

## **OPENING WELCOME**

Welcome to Chile, a country you'll adore!

Santiago is a gateway to adventure, the Silicon Valley of the South, and its artistic and cultural energy electrifies, and there is a thriving culinary scene, galleries, and shops.

Grover's are committed to traveling and learning more about Latin America. The information technology revolution, the rise of educated middle classes in the region, the emergence of networks of scholars, and enlightened leadership will allow for more fruitful inter-American relations.

We're going through a change in globalization, from an interconnected world to an interdependent world, from a world of walls where you show your wealth by hoarding resources, to a world where you thrive by connecting citizens to the flow of ideas, trade, innovation, and education.

Each year the Grove uses **Pantone's Color of The Year** for our retreat notebooks. The company says that **Living Coral**, vibrant yet mellow, embraces us with warmth and nourishment to provide comfort and buoyancy in our continually shifting environment.

In reaction to the onslaught of digital technology and social media increasingly embedding into daily life. Sociable and spirited, the engaging nature of Living Coral welcomes and encourages lighthearted activity. Symbolizing our innate need for optimism and joyful pursuits, Living Coral embodies our desire for playful expression. A perfect color for the Grove.

Representing the fusion of modern life, Living Coral is a nurturing color that appears in our natural surroundings and at the same time, displays a lively presence within social media. So, lets enjoy the color of the year – which certainly fits the Grove.

I would like to share a story of finding strength together, but first, let me share a quotation by Martin Luther King Jr. that sets the stage for both the story and our experiences as a community.

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

**NOW, A STORY.**

In 1972, a plane flying from Uruguay to Chile crashed into a mountain in the Andes, split in half, and barreled down a snowy slope. For the thirty-three survivors, this was just the beginning of an extraordinary ordeal. Over the next seventy-two days, the group battles shock, frostbite, avalanches, and starvation. Only sixteen of them made it out. Alive.

The survivor's stories share a common theme: a key to their resilience was hope.

Most of the forty-five people on board were rugby players in their late teens and early twenties traveling to an exhibition match. Damage to the plane's radio meant they could not send out communications, but they could still receive them. Their first plan was to wait for rescue in the shelter of what was left of the plane. Nine days later, their supplies were depleted. The group was forced to turn to their only remaining source of food: the flesh from the frozen bodies of their teammates who had died.

After 10 days, a few of the soccer players heard over the radio that the search had been called off. "We mustn't tell them," said the team captain. "At least let them go on hoping."

Another passenger disagreed. “Good news!” he shouted. “We’re going to get out of here on our own.”

We normally think of hope as something individuals hold in their heads and in their hearts. But people can build hope together. By creating a shared identity, individuals can form a group that has a past and a brighter future.

A survivor explained, “Some people say, If *there’s* life, *there’s* hope. But for us, it was the opposite: If *there’s* hope, *there’s* life.” During long, cold, and hungry days, the crash survivors prayed together. They planned projects to launch after returning to civilization. Many wrote letters to their families declaring their will to live. “To maintain faith at all times, despite our setbacks, we had to become alchemists. Changing tragedy into a miracle, depression into hope.”

Of course, hope by itself isn't enough.

Many of the passengers had hope yet still lost their lives. But hope keeps people from giving in to despair. Researchers find that hope springs up and persists when “communities of people generate new images of possibility.”

Believing in new possibilities helps people fight back against the idea of permanence and propels them to seek out new options: they find the will and the way to move forward. Psychologists call this “grounded hope” - the understanding that if you take action you can make things better.

Three players set out on a trek and nearly froze to death before locating the tail of the plane, which contained insulation that they turned into a sleeping bag. Nearly two months after the crash, this makeshift sleeping bag allowed them to launch another expedition. They hiked thirty-three miles across treacherous terrain, scaling a 14,000-foot peak. After ten days, they spotted a man on horseback who alerted people in a nearby town. The fourteen other survivors were rescued by helicopter.

The community formed by the Alive survivors has stayed close for decades. Each year they gather on the anniversary of their rescue to play rugby. And in 2010, when thirty-three miners were trapped underground in Chile, four of the Andes survivors flew in from Uruguay to address the miners by video. We’re going to hear the inside story about the mine rescue ...tonight.

Now it's time for each of us to cross the Andes in a new way. The mountains of Chile show us that if we are brave enough, resourceful enough, imaginative enough, nothing is impossible – we're resilient.

Resilience is not just built in individuals. It is built among individuals - in our neighborhoods, schools, towns, and governments. When we build resilience together, we become stronger ourselves and form communities that can overcome obstacles and prevent adversity. Collective resilience requires more than just shared hope - it is also fueled by shared experiences, shared narratives, and shared power.

Legal barriers to female economic enlightenment persist in every region of the world. Yet women's economic participation improves societies and growth. Leveling the playing field is not just a matter of fairness ; it is an economic imperative that countries around the world ignore at their own peril. 2018 was a year of women fights; fights to be heard, understood, and believed.

Every Grover is a leader in their communities!

Leadership brings with it responsibility, and responsibility, in times of serious adversity, brings emotional turmoil and strain.

There are times when even the best leaders lose their emotional balance. When the adversity is threatening enough or comes without warning, it can unbalance the leader at a single stroke.

As Grover's know, courageous leadership is a result of individual people committing to work from their stronger selves, discovering a mighty purpose, and motivating others to join their cause. In the process, leaders and the people they inspire are made more resilient, and a bit bolder. That is why our sisters in the Grove can be so important to us.

We are living through such challenging times and the Grove's model of civility and friendship, despite differing points of view, is more treasured than ever. Willingness to embrace and celebrate our differences brings out the best in our sisterhood (as diversity does on boards).

And that is also why the Grove is a politics free zone.

Politics is not why we gather. Our purpose is frank, open and spirited discussion of issues not dividing debates. Close friendships can survive these times of intense political change. If anyone is going to become a model for putting friendship first and finding common ground, it is us.

We always have vowed to leave politics at the door when we get together, and so far, we've always managed to put our sisterhood first. Some of the women we most respect have views that directly oppose ours and we welcome that as a way of giving us insight into perspectives we may not fully understand.

The public interest depends on private virtue. Our Grove sisters are remarkable women and loyal friends... and hope that we will all remember to put those friendships ahead of our political passions. Difference is part of our strength... and the ability to laugh and dance together, even more so. Right now, we all need a little Grove in our lives... if only to help remind us what we have in common rather than where we all differ.

I want to congratulate Latin America on how it's a continent of native democratic resilience.

The regions liberals have found ways to enable democracy to endure. Women are one of the world's most underrepresented groups in politics. But in Latin America they have expanded their presence in legislatures.

Mostly after the adoption of quota systems mandating parties to nominate more women. More representation of women is not a panacea, but it is a significant victory in a region where Machismo is a frequent fuel of authoritarianism.

Speaking of women, I can't thank our two Chilean Co-chairs enough, (Grover) **Kathy Barclay** and (TARA) **Lucy Pamboukdjian**. **WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.**

They have led the planning committee for a year organizing this event.

A special thanks to the Committee – **Theresa Behrendt** (Grover), **Megan Fielding** (TARA), **Veronica Gray** (Grover), **Beth Neuhoff** (TARA), **Deborah Peacock** (Grover), and **Amy Peck** (TARA).

**WOULD THE COMMITTEE PLEASE STAND.**

You can win coral colored ribbons throughout the retreat. The Committee will be led by **Judith Abrams** (Grover), **Lauren Anderson** (Grover), **Gia Colosi** (TARA), **Lacey Horn** (Nyomi), **Beth Neuhoff** (TARA), **Judi North** (Grover), **Pam Parizek** (TARA), **Amy Peck** (TARA), and **Leigh Winter** (Nyomi).

**WOULD THE COMMITTEE PLEASE STAND.**

Please let them know when you think someone deserves a ribbon. They love volunteers on the committee too.

We hope you'll have no complaints but if you do, please see our Chief Complaint Officers **Theresa Behrendt** (Grover) and **Elizabeth Crowell** (TARA). **WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.**

Thrilled to Welcome **EIGHT NEW GROVERS** - PLEASE STAND.

Joy Atkinson, Susan Block, Wendy Bosalavage, Mary "Peggy" Crow, Francesca DeBiase, Merryll Reynolds, Jana Schreuder, and Joan Steel.

**FIVE NEW TARAs** – PLEASE STAND. Mary Chaney, Lisa Clarey-Lawler, Anuska Gaspar, Olive Goh, and Alejandra Palacios.

And **FOUR NEW NYOMIs** – **PLEASE STAND.** Rachel Dyke, Allison Parc, Judy Quintana, and Julia Wilkinson.

All new members are wearing NEON PINK ribbons on their name badges. Please reach out and welcome our new sisters.

### **FYI:**

- Executive Committee is wearing LIGHT BLUE ribbons.
- Co-chairs are wearing ORANGE ribbons.
- The Advisory Board is wearing NEON GREEN ribbons.
- Staff is wearing RED.
- Speakers are wearing ORANGE ribbons.
- Ombudswomen are wearing BLACK ribbons.

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for taking the time to travel to the Grove. Relationships are the most valuable, and valuable-creating resource of any society. They are the lifeline to survive, grow, and thrive!

When it comes to staying young, **a mind-lift beats a face-lift any day.** As Burt Reynolds advised, **“You can only hold your stomach in for so many years.”**

So, relax, please turn off your phones, and enjoy our retreat. It is when we step back from the noise of our digital lives that we are able to ask big questions and come up with new ideas.

Friendship is the wine of life. Let's drink of it, and to it! After all, **a party without alcohol is just a meeting.**

THANK YOU!