



New York

President's Message

Greetings Members:

My how time flies! I hope you and yours enjoy the holidays and have a healthy and happy new year. A new year brings bright and shiny possibilities. It is a time of reflection and prompts us to do lots of thinking about what happened in the past year as we make plans for the new year ahead. Make sure you take full advantage of that

I am happy and honored to report that Liz is now our International President. On behalf of BPW-NY I want to congratulate Liz on her outstanding hard work and dedication. We are all fortunate to know you and wish you and your team every success during your term. Also congratulations to Sujey Albert, BPW International's incoming Finance Director, and Mary Scott, BPW North Shore, the new Chair of the Public Relations Committee.

Now is the time to ask yourself what can you do for BPW. You can start by, most importantly, renewing your membership. Dues are the lifeline of any organization. We can't accomplish all we need and want to do without your full support.

Next register for the CSW and attend our annual meeting, which will be held on **Saturday, March 7th, 2009** at the Harmonie Club, New York City. We hold our meeting at this time of year because of the UN's Conference on the Status of Women, as well as International Women's Day. What an informative and great networking opportunity to meet your BPWI Board and visiting BPWI members.

Hopefully, you will be including BPW on your "To Do" lists. Join an International Committee, Taskforce or add your name to the Experts' Panel (more information inside). Many of our BPW New York members already have. I wish to thank those who have agreed to serve on the Executive Board of BPW New York. Don't forget to vote for our new Executive Board

You need to also get more involved locally by joining one of New York's committees or coming up with a project or idea for our federation to take on, etc. Also consider attending the next Congress in 2011 in Finland or in 2014 in Korea (start saving now!). BPW International can help you grow and succeed not only as a person, but also as a professional. Remember sisterhood is global and not all women are as fortunate as you are. One woman can change anything, but many women can change everything.

Lastly, don't forget to read about what our BPWI sisters are doing, and what events lay ahead

**With my very warmest wishes,
Eileen Brennan**

BPW International Theme 2008 – 2011

"Power to Make a Difference"

Newsletter Fall/Winter 2008

Editor: Eileen Brennan, President



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Immediate Past President: Elizabeth Benham

Mission Statement

BPW International members take professional responsibility in all levels of society, the economy and politics, thinking and acting locally, nationally and globally in working with the United Nations and other international organizations while practicing networking, mentoring, lobbying and enjoying lifelong learning and friendships.

Visit the Web!

BPWI NY – www.bpw-newyork.org

BPW/USA - www.bpwusa.org

BPW International: www.bpw-international.org

BPW North America & Non-Spanish Speaking Caribbean
– www.bpw-northamerica.org

BPW Canada - www.bpwcanada.com



**New Members and Retention
Are Crucial to Bring
Lifeblood to Our Federation**

**The Future of BPW
Depends on You!**



If you are an individual member, please send your dues and 2009 membership form to Margherita Clemento, Treasurer, at the following address:

BPWI / NY
880 68th Street Apt 3J
Brooklyn, NY 11220-5703

If your entire local club are BPWI members, kindly fill out the membership form with your current information and email address and give to your President or Treasurer to forward to the above address along with the club's dues and a current club roster.



I would like to welcome our new and renewed members and thank them for choosing BPWI/NY.

Together Everyone Achieves More....



**Don't Miss
Our 2009 Annual General Meeting
Saturday, March 7th, 2009
10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Harmonie Club

Directions and parking are available contact Eileen Brennan or visit our website
4 East 60th Street, New York
Corner of 60th Street & 5th Avenue
Tel: (212) 355-7400

Come and Meet Our International Members



**Members: \$125.00 (we would appreciate it if
you could register by February 17, 2009)
At the door and Guests: \$145.00**

**Registration Fee Includes:
Conference, Materials,
Refreshments and Lunch**



Our annual general meeting runs in conjunction with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations. We are very fortunate to have all of our international executives here at this time, as well as many of our sister members worldwide who are in NYC for this event. Each year these guests attend our conference to support us. You'll also have an opportunity to experience a bit of old New York. The Harmonie Club is the second oldest New York City private club whose history dates back to 1852. It is housed in a turn of the 19th century building designed by [Stanford White](#). Today the club is host to various cultural, political, and entertainment events throughout the year. Why not expand your horizons and join all of us at this great event.



**Don't Forget to
Mail Your Ballot**



Once again we are voting a new Executive Board, which consists of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Young BPW, and the Immediate Past President. The candidates are- President - Eileen Brennan (2nd term), Vice President (vote 2)- Patricia Byron(2nd term) Althea Johnson, and Valentina Janek, Secretary – Barbara Howie, Treasurer - Margherita Clemento (currently serving as interim) and Young BPW -Alissa Kloner . Candidates' ballots will be mailed out to all members. Completed ballots must be postmarked and returned to the address indicated by January 31, 2009. On March 7, 2009 the results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting. .



President's Message 2008

It is with great joy that I take on the presidency of BPW International for the next three years. My vision for this triennium is to make many of our dreams in common, a reality. The reason you joined BPW was to become part of a powerful international network that will, and can, make a difference. The times call for action, not reaction but pro-action in addressing the issues and creating innovative solutions, which, for many reasons are now more critical than ever. I will work to give you that value by increasing our communications and visibility, strengthening our membership in all the countries, sustaining our financial viability with dues paid on time and with accurate declarations of numbers, while providing you, our members with excellent service, annual presidents seminars to focus on good governance, sharing experiences and best practices, education in personal development, business and leadership programs affordably offered, while increasing our voice, expertise and engagement on the international platform. No matter what your level of expertise is, this is an urgent call for our members in all the languages and cultures to do whatever they can on the local, national and international levels of BPW. You are needed so that together we can and will achieve more. Time is at a premium for us all, especially in a voluntary organization but with just small committed efforts from the many members, we can maximize

on the input and work that will provide results that we can all be proud of. Our organization does not have the luxury or capacity to have the first class services that other International organizations may enjoy because our dues do not allow us to compete and for this reason each and every member should take the responsibility of increasing membership allowing the low dues as our basic revenue for services to accomplish what we would expect from a 21st century international organization. Our very lifeline depends on our membership, financially, and for our high level presence on the international platform. Around the world our voices must be unified in our common goals of economic empowerment for ourselves, our families, neighbors and countries based on an equal status of decision making , politically, socially and economically while our members on all levels work to develop their professional potential. Each of us can and must take ownership of this great responsibility, as women and BPW members. I implore all our members to fully engage in this process and help me and the new executive board, our leaders and our founder to reach and make this a reality for the future.

In this triennium, I pledge to increase our efficiencies vertically and horizontally, building on the best practices to provide excellent value, programs and member services. I will encourage full engagement to support and attend local and national meetings, the upcoming exciting regional conferences and our next Congress in Helsinki, which will have so many great benefits that it cannot be missed! And finally, a BPW International organization that you will be proud to bring new members into, that will provide you international access, lifelong learning, leadership, mentoring and friendships to empower women around the world.

I am very much looking forward to working with the new executive team building on the past accomplishments and achieving our big goals for this next triennium.



**Executive Board
2008-11 and Standing
Committee Chairs**

- President** - Elizabeth Benham, New York, USA
- First Vice President** - Gabriella Canonica, Switzerland
- Second Vice President** - Freda Miriklis, Australia
- Executive Secretary** - Dr Jean Murray, Australia
- Finance Director** - Sujey Albert, New York, USA
- Young BPW Representative** - Nadia Munawar, Pakistan

- Regional Coordinators:**
- Africa** - Huguette Akplogan Dossa, Benin
- Asia Pacific** - Dr. Young Hai Park, Korea
- Europe** - Amelie Leclercq, France
- Latin America** - Dr. Yasmin Darwich, Mexico
- North America** – Jill Worobec, Canada

Chairs of Standing Committees 2008-11

AGRICULTURE - Beatriz Z. Fett, Brazil

ARTS & CRAFTS - Adelina Fabiano, Italy

BUSINESS, TRADE & TECHNOLOGY –

Rooma Para, Pakistan

DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT –

Marta Susana Solimano, Argentina

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - Les Viner, New Zealand

HEALTH - Faye Gardiner, New Zealand

LEGISLATION - Maria Del Carmen Lam, Chile

PROJECTS - Naphaphen Vejajiva, Thailand

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mary Scott, New York, USA

Members Needed



Members of standing committees above must be nominated by the President of BPW New York or our Regional Coordinator after submitting the required form. *To make your registration process to attend CSW53 as smooth as possible, additional information is also required. It is not mandatory but if you are applying for a Standing Committee, in consultation with Committee Chairs.

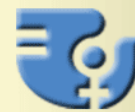
Members of Taskforces, Ad Hoc Committees and Expert Panels are appointed by the International President after consideration of their skills and expertise.

The following requirements are necessary in order to qualify:

- candidate should be knowledgeable / have expertise on the subject / theme of the Standing Committee in question either through education and/or experience (being “interested” is not enough)
- candidate has to be able to communicate proficiently:
 - read and write English well
 - have experience in writing reports and proposals
 - have access to and know how to use email, internet and Skype
- candidate should have enough time to participate in activities
- candidate should be willing and able to participate in at least one international or regional meeting per year
- candidate should be able and willing to (assist in) organize workshop or seminars on the subject involved
- both the candidate and their Federation or Associate Club must be financially able to pay their membership fee for 2008 must have been paid to BPW International in full

A nomination for Standing Committee or Taskforce membership (or for an alternate or an Expert Panel member) should reach the International President and the Chair of the Standing Committee in question (see attachment) **no later than December 10, 2008**. The nomination should include a recommendation of the candidate, her willingness to accept the nomination, a CV and the completed form (see attachment).

The Chair of the Standing Committee will advise the President of her preference for candidates.



Commission on the
Status of Women

Members who want to participate and pre-register for the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to be held on the **March 2 - 13, 2008** in New York need to register now as **the deadline is November 11, 2008**. With over 220 members signed up to date, please email back to presidents.office@bpw-international.org and copy your Regional Coordinator to list your participation at the CSW53 together with the completed form as it is processed you will receive a letter confirming your registration.

For this year, we will need extra information in order to accredit you:

1. Your title: Dr. / Mrs. / Ms.
2. Your Full name as shown on your passport.
3. Your BPW Club name and BPW Federation name (country).
4. *Country which you will depart prior to attend CSW in NY*.
5. *Your official address*
6. Your email address

1. Your weight, please indicate whether kg/lbs.

2. Your height, please indicate whether cm/inch.
3. Your eye color.
4. Your hair color.
5. Sex – Male/Female
6. Home Address:
7. Local Address:
8. Emergency Contact.
9. Place of Birth
10. Date of Birth

In addition, once confirmed you will receive ongoing communication from the Vice President and Chair of UN Women, Freda Miriklis, with regards to CSW53 Events planned for 2009 – workshops, seminars and social gatherings. You are warmly invited to participate. Additional information about the events and how to document them can be obtained from www.un.org/womenwatch/daw

The 2009 focus is on "**The equal sharing of responsibilities including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS**". In preparation for the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Working Group on Girls of the NGO Committee on UNICEF (WGC) and Governmental Organizations who plan to bring girls to the CSW53 are planning a series of events that will focus on the impact of caregiving on girls and intends to **include girls as panel and parallel event presenters**. The nomination should include a recommendation of the candidate, her willingness to accept the nomination, a CV and the completed form (see attachment).

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XXVI BPW International Congress
“Power to Make a Difference”
October 24-28, 2008



Collect

The following alternative version of the International Collect was adopted

We ask

That we meet together as women,
 Not allowing beliefs, religion, nationality, ethnicity or language to come
 between us.
 That we use our voices to move forward and
 advance the status of women throughout the world.

That the value of women be recognized
 in our families, our communities, our workplaces, our country and the world.

That we use our good ideas, our knowledge,
 and our experience to promote the worth of women.

That we combine our strengths to move forward
 in peace, in serenity and in love.

That women of all generations will do
 their part to achieve harmony and
 equality among all human beings.

Text by Suzanne Garant, BPW Québec Métropolitain (Canada)

Translation by Leslie West, BPW Montréal (Canada)

The XXVI BPW International Congress was held in Mexico City from October 24-28, 2008 at the Gran Melia Mexico Reforma Hotel. The theme of the Congress was "Power to Make a Difference" to recognize the contribution of women through leadership, action and advocacy.

I also want to thank all 34 USA International members (7 from California, 1 from Chicago, 2 from El Paso, 22 NY members, and 2 from Pacific Rim), who attended our Congress in Mexico City. Those who attended were impressed with the professionalism and variety of our membership and the quality and quantity of work accomplished. Our international members were both fun and friendly. I hope you now have a better appreciation and understanding of our wonderful organization.

Congress Highlights

On October 23, 2008, there were special pre-Congress events for Members of the Board of Directors. They enjoyed a tour and luncheon at the Mexican Parliament, where the Executive Board of BPW International was introduced in the parliamentary session (this honor is typically reserved for Head of States and Ambassadors). Later that day they were welcomed to the Mayor's Reception at Palacio Del Ayuntamiento where members were fascinated to look into the historical past of Mexico City and enjoy food, fun and dancing!

On October 24, 2008, after the pre-congress meetings/workshops/Board of Directors meeting, we had a beautiful Opening Ceremony at Centro Cultural Universitario Tlalalolco. This included the march of the flags, the ceremony for the inaugural Lena Madesin Phillips Awards (awarded to Dr. Livia Ricci, Dr. Yvette Swan and Sylvia Perry), Badge of Honor Awards (presented to Dr. Charnsamorn Wattanavekin, Dr. Pat Harrison and Joan Bielby) and the Gertrude Mongella Award (won by BPW Barbados). A police band and Aztec dancers added pomp and culture to the ceremony. Everyone seemed to like the BPW introductory video shown at the Opening Ceremony. This was followed by the President's Reception.

On October 25, 2008, the social events began with the traditional Young BPW Breakfast with the President when a group photo was taken on the balcony of the Presidential Suite showing a live volcano in the distant horizon. The fun continued in the evening with Young BPW Girls Night Out at the Salon Tenampa (where Mariarchis play their music all day and all night). The Friends and Fellows function was a visit to the Frida Kahlo Blue House and then an enjoyable dinner at San Angel Inn restaurant - with music, including a beautiful singing performance by Dr Silvia Silvia Salazaar, and more fun and games.

Farewell Message from Immediate Past President Viravan

As of October 29, 2008, my term of presidency has officially come to an end. I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who supported me during my 2005-2008 triennium.

Collect

The following alternative version of the International Collect was

We ask

That we meet together as women,
Not allowing beliefs, religion, nationality, ethnicity or language to come between us.

That these meetings enable us to move forward and
Advance the status of women throughout the world.

That the value of women be recognized

In our families, our communities, our workplaces, our country and the world;

That we use our good ideas, our knowledge,

Our experience to promote the worth of women.

That we combine our strengths to move forward

In peace, in serenity and in love.

That women of all generations will do

Their part to achieve harmony and

Equality among all human beings.

Text by Suzanne Garant, BPW Québec Métropolitain (Canada)

Translation by Leslie West, BPW Montréal (Canada)



BPW International Wins Award of Excellence for its Website

The Awards for Publication Excellence™ (APEX- USA) announced that the International Federation of Business and Professional Women won an Award of Excellence for its website – www.bpw-international.org under the category of “most improved web or intranet site”. Of special interest, was the microsite built for the BPW International Congress held in Mexico on October 24-28 and the mentoring web section which showcases the mentoring and skills training programs in over 20 countries.



BPW International Candle Lighting Ceremony

Farewell Message from Immediate Past President **Viravan**

As of October 29, 2008, my term of presidency has officially come to an end. It has been the most rewarding and challenging years of my life. I managed to navigate and arrive safely at the end of my term. I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who supported me during the 2005-2008 triennium.

Beginning February of each year BPWI federations worldwide conduct a candle lighting ceremony reflecting the bonding of women from many parts of the world. It is an emotional event which leaves one with the uplifting thought that they are part of a network of strong and dedicated women. For additional information visit <http://www.bpw-international.org/activities/about-bpw-candlelighting-ceremony.htm>



Openings in Finance, Membership, Public Relations and Bylaws. Welcome our international members to New York as part of the Hospitality Committee. This is a wonderful learning experience and we are in great need of more members to **serve on the TEAM.**

Local Winners



Congratulations and special thanks to Gayle Haines and Barbara Howie, BayShore; Liz Benham and Eileen Brennan, North Shore; Kerry Williams, Nassau ; Danielle Boehmcke, Olga Ferolito and Trish Rubin, Manhattan; and Susan

Dorward, New Jersey, for taking the challenge to recruit at least 3 new members in this triennium.

Membership

Membership is everyone's responsibility! Why? Because, members keep us as an organization viable and sustains us financially! Membership provides the opportunity to maximize the efforts of our voluntary organization in order to accomplish the mission, goals, day to day management and the many projects that are important to our affiliates. Without members we are nothing. They are our inventory and the basis of why we exist and espouse that we are one of the leading organizations of the world. Let us all commit to making BPW International grow and visible to the world!



Why not join our Hospitality Committee for a similar experience of your own.

If you are interested in providing for international members to stay at your home (gratis or for a fee), please contact me so I can prepare a listing for when these members reach out to me. Also if you know of any inexpensive or nice places to stay or visit in the area please let me know so we can add them to our website liaison section. Lastly, please let me know if you are interested in signing up to join our Hospitality Committee so that when our international guests arrive we have members available to act as hostesses and show them around. I can assure you that you will not only have a great time, you will learn a lot and will be reciprocated should you ever travel internationally.



Bay Shore BPW Honors Women Veterans

On September 11, 2008, Bay Shore BPW co-hosted **Women Veterans Day** at the Long Island Ducks Stadium, which turned out to be a wonderful event for all who attended. Seven women veterans and their families had a great time.

Those who attended were very appreciative, and requested that this event be held annually so that other female veteran friends could attend. The major sponsor representatives from

CitiBank, Newsday and Prudential all had a great time as well. Bay Shore members worked hard before, during and after, but in the end, it was well worth it. All but two of Bay Shore's members were able to actively participate in the event. When one of the guests became a BPW member on the spot she immediately jumped right in and took on club tasks that evening. In addition, a young man from a local group home wanted to do something for 9/11, Bay Shore BPW also took him on board and utilized his great assistance.

In addition to honoring our female veterans and giving them and their families a wonderful time, this event brought out the importance of Bay Shore BPW to the community. Bay Shore BPW sold ads for their program and handed them out to hundreds of people, along with raffle tickets and membership forms in self-addressed envelopes. By partnering with Prudential at the promotion table, Bay Shore BPW provided a valuable service to families in the community by taking fingerprint and DNA samples of children for parents to keep in case of child abduction (I.D. A KID). The local police department sent several officers and a number of students in training to help. BPW Bay Shore's booth certainly attracted attention!



If you would like to make an announcement about yourself or another member, contact your BPW-New York President.



BPW International is supporting Global Consortium of Women to End Cervical Cancer. After our Congress in Mexico City, many of our members already start signing this petition to support Global Consortium of Women to End Cervical Cancer (see <http://www.bpw-international.org/connections/connections-global-consortium-cervical-cancer.htm>). If you have not done so, kindly visit <http://www.globewomen2.org/petition/signatures?do=thanks> www.globewomen.org/cervicalcancer and sign your name too.

Quote from www.globewomen.org "Every year around the globe, 500,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and over 250,000 women die from the disease—which means that nearly 700 women die needlessly each day. Education and access to affordable cervical cancer prevention programs can prevent this disease."

Right now **631** people already signed this petition. We need all your support. If possible, after you signed the petition,

could you kindly forward this email to your friends at least 5-10 people and watch the number grow.

Donate to the Project Five-O General Fund



Project Five-O offers funding for projects in vocational training for women in developing countries. As Project Five-O funds are depleting, member organizations need to help raise funds so that support for the projects may continue. It is essential that individual members and affiliates of BPW help raise funds on a volunteer basis.

There are projects in Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, India, Latvia, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, South Africa, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe. For further information visit www.project-five-o.org.

La Paz Nursing School



You or your club can sponsor a La Paz Nursing School student for **\$60/student per semester**. What a great thing to do for such a small amount of money.

Effort to Induct Our Founder, Lena Madessin Phillips, Into the National Women's Hall of Fame



In 1969, a group of women and men of Seneca Falls created the National Women's Hall of Fame, believing that the contribution of American women deserved a permanent home in the small village where it all began. The Hall is home to exhibits, artifacts of historical interest, a research library and office. The National Women's Hall of Fame, a national membership organization, holds as its mission:

"To honor in perpetuity these women, citizens of the United States of America whose contributions to the arts, athletics, business, education, government, the humanities, philanthropy and science, have been the greatest value for the development of their country."

The Hall is a shrine to some of the greatest women in the history of this country and a tribute that grows annually with each induction ceremony as we learn to appreciate more about the wonderful contributions that women make to our civilization. Nominations are judged by independent panels of judges, newly recruited every year. The judges' panels are composed of distinguished citizens with expertise in one or more of the areas of achievement outlined in the Hall's mission and of representatives from respected, relevant national organizations.

In 2003, the membership of BPW USA passed a non-public policy resolution to instruct the Executive Committee to submit the name of Lena Madessin Phillips, BPW/USA Past National President, for nomination to the National Women's Hall of Fame. The Executive Committee did submit her name and a written justification. Lena Madessin Phillips was considered by the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2007 and not approved. She will be up for consideration again in 2009. We need your support so that this resolution becomes a reality. Each member should communicate to the National Women's Hall of fame the importance of our founder and her monumental contributions both locally and globally. For further information visit greatwomen@greatwomen.org

16 Days of Activism
Against Gender Violence

For the Health of Women
For the Health of the World
No More Violence



The 16 Days of Activism begins on November 25th, which has been declared an International Day Against Violence Against Women. and goes until December 10th, International Human Rights Day. These dates were chosen in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that violence is a violation of human rights. The 16 Days Campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Since then more than 1,700 organizations in 130 countries have participated. November 25th has been declared an International Day Against Violence Against and was chosen to commemorate the death of the three Mirabel sisters who were detained, tortured and assassinated in 1960 during the dictatorship of Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Today, November 25th is internationally recognized as a day of protest against violence

against women. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including December 1st, World AIDS Day, December 3rd, International Day of the Disabled. It also includes December 6th which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, when 14 young female engineering students were massacred by a lone gun-man opposed to the affirmative action policies promoted by feminists at the University of Montreal. Before opening fire, the gunman shouted "You're all a bunch of feminists, and I hate feminists!" In addition, December 10th, World Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed in 1948. Article 2 of the Declaration proclaims "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex." This action played a vital role at the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in recognizing violence against women as a human rights violation.

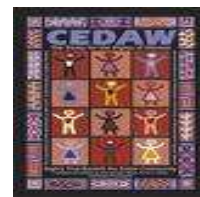
Since it began, the 16 Days of Activism has been used as an organizing strategy by women's groups to call for the elimination of violence against women by:

- Raising awareness about gender based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels
- Strengthening local work around violence against women
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- Providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share effective strategies
- Demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women
- Creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women

International Women's Day



International Women's Day (IWD) is observed on March 8th every year. It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. For further information visit <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/about.asp>



HISTORY of CEDAW in the US

*The U.S. was active in drafting CEDAW and President Jimmy Carter signed it on July 17, 1980. It was transmitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in November, 1980.

*During the Regan Administration CEDAW was largely buried.

*In the summer of 1990, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on the treaty. At that time, the State Department testified that it had not prepared a legal analysis of the treaty to determine how it comports with U.S. law.

*In the Spring of 1993, sixty-eight senators signed a letter to President Clinton, asking him to take the necessary steps to ratify CEDAW. In June of 1993, former Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna that the Administration would move on the Women's convention and other human rights treaties.

*The Clinton State Department finally released CEDAW with four reservations, three understandings, and two declarations on issues such as comparable worth, paid maternity leave, freedom of speech, private conduct, and combat assignments.

*In September 1994, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported out favorably on the treaty, by a vote of 13 to 5 (with one abstention). Unfortunately, this occurred in the last days of the Congressional session, when several Republican senators put a hold on the treaty, blocking it from the Senate floor during the 103rd Congress.

*When the new Senate convened in January 1995, CEDAW was submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations committee for action, where it remained at the end of the 104th Congress in October 1996.

*On March 8, 1999, International Women's Day, Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, made a statement on the Senate Floor expressing his opposition to bringing CEDAW to a hearing and eventual ratification.

*Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), on April 12, 2000, introduced S. Res. 286 in support of CEDAW. S. Res. 286 expresses the sense of the Senate that the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations should hold hearings and the

Senate should act on CEDAW by July 19, 2000.

*With Jesse Helms retired and a brief period of a Democrat Senate majority, CEDAW was approved on July 30, 2002 by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a 12-7 bipartisan vote. However, the Senate adjourned in 2002 without time for a vote on ratification. The treaty is now back in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under the leadership of the current chairman Richard Lugar (R-IN).

*On October 8, 2002 The Feminist Majority President Eleanor Smeal, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) the ranking minority leader of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, several key members of Congress, and over 170 women's rights and major non-governmental organizations voiced their support for the US ratification of CEDAW.

*The current Bush Administration has still not taken a formal position on CEDAW, though the State Department reported to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the treaty is "generally desirable and should be ratified."

Latest Major Action: 9/23/2008 **H.RES.1482** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to let them know that you support ratification of CEDAW/The Woman's Treaty.

Congress Should Pass the Trafficking Victims Protection Act



Did you know that modern human slavery holds captive an estimated 2.7 million sex and labor slaves across the globe. You have heard of narco-trafficking and the arms trade, but right up there with the drug and gun rackets is the global slave market. Victims are targeted and taken for many reasons: because they are poor, because they are in debt, or simply because they are in the wrong place at the wrong time. They work in brothels, in factories, on farms, and anywhere else where their masters can exploit their labor for cash.

Here in the United States, human trafficking is a cause in need of more and louder advocates. The Trafficking Victims

Protection Act (TVPA) is currently up for renewal. It passed the House, but is currently bogged down in the Senate (see <http://www.polarisproject.org/> for more information). The bill (H.R. 3887 introduced by Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and S. 3061 introduced by Senator Joseph Biden) outlines protections for victims and makes human trafficking a federal crime, establishing standards for proof and prosecution. **Latest Major Action:** 9/8/2008 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 946

This is a human rights issue of monumental proportion. About 80% of the slaves are women (see <https://www.sharedhope.org/>). 50% of all trafficking victims are children. These women and children come from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, and yes, the United States. They are most often bound for the commercial sex industry, where their traffickers use them to make a tidy profit until the women die. In fact, trafficking in slaves is now the second most profitable criminal enterprise in the world,

and the fastest-growing. Unless we step in and speak up for these women and children, some of whom are literally in chains, their situation is not going to get any better. We need Congress to reauthorize the TVPA, and we need the public to take heed of this issue.

For more information and for action suggestions, see: Polaris Project, <http://actioncenter.polarisproject.org/>; Free the Slaves, <http://www.freetheslaves.net/>; Shared Hope, <https://www.sharedhope.org/>; International Justice Mission, <http://www.ijm.org/>; The Center for Women Policy Studies, <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/> and <http://www.womenstreaty.org/>

Women's History Month



March is Women's History month, a time to remember and appreciate the important historical contributions of women, as well as recognize their continued influence in our society today. Literally and figuratively, we wouldn't be here without them.

Before you begin learning about important women and events in history, it's worth taking a few minutes to learn about Women's History Month. Visit the National Women's History Project website, where you can read the Presidential Proclamation of National Women's History Month, and the Congressional Resolution declaring National Women's History Month.



The National Women's History Museum (NWHM) hopes to buy property across from the National Mall as the site of a new comprehensive museum that would recognize the accomplishments and contributions of women to this nation. The sale of the land, which is federal property, must be approved by Congress. A bipartisan bill, H.R. 6548, introduced by Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), will allow NWHM to purchase the land - at fair market value. BPW/USA supports the building of a National Women's History Museum. Visit the NWHM website and find out what you can do to help with this important effort.



New Poll Finds Women More Affected by Economic Problems

According to a recent poll by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), women feel the impact of economic insecurity and rising food, energy, education, and health care costs more deeply than men – and see government as a key to the solution. According to the poll results women want better and more accessible health care, an end to the wage gap, high quality child care and economic security. Visit the NWLC website for details.



Women Underrepresented in State Government

A new study suggests that few women and minorities are being appointed to top state jobs. The report, from the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society at the State University of New York at Albany, tallied how many women and minorities were appointed by governors in the 50 states to leadership jobs between 1997 and 2007. Of 1,834 top state jobs — including advisers to governors, department and commission heads — 35 percent were held by female appointees. Minorities held less than 16 percent. Gains varied significantly from state to state. In 15 states, including New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, the number of female

department heads doubled from 1997 to 2007. In another 11 states, the number fell, and in Iowa, Alabama and North Carolina, the number of women appointees dropped by more than half. <http://www.cwig.albany.edu/>

Swap Your Home for the Chance of a Lifetime



A member of BPW Germany (BPW Goettingen), who lived in Boston, MA during her postdoctorate time, misses Boston and the USA very much. She and her family are planning to swap their home in Germany for four weeks next summer (July 1st to August 1st 2009). Perhaps you and your family would like to stay in Germany during the same time.

Göttingen is connected to the rapid train system (ICE; inter city express) and therefore is a perfect location to explore Germany (2 hours to Berlin or Hamburg; 30 min to Hannover, 2 ½ hours to Frankfurt; 4 hours to Munich or Stuttgart). The house is a 4 bed room, end-of-terrace house with a big garden and is within a 5 minute walking distance to Göttingen downtown or the train station, and a 2 minute walk to the bus stop. She has two young kids (2 and 6 years old) and her home would be a perfect place for a family (swing set...) If you are interested please contact Martina: mhs@bioskills.de

BPW Business and Member Pages

Are you looking to increase your business exposure or to expand internationally? Be sure to register on BPW's Business and Member Pages at www.bpw-business.org/ **Members can register their personal information for free, so don't pass up this great opportunity, especially if you want to interact internationally or plan on travelling.** It is a wonderful tool to make your membership visible and to link you worldwide by profession, trade, business, etc., which is one of the great benefits of our international network

BPW Roster

BPW members can now view BPW Roster for Federations and Associate Clubs from all 5 regions online via www.bpw-roster.info or via www.bpw-international.org under MEMBERS / ROSTER. The roster online brings you the latest contact information when you need it. There are instructions in all 4 official languages on how to make updates.

Vision Statement

"To achieve a just and equal status for women in all levels and areas of society where the decisions are taken in true partnership with man, based on mutual respect, for a more balanced and peaceful world."



March 2 – 13, 2009
Commission on the Status of Women
NYC

March 7, 2009
BPWINY Annual Meeting
Harmonie Club
New York, NY

Equal Pay Day - April 28, 2009

September 4 – 6, 2009
13th BPW European Congress
Munich, Germany

June 17-21, 2011
27th BPW International Congress
Helsinki, Finland