**From:** Cathy Koch <c.n.koch@sbcglobal.net>

We have hosted several wedding shower/wisdom showers with the labyrinth. Our intent is to make it a "right of passage" for both the bride and her mother as the bride leaves "maidenhood" to becoming a married woman. The guests are usually friends of the bride's mother.  When the invitation is sent it clearly states it is a "Wisdom Shower" and includes a note card for the guest to write her wisdom. The hostesses provide a beautiful book to include the notes of wisdom.

After refreshments/dinner/wine! the bride opens her gifts and with each gift, the guest reads her wisdom note to the bride....the wisdom usually includes notes of humor, love and forgiveness that the older generation has found on their paths. One of my favorites is to always make dinner a sacred/special time for your family and include candles and cloth napkins!

After the wisdom has been shared, we have a labyrinth walk. We facilitate it by saying this is a right of passage and that each of us should remember our own mothers, grandmothers and women who have guided us with their wisdom...sometimes we name these women. We walk the labyrinth with the bride's mother being second to last to go and the bride the last person to enter the labyrinth. Once we have entered the center, a prayer or a song is done and then the bride leads us out of the labyrinth, with her mother following her....it really is lovely and profound.

We just had one of these "Wisdom Showers" last week for a dear friend and her daughter that we have watched grow up. There were several of our daughters there, too, who were not married....interestingly they chose not to walk the labyrinth and observed instead.

Cathy Koch

St. Charles, IL