



Gumbo

~~ The Grail Connection ~

December 2011

Editor's Note: Not unexpectedly, Gumbo this month continues conversations begun at the Grail General Assembly in November. A lot of energy has been generated and new ideas and initiatives are emerging. We hope that you will contribute to the conversation and that you will find a place to join your sisters in the struggle to transform the world. Inside you will find a recommendation that the Grail support the Occupy Wall Street movement; an outline of the projected new work of the Spirituality and Science group; more thoughts on the Transition movement; and an invitation to join the online exchange in the Grail forums on our website.

Proposal: Grail Support the Occupy Wall Street Movement Jackie DiSalvo

On September 17, 2011 the Occupy Wall Street movement began with a march to Wall Street in New York City and a 24/7 occupation in Liberty Plaza (Zuccotti Park) which lasted until occupiers were evicted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg on November 15. Nevertheless, the movement continues, still using the park in the daytime and for meetings of the General Assemblies in which decisions are made. In addition, occupations sprang up and are continuing in many cities around the country and around the world. It is a highly democratic movement committed to facilitating a conversation among the people about their common needs and goals. All decisions are made in General Assemblies which anyone can attend and where anyone can speak.

The fundamental position of Occupy Wall Street is that the 1% of wealthiest Americans and large corporations have dominated the economy and politics of the U.S. at the expense of the other 99%. This inequality, which has been growing, has affected many aspects of life. Among the several grievances listed by Occupy Wall Street against the corporations are: taking away people's homes through deceptive mortgages and foreclosures; denying workers the right to bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions; holding students hostage to thousands of dollars of debt; determining economic policies which have caused catastrophic failures and high unemployment; blocking alternative forms of energy and cheaper, generic forms of medicine; perpetuating misinformation through the media; controlling politicians by donating large sums to them; and supporting wars in which many innocent civilians have been killed.

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Occupy Wall Street has initiated the largest multi-issue mass movement in the U.S. in decades, uniting many constituencies, including workers, students, and communities. It has been supported by many progressive organizations including student and community groups, the national AFL-CIO and over 30 labor unions. With its commitment to non-violent protest, it has won the support of a large majority of people polled. As a result popular movements have been energized, and, after a discouraging period of conservative domination, new hope has arisen for advancing a progressive agenda.



Jackie DiSalvo at Occupy Wall Street with Finley Schaefer

The goals and strategies of the Occupy movement are in keeping with the Grail mission to advance peace and justice, and challenge economic systems that put at risk the most vulnerable. As a national movement it provides opportunities for Grail members to get involved from various locations and thus share participation in a common movement.

Therefore, be it resolved that: the U.S. Grail declare its support for Occupy Wall Street and the Occupation movement.

After reading this article, before any vote will be taken, Grail members should discuss the issue – in groups, on the Grail listserv and on the Forums on the Grail website.

Taking A Stand In The Grail

Carol Siemering

The Grail's policy on Taking a Stand states that when five or six Grail members who are knowledgeable about and actively involved in an issue wish the Grail to take a stand they will, after a discussion of the issue in *Gumbo*, the *National Grail News* and the listserv, initiate a letter to the rest of the movement giving background, relevance and implications for the Grail, along with a request for members' opinions for taking a stand on a particular public policy issue.

At the General Assembly in November, Jackie DiSalvo asked for a straw vote for supporting the Grail taking a stand in support of the Occupation movement. It was widely accepted and her article above outlines her proposal.

There will be a reference in the *Grail National News* to this article and there will be opportunities to discuss it on the listserv. The next step will be an electronic ballot with a letter as described above sent to those who are on email and by post to those who are not. To reach an agreement that the Grail in the U.S. should take a stand on this or any issues, 2/3 of the respondents would have to support it.

Bonnie Hendricks is working with the Grailville staff and other interested folks to investigate how Grailville could play a larger role in work that is emerging globally and locally around the environment, energy, food, sustainability and regional resilience. If you'd like more information or to get involved, you can reach Bonnie at (513) 683-5750 or by email, bonnie@grail-us.org.

BONNIE HENDRICKS: WHY I FELL IN LOVE

Now that I have your attention, here's the rest of the sentence:

with the Transition [Town] Movement

Those who were at the GA on Thursday afternoon heard my spiel about the Transition (Town) Movement. (For those who missed it, the PowerPoint and audio are online in the member area of the Grail website, or click [here](#).)

A one-sentence summary/refresher: Transition is about building stronger and happier communities while transitioning away from fossil fuel dependence. There is a lot packed into that little sentence, and there is much to say about how Transition is playing out; one such aspect is story-telling. So I thought this month I'd tell a bit of my "how I met Transition" story.

It was just about a year ago now. I was still in Australia. Mostly lounging (walking, really) on endless, sunny beaches. And beginning to cast about for "what's next?" The Transition (Town) Movement had spent a few years on my (very long) list of "things to look into, when I have time." The time had finally come.

I was still in a state of high discouragement re: the-state-of-the-world. So I was quite surprised to find myself becoming increasingly excited, the deeper into Transition Town my exploration went. What had me so captivated? Quite a bit, actually, but I'll name just a few. (I'm setting aside for the moment all the cool projects Transition Initiatives around the world are doing.)

Positive Focus. Transition works in response to three very big, heavy things – the end of cheap energy, climate change and economic instability – yet the approach is positive. The starting point of Transition is positive visioning: "If you woke up in, say, 2030, and the transition to a low carbon future had been successfully managed, what would it look, feel, smell and sound like?" There are a few things embedded in this that resonate with me. I had reached a point where I couldn't do doom and gloom anymore; I was drawn to Transition's positive approach of working to create the future we want to see. This focuses our energy on creatively working *for* instead of fighting against. And it puts us in the powerful position of taking responsibility and acting as opposed to blaming others/waiting for "whomever" to do something. In addition, there is the explicit emphasis in the movement to make it fun – "if it is not fun and not adding to your life, something's not working..."

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

Buckminster Fuller

Holistic Approach. Transition takes an integrated Head (theory), Hands (practice) and Heart (vision, team- and group-building) approach. There is recognition that a range of emotions can surface when we look at the state of our planet, and there is intention to pay attention to this deeper response and

build in ways to support each other. There is also recognition that the change needed in these times is both outer (i.e., food and energy systems) and inner (i.e., worldviews, assumptions, consciousness). Transition builds on the unique skills and passions of the people in the room. And there is a limitless tapping of creativity.

Shifting Culture. I have long felt that the root of so many of our “problems” in the world today stem from a culture that has lost its way – but how in the world does one go about fixing a broken culture? As I’ve reflected more recently on Transition – after a year of closely following the movement, participating in a few trainings and taking full advantage of the extensive on-line resources – I think Transition is doing just that. Rob Hopkins, Transition founder, reflects on this as well in the just-released *Transition Companion*:

“When we started Transition in 2005-6, I imagined we were developing an environmental response, a sustainability-focused process. After five years of this fascinating international experiment, I now see it as a cultural process... It goes beyond reducing energy and planting trees, and needs, ultimately to seep into the culture of place: how a place thinks of itself, what it takes pride in.”

It’s an ambitious experiment, indeed. And it isn’t without its struggles and challenges, but that’s another article.

There was a great deal of interest generated at the GA about Transition and I’d like to keep the conversation and thinking together going. Towards that end, I’ve started a “Transition” Forum on the Grail website (see Emily’s article for more about Forums) and have added a few resources. I invite you to take a look and share your thoughts! <http://grail-us.org/member-forums/grail-discussion/transition-town-movement/>

“The sustainability revolution will be organic. It will arise from the visions, insights, experiments, and actions of billions of people. The burden of making it happen is not on the shoulders of any one person or group. No one will get the credit, but everyone can contribute.”

Donella H Meadows, Jorgen Randers and Dennis L Meadows, *Limits to Growth: The 30-year update*

LINKS TO TRANSITION RESOURCES

These are also posted in the Transition Forum on the Grail website where you can respond.

Three very good Transition websites:

International Hub: www.transitionnetwork.org

U.S. Hub: www.transitionus.org

Rob Hopkins’ blog (very story-oriented): www.transitionculture.org

“Does Transition Build Happiness?” An article by Rob Hopkins

<http://transitionculture.org/2011/10/21/does-transition-build-happiness-an-article-from-the-latest-resurgence-magazine/>

In *Transition 1.0* – a 50 minute movie about the Transition Movement. (Transition 2.0 is in the works; this is a few years old but still a good watch): <http://vimeo.com/8029815>

Grail Member Forums: Take Two

Emily Snyder

Membership and Outreach Coordinator

In the past two weeks I've had some interesting conversations; most of them about the member forums on the website. I've heard, "I haven't been there yet. What will I find?" "I can't really wrap my head around it just yet. What is the reason for the forums?" and "How do you envision the forums working?" It's obvious to me now that presenting something new, asking everyone to adopt it on the spot and assume that my reasoning about why the "forums" were launched might not have been the best mode of operation. I'd like to take a "do-over."

First of all, the forums are in the Members' section of the website. (As always, you'll still need to insert the password to access the Members section – loveland). The direct link to the page is <http://grail-us.org/members/grail-member-forums/>. What will you find when you click on this link? For starters, new and improved instructions! The instructions to register should be clear and straightforward. And, if you still want someone to walk through the steps with you, I am just a phone call away, (513) 683-5750.

Below is what the forums page looks like. The forum list is on the left and can easily be edited. As a forum user you can add your own topics to the forums listed or add a new forum to the list on the left. For example, if a task force or work group wants to use the forum as a way to communicate, then a forum can be added for their use.

Forum	Topics	Posts	Freshness
Spirituality	0	0	No Topics
Arts and Creativity	0	0	No Topics
Opportunities for Action	0	0	No Topics
Grail News	1	1	2 days
Prayer Requests	2	2	15 days
2011 General Assembly	1	1	15 days
Thoughts on Communication	2	3	10 days

So, what's the purpose of this new tool? Forums are a great way to build an online community. The Grail *knows* how to build community, and there is overwhelming evidence of it in pockets all over the

country (and the world)! But, now we need to add another dimension to our community. And that is online.

Forums are wonderful platforms to educate and exchange ideas. I mentioned task forces and work groups possibly using the forum. How wonderful would it be to keep up to date on what Grail members were doing? It might be so wonderful, that it inspires another group! When the exchange of knowledge and ideas spark, amazing things happen!

It's different than the listserv. A few people have mentioned that they feel more comfortable sticking to the listserv. They are familiar with it and know everyone else is as well. I understand this all too well. But, the forums are different. The first difference is the level of participation. If you are visiting the forums, you *want* to be an active participant in the discussion. When you receive an email from the listserv, you have the option to read it or ignore it. How many times have you scrolled by a recent posting, telling yourself you'll go back and read that post when you have more time? How often do you get that chance to go back? Your audience is, for the most part passive.

Also, the format is cleaner. When someone posts a reply, you see only the reply and by whom it was made. You don't have to scroll through email addresses, repeat replies, and responses only meant for one. I'm still a big fan of the listserv and I'm not trying to promote one over the other. I think that the listserv and forums will be used differently.

And that brings me to my last question. **How do I envision the forums being used?** I imagine lively conversation, community-building and an opportunity for action. I'm confident using the forums can be an excellent tool for us to connect and communicate. So, please check the forums out. Let me know what you think.



Job Description for Spirituality and Science Group

Judith Blackburn and Nancy Cooney

A small group gathered at the GA to explore the links between advances in science and spirituality. They want to keep the discussion going and are offering this group as means to promote that idea.

Nature: The Spirituality and Science Group will be an online discussion body, with participation open to all Grail members and explorers, with periodic announcements on the Grail listserv and other Grail publications.

Purpose: This group will share resources (books, articles, and websites) to do with the inner development of Grail members individually and communally as a work of the Grail. We are exploring the reality that prayer/meditation results in measurable differences in the physical world. We want to share information about the intersection between spirituality and scientific developments.

Function: The group will be coordinated by co-chairs (currently Judith Blackburn and Nancy Cooney). Group members will communicate electronically, either on a separate listserv or a Grail website forum. Sharing resources is our primary function, but focused, facilitated discussions of particular resources or issues and online courses may be offered in the future.

Preparation for the UN's Commission on the Status of Women 56

Abida Jamal, Moçambique

Dear Grail Members,

As the IGA 2011, in Kleinmond, South Africa decided, the Grail Link to the United Nations Network has begun preparations for the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 56), taking place in New York between February 27 and March 9, 2012.

The Themes for the CSW 56 are:

Priority theme

The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges

Review theme

Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (agreed conclusions from the fifty-second session)

We are hoping to have at least some girls and women including young women from other countries attend CSW 56. Because of the theme, we were thinking about girls from Africa or Latin America or Asia Pacific – wherever the Grail is working with rural girls and women.

For the next CSW, The Grail wants to sponsor 2 side events that are run by girls of the Global South, not the North and not by adults. We are thinking that if we can't get rural girls from some areas, we could get some good video clips. This may be possible in other countries too.

The Grail is inviting you to prepare panel discussions on key areas described below:

ISSUES, CHALLENGES, GOOD PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. Rural women's roles in agriculture

- Rural women's multiple, multi-dimensional roles
- Rural women's unpaid work
- Translating Rural women's agricultural work into food & nutrition security

Grail Birthdays: December

Make a call, drop a note or send an email to one of your sisters on her special day.

December 4 - Beth Wasmer

December 5 - Mary Kay Delgado

December 8 - Helen Culleton

December 11 - Penny Carr

December 12 - Jay Williams

December 13 - Viola Lafosse

December 13 - Elmira Nazombe

December 14 - Gail Malley

December 18 - Mary Divito

December 19 - Joyce Minkler

December 22 - Jean Wilson

December 22 - Lea Grundy

December 28 - Bethann Witcher Cottrell

December 29 - Taya Doro-Mitchell

December 29 - Carol Nosko

December 29 - Nancy Richardson

December 30 - Patricia Dillon

- Translating Rural women’s agricultural work into economic empowerment and poverty reduction
2. Decent and productive employment and income-generating activities for rural women
 - Informal work
 - Non-farm economic opportunities
 - Migration
 - Guaranteeing work standard and rights
 3. Rural women’s access to productive resources, financial services, markets and technology
 - Productive resources
 - Education
 - Financial services
 - Markets
 - Technology
 4. Infrastructure and service-delivery
 - Transport
 - Health services
 - Clean, efficient, and renewable energy
 - Clean water and sanitation
 - Information, communication and extension infrastructure and services
 5. Rural women’s role in natural resources management and climate change adaptation
 - Natural resources management
 - Climate change
 6. Effective institutions and enabling policy environments that promote gender responsive rural development
 - Formal political and economic institutions
 - Formal and informal rural institutions
 - Enabling policy environments

An International Work of the Grail: The Grail Link to the United Nations

Lucy Jones

We are the Grail Link to the UN Network. There has been some consternation over our ignominious acronym, GLUN or GLUNN, but we have grown accustomed to the sound of it. At the UN, it is easy to become baffled by the many acronyms, stand-ins for the labors of many programs and projects and systems working together for peace and universal rights.

Right in our own backyard is UFER. It could stand for Universal Fidelity for Environmental Rights or United for Economic Re-alignment. But indeed it is the international movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, which the Grail has been part of since its formation in 1951 and is a founding member. It is a federation of organizations and persons involved in the promotion of

understanding, dialogue and cooperation among races, peoples, cultural and ethnical groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Netherlands Grail Member Elly Koenig is the chair of the board; US Grail members **Joy Garland** and **Monica Maher** serve as board members; and **Sharon Joslyn** is our UN representative for UFER in New York.

Another important name to know is ECOSOC. It sounds like an environmentally conscious foot covering, but it is a major arm of the United Nations under which the commissions we attend are housed. It is the Economic and Social Council and one of its many departments is DESA, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Three areas where the Grail has been active – the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – are within this department.

The newly formed UN Women (not an acronym) brings together several departments and agencies to better coordinate the work in governments and the world to protect rights and opportunities for women and girls and those who depend on them. It is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

NGO is another important term. Government can do a lot for the rights of the people and the planet, but non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been effective in recent decades in organizing civic pressure and gathering information to involve more people in the decisions that are made at high levels as well as educating the public about the issues at hand. The Grail is an NGO. When Grail women and girls come to New York for the CSW or other meetings, much of the exposure to the UN is with “side events” adjacent to the UN proper. These are extremely informative and relationship-building. We have been part of offering events and organizing sessions attended by many people.

GLUN could stand for “Girls love the UN” or “Girls light up the news” because **Mary Kay Louchart** and **Sharon Joslyn** have been instrumental in the WGG—the Working Group for Girls. High school girls have been given opportunities to learn about the work of the UN and NGOs and have been given effective orientation and training to make the most of the time they spend in sessions. Girls have been encouraged and empowered to make presentations at side events and at the UN Assembly. This is an ongoing work of the Grail and our partners in the WGG.

GLUN might also stand for “Giving Life; Undoing Negativity” or “Great Love Unites Nations Naturally” as the Grail Link to the UN Network welcomes Grail members and friends to attend meetings at the UN. The Bronx Grail House is opened and other housing is provided. Girls and women build friendships and reflect together on their experiences at the UN and in their home countries. They share their life work, their hopes and dreams, their stories.

Abbreviations try to encapsulate a bigger idea into a few letters. Just so, the work of GLUNN is a creation of a network that connects Grail women and girls to the work and values of the Grail and the work and values of the UN where they intersect. It is a beautiful and amazing work and we hope

A Grail/UN Glossary

CSW: Commission on Status of Women

DESA: Department of Economic and Social Affairs

ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council

GLUN/GLUNN: Grail Link to the United Nations

NGO: Non-governmental Organization

UFER: Mouvement International Pour l’Union Fraternelle entre les Races et les Peuples

WGG: Working Group on Girls

more people can participate and be formed, informed and transformed by their participation with us, either in person or vicariously through our newsletters and other communications.

The 56th Commission on the Status of Women will be held from February 27 to March 9, 2012. The priority theme is empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges. We hope the IGA will encourage rural Grail women and girls to come. We'll be Glad to Link you to the UN Neatly—GLUNN!

Whether you attend the meetings in New York or not, you can support the Grail's work there in many ways. See the list below, compiled by Sharon Joslyn, for suggestions on what you can do to help and get involved.

Team members of the GLUNN in New York: Joy Garland, Lucy Jones, Sharon Joslyn, Mary Kay Louchart, Simonetta Romano and Kate Twohy

What Can I Do?

Choose a Woman/ Choose a Project

Find a Grail woman or project from any country and make regular contact. Keep track of "best practices" and data if a project and pertinent information on life needs if an individual woman. Report to GLUNN to contribute to data collection.

Adopt a Grail project and organize financial aid, Christmas Cards for St. Teresa School in Tanzania.

Sponsor a Girl

Help to finance a girl(s) ages 14 to 18 to participate in CSW.
Help to prepare girls for CSW participation and follow up after the meeting.

Participate in other United Nations Sessions

Commission on Social Development (CSocD) February 8 – 17, 2012
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) June 4 – 6, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
(Preparatory meetings in New York Dec. 15-16, 2011, March 5-7, 2012)
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) May 7 – 18, 2012

Become an Advocate

Follow issues, such as *State Dream Act* and advocate for passage.
Migration information: IOM (International Organization for Migration) Online Bookstore
<http://publications.iom.int/bookstore>
Follow *Outcome Documents* from CSW to see how government is implementing agreements

Become a Member

ECPAT International *Eliminate Child Prostitution and Trafficking of Children.*
International Federation on Aging (IFA) ifa.org

Join Us At CSW, February 27-March 9, 2012

At the IGA in September, GLUNN was asked to consider the work with girls at the Commission on the Status of Women as a “Winter Camp,” which entails continuing the work that has been going on for a number of years and also to help participants take their experience and learning home with them.

If you are interested in helping the Grail Link to the UN with our CSW Winter Camp, you can come for all or part of the CSW. Housing is provided at the Bronx Grail House and at St. Gerry’s Convent nearby for a modest donation (\$20/day). Transportation to the UN is an easy commute by subway.

What can you do to help? You can bring your own gifts and talents to add to the mix, but here are some examples of the kinds of things that need to happen during those days:

- Chaperoning, guiding girls or out-of-country visitors.
- Preparing meals at the Bronx house, shopping for groceries, setting up, etc.
- Writing articles for GLUN newsletter or blogging or texting as the meeting proceeds.
- Sharing insights and learnings with visitors and each other when we gather for meals and other debriefing times.
- Leading/facilitating small sub-groups in Grail-led session at the UN side event.
- Coaching girls who will speak at a UN-related event.
- Helping Grail women and girls think about how to take ideas learned back to their homes and start projects or share information with the Grail community and others there.
- Helping girls process for themselves what they are learning and how they are thinking about it in group or single conversations.
- Helping us all create a sense of community and solidarity as well as learning from each other about the issues and contexts of home countries and learning about Grail values of spirituality and social justice.
- Other logistical needs for having people in residence for two weeks (e.g., laundry, shopping for additional supplies).

If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact Sharon Joslyn or Mary Kay Louchart at the Bronx Grail. You can email to bronxgrail@juno.com or call 718-665-0271.

Judy Markle

Emily Snyder and Shirley Beaupre



For many people, August 6th is just another date on a calendar, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee is another spot on a map. But **Judy Markle** knows they are much more

than that and she traveled with others from Michigan to Oak Ridge on August 6, 2011 on a mission of peace.

That day was Hiroshima Day, the 66th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, a day observed with peace marches, prayers, vigils and education. Judy, along with members of

Michigan Stop the Nuclear Bombs Campaign (MISTNBC) group, had made their destination

the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge. The primary focus of MISTNBC is to stop the production of nuclear weapons at the Y-12 complex, which is also sometimes referred to as a “federal nuclear bomb factory” and played an important role in World War II, providing the enriched uranium for the two atomic bombs that devastated Japan.



Judy Markle, top row, 2nd from right, in Oak Ridge, TN with the Michigan Stop the Bombs Campaign group

August 6, 2011 began with a memorial service where protesters gathered peacefully to hang peace cranes on the barbed wire fence surrounding the Y-12 complex. As each crane was attached, the

name of a person that perished on that day in 1945 was read aloud. After the memorial service, a rally was held in Oak Ridge, followed by a two-mile walk back to the Y-12 building.

The story of the Peace Crane

Sadako Sasaki lived a little over a mile from where the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. She was only two years old, and survived the initial impact only to develop leukemia due to the radioactive dust and soot she breathed in as it settled after the explosion. The story varies greatly at this point, but Sadako believed that if she folded 1,000 origami cranes, she would be healed. Sadako Sasaki died at age 12, but her legacy has lasted. And now the origami crane is a symbol of peace.

The memorial that Judy took part in held special meaning to her. In July 2010, 13 protesters had been arrested for trespassing at the Y-12 complex after they crawled under the broken barbed wire fence to pray. The trial of the arrested protesters was held in May of 2011 and it was Judy’s first experience of a federal trial. She was greatly saddened and shocked to learn that before the trial started, the judge had precluded any evidence regarding the defendants’ motivations, anything about nuclear weapons or nuclear power, or anything about U.S. violations of international law. The verdict on the charge of trespassing at a federal bomb plant was read for each of the defendants – guilty. As they left the court building, the leader of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), gathered the defendants in a circle and led them in singing, “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize.” Their leader, Ralph Hutchinson,

proclaimed each of the defendants’ names as they sang.

Judy has been involved with the Michigan Stop the Nuclear Bombs Campaign and the Detroit area Peace with Justice Network since the beginning of the war with Iraq. For information, you can visit <http://pje.org/>.

MEMBER GIVING TO THE NATIONAL GRAIL. WHY?

Why is there an expectation that active and wider members should make a financial contribution to The Grail's national operations, along with your commitment of time and energy? After all, you already give to Grailville or Cornwall or projects like the St. Teresa of Avila School in Tanzania. And it's clear why the Centers need money – they've got buildings to maintain, utilities to pay, staff to compensate, programs to fund. But why do we need to have a National office, with its own set of expenses? Because although Grailville and Cornwall are *centers of The Grail*, they aren't the entirety of The Grail. You are. You and your sisters.

What the National office staff does is help implement the mission, vision, goals and the Strategic Plan you all affirmed by:

- Supporting the Council, the leadership of The Grail, and the committees: Finance, International, Membership, Elders, Personnel, Call to Leadership
- Managing the resources of The Grail and the investments of the funds so graciously and generously given by members and friends who went before us, enabling us to:
 - Provide for the elders who've committed their lives to The Grail
 - Support the centers as the living face of The Grail
 - Continue the work with you, as we have for more than 70 years in the United States.

and by helping to further the movement – providing you with opportunities to connect, through:

- The weekly *National Grail News*
- The monthly *Gumbo*
- The U.S. and regional Grail listservs
- The website, www.us-grail.org and social media
- Maintaining the member list and publishing the Salmon Sheets
- Coordinating national gatherings, ensuring that Grail members can get together at least annually
- Tracking and sharing the work of Grail groups and regions

It's a circle. It begins and ends with the members, you. Your work is valuable; it needs to continue. Please make your gift or your pledge to The Grail today. In return, we will promise to give you honest stewardship of your gifts and the opportunity to build the movement that means so much to all of us.

GRAIL MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2011

Total Member-Giving To The Grail: \$120,348

All member categories:	157 (61%)
Active:	112 (67%)
Wider members:	17 (65%)
Emerita:	28 (44%)
National Fund:	\$63,454
Grailville:	\$18,053
Cornwall:	\$18,937
Special Projects:	\$19,903

Thank you to all of the Grail Members who have made a contribution this year, to National operations, Grailville or Cornwall or to a Special Project. If you have given and don't see your name reflected here, please call the National office, (513) 683-5750. We're working hard to make sure all of our information is correct and appreciate your help and your understanding.

Members who have made their 2011 contribution between January 1-November 30, 2011

Helen Adler	Patricia Dillon	Alexa Kane	Elizabeth Rose
Judy Alves	Jackie DiSalvo	Laura Kaplan	Beth Rosen
Donna Ambrogi	Mary Divito	Renee Keels	Rosa Ruiz
Joyce Asfour	Patricia Dolan	Alice Kelly	Marie Russell
Constance Barrow	Taya Doro-Mitchell	Linda Kolts	Theresa Sapunar
Carol Barton	Alice Dougan	Maureen Laflin	Lenie Schaareman
Shirley Beaupre	Monica Erler	Mary Lu Lageman	Eileen Schaeffler
Marcia Bedard	Ingrid Farnham	Joann Lamb	Audrey Schomer
Jane Bergquist	Mary Farrell	Carol Hussong Leopold	Marian Schwab
Mary Louise Birmingham	Brigitte Ferrari-Cicero	Lyllis Ling	Dode Shepherd
Judith Blackburn	Cecilia Figueroa	Angie Loecke	Carol Siemering
Heather Teagan Blackburn	Kathleen Fisher	Peggy Logue	Bernice Belair Sisson
Gloria Boudreaux	Eva Fleischner	Mary Kay Louchart	Carol Skyrn
Pat Bell Bradley	Joy France	Monica Maher	Angele Coyle Smith
Rose Mae Broussard	Ruth Gallant	Gail Malley	Audrey Sorrento
Wendy Budzynski	Joy Garland	Terry Marshall	Patricia St. Onge
Margarita Cabrera	Barbara Gibbons	Mary Ann McCarthy	Ann Steffy
Penny Carr	Roberta Gill	Carole Spearin McCauley	Deborah Sullivan
Jacqueline Carroll	Mary Gindhart	Marie Therese McDermit	Marie Sutter-Sinden
Teresa Carter	Margaret Goederer	Carol McDonnell	Maureen Tate
Mary Ellen Clifford	Marian April Goering	Elizabeth McGivney	Rose Taul
Pamela Cobey	Elise Gorges	Frances McLaughlin	Emily Thomas
Barbara Coleman	Carolyn Gratton	Anne Mercier	Maria-Emilia Thomas
Rosa De Jesus Contreras	Lea Grundy	Joyce Minkler	Sharon Thomson
Angelica Contreras	Una Mae Hargrave	Marie Mohr-Grandstaff	Stephana (Mary Ann) Tikalsky
Nancy Cooney	Gwendolyn Hawk	Elizabeth Murphy	Sally Timmel
Deirdre Cornell	Jeanne Heiberg	Nina Naberhaus	Nancy Traer
Vivian Corres	Mary Heidkamp	elmira Nazombe	Roberta Trombly
Dottie Cortez	Martha Heidkamp	Lydia Nieves	Barbara B. Troxell
Bethann Witcher Cottrell	Ann Heidkamp	Carol Nosko	Kate Twohy
Mary Therese Coyle	Elizabeth Heidler	Karen O'Brien	Carolyn Vadala
Marguerite Coyle	Grace Heising	Laura Pagoada-Mellado	Ruth Vargas
Theresa C. Czerwinski	Bonnie Hendricks	Shirley Piazza	Beth Wasmer
Ann Marie Czyzewski	Rebecca Kremer Hill	Dorothy Rasenberger	Carol Webb
Helen Davis	Cherie Holman	Nancy Richardson	Duanne Welsch
Maria De Groot	Elaine Huber	Lynn Robbins	Francine Wickes
Mary Kay Delgado	Anne Hurley	Elizabeth Robinson	Jean Wilson
Virginia Deters	Lucy Jones	Maclovia Rodriguez	Sharon Wood
Ivette Diaz	Sharon Joslyn	Marian Ronan	Patricia Young