

U.S. GRAIL REPORT TO GRAIL NATIONAL COUNCIL

Date: 12/10/2020

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UPDATES: The Grail

- PPP: The Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan—have been advised by our bank to wait until January to apply for forgiveness since our amount is under \$50k, they (Chase) will be updating the application and have it available then.
- Walker and dog incident update: no movement, insurance lawyer reports that could be next fall before trial date. Still pushing for dismissal/judgement.
- Bom Jesu Corpus from Goa and other items. Over the summer I reached out to the director of the Smithsonian's Museum of African Art and she kindly reviewed several photos we sent of some of our collection items (including the tusk). Her report was that they are all tourist trinkets, albeit very good ones, and that when it comes to repatriation, their value is so slight vs the cost of actually repatriating that most institutions won't bother. She suggested if we want to put them to use, we could donate to an institution in US looking to expand their teaching collection. After speaking with the Jesuit Society of the US archives in St. Louis, and our archives contact at Notre Dame, the Bom Jesu corpus will remain at Oratory for now. Neither has space for it, both agree that it is Grail history.
- Thanks to an in-kind gift of the United Methodists Women (and the efforts of Carol Barton and Sally Timmel), the social justice policies just approved will be compiled in a booklet and mailed to all US Grail members and explorers to encourage their use as a focus for action.
- Working on our goals to improve communication, staff is presenting for your review a new "Methods of Communication Policy." The goal is to a) let all members know what is available, b) make sure all members have the same access, c) create clarity for staff in how decisions are made
- Staffing changes:
 - Volunteer Coordinator position has been posted with the goal to have someone in place in January.
 - New bookkeeper will be a temp though same agency Kelly came from. He will start Monday the 14th.
- End of Year Giving (EOY): Office sent out the annual EOY letter packet to members reminding to do their donation if they haven't. Language was added based on recommendation from MDET that if someone was facing hardship due to covid to contact a member of MDET. With the letter was the annual "Threads We Are Weaving" form modified from the SDGS to the 6 Grail Mission Goals. Please encourage everyone to complete and return these ASAP—even emerita members who do not give we would like to know what they have been up to for 3 reasons: 1. The annual international report, 2. so we can connect folks working in similar ways, and 3. So we can draw on these to gather external support/interest.
- EOY non-members: for 2nd year we have done a soft EOY request to all non-members in our database: detailed flyer for everyone who gave in 2019 and 2020 or who gave a gift of more than \$250 2013-2018 (total of 74 sent); a postcard to anyone who has given 2013-2018 any amount under \$250 (194 sent); finally an electronic reminder to everyone in database (the same printed flyer sent to larger donors).

- International giving: with Kelly's departure this issue (long simmering) came to a head. Basically, how we collect donations for other Grail entities through the US Grail office and give the tax credit to the donor in the name of the US Grail is illegal—well-intentioned but illegal. Kelly and I have been trying to figure out how to end the practice for several years now. With Kelly leaving and our bringing on someone new, I will not train the new person to do an illegal act. So, here is where we are:
 - Kelly has agreed to come in a couple more times to honor the international gifts of 2020
 - In 2021 giving to anything aside from ISF through the US Grail office will be ended.
 - We will work with the other Grail entities who are frequent recipients to find out the best way for US donors to support them and share that news in NGN and on member dashboard.
 - ISF giving is allowed because the bank account for the fund was set up using the US Grail's tax ID number so according to the IRS the money actually belongs to the US Grail to distribute. This is ALSO illegal (b/c the US Grail does not control the distribution), and I recommend that we take steps to fix it, but for now I can only fight one battle at a time.
 - I have been in communication with Mary Farrell about this situation.

UPDATES: Cornwall

- RMM settling in at CW. They are focused for next several months on moving their headquarters from Poughkeepsie to CW, after that they will prioritize their programs/projects based on covid reports at the time. They still hope to work with Grail members, but at this time they are not focused on starting anything new (having moved a campus I completely understand!). Neighbors have been welcoming.
- As we go through year one we will be adjusting to the relationship, but so far so good! Next item is to ask Grail members to come up with a tentative calendar of memorial garden visit days so we can present them to RMM in early January for approval. Ideally one a quarter. We will post in NGN for input. We may modify procedure after we see how this year goes.

UPDATES: Loveland

- Tidings painting: SYAWI are finishing last bits of trim and prepping the halls. Goal is to have professionals paint the ceilings and halls in 2021. See NGN article from 11/13 for full report and photos. Not shown/shared, my aunt made lovely signs for the room doors. Caroline—art coordinator—is currently refreshing the art throughout using pieces from the collection and it is looking great. She wove in pieces from Cornwall which I was pleased to see. Once all hung, she will add art labels (like in a museum) so that guests know more about the artists and The Grail.
- I spoke with Nadia from Agracademy. Covid busted some of this year's plans but they are excited about 2021. She placed an article in the 12/11 NGN.

- We have had interest by Girl Scout troops for the Learning Lab modules. Two of our SYAWI who are in college locally, will be trained by Mary Lu to assist her with these modules. Mary Lu is the knowledge leader, but she needs help with the younger participants. Anna DiGiovenale is at University of Cincinnati and Jadyn Kleinhenz is at Cincinnati State.

Decisions Needed

- Approve additional Major Maintenance budget for 2021
- Approve Grail budget for 2021
- Review and Approve Communication Policy