Thursday – Our Environmental World

9:45 – 10:00 - Soul Moment: Power of 10 Video introduced by Shirley Piazza
10:00 - 11:00 Plenary Session I: Our Environmental World/Overview – Kate Devlin
11:20 – 12:20 Plenary Session II: Fracking/Water--Joy Garland
2:00 - 3:30 Panel Session of people involved in Environmental action
Joy Garland - Water
Kate Twohy – Green Economy
Mary Lu Lageman – Local Food Movement
Bonnie Hendricks – Transition Movement
Trina Paulus – Genetic Engineering and Sustainable Development
3:45 – 4:45 Groups by interest in follow-up or application of panel presentations
7:30 - Presentation about the Recent IGA

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Opening Session, led by Judith Blackburn.

Review and Formation of Spiritual Practices

- Prayer for Peace
- Centering Prayer
- Singing
- Chanting
- Walking the Land
- Contemplative/Spiritual Reading
- Journaling
- Scripture Reading
- Meditation
- Miscellaneous

Plenary Session I

Kate Devlin, PhD Biology
PowerPoint presentation: Environmental Overview

Recently I was reminded that I've always had a sense of wonder about the environment, and started re-reading Rachel Carson's writings. She was a prescient author and warned about

changes to our world if we did not revise our actions. As many of you remember she raised our awareness of toxins in the environment and some real changes were made.

These days we are inundated with information about the changing climate. Headlines read, "Global warming 'confirmed' by independent study," "The heat is on…," "Who's Bankrolling the Climate-Change Deniers?"

What do we do? Who can we believe? Change is happening all around us, if we only listen.

This is the story of a population of birds nesting on small islands in the Gulf of Maine. They have a story to tell. It relates to the changing world. But it has taken a while to understand the language they were using to tell us of the changes in their world.

Historically terns have nested on many island, in recent years nesting islands are restricted to islands that are protected by human presence in the summer months. A study of individual birds revealed that many birds were abandoning the largest known colony many years before the overall numbers showed a decline. A model simulation projected abandonment of that colony within 20 years, however, the reality of abandonment happened within 3 years. There is a ripple effect of environmental change that is coming that will impact humans.

The environmental situation is much more dire than some politicians would like us to believe. Things are changing at a pace much more rapid than ever anticipated even by top scientists. Humans need to work together to mitigate and adapt to coming changes. This will require socio-economic development, food security planning, and curbing our reliance on fossil fuels. When the economy declines and the unemployment rate increases, our attention shifts away from the environment. In the long run this is a shift that we cannot afford to make.

We need to: "Wake up and smell the burning planet!" (Al Gore – Climate Reality Sept. 2011) before it is too late. What are YOU going to do? Let's talk about our future and our plans.

Plenary Session II

Joy Garland, Fracking

Talking about energy. What has changed is development of a new technology – hydraulic fracturing, developed by Haliburton.

250-500 chemicals (proprietary formula) exempted from Clean Water Act in 2005.

Chemicals, sand and millions of gallons of freshwater, injected 8-9000 feet under the earth and it explodes the shale where gas is trapped. Rush of water and gas out of the cracks, pulled to surface….huge pit, the size of a baseball field. Sometimes lined, sometimes not.

Advocates say this technology is benign…makes us no longer reliant on foreign oil. It's like the gold rush. Began in the west about 10 years ago,

The video, 27 minutes
NOW with David Brancaccio

Josh Fox, offered family $4,500/acre for drilling rights….told that it would just be a hydrant in the middle of field, 'you won't even know we're here.' Started to research and found little, although it had been happening for more than 10 years in 34 states.

Environmental Panel:

- Joy Garland
- Bonnie Hendricks
- Mary Lu Lageman
- Kate Twohy
- Trina Paulus

Joy Garland - Water
Join a support group. Let political leaders know you're present.

Kate Twohy – Green Economy
Green Economy: A Global Outlook, From Crisis to Opportunity (PowerPoint)

Primary Source, Environmental program of the United Nations

Biomass

Mary Lu Lageman– Local Food Movement
OEFFA Article by Gene Logsden, on small farms as job creators

1/6th of 7 billion people are hungry, malnourished or starving…not able to feed ourselves or other reasons?

Number of farms reduced; means of production being more and more centralized in a few corporations

Need a resilient agriculture, a new paradigm…we know what to do

Myth of scale (get big or get out)

Need to build a new economy, built on cooperation rather than competition

In the Cincinnati region, there's been a good increase in the number of farms. For the first time in decades, the # of farmers is actually increasing nationally.
Particularly concerned about food justice…food deserts. In Cincinnati, encouraging convenience stores to carry fresh food from local farms.

Involved in the Cincinnati Food Policy Council. Findlay market is training new farmers.

We need resilient systems that continue in the future. Food sovereignty – having control over the means of production or food sources. Participated in US/World Social Forum in Detroit last year.

Lot developments – Grailville's CSA was the first about 18 years ago, now there are many more. Farm stands popping up, strong presence on the internet.

Jody Grundy co-founded OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association). Food policy council grew out of Food Congress in Cincinnati. An ad hoc group that sort of struggles along. Also involved in the permaculture movement, design system for sustainable living. Bill conscious design and maintenance of …diversity, stability and sustainability of natural ecosystems.

Grailville in the center. Trained farmers, 60 women and one man went through internship program. There's a lot we can do. We have a lot of potential. Not just growing vegetables, it's about building sustainable community

We make decisions every day – buy bread from a local baker, or go to the supermarket.

Farm Bill up for reenactment. Supposed to have gone to super committee

Bonnie Hendricks - Transition (Town) Movement (PowerPoint)

Now refer to Transition Initiatives, instead of towns: a place where there is a community-led process that helps that place become stronger and happier

Building resilience…the ability of a community to withstand impacts from the outside

- End of cheap energy
- Climate change/weird weather
- Economic contraction/instability

Rob Hopkins, teaching permaculture in Ireland: Energy Descent Action Plan for Kinsale, Ireland

Started in US in 2007, Boulder, CO, and Sandpoint, Idaho

Localization and re-skilling are central. Some examples

- Seed exchange…library – plant the seeds, return them next fall
- Permaculture
- Boulder –
- local currencies, barter
- Gleaning
- Soil fertility workshop
- Clothes mending
- Solar water heater construction training
- In Christchurch, NZ, neighborhoods involved in Transition were able to respond more quickly after earthquake
- Solar-powered, community-owned brewpub
- Gas lamps, shifting to methane from local animal waster

New book: *Transition Companion* No A-Z process, it's different in every community. Five stages though, with a variety of ingredients. Open source written – Rob Hopkins

Inner transition is just as important. ..its really about the change of heart, if that doesn't happen along with the windmills, then I don't know what's the point. Community resilience, personal resilience…how am I tanking care of myself

Positive visioning – I couldn't do doom-and-gloom anymore. Change is happening – our choice is between a future that happens to us or a future we want

Emergence: The universe is happening. We are not separate and distinct from that. Allowing the space for this amazing wisdom beyond us to emerge.

Trina Paulus - Genetic Engineering and Sustainable Development
Question of framing…we have to learn how to frame this stuff to make it attractive

A few years ago at the United Nations, UN Agriculture initiative…small farms will feed the world in the future.

GMO developers want things both ways. Patents on food, but no labeling because it's the same as every other (corn, tomato).

Biomass – harvest all the green stuff in the world and turning it into electricity. The wrong way to go. That stuff should be going back into the land for compost, etc.

Nanotechnology is unregulated. (seeks to manipulate matter at the atomic level).

Positive things
Boulder, longest running permaculture design course in the world.
Cornucopia of New Jersey, Hopefortheflowers.org
Butterfly are the canaries in the mines for the world

Book: *Slow Money* – investment in small companies, you invest not for quick return

Occupy Wall Street newspaper raised $75,000 on Kickstarter.com

Everything comes full circle: Debora Schak taught me about composting at Grailville in the 1940s….next year is Hope for the Flowers 40th anniversary and I just turned 80 years old. Can be made available for nook, iPad,. Still need $1 million for a 40 minute animated video. Grail needs to be involved with this. …ready to be published in China.

The China Study -- a vegetable-based diet

"Forks over Knives," new movie

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Groups by interest, in follow-up or application of panel presentations

Plan was for small groups to delve deeper into the panel's topics. Transition Initiative became the main focus group

Transition initiative small group

Kate Devlin	Mary Farrell	Duane Welsch
Angelica Contreras	Terri Carter	Carol Siemering
Mary Kay Delgado	Una Hargrave	Joyce Minkler
Ingrid Farnham	Trina Paulus	Mary Gindhart

Mary Kay Louchart
Lenie Schaareman
Claudia Yamasue
Ceci Figueroa
Pat Dolan
Marian Schwab
Audrey Sorrento
Nancy Cooney
Fran Martin
Beth Wasmer
Debra Lambo
Judy Markle
Elise Gorges
Lucy Jones
Carol McDonnel;
Ann Mercier
Beth Murphy

Ingrid: I think the national Grail should get behind this. There's clearly a lot of interest, just from the number of people who are here

Marian: is there interest because it's new?

Nina: no, I know about it and I think it sounds all-encompassing from inner transition to societal and planetary scale.

Bonnie: these changes are coming and it's about strengthening our communities to weather the storms

Terri: difference between reacting and responding. We're responding, rather than reacting after something has gone wrong.

Lenie: this kind of local roots of where it has to happen…very place- based

Beth Murphy: it addresses the needs of a specific area…it seems doable and that gives energy

Carol Siemering: kind of what we're doing with this meeting, whatever the solutions are,

Ingrid – learning old skills, great interest in learning bread-baking, canning, etc. I see some unique opportunities for Grailville to lead in these areas.

Kate – I'm interested in that it doesn't deny technology. May be rooted in one place, but keeping in touch with what others are doing
Lucy: some of what we've been doing in Cornwall, before I was there, calling together people who are like-minded and some of the programs have come from the gifts that people bring

Trina: when I first heard about permaculture I felt so good about it, …food thing can be what unites us. People who are scared stiff, transition could be very helpful

Joyce: Transition people would agree – the more we are able to build stronger and stronger communities, the more secure we'll all be.

Bonnie: in times of crisis and emergency, people really do come together

Fran: mosque in Cincinnati invited everyone to come

Kate: seed libraries, Dona Sheva does it in India…it is community based

Nancy: I'm interested in alternative currencies
Claudia. I have a resource for that Charles Isenstein, Sacred Economies. Living in the Gift…not being tied to dollars, working to help each other

Joyce: Berkshires have developed a local economy (the BerkShares)

Nancy: Time Exchange in Milwaukee

Beth Wasmer: Margaret, explorer from Washington, helped start an Hour Bank

Mary Kay Delgado: the whole Grail seems to respond…this allows multiple issues to be involved, doesn't require us to pick one thing…so many ways to embrace it

Nina: national set up resource page on the website

Carol: need to think way beyond the national level, how can I go back to Newton, to my church…food co-ops…people go back and use their local reality

Mary: we need to take this back and figure out implementation strategies at home, and I like Nina's idea that we set up an information exchange platform…

Beth M: then it becomes a public resource

Carol: is a consideration whether there's Grail financial support?

Mary Gene: are we putting our money where our mouth is
?
Nancy: how can I say anything that has any meaning…the Grail is fostering the transition movement for the next couple of years…provides some kind of continuity…how can the transition movement work for you? Might come to new ideas….

Beth Wasmer: something else the Grail wants to do and get home and go fix fence, then in this room, with each one of you, I don't have a clue what you are…Grow food, compost, share movies with others of semi-like minds…we don't know them…what do each of us do

Claudia: you're the most experienced group ever to teach people about sustainability…I see the urgency…and I've read your history – you've already done a lot of this…this is one of the most important movements of our lifetimes…

Lenie: there has been an effort by the national Grail to show what people are doing…

Joyce: the freeing part for me is the emphasis on local…you know what your resources are as well…makes it reasonable and doable

Lucy: comes out of the passion of individuals…sometimes I'm just overwhelmed…The Hope: A Guide to Sacred Activism….elbow in time, something new is happening. We are part of that.

Terri: what makes this so manageable is that it looks like a national Grail journey. But Boston will be different than Grailville's, and every part will be different and put it in the Grail stew and its beautiful

Mary Kay Louchart: it touches what the Grail has been for 90 years…Grailville and CW are such treasures to us…how can something emerge again…maybe we're at this new elbow in time…I

think the Grail is as relevant now as it has ever been…this is a very particular thing about sustainable living. It focuses down who and what I am

Mary Gindhart: a conference recently seeing the connection to the whole religious tradition…coal, natural gas and oil are our apple –from the Garden of Eden

Trina: sharing with the social media that's there…we can take little home movies of what we're doing…a little vignette that might be meaningful to us.

Claudia: community building a community. You have to start with the people

Mary F: disagree about expanding what gets started here at GV, think we should do the transition initiatives in our communities to see what emerges…

Beth M: national Grail could serve as a communication platform

Nina: communication, website as clearing house, organizing large amounts of information, I have no idea what kind of number of hours it takes to do that kind of work…Grail at Grailville is pretty maxed out…I know the tremendous amount of resources that takes…its different than it was at the Year School, when the women you see here were available to teach the workshops because they lived here….I'd rather say let's assess resources we have, use the transition lens to assess what we have now

Marian: that the Grail in US would adopt the transition movement as a framework for local and national action for the next three years.

Carol: see where the transition model is occurring locally…additional step, connect to others in the TM, wherever you are doing it…

Joyce: feel uncomfortable with a national statement like that…to place it within a national strategy…the genius is that really is local and emerging… support and encourage local transition movements where they occur

Beth: if we use this as some sort of a framework for environmental work we're doing…fracking, does it fit in with the transition movement…

Carol: the word 'model' appeals to me – building community to address these things

Lucy: what do we mean by community…I still wish we had a directory, with our faces

Audrey: I hope that Grailville can be part of a transition…not the old GV, but a new one

Terri: we are the national Grail..

That the Grail in the US would adopt the as a model for local

<u>Stages of Transition</u>

- Deepening

- Connecting
- Building
- Daring to Dream

Pat Dolan: when I came to the Grail, it was Women in Transition…when we come together, it's a beautiful mishmash.

Trina: what the word transition means…I feel like everything I do is Grail, came out of my Grail formation, yet I haven't claimed it as that for years…Butterfly is a transition, from cocoon to out in the world….we challenge each other again…we were challenged to do things we never thought…we pulled out of our bootstraps things no one thought we could do, because of our passion, because of our belief…transition is a way of saying what we're doing

Beth: the past has been glorious but it is past…transition…

Nina: what does the Grail do now…my experience feels like the crux of the question remains nebulous….Grail work is what individual Grail members are doing…arts and culture are part of the mission statement of the Grail…

Mary F: I was much more energized after the IGA, we do this program called Metanoia and I describe this spiritual deepening, we explore for a whole weekend, transformative experience…people get excited…

Debra: maybe we can't answer the question

At this point, a good number of women who were in this discussion left to join others who then went to the Occupy Cincinnati group in the city. Some stayed and continued the discussion, but no records were made of that or of an evening session.

Friday – Our Social World

9:00 - 9:15 Soul Moment /Overview of the Day

9:30 - 11:00 Plenary Session: Our Social World/ UN Millennium Development GoalsSharon Joslyn, Mary Kay Louchart, Simonetta Romano, Lucy Jones, Kate Twohy

11:20 - 12:20 Small Groups processing info

2:00 - 3:30 Panel Session of people involved in social world action

Judy Markle – Michigan Collaborations with Like-Minded Groups

elmira Nazombe – Popular Education Anti-racism Work

Jackie DiSalvo – Occupy Wall Street: Occupy Everywhere

Lenie Schaareman - Trafficking

3:45 - 4:45 Groups by interest in follow-up or application of panel presentations

7:30 - Session with Council and Center Directors

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Soul Moment, led by Judith Blackburn.

Plenary Session: Our Social World/ UN Millennium Development Goals

Introduction of group:

- Sharon Joslyn, UFER representative for NY, marginally involved in UN Commission on Indigenous and Migration
- Joy Garland, UFER, UN Sustainable Development Commission and help with UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- Simonetta Romano, CSW
- Mary Gindhart, many years with CSW since 1995, now trying to get involved in the UN Foundation in California.
- Kate Twohy, started at UN at CSW. Subcommittee on women and climate change folded. Committee on Sustainable Development, working group on climate change, very effective committee called Funding for Development
- Lucy Jones, CSW
- Mary Kay Louchart, Religions for Peace (part of Grail's history in UN), Religious at the UN, Working Group on Girls, getting girls' issues present at CSW; Migration (an issue very real to us where we live and work), Trafficking committee (part of Migration), CSW

Mary G – history of Grail at UN
Found a picture of Lydwine with Dag Hammarskjöld talking at the UN. Participated in all major conferences, including Beijing.

Video shown

Lucy Jones
Do justice, show kindness and walk humbly….

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)…like surfing. Beginning surfers always paddle like crazy, then they learn that the force at work in surfing is gravity….a wave is a moving hill, stay on top of the crest, point your board downhill, parallel to the shore….well-planned falling…align yourself with the forces of the world

MDGs are a great movement we can align ourselves with

1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
    a. Michigan Grail – a member works in a very wealthy parish (2nd wealthiest suburb in US) on the Tithing committee, distributing tithes to many groups. Solving these issues
    b. Occupy Wall Street, challenging income inequality
    c. Grace Place, Cincinnati's Catholic Worker House managed by Grail member Joyce Asfour

2) Achieve universal primary education
    a. San Jose Family Services Center, family literacy program
    b. St. Teresa of Avila, Tanzania
    c. …Uganda
    d. Stockton, CA, started a pre-school

3) Promote gender equality and empower women
    a. St. Teresa
    b. San Jose Family Services
    c. Workshops
    d. Women's center in Belo Horizonte, Brazil
    e. Girl Effect, Portugal
    f. Bronx 9-12 Girls group

4) Reduce child mortality
    a. Mwanga, Tanzania work with mothers and newborns

5) Improve maternal health

6) Combat HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases
    a. Contributions to end Malaria, in memory of Veronica das
7) Ensure environmental sustainability
    a. Grailville organic farms
8) Develop a global partnership for development
    a. Methodist women
    b. Grail as an international movement

PowerPoint of girls' CSW participation
evaluations of participation from the girls

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Afternoon

Intervention

Mary Gene Devlin and Shirley Piazza as representatives of the Planning Committee reviewed the process of the GA because of some dissatisfaction with how the Planning Committee (who worked on conference calls (at least once a month) for a year) envisioned it and set it up. It was becoming difficult to continue to set forth what the committee had planned because of criticism and discussion outside of sessions.

Panel Session of People Involved in Social World Action

- Judy Markle – Michigan Collaborations with Like-Minded Groups
- elmira Nazombe – Popular Education Anti-racism Work
- Jackie DiSalvo – Occupy Wall Street: Occupy Everywhere
- Lenie Schaareman - Trafficking

Judy Markle: Detroit area Peace and Justice Network, Oakridge, TN, where the first atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima was built…involves everything that we've been talking about -- spirituality, the environment, building community. Peace protestors found guilty of trespassing, for praying. Ended with a song that made everyone feel better.

One prisoner died of multiple melanoma shortly after release, after being ignored by prison officials for months.

Lenie Schaareman: Trafficking --invisible slavery: labor or sexual. More aware of sex trafficking because of the absolutely horrible stories we hear. Have no voice, no ability to make decisions for themselves…the trafficking hotlines work…

Grail international network as part of Global Justice/Overcoming Poverty network. State Department publishes a report every year…we try to put articles in Gumbo. International conferences in 2011….Legislation is working. ..

Grape boycott – Rabbi said the grapes weren't kosher – they were tainted with injustice

Rosa: sometimes encounters young women who have been sold by their families to older men. Why having a translator is so important…as a nurse, gives card with number of trafficking hotline

Elmira: southern Baptist women trying to educate women around trafficking. United Methodists have trained 2,000 to be educators…check locally for resources

Jackie DiSalvo – Occupy Wall Street – Occupy Everywhere
received a text last night that the folks at Liberty Plaza might be evicted. The fight is going to get more intense…100,000 people clogged the highways around Oakland, the longshoremen shut down the ports…there is tremendous psychological stress around the current times…at Liberty Plaza, you see the joy…they have hope and a community of effective action…"The People are Too Big to Fail"…no one expected this…most of us who are active organizers did not realize where the American people are at…when I saw Occupy Huntsville, AL…go to OccupyTogether.org…visible, getting the message out

The strength is in the concept of democracy that has us uniting the 1 percent – we have named the ruling class…we have a list of grievances because they are all coming from this inequality of access and wealth…it is simultaneously a reform demand (more power to the people and a revolutionary demand (the 1% WILL NOT BE GONE UNTIL WE CREATE A NEW SOCIETY).

We are in an unresolvable crisis of late capitalism…the contract lasted until the late 1970s….with the white middle and working class…had a safety net and relative job security. Then 2 people cold support a family…then it was dept that supported family…the crisis began in the min 1970s and since then wages have stagnated…they cant by anything, no one can make anything because no one can buy anything

Movement conceives of itself primarily as a democracy movement…getting rid of the ruling class is really their primary demand…people, groups keep showing up

I never believed when I called the Transit Union that they would say yes…went to the struggles, they knew us– went to the phone workers picket line…at Sotheby's I got to disrupt people trying to buy $100,000 paintings…there are some incredibly radical staff in some of these unions…60 or 70 reps from 30 or 40 unions have been coming

Rich Trumka flew to NY to meet with me and 4 other people…going after the banks, Chase, because they're sitting on billions, that need to go into the economy.

Unions' presence made us mainstream…we were no longer marginal freaks

We are all alienated …polls show that twice as many people support Occupy Wall Street as support the Tea Party.

I expect the fight to get harder.

elmira Nazombe - Popular Education Anti-racism Work
Not what the Grail does, but how we do it.

Spirit of Training for Transformation

1989 Grail put on Women Breaking boundaries…Sally Timmel and Ann Hope, turning point of my life…Grail assembled women from around the world…all kinds of women all in the room together…whatever issue we're going to work on, that's the character of it…popular education, economic literacy – we had enough intelligence in the room to figure out what was wrong in the world. We could do critical analysis based on our experience…that's what the Grail does

It is a precious legacy we have

Grail made pop ed its own…the Canadians created naming the moment….right now, reflecting what we just heard Jackie talk about…what kind of moment is this?

Been working for Carol for 18 years together…the Grail's gift to me

Political weather report

<u>Events that help us</u>
Diversity
Making people feel their not alone
More awareness
Sense of community
Naming the elephant
Shared leadership
Renewed energy, feeling of life
Hidden consciousness in people
Sense of joy and invitation
Arrests lead to publicity
Chaplaincy for Wall Street
Feminism – what created the person-to-person sense of democracy, how people treat each other
Commitment to nonviolence that wins over people with guns

<u>Events that hurt us</u>
Foreclosures
People with guns

Unemployment creates strikebreakers
Media only interviews the men

As we share, we get new insights

Afternoon session with elmira
Make a list of things we need - a space to talk about, then organize the conversation

- Arts, visual, music, dance and spiritual power they have in the Grail
- Social Justice issues in and around the Grail
    - Health care
- *How does the Grail change from an organization to a movement or vice versa
- Talk about taking stands as the Grail…process needs to be explained and what role we could play in surfacing some issues
- We need to understand the limits of a tax exempt organization and whether we agree with them or do not
- Why and how to approach the social justice issues in the Grail
    - Used to have a liberation task force (education and we informed network about the issues, urge along) and a liberation network
- Process used for inquiry and acquisition of resources to initiate Grail projects
- *Have Training for Transformation brought back
- Events of the last couple of weeks have a strong hold on us, but we don't know what we want to do about them…an analysis that we all share about what has gone on that has moved us so forcefully (Dorothy: suddenly the bomb has dropped that the gap is intolerable…before going into Iraq in 2003, President Bush went in in the middle of the night and reduced the taxes on the highest income. Now a generation of people aren't able to work. I don't believe that we as Grail can solve this problem; we have political limitations)
- I want to know what's going on in the UN and UFER, if that's what I need to do back home. We have experts in this room and we could form little groups behind them when they need it. We can't be experts on everything…teams as resources
- Commitment to communication…all this stuff is happening…and a commitment to listening
- Might the Grail coordinate itself better now that there is a national movement (Occupy) for the first time in years. Is there a way for the Grail to connect to it and to each other

Some organizational questions, some philosophical

Philosophical

Start with small groups and then come back together to discuss.

Something that's broader than issues…what we're trying to grapple with that's in the context…the way we approach with structural analysis…Transition discussions started to bring everything into focus….maybe don't break down into separate issue
Social justice in organization
What the moment is….

Do we have some advice for why or how we would approach social justice issues. Not just occupation issues…but a style that is ours

Concern about losing track of our UN work in all this. We ride on the waves of other movements

How do we put in dialogue, how we go forward….there are some new things…just organizes the way we talk about it

Saturday – Our Spiritual World

9:00 - 9:30 Soul Moment/Overview of the Day

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary Session: Spiritual World/ Women Claiming Spiritual Power—Diana Hayes

10:45 - 12:15 - Panel Session of people involved in spiritual programming/action

- Laura Kaplan – Circles of Connection; Welcoming Potential Members
- Mary Gene Devlin – Elder Spirituality, Croning
- Meg Bruck – Metanoia
- Simonetta Romano – Phoenix Rising & Interfaith Series
- Judith Blackburn – Inner Work and the Great Shift

2:00 - 2:45 Groups by interest in follow-up or application of panel presentations

3:00 - 5:00 **Movement to Action**: Selection of two or three "Grail in the US" Actions related to the three "worlds" as our focus for the immediate future

7:30 - Evening Worship Service with Blessings

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Soul Moment offered by Beth Wasmer

Mary Gene Devlin introduced Diana Hayes

Diana Hayes - Spirituality in the Grail

Four parts:

1) What is spirituality for me? How do I understand, experience it?
2) What are our spiritualities, our common spiritualities, in our communities?
3) What is or has been or continues to be my spiritual journey?
4) What are our Grail spiritualities…diverse religiously, while becoming truly pluralistic?

Hush, somebody callin' my name
Hush, hush, somebody callin' your name
Oh hush, hush
Somebody's calling our names
Oh my lord, what shall I do?

We're all on a journey, don't even know where it began. St. Augustine, our hearts are restless until they rest in thee oh Lord.

For some it is a way of life, for some a journey, others a way of fully expressing their religious faith.

What god do we mean? Does religion play any role in spirituality? Where does spirituality come from?

I knew the Abrahamic religions and I taught Hinduism and Buddhism. Learning about Aruban, neopagans, native Americans, humanism, new Age faith…made me realize how diverse we are religiously
The New Religious America, Diana Eckhart – diversity doesn't constitute pluralism, whether we are able to work across religious differences remains to be seen. Still challenged to make good on the idea of religious freedom…to create a pluralist society, that doesn't just tolerate…

The Grail is arguably a microcosm….founded as a Roman Catholic org…no longer are many vowed celibates, children

Does this mean we must pray in the same way

Dialogue of Vision Statement shows that we are still struggling with these issues

Why has spirituality become so popular?

There truly is no exact way when it comes to defining spirituality? The spirit is an entity of mystery…exploring that and how it interacts with us.

Everyone thinks there's one theology – no. Talk about God. We all engage in God-talk

Something within all of us that makes us the unique beings that we are.

We live today in an increasingly complex world…pluralistic, multi-cultural world, which requires us to live with others very different from ourselves. It's overwhelming, trying to discern someone else's self-understanding

What spiritualities do we share? What experiences have shaped our personal journeys?

We are not and never have been a Christian nation, beginning of course with Native Americans. (We had the land, and you had the Bible, then we had the Bible, and you had the land)

Our campuses have become the lands of multiculturalism…Diana Eckhert,
.
Spirituality is a lived experience, that is both internal (I am being transformed) and external (I will live in a responsible way)

My own spiritual journey has been eclectic. Born in Buffalo, raised AME Zion. Had uncles, cousins and aunts ordained in the Methodist church. I was 'different.' "Di is different." Taught

myself to read when I was 3; I'm a book-aholic. I was always searching for something. I left the church when I was 16. I made a vow of celibacy when I was 10. I told God I would never marry, as long as I could take care of my mother and my sisters. My father was an abusive alcoholic. It didn't make sense until I became a Catholic…I learned that that was part of journey…I am Irish, Creek, ….

In college, majored chemistry, modern languages and a life-changing experience met Robert Kennedy, changed to pre-law. Got out of law school (human rights law), ended up in the US DOL, consumer protection and child welfare. Then I fell off my bicycle and found God.

Diagnosed…cartilage disintegrating….

I was being bombarded by God, one cannot ignore God

My mother said are you going mad, I said no, I'm becoming a Catholic. She told me as a child I watched Fulton Sheen and memorized a Catholic prayer book.

My sister said – you've become white.

Retreat in the morning, 'you will go to Catholic university and you will study theology' Called a priest friend – he'd been conspiring, praying that I would be called to study theology. Launched upon the pontifical degree program – first woman, and lay to enter that program

I am so over-trained, that I would qualify as a bishop immediately, if they changed the rules

Black, female, womanist, theologian, attorney – a bit of a nightmare. What are you?

A womanist is a black female, historically a Christian movement, but we've become pluralistic, no longer just theologians. Like the feminist movement…Alice Walker: defines as a feminist of color. I do not use the term feminist because for me womanist names who I am. In seminary, I was told I was feminist, just because I was there.

Concerned and committed to the survival of an entire people…believe my rights are guaranteed are only when all are guaranteed. No one can be free until we are all free.

I'm a Catholic, celibate womanist

There are so many spiritualities in the Graileverybody has their own path…its why I love the Grail. As we stand together, we are The Grail. One can be religious but not being spiritual.

Book: Exploring spiritual pathways

Lives in love, pursues justices…a pathway in dialogue and in transition, learns from others, it is an ethical pathway….grounded in love, never static.

Not seeking a single spirituality for the Grail….we have come to recognize that we are all on spiritual journeys as we work for …

The ways in which we work toward them are justifiably different

We grow stronger in all the broken places…imagine a larger cup, sharing our different gifts, weaving something great and glorious for God.

Spirituality is a part of everything we do, gives us the strength to go forward.

Dorothy Rasenberger: 2007 Grail national meeting. The Grail is a way of being in the world, relying….adapting to conditions of the time…seeking positive forces for change…learning from each other…celebrate our deep caring for the world

St. Augustine: Hope has two beautiful daughters – anger and courage. Anger at the way things are and the courage to change them.

Questions:
Jackie – I feel that Catholics in the Grail have been put on the defensive…but I feel because Catholics have been put on the defensive that we haven't had the benefit of the full wisdom… Why are you a Catholic.

Diana – not rational. I feel like God specifically called me. Felt like I was leaving the black world; I didn't know any black Catholics. An AME cousin said maybe you are being called to build bridges…between black Catholics and black Protestants.

Cyprian Davis wrote the history of black Catholics…the church was in Africa for hundreds of years before it ever got to Europe….

I am in this church because God called me here. I am a thorn deeply imbedded in the church.

Jackie: what did you find in Catholicism that you hadn't found elsewhere…what do you like about it?

Diana: I like the beauty of the Mass. I know what's going on at all times...the ritual. I was confirmed Dec. 23, 1979. God knew better than to call me before Vatican II. I like the sense of family. …there's always something to rejoice over or to be angry about, sometimes in the same minute. Came back from Belgium in 1988, started teaching at Georgetown…Gertrude Morris, I met her through the Office of Black Catholics. She invited me to Grailville, 1989 or 1990. She insisted I come for the whole GA. I fell in love with the Grail. I didn't want to be a lay member of religious order. The Grail is unique.

Lillian Wall: I'm a cradle Catholic. My father was proud of being black and Catholic. Augustine was African…Tunisian…I grew up knowing that

Judith: you hinted that there's a difference between spiritual diversity and spiritual pluralism. One of our challenges is to worship together.

D:Religious diversity simply means we have different religions. Whereas pluralism is a much broader understanding and are able to interact with each other. Not assimilation or integration, but that we recognize that these differences are good. Not sure if we will ever have 'common ground' but there are ways to celebrate. Ferguson talks about the way of nature in culture…they

overlap…we realize how important the world is to us; it's Gaea, it's mother earth….yet it's a frustrating experience

The more I learn, the more I feel confirmed in my faith – another way of knowing God

Anonymous Christians – all are open to the message of Christ, if they but knew it. It's a way of honoring all of these differences and acknowledging…when you first encounter difference….its hard as Christians to recognize other expressions of the divine. It's not relativism – it's not saying all is good. The thing is to learn, to be open to them….perhaps a mosaic or a tapestry, but each one is still distinct. Not a stew, not the melting pot.

Panel Session of people involved in spiritual programming/action

- Laura Kaplan – Circles of Connection; Welcoming Potential Members
- Mary Gene Devlin – Elder Spirituality, Croning
- Meg Bruck – Metanoia
- Simonetta Romano – Phoenix Rising & Interfaith Series
- Judith Blackburn – Inner Work and the Great Shift

Laura Kaplan: Growing the Grail

Emily Thomas was supposed to give this presentation but she had so many commitment she couldn't make it

Growing the Grail is Grail work and a work of the Grail. There has been well-founded concern about the aging of the Grail….a point person has been identified to fix all that, she may be our savior

The person we can rely on to save the Grail: "I am the one the Grail has been waiting for"

- You see a person and she says, "What is the Grail?"

You need an elevator (60-second) pitch.

The Grail is an international movement in 20 countries

A worldwide movement of women of different faith traditions

Committed to making this a better world

A women's movement that does leadership skills and changes the world, one woman at a time

Interfaith ….practice and spirituality working toward justice and transforming the world

International movement of women, justice, spiritual growth…

Mary Gene Devlin and Nancy Cooney: Croning

- The Crone is a woman in the third part of her life – the maiden, the mother, the crone
- The celebration is for the purpose of taking up the time of age consciously. The body changes, the work changes, a transition occurs that is consciously chosen, not something that just happens to you.

Janet Kalven had a croning ceremony at 70, described in Rosemary Radford Reuther's book Women-Church.

2007, Nancy Cooney turned 70 and traveled to visit Carol White in Ireland and Carol's Spirituality Group gathered with friends to celebrate Nancy's croning in a ritual designed by Nancy and Carol.

In 2009, Carol who turned 70 in that year invited Mary Gene Devlin (same age) to come to Dublin for a celebration with the same group as Nancy had and with friends and explorers who were learning about the Grail. Their theme was "Tis A Gift to Be Simple."

Powerpoint Presentation illustrating Nancy's and Carol and Mary Gene's Croning

Meg Bruck: Metanoia in the Cincinnati/Dayton region
Goal: a lot of new members and a lot explorers, but had not been gathering regularly for decades

The most important thing was to listen to each other and build trust. Recognize our differences…incorporate each one's spiritual journey

Art work, physical work, learning Grail songs. Took key words from the Grail mission statement….what is it I really love about life on earth. What gives me great pain, suffering?

Exercise on the word "call"

Simonetta Romano: Phoenix Rising
How you form a participatory circle even when people are very, very different. A Jewish group been coming to Cornwall for 30 years; a Wiccan group said this is our spiritual home; Buddhist group lives at Cornwall for five weeks every summer for 15 years – they said it was their spiritual home.

Sharon says all these people are saying it's their spiritual home and talk about what that means. Then maybe they would help us more, if we can create community.

Orthodox Jewish feminist does a Shabbat meal with everyone on Friday…we had no subject, no strategy, just ' why do you say this is your spiritual home?'

Nobody represented a whole tradition; they shared their own journeys

Met a couple of times a year, but when we tried to create a shared ritual, it didn't work – different symbols, etc.

One more meeting next week, to see about going forward

Judith Blackburn:
Inner Work and the Great Shift
Heartmath – emWave machine…biofeedback mechanism to synchronize heart rate, breathing and pulse…aids you in communicating your heart's desire…align with the divine

Our mind patterns, thoughts affect everything

We are all in a big change, the Big Shift

Connection between science and spirituality

Fractal Time, by Greg Braden: GOES Satellites, 23000 miles up. On Sept. 11, 2009, registered anomalies in the earth's magnetic field….something big had caused changes. The same thing happened when Princess Diana died.

There are some people doing research on meditation as means of changing the crime rate, affect water, etc.

Would intentional, widely shared emotion change reality?

Naming the moment – cosmically something else is naming our moment right now. 12/21/2012 Mayan calendar stuff going on right now.

Earth's position will be aligned with the galaxy in a different way than it has ever been. The world works on cycles and a new age will be dawning.

Science and spirit are coming together.

Carlos Barrios, Mayan: Humanity will continue but in a different way. Material structures will change….all the traditions are converging now. The spiritual idea of this age is action.

Sunday

9:30 Brunch Celebration of the Grail's 90 years

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Planning committee

Judith Blackburn
Shirley Piazza
Kate Devlin
Mary Gene Devlin
Carol Siemering
Una Hargrave
Noreen Willhelm

The Goal that the Planners of the 2011 GA proposed was to find one or a few common goals (within our Mission) for the Grail in the United States to decide on for the next couple years. This did not happen. What we have is a list of themes that people did sign up to work on. Here is that list:

Social Justice
Coordinators: Carol Barton, Duanne Welsch, Jackie DiSalvo
Tasks

- Survey of what people are doing
- Collect tools and resources
- Establish means for incorporating political analysis into Grail issue discussions
- Identify ways Grail members can use popular education for individual and collective action

Environment
Coordinator: Joy Garland
Other participants

- Mary Lu Lageman
- Beth Rosen
- Terry Marshall
- Kate Twohy
- Bonnie Hendricks
- Marian Ronan
- Jean Wilson
- Kate Devlin
- Becky Hill
- Vivian Corres
- Jay Williams
- Claudia Yamasue (Explorer)

Tasks
Create listserv dedicated to environment
Provide resources on issues
Ask for help
Coordinate how to proceed

Spirituality
Coordinator(s): ?
11 members (not listed)
Tasks (or subgroups)
Prayer circles – Nina Naberhaus, Lyllis Ling
Spirituality and Science – Judith Blackburn, Nancy Cooney
Inter-religious dialogue – Lucy Jones, Pam Cobey

Arts
Coordinators: Lebe Robinson, Beth Murphy
Other participants:

- Carolyn Vadala
- Megan Monteleone-Morrison
- Trina Paulus
- Nina Naberhaus
- Karen O'Brien (who wasn't there!)

Tasks
Variety of different arts
Preservation and sharing
New projects