C R O S S R O A D S

A Newsletter of the Grail International Leadership Team

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Letter from the ILT

Ever since the Grail began, Grail women have been on the move, crossing political and cultural boundaries. First it was the original out-bound from Europe: to Asia-Pacific, to Africa and the Americas. Then those who had caught the Grail spirit began crossing borders themselves, always determined to find other women with vision like theirs, and to network with them for mutual support and challenge.

In July this year, women from Tanzania, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Uganda will encounter one another in Uganda in an international formation program. In October in Portugal, it will be women from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil, Paraguay, the Philippines, Mozambique, South Africa, Kenya, Portugal and the USA. Next year, the IC meeting in Australia will bring together representatives from every Grail country – most of them experienced in international meetings, but still challenged to overcome their own assumptions and prejudices and build solidarity of purpose.

Every open-hearted international encounter is an opportunity for a widening of mind and spirit. Every one can be a step toward peace.

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In the past six months, the new ILT has been working at organizing the programs and meetings named above, plus spending time at monthly Skype meetings on proposals for grants submitted by many countries. (Thank you for all the good plans and work in progress that those proposals represent!) In May, both the International Finance Team and the Capital Foundation Board met in the Netherlands, keeping a watchful eye on the Grail's financial resources.

The members of the International Finance Team, along with members of other international teams, continue to work hard at their tasks, providing vital, behind-the-scenes support for all kinds of Grail programs and operations. Meanwhile, the ILT is inviting members throughout the world to tell Mary Omedo of their interest if they would like to serve on an international team. Serving on some teams requires certain skills or background. For others, it's enough to have e-mail access and be committed to responding thoughtfully and quickly to messages.

In October, the ILT will meet face-to-face in Portugal to take stock of the past months and plan for the future. We are glad to have you all as companions on this journey, and we welcome your questions, your ideas and your insights.

Zodwa Mabaso Maria Carlos Ramos Marian Schwab

From the Editor *Carol Siemering, USA*

This issue's theme is International Exchange in the Grail. That includes attending international meetings, international experiences in other countries, and working on an international team. "The Uganda report" is much abbreviated due to space constraints but the full report is available at the international secretariat on request. It includes many lovely poems as well as more detailed reports.

I myself was privileged to attend two international meetings: the International Spirituality Forum in Portugal in 2007 and the 70-100 meeting in the USA in 2012. They were two of the most remarkable experiences in my life!

"Home away from home" *Josephine Nakagolo, Uganda*

On 24th January 2013, I started my journey to Brazil. My destination was the Grail center at Belo Horizonte for the International Council meeting. The journey itself is the first experience to go through. With my sister Regina, we traveled for approximately 15 hours. This immediately communicated to me that distance should not be a barrier of togetherness. It also reminded me of our foremothers who traveled long distances on the sea but accomplished the goal of taking the Grail to all the continents. Dear sisters, though now gone, we owe you!

I have particularly chosen the IC meeting as my choice of sharing for international exchange because for me it was another experience. On arrival in Belo Horizonte at 1.15 am there was Janaina Aparecida Ribeiro welcome us at the airport. That is always the first sigh of relief of having a sister and friend receiving you in what would have seemed to be a foreign land. Isn't that wonderful!!!!!!

All the Grail entities were represented by their IC members this being an International Council meeting. Therefore, having 18 IC members from different Grail countries was blessing enough to share the richness and talents of each other not to mention other delegates from the different teams such as International Formation Team (IFT), Higher Education Fund (HEF) and International Finance Team.

The hosts were at all times doing everything possible to make sure that we were all comfortable and able to fully participate in the meeting without any distractions.

During the sharing in the meeting and presentations, I appreciated in a special way the work done by Grail women in their different localities to uplift the lives of the people. I indeed saw transformation at work. The Grail work is immense including but not limited to care for immigrants, care for prisoners, care to those healing from the after effects of human trafficking, health care, offering education, catechesis and many other ways of proclaiming the gospel. May the Almighty bless the work of your hands and plans.

Outside the meeting, the hosts had planned for us visits to communities around. The experience was rich and touching to know that amidst those who have everything that they need, there are those who have to depend on others but have never lost hope and kept faith in God that was exhibited in the way they worship. The hope and unity keeps them together.

We visited another community that was at risk of being evicted from the place they have occupied time immemorial. I was particularly inspired by their strength and courage to fight on. They used to repetitively say "Estencia" which I came to learn that it means to "Resist". While there, I said an inner prayer calling on God to spare them the looming eviction. This is because deep down in my heart I know that soon or later they may be overpowered as it is not always a pushover to fight with the government.

All this made me think how the world's problems are similar because back home eviction cases are so many that every other day there are people being evicted. The only difference is the *approach* to those problems.

Those of us who stayed in Brazil for a few days, there was chance to visit Pirapora home to many Grail members. The reception there was wonderful; we prayed with Christians there, visited many families and a Grail project near Pirapora where we were entertained with Kapoeira dance a traditional dance enjoyed by many. The good thing we had a young woman whom we moved with a translator. You see while in Brazil even if you know several languages but without Portuguese , you may easily miss a flight or find yourself at a wrong destination but with such people willing to help us

meet and share with others, life was simplified. On that note, I convey my gratitude to all those who helped with translation both in English and Portuguese during that meeting, in all prior meetings and gatherings and even those who will do it in future.

However, for the success of any exchange programme, there must be a strong and united back stage that always enables activities to run as planned.

Lessons:

- International exchange is a class in which to learn a lot from what we see, hear and experience.
- In this international movement, each one of us should endevour to learn at least one language in which she can communicate to the outside world while away from her country.
- We should be strengthened, encouraged and challenged by the different activities carried out by the Grail women in their different localities thus keeping the Grail vision live.
- I am always inspired by oneness in the Grail communities despite the different social, economical and cultural backgrounds.
- When I joined the Grail, I was always told to develop an international stomach. This is also important because during the international exchange experience you will not always find the food that you are used to; but you will definitely have to adopt and appreciate what is provided.

My experience is that the hosts always walk an extra mile to make sure that you are at home though far away from home. Let us keep the Spirit alive and the world will be continue to be a small place because we shall always be meeting, sharing, learning ,praying, laughing, crying together but in all we shall remain close to each other, grow together and achieve together.

“Together we can transform the world”.

A training and capacity building project for community development workers in Mozambique and Angola *Ines Prata, Portugal*

MAP – Mozambique and Angola Project is a training and capacity building project for community development workers in order to help fighting poverty and hunger by promoting a more sustainable development. This project is built on a partnership between the Grail in Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa and the dioceses of Luena in Angola. It is based on the Training for Transformation methodology with a three year length and currently co-financed by MISEREOR (49,57%).

As a capacity building project at institutional level, MAP aims to promote, enrich and improve the work already developed by the organizations within their communities. This community development workers’ training focuses especially on the social and cultural areas through the development of a critically understanding about local and global problems. It aims to identify deeply the causes of such problems and the consequent mobilization of endogenous and exogenous resources towards their transformation. For that we deepen personal and social abilities, group management and facilitation tools, management and organizational skills, as well as social, political and economic methods of

analysis. Simultaneously, this project has the promotion and recognition of the role of women in their communities as one of its main priorities.

Currently the human resources in our project team are Portuguese and Mozambican. We have developed trainings in Mozambique (Maputo and Beira) and in Angola (Luena) since August 2013. This year we expect to go back to these places to finish the first cycle of introductory workshops.

First introductory course in Mozambique (August 2013)

My Experience at the 58th Session of the CSW *Abida Jamal, Mozambique*

This was my other CSW attendance. Each year I experience different moments and it becomes more and more clear that this is more than just attending an important UN session. This is one way of doing Grail formation. For some it is the first time living with 'other generations', for others a first time living with women from other countries. For all, it is an experience of growing more deeply in the Grail.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a global policy-making, a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. This year the theme was "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls."

The Grail has participated in United Nations CSW sessions since the 90s. In 2011 during the IGA in Kleinmond, South Africa, different discussions about Grail relationship to the United Nations came up with certain recommendations such as: Strengthen connection between the two institutions; Promote Grail formation by mentoring girls and young women in each country through the use of UN themes; Invite young woman for a six month internship, prepare Grail CSW Winter Camp; Mentoring girls who participate at the event. It was established that CSW could be used as opportunity to promote a community living for girls and young women. Since then we have had 22 girls and young women be part of the initiative.

It was also requested that countries work with the girls and young women before they attend and ensure that they report back and perhaps start a project. We had resource materials prepared by our late Joana Fialho and Girls Effect in Portugal in relation to the theme.

For 2 weeks, we were a group of people between 14 and 70 years old that became a community. And it was not just a close group having meals and good times together. We became a community challenged by the stories and experiences women and girls shared about the violence, the inequalities they have faced. We became more aware that we have a

responsibility as global citizens to be sure every voice is heard. I can affirm that the CSW is playing important role in the Grail and in the lives of girls and women. Other than meeting new people and making connections, we got to meet and talk with people who are passionate about women's development and wellbeing. We were exposed to what is happening in other parts of the world and what measures are being taken to ensure change can be done.

Every year I am impressed by the way that we are growing as a network around the work of women and girls. There are different tasks that each of us take back home. It all comes together for the 2 weeks in March during the CSW session. But the most important work is done in our own countries before and after each CSW. It is like a spiral action that begins small and grows wider and wider over time.

In New York, work begins right away with attending Orientation and Consultation Day; following by presenting parallel events; attending regional caucuses; attending CSW sessions; attending briefings; visiting missions; the final session of CSW and the reception of the Outcome Document with its agreed conclusions.

The Grail bring the voices of Grail women and girls from more than 17 countries where it works and their best practices to the CSW and shared them on the theme. The Grail – CSW community attended different workshops. We always came back inspired from many amazing speakers from around the world, mainly the young people. However, that is what events like these can do to young people. They challenge you to bring out the best of you that you may not have thought you had, they give you a reason to shine a light for those who are in darkness and they give you a reason to be that hand that can lift others when they fall.

I realize that attending CSW is essential for us because it updates us to current and old issues that women are dealing with in different parts of the world. As a youth coordinator in The Grail Mozambique who is looking for ways to be innovative and getting ready to empower girls and young women, it helps me make contacts with other organizations and see how they do things. Events like these empower young people through giving them a chance to think big. It gives them a voice and a career direction.

During the period of two weeks, we unpack and pack our being with learning, experience, sharing and knowledge, not all. This year was yet another opportunity to interact with the community of the Bronx, Grail members, St Luke's church, inform them of the CSW and what we as the Grail is doing for the next two weeks; what girls and young women are facing on daily basis and the different ways we are involved in our communities to empower girls and young women.

We had opportunity to go to Grail Centre in Cornwall meet other Grail members and know the place where was considered International Grail Centre Formation years ago and see the famous labyrinth that most of us known by seeing in the pictures that are portrait on the walls of Grail centres in our countries. We went down to the labyrinth and walk on it, built a snow woman "frostina" and had a snow fight which was very fun for some of us who come from countries without such temperatures. The Grail team at Cornwall has done a commendable work and we applaud them. We are also thankful for the opportunity that we had to share the situation in our countries and the work that we do with the Grail in our countries. We sang, danced and played. We cannot forget the careful and tireless driving by Sharon Joslyn, to get to Cornwall and we had a warm welcome and wonderful lunch that we enjoyed so much.

We also continue to be blessed with interns to help prepare for and participate in CSW. This year we had Hyasinta Mgonja from the Grail in Tanzania and Bernadette Gemmel from Australia. We witness them actively participate in the Working Group on Girls(WGG) and its various task forces; working with the two Bronx Grail girls groups; attending UN

sessions even if not directly CSW-related in order to 'learn' the UN. I see this as 'a' way to experience international Grail formation.

The Grail participants was a resounding success, with the young women running side events on issues regarding to MDG focus on education, health and environmental, addressing global leaders in the UN side events, as well as generally raising the profile of The Grail throughout the event.

I agree that the UN is not an answer to all of our ills. But through the UN we are made aware of global issues, we meet inspirational women and girls and network with other NGOs, and it is a place where girls can have their voices heard. So, we continue to urge Grail members and girls to attend CSW.

In the countries our Grail teams are receiving the girls and women home, giving them time to debrief and resettle. The girls are all prepared to do a "back home project' which can include formal reports to Grail groups or school groups, advocacy to government officials or initiating a work in their own communities.

For two weeks, I experienced a movement, a community of women from different cultures (African, Australian, European, American, Latino), social backgrounds and generations that make me appreciate the abundance of wealth that is available to us.

Commission on the Status of Women 58 *Bernadette Gemmell GLUNN Intern - Australia*

When women and girls from all over the world, come together in New York to learn, share, advocate and celebrate for two weeks during CSW, something magical happens. As I heard one woman put it: "you can actually feel the vibrations in the earth change as New York becomes imbued with divine female energy".

In March this year, a record 6000 delegates from civil society organizations all over the world descended on New York for the **58th Commission on the Status of Women**. The theme to be discussed was "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls". These 8 goals, commonly referred to as MDGs, were agreed to by all Member States of the United Nations in 2000 and are listed below:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary school education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Decrease child mortality
7. Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases
8. Ensure environmental sustainability
9. Global Partnership for development

For those of you who have never attended CSW, I would like to try to convey a sense of what happens and why it is important for Grail women and girls to continue to be a part of such a formative, educational, inspirational and life-changing event.

On one hand, there are the official government negotiations, whereby Member States negotiate wording for the outcome document, referred to as "Agreed Conclusions". This document becomes an important tool for advocates as the articles and wording are used to challenge governments to uphold their obligations to advance the rights of women and girls. Meanwhile, whilst governments are negotiating, civil society organizations are busy running their own side events to inform participants about the issues they are so passionately involved with.

This year there was a wide variety of sessions to choose from, including women's empowerment, education, maternal health, gendered impacts of Climate Change, human trafficking, gender-based violence, rural women, everyday sexism, women and girls with disabilities, female entrepreneurship and much more. The days are long and intense and consist of attending side events, navigating between sites, processing new information, meeting new people and reacquainting with old friends. Each evening, there would be a meal hosted at the Bronx Grail House, which would allow for people to share their reflections on what had been seen, heard and learned that day.

CSW allows Grail women and girls of all generations, cultures and backgrounds the opportunity to come together and strengthen national and international links with one another. The participation of Grail women at CSW provides an invaluable opportunity for the Mission Statement to be actively taken up as we "*learn from each other's wisdom, experience and spiritual search".* It is a powerful time, where deep bonds are formed, through a sharing of experiences, songs, dancing, cuisine, language, prayer and traditions. This year, there were over 20 Grail women and girls who came from countries as diverse as Mozambique, Tanzania, Portugal, the United States and Australia. Unfortunately, due to issues with obtaining visas, it wasn't possible to have more countries represented. Through our presence, words and unique side events at CSW, the Grail is able to raise its profile at the United Nations, reach out to those interested in connecting, and actively demonstrate support for the advancement of gender equality and female empowerment.

Once you participate in CSW, I don't think that you are ever quite the same. As I'm reflecting on the whole experience, I am also reading the Grail's vision statement, calling us to *"look for signs of hope in a complex world"*. If I look back to the two weeks that have just passed, I see Grail women and girls who have been inspired and challenged to take home ideas and initiatives that can be shared, taught and realized in order to make the world a more just, equitable and happier place for women and girls to enjoy. That to me is a sign of hope.

Grail side event at CSW58 "*Walking on the Edge of Change"*

L-R Adline Sarpong (Bronx), Carolina Pinto Basto (Portugal), Anastasia Cavazos (Michigan), Olivia Robbins (Manhattan), McCKayla Menyah (Bronx), Paloma Matusse (Mozambique), Diana Eusebio (Bronx)
(Photo by Bernadette Gemmell)

Together with our similarities and differences, exploring and living The Grail *Abida Jamal, Mozambique*

Look at the suggested theme for the next crossroad "International exchange", I found important to share the experience that I had during the first African Grail Meetings in the Grail history. I was part of facilitation team, representing Mozambique.

It is almost a year after the Grail women in Africa came together to discuss the core elements of the International Grail basing on our African perspective. From 24 – 29 June 2013, 24 participants from the Grail in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda came together in Mushanga , Uganda and share the myths and Grail Symbols, explored African spirituality within the Grail; share the response to climate change and natural disasters and find a way to strengthening a regional link.

On the issues discussed, I highlight important aspects that have led us to a reflection such as the question of the symbol of the Grail. Sharing the symbol of the Grail, countries came out with different and interesting "chalice", it was possible to see our difference and respect that each group has their own dynamics but we live the values of the Grail. I also so notice that the formation process differ from country to country. The approaches and level of formation vary country to country. For example, in Tanzania the formation process is longer and divided in local and national commitment and Mozambique the process is a mix of formal and informal.

We had opportunity to reflect on the meaning of linkage, and the importance of to being and doing something together. It was unison to strengthen the link between countries. Everybody wants to have a biogas project in her community and the exchange programs and projects could be a way to pursue. The importance for prayer and reflection together was evident. The use of communication tools like newsletter, website, Facebook, email was emphasize.

We explored our African Spirituality within the Grail. We appreciated one another across our linguist and culture differences; noting our different exposure in and outside the Grail community, our spiritual rootedness, cultural backgrounds, education, experience and who we are as individuals.

It was opportunity of enrichment for all countries with our similarities and differences and celebrated our African diversity and is connected as African region.

I can say that was a great opportunity to experience other reality although we are in the same continent but with a huge difference. This entire make me appreciate more this community of women of different cultures, social backgrounds and generations called The Grail Movement.

Below some of remarks from participants from Mozambique:

Ilda Amuge *" The experience was positive. I really enjoyed the interaction with other countries. Being an international women's movement, the theme Spirituality was what really captivated me. However, each community has its own culture, but the most important thing is to respect the differences and exchange experiences with others, knowing that the purpose is the same. Each country has its dogmas, and thereby ceases to be spirituality*."

Benvinda Tamele "*My experience has been filled with many moments that helped me grow as a person and spiritually*."

Emilia Botao "*It was the first experience more enjoyable. A lot of responsibility, spirit of solidarity, affection with each other, lived together, great opportunity to meet Uganda as a country, the center of the Grail Rubaga (Kampala), training*

center Mushanga (Mbarara), Grail House (Masaka). It was a very seriously, cultural diversity, sharing, prayers, apprenticeship of new experience. And I think great challenges are waiting for us in terms of human formation."

International Exchange Programs in the International Grail *Carla van Thiel, The Netherlands*

This programme was launched during the IGA of 2011. In a questionnaire members were asked to reflect on a number of questions. One of these was how to improve international exchange within the Grail. I spontaneously replied that I would be happy to go with some Grail members to Uganda whenever possible. In response to my suggestion we (Christa Werner and I) received a letter from Marian Schwab, one of the members of the International Exchange Team that was formed during the IGA. She invited us to start working on the proposal.

It was shortly after the death of Elizabeth Namaganda and the Uganda Grail was still in mourning. Moreover we also had the 70-100 gathering coming up in May of the next year. We therefore answered that it was better to wait a little till after the gathering in Milford. But Marian had sent a similar letter to the National Team in Uganda and they began right away with some initial preparations.

It was a very pleasant and good way of working together with three parties: Uganda, the International Exchange Team and the team preparing for this event: Christa and myself.

Uganda decided that the month of January would be best time, climate wise and it is the month that all schools and institutions have their main holidays. We planned a programme. Initially it was to be for three weeks but that would not be possible for younger Grail members who work and have limited holidays. We then planned a two week tentative programme. Towards the middle of 2013 we sent out invitation letters to all National Teams with the tentative programme and an application form. We decided that a group of ten people would be best for transport and accommodation in the Grail centres. Regarding costs, we expected financial contributions towards travel costs and accommodation from participants. In addition the ILT agreed that some money could be made available so that people could apply for financial assistance.

The programme was from 6-20th January 2014 and we were eleven people, nine participants with Christa and myself. Four came from the Netherlands, two from Kenya, one from South Africa, one from USA and one from Brazil. It was a colourful group from different generations (the eldest 88 years old!) and experiences in the Grail.

The teams in Uganda had prepared the programme in excellent ways. Everywhere we were received with songs and dancing and the daily programmes were perfect. We slept in the three Grail centres of Rubaga, Kitovu and Mushanga and we travelled in a simple taxi bus with a good driver.

The national team of Uganda had made several changes in the programme because they were very eager to show as much as possible within a short time. That made the programme a bit too full with little time to reflect and share within the group and with the Ugandan Grail members. But we could understand the eagerness of the people and all went well.

The general experience of the participants was that this kind of simple programme, to show in which way the Grail works in a particular country, the challenges they meet and the possibilities they experience is a great help in growing into a better and deeper understanding of the Grail internationally. We would like to promote this kind of programme for other countries.

Fifteen Days in Uganda *Nicky Westrick, USA*

Grail International Exchange Program, January 6-20, 2014

In early January I made my first journey to Africa as a participant of the Grail International Exchange Program in Uganda. It is a challenge to condense my experience into so few words because I am filled with impressions, gratitude, compassion, and respect. I want to share every cherished individual, project, landscape, and difficulty with you.

I joined eleven other women on a 15-day journey visiting five Grail centers, three homes, three clinics, four schools/social centers, five churches and hiked one mountain. We became friends sharing meals of matoke with groundnut sauce, singing, drinking pineapple wine. We packed ourselves like sardines into a van entrusting the journey to our dear driver Emmanuel who also became a friend. We celebrated Mass with Cardinal Wamala planting trees for our home countries. A young mango tree now grows for the US Grail in Nakirebe, the site of the newest Grail center near the grave of beloved Elizabeth Namaganda.

In the days leading up to travel I struggled to articulate my reasons for saying yes to this adventure - intrigue, responsibility, a desire to grow in compassion and awareness. Now in the time that follows I hold Uganda, the Grail in Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, The Netherlands, Germany in my heart remembering them with longing and tears I do not quite understand.

The visit was a lesson in hospitality. Our hosts worked seamlessly with one another coordinating our visits, food, transport, safety. "You are most welcome. Feel at Home." We did.

I fell in love with the beauty of the gardens and landscape. Kishabya was my favorite, with picturesque tea-covered terraced hills, flowers, coffee, amaranth, pineapple, white potatoes bubbling up under the banana trees. It was also the most rural of our visits. Christa Werner called it "the end of the earth" with no electricity and difficult access by road. The following day, led on a hike by four young boys through fields of millet I looked out to the hillside and wondered how I could leave Mushanga. They say once you taste the waters of the Nile you will always return.

It wasn't all time spent on a mountaintop. We were blessed to hear courageous stories of the Ugandan struggles with HIV/AIDS, poverty, unpredictable climate, access to education, unemployment. The work of the Ugandan Grail and friends is inspiring, creative, patient. I saw that they were living out a clear collective mission. A young graduate unable to find work constructed a green house in their backyard, an oasis in the middle of Kampala lined with developing tomato plants emerging hopeful in black plastic bags. Roger, bearing the scars of HIV on his skin, is thriving now on ARV (antiretroviral) medication, started his own telephone-repair workshop, and counsels children sharing his challenge. A local mother in Kishabya spoke with gratitude for the Grail's influence in her life saying, "I was so green. Green like a plant. I couldn't stand in front of you and speak. Now I can stand as I am."

I found common threads that connect our Grail lives together. Spirituality, ritual, silence, women breaking into song and dance. Needs for local gardening, renewable energy. I remembered Transition at Grailville working in the kitchen garden; I marveled at Uganda's production of biogas and fruit wines. Chris de Leeuw from The Netherlands taught us sacred dance; Ugandan girls greeted us at the Grail Center gates with swinging hips, drums, flowers, joy.

I have acquired rich experiences such as preparing matoke (cooked banana) dish, how to properly eat a slice of pineapple as taught by Carla van Thiel, dance, sing. More details to come. Thank you to the US, International, and Ugandan Grail for your support of this program. Webale. Webale nyo.

Research Study by Jeanette Loanzon *Mary Gindhart, USA*

Jeanette V. Loanzon. Linking Global Perspectives to Local Action: A City Government Response. Miriam College International Studies Monograph Series, No. 6. 2012

Jeanette Loanzon gives a good example of "Think globally, act locally" in her research paper: Global Perspectives to Local Action: A City Government Response. In her work in the Philippines in the Grail and as a professor of economics, Jeanette has consistently worked to increase women's livelihood skills. The study links the UN Principles on Older Persons, the highlights of the Vienna 1982 International Plan on Aging and the 2002 Madrid International Plan on Action on Aging, with the response of Quezon City, a local government unit in the Manila area.

Her paper covers five areas:

1--the highlights of United Nations conferences and activities on older persons which promote the livelihood of older women
United Nation Principles particularly relevant to older women's livelihoods are: independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.
Jeanette says: when these principles are realized, older persons would be 'a hidden resource of national economies'.
The main obstacle is lack of regular income which older persons have to endure.

2—In conformity with the national legal framework, laws promoting the well being of older persons have been passed by the Quezon City government
In Quezon City, combined ordinances and resolutions on Public Health and Welfare Services were 10% of the total number passed from July2001 to June 2009.

3—experiences of three older women with local government support
Fermina F. Pedarse (Mina) sews cloth slippers, and sells Spanish sardines as well as peanut butter.
Filomena F. Fungo (Menay) Weaves and sells mats from new and recycled plastic straws.
Inocenci Arcangel (Shasha) does reflexology and is a Metro Manila aide.

Three foms of support by the local government are: offering capital assistance for financing a small business, maintaining or expanding a clientele, and providing a stable source of income. The three women expanded their social networks and increased their clients with local government support.

4—social capital and community entrepreneurship support for livelihoods
Social capital refers to the quality and quantity of local networks in a society at the micro, macro and mesa levels. For older persons, social capital is a means to effectively advocate and articulate personal and group interests in the wider society.
Community entrepreneurship. Jeanette calls local governments, the private sector, academia and citizens to work together in a participatory process for economic development that creates local entrepreneurial and employment opportunities for an improved quality of life.

5—action of a local government unit which reflects the United Nations Guidelines on older persons
Social capital, as seen in the Quezon senior volunteer group is anchored on physical, social, spiritual and economic wellness. This is clearly aligned with UN principles on older persons.

Working on an International Team *Mary Farrell, USA*

Since September 2011 I have enjoyed the privilege of working with my Grail Sisters from around the world as a member of the International Finance Team. By working on this team I have joined efforts and learned to appreciate the skills of Mieneke Hage, Cristina dos Anjos Conceicao, Mary Omedo, and Zodwa Mabaso. The work of the Team is to review the budget for the International Grail and to read the proposals that come to the International Leadership Team from Grail Teams around the world seeking support for initiatives in community service, outreach, regional or international meetings, formation, international exchange, and others. The International Leadership Team is the group that decides on priorities and approves plans and one member of the ILT is always a part of the finance team, but they request that the finance team review proposals to assure compliance with the budget priorities and internal consistency. In this way we learn about many inspiring initiatives that are taking place. In just the last few months I have been inspired as I read about work going on in Angola, Australia, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, The Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United States.

Of course, the finance team is not the only opportunity to become involved in International Grail work. There are Teams working on International Exchange, Formation, Regional collaboration, Outreach, and the list goes on. If you are interested in stretching your Grail horizons, contact your International Council Representative to find out how you can join the effort.

Janet Kalven's Obituary *Marian April Goering,USA*

In Loving Memory: Janet Kalven
May 21, 1913 to April 24, 2014

*The following is an abridged version of an obituary by **Marian April Goering**. originally, published in Gumbo, the Grail in the US monthly publication*

Janet as a young woman

Janet Kalven said she never planned to live to be 100 years old – she just woke up one morning and it had happened. She passed away peacefully a few weeks before her 101st birthday after a short illness. Janet herself was a short woman, but with her death, a tall tree has fallen.

Born to Rose Nathan and Harry Kalven, Sr., in Chicago, Janet grew up in a Jewish family of German and Russian heritage. Naturally curious and energetic, Janet learned knitting from her beloved grandmother Fannie, followed major league baseball with her younger brother Harry, and excelled in school, graduating as valedictorian of her class.

After high school, she enrolled in the University of Chicago, becoming one of the first students and later a teaching assistant in the "Great Books" curriculum pioneered by philosopher Mortimer Adler and university president Robert Hutchins.

Searching for direction and challenge in her life, Janet found little meaning in the secular Judaism of her upbringing . Reading the "Great Books," engaging in intellectual exchange, and meeting people of faith both challenged and drew her and, in 1937, Janet became a Catholic.

In 1941, Janet met Lydwine van Kersbergen and Joan Overboss, two Dutch Grail members who had come to the Chicago area from Holland to start The Grail in the US. Janet was immediately drawn to the Grail message that women are important, that together women can change the world. Janet left the University of Chicago in 1942 and joined the Grail community in Libertyville, Illinois; in 1944, she became one of the founding members of Grailville. She developed programs and trained young women in Christian values and leadership; served on the staff of the Year School; and from 1964 to 1967, she managed international education programs for the Grail International Secretariat in Paris.

Through the 1940s and 50s, traditional Catholic teachings and cultural stereotypes informed her perspective on women, so Janet taught that women are the heart of the home, making their contributions through service to others. In the mid- and late 1960s, she began to question this view and came to the conviction that women must look to their own life experiences to find their passions and develop their talents. From the late 1960s through the 1970s, Janet served on the staff of Semester at Grailville (SAG), an experiential education program for college women, where she encouraged students to pursue their own learning goals and stretch themselves in new directions.

In 1971, Janet earned a master's degree in adult education from Boston University. She continued to work at Grailville on the Women's Task Force, sponsoring programs on women's leadership and spirituality. She invited noted women theologians – Rosemary Radford Ruether, Judith Plaskow, Nelle Morton, Anne McGrew Bennett, and Elisabeth Schuessler Fiorenza – to meet, dialogue, teach, worship, and invigorate one another. These gatherings served as a major catalyst for feminist theology reflection. The Seminary Quarter at Grailville gave a whole generation of women concerned with theology and religious life a feminist start, and the Women's Spirit Bonding Conference in 1982 shaped

discourse in the field for decades. From 1972 to 1986, Janet also served as Associate Director of the Self-Directed Learning Program at the University of Dayton.

Janet Kalven, blowing out candles on her 100th birthday cake.

Throughout her life, Janet read prodigiously and widely, with bookshelves in every room and stacks of reading material on virtually any flat surface. She wrote regularly, co-authoring and co-editing several books: *Value-Based Teaching Skills; Your Daughters Shall Prophesy: Feminist Alternatives in Theological Education; Women's Spirit Bonding;* and *With Both Eyes Open: Seeing Beyond Gender*. Well into her 70s, as a participant in Women Writing for a Change, a Cincinnati organization for writers of all experience levels, she shared with other women chapters of a new book, *Women Breaking Boundaries, A Grail Journey, 1940-1995*.

In 1990, Janet was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions to the empowerment of women. In 2003, she received one of the first Enduring Spirit Awards from Muse, the Cincinnati women's choir, to recognize her work for women, social justice, and the greater Cincinnati community.

Hardly slowing down as she aged, Janet survived two cancer surgeries. She supported efforts to help women, serving on community boards including the Women's Research and Development Center that rehabbed two run-down Cincinnati school buildings to become affordable and accessible housing communities for women, eventually moving into one of the condos, a converted sixth-grade classroom. Janet enjoyed travel, went for occasional cruises, and visited friends around the country, often to attend a conference, support a cause, or participate in a march. Although she had stopped driving in her early 90s, she lived independently until she was 98 years old. As her frailty and forgetfulness increased, she accepted the advice of Grail friends to move into an assisted living facility and made the transition with grace.

By happenstance, Janet's 100th birthday fell during the 2013 gathering in Milford of Grail women between 70 and 100 years old from around the world. This sisterhood of women, friends from decades of shared concern and work, celebrated Janet's long productive life on her very special day.

Janet's ashes were interred at Grailville on the acres she loved. Rest in peace, dear teacher, mentor, friend, inspiring woman among women. We will hold not only your memory, but also your integrity, courage, and commitment in our hearts.