

Season's Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to the first *Regional Rep Communique!* The purpose of this communication is stated clearly in the new TLS Vision Statement created by the Board of Directors in Sacramento: "To inspire possibilities and create connections through the labyrinth."

Included in this issue: 2003 TLS Gathering in Baltimore is focusing on the Regions and General Membership; "features" of the inspiring work Regional Reps are doing in connecting with the general membership and other labyrinth enthusiasts; items the new Membership, Development and Regional Rep Chairs are working on for the general membership in the way of benefits and tools to help with your labyrinth activities.

2003 Labyrinth Society Annual Gathering Baltimore/November 6-9

Along with having Jean Houston as the keynote speaker, Pamela White, 2003 Gathering Chair and her planning committee are focusing on TLS Regions and the General Membership! Each Region will have a table at the Marriott where members can stop, chat and find out what is going on within that region. The tables will be located in a busy travel area of the conference and it is anticipated that much connecting will take place. Regions will be able to create whatever they wish to display to all attendees about activities, labyrinth locations and possibly member art... this will NOT be a sales area, but used for information displaying/gathering and mingling. We want to get the word out about this early so the Regions can begin planning what they would like to have at their tables and in their displays. There will be designated times during the Gathering when everyone will be in this area and the Regional Reps can take turns attending their table, meeting other TLS members and just generally having a good time mingling... something we haven't had much time to do at past Gatherings. We all feel this is a wonderful opportunity for people to meet, mingle and CONNECT through their passion, the labyrinth! And we

hope you all see it in the same Light. CREATE, CREATE, CREATE! Please contact Vicki Keiser, laughndeer@mindspring.com, if you have any questions or suggestions about this aspect of the Gathering or the regional displays.

Region-sponsored Activities/Baltimore

Since the 2003 TLS Gathering is going to have a lot of focus on regional activity, we're extending an invitation to the Regions who would like to sponsor an event themselves or co-sponsor with the host Mid-Atlantic Region. This can be educational or just plain FUN! — whatever the region envisions. As you would imagine, it is a monumental task to get all of the happenings coordinated and these regional events will be on the first day, Thursday... so please let us know if you would like to participate.

Member Benefits Orientation

Development Chair, Pat McLaughlin, and Membership Chair, Leslie Carothers, along with volunteers from the Wisdom Circle, are planning on facilitating a Member Benefits Orientation at the 2003 Gathering for all those general members interested in attending. There will be multiple sessions to accommodate the expected attendance. The information they would like to share includes: an official welcome to TLS for new members; an overview of how the Regions are set up and their role in the TLS communication process; brief introduction to the structure of the organization and an invitation to get involved by participating on committees, etc.; a brief description of member benefits (membership packets); and an opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback. We invite all TLS members to join in this information sharing. Please contact Pat, pnmcLaughlin@aol.com, or Leslie, lesliemc1@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

2002 TLS Gathering in Sunny California

Sue Anne Foster, 2002 Gathering Chair, and her committee created a FEAST of labyrinth art, activities and presentations! Sacramento was a BLAST!

of labyrinth activity! There were so many labyrinths... there was not enough time to walk them all... much healing labyrinth energy was brought to the area... empowering presentations... new healing energy concepts, wonderful labyrinth products/tools. The official TLS newsletter will soon be arriving and has much more information on this wonderful gathering of labyrinth enthusiasts... look for it in your mailbox! Also, Sue Anne is working on a highlight video of the Gathering and will let us know when that will be ready for ordering/distribution.

Silent Auction

We want to extend MANY thanks to all the donors and bidders participating in the Silent Auction in Sacramento... it was a great success and more than \$2500 was raised for TLS Scholarships. There were many lovely and interesting items available... please be thinking about any items you may want to donate next year... those that are "big ticket items" (market value over \$500), perhaps a picture of the facility (resort/trip) would help the bidding process along... or more details? This was the first time that I was involved in the Silent Auction and it seems that many more volunteers are needed, especially on Sunday. Also, I am passing along suggestions on the actual process so that next year's auction can possibly run a little smoother and hassle-free for everyone. Again, many, many thanks to all the donors and bidders...

TLS Regional Rep Activities

Many of the Regional Reps are doing outstanding work in getting the word and work of the labyrinth and related activities out to the rest of the world. I have included information I am aware of... if others are doing similar work, please let me know... I would like to share with the group and let the general membership know how much their TLS Regional Reps are doing on their behalf.

Midwest Region (Minnesota Labyrinth Facilitators)

Midwest Regional Reps Jill Geoffrion and Lisa Gidlow Moriarty enjoy being part of quite a communicative group of

labyrinth enthusiasts! The group was born over lunch between Jill and **Barbara Kellett**. Since then, through the work of a communications coordinator, Lisa and others have joined the regular yahoo.com email postings/message boards. Some participants are TLS members and others are not... they are inclusive, informal, fluid and welcoming of all who work with others through the labyrinth... and the group continues to evolve. Along with the internet connections, they connect on at least a quarterly basis in physicality... sharing their homes and places of worship as the meeting places. During these meetings they share their latest work, questions, creations and ideas. They update each other on new labyrinths in the region, create rituals using the labyrinth and exchange resources they have discovered. They also host what they call "labyrinth making days" – when available members gather to co-create labyrinths, which is a fun and unique way to work together and share ideas. As part of their next meeting, they are planning on viewing the recent episode of *Touched By An Angel* that featured the labyrinth. Lisa and Jill are very willing to share more about how the group has developed with anyone who would like to know more... Lisa, lgmoriarty@aol.com and Jill, jillkhg7@aol.com.

Rest of the World

Clare Wilson, Regional Rep living in South Africa, is in the midst of planning a large labyrinth event on National Reconciliation Day, December 16 in Wynberg Park, Capetown. According to Clare, "Wynberg Park is a particularly appropriate venue as Wynberg is unique in South Africa as being an area where apartheid failed to remove people from different races from within the same municipal boundaries. People of mixed race live in the suburbs... on one side of the railway line and whites on the other. This pretty much carries on like this to this day and there is an awareness of the need for a coming together of the people of Wynberg." There will be entertainment including children's arts and programs, food stalls, vendors and an opportunity to talk to one another about their vision of "creating a South Africa that will be home to all its people."

And the "Reconciliation Labyrinth" will be at the center of all this wonderfully positive, healing energy! This labyrinth is an adaptation of the "Reflection Labyrinth" designed by **Debi** and **Marty Kermeen**. The two entrance paths are particularly apt in this context, acknowledging that as South Africans walkers do not enter the path to reconciliation from the same place. However, with a third path added as an exit between the two entrance paths the walkers may choose to leave 'from a new place' together. We're looking forward to hearing all about it, Clare!

West Region

Alex Champion regularly sends out correspondence about all sorts of activities in his region... art shows, mandala workshops, photography exhibitions... he copies me on them and there is certainly a LOT going on! Thanks Alex for sharing and I know the recipients of your emails are grateful for all the information that comes through you!

Mid-Atlantic Region

Stephanie Blackton, the new Regional Rep replacing **Robert Buckman**, is also busy letting members in her region know of labyrinth events and locations. She has been successful in recruiting new TLS members, too. Great work, Stephanie!

Northeast Region

I have also heard from **Diane Terry-Kehner**, new Regional Rep replacing **Jane Williams**, and how she is assisting labyrinth seekers in her region... people contacting her through the TLS website... and her efforts in compiling a labyrinth locator for her region to share with members. Diane is a natural communicator and we correspond on a regular basis.

It is so wonderful to hear about ALL of this Regional communication! There is obviously a lot of inspiring labyrinth work going on within TLS and it is a heartfelt joy to witness these connections... please feel free to share any Regional activities and we'll include in future issues of the *Communique*.

Membership Update

Leslie Carothers, your new Membership Chair is interested in receiving your feedback on suggestions for Member Benefits that you would like to

see implemented on your behalf. Since it is her first year in this position, she wants to make sure she is focusing her energies on the benefits that would be most beneficial to you. Please email her at lesliemc1@earthlink.net or call her at 832.379.9669 with your ideas and suggestions. The two major projects that she is undertaking at the moment are: A) A re-design and update of the membership handbook which will go out to all members in early 2003; B) A new online member database in conjunction with **David Gallagher**, Corresponding Secretary. The new database has a very exciting feature which will make it easier and faster than ever to connect with one another. You will now be able to search by category for what members "do" with the labyrinth. For instance, if you are a labyrinth jewelry artist, you will be able to check that box and then anyone wanting to find "labyrinth jewelry artists" will search that category and a list of all labyrinth jewelry artists will pop up. The categories will be numerous and each member will also be able to fill in a textbox next to their name so they can write a sentence or two with more individualized information. They hope to have this up and running by the end of December. Look for further communication on this from Leslie.

Labyrinth Society Board Members to contact concerning information in this *Communique*:

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Wishing One and All a Peaceful Holiday Season!