



## New York

### Presidents Message

Greetings Members:

I can't believe how fast this summer went. Here it is autumn and the leaves are already turning colors and carpeting our lawns. With each change of season comes an opportunity to reflect on where we are and where we are going. We need to make sure we are still on track as we continue to strive.

I would like to once again thank all BPWNY members who helped set up and host our annual International Chocolates and Liqueurs night at BPWUSA's conference in Reno and at the NYS Fall Board. I would also like to welcome all of our new members.

At this time of year we also recognize our founder, Lena Madesin Phillips' birth and accomplishments. A brief biography on Lena follows. Lena sure was a woman ahead of her time!

BPWI 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Liz Benham and I met Eliana Chiappette, BPWI – Brazil and Rima Tarazi – Palestine to have lunch at the UN. A great time was had by all.

During the month of September we celebrated Ethnic Foods, National Hispanic Heritage (Sept.-Oct.), International Self-Awareness, as well as the International Day of Peace. In October, public attention was placed on AIDS, Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness. October is also UNICEF and Polish-American Heritage Month. UN Day was October 24<sup>th</sup>.

During November we celebrate Indian and Native American Heritage. Don't forget World Peace Day on November 17<sup>th</sup>. From November 25 – December 10 there are 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence which symbolically links violence against women and human rights to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. At this time of year it is important to remember those women who struggle everyday due to the violent atmosphere they live in. Why not make a donation to a nearby shelter.

Don't forget to vote in November. Our foremothers fought long and hard to ensure that we obtain this right. Don't take it for granted!

**Mark your calendars now and reserve Saturday, March 1, 2008, for an informative and great networking opportunity at our next Annual general meeting.** More information will follow.

Also mark your calendars for our International Congress in Mexico in October 2008. The location has been moved to Mexico City. Read all about it.

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

**BPW International Theme 2005 - 2008**  
**"New Dimensions of Leadership"**

## Newsletter

**Fall, 2007**

Editor: Eileen Brennan, President



### Executive Board

**President: Eileen Brennan**

Ph: 631 423-8821

94 Iceland Drive

Huntington Station, NY 11746

[eibren@aol.com](mailto:eibren@aol.com)

**Vice President: Patricia Byron**

Ph: 978 448-2217 Fax: 978 448-0061

5 Lakeside Drive

Groton, MA 01450

[PBCB4@cs.com](mailto:PBCB4@cs.com)

**Treasurer: Denise Dagostaro**

Ph: 908 317-9180 Fax: 908 317-0923

766 Central Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

[ddagostaro@aol.com](mailto:ddagostaro@aol.com)

**Recording Secretary: open**

**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.

## A Note from our Treasurer

I would like to welcome and thank new members Amy Allen, Jean Battersby, Caroline Coscia, Carmel Fauci, Ruth Hegarty, Patti Katzman, Helen Rico, Ruth Sklar, Caren Turner, and Mona Winogras for choosing BPWI/NY.

To all members who have forgotten to renew their membership for 2007, please send your dues to my attention at the following address:

BPWI/NY  
PO Box 247  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

## Lena Madesin Phillips

1881-1955

**Founder of National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs**



LENA MADESIN PHILLIPS once said "I take it that neither God nor man foreordained or foresaw that the labor of the world was to be performed by one sex." A born leader, she took a path of incremental steps that prevented her from becoming a "wife of" or "mother of."

Instead, her life work resulted in the founding and developing of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. People are just beginning to value the work ethic and lifestyle of single women or married women with no children whose lives and identities are fulfilled by their life work outside the home. Madesin Phillips was ahead of her time.

Anna Lena Phillips was born in 1881 in the small village of Nicholasville where her father was the county judge. Through him she learned about politics and law. He did not discourage her in learning unladylike skills such as shooting, carpentry, fishing and camping. When she asked for a bicycle, he bought her one. Her mother did

manage to instill in her daughter a love of music, so that Anna's claim to fame was her accomplishment as a musician.

When Anna was eleven she scored her first victory over parental determination. She detested her given name and invented a new one. She was fascinated with the French word for medicine – medecin. Perseverance was one of her strongest traits, and it wasn't long before "Anna" was erased from everyone's memory. Lena Madesin Phillips became her name; to family and friends she was Madesin.

Phillips was a conspicuous leader at the Jessamine Female Institute, and in 1888, she formed a military company comprised entirely of females. She was chosen the captain of "The Main Avengers," whose members intended to offer their services after graduation to the United States in its fight against Spain.



1899 Graduating class at Jessamine Female Institute

Phillips went on to Goucher college and then to study at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. Her ambitions to become a concert pianist ended prematurely when she injured her right arm, but this loss for the music world was a gain for the world of politics and social reform.

Eventually Madesin turned a life-long interest in the law into a degree. Some conservative students disapproved of her entrance in their classes, believing their work would be retarded, but when the semester grades were posted on the bulletin board, their attitude changed: she had made all A's. She graduated June, 1917 as the first woman honor graduate at the University's 50th commencement. At age 36 she hung her shingle up across the street from her father's office at the court house.

While practicing law in Lexington Phillips became involved with the local Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and she was quickly offered the

position of executive secretary for the business and professional women's division of the *national* organization. In this job, she traveled thousands of miles surveying women as to the feasibility of a separate organization for business and professional women. Positive results led to her recommendation that the Business and Professional Women's organization (BPW) be founded and on July 14, 1919 Madessin's goal – a national organization of business and professional women who would bring solidarity to women throughout the nation became a reality. Madessin Phillips resumed her practice of law in New York City and served as BPW/USA President from 1926-1929. She believed in supporting organizational policies that were not regional-biased but were for the good of all women. In the 20s her concern was to get women to look beyond their own borders, whether local, state or country, long before the term "global inclusivity" was coined.



She was that rare combination of a dreamer *and* a doer. She realized that BPW was ready to come into contact with the business women of other countries. On August 26, 1930, in Geneva, Madessin Phillips' dream was realized with the establishment of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. She spent the next twenty-five years of her

life dedicated to the Federation.

In the Lena Madessin Phillips Collection, housed at the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College, researchers find a letter addressed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt imploring him to include suffragist Susan B. Anthony in the proposed Mount Rushmore Memorial:

*To us there seems needless irony in preparing for posterity an enduring memorial of America's liberators and at the same time omitting from it the liberator of one-half of our people.*

She died unexpectedly in 1955, while traveling to the Middle East as part of a Federation study committee. She died being herself, a dreamer *and* a doer.



The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly, and was first inaugurated on the third Tuesday of September, 1982. Beginning on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002, the UN General Assembly set September 21<sup>st</sup> as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

In establishing the International Day of Peace, the United Nations General Assembly decided that it would be appropriate

*"to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways... (The International Day of Peace) should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."*

The Assembly's resolution declared that the International Day of Peace

*"will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our Organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the Organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace. May this Peace Day indeed be a day of peace."*



The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories.

United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year.

Other UN Facts:

The UN's permanent missions are in Geneva and Vienna, as well as New York.

The United Nations in Geneva is the biggest United Nations duty station outside of headquarters in New York and provides critical support to the Organization's efforts. This office conducts over 8,000 meetings every year, making UNOG one of the busiest intergovernmental conference centers in the world and a focal point for multilateral diplomacy

The United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) was established on January 1, 1980, to serve as the representative office of the Secretary-General in Vienna and performs representation and liaison functions with permanent missions, the host Government as well as Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in Vienna.

## **World Health Organization Report**

Countries around the world need to scale-up domestic violence prevention and make a concerted effort to measure violence-related deaths, injuries and health conditions, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In the Third Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Report 2007, the agency reviews progress since the 2002 creation of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, assessing how far the world has come and where more work is needed.

"Beyond an increased awareness of the burden of violence-related deaths and physical injuries, the last five years have witnessed a major growth in the understanding of how violence contributes to a wide spectrum of non-injury health consequences and health risk behaviors across the entire lifespan," it says.

Although much remains to be done, the report notes considerable progress. By 2007, three of the six WHO regional committees had adopted violence prevention resolutions, more than 25 countries had developed reports and/or plans of action on violence and health, and more than 100 officially appointed health ministry focal

persons were in place to prevent violence, the report finds.

The report offers a five year agenda to follow-up on key recommendations. WHO recommends that countries: Create, implement and monitor national action plans for violence prevention; Enhance capacity for collecting data

on violence; Define properties for, and support research on, the causes, consequences, costs and prevention of violence;

Promote primary prevention responses; Strengthen responses for victims of violence; Integrate violence prevention into social and educational policies, and thereby promote gender and social equality; Increase collaboration and exchange of information on violence prevention; Promote and monitor adherence to international treaties, laws and other mechanisms to promote human rights; and Seek practical, internationally agreed to responses to the global drug trade and global arms trade.

Director-General of the World Health Organization Margaret Chan notes, "Visible results for violence prevention builds confidence, and in turn, the political commitment and momentum required to intensify and expand the prevention of violence."

\*To view the new report, please visit [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595476\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595476_eng.pdf).\*

## **Trafficking in Women**

Norma Ramos, Co-executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International reports that in the 20 years that the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International has worked to end human trafficking studies show that legalizing prostitution serves to make it worse.

The fact is that 80 percent of human trafficking is for prostitution. A few years ago when Sweden was faced with increasing human trafficking within its borders, it chose an inspired approach to trafficking.

First, it recognized that prostitution is violence against women and undermining of gender equality. It criminalized the pimps and buyers, and decriminalized the prostituted, offering them an exit strategy.

Prostitution is highly political, and Sweden has now provided us with an inspired legal approach. The question remaining is what will it take for the United States to develop the political will to end human trafficking within our own borders.

## Congratulations:



(Left to Right): Eric Meyer, Chonchanok Viravan, Anne Schowe with Outstanding Alumni Awards at Lawson Computer Science Building, Purdue University

President Chonchanok received her Ph.D. from Computer Science Department in 1994. Her thesis topic was “Enhancing Debugging Technology”. Purdue University is the first University in the world to establish Computer Science Department.

In addition, a luncheon to congratulate Dr. Chonchanok and the other recipients of the Outstanding Alumni Awards in College of Science was held on the same day at Dick and Sandy Alumni Center, Purdue University. Earlier in the day, all three outstanding alumni award winners met with professors and students at a Welcome Reception hosted by Head of Computer Science Department, Dr. Aditya Mathur.



Fang Public Relations wins 2007 Award of Excellence from the Awards for Publication Excellence™ (USA) for the Marketing and Public Relations Campaign for the Center for Creative Leadership

During the one year time period, Anna Fang Public Relations gained over US\$380,000 in media coverage and value for the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) through media interviews and published articles with a resulting 50 million television viewers in the Asia Pacific region and over 3 million readers in Hong Kong. She assisted CCL in obtaining a regular series in the **South China Morning Post** among other published interviews and contributed articles. During Q1 2006, CCL sponsored CCL’s Women’s Leadership Program (WLP) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Association of Business and Professional Women in Hong Kong and two HKABPW members were selected as recipients of scholarships to attend the WLP when it was held in Singapore.

## Africa Regional Conference, Cotonou 2007



Amany Asfour, Chonchanok Viravan and BPW Cotonou members

## The 4th Young BPW International Meeting



Participants at Young BPW International Meeting

## The 4th Young BPW International Meeting



Sight seeing at Museum after the meeting



Alissa Kloner and Danielle Boechmcke (Manhattan Club) were able to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Young BPW International Meeting in Seoul, South Korea, with the assistance of a BPWI grant subsidy and monies through an anonymous donation to our federation. Alissa is pictured above with BPWI 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and BPWINY member Liz Benham and Danielle.

The 4th Young BPW International meeting successfully took place in Seoul, South Korea from May 10 – 13, 2007. Young BPW members from different parts of the world participated in this outstanding event and experienced international learning and friendship while they enjoyed the rich Korean culture and hospitality.

Young BPW members participated in a field trip to Ubiquitous Exhibition Center, Ministry of Information & Communication, and Innovation Hall, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs to see and experience the advanced high-tech side of Korea. Young BPW members also attended several fruitful sessions, including talks on the Benefits of BPW for Young Business and Professional Women, New Dimensions of Leadership, Capacity building for Young women, BPW Mentoring programs, experience from attending United Nations meetings, E-Business training experience, and IDP training the trainers experience. The Young BPW members also participated in brainstorming sessions on the organization review and reform and got to present their ideas, suggestions for BPW and Young BPW network.

For the first time professional university training was organized just for Young BPW members to enhance their careers by giving them an international certification from a well-recognized university. For this occasion, the university formulated a one-day workshop version, which included topics such as Global Women Leadership by President of Sookmyung Women University, Building strong and competitive corporate culture by former CEO of General Electric (GE) Korea. Other topics included Sympathetic communication, conflict management, creativity and planning, which were presented by experts of the field. There was also a Grand Reception and Award Presentation Event hosted by the Mayor of Seoul.

This conference was a learning experience which was accompanied by a lot of fun activities like shopping, cultural shows; music and dance which allowed our members to enjoy, network and learn more about the city of Seoul.

**WANTED – Members to Join Committees and attend our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 2, 2008, at the Harmine Club, New York City**

Mark your calendars now and reserve March 2, 2008, to attend our next annual meeting for an informative and great networking opportunity. In addition, I am urging all members to consider joining one of the following committees:

Membership and Bylaws  
Finance  
Club Liaison  
Public Relations  
Communication  
Hospitality

This is a wonderful learning experience and we are in great need of more members to **serve on the TEAM.**

## **Winning the Right to Vote and Entering Politics Worldwide for Over One Hundred Years**

1902 - Australian women get the right to vote in all federal elections. Vida Goldstein runs for the senate there, becoming the first woman in the British Empire to run for a national office.

1917 - Russian Revolution; Soviet women get the vote.

1918 - Canadian women get the vote.

Hungarian feminist and pacifist Rosika Schwimmer becomes the world's first woman ambassador when she is appointed ambassador to Switzerland.

1920 - With the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, U.S. women get the vote.

1924 Nellie Tayloe Ross is elected first woman governor in U.S. (Wyoming).

1928 - Age of suffrage is lowered from 30 to 21 in Great Britain.

1933 - Frances Perkins becomes Secretary of Labor, the first woman cabinet member in U.S. history.

1949 - Communists establish People's Republic of China; women get the vote.

1950 - In India, women over 21 years old get the right to vote.

1958 - Swedish diplomat Agda Rössel is the first woman to head a permanent delegation to the United Nations.  
Indira Gandhi becomes prime minister of India.

1969 - Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel.

1979- Margaret Thatcher elected first woman prime minister of Great Britain.

1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor appointed first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

1984- Geraldine Ferraro becomes first woman vice-presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party.

1986 - Corazon Aquino elected president of Philippines.

1988 - Benazir Bhutto sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan.

1990 - Mary Robinson is elected President of Ireland.

1993 - Kim Campbell is elected the first woman prime minister of Canada.

Tansu Cillar is elected the first woman prime minister of Turkey.

Janet Reno became U.S. attorney general.

1994 - Executive Ann Marie Fudge is named head of Maxwell House, a unit of Kraft General Foods.

1995 - United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women is held in Beijing, China.

Myrlie Evers-Williams is elected chairperson of the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). A writer, activist and widow of slain civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Williams **wins by one vote.**

1997 - Czech-born American diplomat Madeleine Albright is unanimously confirmed by the Senate and

becomes the first female U.S. Secretary of State.

Jody Williams, the American activist who helped found the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), is awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

Janet Jagan, wife of Guyana's former president, the late Cheddi Jagan, is sworn in as Guyana's president in December.

Alexis Herman is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Secretary of Labor.

Mary McAleese becomes the second woman in a row to be elected President of Ireland.

Jenny Shipley is sworn in as Prime Minister of New Zealand, the first woman to occupy the post.

1998 - The U.S. Senate confirms the appointment of Dr. Jane Henney as the new Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), making her the first woman to head the organization.

1999 - Shaikh Jabir As-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Amir, reinstates women's right to participate in the democratic process in Kuwait, where for many years only men had the right to participate in politics.

2000 - Hillary Rodham Clinton is elected to the U.S. Senate representing New York, becoming the first First Lady to be elected to a political office.

2003 - Californian Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman to serve as Democratic Minority Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Millions of Women Still Fail to Cast Ballots:  
by Jacqueline Lee, WeNews correspondent

U.S. women mark their 87th year of suffrage under the 19th Amendment on Aug. 26. But millions of women remain stubbornly disenfranchised by factors such as under-representation, social instability and culture gaps.

Women have turned out to vote at a higher rate than men since the 1980s. In the 2006 midterm election 2 million more young women voted than in the previous comparable cycle, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, which credits the rise in part to the Feminist Majority Foundation's "Get Out Her Vote"

effort aimed at college women. Moreover, 55 percent of female voters cast their ballots for Democrats in House races, while only 50 percent of male voters did. In fact, female voters were responsible for key Democratic victories in the House and the Senate. However, those figures do not reflect the fact that many women's votes are missing from the count. In the last presidential election, 8 million women registered but did not vote; another 36 million potential female voters were not registered at all, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Membership

It is very exciting to report that BPW International has approved and welcomed (3) new country federations. Spain, Egypt and Sudan. Congratulations to all!

In addition we have many new clubs in the process of formalizing.

Membership responsibility lies with all our members and I am very happy that it is being evidenced by BPW International's growth in all the regions.

Liz Benham  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Membership Chair

## BPWINY Goes on the Road



Left BPWNYS President Linda Provo next to BPWINY member Laura Bauver and Elizabeth Manns (MA) in Reno.

Below are BPWINY members Helen Long (NY) and Patricia Stowell with her husband, Marshall (MA) in Reno



Left new member Ruth Hegarty with BPWINY members M.J. Shaw (NY) (right) and Jan Garvey (NY) right front.

Below are several BPWINY members with BPWNYS attendees at BPWUSA Reno Conference.



Eliana Chiappette (BPWI – Brazil), BPWINY President Eileen Brennan, Rima Tarazi (Palestine) and BPWI2nd Vice President and BPWINY Immediate Past President Liz Benham at the UN

*Together Everyone Achieves More...*



## BPW International's Executive Board Moves Congress to Mexico City

The feedback from many countries shows that the risk of very low participation at this congress if it is held in Merida is very real due to high airfare. By moving the Congress to Mexico City, BPW members world-wide can save as much as 200,000 USD in total. The international executive board estimates loss from low participants is almost 600 USD per 1 wrong estimated number of participants.

According to the statistics, Merida is hit or brushed by Hurricane every 2.62 years. Historically, hurricanes hit or came within 60 miles of Merida 52 times in the past 136 years (according to the statistic at the end of 2006. Although no one can predict where disasters strike, if we knowingly keep the Congress in the area which is affected by disasters this often in addition that statistically it is most likely to happen again in 2008 near the time frame of BPW International Congress - would any BPW member forgive us for losing the entire Congress (which could cost over 200,000 USD) even though we have opportunity to mitigate such risks?

In addition, there is an absence of BPW members in Merida. Without local members, all costs for both BPW International members are much higher because everything will have to be done from a long distance. This includes traveling, shipping, communication, etc. Also, with variety of hotels at variety of prices in Mexico City, members have choices in choosing which hotels they want to stay at the price range that they are comfortable with.

BPW International's Executive Board appreciated several points you raised about the risks in Mexico City, but we have reasons to believe that such risks can be mitigated. For example, we have consulted with people who previously organized International Conference in Mexico City. They informed us that they can negotiate the hotel price in Mexico City to be even lower than currently proposed by the hotels in Merida and the cost of audio/visual equipment are significantly lower than Merida. .

For members who love archeological sites, they can visit sights that are situated in and around Mexico City such as the Pyramid of the Sun and Moon.

Additional benefits in holding the Congress in Mexico City include:

- (a) higher participation from local members who don't have to travel too far
- (b) lower travel expense for BPW International's executives and staffs
- (c) higher visibility than Media.
- (d) a better chance to invite government officials (such as the Minister of Women's Affairs and top executives from international corporations to be speakers or guests at the Congress opening ceremony.

It is for these reasons that BPW International's executive board has decided to move the XXVI BPW International Congress to Mexico City. We consider this solution a win-win solution for all.

So mark your calendar and look for updates on our Mexico City Congress via [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org).

**October 18-19, 2007**  
**BPW International Hearing on**  
**Organization and Reform**  
**Valencia, Spain**

**October 26-28, 2007**  
**BPW Australia's National Meeting**

**March 1, 2008**  
**BPWNY Annual Meeting**  
**Harmonie Club**  
**New York, NY – USA**

**July 22-26, 2008**  
**BPWUSA National Conference**  
**The Hilton Atlanta Hotel**  
**Atlanta, GA**

**July 23-27, 2008**  
**BPW Canada Convention**  
**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**October 24 -28, 2008**  
**BPW International Congress**  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
[www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)

#### **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."

#### **Visit the Web!**

**BPWI NY – [www.bpw-newyork.org](http://www.bpw-newyork.org)**

**BPW/USA - [www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org)**

**BPW International: [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)**

**BPW North America & Non-Spanish Speaking Caribbean – [www.bpw-northamerica.org](http://www.bpw-northamerica.org)**

**BPW Canada - [www.bpwcanada.com](http://www.bpwcanada.com)**