Labyrinths and Mazes
with
UCSB Art Studio Professor, Dr. Gary Brown
Monday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.

Labyrinths are found in nearly every major religious tradition in the world. They have been an integral part of many cultures such as Native American, Celtic, Greek and Mayan. Like Stonehenge and the pyramids, they are magical geometric forms that define a sacred space.

Mazes and labyrinths are two different entities. A maze has dead ends and many trick turns. A labyrinth has only one path leading into the center and back out again; there are no deceptions or dead ends. The deeper level of a single path labyrinth is to give the participants the opportunity to look within themselves as they follow the path to the center and retrace their way back to the beginning, completing the journey of a walking meditation.

In honor of the recent addition of a labyrinth adjacent to the refurbished Topiary Garden at Lotusland, Dr. Gary Brown will offer a fascinating presentation illustrating the history of labyrinths created throughout the world and their significance to the cultures that produced them. Art Studio Professor at UCSB for the past three decades, Dr. Brown’s works of art are a result of his activity as a “Daedologist” (based on the Daedalus myth - look it up) and has exhibited his unique artwork both nationally and internationally.

Included among his many experiences as Artist-in-Residence, is one at New Harmony Historic Trust in Indiana. He will share his knowledge of the deeply religious, communitarian Harmonists who settled there in the 1800’s and the famous vegetative labyrinths and mazes they built in each of their three settlements. The Harmonists portrayed the trip through the maze-style labyrinth as a representation of a person’s journey through life, with many choices and opportunities for wrong turns, but only one correct way to “inner peace.”

This very special lecture was not included in the list of upcoming events in your last Lotus Notice. Please mark your calendars for this truly intriguing presentation. RSVP would be appreciated by Wednesday, April 18th (that way we will know how many goodies to order!) to Debbie Hild, @ 969-3767 ext. 226. We look forward to seeing you.