CROSSROADS

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A Newsletter of The Grail International Leadership Team

December 2007

I listen to God speaking:

"I, the Lord speak peace,

peace to my faithful people

who turn their hearts to me."

Salvation is coming near,

glory is filling our land.

Love and fidelity embrace,

peace and justice kiss.

Fidelity sprouts from the earth,

justice leans down from heaven.

The Lord pours out riches,

our land springs to life.

Justice clears God's path,

justice points the way.

Psalm 85:9-14

Wishing everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas season!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **Report from the International Leadership Team Meeting 3**
2. **News from the IAF 4**
3. **Spirituality Forum 5-6**
4. **Grail Networks Reports 6-9**
5. **Country Report..... 9**
5. **Obituaries 9-12**
6 **Announcements 12-13**
7. **Quote from a ForeMother..... 13**

Cover Note:

The translation of Psalm 85 which appears on the front cover of this *Crossroads* is from a study translation of the Psalms prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

Deadline for the next Crossroads - **May 1, 2008**.
Please send to Mary Gindhart at the address below. Thank you

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Report from the International Leadership Team, November 2007

We (Ruth Crowe, Cristina dos Anjos and Mary Gindhart) met in August 2007 while we were in Portugal for the Spirituality Forum. After the Forum, Ruth and Mary went to the International Grail Secretariat in Utrecht, the Netherlands to work with Mieneke Hage and Hermien van Sloten. Before returning to Australia, Ruth went to Scotland, England, and South Africa. *(See Grail International Newsletter #2 for details.)*

Over recent months Mary has been preparing for a trip to East Africa in January 2008. She will visit Grail teams in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Mary is part of the Grail/UFER Linkage Group to the UN, which is preparing for the Commission on the Status of Women meeting that starts on February 25, 2008. Cristina is working with the International Formation Team to prepare for their meeting in Brazil in early December 2007, when they will prepare the formation program for Portuguese speakers in the Grail that is to take place in Brazil in July 2008. Cristina also helped in the preparations for the Young Women of the Americas meeting in Honduras in July 2007 and continues her involvements in the Brazilian Grail. Since her return to Australia in late September, Ruth has been working with Ticha Vasconcelos and Mary Gene Devlin to put together the report of the Spirituality Forum. She continues to work with Mieneke Hage and the IAF team on international finances and as the liaison person with international administrative officer, Hermien van Sloten, has frequent contact with her. Ruth has also been working on a number of nucleus matters and is involved in Sydney Grail activities and with Grail women in Papua New Guinea.

International Grail Secretariat

Hermien van Sloten, administrative officer in the International Grail Secretariat has been working to get the database for the International Grail into shape and also on the international website. Please send Hermien your response to the database questionnaire now. Countries and Networks are requested to send Hermien materials requested for the website now.

Hermien complies and distributes the monthly ILT newsletter to fill the gaps between issues of Crossroads with short news items and an event calendar. Grail members are encouraged to send in: 1) short impressions of international meetings and activities (maximum 10-15 lines); 2) information about national Grail matters that would be helpful for everyone to know; 3) job advertisements for vacancies at your Grail Center; 4) changes of address; and 5) international events for the calendar. Send submissions to Hermien van Sloten at iltsecr@planet.nl. If you have not received the monthly ILT Newlsetter, which began in August, please contact your national team and ask for copies. Hermien has helped with the layout and distribution of the Spirituality Forum report and is also taking over the distribution of Crossroads from Mieneke. THANKS TO MIENEKE for doing this job over many years. It's not really part of her job description as International Finance Officer, so we thank her for her generous spirit.

International Grail Spirituality and Theology Forum

The Report on the International Spirituality and Theology Forum, held August 1-8, 2007 in Portugal, is being distributed in the countries. The ILT also prepared and distributed an Evaluation inviting Forum participants to give their feedback on the Forum and to solicit ideas for the future of our dialogue around Spirituality. Responses are needed now.

In September 2007, the ILT sent a letter to all National Teams, IC members, and Forum participants that set forth the process for Grail women in all countries to follow in the coming months and leading up to the ILT/IC/Network Coordinators (and maybe International Formation Team) meeting October 29 to November 7, 2008. Following time for reflection on the Forum materials, countries have been asked to have meetings of Grail women in groups—either locally or nationally—around the themes, questions, experiences, suggestions for further discussion, and work, which arises from the Forum. In this way when the ILT and IC/Network coordinators meet, they will have: 1) an idea of what issues and concerns were raised nationally, 2) know what countries would like to see discussed internationally, 3) realize what common knowledge we all need (e.g. around what it means to be an ecumenical movement), and 4) know what resources will be needed to take on any further study. In this way the ILT hopes that Grail women who are interested will bring forward issues

and concerns around Spirituality that are alive in the international Grail today, and this will give the ILT/IC/ Network Coordinators meeting in 2008 a basis for discussion from which to formulate the next step.
Of course, it is hoped that those Grail women who felt the Forum did not address their questions and concerns will bring these forward in this process.

The ILT will meet in Utrecht from February 1 to 9, 2008. Please contact us if you have items you want us to consider.

Ruth Crowe, Cristina dos Anjos, and Mary Gindhart

News from the International Assistance Fund (IAF)
Josette Kersters (Netherlands)

The presence of the International Leadership Team in the Netherlands in 2007 was an occasion to evaluate the functioning of the IAF. A proposal has been sent to Leadership Teams in the Global South aiming at more self-reliance with regard to the income of long serving Grail members in those countries. We are now awaiting their reaction.

Some changes have also been made in the IAF team itself. After many years of serving on the team, Frances Broekhoven had to withdraw. We are grateful for her work and involvement and welcome Anne Day as a new member.

With changes in the team, tasks have also changed. Applications and correspondence should now be sent to:

Josette Kersters
Populierendreef 344
2272 HD Voorburg
The Netherlands
e-mail: josette.kersters@hetnet.nl

Josette will share the information with Jeanette Loanzon and Anne Day, the two other members of the team, for consultation. Payments will now be taken care of by our International Finance Officer, Mieneke Hage.

Mary, Ruth, and Cristina would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to Frances for all the work she has done over the years. She has brought to the IAF her experience of Africa and also herself—that is—the heart and insight of a wise and loving sister to all. May Frances be especially blessed in the years ahead.

Spirituality Forum

REFLECTIONS ON THE SPIRITUALITY FORUM, *by Lorna Bowman, Canada*

In August 2007, sixty-seven Grail women from sixteen countries around the globe journeyed to Palmela, south of Lisbon, the coastal region of Portugal sometimes called the blue coast. For seven days we met about the diverse factors that inform and influence our spirituality as Grail women regionally, individually and as an international movement. We talked about culture, the spiritual search of Grail youth, mysticism, suffering and human wholeness, the Eucharist and ecumenism, eco-feminism and spirituality, and our vision for the future. Together we grew in our shared understanding of one another, our contexts, and the works of justice to which we have committed our lives.

This was a forum not about our individual spiritualities and practices. It was not a retreat for prayer and personal reflection. Rather, the forum was designed to assist us as a movement to better understand the formative factors in our lives and spiritual search that we might more fully respond to God's grace in our lives, to the Mystery, as we fulfill the Grail mission. We each learned new things from the content that was presented and had an opportunity to discuss the implications for us at home and internationally, in national and regional groups.

For me personally, two of the days were highlights that brought greater understanding and posed new challenges. Anita Saisi (Italy), with her quiet manner, invited each of us to deepen our search for the Mystery that we might fully live our humanity. This is the basis for us as Grail women becoming both mystics and a prophetic movement. We also need to remind ourselves that each of us is unique and our desire for quiet, reflection, and contemplation may change in response to the responsibilities we have at different times in our lives. In my own regional group, we talked about how we might be more present to one another in times of personal difficulty. A booklet of readings, "Exploring Mysticism: To Nourish the Soul," was given to participants to share in their countries.

During another day, Nicoletta Crosti (Italy) reviewed the development of the Eucharist, as a Roman Catholic liturgical rite, including the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. Bibi Helgesson (Sweden) shared the teaching of the Lutheran Church in Sweden on Holy Communion. Perhaps this was the first formal ecumenical reflection for the Grail at an international meeting. I have thought a great deal about this day, since the forum.

The Jewish feast of Passover is at the root of the Eucharistic celebration. The Swedish Lutheran Church continues to celebrate the Eucharist in this manner. For many, there was great joy in participating in the Swedish Lutheran communion service together for the first time. Because of our roots as a movement in Catholicism, this was an important discussion and experience for us as the international Grail.

At the forum, Bibi spoke of the hospitality of the Swedish Lutheran Holy Communion table to all those who are baptized—a practice found in most Protestant denominations. Catholics, coming from a different theological perspective, do not have the same open table, (except at some special "private" events) because the Catholic Church believes that it would be the celebration of a unity that does not yet exist. The short time given to this discussion at the forum did not permit everyone to come to a shared understanding. The Grail is certainly not the first organization to struggle with this question and we know our search will continue.

Similarly, there was not time at the forum to discuss the questions raised by feminism and our identity as a lay movement with respect to the celebration of the Eucharist. For me, as we move into the future, I believe that it is important that we respect the integrity of each (national) group's self-understanding. We also know that there are Grail women who belong to other denominations, ecclesial communities, as well as those who no longer identify with Christianity. If, as the international Grail, we are truly interested in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, then more all-encompassing conversations that are respectful of belief and theological understanding need to take place.

As Grail women our celebratory rituals are always rich in music, song, and dance. The Grail does ritual well. Because our roots are in the Catholic Church, this has often been expressed in our celebration of the Eucharist. Grail national groupings that identify with a Christian denomination may wish to continue to celebrate the Eucharist together, if that is their tradition. We may also need to think about the occasions on which to celebrate the Eucharist together

internationally as Grail women and whether we might wish to develop our own rituals to celebrate the Mystery that is at the source of our lives.

Let us never lose the richness of our Grail celebrations and our unity as Grail women!

OK, SOMETHING I KNOW ABOUT MYSELF AFTER THE SPIRITUALITY FORUM

by Caresse Cranwell (Australia)
Earth, Ecology, Biodiversity Network

Well, I've spent many years now working pretty much alone on writing my thesis. I haven't had much opportunity to share its ideas with anyone. What I know about myself is that I love taking complex ideas and having people distill them through their experience. I love people getting "a-ha's" and being inspired to explore things further in their lives. I love teaching and facilitating. I love—and strive to make it happen—when people get excited and want to be involved in the learning and discovery process.

People were very generous in their feedback to me. A number of people shared with me that they thought I was a great teacher. (I've been told both that I am and that I am not!) So it was good to get some positive affirmation on that. I was so afraid that it was all going to be too complex and go over everybody's heads. I learned that fear is all part of the creative process and that you can work with it, so it isn't the driving force. I learned that you can co-create a teaching, even while sticking to the format of what you want to deliver. I learned that it's good to be really prepared and to let the script go so that you can create both in the moment and out of the content, which you have prepared.

I also learned that it is OK that we're all in different places—even with different beliefs—because the Grail, for me, is essentially about search, a search for authenticity and liberation from personal and cultural habits that retard the realization of life's potentials and joys. I learned that I could let my beliefs co-exist alongside those of others, allowing difference while searching for essence. And at the same time, I learned that I didn't really know how to be authentic with others' differing beliefs, but that holding the question was important. I learned that the liturgy no longer inspires me, but that we can and need to strive to find places of communion across difference.

The most remarkable thing for me was being in an international group on a planet where, daily, we are in conflict and in the process of killing of one another, with a group of women who are willing to look suffering in the face, and willing to co-exist within one movement that can embrace a diversity of beliefs, so that we can work for the liberation of life.

That'll do I reckon.

Cheers, Caresse

Grail Network Reports

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORK

by Ton Brouwer, November 26, 2007

Since May 2007 I received the following information on trafficking from the different Grail members:

Canada — Olga Kolisnyk sent me some of the public information in her National Newspaper Toronto Star. In one of them "Let's march to amazing grace" by Thomas S. Axworthy it is mentioned that between 700.000 and 4 million people are annually trafficked worldwide. Stopping the trade will take an international coalition, similar to the one that stopped legal slavery in the 19th century. This article was published in GJOP Bulletin 34. Olga is trying to contact other groups.

Italy — Pia Zuccolin sent an interview of a social worker of Caritas called Matilde who she knows very well. Matilde mentioned that luckily from time to time we happen to read in the newspaper that a band of people who live on trafficking have been caught. So recently last June the police arrested in Milan eleven men from Albania and Romania. The operation was started by the charge presented by a 17 year old woman from Romania who managed to escape from the flat in which she was confined. The criminal group, who used 65 mobile phones kept their victims in 13 flats. They helped dozens of women from Moldavia and Romania to immigrate illegally, attracted by the promise of a job but then obliged them to be prostitutes. The interview was published in the GJOP Bulletin 33.

Kenya — Pauline Makwaka wrote that Stop Child Trafficking was the theme of this year's day of the African Child, which was observed across Africa on June 16th 2007. In Kenya the Department of Children's Services in partnership with the Ministry of Information, UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and civil society organizations organized a week long campaign to raise awareness

on the dangers of Child trafficking, a vice that is common in Kenya. This campaign aimed to inform, motivate and empower Kenyans to take action to stop trafficking. This information was passed on to the African contact persons of our Human Trafficking Network in the different countries.

Philippines — Jeannete Loanzon wrote me the following letter after the death of her Mother: "Just like you, my Mother worked very hard to promote women. She was a pioneering leader of the midwives here and worked tirelessly for their recognition as health professionals. She will always inspire me to help you to work against human trafficking."

Portugal — Maria Carlos Ramos let me know that there are some people very interested in the issue of trafficking in human beings. They are trying to organize a small group. There are 3 Grail women that will attend a European Conference in Porto on "Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender" October, 8 – 9, 2007. She sent me the program in Portuguese and English and promised to give me the feedback and put me in contact with those women.

South Africa — Loek Goemans wrote about a week's workshop with the title "Counter-Trafficking Training" that was held for religious women in Cape Town in the first week of October. We were a group of forty five women including religious from the neighboring countries of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana and Zambia. The program was sponsored by the US Embassy to the Holy See and funded by the US government of State. The training was given by Mr. Stefano Volpicelli of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted by Ms. Marija Nikolosvska from Monrovia, a social worker based in the Pretoria IOM offices. The program was ably facilitated by members of the leadership Conference of Consecrated Life, South Africa (LCCL)SA. The Grail received an invitation to the training because of our work internationally, namely through Ton Brouwer's many years of working with the counter trafficking religious team in the Netherlands and also because of my own growing interest and concern. The report was shared with the African contact persons of our Human Trafficking Network in the different countries.

Tanzania — Sophia Paul Shayo translated an article of the Swahili Newspaper "Rai" , June 8 – 14, about Tanzanian girls sold in Mombasa and South Africa. The research shows that the regions mostly dealing with this human trafficking are Singida, Iringa and Mbeya. The article was published in the GJOP Bulletin 27. A journalist from Rukwa Region reported September 27 that a trafficker wanted to sell a 15 years old girl for Tshs 800.000. A man concerned about human trafficking made an agreement with the trafficker to pay for the girl. At the same time he reported to the police. The trafficker was arrested when they were signing the contract and he was jailed. The journalist added that the girl was interviewed and said that the trafficker promised to marry her. But that was not true. He made it for the purpose of making money out of her.

Uganda — Josephine Nakagolo writes that human trafficking really exists in her country but the government is working hand in hand with some NGO's to combat it. We need to carry on more awareness to both girls and women. Josephine sent also an article published in the daily newspaper "The New Vision" 6/21/07 about human trafficking being a lucrative business in Uganda, the Great Lake regions, and elsewhere, causing concern to the government and security agencies. The article was published in the GJOP Bulletin 32.

USA — Marian Schwab sent a press release about the Sisters of the Holy names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) an international religious order of about 1400 members who have announced a campaign of education and action in response to the international trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced child labor. Marian wanted to know more about the participation of the Grail in the Netherlands in the Foundation of Religious Women against Trafficking in Women, which I explained to her.

YOUNG WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS MEETING JULY 2007 IN HONDURAS

by Angelica Contreras (Bronx, USA)

First, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone in Honduras for their active participation and planning of our recent Young Women of the Americas meeting in Honduras. They have my sincere appreciation for their efforts in supporting this important undertaking.

Although this event was exhausting, it was very much energetic and wonderful. It is also very significant in the Women of the Americas Network and, for that matter, in the International Grail Movement. I really appreciated the time that we were able to spend

together with other young women from Canada, USA, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, and Brazil. The major areas of concern for the young women are: 1) solidarity and alternative ways of sustainability; 2) gender, race/ethnicity, and class; 3) political involvement of women and young girls in areas of power; 4) reproductive rights, sexuality, and choice of life style and; 5) communication within the Grail and networks.

The meetings were fun and very informative. (See photo below!) I certainly learned a lot from everyone! We are finishing the manual we developed and we expect to be sending it to all participants, as well to those who will be interested in it.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the GRAIL WOMEN for all their support, good vibes, and prayers, for I have no doubt that it would not have been the success that it was without them.

GRAIL/UFER LINKAGE GROUP TO THE UNITED NATIONS
by Mary Gindhart

At our monthly meetings at the UN, the Grail/ UFER Linkage Group has been preparing for the 2008 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings, February 25 to March 7, 2008. The main theme is Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Development and the review topic is Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. We are in contact with a number of Grail women who plan to attend. Contact Mary Kay Louchart by December 20, 2007 if you want to register. *(See announcement on Page 12.)*

In October 2007, we signed on to a statement to circulate at the UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development with a number of women's organizations. The statement highlighted a set of key policy issues that need to be addressed within the financing for development review process in order to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment into development processes and to provide adequate funding and policy support for the social sectors, and for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Among the groups that have also signed on to the statement are: Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Education and Networking for Latina Cooperation and Empowerment (ENLACE), Feminist Task Force – Global Call to Action against Poverty

Young Women of the Americas Meeting, Honduras, July 2007

(FTF-GCAP), UNANIMA International, International Women's Anthropology Conference (IWAC), International Women's Tribune Center (IWTC), Social Watch, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, International Alliance of Women, International Council for Adult Educations (ICAE), Loretto Women's Network, and Bahá'í International.

In previous CSW meetings, we worked with the Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ) to do an event that partnered with labor and grassroots women's organizations globally, and lifted up intersections of gender, race, and class. We often worked with ITUC and Public Services International, as well as the Women's Division in doing this.

Regarding CSW 2008, Carol Barton has said: "I think it would be interesting to do a participatory activity that takes stock of what's now happening to women in the global economy…For me the essence of financing for development is not technicalities, but in the bottom line understanding that it involves redistribution of the world's resources—not only from North to South, but across class, race, and gender lines. We would make a contribution by cutting through some of the technical stuff to make that point. I think labor folks would be happy to join us." We are checking with people about collaborating to do such an activity.

Country Reports

TANZANIA
Six Tanzanian Women to make Nucleus Dedications January 3, 2008

Asteria Romald Massawe. Formation program at Kisekibaha in 1995, made verbal Grail commitment in 2000, Advanced Diploma in Journalism at St. Augustine University of Tanzania-Mwanza (1999 – 2002), Tabora Grail Team since 1997. Works at the TMP Book Department as a book publisher and book seller.

Avelina Raphael Kimario. Joined the Grail in 1994, East African Formation in 1996, Kisekibaha in 1997, Medical course at Sengerema Clinical Officers training centre and qualified as a Clinical Officer from 1997 to 2000, Lembeni Dispensary for 5 years. Started a 5-year University medicine course in 2006.

Devota Christian Shirima. Pre-formation at Dido in 1991, formation program at Kisekibaha from 1992 –1994, secondary education from 1995 – 1998, advanced secondary education 1999 – 2001. Verbal commitment in the Grail in 2000, Diploma course at Morogoro Teacher's College from 2002 – 2004. Teaches English and Geography at Vudoi Secondary School.

Jovitha Eligi Msambure. Pre-formation at Dido in 1990, formation program at Kisekibaha from 1991– 1993, secondary school from 1994 – 1997 for O-level certificate, A-level studies from 1998 – 2000, verbal commitment to the Grail in 2000, diploma in education at Marangu College from 2001 – 2003. Teaches English and Kiswahili at Vudoi Secondary School.

Gaspara Romani Samba. Formation program at Kisekibaha 1990 – 1994, secondary school 1994 – 2000, made verbal commitment in Grail in 2000, worked in Moshi, Tabora, and Morogoro Bookshops, went to college two years. Since March of 2007 she has been in the Geita Diocese working in the Internet Cafe as financial person, and has started to sell Religious Books and stationery. Expects to start the Bookshop of Geita Diocese.

Severa Sabas Batao. Starting in 1991, had her formation in Dido and Kisekibaha and experienced community life in different teams including Lembeni and Morogoro. In 1998 went to secondary school and in 2003 went to teachers college. Between those periods made her commitment in the Grail. Teaches at a primary school in the Diocese of Mbulu.

Obituaries

In loving memory of our Grail sisters:

Mary Jo Grote (USA)
1930 – 2007

Mary Jo Grote, longtime Cincinnati Grail member died September 12, 2007 at the age of 77. Her first contact with The Grail was in 1948 while she was in college. Mary Jo grew up in Nebraska, the eldest of 6 sisters and was married to James Grote from 1952 – 1983. Her sisters, daughter Paula, son Jim, her grandchildren, and Grail members from the Cincinnati area participated in the memorial Mass at Holy Rosary Church in Cincinnati where she was a lay minister.

As part of her Grail journey and friendship with Grail women, Mary Jo shared four passionate interests: her spiritual journey, the enrichment and sharing thereof;

the selection, reading, and discussion of current books; Grail programs, speakers, and events; plus Cincinnati art displays and theater.

She shared her spiritual journey, living it out openly and fully. When asked, she encouraged deepened involvement in faith study and practice. Old Testament stories, New Testament parables, books by Paul Knitter, Thomas Berry, and many others crowd the list of materials read, discussed, recommended, or shared by Mary Jo. All of this reading, plus her experience as an English teacher, bore fruit for the Grail in the editing she did of several issues of Netlinks. Though Mary Jo had suffered with Muscular Dystrophy for many years, she was an active participant in Grailville programs and events, and regional meetings in members' homes until she was physically unable to do so.

by Ruth Gallant

Isabel Hernández,
1953 – 2007

"She had wisdom surpassing her years. "
Wisdom 4

To write about our beloved companion in the Grail, Isabel is to reflect and recognize the spiritual gifts that our Lord placed in her, gifts that were manifested and were appreciated in the different spheres in which she moved.

In the first years of her life, which Isabel passed with her family in her indigenous community of Axochiapan, Morelos, her determination and discipline were already in evidence.

On the day of her burial, a member of her family pointed out some of the values that oriented her life: "Isabel was a woman who struggled always for her ideal of gender equality, of opportunities in education as well as in work; she stood against exclusion and poverty. These ideals were incorporated into her conversation, her conferences, her books and her actions, because there was always congruency between what she taught and what she did. Isabel, for her family and her son Abraham was a great example that will be difficult to equal."

Isabel was in the fullness of her life. She obtained her doctorate in the University of Barcelona with the mention "Summa cum laude." Her talent for teaching and communication was especially noteworthy and was formally recognized at her work site, the National Institute of Public Health, where she was given a special recognition for her contribution to the formation of health professionals.

In the development of our work in the communities, we were able to appreciate her special contribution in the formation of women leaders. Our experience with Isabel in the work of the Grail and as our representative in the Council, allowed us to observe her gift of analysis and clarity of expression of the truth of the situations in which she was involved.

Isabel's extended family as well as her many friends gave continuous affectionate support in the last moments of her life, accompanying her in the rituals according to the customs of her community in Morelos.

From: Grail-Morelos y Valle de México

Noreen Minogue (Australia)
1922 – 2007

The Grail in Australia has lost one of its finest. And so has the international community. Noreen's whole life was directed towards, and sustained by the vision "of a world transformed in love and justice through the talents and energies of committed women of faith." (International Grail Mission Statement, 1993)

She was 16 and already showed leadership potential when the early Dutch founders of the Grail movement in Australia led a leadership program for Catholic girls in Melbourne in 1938. Noreen responded with all her remarkable energy and spirit; and The Grail became a nourishing and encouraging milieu for her life of active engagement with her community of faith and the wider world for over 60 years.

Noreen has been honored nationally and internationally for her humanitarian work with the International Red Cross: three Australian Red Cross awards and an AM (Member of the Order of Australia), together with the highest global award from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Henry Durant Medal. Beginning her association with the Society in 1941 as a young volunteer, she became a member of the national staff in 1952 and was appointed Deputy Secretary General in 1963, a post she held for 23 years. She was then called out of retirement a number of times to advise and work on particular projects. Though not a lawyer, she developed considerable expertise in international humanitarian law and was a member of the Australian Government delegation to a

diplomatic conference in Geneva that led to crucial additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions. There is no doubt she was a gifted woman, a leader with a perceptive analytical intellect, outstanding organizational skills, a passion for justice, and a warm friendliness and courtesy towards everyone she met.

She was a very significant person in The Grail, locally in Melbourne and also more extensively in Australia and internationally. Some highlights of her 60 faithful years of participation in The Grail include her long years of contributing to the programs of formation of young women. As a faculty member for adult education programs she spoke on contemporary social issues and directed courses in current affairs.

Noreen was invaluable to the Australian and International Grail when thinking about structures and processes. For her, the purpose of structures was always to support and facilitate the life and mission of The Grail and its people. Many a time she worked on such matters, while also helping others to learn the same skills. In particular, she played a central role in a radical restructuring of the International Grail in 1967, which gave the diversity of cultures a stronger voice in decision-making. The 1967 International Structures significantly shifted some of this power away from the then larger, well established groups in Europe and the USA to the smaller groupings in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and South America.

by Alison Healey

Mimi Power (USA)
1935-2007

Mary Anne "Mimi" Power died September 27th, 2007, in New Mexico at the age of 72. A Grail member since 1962, when she came to the Grail Center in Cincinnati, Mimi was actively involved in social justice issues. After living in a poor, racially mixed area of Cincinnati, she moved to Park Town, an experiment in integrated living in downtown Cincinnati, where she served on the Housing Legislature Committee. During that time, she was also active in the Social Action Committee of the National Association of Social Workers. In the mid-1960's she lived for some years in Philadelphia, working in child welfare and civil rights issues. While in Philadelphia, Mimi and Mary Ann McCarthy created a family. Mimi adopted Michael and Katie; Mary Ann adopted Jamie. They moved to New Mexico and raised the children on the MLK Ranch, named after the children. Mimi later adopted Monica.

Mimi is remembered as a mother, grandmother, social worker, activist, artist, mentor, and rancher. She was a tireless advocate and activist for accessibility for people with disabilities. She was a great communicator and Grail meeting hostess and worked long and hard on Grail finances. She had informed interest in local, national, and international issues, and active concern for the well being of the Grail. Recently, she worked with the Grail Accessibility Committee to remove accessibility barriers to our buildings, especially at Grailville.

Mimi is survived by her children and grandchildren, Donte, Chris, Marilee, Devon, Nathaniel, and Malik, along with Mimi's daughter-in-law, Iva, and her loyal helper dog, Sally.

Claire Randall (USA)
1916 – 2007

Claire Randall died September 9th, 2007, in Sun City, Arizona, at the age of 91. She became acquainted with the Grail in the 1960's through Mary Brigid Niland and other Grail members in New York City and at the Grail center in Cornwall and soon invited them to be part of an ecumenical women's dialogue group.

She was an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church and served on the staff of Church Women United (CWU) from 1962 – 1973. As program director for CWU she brought groups to Grailville and together with Ellen Kirby, then of United Methodist Women, and Grailville staff created "Women Doing Theology," an extraordinary conference and dialogue among women theologians and feminist theologians-to-be.

From 1974 – 1984 she served as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the USA, and from 1988 – 1992 as the 14th national President of Church Women United.

As a Grail member, she hosted many local Grail meetings in her Broadway apartment in Manhattan and was frequently at Grailville—sometimes for national Grail meetings but also just to be in a place she loved. Her artistic talent showed as she painted the doors of the Oratory, or the side of the corn crib near St. Brigid's, not to mention the wonderful cosmic mural on the wall of the Caravansary during the GA of 1994.

Claire served on the first Connections Team in the 1980's together with Audrey Sorrento and Jane Bergquist, and chaired the Grailville Board in the

1990's. In November, 1993 she moved to Arizona where she served on the local boards of AAUW and NOW. In 1995 she stepped in as editor of Gumbo for a time and introduced its sub-title, "The Grail Connection." Claire lived as she once observed about the Grail: "The Grail is radical openness-within the community; to God; to the world around us."

Joan Lark Sanders (USA)
2007

Joan Lark Sanders, of Staten Island, New York, died peacefully at home on September 12th, 2007.

Joan first met the Grail through the Brooklyn Grail Center and attended a summer course at Grailville in 1949 and came to the Year School in 1950. From 1952 – 1957 she was on the Brooklyn Grail staff; from 1959 –1960 she was at the Tiltenberg in Holland; 1960 – 1962 saw her on the staff of the Cincinnati Grail Center; and from 1965 – 1967 she was on the National Grail staff at Grailville.

Among other activities at Grailville, she was Director of the Grail Art Distribution Program, coordinator of national conferences, educational seminars and ecumenical meetings. She also handled the Grailville finances while Roz Kew was pursuing further studies.

In 1960 she received a Diplome du Culture Religieuse from Lumen Vitae in Belgium and an M.A. in Theology from Marquette University in 1967.

Joan is survived by her husband, Jim, whom she married in October 1968, and their two daughters, Sarah Noliva and Rachel Sanders.

Jeanne Plante Timpanelli (USA)
1924 – 2007

Jeanne Muriel Plante Timpanelli, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, died September 11th, 2007, at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Connecticut, at the age of 83. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history from Manhattanville College in New York, and came to the Year School at Grailville in February, 1948.

Jeanne was at Gabriel House, the Grail center in Cincinnati, for two years and was Director of Grailville 1952 to 1960. "During her years with the Grail, Jeanne had a profound influence on the lives of hundreds of young women who came to know and love her," wrote Dolores Brien, in an obituary for the Ridgefield Press.

She undertook graduate studies in psychology at the Institut Catholique de Paris in the early 1960's and then at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was the widow of Dr. Alphonse Timpanelli whom she married in 1964.

Jeanne came back to Grailville on several occasions including the Grail Reunion in 1984, when she introduced a concert in the Grailville Oratory that brought together singers and music directors from several decades of music at Grailville. She was keenly interested in, and supportive of, Grailville over the years, and most recently participated in the memorial celebration of the life of Lynn Malley.

Announcements

■ From the Grail in Mexico

In November 2006, Rosaurora Espinosa received a commendation for her doctoral thesis from the National Institute of Women in Mexico in their competition which honors Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz who was the first feminist of the Americas. Rosaurora's thesis is *Expressions of Leadership, Empowerment and Rural Development in Two Groups of Women in Bajio Guanajuatense.*

■ Register now for 2008 Commission on the Status of Women meeting

Can you believe it's that time of the year again already!!!

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will hold its 52nd session from February 25 to March 7, 2008, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Commission will focus on the thematic issue of "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women." As your organization has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), we invite you to designate representative(s) to participate in the Commission.

If you are planning to attend, I will register you. Just let me know. I think I'd like everyone registered before Christmas so let's give ourselves a **December 20th 2007 deadline**.

Much love, Mary Kay Louchart

■ International Formation Team Meeting December 3 to 12, 2007 in Brazil

The International Formation Team (IFT) will hold the Portuguese-Spanish Formation Program's planning meeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, from December 3 – 12, 2007. *(See International Council (IC) 2005 and International General Assembly (IGA) 2006 reports.)*

This will be the first time that an international formation program will allow the participants to share the full content of the program in their own or another Latin language and cultural context. We all know how important it is to express the deep significance of our thoughts in our own language. The understanding of that is a part of the great richness in the Grail.

We plan to have most of the input into the program by our Grail sisters. We are going to define, among many other things, definite dates for the program that will be held for three weeks in July 2008. We already are receiving contributions from Portugal, Mozambique, Brazil, and Mexico women that are going to participate in the Formation Program concerning the central goal of the program and the profile of participants. Possibly, we will also have new people from Canada, USA, Honduras, and Angola.

From the IC and the IGA we have received all kind of good ideas, courage, and suggestions. ACTUALLY WE KNOW THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE "GRAIL WORLD" WILL BE THERE, lighting and sharing in our discussions. All Grail sisters will receive information about this process as it goes forward and will be able to give us feedback. We want to grow together to make the best of the Grail available to those, who will take the torch of our Movement's future.

by Rosaurora Espinosa

A Quote from one of our Australian Grail Foremothers: Elizabeth Reid

Mieneke Hage (Grail Netherlands and International Finance Officer) shared the following quote from Elizabeth Reid. Mieneke said: I think it is amazing how close Elizabeth Reid's outlook is to our current understanding of the small world, globalisation and the need for solidarity.

> *We have to try to become aware of ourselves as members of one human family, intrinsically bound up with each other, in deep unity even in diversity. Our first cries may have broken the air in the high white peaks of the Himalayas or the Andes; in the sodden steaming jungles along the Limpopo or the Amazon; in the steel-ribbed cities of the world or in its fertile valleys and plains; under the harsh blue sky of the island continent, or in the mists and rains of the northern lands. The place does not matter - it is a human person who is born. The skin that covers us may be yellow, black, brown , or white; and we speak as many tongues as there are sparrows chirping on telegraph poles. We plough the earth, we fish, we hunt, we provide shelter and food and clothing, we sing, we weep, we laugh, we love, we worship, we die.*
>
> *But we are not two billion nine hundred and fifty million points on a chart; we are living breathing people who desire to love and be loved. We are the family of man.*
>
> Elizabeth Reid, I Belong Where I'm Needed. The Newman Press, Westminster, Maryland, USA. 1961

Elizabeth Reid was an Australian Grail member, who worked in Hong Kong as a journalist in the 1940s, was instrumental in starting UFER, the NGO the Grail has been part of since the 1950s, and was involved in teaching communication methods in Tanzania when it was still Tanganyika right before independence in the 1960s. She was executive secretary of Action for Food Production and started the Grail Mobile Units in India in the 1970s. Elizabeth died in 1975 at The Tiltenberg in The Netherlands. *(Second hand copies of I Belong where I'm Needed are available on amazon.com)*