The U.S. Grail General Assembly 1981

Connecting Energies

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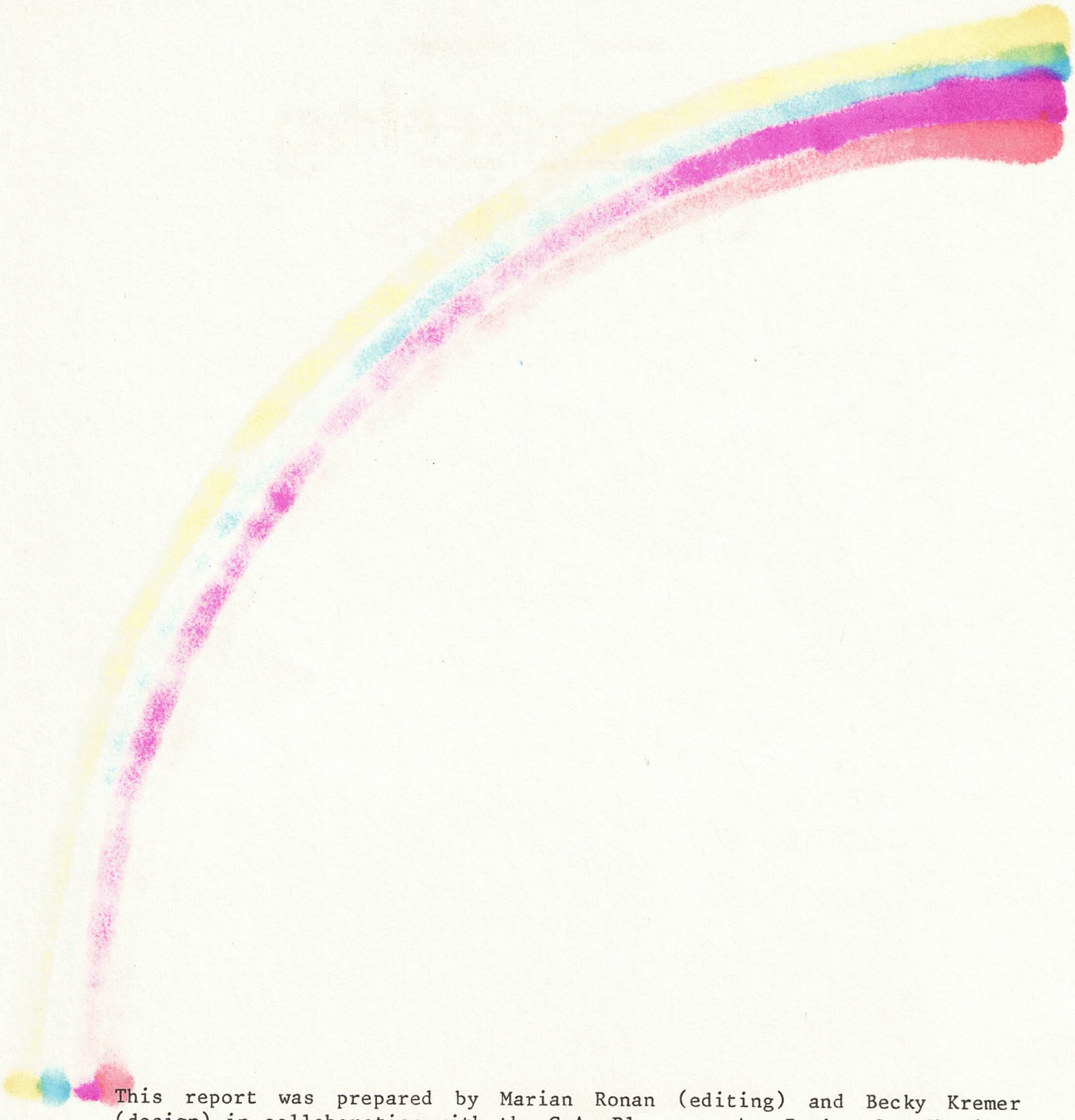
INTRODUCTION

From the very beginning, when a Cornwall-related Grail team took on the planning of the 1981 General Assembly, many of us hoped the meeting would be infused with the energy and reflective spirit of the Metanoia Process. The regional preparation meetings, introducing the "revisioning of the Grail myth" and symbolized by the stillness of the Candle Meeting, encouraged us in that hope.

It was no surprise, then, to find the 1981 G.A. schedule studded with times for reflection, revisioning, re-creation. Most memorable, perhaps, was the meditation-visualization journey we went on together, climbing a mountain and, each in her own way, drinking from the Grail cup. Another morning we entered into a stunning ritual/cultural experience, "Connecting Energies." Here the Grail past, in the words of Jacques van Ginneken and Mary Louise Tully, converged with our cosmic future. The energies released in this process helped us to plan and promise ourselves to the very real tasks of the Grail here and now.

Thus the myth and symbolism of the Grail, the round cup, the Round Table, the ring which has no ending, circle as woman's symbol, became the cultural context of the week. Finances, administrative structures, task-force agendas, all were woven deftly into this transforming spirit.

Lest all this talk of symbolism and seriousness sound too utterly overwhelming, please be assured we had a lot of fun too. The G.A. Bistrot had beer in kegs for the first time. Folks chomped on carrots and celery during breaks between meetings. Fran Martin extended her string of great G.A. performances as Madame Zarathustra, teller of Grail futures. Carol White, got up as a clown, squirted Marian Schwab to get her to sign her pledge card. Carol Siemering did a belly dance, the Grail choir sang, Susan Becker and Sharon Thomson taught poetry writing and the food was fine. Perhaps most comforting of all, a new movement development team in the persons of Nora McDonnell (age 2), Lucy Semonoff-Flam (age 14 months), and Erin Burger (age 2 weeks), clattered and cooed around the edges of the Assembly. A memorable meeting in many ways . . .



This report was prepared by Marian Ronan (editing) and Becky Kremer (design) in collaboration with the G.A. Planners: Ann Burke, Cay Charles, Dorothy Rasenberger, Eileen Schaeffler, Audrey Sorrento, and Sharon Thomson.

"The GA Planners wish to thank everyone who worked on all the details that helped to make the GA go. We can't remember anyone saying no to what we asked. It was a great experience of cooperative effort."