

VG UPDATE

A Publication of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund - VGIF

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January 2003

UN News

Virginia Maynard, VGIF UN Representative

The 47th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held March 3-14, 2003 at UN Headquarters. The two thematic issues to be covered are 1) participation and access of women

to the media, and information and communication technologies, and 2) women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

On October 31, 2002, the second anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, UNIFEM launched "Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building" by Elisabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The two women, who traveled for a year to many of the world's conflicts to listen to women and their stories, found that the brutalities, injustices, and indignities suffered by women before, during, and after conflict were beyond comprehension. Their report also contains recommendations toward implementation of the Security Council resolution.

In an article which appeared in the *New York Times* in December 2002, Secretary-General Kofi Annan wrote that the deadly combination of famine and AIDS is "threatening the backbone of Africa—the women who keep African societies going and whose work makes up the economic



foundation of rural communities." He stressed that if Africa is to be saved from these two catastrophes, the international community and African governments "would do well to focus on

saving African women."

During the 57th Session of the General Assembly, Switzerland and Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor) were admitted to membership, bringing the total of member states to 191. The Year 2003 was designated by the General Assembly as International Year of Freshwater. According to the UN, 1.2 billion people lack access to fresh water, 2.4 billion lack proper sanitation, and more than 3 million die each year from diseases caused by unsafe water.

Twenty-three VGIF members participated in "A Day at the United Nations" on October 24, which included attendance at the regular Thursday morning briefing for NGOs (the subject that day was disarmament), a buffet lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, a tour of the UN, and a special private briefing by June Kunugi, Executive Officer of UNICEF, on "Ending Poverty Through Investment in Children and Women."

The World Summit on the Information Society will be held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis, Tunisia 2005.

World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg, South Africa 26 August - 4 September 2002

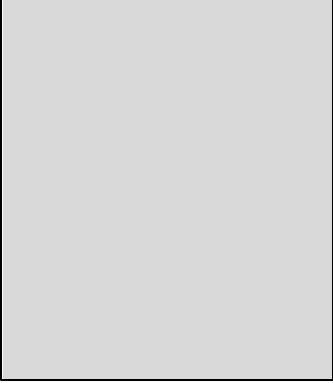
Report by Griselda Kenyon

At WSSD, UNESCO arranged a Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development. Many of the speakers were Ministers of Education and Directors of UN Agencies but IFUW Vice-President Griselda Kenyon was also invited to speak on Women's Education: a Key Element for ESD. She spoke generally of the importance many UN World Conferences had placed on educating women, but also gave details of work done by projects supported by VGIF; including the program run by the Escuelas Ciencias Biologicas in Costa Rica on water contamination and land degradation, which subject was a major concern at the Conference. She also spoke of the project in Kavali, India on the bee-keeping co-operative.

These were of much interest to many of the participants at the Seminar, since many of the presentations by politicians and UN officials were administrative and about political initiatives. Several questions were asked privately during the tea break by people who were interested in grass roots activities.

The President's Perspective

by Barbara Carey, President, 2002-2005



The midyear meeting was fast paced and productive. Those attending came away exhilarated by the experience of working in our new office space, pleased with our accomplishments and

hopeful that more of you will be encouraged to join us for these semi-annual meetings.

On the Thursday preceding the meeting, UN Day 2002, Virginia Maynard, our energetic past president and representative to the United Nations, arranged special activities for twenty-three VGIF members. We began with a DPI/NGO briefing on the pressing disarmament issues in observance of Disarmament Week at the UN. Four formidable speakers described approaches to disarmament now being pursued by various groups. We had lunch together in the Delegates' Dining Room, a spectacular setting with an equally spectacular buffet consisting of elegant recipes from around the world. A tour of the main UN building was followed by a presentation prepared especially for VGIF by UNICEF about the May 2002 UN General Assembly Special Session for Children. If sufficient interest is expressed, similar activities may be arranged preceding future VGIF meetings.

Our web manager, Louise McLeod, has launched a new improved VGIF web site with many new features and much new material. We are eager that you use it as an active tool for keeping up with VGIF and as something you can recommend to friends for their information. At the annual meeting, Louise will give an extensive presentation to those attending the Board Meeting about web site and computer communications for VGIF. She has also prepared a PowerPoint program about grants projects that is available for those of you who give talks about VGIF, and a print scrapbook reproducing much of this program that can be used for the same purpose.

At the meeting, the Board authorized a cooperative internship program with Barnard College whereby a college student may earn class credit for assisting with assigned projects at the VGIF office under Fay Kittelson's direction. The specific project is yet to be chosen, but will not consist of secretarial work, rather research and data gathering that will be useful in furthering our project grants effectiveness. We hope to have the first intern in place this semester. We value this ongoing collaboration with Barnard College that began with our 2000 annual meeting, held on their campus in acknowledgement of

Virginia Gildersleeve's tenure there as Dean and of our 40th anniversary. We look forward to other efforts of mutual benefit.

Along this same line, those of you long associated with the Gildersleeve Fund will know that we have often discussed the possibility of inspecting grant projects both during and after their execution – so-called on-site visitations. Past President Jean Colburn now heads an ad hoc committee to formulate recommendations on this subject that will be presented to the Board at the 2003 annual meeting.

As this is written, the Project Grants Committee under Fay Weber's skilled leadership is reading and considering the applications submitted for approval at the 2003 annual meeting. Their work began with a preview committee last December and continues with the rest of the group working from their recommendations. With the patient, skilled and dedicated work of our treasurer, Eileen Menton, and our Executive Secretary, Fay Kittelson, the April 2002 grants were finally all disbursed by the end of December. Transferring funds to foreign banks requires diligent and timely communication, all of which Fay and Eileen graciously provide. One cannot give them too much praise for enabling all we devise and dream about. The Board will approve selected applications for implementation in 2003 at the annual meeting.

Being on hand for the decisions about the 2003 projects is only one good reason you might consider coming to New York for the meeting. If social events will tip the scale, consider coming to the Open House to be held on the evening of Friday, April 4th. Virginia Palmer will be on hand to greet those there to enjoy the formal opening of the new facility her generosity provides, and to participate in the dinner to follow. If this is not enough, consider joining the dutch treat theater night on Saturday following the close of the meeting that has come to be a tradition. Our New York area members arrange for tickets and a dinner together, an evening that has proven a wonderful way to finish a weekend of intense and satisfying work.

Finally, it is my wish to amplify participation by members near and far in the actual work of VGIF. The quickest way to learn about the various areas where you yourself might become involved is to call up the web page and see the various committees at work. I invite your expressions of interest at any time and welcome your correspondence. One of the high values of VGIF work is the significant friendships formed through this work. I guarantee that you won't be disappointed – this is a truly wonderful bunch! I hope to see you soon.

MEMBERSHIP*Jeanie Page Randall, Convener*

VGIF has experienced another successful year in several areas. Membership in VGIF is especially rewarding this year since more grants are being funded with the contributions members have made. Personal contact with a friend who is a member remains the most frequent source of new members. The Membership Committee considers every contributor to VGIF a part of the ongoing campaign for increased member numbers and encourages members to be responsible for encouraging persons committed to the mission of VGIF to become contributing members.

It Happened at the Midyear 2002 Board Meeting

Twenty-six Board members and fourteen committee members and observers attended the Board meeting at Marble Collegiate. The following actions were taken by the board of directors: VGIF paid NY-AAUW rent and equipment rental through December 2002; VGIF purchased advertising space in the AMUN 2002 Conference Program; approved the 2003 budget including the new executive secretary compensation proposal; retained the accounting firm previously used to prepare the 2003 financial review and income tax forms; approved the purchase of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance; approved the transfer to the Asian Regional Endowment of five percent of all undesignated contributions until it reaches stipend producing level; approved the establishment of an internal audit committee; approved a market study for, and formation of, a Leaders Fund; approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to make recommendations about possible grant on-site visits; approved a pilot internship program with Barnard College; and approved the expansion of the web site including an on-line membership form.

Dates to Remember in 2003

April 4-5	VG Annual Meeting & Open House
June 19-23	AAUW Biennial Convention in Providence Rhode Island
August 14-16	CFUW-AGM in Nova Scotia
October 24-25	VG Midyear Meeting

MEMBERSHIP DATA – NOVEMBER 2002

Individual Membership: TOTAL 1429

Argentina	5	Korea	1
Australia	66	Mexico	1
Bangladesh	1	Nepal	2
Belgium	1	Netherlands	8
Burkina Faso	1	New Zealand	11
Cameroon	2	Nigeria	10
Canada	68	Norway	3
China	1	Pakistan	2
Costa Rica	1	Panama	1
El Salvador	2	Scotland	6
England	20	Senegal	3
Ethiopia	1	Sierra Leone	1
Finland	3	Sri Lanka	3
France	7	Sweden	1
Germany	11	Switzerland	9
Hong Kong	1	Togo	1
Iceland	4	Tonga	1
India	9	Uganda	3
Ireland	6	USA	1023
Northern Ireland	14	Venezuela	1
Israel	1	Zambia	1
Japan	109	Zimbabwe	1
Kenya	2		

Group Members: TOTAL 190

Australia	14
Canada	33
Costa Rica	2
El Salvador	1
England	4
Fiji	1
Ireland	1
Northern Ireland	3
Japan	2
New Zealand	2
USA	127

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Ann Leidel

Alice Ann Leidel served as AAUW NYS Educational Foundation Vice President in the early 1980s and as the AAUW NYS President from 1984-1986. She was the AAUW Educational Foundation President from 1993-1997. She was a great supporter of VGIF and served on the Development Committee from 1997 until her death in August of 2002

UPDATE OF GRANTS FUNDED

Fay Weber, Grant Convener

#1448 CAMEROON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND NETWORKING ORGANISATION

The final GEMANO report included a year of activities that created gender awareness by sensitizing, mobilizing and educating the masses in Cameroon. Their activities included a one day workshop in Yaounde on income-generating activities for more than fifty women, creating the Okola Demonstration Four Hectare Communal Farm, implementing a National Media Program on Gender and Poverty Alleviation, and organizing a national seminar for provinces in Cameroon with the theme: Gender, Poverty Alleviation and the Empowerment of Rural Communities. The project was jointly sponsored by IFUW and three other organizations.

#1472 TURKISH ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S "ADANA PROJECT"

The ADANA Project completed June 2002, included five workshops each with 50 to 150-participants who learned about Atatürk reforms. The workshops included civil rights law on women's rights in marriage, divorce and family planning. Presenters were well-known lawyers, sociologists and the highest government employee on religion in Adana.

Because many of the uneducated people were not interested in attending the workshops, although "satisfied and pleased afterwards," the Adana Association provided a pants and T-shirt set for women or their children as a motivator to attend. Handicraft, kilim weaving and hair dressing classes provided informal setting where women could discuss the workshop issues.

#1511 TANZANIA SUPPORT AND TRAINING OF YOUTHS AND WIDOWS ASSOCIATION

The Association started their project in September 2002 with 18 widows and 12 youth attending full time training in basic tailoring and salesmanship strategies to meet the present day market demands. A December update from Ms. Mbagha said that the participants are making good progress but they still have a large number of widows and youth on a waiting list. The Association is in the process of establishing a business outlet to sell garments made by the trainees.

#1548 UGANDA'S KAABONG WOMEN'S GROUP

Five day workshops were held in nine sub-counties in Dodoth County, Kotido District, with more than 2,000

participants attending to learn more about the 1998 Land Act. The workshop informed participants about land owner rights, gender issues, dispute guidelines and other land tenure issues in Uganda. Leaflets and posters were available in both Karamojong and English. Because of the famine in Dodoth County, the Kaabong Women's Group formed an alliance with the World Food Program and all participants left the workshop with food for their families.

#1548 UGANDA'S KAABONG WOMEN'S GROUP

#1567 GHANA'S KOPEGA RURAL COMMUNITY WOMEN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Kopega group has presented seminars on the dangers of female circumcision and female genital mutilation. It also is providing treatment for physically traumatized victims, literacy training programs, and skill training in health and income-generating activities. The project director reported a major success has been to "gain support from the Queen-mother of the Araba Traditional Area who now pledges vehemently to champion the cause. Until the commencement of this program, the Queen-mother together with her supporting priestesses and cohorts had been a very great influential supporter of the Female Circumcision and Female Genital Mutilation Practice."

#1578 NIGERIA'S AKU WOMEN SELF HELP GROUP

Women were trained in the organic farming of cassava, maize, melon and pigeon peas as a sustainable solution to over cultivation and loss of soil fertility. The project director reported that 80 percent of the project objectives had been realized due to challenges of late arrival of rainfall and too many stumps with roots scattered all over the lands that demanded extra labor. However, participants enthusiastically embraced moving from dependence on chemical fertilizer to independence using sustainable organic farming methods.

#1601 FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, RUSSIA
Two “Gender Projects Institutes” took place in St. Petersburg to encourage the Federation to grow through development of regional branches. The institutes trained leaders from 14 locations on leadership training, increasing membership and developing regional projects to improve the economic and social positions of women. Sarah Harder, Head of the USA National Peace Foundation and VGIF member, presented a seminar on planning and management of Womens’ Non-Commercial Organizations (NCOs)

#1601 FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, RUSSIA

**Grants Project Committee Survey
Results**

Fay Weber, Convener

The Grants Project Committee developed and administered a survey to gain input from the Virginia Gildersleeve International Board and committee members to assist in updating their grant selection criteria. At the fall VGIF Board Meeting, thirty-five Board and committee members completed the survey, providing valuable direction to the Project Grants Committee.

Results from the survey are available on the VGIF web site. Select the ‘MEMBERS’ tab on www.vgif.org. Project Grants information is viewable under ‘Committees’.

www.vgif.org

Select the ‘MEMBERS’ tab on www.vgif.org

Browse to:
Committees
Board

(may require password)

Activities
Membership Materials
Head Office

**NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHED
JANUARY 2003**

Louise McLeod



VGIF is pleased to announce the launch of the redesigned web site, www.vgif.org. The new web site is more interactive and has many new features including an on-line Membership form and a brand new

MEMBERS section. VGIF members will find items of interest such as: contact information, committee and board activities, reports, important events and calendar, member activities throughout the world, and information on how to obtain membership recruitment materials such as information about VGIF, brochures, hand-outs, photographs and slide shows of VGIF Projects, past and present. A future update will feature an on-line library of project photos, captions and project information.

Please take a few moments to browse the expanded web site. More features will be launched as the information becomes available.

ANNUAL MEETING 2003

Official Open House to celebrate our new office

Election of new board members
Notification of names, with biographies, will be sent to all members in the Call to Meeting.

▪
Selection of 2003 Grants for funding

▪
Instruction on electronic communication and use of the VG web site

▪
Report and recommendation from the Ad Hoc On-Sites Visitation Committee.

▪
First report on the VG Intern Pilot Project with Barnard College.

TREASURER'S REPORT*Eileen Menton, Treasurer*

Many thanks to all of you for your continued loyal support of VGIF. Once again, we have exceeded our fundraising objective of \$80,000, with over \$93,000 in contributions of which \$275 is restricted to the Asian Regional Fund and the Erna Hamburger Fund. We have paid \$60,055, including a \$5,000 set-aside for a future request from the IFUW, in project grant allocations, a record amount.

Special thanks to our Benefactors, who contributed \$1,001 or more: Anonymous, Jean H. Colburn, Sema Faigen, Mary Gibson, Virginia M. Maynard, Estate of Claire Norton, Virginia F. Palmer, Joyce Prudden, Jeanie Randall, and Pauline Tompkins. Thanks also go to our Patrons, who contributed \$501 - \$1,000: Barbara Carey, Dorothy R. Dillon, Dr. Helen S. Dunsmore, Helen F. Faust, Ingibjorg Gudmundsdottir, Jewell Hanna, Kathleen Magill, Dagmar McGill, Karen McKee, Brian and Louise McLeod, Eileen Shelley Menton, Hope S. Miller, Patricia Oberg, Elizabeth Poskitt, Shirley Quisenberry, Janet Rochester, Merry Lou Shaw, and Florine Swanson.

Our goal in 2003 is to raise \$85,000 in general contributions and to disburse \$65,000 in project grant funds approved at our April meeting. At its October meeting, the Board voted to set aside 5% of undesignated contributions received in 2003 for the Asian Regional Endowment until it reaches the \$50,000 income-producing level. We look forward to continued member support.

DEVELOPMENT*Maggie Ford, Convener*

"New" was the operative word as: the newly elected and appointed members of the Development Committee met in the comfortable new quarters of VGIF to begin work on a new strategic fundraising plan that will carry us forward in new ways.

The committee will be looking at how best we can increase the funds available for award to the projects throughout the world that we all value so much. We will be considering both new endowments for members to invest in, and new means by which people can make contributions to VGIF.

We welcome the input of all our members – the more great minds who can contribute to our thinking, the better the outcomes will be.

Given in memory of

Juanita Adams

Carolyn Hall's mother
Carolyn Hall's brother
Lewis Hargrave
Patricia Tunny Heiser
Alice Ann Leidel Jacobs

Mary Kane's brother
Patricia Kennedy's aunt
Diana Lockwood
Normand Lockwood
Eileen Menton's parents

Mary Frances Merchant
Katie Micetich
Abe Morgan
Mariafranca Morselli
Jeanie Randall's mother

Jeanie Randall's parents
Carolyn Rudorf
Alice Volkmar
Louis Waterstraat
Marilyn Zook's mother

Given in honor of

Barbara Bettencourt
Wes Cady

Barbara Carey
Ana Maria Carmack

Eileen Clark
Jean Colburn

Huguette Delavault
Marion Doro
Sema Faigen

Karen Fischer
Jo Harberson
Fay Kittelson
Penny Mendelsohn
Emilie Larson
Virginia Palmer
Carrie Gallagher Sussman
Rosemary van der Laan

By

Judy Armstrong
Patricia Russum
Paula Winne
Jean Colburn
Jean Colburn
Barbara Carey
Margaret Zaller
Sema Faigen
Enid Wilson
Jean Colburn
Sema Faigen
Jean Colburn
Barbara Carey
Yvonne Higgins
Margery Sullivan
Barbara Carey
Barbara Carey
Barbara Carey
Enid Wilson
Jean Colburn
Sema Faigen
Sema Faigen
Christine Volkmar
Jean Colburn
Sema Faigen

By

Diane Syverson
Peggy Nolan
Mariana Scott
Susan Stipp
Rosellen Kershaw (CT)*
Elena Heckelman
Maria and Henry Scott
UWC Montreal, Inc.
Rosellen Kershaw (CT)
Eileen Menton
Jean Colburn
Anne and John Dozier
Grace Olin
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Enid Wilson
AAUW Danville-Alamo
Sema Faigen
AAUW Danville-Alamo
Enid Wilson
Rosellen Kershaw (CT)
Maria Wolbach
AAUW Danville-Alamo
*Charitable Trust

GROUP CONTRIBUTORS DURING 2002**AUSTRALIA**

AFUW-NSW Blue Mountains NSW
 AFUW-NSW Central Coast NSW
 AFUW-NSW Central West NSW
 AFUW-NSW Hunter Valley NSW
 AFUW Inner West Branch NSW
 AFUW-NSW New South Wales, Inc. NSW
 AFUW-NSW North Shore NSW
 AFUW Queensland QLD
 AFUW-NSW River Branch NSW
 AFUW-SA Southern Australia SA
 AFUW-TAS Tasmania Southern TAS
 AFUW-WA Western Australia WA
 North Sydney Catholic Womens League NSW

CANADA

CFUW Belleville and District ON
 CFUW Cape Breton NS
 CFUW Cornwall ON
 CFUW Hamilton ON
 CFUW Milton and District ON
 CFUW Montreal Lakeshore UWC QC
 CFUW Orillia ON
 CFUW Ottawa ON
 CFUW Parksville-Qualicum BC
 CFUW Portage La Prairie MB
 CFUW Sackville NB
 CFUW Saint John NB
 CFUW Scarborough ON
 CFUW Sudbury ON
 CFUW Weyburn SK
 CFUW Wolfville NS

COSTA RICA ACMU Costa Rica

IRELAND IFUW Cork

NORTHERN IRELAND

Dublin University Women Graduates Co. Dublin
 Queens Women Graduates Association
 University College Dublin Women Graduates

JAPAN JAUW Kanagawa

NEW ZEALAND

NZFUW North Shore Auckland
 NZFUW Viva Group Auckland

USA

AAUW Baltimore MD
 AAUW Berkeley College Women's Club CA
 AAUW Big Bear Valley CA
 AAUW Birmingham MI
 AAUW Camarillo CA
 AAUW Carlsbad NM
 AAUW Citrus Heights-American River CA

AAUW Concord CA
 AAUW CT Division CT
 AAUW Danvers-Topsfield MA
 AAUW Danville-Alamo CA
 AAUW Davis CA
 AAUW Del Mar-Leucadia CA
 AAUW Downers Grove IL
 AAUW Findlay OH
 AAUW Garden Grove CA
 AAUW Garrett MD
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 AAUW Grand Rapids MI
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 AAUW Nevada County CA
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 AAUW Pomona Valley CA
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 AAUW Visalia-Sequoia CA
 AAUW Walnut Creek CA
 AAUW Washington State WA
 ALTRUSA International of Abilene TX

Join Us!

Membership categories:

Contributor	\$25 to \$50	Donor	\$51 to \$100
Supporter	\$101 to \$250	Sponsor	\$251 to \$500
Patron	\$501 to \$1000	Benefactor	\$1001 and above

Preferred Title (please circle): Ms. Mrs. Mr. Dr.

Name (please print): _____

Address (please indicate country):

Telephone _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my annual contribution of _____ U.S. dollars.

Please make checks, bank drafts and money orders **payable to VGIF** in U.S. currency drawn on a U.S.-based banking institution, and send to:

The Treasurer, VGIF
 3 West 29th St., Suite 1002
 New York, NY 10001

NAMED GIFTS: Contributions may be made to honor particular individuals.

THE ERNA HAMBURGER ENDOWMENT FUND: Contributions may be made to this endowment, the interest from which supports projects enhancing the scientific and mathematical skills of women and girls.

THE ASIAN REGIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND (ARE): This first geographical fund develops a substantial and sustained financial resource for targeted project funding in Asia.

If paying by credit card: VISA MasterCard: _____ Credit card number _____
 Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Cardholder name as it appears on your card: _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Contributions to the **Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund** are tax-deductible in the United States.

Deaths Noted

Reported
since July 2002 VG Update

- Alice Ann Leidel Jacobs, NY, USA
- Mariafranca Morselli, VT, USA
- Jean Barbara Northend, England
- Margaret Reid, PA, USA
- Ida Siccama, The Netherlands

VG Update

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 International Fund

Barbara Carey, President:
 New Mexico, USA
 M. Louise McLeod, Editor:
 Pennsylvania, USA

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