by...
Mendana Productions
and Visionary Dance Productions

Music by...
Alina Brown, Circle of Sound,
and Vashon Celtic Players

Giraffe, 9905 SW 174th St. Vashon, WA

www.laughingflowerlabyrinth.com

Net proceeds from this event will be donated to the:
INTERFAITH COUNCIL TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE EVENT VOLUNTEERS
WHO MADE THIS TOUR POSSIBLE.

Join us at 10:00 a.m. for an Intro to Labyrinths by Christine Hamby at CHS.

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**Featured Labyrinths**

1. **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; Circle of Sound**
   - Plays from 10am-12noon
   
   The labyrinth at CHS is a Chartres design, a replica of the beautiful paved labyrinth installed in Chartres Cathedral, France in 1201. The Chartres labyrinth is the oldest surviving medieval church labyrinth, and it is thought that during the middle ages the labyrinth was adopted and used extensively as a symbol for pilgrimage. This labyrinth is turf style, typical of the kind found in England, and is maintained by mowing. The labyrinth provides a place for meditation and celebration, and is a place where people from different backgrounds, faiths, traditions, and non-traditions can come together to share their common spiritual interest.

2. **MARY BELKnap**
   
   In 1966, Mary studied in France and had days of walking labyrinths of various sizes and styles, including the beautiful one at Chartres Cathedral. Three decades later, she lived in San Francisco, visited Grace Cathedral, and learned about the burgeoning labyrinth movement. When Mary moved to a woodsly parcel on Vashon and saw the hidden back meadow, her immediate joyful thought was, ‘It’s a perfect place for a labyrinth!’ The design she chose is a seven-circuit Classical, modified in oval shape like ancient temples in Wales. The dimensions are 40’ wide x 60’ long, oriented with south entrance that faces a tall sentinel spruce tree at the north end. Conceived as a path of silence within a wooded setting to nurture inner and outer peace, the labyrinth offers an intimate walking meditation on grass, either in shoes or barefoot.

3. **TIm HOLTSCHLAG; Alina Brown, harpist, plays from 11am-12noon**

Tim first discovered the labyrinth at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. An experienced labyrinth making friend provided Tim with the design; a round, seven-circuit Cretan style labyrinth. Tim built the labyrinth himself over a year’s time. He first laid it out in rope and then, as he worked on other projects, he collected rocks in his wheelbarrow. When it was full, he took them to the labyrinth and placed them along the rope. According to Tim, it was a satisfying process; once he completed the labyrinth, he found he missed the work of creating it. Since then friends have brought rocks from various significant places to add to the labyrinth. For Tim, it’s a place to relax and meditate, but it’s a place for fun as well. Children like to play on it. When people see it for the first time, they always comment on the power of the place, the energy.

4. **Edna & James Dam**

Five years ago, inspired by a talk by Betty Hawkins, Edna & James Dam started a labyrinth built of moss-covered logs. Located in a low, damp, slightly open area among tall cedars, big-leaf maples, large old alders, a hollow cedar snag, and several old-growth stumps, the site seems to provide an ideal medium for the growth of a variety of lush, bright mosses. They built the labyrinth using the classic seven-ring Cretan pattern. The idea was simple, though the execution took a few years and is ongoing. All materials were found on the Dam’s 10-acre property, and as storms bring down better specimens, Edna and James incorporate them into the labyrinth. The labyrinth is a celebration of moss, and it gives them a “destination” with which to encourage visitors to take a walk in the woods.

5. **BOB & CAROL SPANGER; Dancers from Visionary Dance**
   - Productions perform from 12-2pm

The Cretan labyrinth on Carol and Bob Spangler’s property was a product of the uprooting of a 50-foot red cedar. The tree had to be taken down after a fierce ice and wind storm. An enormous pile of wood chips sat idle until Betty Hawkins arrived for tea. What better use for all those chips than a graceful labyrinth? Carol says: “The week before we laid out the labyrinth, our beautiful grandson was born and our dear 32-year-old daughter-in-law was diagnosed with cancer. Labyrinth walking became a daily practice – it provided times of serenity and grounding.” Four years later, many come to walk the path. Children run it. Dogs, chickens, and deer wander through it. Visitors learn from it. This labyrinth represents beginnings, endings, change, and grace.

6. **David Pfeiffer & Daniel Klein; Dancers from Mendana**
   - Productions perform from 1-3pm

David & Daniel intentionally created a non traditional 4-circuit Cretan style turf labyrinth on their 15 acre property so that it would blend with the natural setting of meadow and surrounding towering cedars. They were intrigued with the concept of sacred geometry after a visit near Guadalajara, Mexico. The labyrinth represents a perfect geometrical archetype, the sphere. David & Daniel wanted to incorporate this sacred place on a flat sunny west-facing shelf in their meadow, for walking/sitting meditations. The labyrinth offers views of the Olympics and Colvos passage, and has a stone carved mystical guardian couple from East Timor, Indonesia who act as sentries, welcoming visitors. The labyrinth is located east of a 150 year old teak Indonesian Joglo pavilion; it is perched on the edge of a vast ravine with dramatic views to the west.

7. **Shirley Bonney & Doug Shaw**

This labyrinth was prepared to be part of the Vashon Allied Arts Garden Tour 2008. Shirley had seen stairs made out of wine bottles at the Vashon Garden Tour 2007 and loved the look of the bottoms of wine bottles being like a glass tile of sorts. She had no idea that creating a labyrinth that is quite large would require so many wine bottles. The original plan was to have all the paths made of wine bottles, but after realizing that with 6,500 wine bottles they were only half-way there, they decided every other path would be pea gravel. Each wine bottle path is a different color of bottle, and the wine bottles actually massage the feet of those wearing soft-soled shoes. The labyrinth is in the back of the property beyond an old fruit tree orchard, so the view from the labyrinth is quite tranquil. The center features a ceramic-tiled bench for further meditation/contemplation; the tile work was done by Clare Dohna, a Vashon tile artist.

8. **Mcmurray Middle School; Vashon Celtic Players play from 2-4 pm**

The McMurray labyrinth grew out of a desire to honor retiring principal Mike Kerr. Betty Hawkins was holding a workshop on labyrinths at the school, and on seeing the halls filled with the eighth graders’ blue tape labyrinths, Mr. Kirk commented on how great he thought it would be to make a real one at the school. He had often been heard to describe the middle school years as a “circuitous path,” and was known to enjoy interactive art, so building a permanent labyrinth seemed a natural project. It grew into a community project, led by Terri Colello and Candy Gamble, financed and constructed entirely with donations and volunteer labor. It is a public piece of art in the heart of the community that brings people in from outside the school. It also serves as a gathering place in times of crisis and loss and provides an ongoing place of remembrance for the schools and the community.

we welcome you to visit one or all eight of these lovely labyrinths. box lunches are available for $10 at the episcopal church, prepared by the chs hospitality committee. locations of restrooms and coffee shops are posted on the map for your convenience. enjoy your tour!