



Glenn Russell, Free Press

Burlington area sculptor Kate Pond checks her shadow at The Community Labyrinth at All Saints Episcopal Church in South Burlington. For the sculpture, entitled "Odyssey of Light," Pond received a grant for the project from the Vermont Community Foundation Arts Endowment Fund.

## SCULPTOR CASTS LIGHT ON EQUINOX

### Labyrinth at All Saints Episcopal Church adds mirrored structure



Mirrored panels reflect light tracks across the labyrinth's stones and bricks as the sun moves across the sky. Come the Sept. 22 autumnal equinox, the position of the sun will force a convergence at the labyrinth's center.

#### Events

Spare a few of those equal hours of daylight and night of the autumnal equinox to attend these events at The Community Labyrinth at All Saints Church at the corner of Spear and Swift streets in South Burlington.

Note that the labyrinth is always open and is accessible from the church parking lot.

■ **6:30 p.m. Sept. 21:** A labyrinth walk, presentation on earth energy and sacred spaces by Patrick MacManaway and performance by Village Harmony on eve of the equinox.

■ **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 22:** Walk the labyrinth and place sunflowers every half hour to mark the movement of the sun. Using mirrors from Kate Pond's Odyssey of Light sculpture, the sun's rays are expected to form a cross at the center of the labyrinth at 12:45 p.m. and 22 seconds.

Students from Burlington's Rock Point School will then read works written for the occasion.

By Erica Jacobson  
Free Press Staff Writer

**SOUTH BURLINGTON** — Kate Pond had trouble clearly seeing her latest sculpture.

The Burlington sculptor scanned the gray stone and light tan bricks of The Community Labyrinth located behind All Saints Episcopal Church. She searched for four bars of reflected sunlight beaming onto the labyrinth's surface.

"OK," she said last week, spying one strip of white light, "if that one's there, where's the other one?"

"This is all new to me." Pond considers how light works with all of her large, steel sculptures to create shadows.

Her newest piece, "Odyssey of Light" at the labyrinth, emphasizes sunlight and reduces the amount of steel. "I wasn't as concerned about the physical sculpture this time," she said. "What I'm concerned with is the journey of the light."

The sculpture is an addition to the All saints Episcopal Church labyrinth formed in June 1999 as a path of prayer and meditation cast in the pattern of

the 13th-century labyrinth in the Cathedral in Chartres, France. Visitors walk 1,300 feet of the path, spiraling from the 60-foot diameter to the center of the 11-circuit labyrinth.

To create her sculpture, Pond mounted two poles at the labyrinth's northern edge and topped each pole with two mirrors. The four strips of reflected light track across the stones and bricks as the sun moves across the sky.

Come the autumnal equinox on Sept. 22, the position of the sun will force two of the strips to converge at the labyrinth's center. They will form a cross, providing Pond and fellow collaborators have properly focused and placed the mirrors. Burlington sundial maker Bill Gottesman created a spreadsheet to accurately predict where the reflections will fall given different positions of the sun.

"They're nowhere near each other right now," Gottesman said. "They float all around the place."

"I hope it works. We'll find out, I suppose, on the 22nd."

The labyrinth recognizes the sun cycles. The entrance of the labyrinth is

aligned with the position of the sunset on the summer solstice. The mirrors mark both the autumnal and vernal equinoxes as well as the winter solstice.

"We're all searching for light, especially at the winter solstice," Pond said. "It's almost as if 'Odyssey of Light' is a calibrated sculpture, and it plays with light."

Pond's artistic vision was given a nudge from Patrick MacManaway. The Shelburne-based geomancy was concerned with the relationship of people with place and had dowsed the site of the labyrinth before it opened in 1999. He encouraged Pond to use light instead of shadow.

"Most sacred sites work with bringing the sun into the center of the space," MacManaway said.

While visiting her sculpture last week, Pond made one last sweep of the labyrinth, hunting for the fourth beam. The mirrors wiggled in the wind. She spotted the final strip dancing across the rocks in front of her.

"Oh, I like that," she said.

Contact Erica Jacobson at 660-1843 or ejacobso@bfp.burlingtonfreepress.com.

#### Classes

The following labyrinth workshops are presented by Waitsfield's Judith Joyce at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1250 Spear St. in South Burlington. Sessions cost \$30 each or \$55 for both classes. To register, call 862-9750.

■ **What is the Classical 7 Circuit Labyrinth and How Can It Help Me?** 7-9 tonight. Introduces the oldest known labyrinth design including history and uses throughout the years. Students will walk the design and share their experiences.

■ **What is the Chartres Labyrinth and how is it different?** 7-9 p.m. Sept. 19. Explore the history and symbolism of this pattern created in the floor of France's Chartres Cathedral. Students will walk the design and share their experiences.