



2008 TLS Annual Gathering “Journey to Healing and Wholeness”

Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center, Norcross, Georgia

Dear TLS Members,

In just four months we will be arriving at Simpsonwood Conference Center just outside of Atlanta, Georgia, for the 2008 Annual Gathering. We are so excited about this event! TLS will be celebrating its 10th Gathering and we'll take this time to look back to our beginnings, celebrate what has transpired over the years and look ahead to the future of the labyrinth movement in the global community.

The schedule looks different this year. The basic Gathering has been shortened to three days in an effort to accommodate the work and family schedules of more members, while providing add-on optional pre- and post-Gathering opportunities to extend the time for many who prefer the four-day format of previous Gatherings.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday afternoon, prior to the Friday evening opening ceremonies. We hope you will make travel arrangements that allow attendance at this meeting where the business of the organization occurs, attendees are updated on organizational activities and elections are held to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. Kimberly Seward will be completing her term as President during this Gathering and the new board and officers will be installed on Sunday morning.

Enclosed in this packet you will find information about the 2008 Gathering, including a registration form for mailed or faxed registrations (registration can also be done online), a form to reserve a table in the vendor/artisans area and offer an item for the Silent Auction, a preliminary schedule, and a flyer that you can duplicate to help publicize the Gathering in your local events and labyrinth walks. All of this information is also located online at the new Labyrinth Society website (www.labyrinthsociety.org) under Gathering. In this envelope you will also find information about Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center and travel information for your arrival in Atlanta.

The theme of the 2008 Gathering is “*Journey to Healing and Wholeness*” and the program will feature guest speakers who have been instrumental in the use of labyrinths in the healthcare field. Master labyrinth maker, Robert Ferré will present *Science and Spirit – Labyrinths in Hospitals*. Robert will share stories and insight into the many labyrinths that his company, Labyrinth Enterprises, has installed at hospitals and healthcare centers around the USA. Rebecca Rodriguez, creator of the Labyrinth Inspiration Cards© is a recognized speaker in the hospice area and will present *The Sacred Passage* offering reflection on the labyrinth and life-death-rebirth symbolism. Rebecca will also be offering a pre-gathering workshop on *Designing your own Set of Labyrinth Inspiration Cards*©.

A total of 17 concurrent workshops will provide a diverse selection of experiences, sharing and learning opportunities and will include a specially selected track of healthcare related workshops by Ph.D. professionals, Neal Harris (*Finger Labyrinths in Therapeutic Environments*), Kay Sandor (*Biobehavioral and Spiritual Responses of Women in a Labyrinth Walking Program*) and Ellen Schultz (*The Labyrinth as a Component of an Optimal Healing Environment*). A full list of tantalizing workshop offerings is included in this packet. Sound Therapist and Global Sacred Musician, Sonam Targee's instrumental music will flow throughout the Gathering and accompany a contemplative labyrinth walk on Saturday evening as we reflect on the wisdom and experiences of the day.

The program will include two panels, “*The Early Steps*” a panel consisting of founding members of TLS, first president Helen Curry, Toby Evans and Kathy Ruyts and Jeff Seward, who will share memories and reflections of the early days of the organization. “*The Next Step*” panel on Sunday morning consisting of Lauren Artress, Gernot Candolini, Jill Geoffrion and Kimberly Seward, will look ahead to what is on the horizon for labyrinths in our global community.

Additional activities will also include a mixture of old and new:

- The always popular Vendor/Artisans area will provide shopping experiences and tangible ways to bring the Gathering home.
- The Silent Auction returns as a fun and valuable way to generate scholarship funds for the 2009 Gathering participants.
- Member Images will present photos by TLS members – be sure to submit yours!
- We celebrate our 10th Gathering with music and dance at an Anniversary Party on Friday night!!!
- We can start our mornings with fun and gentle yoga dance with G/Joan Guilfoyle who will also offer a pre-Gathering workshop to help transition from travel into the Gathering atmosphere.
- Dowsing expert Mary Cain will teach *Dowsing a Healing Labyrinth* in a pre-gathering workshop and help determine locations for a multitude of temporary labyrinths that any gathering participant is welcome to construct on-site.
- Gernot Candolini of Austria will share an insightful exercise using the classical labyrinth pattern.
- If you have missed getting in to the ever popular workshop in *Creating Your Own Personal Prayer Labyrinth*, this has been moved to a post-Gathering activity to allow more people to participate and more time to paint a small canvas labyrinth of your very own.
- John Rhodes will host a day-long bus tour of Atlanta area labyrinths on Monday that is sure to be great fun and a perfect way to extend the Gathering time with friends while experiencing beautiful and unique permanent installations.

The Gathering registration process was postponed to allow for the renovation work on the TLS website to be completed. We hope you have had the opportunity to visit the new website and we welcome your comments on the new look. Because of the delay, we are extending the Early Bird Discount on Gathering registrations to August 31, 2008. Register now to save \$100.00.

There is a lot of planning that goes into offering our Annual Gatherings and we are sure you will find much for your own inspiration, not to mention the annual opportunity to gather with friends and labyrinth enthusiasts from around the world. The Gathering Planning Team invites and welcomes you to the 2008 TLS Annual Gathering. See you in November!

The Gathering Planning Team:

Rita Caroni, Pamela Bowles Fillmore, Randy Fillmore, Cindy Keese, Tricia Kibbe, Kay Kinneavy, Lisa Gidlow Moriarty, Annette Reynolds, Kathy Ruyts and Diane Terry-Kehner