

VG UPDATE

A Publication of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund - VGIF

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UN News

Virginia Maynard, VGIF UN Representative

The 56th DPI/NGO Conference will be held at UN Headquarters in New York September 8-10, 2003, the theme of which is "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations." Again this year the number of participants from any one organization is being limited. However, if you are interested and are confident of being able to attend, registration forms are available from the Gildersleeve office. The deadline for registration is July 20, 2003.

On May 1, 2003, UNIFEM launched "Progress of the World's Women 2002: Volume 2: Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals." It examines



progress for women in education, literacy, non-agricultural employment and parliamentary representation. While the most positive change was in women's political participation, in 2002 only 11 countries reached the target of 30% representation; women are still largely absent from national parliaments. It is the only indicator of the four that is not affected by national poverty. As reported, in some wealthy countries (United States, France and Japan, for example), women's political participation is well below that achieved in many developing countries.

Wisconsin AAUW Promotes VGIF with a Gildersleeve High Tea

Jewell Hanna

Global Network Committee Convener



Racine, WI AAUW Branch members at the VGIF High Tea

This idea is too good not to be circulated. After meeting with disappointing results in her previous efforts to publicize VGIF, Judy Jaggard and her friend Lucy Harvey came up with an inspired idea to bring VGIF to the attention of the Wisconsin AAUW. At their spring convention these two

dedicated VGIF members staged a Gildersleeve "high tea" instead of providing a regular workshop. A nominal fee of \$5.00 assured a good attendance.

Judy's family contributed by making tea sandwiches to go with the mints and nuts and of course tea. Several attendees came elegantly dressed for the occasion, complete with hats and gloves.

Karen McKee as guest speaker made an effective pitch for VGIF and its wonderful projects. Seven new memberships, including a group membership for AAUW WI, were gained nearly doubling the previous Wisconsin memberships. One of the lovely hats was passed for voluntary contributions. After expenses were reimbursed, more than \$200 additional was sent to VGIF from this unique workshop. Wonderful work Judy and Lucy! Some of your AAUW convention coordinators might take advantage of this great idea for next spring's series of AAUW state conventions.

"We are committed to recognizing and serving the needs of women and children whose educational and economic situations produce dire effects on their lives and health."

- Jeanie Page Randall, Membership Convener

The President's Perspective

by Barbara Carey, President, 2002-2005



Progress made since the Midyear 2002 meeting is directly due to diligent effort by all of you around the world. Lively contact enables both our friendships and our

effectiveness, and because the Internet allows us to communicate at no cost to VG, we have enlarged many committees to involve more members. This dynamic personal contact continues to be a high value for us all.

Connecting with other groups and the general public is another high value. In August I will do this by again attending the Canadian Federation Annual General Meeting. During the year I spoke to several AAUW branches in New Mexico - all of whom are now organization members, as is the state division. Fay Kittelson, Virginia Maynard, Joan Chatfield and I had an April lunch at the Asia Society in New York City with Shyama Venkateswar, Associate Director for Asian Social Issues, and three other Asia Society staff members. We found much of common interest to pursue. I will represent you on the International Panel at the AAUW Convention in Providence, Rhode Island in June. For that conference, Jeanie Randall and the Membership Committee have organized a booth, and a Special Interest session. Mary Kane reports that Australian members worked at their AGM securing new memberships and doing fundraising. Virginia Maynard continues to represent us so ably at the UN, and Hope Miller to pursue our interests at Barnard College.

Meanwhile, at our Annual Meeting, we voted to accept reports and actions from the morning Board Meeting as official for the afternoon Annual Meeting. This streamlined process will be refined for 2004 and we'll tell the

membership about it in the appropriate Call to Meeting. The Executive Committee reviewed and updated the Strategic Plan. Requested amendments are being transcribed and transmitted so committees can resume work on active items and begin work on items not already addressed. We intend the Strategic Plan to be a living document, reviewed annually and evolving as goals are achieved.

You will note elsewhere in this *VG UPDATE* the impressive list of grants you will fund this year. As a direct result of your generosity the board was able to raise the amount given from about \$60,000 last year to \$75,000 this year - meeting just a few of the ever-increasing needs of those in developing countries who devise, organize and staff these amazing grass-roots projects.

The board continues to invite member's ideas. We address matters needing immediate attention through ongoing communication since we feel bound to take action when needed, not just twice a year. The wonderful Web site created and maintained by Louise McLeod increases our ability to do this and we will make more use of it as time goes on. [www.vgif.org, www.thegildersleeve.org]

Finally, we thank Evelyn Mafeni and Euphrasia Ita who came from Cameroon to be with us to make a powerful report on the ABEMO project dealing with Female Genital Mutilation that VG will fund in 2003. We especially thank Carolyn Donovan for facilitating their travels and giving them hospitality in New York. Incalculable thanks are due to all of you who do this wonderful work and to those who support it with their generous contributions. We'll have to let the few we can mention stand for all the rest knowing that you realize the gratitude of both those who work with you and those whom you serve. Thank you one and all.

Membership Recruitment Materials Available

Louise McLeod, Web Site Convener

VGIF members are active and creative recruiters for the organization Membership (see the article "Wisconsin AAUW Promotes VGIF with a Gildersleeve High Tea"). Recruitment materials, either printed or digital, are available for your next VGIF display or presentation: brochures, copies of past issues of the *VG UPDATE*, spiral-bound project photo booklets, membership sign up

forms, and CD-ROMs containing MS Powerpoint presentations (up to and including project grants for 2002), and scanned photos of projects funded. Information about what materials are available and how to obtain them can be found at www.thegildersleeve.org or contact VGIF Head Office (vgif@vgif.org or myself, lmcleod@pil.net). Check out the Project Grants library while you're there!

VGIF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the VGIF Annual Meeting, April 5, 2003, the following board members were elected for a first term.

Joan Chatfield, Maryknoll, New York. Joan, a former board member of AAUW, has been connected with VGIF since receiving perhaps the smallest grant of \$200 to connect with PEACESAT and begin a leadership class to empower women in the Pacific Islands. Now finishing a four year term of service at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in Westchester County, NY, she is preparing to return to Hawaii in November, 2003, where she will re-engage in her ecumenical and interreligious works and travels, including a Christian-Buddhist conference in Switzerland. Joan is currently co-convenor of the Global Network Committee.

Sandra Featherman, Biddeford, Maine. President of the University of New England, Sandra serves as Chair-Elect of the Board of Governors of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. She sits on numerous commissions and boards dealing with higher education, including the Board of the AAUW Educational Foundation. Sandra has previously served as a member of the VGIF Development Committee and is now a member of the Finance and Investment Committee.

Catherine Moore, Great Neck, New York. Catherine is a retired elementary school principal. She is Program Vice President of AAUW North Shore and Co-Chair of the Educational Foundation of AAUW New York City. She has been an IFUW representative to the UN since 1998 and is also a Board member of NY/USA UNIFEM. Catherine currently serves as a member of the VGIF Nominating Committee.

Gomathy Venkateswar, Calcutta, India, presently residing in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Gomathy has recently completed service as principal of the Malpi International School in Kavre, Nepal. She was President of the Soroptimist International of Bombay City Club and National Secretary of the Indian Federation of University Women. Gomathy has many publications to her credit, including "The Role of NGOs in Supporting Marginalized Women" which was presented at the Bina Roy Memorial Lecture Series in April 1995 celebrating the Indian Federation of University Women and IFUW.

Board of Directors for a Second Term

Betty Bayless, Callawassie Island, South Carolina; **Karen McKee**, Norwalk, Connecticut; **Carrie Gallagher Sussman**, Ridgefield, Connecticut; **Fay Weber**, Anaconda, Montana

VGIF COMMITTEES AND CONVENERERS

Standing Committees

Constitution and Bylaws: Kathleen Magill
 Development: Maggie Ford
 Finance and Investment: Karen McKee
 Global Network: Jewell Hanna and Joan Chatfield
 Membership: Jeanie Page Randall
 Nominating: Donna Connor
 Project Grants: Fay Weber

Ad Hoc Committees

Connections: Jacqueline Shahzadi
 Crisis Management: Louise McLeod
 Dinner and Theater: Sema Faigen and Kathleen Magill
 Market Analysis: Maggie Ford
 On Site: Jean Colburn
 Web Site: Louise McLeod

It Happened at the Annual Meeting 2003

At the Board of Directors and Annual meetings on April 5, 2003 the following actions were taken:

- Amended the 2003 budget to reflect increases in income and expenses;
- Added the president's signature to the bank account;
- Added the Claire Norton bequest to the Virginia Frese Palmer Administrative Fund endowment and approved investment guidelines for the fund;
- Revised descriptive language for donors and membership on the VG brochure;
- Approved the Project Grants Committee recommendations for 17 grants (see list else where in the *Update*);
- Directed that an On-site Evaluation pilot project be selected from among this year's approved grants;
- Approved numerous additions to committees;
- Elected board members for the 2003-2006 term;
- Presented certificates of appreciation to out-going committee and board members.

Official, complete minutes for these meetings are available from the Executive Secretary upon request.

VGIF GRANTS FOR 2003 AWARDED

Fay Weber, Grant Convener

Thanks to the generosity of our members, more funds were available than ever before. Seventeen grants (including a previously funded grant to IFUW) totaling \$75,304 were selected at the spring VGIF board meeting. This year's awards include great diversity of countries and topics. Grants were awarded in 11 nations in 5 different global regions including Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East and South America. Topics included literacy, maternal health, family planning, computer and science training, HIV prevention and training for women with AIDS, skill training in organic and water farming, nursing, needlework and the development of a toy library for displaced children.

#1639 Social Nonprofit Organization Women of Crimea UKRAINE \$5,000

This project will help 400 handicapped children to become independent through the development of creative abilities and computer skill training. The funds will be used for workshops and seminars in addition to purchasing computer equipment, a television, audio equipment and musical instruments.

#1653 Rural Unfortunates Safety Talisman Illumination Cottage

BANGLADESH \$4,967

This project will provide skill training from production through marketing phases for 120 women of water logged communities. Prawn nursing, vermiculture and homestead gardening will be taught. The grant covers participant expenses for a 4-day training session, salaries for instruction and administrative support.

#1654 Sammilani Sheba Sangstha

BANGLADESH \$4,794

2400 women and girls will be trained in reproductive health, family planning, maternal health, pregnancy, safe motherhood and sexually transmitted diseases. The funds will be used for training and transportation expenses of 12 community service providers and administrative expenses.

#1659 St. Jude Jumuiya Self Help Group

KENYA \$3,876

This project was previously funded in 2001 for the purpose of eliminating female genital mutilation in Northeastern Kenya. It is a continuation grant to provide alternative sources of income generation for the traditional female

circumcisors in fields such as poultry and livestock rearing and agricultural production. The funds will be used for training expenses, purchase of poultry, livestock and agricultural products.

#1661 Abaché Ejagham Mmbo Oblo (ABEMO) CAMEROON \$4,987

This project will mobilize 80 to 100 sex workers in HIV prevention strategies and alternative sources of income such as bee farming and small business enterprises. Monies will be used for training expenses and materials. Mrs. Evelyn Mafeni, National Coordinator of ABEMO and Project Director of the grant, served as the featured speaker at the VGIF dinner honoring Virginia Palmer. As a guest at the board meeting, she learned first hand of this award.

#1667 Efforts of Women Association UGANDA \$3,480

A revolving fund for 20 women will be initiated to establish business plans in poultry raising and mushroom cultivation with payback recovered for further loans. The money will be used for individual loans and administrative expenses.

#1668 Diagnostic Women's Movement for Science Development

GHANA \$5,000

This project will empower girls in science and mathematics by teaching practical applications that provide job opportunities in technological fields. The funds will be used to purchase chemicals and science equipment for rural schools. VG previously funded their workshop for science teachers and female students.

#1681 Uttaron Samaj Kallyan Samity

BANGLADESH \$4,650

Training will be provided to 800 women and girls in 40 villages on issues such as gender relations, prostitution, domestic violence, and sex-selected abortion. The funds will be used for peer educators, establishment of focal centers and training expenses for participants.

#1690 Cameroon Association for Female Physics Teachers

CAMEROON \$3,000

This project will organize seminars for 100 girls in six rural schools on the importance of higher education and assist underprivileged girls in furthering their education and improving job opportunities. The funds will be used for transportation, lodging, food, registration expenses,

#1692 Afghanistan Women Council

PAKISTAN \$5,000

This project will train 20 widows in traditional embroidery and needlework skills as a means of supporting their families. It will also provide daily literacy and health education training. The funds will be used for training costs and purchasing materials.

#1701 Cooperation Internationale pour les Equilibres Locaux

CHILE \$3,700

This project will be used to create a community managed toy library for the displaced children and refugees from Colombia to provide educational and developmental tools. The money will be used for travel and training fees and the purchase of educational games and materials.

#1702 Adawukwao Women Traders Association

GHANA \$4,450

The award will go to aid widows and their children who are infected with HIV/AIDS. It will create a support group and provide training in herbal shampoo production and natural dye cloth weaving. The funds will be used to purchase two electric and five manual sewing machines, a dye machine and material.

#1708 Pine Tree

PHILIPPINES \$4,618

This project will provide 60 women with job training in environmental enterprises such as beekeeping, mushroom

production, waste recycling and organic farming. The money will be used for literacy training, personnel, training materials and supplies.

#1714 The Shenpen Fund

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIBET) \$5,000

The project will help establish a fully functioning boarding school for 210 children age 7-12 in the Tibetan village of Chungba with the unprecedented requirement that the student population be 50% girls. The funds will purchase warm clothing and blankets to combat harsh winter weather as heaters have not yet been installed.

#1727 University Women Bursary Fund

KENYA \$4,552

The project will offer free computer training to physically disabled university women and high school girls to give them marketable skills. The money will be used to purchase 15 computers, computer furniture and one laser jet printer.

#1733 Integrated Women Development Institute

INDIA \$3,230

This project will train 50 poor adolescent girls in nursing assistance and health education and provide awareness training in women's rights and gender equity. Money will be used for training expense, rent, honorarium for resource personnel, and teaching materials.

"As a direct result of your generosity the board was able to raise the amount given from about \$60,000 last year to \$75,000 this year..."

- Barbara Carey, President



Typical village in Cameroon surrounded by tropical rain forest.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Eileen Menton, Treasurer

Many thanks to all of you for your continued loyal support of VGIF. In 2002, once again, we exceeded our fund raising objective of \$80,000, with over \$99,870 in contributions of which \$875 is restricted to the Asian Regional Fund (ARE) and the Erna Hamburger Fund. We paid over \$60,000 in project grant allocations, a record amount.

During the first three months of 2003, we have received \$265,977 in contributions, including a large bequest. Even without the bequest, we are on target to meet our goal of \$80,000 in contributions this year, having already raised more than one-half our goal.

As of December 31, 2002, our total assets were approximately \$1.3 million. During the past three months, they have grown to over \$1.5 million.

As of December 31, 2002, the Erna Hamburger Fund has a balance of \$50,496, after paying out its first grant to the Fiji Association of University Women; and the Asian Regional Endowment has a balance of \$38,224.41. At the direction of the Board, we are setting aside 5% of unrestricted funds to bring the Asian Regional Endowment up to the income-producing level of \$50,000. As of March 31, 2003, the ARE has received an additional \$2,318 from individual donors and the 5% set-aside.

In a third difficult year for the market, the investment portfolio has performed well in 2002. It returned 2.54% in a year when the S&P Index had a return of minus 22.1%. Income through interest and dividends was \$12,840 (against a goal of \$17,000). We appreciate the expertise of Nancy Vang in continuing to manage this portfolio.

At the end of 2001, the Virginia Frese Palmer Administrative Fund was established. During its first full year, the fund earned 2.96%. Thanks to the income it has generated, we were able to fund all expenses - both one-time and recurring - associated with moving into our new home through the transfer of \$2,750 in 2002 and \$21,000 through March 2003.

From a financial perspective, this was the year that VGIF "grew up." We moved into our own home and assumed all of the responsibilities associated with such a move. As a result, our expenses are significantly higher than budgeted. The cost of informing our members through the Web site, the *VG UPDATE*, and our annual membership campaign was less than 10% of the grants distributed last year.

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2001</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2002</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>3/31/2002</u>
Investment Account	\$ 278,328	\$ 283,614	\$ 513,862
Virginia Frese Palmer Administrative Fund	\$1,000,140	\$1,000,080	\$ 990,587
Operating Account	\$ 20,541	\$ 18,133	\$ 55,883
Total	\$1,299,021	\$1,301,839	\$1,560,335

www.thegildersleeve.org

(For members of VGIF)

Committees

Board

VG Activities & Events

Membership Materials

Head Office

UN News

VG UPDATE online



Ms. Euphrasia Ita (left) and Mrs. Evelyn Mafeni, National Coordinator of ABEMO and Project Director of the grant (#1611), served as the featured speakers at the VGIF dinner honoring Virginia Palmer at the April 2003 Annual Meeting..

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Kathleen Magill, Convener

The Constitution and Bylaws stand as printed in August 2002. No changes were adopted at the Annual Meeting. Anyone wishing a copy of the document should contact Fay Kittelson at Gildersleeve headquarters in New York. Suggestions for amendments to any of the Bylaws for 2004 should be sent to Gildersleeve headquarters in New York, to arrive **no later than September 15, 2003**.

DEVELOPMENT

Maggie Ford, Convener

The Development Committee, now with a nearly full complement of members, has begun to address the daunting challenges in the Strategic Plan. Searching for new funds and members, in collaboration with the Membership Committee, we launched the pursuit of a marketing consultant to help us identify potential new partners. We have revised our contributions language, are designing gift acceptance guidelines, and are looking for outlets in which we can talk about VGIF and the benefits of investing charitable dollars with us for the benefit of women around the world.

If you're not currently or recently a member of VGIF, it's easy to do. Just make your contribution to any one of the endowments that support our grantmaking programs. It's that simple. And the results can be seen just by looking at the pages of the *VG UPDATE* that describe this year's program grants. Join us! It's fun and very satisfying.



It seems impossible that anyone would not respond to such facts with anything less than a desire to contribute in some way to changing this situation. Membership in VGIF provides an opportunity for such care and commitment to be realized. A contribution of \$20 US is a beginning, but a greater contribution is a goal for all of us. Members of VGIF, consider an increase in your own contribution and tell others of the successes of the Fund.

Cameroon: Three generations of circumcised women and girls

MEMBERSHIP

Jeanie Page Randall, Convener

Over the past three decades membership in the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund has grown slowly but steadily. Forty-two countries are represented by approximately 1400 individual memberships and nearly 200 group memberships.

While membership numbers are often a sign of the viability of an organization, VGIF has also witnessed a major increase in contributions from its members. This is especially important to the mission of the Fund. The membership committee encourages all members to be part of the ongoing effort to increase the number of people who actively support the Fund and also to consider their own individual contribution to the work of VGIF.

We are committed to recognizing and serving the needs of women and children whose educational and economic situations produce dire effects on their lives and health. Maximillian Rouer notes in Yann Arthus-Bertrand's book, *Earth from Above: 365 Days*, the following statistics that highlight the status of the world population VGIF most wants to aid:

- 40% of the world's population does not have electricity;
- 47% lives on less than two US dollars per day;
- 33% of children under the age of 5 suffer from malnutrition;
- one of 4 adults is illiterate;
- one of 5 people does not have access to modern health care;
- 80% lives in a developing country
- 41% of the active population is women;
- only 4.8% of public wealth is spent on education.

Join Us!

____ USD 20 Please accept my annual basic membership contribution to help further the work of the VGIF charitable and educational fund.

You may wish to contribute at a higher level:

USD 50 ____ 100 ____ 250 ____ 500 ____ 1,000 ____ Other _____

____ You may honor an individual by making a tribute, memorial or a named gift. Please submit names and addresses of persons to be notified.

You may designate your contribution to one of the endowment funds listed below:

____ THE ERNA HAMBURGER ENDOWMENT FUND The endowment supports projects enhancing scientific and mathematical skills of women and girls.

____ THE ASIAN REGIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND Established in 1997-98 to fund projects in Asia.

____ THE LEADERS FUND The fund supports projects considered cutting-edge, innovative or entrepreneurial in their countries, and honors a distinguished woman leader each year.

Name (please print) _____ Ms. ____ Mrs. ____ Mr. ____ Dr. ____

Address (please indicate country)

Telephone _____ Email address _____

Enclosed is my annual contribution of USD _____ (tax deductible in the United States)

Please make checks, bank drafts, and money orders payable in US currency drawn on a US based banking institution and send to:

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
 3 West 29th Street, Suite 1002
 New York, NY 10001 USA

If paying by credit card: __ VISA __ MasterCard

Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date ____/____

Cardholder name as it appears on your card _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Deaths Noted

Reported since
 January 2003 *VG Update*

- Evelyn Brody, AZ, USA
- Frances B. Concordia, FL, USA
- Martha B. Hill, MA, USA
- Jeannette F. Hosler, PA, USA
- Carol Morley, NY, USA
- Maria Palmyra Sasiain, Argentina

Dates to Remember

- June 19-23** AAUW Biennial Convention Providence, RI
- August 14-16** CFUW AGM Nova Scotia, Canada
- October 24-25** VGIF Midyear Meeting
- August 4-10, 2004** IFUW Triennial, Perth, Australia

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