

GRAIL INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

47, August 2012

Deadline next issue August 06 2012

Phone: 31-74-7074273, cell: 31- 6 31072836

iltsec@thegrail.org

<http://www.thegrail.org>

Content:

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Announcement

Eileen Schaeffler

Thank yous

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GRAIL INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

47, August 2012

Deadline next issue August 06 2012

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Content:

Training for Transformation MADANG, PNG

Network coordinators meeting

Grail women in the Americas envision new work together

Announcement

Eileen Schaeffler

Thank yous

Calendar

This letter is intended to be a two-way communication channel for Grail members to fill up the gaps between Crossroads (May and November) with short news items and an events calendar. You are encouraged to send in

- short impressions of international and national meetings and activities (maximum 10-15 lines)
- job advertisements, vacancies at your Grail center
- changes of address
- international events for the calendar

This letter is sent from iltsec@thegrail.org to one contact person of every Grail country, who will make sure all members in their country get a chance to read it.

Training for Transformation MADANG, Papua New Guinea



The participants in the TFT Workshop in Madang, Papua New Guinea

From the 18th June to 23rd June, 2012, 10 women from Papua New Guinea (Angela Bugatar, Monica Liumene, Nancy Yahu, Koni Austrai, Maria Wate, Schola Manembe, Rose Maule, Elizabeth Waken and Albina Namuesh) one from the Philippines (Christine Garinganao) and 2 Australians (Kay Hunt and Jill Herbert) took part in a TFT workshop in Madang. Carol Webb facilitated this workshop. It was held at The House of Prayer, in the grounds of Alexishafen, the catholic mission in Madang. This centre overlooks the bay and while a fish cannery and large fishing boats with bright lights were across the other side of the Bay, it was still a beautiful, lush tropical setting overlooking the water- where we saw many large fish jumping out of the water most afternoons. Each person now has the task working through the Freire Method to identify some themes, generate a code and plan some actions. A follow-up meeting is already planned for 2013 in Port Moresby (31st May to 11th June) and a venue has been booked. This will reach out to a wider group, with those who have had experience with TFT helping others to learn this method of community action.

Jill Herbert

Network coordinators meeting



A meeting took place of the coordinators of the networks: Justice and Trade Agreements and Human Trafficking namely on the photo from left to right: Elly König, Mary Boyd, Angelina Kyonda, Ton Brouwer and Alison Healy, in Voorburg the Netherlands from 1 – 8 June 2012. Angelina, Alison and Mary were billeted with Phily van Dijck, Ton and Elly respectively and are most grateful for the generous hospitality they and Josette Kersters offered them in Voorburg and Bloemendaal. The meeting was held in Ton's place as they sat mostly around her dining table; she made sure that they had everything needed, including

facilitating all travel arrangements.

Many thanks to Mieneke who worked persistently and effectively to enable Angela to obtain a visa and also invited all of them to a memorable Eritrean meal.

On Wednesday the meeting was held at Elly's new apartment in Bloemendaal. On their way they stopped at the Tiltenberg to give Angelina the chance to see the place and visited the cemetery and especially the tomb of Geraldine Huising, who worked for 9 years with the husband of Angelina. Unexpectedly they were all participants in two significant moments in the life of Dutch Grail members, each in its own way a moving and heart-warming experience. The first was the celebration of Bep Caminada's 90th birthday, which brought Bep's family and a number of Grail women together for a lovely meal and a joyous afternoon with speeches and songs to honour her. The venue was a function room in a hotel with splendid views of dunes and the north Sea. The second was the funeral service of Mieneke Hage's mother, who died in her sleep on Pentecost Sunday. A woman minister in the Mennonite community presided over the liturgy of prayers, songs, readings and family memories. They all felt privileged and grateful to be included in these two special occasions and to meet members of both the Caminada and Hage families and Dutch Grail members they would not have had the chance to see otherwise.

A report of the meeting was sent to the ILT who will later on distributed it to all the Grail members.

Ton Brouwer

Grail women in the Americas envision new work together

Representatives to The Grail Women in the Americas meeting in Mexico City gathered on July 8 to begin our 8-day meeting to determine the future of our work together, to renew old connections and build new ones among the 28 women representing five countries (plus). We were from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States. One U.S. member, Monica Maher, is living in Ecuador, and two U.S. members were on the Grail trip to Cuba, so we were constantly aware of new possibilities for the Grail movement in new places in the Americas.

Our purpose was set forth in a statement:

The purpose of our gathering is to rethink our vision of the Grail in the Americas so that we can work together in our region of the world and examine the strengths, challenges and issues in each country and to strategize how we might grow together, learning from each other's wisdom, experience and spiritual search and together seek the signs of hope for peace and justice in our complex world.

(This statement of purpose takes some of its phrasing from the 2011 International Grail Vision Statement).

We reviewed the current realities in each of our countries—political, social, economic and spiritual realities—as well as the work and context of the Grail in each country. We set out to prioritize themes and common issues of passionate effort and succeeded in confirming two themes for our work together going forward.

The two themes that we will develop, if approved by each of our countries, are “Restorative Justice” and “Food Sovereignty and Security.” The plan of action we developed at the end of the meeting includes feeding information back to each other as we returned to our homes to more deeply connect the work we are doing and are planning in these thematic areas.

We worked very hard in our time together, meeting from 8:30 in the morning with an opening ritual and continuing until 9:30 at night or later, closing the day with various presentations about Grail work, Grail women and more depth on country realities. During the morning and afternoon sessions we heard from each country and we reflected on what impacted us the most and what is most similar to our own country's reality. We began the week with a review of the history of Women of the Americas and a timeline that included our current gathering at the intersection of the past and the future. There was much interest expressed in making individual connections with one another and with other Grail women in our countries, to strengthen the ties by having specific connections like a “pen pal” sister to make our connections more personal. We touched on the desire to have means of physical exchanges of Grail-related persons between countries. We hope to use blogs and the website and internet for more ongoing communication with each other and other Grail women. A facebook page has already been set up, thanks to Quanita Munday.

Team leaders presented a definition of neoliberalism to better frame the overarching policies that are affecting people in all of our countries.

Neoliberalism is an ideology that focuses on market-driven approaches to economic and social policies that stress the efficiency of private enterprise, and liberalized global trade. It minimizes government regulation on what could potentially reduce profit for corporations such as labor protection, and the environment. It seeks the privatization of state-owned goods including forest, water, land and native seeds. It also seeks to end social programs that help the most disadvantaged such as health services and education in order to benefit private investors such as banks, and other corporations. Another objective is to eliminate the concept of the public good and replace it with individual responsibility, pressuring the most disadvantaged in society to find solutions to health care, education and social security and blaming them if they fail.

Daily morning group rituals brought the land, water, sustenance and life issues from each of our countries together to viscerally connect our common concerns and pray for our world and for each other. We deeply experienced each other's embodied presence as representing womanhood from our various contexts, and we shared the hopes and dreams and wishes for our lives and work going forward in the closing ritual on the last day.



First row: Arlete Alves de Almeida (B), Meyte Vidal (M), Eliana Rocha (B), Reyna Martinez Laguna (M), Lucy Jones (US); Second row: Nigemie de Fatima Bechelene (B), Rosaurora Espinosa Gomez (M), Quanita Munday (US), Martha Arellano Hernandez (M), Laura Kaplan (US), Samia Saad (C); Third Row: Claire Richard (C), Modesta Arevalos (P), Maureen Laflin (US), Maria Cristina Perez Cespedes (P), Maria Lilia Fernandez Ventura (M); Fourth Row: Olga Kolisnyk (C), Monica Maher (US), Maria Cristina dos Anjos (B/ILT), Angela Perez Castañeda (M); Fifth Row: Maria Beatriz de Oliveira (B), Maria Judith Garcia Arredondo (M), Ushuaia Camarena Acosta (M), Vanessa Alves (B), Sharon Joslyn (US)
 B=Brazil C=Canada M=Mexico P=Paraguay US=United States ILT=International Leadership Team

All participants together mid-wived a dynamic synergy for working together in the Americas as powerfully inspired Grail women.

A new planning team was formed to carry the work forward with support from the whole of the Grail movement in the Americas. Ushuaia from Mexico, Eliana and Beatriz from Brazil, Modesta from Paraguay, Monica for Ecuador (!), Samia from Canada, Quanita and Laura from the US. The “baton” was passed from Rosaurora, Sharon, Olga and Cristina dos Anjos. In the passing-the-baton ceremony there was a last-minute tug-of-war where the “old” team wouldn’t let go! Lots of laughs and recognition of human nature! Still let us hope the old team will continue to guide and advise and mentor the current designated leaders of the Grail Women in the Americas as we continue our journey together.

Lucy Jones

Announcement

We are very happy to let you know that the assistant of the International Leadership Team gave birth to a son on July 27.

Thomas Mike Pieter is the son of Mary Omedo and Olav van Vliet and the little brother of Nicole. Their address:
Abelenstraat 71, 7556 DS Hengelo, the Netherlands.



Eileen Schaeffler

Last night around 7pm our sister Eileen Schaeffler, former Grail national and international president, passed away peacefully at the Mary Manning Walsh Nursing Home after a long illness. Dorothy Rasenberger has been visiting Eileen for long periods almost every day and I would come when Dorothy didn't.

We celebrated her 85th birthday on June 3rd and she was able to join in the celebration and enjoyed the singing and guitar music of her roommate's husband for the occasion.

Dorothy was with me when the telephone call from the nursing home came to us about 7:30PM last night. We taxied right up to the nursing home, spoke to the attendant doctor and were able to be left alone with Eileen in prayer which we ended with one of Eileen's favorite songs – the Russian Alleluia. Eileen's wishes for cremation will be honored.

There will be a mass and memorial for Eileen at a later date because so many close to her are away this month. We will let everyone know more details when we have them. Please remember her in your prayers.

Joy Garland

Thank yous

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In 2005 Anne Day joined the International Finance Team of the International Grail. She was also IC member for Australia at the time and thus looked at the international finances with a wide perspective. At the time Anne joined the team, Ruth Crowe (Australia) was responsible for finances in the ILT. This meant it was easy for Anne and Ruth to sit down and discuss financial matters. We are grateful for Anne to have brought her expertise which she acquired as director of a school into the team. Anne, we thank you for your thoughts, suggestions and discussions. We are happy to know you will continue to stay on in the other International team you are active in, the International Assistance Fund team.

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