

VG UPDATE

A Publication of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund - VGIF

Vol. 8 No. 2
June 2001

2001-2010 VGIF STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED VGIF Board of Directors Looks to the Future

Looking to the future, the VGIF Board of Directors, at its October meeting, adopted a Strategic Plan to guide the organization for the next 10 years. The preamble to the Plan is the new VGIF Mission Statement which was adopted in March.

The Mission Statement follows: *The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Inc. provides grants worldwide to improve the lives of women and children by funding projects for educational activities, leadership training, community development, and the advancement of understanding and cooperation among women.*

The Strategic Plan provides a vision both for VGIF membership and for outreach to the broader community. It consists of seven goals with appropriate objectives within each goal.

There are timelines for implementation of the various segments, and although the goals have not been prioritized, work on some objectives will be activated as soon as possible.

The Goals encompass these areas:

- ♦ Linkages - To maintain and establish relationships vital to the continued growth and success of VGIF
- ♦ Membership - To increase membership in numbers, effectiveness and commitment
- ♦ Development and Sustainable Revenues - To establish a program of diverse, stable investments
- ♦ Improved Communications - To ensure that VGIF will be as up-to-date in communications technology as physically and fiscally possible, using phone, fax, e-mail and other Internet communications

- ♦ Organization Structure Revision - To organize the Board, committees and staff of VGIF in a manner which effectively and efficiently carries out the Mission and Goals of the organization and offers members opportunities to participate
- ♦ Facilities, Staff, and Equipment - To acquire a larger facility, establish a full-time staff position, and both maintain and upgrade operational equipment
- ♦ Grants - To solicit applications and award funding to projects that carry out the Mission of the organization

Some of the objectives which will be explored in the coming year include investigation of facilities, networking with UN contacts for project site visits and ECOSOC accreditation, updating technology in the office, improving communications and workload for the various committees and volunteers, and fundraising on the Internet. Preliminary reports

on work in progress are scheduled for October 2001 and April 2002.

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee, which met four times face-to-face over the 18 months of drafting the Plan, communicated frequently by e-mail and fax. Use of the new technologies enhanced their work and established a process which can be used in the future by other research and study committees. The Board expressed its appreciation to the committee which was composed of the following members: Betty Bayless, Wes Cady, Katherine Eaton (convener), Susan Friedwald, Dagmar McGill, Louise McLeod, Eileen Menton, Jeanie Randall, Virginia Palmer, and Florine Swanson. Donna Connor will be joining the committee which will be serving in an oversight role during the implementation of the Plan.

The Strategic Plan provides a vision both for VGIF membership and for outreach to the broader community.



27TH TRIENNIAL IFUW CONFERENCE
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
August 10-17, 2001

The President's Perspective

by Sema M. Faigen, President, 1999-2002



The President is aging but still smiling!

The Three Princes of Serendip was a fairy tale popular in the 17th and 18th centuries. The heroes made discoveries, by accident or through wisdom, of things they hadn't actually been looking for.

In 1754, English author Horace Walpole coined the word serendipity, to mean making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident.

One such serendipitous event has happened to the Gildersleeve. At the VG meeting last October, Virginia Palmer, a long-time member of the VG Board, announced the unexpected and happy gift of one million dollars to the Gildersleeve. These funds are not to be used for grants, however, but are to be dedicated to specific administrative needs, which could include additional staffing, larger quarters, up-to-date equipment and the like.

While many of our members might wonder why no portion of the gift is going to provide additional grants, there is logic in this decision.

The Gildersleeve is growing and will continue to do so,

and the needs listed above are very real and somewhat pressing. It would have been very hard, indeed, to approach our membership with a capital fund-raising plan of such magnitude. Now, the income provided so generously by members can be dedicated to funding grants without the need to divert part of it to administrative items in the budget.

Virginia Palmer's decision to make this truly wonderful gift grew out of the work of the Strategic Planning Committee, of which she is a member.

This plan was adopted at the Annual Meeting in March 2001, and a copy for each member has been inserted in this issue of the *UPDATE*. As the Committee, and then the Board, reviewed the goals of the plan, it became apparent that many could not be accomplished without such an infusion.

To initiate work on realizing this part of the Strategic Plan, the Palmer Committee was appointed and will have a preliminary report at the next Board meeting in October 2001. Members of the committee are: Mary Grefe, Convener; Barbara Carey; Susan Friedwald; Karen McKee; Eileen Menton; and Virginia Palmer.

Ah, serendipity!

UN News

Virginia Maynard, VGIF UN Representative



The 54th DPI/NGO Conference will be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 10 to 12 September 2001, the title of which is NGOs Today: Diversity of the Volunteer Experience. As stated in the invitation to accredited NGOs, the Conference will explore the diversity of the volunteer experience around the world and will address the broad range of voluntary support that organizations and individuals provide to the NGO community, including office work, fieldwork, fundraising, outreach and events.

VGIF members are eligible to attend and there is no cost, although a voluntary contribution of \$20 is suggested. There will be a limitation on the number of participants from each NGO. However, if you are interested and are confident of being able to attend, please contact the Gildersleeve office for a registration form. The deadline for registration is July 20, 2001.

MARCH 2001 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our Annual Meeting weekend, March 30-31, was busy, productive and successful.

The most important two items on the agenda were the funding of grants and the adoption of the strategic plan. Complete information about these items is printed elsewhere in the *UPDATE*.

In future all grant applications that receive funding must have an educational component.

There will be some changes in the VG brochure, which as usual will carry the list of Officers and Board Members. It will be quadrifold, as it is now, but will be in color and will have some changes in the content, making it more useful as a recruiting tool. Look for the new brochure at the AAUW Convention in Austin in June and the IFUW Triennial Conference in Ottawa in August.

Continuing our efforts to increase use of the website, Louise McLeod has been authorized to report on the feasibility of accepting contributions on the Internet.

VGIF NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALL FOR CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Claire Fulcher, Convener

At the VGIF Annual Meeting, 5-6 April 2002, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Executive Committee Officers and several new Board of Directors for the three-year term of 2002 – 2005 in accordance with the VGIF Bylaws. All current elected Executive Committee Officers will have served at least 1 three-year term in that position. In most cases, they are eligible for another three-year term. The Officers to be elected are President, First Vice President, Third Vice President, Fourth Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Second Vice President is appointed by the President and serves as Convener of the Project Grants Committee.

The Nominating Committee would appreciate your suggestions of VGIF members worldwide you wish to be considered for election with a brief statement of their potential contributions. Please send to the Nominating Committee Convener, Dr. Claire Fulcher, 130 E. 18th Street, Suite 3F, New York, NY. 10003-2418, USA or by e-mail: clairefulcher@rcn.com by 1 September 2001.

Other Nominating Committee members are Mrs. Lois Abromitis, Dr. Yvonne Condell, Dr. Ritva-Liisa Karveti, Prof. Mitchiko Nakamura and Mrs. Patricia Oberg.

MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Page Randall, Convener

Membership continues to remain at more than 1300 individuals representing 38 countries. It is expected that the IFUW Conference in Ottawa this August will increase both membership and contribution totals. If you have not made your annual contribution to VGIF, now is the time to do so or at IFUW.

The Membership Committee has completed work on the new brochure and will have it available at the AAUW Convention in Austin, Texas this June and at the IFUW Conference. Please note that the membership contribution levels have been increased. If you are at either meeting, please take brochures to use as you encourage new members to join VGIF.

Several members of the Committee were active participants in the Strategic Planning sessions that resulted in a new mission statement for VGIF and goals for the next ten years. Please read this information on the VGIF web site. It is now possible to join on the web site, and soon it will also be possible to make contributions using a credit card via the web site. The technology provided by the web site is a valuable tool for membership. Please encourage members and interested persons to read the web site regularly for the most up-to-date VGIF news.

The goal of 2000 members has been extended through this year. If every member gets one other person to join, we can more than meet this goal. Membership in VGIF is especially rewarding on a personal level, more so than ever before since we are funding an increasing number of grants. It seems impossible that concerned citizens of the world would not want to join VGIF; however, we know that most new members come from personal contacts with friends who are members. The Membership Committee is counting on you to spread the word about the successful history and ongoing progress of VGIF.

See you in Austin and Ottawa.

Deaths Noted

(Since January/01 *Update*)

Jane Chidsey, MA, USA
 Beverly Everett, IA, USA
 Lynne Faigen, NY, USA
 Yoshiko Hagiwara, Japan
 Esther Hymer, NJ, USA
 Irene Kushner, AZ, USA
 Margaret Lindsay, South Africa
 Helena Meyer-Borel, Switzerland
 Floy Swanson, VA, USA
 Yukako Tsuzura, Japan

Grants Funded for 2001

Florine Swanson, Grants Convener

International Federation of University Women \$5000
Funding will be held in reserve for an application to be submitted in 2003 that would be carried out in conjunction with the 2004 Triennium.

#1364 Fundación de la mujer, ECUADOR \$2100
This project was funded in 2000 at \$2500. The preliminary grant report has been received. An outstanding focus group project was done with students. This will serve as the basis for a curriculum. However, due to 300% inflation of the currency in their country and the cut in funding over the original request, the project cannot be completed. The grants committee recommended and the board approved additional funding to complete a successful effort.

#1408 Tribals, Chakaria, BANGLADESH \$3450
The goal of this six-month project is to provide modern skills in poultry, cattle raising and vegetable-growing as well as awareness about health-care and sanitation for 200 poor tribal women. The goal is to enable the women to raise production and income and bring about community development.

#1409 Salayea District Women Development and Humanitarian Organization, Lutheran World Federation, Monrovia, LIBERIA \$5000
This project will involve 612 participants from three village communities that were severely affected by the war. Participants will cultivate food crops including peanuts, beans, plantain and rice. About 50% of the produce will be sold to generate cash income for micro projects identified by the women and for education for their school age children. Members of the cooperating groups will consume approximately 25% of the produce. The remaining 25% will be used as seed stock.

#1444 Women Association of Science and Mathematics Graduates, Accra-North, GHANA \$4200
This project will organize four weeks of science and mathematics workshops in order to upgrade remote secondary school science and mathematics teachers' and student technicians' knowledge. The grant will purchase laboratory equipment, science and math textbooks for a disadvantaged girls secondary school that has not had a science facility since it was established 15 years ago.

#1448 Gender Mainstreaming and Networking Organization (GEMANO), Yaounde, CAMEROON \$5000
The focus of this project is to promote gender development through formal and informal national settings, and to provide training and capacity building to enhance gender management skills and raise the general level amongst

all stockholders. Funding will support media workshops, a national workshop at the capital, and the development of a network. Additional support has been sought from other foundations throughout the world.

#1457 "New Perspectives Fund", Bishkek, KYRGYZSTAN \$4960

The project is dedicated to job training of unemployed women-refugees and helping women to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Free training for 72 women is anticipated. Funds will purchase computers, a copy machine, books and journals.

#1472 Turkish Association of University Women, Adana Branch, Seyhan/Adana, TURKEY

The goal of this project is to overcome the lack of education and culture among women and girls who migrated to the southern outskirts of Adana from the southeastern part of Turkey. Programs will support training in literacy, health care, social relations and handicrafts. Virginia Gildersleeve will support the social relations and handicrafts portion of the grant. Ironically the literacy program that the Turkish Association of University Women has been supporting has been taken over by men.

#1482 Nyikwasara Women Development Group, Oyugis, KENYA \$4725

This is a community-based group started by women to address the problems of unemployment, poverty and hunger. It is proposed to establish a dairy, horticultural production and poultry farming. The project director is a woman veterinarian.

#1486 Cameroon Association of University Women, Nkwem-Bamenda, NW Province, CAMEROON \$4285

The Association will carry out awareness education in 64 secondary schools in the North West Province on what HIV/AIDS is, means of transmissions, symptoms, prevention, living with HIV/AIDS and living with people who have HIV/AIDS. This would help to eradicate practices that constitute a risk factor to HIV/AIDS infection thus reducing the rate of infection.

#1487 Sourcenet 2000 Plus Development Organization, Nairobi, KENYA \$4680

The aim of the project is to economically empower and build the capacity of women who have turned to the commercial sex trade after being widowed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The women will be trained in small-scale agri-business enterprise, income-generating skills, home-based care for women living with AIDS and support for AIDS orphans.

#1492 Asociación de mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR \$5000

Recommendation for funding was based on a contingency report to answer a number of questions relating to the major proportion of the funds for lab tests of feces, urine, hemoglobin and VDRL. The project is to: improve the capacity of adolescents to become more responsible for their lives; to lessen the incidence of early pregnancies; to lessen the incidence of drug intake and gangs; and to improve mental and physical health. It is hoped that the students become multiplier agents of the knowledge acquired through lectures and share with their families and their communities.

#1495 Zimbabwe Association of University Women Harare, ZIMBABWE \$5000

The project will identify women of distinction who have achieved positions of leadership and/or economic empowerment that will encourage other women and girls to be more assertive in their pursuit to achieve their aspirations. Funding will support the design and printing of a book of leadership role models.

UPDATE OF GRANTS FUNDED

Florine Swanson, Grants Convener

#1301 Estonian Federation of University Women, Tartu, Estonia

Funding was provided to write the history of the Estonian Federation of University Women. The project director, Ester Barkala, voluntarily did the compiling and writing. The rough copy of the book was completed in July, then completely revised on discovering additional information in the archives. The book has since gone to the proof-reader and was to be at the printer the first of this year. It is hoped that the book will be ready for distribution by May of 2001, in time for the 75th Anniversary of the Estonian Federation of University Women. A copy of the book will be sent to IFUW at that time.

#1303 Croatian Association of University Women

Funding was used to develop a computer classroom for a primary school in Ceminac. The classroom was used during the regular school hours for the computer education of students and after school four hours per week with classes in informatics basics - Windows, Word, Excel and the Internet - for women age 25-47 years. Courses began in November 2000.

The educator's comments stated that "The course was attended by 17 women from the Ceminac and Novi Ceminac villages. Most of them had no previous knowledge about computers and how to work on them. Women who attended our computer course were very satisfied

with such type of education, since similar courses held by licensed informatics companies cost up to 1300 KN, which is \$160 in US money."

The school Principal said, "I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to VGIF, our generous donator on the sensitivity for our problem and the given support. The result of this nice cooperation which started after we returned to our homes. It wouldn't be possible for us to buy all the necessary equipment for such a computer classroom for a long period of time. Since computers are used by pupils during the regular school informatics education and women in courses, we shall try to continue with such course work in the future."

The members of the Croatian Association of University Women felt that the collaboration that took place with this effort was so outstanding that they hope to continue with similar programs in other communities.

#1350 St. Jude Jumuiya Self Help Group, Kisii, Kenya

A progress report was submitted indicating that the project on combating female circumcision is underway. Since the vast majority of people practicing female circumcision do not understand English due to their lack of education, the project coordinator has translated the material into their mother tongues. Copies of the training materials in four different languages have been submitted. Prior to the translated materials the traditional female circumcisors used the excuse that they could not read English, thus they would not participate in the seminars.

#1385 International Federation of University Women, Geneva, Switzerland

IFUW is organizing a major capacity building event for its affiliates. After the first successful Base Camp Training Program in Graz, Anne Touwen, Convener, IFUW Special Committee on Project Development, will be coordinating the organization of a second Base Camp in Ottawa on August 8th and 9th and a half-day on August 16th during the IFUW 27th Triennial Conference.

All national Federations and Associations and emerging affiliates are invited to participate in this residential training program. It will start with finishing off the training in project development through a recap of the project cycle and specific focus on monitoring and evaluation. After that, the participants will concentrate on implementation and management (leadership and human resources development), fundraising, and marketing their organization, e.g. through successful projects. Registrations for participants to Base Camp were due March 15 to the IFUW headquarters. VGIF has been asked to appoint a member with experience in fundraising to co-facilitate the topic of fundraising at the Base Camp.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Claire R. Stein, Convener

At the Annual Meeting, 30 - 31, 2001, the proposed bylaws amendment that appeared in the Call to the 2001 Annual Meeting, Article V., Section 1 and Article VI, Section 1 and 2, was referred back to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for further study. This Committee will be making this study and coming forth with their recommendation on the issue of Archival Historian at the next Annual Meeting. In the meantime any member who has input on this matter, please send your opinions and suggestions to the Convener at: Claire R. Stein, 10720 N. Sundust Court, Oro Valley, AZ 85737, USA or e-mail to: CRSParl@aol.com.

Suggestions for amendments to any of the Bylaws for 2002 should be sent to Gildersleeve headquarters in New York, to arrive no later than September 14, 2001.



VG AT IFUW TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Will we see you at the IFUW Triennial Conference in Ottawa this summer? There is nothing that can compare to this event!

With this meeting on our own continent, it is a wonderful opportunity to experience an international conference, to enjoy the beauty and sights of Canada, and above all, to meet women from around the world, women who share our interests and concerns.

The Gildersleeve will be hosting two luncheons, August 13 and 16. You don't need to attend both, but please come to at least one. In addition, we will have some meet-and-greet time somewhere else in the Conference Calendar. Both the luncheons and the informal meeting provide a chance to see your old friends, make new ones and find out what's new with the Gildersleeve.

Look for us. We shall be looking forward to seeing you.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Eileen Menton, Treasurer

I am pleased to report that as of April 30, 2001, we have raised \$54,791 in contributions for the Gildersleeve Fund. We are well on our way to meeting our \$80,000 goal.

The 2000 final report of support, revenue and expenses is included in this issue of the Update. As of December 31, 2000, our total assets were \$266,000. The Asian Regional Fund was valued at \$33,678.21 and the Erna Hamburger Fund was valued at \$42,074.64. At the board's direction, five percent (5%) of all non-designated contributions received in 2001 have been assigned to the Erna Hamburger Fund until we reach \$50,000. As of April 30, the Erna Hamburger Fund has reached \$48,000.

Thanks to all of you who continue to faithfully support the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund.

Income and Expenses as of December 31, 2000:

Year-to-Date

INCOME	
Contributions	\$80,151.31
Interest	\$13,663.00
Buttons/Pins	\$ 60.00
Meeting Fees	\$ 2,620.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$96,494.31
EXPENSES	
Grants	\$52,300.00
Executive Secretary	\$12,197.12
Sophia Smith Collection	\$ 250.00
Administrative:	
Computer Equipment	\$ 0.00
Postage (Grant Admin/Misc.)	\$ 1,585.33
Printing (Misc)	\$ 1,544.55
Telephone	\$ 276.37
Professional Fees (Audit)	\$ 1,710.00 ¹
Insurance	\$ 248.00
Rent	\$ 1,800.00
Bank/Wire Transfer Fees	\$ 906.33
Credit Card Equipment Rental	\$ 420.00
Miscellaneous/Supplies	\$ 574.78
Promotional Materials	\$ 287.91 ²
Newsletter	\$ 3,555.00
Membership Campaign	
(Postage/Printing)	\$ 2,491.88
Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,957.71
Onsite Visits	\$ 0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$83,104.98

¹Professional fees are for tax/financial report preparation. Estimate was based on short form. Because the Fund's income increased to more than \$100,000, we now have to file the long form.

² Includes \$265 for web site costs.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS
(NEWLY ELECTED)

Sumana Fernando - Sumana is a graduate of the University of Ceylon and served as CIR for the Sri Lanka Federation of University Women. She is actively involved in many women's organizations, including SLFUW and the Sri Lanka Women's Conference.

Mary Gibson - MSW, retired. Mary has worked in child abuse prevention and family services. Former AAUW President of Kalispell Branch and Montana State, she was Community Representative for national AAUW and served on the Program and Public Policy Committees and Women's Work/Women's Worth Task Force. She is Global Liaison for Montana.

Maria Gladys de Mena Guerrero - Ph.D., Chemistry, Professor Chemistry and Philosophy, University of El Salvador. Maria Gladys has served as President of the El Salvador Association of University Women, CIR, Executive Secretary Board of UNESCO Commission of El Salvador, member of IFUW Special Projects Committee, and VGIF Global Network Committee for Latin America.

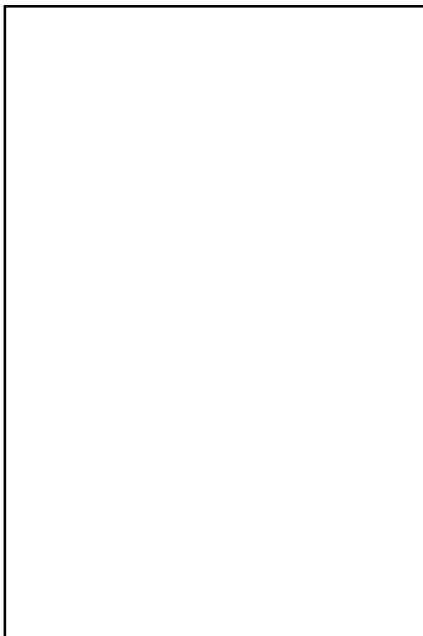
Jewell Hanna - Jewell was a member of AAUW-IFUW Liaison Committee, 1975-78, was an alternate delegate for AAUW to IFUW, and has been actively involved in IFUW Conferences. She has previously served on the

VGIF Board, the Bylaws Committee, and the Global Network Committee, Western Region.

Mary Kane - MBA, retired Business Analyst. Mary is now a volunteer worker for Foresight Australia Overseas Aid and previously for UNICEF. A VGIF member for 20 years and chair of the Australian VG group, she has done much to attract new members. She currently serves on the VGIF Membership Committee and the IFUW Finance Committee.

Louise McLeod - retired pharmacist, now an Internet product developer for a business-to-business marketing agency and Internet consultant for Big Brothers Big Sisters International and the Bucks County Historical Society. A long-time member of the Canadian Federation of University Women, she served on the CFUW Membership Committee as Web Site Coordinator.

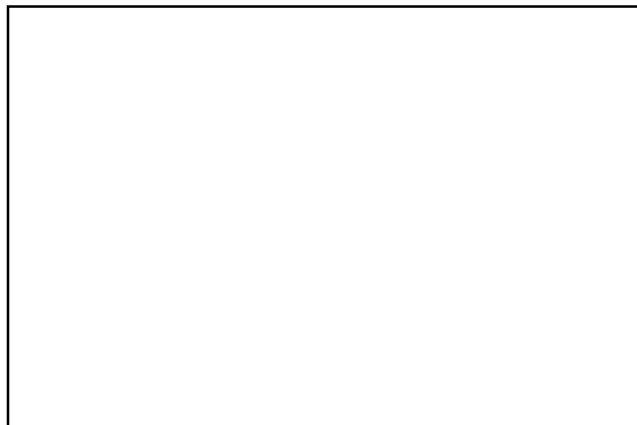
Jacqueline B. Shahzadi - Ph.D., is the current Director of International Interests for California AAUW. She is employed as Campus College Chair of General and Professional Studies and faculty member for the University of Phoenix, Southern California Campus. She is active in Servas, an international peace and friendship organization.



#1366 Ntarbang Women's Group

Bamenda, North West Province, CAMEROON

A functional literacy-training program for young women was designed to provide skills relating to health, environmental awareness, and sanitation. The money was used for teaching materials and program expenses.



Join Us!

Membership categories:

Contributor	\$20 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
c/o AAUW
111 East 37th Street
New York, NY 10016-3041

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.

Dates to Remember

June 22-25, 2001

AAUW Convention, Austin, Texas

August 10-17, 2001

IFUW Triennial Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

October 26-27, 2001

Mid-year Board and Committee Meetings, New York City

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A Biannual Publication of
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International Fund

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Pennsylvania, USA

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