

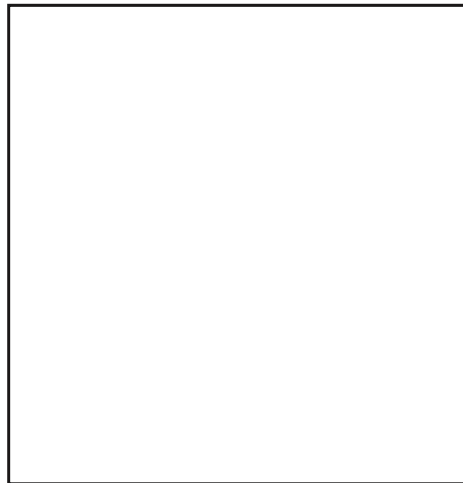
Being Peace in a Time of War

As we prepare this edition of the Grailville newsletter, our country is at war with Iraq. A carpet of green spreads across our pastures, first seeds are being planted, while the tally of each day's dead and dying breaks through the evening news. Like everyone throughout our country, we are concerned. The specter of what might happen next fills us with grief and dread. We fear this war will not end the conflict, that its roots lie deeper, with greater consequences, than any of us can imagine. Compared to the immensity of the forces at war, we at Grailville feel very small. We tie black swathes of mourning cloth around our trees at the entrance and exit of the driveway. In times such as these, it feels important to visibly declare that every human life is precious. We hang an American flag to show our love for

"This I know. This I believe with all my heart. If we want to be a peaceful world, if we want to make the deserts bloom and people grow to greater dignity as human beings — we can do it!"

—Eleanor Roosevelt

our country, concern for our soldiers facing the horror of battle. Beside it, we hang a flag of Peace to remind all who see it that we are members of the human family, interconnected people inhabiting one planet. And we pray,



*The Peace Flag of Nation Earth —
Designed by Maya Massar and made for
Grailville by Rebecca Kremer Hill*

constantly, as individuals and as a community.

In a world torn apart by religious warfare, we search for ways to pray together when no one religion unites us. As a diverse spiritual community, we feel called to give witness to the possibility of peace in the midst of differences. As a faith-based community, we feel called not only to pray for peace, but to *be* peace, offering a place where others can come and find a moment of peace in troubled times. We offer Thursday night silent Vigils for Peace and monthly gatherings in both our House of Prayer and the Oratory. We offer 300 acres of beauty and solitude, labyrinths for walking meditation. We offer the opportunity to volunteer in our gardens, to touch the earth and know again what is truly permanent. We offer a free community

space in the Coffee House where people can meet, share their questions, dialogue with others in search of greater understanding in tumultuous times when there is no one answer. In a world threatened daily with new forms of terror, we try to be kind, open our doors in hospitality to the stranger.

While we know we cannot change

"What kind of Peace are we talking about? A peace based on the absence of problems, contradictions, and conflicts? A passive peace in which each person takes care only of her or himself and avoids contacts with others to avoid conflict? Or the kind of peace we find in cemeteries? ...A 'non aligned culture of peace' does not exist. Peace is a river which runs over many lands, but it needs land and a favorable climate to flow. It needs human contact."

— Ida Gonçalves

the world, we believe we can heal a small part of it. We hope to the extent that we are peace, we can be peace for those who venture into our green corner of earth. We pray that by the time you read this, the war is over. We pray, as always, that God's Love will prevail.

—The Grailville Leadership Team

“All Manner of Things Will Be Well”

“All will be well. All manner of things will be well.”

These words of Julian of Norwich greet the visitor from a large mandala on the gathering room wall, as she comes through the door of the Ark, Grailville’s House of Prayer. We hope this quote will be true for anyone who seeks out this peaceful house for time alone, or in prayerful gatherings with others.

The house, with its white walls and quiet furnishings, is almost Shaker-like in its simplicity. Four of the five bedrooms celebrate and are named for the elements—earth, fire, air and water. The final bedroom is dubbed “Spirit.” A mandala with a prayer to the spirit of each element is the only adornment on the white walls of the bedrooms. On the first floor is the gathering room, a prayer and meditation room, the Spirit bedroom and a kitchen. Outside the glass doors of the kitchen, an ancient red maple shades a patio and small garden. This patio overlooks the green field that slopes down to Grailville’s cemetery.

The Oratory is a neighbor to the Ark and the natural separation of these two more contemplative spaces from the busier buildings of Grailville to the south makes them ideal places for the quieter practices that are so essential to the work of the whole.

The House of Prayer team took on the care of the Ark in 1998. At that



The Ark, House of Prayer

time the purpose of the Ark became providing a simple and peaceful environment for quiet retreats, days of study and prayer, small workshops, and times of ritual. The team continues to meet, devoting the morning hours of each meeting to prayer. Two spiritual deepening retreats are sponsored yearly—the AMA Samy meditation retreat and a weekend program on spiritual journeys guided by Carolyn

Gratton. The Blessing of the Animals ritual was added this past October.

The House of Prayer team invites all local Grail women and friends to join them in prayer at the Ark, 10:00-11:30 a.m., on the team’s designated meeting dates (second Thursday of the month), convinced that John O’Donohue states it fully: “Prayer is the harmony at the heart of chaos.”

—Bobbi Gill

Healthy Food for a Healthy Planet

~ Grailville’s Annual Fund-Raising Dinner ~

Continuing in our tradition of gathering, Grailville invites you to join in the celebration of its 10th Annual Fund-Raising Dinner on Sunday, September 21, 2003.

This year we want to celebrate food itself as a source of life and community building across different cultures and

ethnicities. “Good food, good feelings,” is an old slogan we have never stopped using. With the gourmet food that Chef Mark Metcalfe plans to serve you, the dinner meal promises to be delicious, nutritious and healthy. So—expect to have plenty of good feelings!

A raffle, featuring three unique prizes, will be an added reason for staying for dessert! Entertainment will follow the dinner, with music and dancing in the reception room of the House of Joy.

If you are someone who appreciates good food and good feelings, whether you are vegetarian or not, come and enjoy a dinner based on natural and organic ingredients.

Not only will you be joining us in an evening of fun, but you will also be contributing to Grailville’s programs and projects on spirituality, sustainability, social justice and the arts.

Donation is \$60 per person (\$45 of your donation is tax deductible). Reservations are required. Call 513-683-2340.

Grailville Offers You...

- 300 acres of farm, organic gardens, pastures, forests, hiking trails, and labyrinths.
- Guest Services providing simple lodging for groups and individuals, nutritious meals, cultural resources and events, The Grailville Store & Coffee House featuring gifts and specialty items, a web store, garden tours, house tours, labyrinth presentations, and educational opportunities focused on sustainable living.
- An Oratory for prayer, rituals, and meditation.
- Residential internships, a seasonal organic produce stand, a community supported agriculture program, and garden and other volunteer opportunities.
- A diverse spiritual community creating a way of life reflected in programs, projects, and special events offered to the public.

Earth and Spirit

There is a restlessness in the earth. In this hemisphere, spring entices the trees to put on new leaves, new blossoms. All of a sudden, the forsythia bursts out in bright golden branches. Seedlings are planted out in the kitchen garden beds, newly emerged from their winter blankets of snow. The garlic needs to be weeded. But here, at Grailville, the seeds that are being planted now will have grown and vegetables will have been harvested as this newsletter goes to press. Hard work lies ahead. There is a feeling of new life in the land. New hope.

As urban development continues to grow all around us, Grailville remains an oasis where the spirit can speak, can be heard. It becomes more and more urgent that our stewardship of the land

Wetland Permit Received

Since April 2001, our W.E.T. (Wastewater Environmental Treatment) Project has carried on research to find an on-site, zero discharge, sustainable sewage treatment system for Grailville that would also provide educational opportunities. The system chosen in June 2002 was a constructed wetland that will treat sewage from the Dining Room, the House of Joy, Metanoia, and Hodie.

On April 23, we received our permit from the Ohio E.P.A. and construction will begin in May. Work is already underway planning the prairie that will be located on top of the leach field as well as the native plant gardens that will surround the whole system. W.E.T. currently has four interns from Hocking Hills College and will have an ongoing internship program. We are still in need of funds for all phases of construction as well as for the garden installation. Everyone is welcome to join "Friends of the Transformation Garden" to work on garden design and installation, help develop the education program, and become a docent to lead tours. A dedication event is being planned for fall 2003.

—Cynthia Edwards

be the focus of our work and prayer.

Thomas Berry speaks of our powers to dominate the natural world that have "led to a savage assault upon the earth that was inconceivable in prior times."

On this land we are given an opportunity to participate in Creation—a never ceasing time of change and movement that can bring us closer and closer to a sense of communion with the gifts of God's work and word. We are seeking a return to this sense of communion with the earth through a sacred, spiritual reunion with the goodness of God's creation. Thus, our "dominion over the earth" becomes a challenge and responsibility to care for the land we are entrusted with as a spiritual journey to find the roots of God's love and goodness. God speaks to us through the earth we stand on. Can we listen? Can we hear?

As we acknowledge that all of Creation is a gift, that we have done nothing to bring it into being, that indeed without the Creator, we are helpless, there is an increasing sense of awe, of gratitude, and a need to contribute something however small to the survival of this planet. If we see ourselves as parts of a whole—part of the cycles of nature, spring, summer, fall and winter, part of the

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cycles of life—we learn also to let go of the need to control life. Acceptance of ourselves as we are, of life and its challenges, of the need for some one, some thing, beyond ourselves grows as our communion with the earth grows.

The constructed wastewater wetlands is one commitment to renewing our resources. In addition to the Community Supported Agriculture Program, the produce stand, and farmers markets, this year more of our organic produce will be served in our dining room than ever before. We pray for an abundant harvest that will encourage others to participate in growing and eating food free from contamination.

And we pray that we can offer others an insight into the sacredness of the earth and our responsibility to care for this land.

—Terry Marshall

Garden Volunteer Calendar for 2003

Work projects will be held, during the garden season, on every second and fourth Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., when lunch is served. Please put in your lunch reservation four or five days ahead by calling (513) 683-2340 and leaving a message. We may change the planned project due to the weather and/or garden priorities. In case of severe weather the project will be cancelled. Volunteers are welcome to work with us at other times by calling ahead and setting up a time.

June 14..... planting winter squash and pumpkins
June 28 harvesting garlic
July 12 cleaning garlic
July 26 planting beans and cabbage
August 9 planting Fall crops
August 23 planting last of Fall crops
September 13... planting garlic
September 27... planting garlic and cover crops
October 11..... preparing beds for winter
October 25..... weeding garlic
November 8preparing beds for winter
November 22 ... putting garden to bed

A Total Waking Up

Dear Editor,

I have been to two weekend and one week-long AMA Samy retreat and plan to make it an annual “pilgrimage.” As a person who was raised Catholic and spent years away from the church (for a variety of understandable reasons) I experienced the most sincere reconciliation to my past at these retreats. Someone asked AMA Samy to elaborate on the differences between Buddhism and Christianity and I had my pen in hand for writing when AMA Samy just said, “Be like Jesus. Be like Buddha.” Maybe it sounds funny, but this was a total waking up for me. The ideas and fuzziness seemed trivial in the huge and wonderful truth of this.

Grailville has been a sort of spiritual home to me, spanning four decades (whew) of my life. At this time of integrating seeming contradictions and insights from years past and moments ago, Grailville is a beautiful place to come for a retreat. AMA Samy is a wonderful teacher and it is amazing how close you can get to people you have been silent with. This longer time of meditation practice is essential for a scattered person like myself. I am grateful for the experience and will be back this September.

—Ann Steffy

AMA Samy To Lead Meditation Retreat

AMA Samy, Jesuit priest and Zen Master, comes to Grailville from his meditation center in Kodai Kanal, India. He also conducts retreats in Europe and Japan.

Grailville is happy to greet AMA Samy again and welcomes you, to come away for a quiet, spirit-filled time with this superb leader.

WEEKEND: September 12-14, beginning with Friday evening dinner and ending with Sunday lunch.

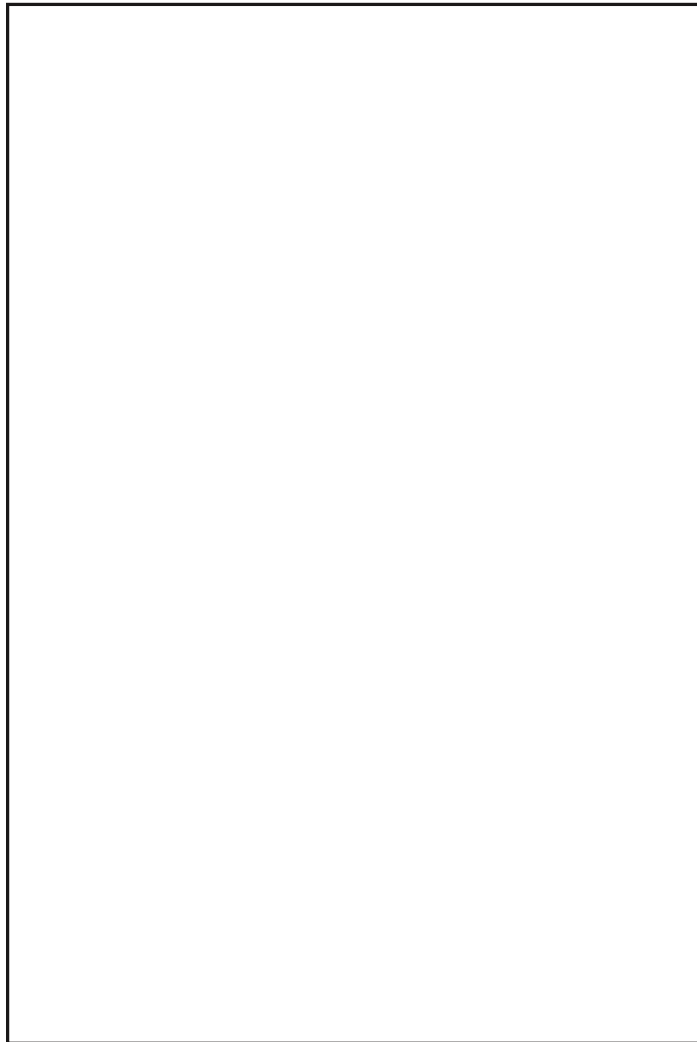
WEEK: September 12-19, ending with Friday lunch.

Meals are vegetarian.

The fees are:

- week-long, single room \$440
- weekend, single room \$235
- weekend, double room \$175

For more information please call 513-683-2340.



—Photo by Tim Morand

From Tim's photographic exhibit held during AMA Samy's fall 2002 retreat.

Holy Week at Grailville

“God’s Love is Everlasting” was the theme for the celebration of the Holy Days at Grailville this year. Our awareness of planet-wide grief and consternation brought us to a new depth in our celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. “Affairs are now soul size,” wrote Christopher Fry. Over the roar of war, God speaks:

I will be with you... My Love is everlasting... Carry my love in your hearts...

We came together to pray for every child of today and tomorrow,
every son and daughter in battle, every human in this world.

We joined each other for Holy Thursday Dinner and Eucharist,
one with our sisters and brothers throughout the earth,

Good Friday morning and afternoon services

we walked with our sisters and brothers who suffer injustice,

Holy Saturday contemplative preparation and evening ritual,
we sang out for earth and all who dwell here,

Easter Sunday, the joyous dawn of rebirth, resurrection,

daring to have faith-filled hope,

we rejoiced that the Light is within and must be shared.

—The Holy Week Liturgy group: Rose Mary Clark, Joy France, Frances Martin, Terry Marshall, Joyce Minkler, Elizabeth Robinson, Mary Schickel, George Wilson, S.J., and the Grailvillage Choir

Reiki Instruction Continues at Grailville

After the success of the first Reiki instruction series, two more workshops will be held at Grailville this summer.

Reiki is a very simple yet powerful healing art and can easily be learned by everyone. It can be used on yourself, as well as others, to re-balance physical, mental, emotional and spiritual energy. Carol Bussey, Linda Neumaier, Teresa Olson, and Elizabeth Tait, who facilitated the first Level I series at Grailville, are donating their time and competencies again to benefit Grailville. They are giving service as well as spiritual support to our community. We are all very grateful to them for their generosity.

Reiki Level I will introduce, through attunement and practice, a basic understanding of energy work. No previous experience or knowledge of Reiki is needed to participate in this class.

Reiki Level II focuses on attunement and symbols that strengthen and expand the use of Reiki energy. (This workshop is open to all who participated in the Reiki Level I class and have at least two months of Reiki practice on themselves and/or others.)

If you are interested in learning this ancient healing art and, by your enrollment, donating to Grailville, call soon to register (513-683-2340); space is limited.

Reiki Level I (no prerequisites): Saturday, July 19, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., through Sunday, July 20, 9:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Minimum donation: \$225 (\$125 non-refundable deposit). Includes lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Reiki Level II (prerequisite: Reiki I): Saturday, September 27, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., through Sunday, September 28, 9:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Minimum donation: \$250 (\$125 non-refundable deposit). Includes lunch on Saturday only.

Overnight accommodations can be arranged through Guest Services for an additional cost. Please call 513-683-2340 for rates and reservations.

Refreshing Changes

With spring comes the promise of new growth and fresh beginnings. Here at Grailville, Guest Services is happy to announce exciting changes made over the winter.

Our first new change is that Guest Services is now located in the front of our store. A hostess is there Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. to answer telephones, to be a friendly face greeting all our visitors, and to answer any questions you may have about the happenings at Grailville.

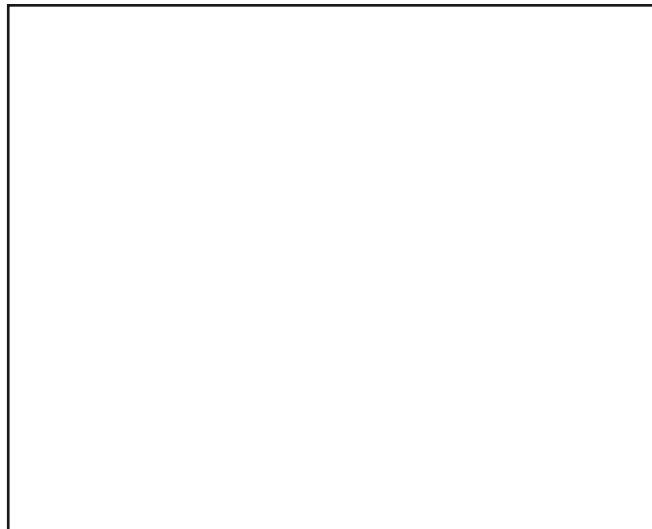
The second exciting change is the Grailville Store. Our newly stocked store features fair trade, hand crafted items from around the world, along with books on spirituality, women's issues, sustainability, and sculptures by Trina Paulus. Trina is a Grail member and the author of the international best seller, *Hope for the Flowers*, which is also available in the store in book or tape form.

The third and most exciting change of all is the Coffee House. We consider this a community space where anyone can sit down, take a break, have a cup of coffee, and just hang out and relax. Organized open gatherings may also

be held there. A sign-up board has been provided to let people know the time, date, and topic of your gathering. All we ask is that a responsible person make sure the lights and the coffee pot are turned off before leaving.

Our Grailville Store and Coffee House "Grand Opening," held on Saturday, March 1, was a great success. Bill Schickel opened the evening with a poetry reading, and Dan Dorff sang and played guitar. Poet-in-Residence, Sharon Thomson, entertained us with an original performance piece about Grailville titled, "Journey to What Comes Next," and drumming brought out an overwhelming response of audience participation to round off the evening.

—Mark Metcalfe



Grailville Coffee House



Grailville Store

Joy of Seasons

Every summer a very joyful gathering happens at Grailville—a summer camp for women. For three wonderful days they laugh, play, sing, study and meditate; sharing their lives with one another. By telling their own stories, women of all ages, races, creeds, and backgrounds find they have much in common and that each one's life is important.

The program is packed with opportunities for personal expression and spiritual growth—all this in the idyllic, peaceful setting that Grailville's 300 acres provide.

Read on for some comments expressed by past campers:

"What began for me as a mini-vacation in the early nineties has become an absolute requisite on my summer calendar. At the end of each year I leave feeling enriched and invigorated, thankful for these days together and eagerly anticipating yet another year."

"Joy of Seasons camp has been an important part of my spiritual journey

for several years. Each season brings the gift of meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones."

"We are individuals, diverse but yet alike. Strong women who play together, nurturing the 'child within'. We absorb the beauty, serenity, and spirituality of Grailville, thankful to all the women past and present who developed this 'Holy Ground'."

The theme of this year's Joy of Seasons camp will be The Circles of our Lives. Come and share some of your life with us this summer from August 8–11.

Call Grailville (513-683-2340) for more information.

Slow Walk for Peace

10 a.m. - Noon, Saturday, June 7

*We walk for ourselves, and
we walk for those who cannot walk.*

*We walk for all living beings –
past, present, and future.*

—Thich Nhat Hanh

We are joining The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation's Eighth Annual Slow Walk for Peace. Shalem's Walk for Peace is based on the work and practice of Vietnamese Zen Master, poet, and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh. This year's event is dedicated to those who, because of war, illness,

Training for Community Transformation

Women community leaders have the opportunity to attend a U.S. Grail sponsored "Training for Community Transformation Program" at Grailville. Participants are being sought who are involved in community development, community organizing and social justice programs. Based on the work of Paulo Freire, participants will learn skills that will allow them to take social change into their own hands as a means of ensuring the conditions in which a community can thrive economically, socially, culturally, spiritually and politically. Internationally recognized consultant, Bethann Witcher will facilitate the workshop with the assistance of U.S. Grail leadership consultant, Bonnie Hendricks.

This is a three-phase training

Reiki and/or Spiritual Guidance Sessions

Linda Neumaier continues another year of generosity toward Grailville by again offering private Reiki and/or Spiritual Guidance sessions monthly, donating all of the money she receives to Grailville. Linda requests \$40 or more for each session. Sessions may be scheduled on the following Sundays and Mondays:

June 15-16

July 13-14

August 17-18

September 14-15

October 12-13

November 9-10

December 14-15

Call Linda at 513-771-0915 or email her at lneumaier@juno.com to schedule an appointment.

or disease, are unable to walk. In solidarity with them and longing for peace, we will gather and begin with prayer and reflection, moving into an hour of meditative slow walking, and concluding with group reflection time.

- Facilitator: Linda Allport Neumaier
- Location: Grailville Oratory
- The event is free and open to the public (donations gladly accepted).

Mother Earth II – A Juried Women's Art Show

WAM! Women, Arts & Media Project and Grailville will sponsor a mixed-media, juried art show focusing on land-based art or artistic themes by women artists who care about the state of our environment globally and/or locally. This exhibit of art will explore the relationships between women and the natural environment. Check the Grailville web site www.grailville.org or call 513-683-2340 for details.

Art Show

September 11 – November 15

Fridays: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

(During the week by appointment.)

Opening Reception

September 11, 2003

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

In the Grailville Dining Room

*WAM! is a program of the
Grail Women Task Force.*

program with the introductory session in July 2003 and the follow-up session in January 2004 at Grailville. The six-month action phase between the Grailville sessions is carried out in participants' local communities.

- Phase I: Introductory Session
July 9-14, 2003
- Phase II: Six-Month Action Phase
- Phase III: Follow-up Session
January 22-25, 2004

Cost for Phase I is \$450 for residential participants and \$350 for commuters. Space is limited. Partial scholarships are available. Check the Grailville web site www.grailville.org or call 513-683-2340 for cost of Phase III and other details.

Grailville Calendar

For more information, go to www.grailville.org, Events,
or call 513-683-2340.

Programs & Events Requiring Reservations:

• Sunday Dinner Buffets

October 5, November 2, December T.B.A.

5:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Adults \$15, Children 4-10 \$8

• Reiki and/or Spiritual Guidance

See page 6 for dates (minimum \$40 donation).

• Training for Community Transformation

July 9 – 14 and January 22-25; see page 6.

• Reiki Level I Instruction

July 19 – 20; Commuter \$225

• Joy of Seasons

August 8 – August 11; call for cost.

• Zen Meditation Retreat

with Fr. AMA Samy, S.J. and Zen Master

Week-long: September 12-19, \$440 single,

Weekend: September 12-14, \$245 single, \$175 double

• Healthy Food for a Healthy Planet

10th Annual Fund-Raising Dinner, September 21, \$60

• Reiki Level II Instruction

September 27 – 28; Commuter \$250

• Crèche Presentation Luncheon

December 2, December 10, December 18, \$12/ person

Note: Scholarships are available for some of the above programs. Please call for information. Contributions above the minimum go to the scholarship fund.

Other Programs & Events:

Donations are welcome, but reservations are not required for the following:

• Prayer Vigil for Peace:

Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. (no vigils 6/26, 11/23, 12/25)

• Slow Walk for Peace: June 7, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

• Feast of Pentecost: June 8

• Mystics' Book Discussion Group:

second Tuesday of the month, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

• Organic Garden Volunteer Days: See page 3.

• Sitting and Walking Meditations: Call for dates.

• Feast of John the Baptist: June 28

• Mother Earth II Art Show and Opening Reception:

Reception ~ September 11, 7-9 p.m.

Art Show ~ September 11 – November 15

Fridays 4-8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-7 p.m.,

Sundays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment

• Feast of St. Francis of Assisi:

October 5, Blessing of the Animals

• Feast of All Saints: November 1

• Crèche Exhibit & Opening:

Opening ~ December 1

Exhibit ~ December 1-23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; December 24, 9 a.m.- noon, and then by appointment through January 6.

Sunday Dinner Buffets at Grailville

Bring your family and friends to Grailville for a delicious and healthy home-cooked meal prepared and beautifully presented by our talented Chef Mark Metcalfe. Reserve your space early for the fall and winter Sunday dinners to ensure your choice of seatings by calling Grailville at 513-683-2340.

Need a creative and fun gift idea? Purchase a Sunday Dinner Gift Certificate for a friend (available on-line from our web store at www.grailville.org).

Sunday Dinner Buffet Dates

October 5

November 2

December dates T.B.A.

Seating times are 5:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$15, Children 4-10 \$8

Children under 4 are free.

Reservations are required.

The Newsletter is On-Line

At long last, our newsletter is now on-line at our web site www.grailville.org. Many people have expressed an interest in receiving the Newsletter electronically. Starting with this issue those individuals received an email from us that contained a link directly to the newsletter! The newsletter can be displayed from the email as a PDF file that looks exactly like the printed newsletter or a text-only version (for those who have slow computers and do not want to wait for the pictures to download). The PDF version is print-friendly so you can opt to print out your own hard copy if you want.

If we do not already have your email address, and you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, you may sign up on the web site. If we have your email address and you *do not* want to receive the newsletter electronically, you can email us and request that you be removed from our email list (go to the web site and click on Contact Us).

Beginning with the next newsletter issue (January 2004) we will send emails containing a link to the Newsletter to all of you for whom we have email addresses and you will not receive a hard copy newsletter (**now** we are starting to save trees!). We will also use our email list for other periodic announcements or messages. If you suspect the email address that we have for you is out of date, please go to the web site and sign up with the correct email address. Help support the planet by saving trees and support Grailville by saving the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

— Suzanne Morand

Grailville is an environmental, education, and retreat center of The Grail, an international movement of women committed to spiritual search, social action, ecological sustainability, and the release of women's creative energy throughout the world.

Located on an organic farm in southwest Ohio, Grailville is a diverse community offering spiritual, cultural, and educational opportunities for the public, as well as providing guest facilities for meetings, lodging, dining, and special events.



Grailville

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Letter to the Editor –

Pioneers

Dear Grailville Team,

I like your Newsletter very much, and thank you for carrying on Grailville's legacy with so much spirit.

Thank you for remembering us "pioneers" from 1944. I was one of the first, together with Mary Ann Kimball, Catherine Leahy & Judith Hines to go from Super Flumina (in Foster) to start work in the house & garden at Grailville. True we had lots of faith & little wealth, but we did have a most important asset which you choose not to seek: strong moral and financial backing from the Archbishop of Cincinnati. I support your independence & the much greater struggle you are willing to undertake.

I am carrying on with "back to the land," living in a small cabin, with solar power, compost toilet, outdoor kitchen, etc; taking care of a few goats & chickens, ducks & geese—still proud of my Grailville heritage... & still active in the search for peace & understanding too.

Very best wishes to you all.

Love, Mariette Wickes

Celebrating the Liturgical Year at Grailville

The Grail and Grailville continue with our rich tradition of beautiful celebrations of the liturgical year. We began celebrations this year with Easter and Holy Week and continue through December with our Advent Sunday Dinners and Crèche Exhibit Luncheon presentations. Please join us for any or all of the following:

~*Feast of Pentecost—June 8.* Come join us for a spirit filled afternoon of kite flying and recalling the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This will be followed by a potluck dinner and evening prayer in the Oratory.

~*Feast of the Birthday of John the Baptist—June 28.* Join us at the fireside to celebrate the one "who came to bear witness to the light" by being a witness of the light to one another with songs, poetry, and good conversation.

~*Feast of the Assumption—August 15.* Come and process with us into the Oratory to celebrate the Eucharist and honor Mary, the first of God's fruits, into the heavenly barn and the beginning of the harvest time, flowers, fruits, herbs, vegetables, and all things bright and beautiful!

~*Feast of St. Francis of Assisi—October 5.* Join us in a Blessing of the Animals ceremony as we seek to return some of the blessings we receive from our animal companions.

~*Feast of All Saints—November 1.* This wonderful feast day will be marked once again by gathering together for a potluck dinner complete with a saints parade, the Eucharist at the Oratory, followed by a hayride or walk to the Grailville cemetery to honor our glory-bound friends and family.

~*Crèche Exhibit and Luncheons—December 2, 10, 18.* Plan to come for a delicious holiday luncheon followed by a guided tour of the history and background of our international crèche sets.

~*Advent Sunday Dinners: December—dates T.B.A.* Spend a special evening with us enjoying a delicious dinner in our award-winning Dining Room surrounded by the display of our many crèche sets.