
VG UPDATE

A Publication of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

Vol. 14 No. 2 June 2007



On-Site Visits Provide a Valuable Service

Evelyn Cumming, On-Site Convener

Visits by VGIF people, friends and colleagues to Project Grant sites during personal travel provide valuable reports on the achievements of our grant recipients. If your travel brings you near one of our current or recent Project Grant sites and you can make a visit please write to: VGIF, 3 West 29th St., Suite 1002, New York, NY 10001, U.S.A. or e-mail: vgif@vgif.org. Executive Secretary Fay Kittelson will contact the local project director about a visit. Arrangements can be complicated, so please give her plenty of lead time before your departure date. We ask on-site visitors to sign a liability release form, developed by our VGIF attorney, before traveling to the site. Visitors are provided with a report form with guidelines and questions to ask of the project directors for an easy-to-follow visit format. We welcome and value our project visitors.



The candle-making project for women in Yerraguntla, India also provides an early morning literacy camp for their children ages 10 and under. Here the women remove the candles from the molds.

109,301 USD Funding Approved

Eileen Menton, Project Grants Convener

This year, the Board of VGIF approved funding for 23 grants totaling 109,301 USD and forwarded two requests to the Development Committee for special solicitations. The Grants Committee's greatest frustration was that it could not recommend more of the 467 grant requests received because of funding limitations. This year the committee implemented "due diligence procedures" to identify problems with grant applicants. We searched the Internet for references to groups, sent e-mails to other funders identified by the organization, and contacted International Federation of University Women national federations and affiliates (NFAs) and other individuals in the country to request their assistance in confirming the legitimacy of applicants. The latter were the most useful checks. We identified a need to provide funds for the expenses of the NFAs, particularly in those countries with a significant number of applicants.

Elizabeth May Celebrates 100th Birthday

Elizabeth May celebrated her 100th birthday on April 26th, 2007. She was one of the eleven original incorporators of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund who each contributed \$300 to cover the costs to incorporate in New York State. She was also a founding member and its second president (1981-87).

During Dr. May's extraordinary career, she held numerous leadership positions in the academic, governmental and public sectors including Dean of Wheaton College where she also served as acting president (1949-64), Analyst, US Dept. of the Treasury (1939-41) and Fiscal Analyst, Bureau of the Budget (1941-47) and was the first woman member of the board of the Export-Import Bank (1964-69).

Dr. May's educational resume is impressive. She received her BA in economics from Smith College in 1928, and entered the London School of Economics where she earned her Ph.D. in 1931. She was awarded honorary degrees from Wheaton College and from Goucher College.

She still lives in her home in Harvard, MA surrounded by the flowers and herbs she loves. **Happy Birthday, Elizabeth from all your friends at VGIF.**

Perspectives

by Barbara Carey, President, 2005-2008



Each year at the Annual Meeting we review our activities around the world to note significant changes made during the past year.

Eleanor Millken had been added to the list of International Collectors of VGIF Funds. Canadians may send their contributions in Canadian funds to Eleanor who will manage the currency conversion and transfer to the U.S.A. office. Eleanor's

address is: 401 Westview Drive, Sudbury, ON, Canada, P3C 3M4. Checks need only be made to VGIF. Eleanor will handle the rest.

In Australia, Rosemary Everett has gracefully taken the reins of the VGIF organization due to the declining health of Mary Kane and the death of Margaret Maxwell. Rosemary has also begun to involve other new leaders.

Other dynamic VG leaders include Diane Trombetta of the San Jose, California U.S.A. branch of the American Association of University Women. She spearheaded an enthusiastic and large group of members who organized an international silent auction yielding 5,000 USD that went to new VGIF projects in Croatia and Ghana.

The On-Site Visit program continues to expand under the leadership of Evelyn Cumming. People traveling to a VGIF-funded project area are urged to consider adding an on-site visit to their itineraries. As a result of their reports, we have, for the first time, implemented a due diligence review. Eileen Menton and her international team of 22 members and previewers conducted extensive research into the backgrounds of final projects considered for funding.

Our wonderful benefactor, Virginia Frese Palmer, has given VGIF a second gift of 1 million USD. Her generosity sets in motion many substantial improvements to the structure of VGIF, and continues to make it possible for us to assure you that 100% of your donations fund project grants.

As I remarked in my report to the board, I feel very much like the wag who said, "There go my people. I must get in front of them." Every day I feel privileged to be involved with this extraordinary group of generous, talented and dedicated individuals, and am proud beyond description to sign myself, "President, VGIF."

ON-SITE VISIT PROGRAM

Evelyn Cumming, Convener

This report focuses on visits to project venues in India by Zoë Kelly-Nacht and Shiva Bajpai and in Sierra Leone by John Charles. VGIF and the On-Site Visit Committee greatly appreciate the efforts of these visitors and welcome other participants in the visit program.

Grant #2075 Economic Housing & Agricultural Development, Pulivendula, India: a training project. This project, to train women in various methods of food processing, preservation and conservation as it relates to pickle making, had produced the product but had problems with sales and financial management.

Grant #2094 Rural Development Women Welfare Society, Yerraguntla, India: a project to train 25 women in candle-making and sales and to provide literacy training. Zoë and Shiva were unable to visit the actual site, but Project Director Leelavathi, her two sons and Reverend Devanand Subuddy traveled to Chennai to meet with them. The candle-making was well documented and profits had been effectively reinvested so that the project is sustainable. Our visitors personally donated school supplies and have since received photos of the children holding up their notebooks with thank you messages written on them.

Grant #2236 Teblahun Community Agricultural Development Association, Sierra Leone: an agricultural project of land management, purchased tools and seeds with guidelines for ensuring gender equity. John Ansu Charles visited the site early in the organization process during which the group discussed issues of land clearing, regulation of the plots, and the purchase of tools. In April, Mr. Charles made another visit, finding that the group had completed land preparation for three of the farm sites. Tools and seeds had been procured and distributed into pools managed by the group leaders, planting of cassava cuttings had commenced at all the upland farm sites and preparations were underway for rice planting.

Grant #2491 SEEDS, Dindigul, India: a project to establish community-based compost units for worm production. The project was designed to provide income for the women participants and education for their children. A lack of necessary bio-waste during part of the year presented a challenge. Zoë and Shiva also had the opportunity to view the SEEDS theatre troupe's song and dance performances and a tragic drama about HIV, the latter an effective education effort.

Many thanks to Zoë Kelly-Nacht, Shiva Bajpai and John Charles for their visits on our behalf!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Margery Sullivan, Treasurer

Many thanks to all the contributing members of VGIF for their continued loyal support. In 2006, the Palmer Administrative Fund, which supports the operating expenses of VGIF received an additional 1,000,000 USD from Virginia Frese Palmer. In 2006, restricted contributions for project grant awards were 104,900 USD - 1,130 USD to the Asian Regional Fund, 4,855 USD to the Central and South American/Caribbean Endowment, 1,285 USD to the Erna Hamburger Fund, and 3,524 USD to the Leaders Fund. These funds along with the unrestricted contributions will be awarded to 23 projects in 2007. In 2006, VGIF awarded 107,000 USD to project grants. This year the fund awarded Special Solicitation grants to Croatia and Ghana.

Total return in 2006 was 8.52% for the Endowment Fund and 6.41% for the Palmer Administrative Fund vs. a 5.41% for the benchmark blended index. The important component of this total return number was the income portion which generated 22,607 USD and 69,870 USD respectively. Realizing that the funds must respond prudently to inflation while maintaining a strong flow of income, the Board increased the maximum equity exposure to 50% at its October 2006 meeting. The parameter that all holdings must be dividend-bearing remains unchanged.

The Palmer Administrative Fund continues to fund the management expenses of VGIF. As a result all donations are used for project grant awards.

Correction

AAUW Tucson, AZ was inadvertently left off the listing of the 2006 VGIF group contributors which appeared in the February *VG Update* issue. Our apologies.



Women in Dindigul, India (SEEDS) eagerly watch the practical demonstration of the worm composting unit and learn the process with practical actions.

MEMBERSHIP - "Get or Give"

Claire Stein, Convener

At the Annual Meeting of VGIF in April 2007, the Membership Committee reviewed the past year's accomplishments and planned for the future. The individual membership figure, as of April 2007, is 1,065 and the group membership is 127, for a total of 1,192. VGIF needs to grow both those numbers if it is to meet our mission of improving the lives of women and children in developing countries and be able to fund worthy project grants for the future. With this in mind, the Membership Committee has created a membership theme for 2007–2008 – "*Get or Give*". The present members are asked to "get" a new member for VGIF and/or "give" a gift membership, honor someone, or send a memorial in someone's name. By this simple means, we can double our contributing membership this year.

Projects that the Membership Committee will be working on in the next few months are the American Association of University Women Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in June 2007 and the IFUW Triennial Conference in Manchester, England in mid-August 2007.

VGIF will have an exhibit booth at the AAUW Convention with a continuous computer slide show for viewing. New brochures and the latest *VG Update* will be available. The Membership Convener and Executive Secretary will answer questions and take contributing memberships along with VGIF members attending the Convention. A panel of VGIF members will present a 90-minute workshop.

At the IFUW Conference in August, VGIF luncheons will be held on Saturday, August 11 and Monday, August 13. Plan to attend one of these luncheons - the Membership Committee needs your help in spreading information about VGIF, welcoming old friends and encouraging attendees to join VGIF. There will be a VGIF information table at the Conference venue – look for our new banner (thanks to our President Barbara Carey).

By Board action in April 2007 the Global Network Committee was folded into the Membership Committee. Four wonderful members of that Committee will be helping the Membership Committee set forth ways VGIF can become more global as an organization.

The general membership can "sell" VGIF easily. Go to the VGIF Web site and discover the wealth of presentation materials available at no cost. Use them in presentations to other organizations you belong to. Please send information about your presentations and fundraisers to the Membership Convener: e-mail crsparl@aol.com.

***Remember – in 2007-2008
we all need to "Get or Give"!***

GRANTS FUNDED 2007*Eileen Menton, Project Grants Convener***Grant #2691 Women Prisoners Support Organization (WPSO), UGANDA**

Educational opportunities will be provided for inmates to increase their capabilities for employment and self-sufficiency after being released, hopefully reducing recidivism. The project will also pilot the Prisoners Peer Tutor Scheme to support basic life skills programs for women. Most of the funds will be used for basic education and horticulture skills.

5,000 USD *from the Leaders Fund***Grant #2714 Girl Child Counseling Women Group, KENYA**

Ten orphaned girls presently involved in street life will benefit each year. The goal is to empower the girls to earn a living and live a life of integrity and dignity, and become well integrated into society as a whole. The girls will be taught how to start and maintain their own dairy farming business. Most of the funds will be used to purchase five cows and farming equipment. Milk and milk products will be sold each day.

4,950 USD

Grant #2726 Institute for Women's Human Rights (IHAP), INDONESIA

Increased knowledge and awareness about women's rights, family planning, contraception, nutrition, pregnancy and sexual and reproductive rights are the goals for this project. Twenty-five women will be trained as leaders and instructors serving nine groups for 180-270 women with twice-a-month meetings. A booklet about advocacy on these topics will be published and disseminated to women's organizations, NGOs, and women community leaders. A seminar for 150 women will be held to launch a 16-day campaign protesting violence against women.

5,000 USD *from the Asian Regional Endowment Fund***Grant #2727 Environment and Development Foundation, TANZANIA**

The construction of water tanks for rain harvesting and toilet facilities in five primary schools will improve school attendance of young girls. Universal primary education is not achieved in the community because 1) girls are taken out of school to walk long distances to fetch clean water to meet minimal household needs or 2) because they have reached puberty and toilet facilities at school are unavailable. The parents will contribute free labor services during construction of each 45,000 liter tank. More than 2,540 girls will benefit from this project. The funds provided will purchase construction materials.

5,000 USD

Grant #2744 Nepal Association of University Women, NEPAL

Thirty deprived girls and unemployed women will be given the opportunity to gain literacy skills as well as vocational skills in candle and incense making, horticulture and compost making. The funds will be used for direct expenses for the training program.

1,500 USD

Grant #2761 Women's Center, GEORGIA

The response of health care providers to trafficking and violence is the focus of this project. Educational programs for doctors, a special screening form and protocols to expose abuse and treat victims will be developed. One hundred physicians and nurses will be trained to implement a national action plan. A booklet will be published showing the link between trafficking and health problems. Community-based groups in each district will provide information on trafficking, its impact on health, reproductive health and rights, as well as the developed National Action Plan. VGIF funds will be used for training expenses, publications, and regional workshops.

5,000 USD

Grant # 2784 The African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), LIBERIA

Women, girls, men, and boys from 5 communities and 5 schools in rural Liberia will be trained to identify, document, and report sexual gender-based violence and other forms of violence against women and girls in the target communities. Awareness will be increased, preventive strategies developed, and community structures strengthened in preventing sexual gender-based violence (SGBV). VGIF will fund the training of peer educators, the development and printing of information and communication materials, publicity and media initiatives, transportation costs, and costs of monitoring and documentation of sexual violence.

5,000 USD

Dates to Remember**2007**AAUW Biennial Convention: Phoenix AZ:
June 29-July 2IFUW Triennial Conference: Manchester, UK:
August 10-16

VGIF Midyear Meeting: October 26-27

2008VGIF Annual Meeting: April 11-12
VGIF Midyear Meeting: October 24-25**2009**VGIF 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting: April 24-25
VGIF Midyear Meeting: October 23-24

Grant #2787 Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh, BANGLADESH

Women in the community will be encouraged to use the maternity services at the Cox's Bazar Hospital for women and children. Informal seminars in 15-20 villages and seminars at the hospital for pregnant and post-partum women will be held. Funds will be used to purchase medication for 50 women and children. 2,000 USD

Grant #2803 SOLID (Seeking of Light, Identity and Development), PAKISTAN

Education and training in sewing and literacy will be provided for girls whose families cannot afford to send them to school. The training will increase their confidence and reduce the level of poverty. Two hundred households will be affected. The funds will purchase 5 sewing machines, books for adult literacy courses, and training materials. 4,559 USD

Grant #2816 Apiculture and Nature Conservation Organization (ANCO), CAMEROON

Twenty-eight women in Taakija will receive training in bee farming and given supplies to start beekeeping. They will be taught about the environmental importance of successful bee farming in order to provide income and protection of the environment. Funds will purchase equipment and provide training. 4,250 USD

Grant #2854 Equality Now Advocacy, TANZANIA

This project was approved by the Committee but tabled by the Board pending receipt of additional information concerning the organization.

Grant # 2861 International Federation of Lawyers, GHANA

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the effective promotion and protection of the rights of women through legal rights education. Legal literacy workshops will inform 500 women on laws governing their rights and enhance their capacity to access justice at the FIDA Legal Aid Centre in Kumasi and other law enforcement agencies. Community support for female victims of rights abuse and violence will be strengthened and women will be encouraged to report cases of abuse to the proper authorities. VGIF funding will cover expenses of hall rental for two days, and accommodation for three resource persons, administrative expenses of the workshops, printing of 1,000 posters, and miscellaneous expenses. 3,560 USD

Grant #2887 Fyzabad Composite School, TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

Mentoring and tutoring will be provided to at-risk girls, aged 11-16, from poor families, to encourage them to stay

in school, defer sexual activity, graduate, and realize their full potential. These girls are at risk of dropping out of school because most are in remedial classes and are older than their peers. The project will be directed by six young teachers and engage 25 girls in special lunchtime meetings and after school tutoring sessions in math and English. Successful girl students will act as role models. VGIF funding will purchase a camcorder, computer, printer, books, videos, and CDs in addition to providing stipends for 6 role model 'big sisters' and meals for after school tutoring. 4,000 USD

Grant #2909 Yunnan Institute of Development, CHINA
Female Community Health Workers from each village in Daxi will be trained to be responsible for training and counseling women on women's health issues. The long term goals of the institute are to improve awareness and practices related to reproductive and maternal health, child development, and HIV/AIDS. VGIF will fund program costs and the training and basic screening of up to 700 women, and transportation of city health professionals. 5,000 USD

Grant #2922 Life for Relief and Development Orphanage, SIERRA LEONE

This is a project to educate and shelter 100 orphans during the 2007-2008 school term. Funds will be used for clothing, school books, school charges, and food. 5,000 USD

Grant #2932A Rural Development Women Welfare Society, INDIA

This six-month program for 25 women and adolescent girls will train them on making soft toys, and leather toys and garments along with literacy classes. Funds will provide supplies and educational materials. Salaries for the instructor, the literacy teacher and space are paid locally. 4,516 USD

Grant # 2937 MAASAI Community Outdoor Educator, KENYA

Forty Maasai women will be educated as trainers in peer education and six Maasai women as paralegal assistants to begin a movement to lobby and advocate for women's rights, especially those rights concerning land ownership, land control and management. These groups will partner with other Kenyan organizations such as the Federation of Women Lawyers. Funds will be used for workshop expenses, advocacy meetings, and for gender and land rights advocacy and education materials. 4,160 USD

Grant #2944 Asociación Tejedoras Unidas, GUATEMALA

Ecofilters will be given to 203 Mayan women artisans, mostly weavers, in rural areas of Guatemala, to provide safe drinking and cooking water. Each recipient will receive

a 3-hour educational workshop on preventative health and good hygiene practices and training on the care and maintenance of the water filter. This will reduce the frequency of illness caused by unsafe drinking water, improving quality of life and reducing lost time due to illness. The funds will purchase 166 ecofilters at 30 dollars each. 4,980 USD

Grant #2948 Bharathi Educational Society, INDIA

Two hundred and fifty women affected by the recent tsunami will be trained in the manufacture of fish pickles. They will be formed into a production and marketing cooperative. Training will consist of packing, storage, and marketing techniques. The project will enhance the fisherwomen's income levels by reducing the costs of a middleman. Funds will be used for training, purchasing raw materials, a mixer/grinder, cutting equipment, and marketing support. 906 USD

Grant #2949 Association for the Promotion of the Well Being (APBE), BURUNDI

The Itaba Commune was the theater of confrontation in 1993 and the massacres of September 2002 on the hill of Kanyongas. The project's goals are to support the healing process within the community as well as re-establish a sense of normalcy to children who were soldiers and young girls who were raped during these armed conflicts. Fifty girls and former-fighters (young boys) will be selected for the rehabilitation process. The project will establish a Community Information Centre for traumatized children in schools and within the community of Itaba for greater community accessibility. The funds will purchase food, scholastic materials, lodging, and two national radio broadcasts. 4,980 USD

Grant #2997 Rwanda Association of University Women, RWANDA

This project will create and publish a career development guide for girls. It will have long term benefits for girls undertaking education by encouraging them to continue learning and encouraging them to aspire to a variety of careers. Successful in Uganda, the current project aims to replicate this success in Rwanda. The career guide distributed to different schools and stakeholders will be adapted to the Rwanda educational system and job market. The lessons learned from a trial seminar will assist RAUW in designing recommendations regarding career development for girls in the educational institutions and women in their work places. Funds will be used for research, translation of the guide into French and Kinyarwanda, printing, and distribution. 5,000 USD

Grant #3083 Sheki Branch Development of Women Center, AZERBAIJAN

The protection of women's rights and the elimination of violence against women through seminars, phone support, and involvement of mass media, society at large, and govern-

mental structures is the goal of this project. VGIF funding will purchase equipment for the publishing of four types of booklets on the topic of violence against women, and provide traveling/living expenses for the trainers. Approximately 20,000 women and 12,000 men will be reached by this project initiative. 4,980 USD

Grant #3088 Training in Human Rights with the Perspective of Gender, COLOMBIA

Fifty women displaced by the internal armed Colombian conflict and 40 government and NGO educational agents will be trained on human rights and gender-related issues. Funds will be used for transportation, feeding the women, publication of the training modules, and the trainers.

4,960 USD from the CSACRE* Fund

Grant #2896 International Federation of University Women, IFUW Triennial Conference

The IFUW project for the 29th Triennial Conference in Manchester, England will offer training in advocacy, leadership, and communication skills - especially related to gender and education - for up to 150 members who will then take leadership roles at the national or international level. Members of IFUW's newest affiliates will be targeted for the establishment of programs in newly emerging democracies or countries emerging from conflict. VGIF funding will provide subsidy for 15 participants. 5,000 USD of this funding was set aside in both 2005 and 2006. 15,000 USD

*Central/South America/Caribbean Regional Endowment



These girls, street children living in Rwanda, receive training in literacy, joinery, tailoring, animal husbandry, agriculture, and the arts along with medical care

IT HAPPENED AT THE BOARD MEETING April 2007

- . Granted 109,301 USD to 23 projects in 21 countries
- . Temporarily combined the Global Network and Membership Committees until bylaws are revised in 2008
- . Authorized removal of members unpaid since 2004
- . Amended Board Policy to include a process for conducting official business between meetings
- . Formally accepted a second gift of 1 million USD from Virginia Frese Palmer
- . Established the position of Executive Director to replace the position of Executive Secretary
- . Established a paid support staff position
- . Established the Virginia Frese Palmer Award for Excellence
- . Established the Virginia Frese Palmer Gildersleeve Fellowship
- . Addressed the addition of a Program segment to the Strategic Plan
- . Approved committees, leadership and committee appointments for 2007-2008
- . Directed an examination of VGIF committee structure

CSACRE Endowment Founding Members

Maggie Ford, Development Convener

Thirty-three members have become Founding Contributors to the Central/South America/Caribbean Regional Endowment, contributing 10,389 USD to the endowment. The campaign for founding contributions began in April 2006 and closed on April 30, 2007. Recognition is hereby given to the Founding Members listed below who contributed 100 USD or more. Contributions to CSACRE continue to be welcome as we grow this quasi-endowment which makes possible awards today and tomorrow.

Joan Boddy, Barbara Carey, Eileen Clark, Lori Cross, Helen Dunsmore, Mary Louise Ellenberger, Maggie Ford, Marilyn Forsstrom, Evelyn Gaw, MaryAnne Gibson, Jacqueline Grinnell, Jewell Hanna, Carol Holmelund, Marion Isidoro, Patricia Kennedy, Fay Kittelson, Julie Kleszczewski, Kathleen Laurila, Bonnie Lincoln, Virginia Maynard, Dagmar McGill, Karen McKee, Eileen Menton, Joann Paden, Kathryn Podwall, Marlene Pommerenke, Carole Rusho, Nancy Scheer, Margery Sullivan, Enid Wilson, Leslie Wright, AAUW Napa County, AAUW San Diego

UN NEWS

Leslie Wright, VG Representative to the UN

Theme for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Chosen: "Financing for Gender Equality" was chosen by member states of the Commission in March as its theme for 2008. At a meeting chaired by Carolyn Hannan, Director of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, discussion centered around gender-based budgets and women's advancement in the areas of finance, trade, marketing, and entrepreneurial leadership.

Hunger and poverty top the UN agenda for the Economic and Social Council: Meeting in Geneva this year, the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will discuss innovative programs addressing halving the world's poverty and hunger, the top goal of the Millennium Development Goals. The UN body will be preceded by a one-day conference organized by the Conference of NGOs (CONGO), of which VGIF is a member and acts as treasurer for the New York office. CONGO meets in late June; ECOSOC meets the entire month of July. For further information see www.ngocongo.org.

VGIF Annual Meeting Dinner Honored by UN

Guests: At the VGIF Annual Meeting Dinner, speakers were Dr. Carolyn Hannan, Director of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, and Ambassador Gregoire of Dominica. Dr. Hannan spoke about gender equality and its relevance to the women's movement. She noted that VGIF has a unique opportunity to fund programs for women's organizations and encouraged the membership to do so.

Ambassador Gregoire, who helped VGIF identify NGO projects in Dominica, noted appreciation for the work that comes from VGIF-funded projects. He promised to make a site visit to a project in Dominica (below) next time he visits the country and to give us feedback about its progress. VGIF funding provides a greenhouse for growing vegetables to sell in the market, sustaining families in the village.



Women in Dominica prepare seedlings for transplanting



All contributions are gratefully accepted and carefully used

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Rita Skillman, Convener

Yes, I want to support the work of VGIF.

Ms. Mrs. Dr. Mr.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

1,000 500 250 100 50 Other USD

I want to make a contribution wherever my funds are most needed.

I would like to: honor memorialize

Name:

Please acknowledge this gift to:

Name:

Address:

I would like my contribution to be designated to the following Endowment Funds:

Erna Hamburger Asian Regional Leaders Central/South America/Caribbean Regional

It's easy to become a contributing member. Just fill in this form and send a check, bank draft, or money order payable in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S.-based banking institution to... VGIF

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Or pay by credit card: VISA MasterCard

Account #:

Expiration date: [mm/yy]

Name as it appears on your card:

Signature:

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Corporation. Contributions are tax deductible in the United States.

For more information about VGIF consult our Web site

www.vgif.org

Several proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws were passed at the Annual Meeting, April 28, 2007.

Page 1 Article III. Membership Section 1.A. Members Should now read: Members shall be those persons who support the stated aims and purposes of VGIF and make an annual contribution. These shall be the only requirements for membership.

Page 2 Article III. Section 2. Withdrawal from Membership

Should now read: All voting members who fail to make an annual contribution for three years will be removed from the membership list after due notice. The Executive Committee may make exemptions in exceptional cases.

Page 4 Article V. Board of Directors Section 2.B. Duties Should now read: Establish standards for membership and procedures for deletion from the membership rolls.

A change was made to the Board of Directors Policy Sheet. In Section III Meetings, there will be a new item. Insert: 3. Action needed on items between Board meetings shall be handled by electronic means. The action taken shall be reported by the Secretary at the next regular Board meeting.

If there are any desired changes or proposed amendments of the bylaws, please send your amendments or thoughts to the convener Rita Skillman rnrskills@earthlink.net or to Fay Kittelson in the New York office by October 1, 2007.

Deaths Noted

- Fay Dworkin, MD, USA
Maxine Johnson, MT, USA
Margaret Maxwell, Australia
Margaret Neave, New Zealand

VG Update

A semi-annual publication of The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

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