



BPW News International

Official Newsletter of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women

December 2004
Theme for 2002 – 2005
“The World of Peace”
BPW was founded in 1930

From the President's Desk

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Contact Us

President's Office:
Bolleystr. 32
CH 8006 Zurich
Switzerland
Tel + 41 43 268 46 56
Fax: + 41 43 268 46 54
E-mail: presidents.office@bpw-international.org

Official Address / Member Services:
BPW International
PO Box 568,
Horsham, RH13 9ZP, UK
Tel: + 44 1403 73 93 43
Fax: + 44 1403 73 44 32
E-mail:
members@bpw-international.org

Web: www.bpw-international.org

Happy “2005 Congress-Year”



Antoinette Ruegg
International President
2002-2005

All the information on the International Congress, 17-20 June 2005 in Luzern, Switzerland is located on the BPW International web site www.bpw-international.org, view Congress. The information is in English, French, Spanish, Italian and German. Please register early to take advantage of the “€30 - early bird - registration - all inclusive - prize“. A visit to Congress is an investment in yourself and BPW. There are many reasons to attend Congress and only a few that may keep you from attending this anniversary Congress.

Do participate if you

- want to bring BPW International into the 21st century
- want to enjoy the “NETWORKING TOTAL“ experience of your life
- want to experience the overwhelming women's-energy-potential
- will attend an International Congress for the first time
- are very young, very “new“ or have already celebrated your 60 birthday
- have been a member for many years and thought that the Congress is only for members of rank
- are unknown and feel you are alone
- will use your basic knowledge of languages
- will exchange Leadership experiences
- get to know all BPW ICT (Information Communication Technology) tools 1:1
- meet together with specified professional groups at the BPW lunch tables, e.g. import/export, health, finances, communication
- want to experience BPW International
- encounter the diversity of the world around us
- want an experience you thought impossible
- want to meet and get to know active women from all over the world
- are shy and want to perform a courageous act
- want to broaden the mind and heart
- accept not to be a changed person after the Congress
- take the risk of catching the BPW bug

Do NOT participate if you

- want to experience a “normal“ holiday
- want to keep your picture of the world
- cannot choose between many different events and offers
- you are afraid of mountains, lakes and Swiss specialties

Members of BPW Switzerland and in particular your “Congress Partner Clubs” welcome you to the Congress and look forward to meeting you next June. The members of the Executive Board, Staff of BPW International and all Members of BPW Switzerland wish you a very happy and successful new year

Antoinette Rüegg, PhD.
President BPW International

UNESCO article on BPW Peace Activities

BPW International is honored that UNESCO published a summary of selected Peace activities conducted by BPW based on our report of BPW Peace activities to UNESCO on "Messengers for the Culture of Peace". The copy of the article which will appear in UNESCO Culture of Peace Newsletter, issue 2 on "Gender and Culture of Peace" has been reprinted here.

*Chonchanok Viravan, PhD.
First Vice President*

BPW International and its Projects on "A World of Peace"

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) has chosen "A World of Peace" as the overarching theme for its 2002-2005 programme of activities. Both the international office and over 100 national branches have launched a wide range of activities pertaining to a culture of peace.

Taking into account BPW's nature as an association with an exclusively female membership, the linkages between peace-related endeavors and gender-specific activities are self-evident. One example is an initiative of BPW Brazil: entitled "Women as Agents of Peace", it covers a range of different activities, including the collection of over 55,000 signatures for UNESCO's Manifesto 2000 and publication of the booklet "Ethics Code for Peace". The latter provides concrete examples of actions for peace; 1,000 copies were distributed. Furthermore, from 2000 to 2002, a TV programme entitled "Planet Peace" was produced for a cable channel in Sao Paulo, and "Peace-BUILDER Certificates" have been awarded since 2003. The lessons of the "Women as Agents of Peace" project led to the development of a twin programme, "Youth as Agent of Peace", which was designed in partnership with the *Centro de Educaçao para a Paz (CEPAZ)*.

BPW affiliates also dealt with other Culture of Peace dimensions, including the fight against discrimination and intolerance. For instance, BPW New Zealand has conducted workshops with local refugee and migrant women resulting in publication of a booklet about "Resettlement Issues for Refugee and Migrant Women" that is being used as a resource by Government agencies and NGOs. Through on-going activities and projects in partnership with indigenous Maori women, BPW NZ

seeks to overcome prejudice as well as working towards the integration of marginalized groups, for instance, by conducting shopping and cooking classes with local female immigrants.

With regard to another Culture of Peace aspect – namely social inclusion – BPW Thailand has been active by running skill-training programmes for women in jails in several provinces: Bangkok, Thonburi, Lumpang, Khon Kaen, Phuket, and Kalasin since 2002. This activity will extend to Chiang Mai in 2005. The skills enable women inmates to earn income while they are in jail as well as after their release from prison. To recognize their skills, BPW Thailand also organized a National competition of products made by women inmates in 2004. To further encourage them to learn, BPW Thailand also donated used computers and over 4,600 books to the women's prison in Thonburi (*Thantasatarn Ying Thonburi*).

In addition to the activities of individual branches, the Federation's international office runs a project in cooperation with BPW Sri Lanka: the project "BPW Global Peace Village" was launched in 2003 in Illukpitiya in the Medirigirya region of Sri Lanka. Most of the village populations are internally displaced people, having been victims of conflict. On one level, the project objective is to provide a solid infrastructure and proper housing for a village of 634 people. Beyond this, however, it aims at laying the foundations for the community's sustainable economic and social development. Each family will be given 40 perches of land for housing and agriculture, as well as receiving skills training in health and agricultural matters. The inhabitants are being involved in community issues, thus strengthening identification and self-reliance. The project recognizes the need to break the poverty cycle when trying to build long-lasting peace. One aspect of conflict and migration is the heavy burden placed on women who often head families and are the sole generators of income, yet are the first ones to feel the impact of poverty. As part of the "BPW Global Peace Village" activities, the empowerment of women therefore plays a particularly important role, for instance by means of education.

The Global Peace Village does, however, go beyond benefiting the actual village population: by providing access to water, facilities and roads, it also has an impact upon the wider region. Furthermore, the organizers hope that it becomes a pilot model. As the village is ethnically mixed, it aims to highlight how integration can be achieved and the consequences of conflict can be overcome.

*Source: UNESCO Newsletter
Issue 2 "Gender and Culture of Peace".*

MEMBERSHIP

“New Dimensions of Leadership”

Growing membership is an indicator of a pro-active, market-oriented, forward-looking and caring management. With this in mind a Club President can improve her leadership skills as a member of BPW. Members meeting at the next International Congress in Lucerne, will discuss the theme “New Dimensions of Leadership”

*Leadership is forward planning.
Leadership is to use your skill to its full capacity.
Leadership is a holistic approach.*

What is your definition of Leadership?

The count-down for Lucerne has begun. By the end of 2004 the target membership increase of 12% and more should have been achieved. The number of members

reported for 2004 is the final number to be taken into account for the award. Associated Clubs or Federations achieving the most increase in membership will receive an award at Congress and I hope it is you!

In my task as Membership Chair I look to new member countries in the Arab states where many contacts were set off during the past two years.

There is great potential with excellent women in their own business and profession. It is my hope that BPW will be able to welcome new Associated Clubs prior to Congress.

With my best wishes for the coming Festive Season and an excellent start into 2005! It is with pleasure that I am looking forward to meeting you in Lucerne.

Ilse Spritzendorfer, Membership Chair
spritzen@aon.at

MEMBER SERVICES

Congress

The Congress pack of Form has been sent out to all Board Members (Past International Presidents, Presidents, Standing Committee Chairpersons).

The Registration Form can be downloaded from www.bpw-international.org or can be obtained from Member Services. A hard copy of the Registration Pack is being mailed to all International Office holders and to all Presidents. If you have not informed us of any recent changes of President, including postal address, then please arrange for mail to be passed on or contact us urgently.

Membership Dues 2004

Further reminders have been sent to all affiliates who have not yet paid their dues for this year. Remember that there is a constitutional requirement for all members of BPW to pay these annual dues but we do not yet have a Region where all Federations are fully paid up. We appreciate the efforts that some affiliates make in order to pay these amounts and it is only fair that we press other affiliates to do the same. We can now accept payments through Western Union as this assists some affiliates. We are happy to discuss a range of alternatives but we do need to hear from you.

Annual Reports

These were originally sent out mostly by e-mail. The second round was posted out and generated more replies but less than half the affiliates have informed us of their

activities and successes. We need this information to enable the International Federation to support and promote your activities – partnerships have more access to funding internationally and have a greater impact. We will be making individual contact with those that have not replied but all this takes time and resources.

Membership Dues 2005

Invoices will be sent out in January 2005 based on the last known membership numbers. Please ensure that we are notified of any changes at the beginning of January.

Thank You

We want to thank those 15 affiliates listed who are completely up to date with their dues and have returned their Annual Reports for 2003: BPW Outeniqua, South Africa; BPW Korea; BPW New Zealand; BPW Belgium; BPW Finland; BPW Germany; BPW Ireland; BPW Netherlands; BPW Poland; BPW Switzerland; BPW United Kingdom; BPW Arad, Romania; BPW Donetsk, Ukraine and BPW Argentina

Their efficiency saves a great deal of time and cost and is much appreciated. Please help us to increase this list and aim for at least 75% completion by the end of January which would mean 68 out of a total of 91 active affiliates. We currently have 50 affiliates who are fully paid up and 26 Annual Reports.

Ann Swain, Assistant Executive Secretary
ann.swain@bpw-international.org

FRIENDS

Profile of a Friend: Livia Ricci



*Livia joined BPW Italy in 1960, becoming President of her club in Verona two years later. She was Regional Coordinator for Europe in 1987-89, and went on to become International President in 1993. She is a pharmacist by profession and is a talented artist, with her paintings in numerous art exhibitions both in Italy and elsewhere. She was awarded the title, **Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana** for her work on women's issues.*

In Livia's own words: "I became a Friend of BPW International as soon as I heard about this special new group at the Congress in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1985. It was like a door opening and an invitation to participate in a very important project being offered to me – I had to accept! Since then my commitment to BPW has become stronger and I feel very privileged to be part of such a generous-hearted group of people. Over the years at events specially organized for Friends at our International Congresses, I have met other Friends: Bronze Friends, Silver Friends, Gold Friends and Friends like BPW New York and Margrit Wullschleger-Schmidlin who have just become Diamond Friends – they are all really wonderful women!

Almost 10 years ago now BPW International presented **Certificates of Loyalty** to those Friends who celebrated 10 years of continued Friendship. In 2005 some of these will be celebrating twenty years of contributions, all of which have gone towards helping to realise the dream of our founder, Lena Madasin Phillips, that of a world of

peace and social justice for all. We are searching in the archives and our current records to identify these committed supporters of BPW International so that they can be presented with 20 year certificates at the Lucerne Congress.

The Swiss hostess Planning Committee is organizing a genuine Swiss Evening on top of Mount Rigi including the alpine blessing ritual for Friends of BPW and Fellows. It is going to be a wonderful evening and I hope to see many of you there."

Friends News

Existing Friends have received their 2005 renewal reminders and we thank all those who have replied promptly. Now is a good time to become a Friend and support BPW International as you get the full benefit especially in a Congress year as there is the traditional **Special Friends Evening – for Friends and partners only**. All Friends receive the newsletter direct and are sent a Friends Membership Card as part of their receipt – only current ones will be accepted for the event.

Remember the aim of Livia Ricci: **750 Friends for the 75th Anniversary** In the next newsletter we will inform you of progress towards this objective. All 72 BPW clubs in Sicily, part of BPW Italy, have promised to become member clubs for 2005. Well done!

Subscriptions range from £50/€70 (Friend) to £750/€1050 (Diamond Friend). Club Friend starts at £100/€140. Forms are available from Presidents, Member Services or on bpw-international.org.

Ann Swain, Assistant Executive Secretary
ann.swain@bpw-international.org

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS Luzern, Switzerland 17-20 June 2005

Submit "Leadership Slogan" for Congress

As International theme for 2005 – 2008 is "New Dimensions of Leadership", you are invited to make a slogan on the subject "Leadership" in its far reaching sense. *Maximum length is 250 characters including empty spaces.* BPW International collects the personal Statements of its members on the Congress theme. If you quote somebody, please mention the source.

Goals of the project:

- Every BPW has experience in leadership. This is why every member is given a chance to express herself.
- The leadership slogans together with the author's information will be used for different purposes such as lists, brochures, press kits, and decoration during the Congress, project to the Congress hall walls, etc.

Your statement can be in English, French, Italian, Spanish or German, or any other language, providing that you provide the English translation with it. If you submit your statement in several languages, you increase its probability to appear on the screen or in the press kit. You can download the form on the website www.bpw-international.org, view "Int. Congress Luzern 2005" and "Your Leadership Statement" or you can ask for a form by e-mail: leadership.statement@bpw-international.org. ONLY complete submissions will be accepted. Please send your slogan and a DIGITAL portrait photograph **no later than 31 January 2005 via e-mail to: leadership.statement@bpw-international.org**. Thank you very much for your input!

Antoinette Rüegg, PhD.
President BPW International

YOUNG BPW

Twenty Years History

At XXV Lucerne International Congress in 2005, besides to celebrate the 75 Anniversary of BPW International, young BPW will also celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

To celebrate this occasion, here are pieces of our history.

1985 Congress in Auckland, New Zealand

In recognition to United Nations' Youth International year, Rosemarie Michel, past International President 1983-1985 set the theme of the Congress to "Today's Young People, Tomorrow's Leaders", motivating others, Federations to have at least one young lady under the roles. A fund to sponsor a young girl to attend 1985 Congress was established. This fund is still available until now.

1987 Congress in La Haya, Holland

During this Congress 15 of the 26 young participants were sponsored their attendances. Young Career Women (YCW) taskforce was founded, with Martha Gallant (USA) as the chair.

1991 Congress in Nairobi, Kenya

During this Congress, 35 young ladies participated from 20 different countries. Young Career Women taskforce became Young Career Women Ad-Hoc Committee, with Susan Engberg (Sweden) as its chair. The first YCW Newsletter was published in March 1992 with 100 publications distributed in 30 countries as its first editor. YCW database was created.

1993 Congress in Nagoya, Japan

YCW Standing Committee was founded. Fabiola Kun (México) was elected as the first chair. During Fabiola's term, number of young members in YCW database was increased to 205 members world-wide. YCW members submitted essays annually to compete for funding to attend "Management Symposium for Women" in Zurich. About 3-4 members attended annually.

1996 Congress in Venice, Italy

A program including working sessions for the young ladies was organized. It was agreed that a Board be organized for the committee, which would include regional representatives from five regions. Jun Sawada (Japan) was elected president. During her term, YCW established a web site and she chaired several YCW virtual meetings on the Internet. Jun and YCW Mexico also organized the 1st YCW International Meeting.

1998 First YCW International Meeting in Acapulco, Mexico

This meeting was attended by 56 young women from 23 countries. There, the new competition called "Beyond 2000: Helping Women Help Themselves" was first

launched by Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinator for YCW, Chonchanok Viravan (Thailand).

1999 Congress in Vancouver, Canada

Resolutions were passed to change the name Young Career Women to Young BPW and the Chair of this Committee has to be elected by the Board of Directors to become young BPW representative in International Executive Board. Darla Campbell (Canada) was elected as the new chair.

2001 The 2nd International Young BPW meeting in Bangkok, Thailand:

Darla and young BPW Thailand organized this meeting in conjunction with Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Bangkok. It was attended by 75 young ladies from 16 countries.

2002 Congress in Melbourne, Australia

This Congress was attended by 98 young ladies from 35 different countries. The theme was: "Construction; Cooperation and Communication". In Beyond 2000: Helping Women Help Themselves competition, *Outstanding Young BPW leaders awards* were given to Christine Heinze (Germany), Darla Campbell, and Dr. Shannon MacNeill (Canada). Judith Rios from Panama was elected as new chair.

2003 The 3rd International Young BPW Meeting in Rome, Italy

Judith and young BPW in Europe organized this meeting in conjunction with European Regional Meeting in Rome. It was attended by 87 young ladies from 40 different countries.

During the two decades Young BPW members have demonstrate their important role within BPW. We are the youngest and fresh arm of the most important women association of the world. We grow in a accelerate rate, giving the opportunities to young ladies participates in national, regional and world-wide events.

Many former young BPW are now taking several leading roles in BPW. Chonchanok Viravan became First International Vice President. Darla Campbell became President of BPW Canada. Christine Heinze became members of Advisory Council of Youth in Council of Europe. These are just a few examples!

This reminds me of Emerson words: "Just who built under ideas, Built over the eternity".

Judith Indira Rios Castro
Young BPW International Chairperson

* I would like to thank Martha Soto, Regional representative for Latin America, who compiled historical information.

REGIONAL NEWS

Africa

Ghana: I attended a successful Africa regional meeting on “*Economic Emancipation of the African Women – the Role of ICT*” on 10-12 November together with BPW members from Ghana, Benin, Togo, Camaroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, New York and Switzerland. The opening ceremony was attended also by Minister of Family Affairs and many prestige entrepreneurs. After the meeting, I spent two days trips to visit new BPW clubs in Togo and Benin, together with Vera Kpeto and five other BPW members.

Antoinette Ruegg, President of BPW International.

Asia-Pacific

Australia: Among their several activities for women, BPW Geelong club and Adelaide East club also sponsored 4 students to attend Nursing School in La Paz, Mexico. This nursing school, which was built by BPW Mexico and BPW International through Project Five-O, offers training for 100 nurses at a time. At BPW Australia National meeting in Alice Spring in October 2004, Kay Morrison was elected as the new president.

Korea: BPW Korea held its annual national meeting in Chun Cheon on 30-31 October 2004. First Vice President Chonchanok Viravan was the key note speaker on “*BPW: What’s in it for young members*”. Young Soon Kim, president of BPW Korea encouraged member clubs to recruit young members. The meeting also presented several interesting activities such as 2004 *BPW leadership camp*, *Young BPW Internship program*. They also held a 5-mile marathon run by a mountain and a lake. BPW Korea illustrated their strength in networking as well as physical strength. It’s quite impressive!

Chonchanok Viravan, PhD. First Vice President

Europe

Germany: European Regional Meeting was held in Berlin on 2-3 October 2004. Seventeen Federations participated in the Regional Meeting in Berlin and the Presidents’ Meeting was both open and closed. A lot of essential questions for BPW International future were discussed and the meeting decided to set up a Finance task force and a Strategy task force to propose a completely reorganization of BPW International to face the 21st Century. Objective for the two task forces is to prepare resolutions for the International Congress in Lucerne 2005. A working group prepared part of the meeting and the meeting made a SWOT-analysis of BPW which was most useful and will serve as guidance for the presidents and the two task forces. President Antoinette Rüeegg joined the meeting, which was most appreciated. Antoinette Rüeegg was informed about the two task forces to be set up. BPW Germany made a bid for the European Congress in 2009. Poland, Cyprus and Spain made bids for the European Presidents Meeting in 2007. Finland announced they would make a bid for the International Congress 2011. Sweden, finally, announced they will make a final presentation about hosting the BPW European Congress in 2006 in Luzern 2005. Artemis Toumazis, BPW Cyprus informed the presidents about an EU project on Cyprus. Lesha Witmer informed the presidents about a workshop on a project along the River Danube/Donau next year. Members from overseas are invited to join as a pre-meeting to the International Congress in Lucerne. All Federations were informed about the possibility to link to the celebration in the Netherlands by inviting members to their country on their way to Luzern Congress.

Sweden: Kirsti Kolthof, member BPW Stockholm, was elected as President of European Women Lobby (EWL) in October 2004. Congratulations! Other good news, Sweden will host the next European Congress 2006 in Stockholm. One of the aims is to present the result of BPW Sweden Mentoring program, which started this year by Young BPW Ewa Fallenius. BPW Sweden also prepares cooperation with the Platform “*Sthlm Jämt*”, in collaboration with the European Social Fund and the County Administrative Board. For more information, please visit www.sthlmjamt.se.

Iceland: BPW Iceland held their 25 Anniversary on the 19 October 2004. I was taking part and would like to thank Sigurlin Scheving and all the members from BPW Iceland for a wonderful week-end!

Lena Hokfelt, European Regional Coordinator

Latin-America & Spanish Speaking Countries of the Caribbean

Brazil: BPW Brazil celebrated its XVI CONFAM (National Congress) in Fortaleza, State of Ceara starting from the 21-24 November 2004, with a very emotional opening ceremony because they homage a distinguished and very well known woman in Fortaleza for the work she has done benefiting the poor people of the city, BPW Brazil members gave WOMAN OF THE YEAR to her. The media coverage of this ceremony was amazing. The ceremony was attended by 300 people, Beatriz Alcantará the First Lady of the State of Ceara, Angela Maria Mesquita the sub-secretary of the Special Secretary of Politics for Women of the Presidency of the Republic, Silvia H. de Coronel Latin America Coordinator and other Government Representatives. During the next days workshops were held on *politics for women, personal marketing the key for success, how to start a small business, social responsibility duty of all of us*. The Executive Committee and all Clubs presented their reports. Mrs. Coronel distributed registration forms and pre-program for Luzern 2005. Brazil members promised that there will be a large group of Brazilians in Switzerland next year.

Mexico: BPW MEXICO: Ciudad Juarez Club, celebrated 40th anniversary of funding. The first day, media information was given to TV, Radio and News Papers of the city to give a complete information of activities since 1964 and the great potential of work the members have done for the personal economic advance of hundreds of women in this city, at night of the first day a very beautiful ceremony with the Government Authorities, Mayor of the City, Representatives of other important NGOs, Representative of University of Ciudad Juarez, where was presented a beautiful Power Point Presentation, with the history of this Club, images of past activities, members, executive committees and Presidents. The second day was the presentation of a new Executive Committee for 2004-2005 and also the presentation of a new project they are working for *the Women Piazza*, where BPW Ciudad Juarez members will put the figures in bronze of important women who had realize activities that have change for good the life of the community, and they start this project with the figure of GLORIA NELLY CASTILLA DE BERNAL founder of this BPW Club and also National Past President of BPW Mexico. In this celebration was Ma. Luisa Moncada current BPW México President, and Silvia H. de Coronel Regional Coordinator. This Club keeps working very hard their Project VIVIRE a health unit to prevent Breast Cancer, Diabetes, etc.

Silvia H. de Coronel, Latin America and SSC Regional Coordinator

North America and Non Spanish Speaking Countries

Canada: On 13 October 2004, BPW Calgary and the Famous 5 Foundations co-hosted a celebration of the **75th Anniversary of the 'Persons' Case and launched the new Canadian Fifty dollar bill** commemorating the Famous 5 and Therese Casgrain, Quebec feminist and politician. In 1929, Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Nellie McClung challenged the highest Court by launching an appeal of the Supreme Court's decision to the Privy Council in England, asking the simple question "Does the word 'persons' in Section 24 of the BNA Act of 1867 include female persons?" Lord Sankey's response on October 18, 1929 is legendary: "the word 'persons' includes members of both the male and female sex and the exclusion of women from public office was a relic of days more barbarous than ours." The *Persons Case* opened the doors to equality for all Canadians. Darla Campbell, BPW Canada president, spoke on *'Take Action! - What are we doing today that will make a difference tomorrow?'* to encourage women to join groups such as BPW and to continue to work for equality. The release of the Fifty-dollar bill is a reminder to BPW members to work together as advocates for equality in all things, preserving the rights won in the past and working towards total equality for women in the future. Please visit www.bpwcanada.com for complete stories. On December 1st, a **World AIDS Day Breakfast** was held in Toronto, co-hosted by BPW Canada, designated to AIDS Awareness Week. The Honorable Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation, emphasized how AIDS is now a global pandemic. Her message revealed how universal and mitigating HIV is. AIDS may become just a backdrop issue to war against terrorism. She has been instrumental in having millions of Federal funding dollars donated world wide to HIV/AIDS work. Things are changing as HIV/AIDS anti-retroviral drugs bring hope and longer life to victims. Please visit www.bpwcanada.com for complete stories.

U.S.A.: BPW International New York will hold its Annual Conference in conjunction on 6 March 2004. BPW members who wish to attend can get registration form from Elizabeth Benham at Benhamliz@cs.com.

Sharon Selkirk, North America and NSSC Regional Coordinator

Committees and Taskforces

Peace Taskforce

The Peace Task Force has been involved in two significant events in the past three months.

UNESCO

It was a great honour to be asked to compile a report for the UNESCO Culture of Peace programme. We were delighted to have great input from Brazil, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Argentina, Australia and Moscow/St Petersburg. We were proud that UNESCO, in responding to our contribution, chose to include the summary of BPW peace activities in their newsletter publication.

UNESCO article which they wrote based on selected BPW Peace activities is shown in page 2 of this newsletter. The full report can be downloaded from www.bpw-international.org under "Contributions to UN".

Women Defending Peace

Following my participation in Mrs Suzanne Mubarak's inaugural "Women for Peace" Conference in 2002, I was invited to attend the follow up Conference which took place in Geneva in November 2004. The attendees represented a much broader representation of women with 400 delegates coming from across the world.

The calibre of the participants was breathtaking and as well as Mrs Mubarak, they included H.E Mrs Micheline Calmy-Rey, whose Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, co hosted the conference, Gertrude Mongella, President of the African Parliament, Her Royal Highness Shaikha Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain, Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN Human Rights Commissioner, Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams (who has worked to abolish landmines) and Boutros Boutros Ghali (former secretary general of the United Nations

The focus of the meeting was to look at ways women could be involved in developing a culture of peace and making sure that women are involved at all levels of peace negotiations and implementation. The plan of action will be available on the Women Defending Peace web site, but includes such issues as having a team of women to monitor elections in Palestine and Iraq.

The key goals are to

- Involve women systematically and meaningfully in all stages of peace making and peace building including decision making levels, conflict prevention and peace keeping
- Reject violence in all its forms and promote peace, where peace is more than the absence of war, but is a state of mutual trust, participation, involvement and well being for all

- Protect women and girls in time of war, occupation and conflict from all forms of violence and exploitation.

Towards that end the Conference decided to form a global coalition entitled Global Coalition of Women Defending Peace to take action to achieve the above goals, to bring together women's groups and other organizations, as well as individual women and men, to combine their respective skills, capacities, best practices, lessons learned and resources to achieve our common endeavor to defend justice and peace.

As part of the founding group of his coalition, I would propose that BPW International commits itself to be a full member of this coalition and vow to spread this culture through women's groups in our member affiliates.

*Dr. Pat Harrison,
Chair of Peace Taskforce
pita171a@hotmail.com*

Business, Trade and Technology Committee

I would like to present you the *First Official Edition "BPWI Day Calendar – 2006"* for the XXV International Congress of Lucerne in June 2005, 75th anniversary of BPW International. The *BPWI Day Calendar 2006* is a practical communication tool that is informative and facilitates networking among all women and members of BPW International help interested people to learn about the objectives and structure of our Federation. It also is a catalogue of art, professional activities and business to be used to give visibility to BPW and our activities worldwide and to reinforce cooperation of BPW members internationally.

BPW Members, Federations and Associate Clubs, who may be interested in purchasing an advertisement in the *BPWI Day Calendar*, please inform me via e-mail: paola.corsini@bpw-international.org to ask for forms and send them in, along with payment of advertisement, by 10 March 2005. The first official edition of the BPW International Day Calendar □ 2006 will be available at our International Congress of Lucerne in June 2005 at a cost of 12 Euro per copy.

For more information, please, please contact me at paola.corsini@bpw-international.org

*Paola Corsini,
Business, Trade and Technology Chair*

Special Bulletin: Tsunami Disaster

How can BPW Help Victims of Tsunami?

It is with great sadness that BPW members learnt of the horrific disaster that has overtaken the many countries lying in the path of the Tsunami, from Indonesia to Africa on Sunday 26 December 2004. The effects are being felt with an unbelievable amount of casualties and all BPW members express their sincere condolences with the people who have been affected by this tragic disaster.

Huge quantities of shelters, medical equipment, clothing, food and water and many other day to day necessities are required if further casualties and disease is to be avoided, this requires efficient and tried agencies to manage the delivery, receipt and administration of aid. Please remember that even though a country may be in chaos the law of entry still has to be obeyed, and official aid only is approved.

Officially it has been requested that donations are to be sent through the Red Cross/ Red Crescent and your assistance in this will be much appreciated. Please mention that it is specifically for the Tsunami disaster.

Donations direct to local contacts are not advisable as this can disrupt the official emergency services now being put into place. Other aid including locally funded agencies are working in cooperation with the Red Cross/Red Crescent. Please note that not all aid agencies are approved in some countries.

The Red Cross has just released a documentary on how they administer disaster aid on such a huge scale and it is recommended that members view this if possible as it will give an understanding of the mammoth task undertaken by aid agencies..

Persons in the devastated areas requiring assistance should apply to their local Emergency Service Coordinator.

To date a number of Governments have made significant donations to the affected areas with pledges from many more for the future.

Please ensure you abide by the official instructions in respect of donations as it is essential that emergency services are sent where they are most needed.

Many thanks for your cooperation

BPW International Executive Board

Assistance to for Tsunami victims

Sri Lanka:

Tsunami disaster led to a million displaced people and thousands rendered homeless in Sri Lanka. BPW Sri Lanka have been out in the disaster areas since it was known on Sunday. We quickly got together four truck loads of essential supplies and medicines (emptying our friends' and our own larders and linen cupboards of bed sheets, pillows and towels in the process) and spent time helping out the best we could, even towing cars out of debris and returning home only to snatch a couple of hours sleep this morning and left again with doctors, medical supplies and yet another load of relief supplies which we put together.

There are appeals for lanterns, candles, mosquito coils, matches, cooking utensils, sleeping mats and pillows, blankets and sheets, plastic sheets and temporary shelters, infant food and formula, milk powder, feeding bottles, under linen, sanitary napkins and other essential food items. Our President Janaki Gunawardene and a group went out with cooked food and clothes. I also joined with another group to help out. There is a need to properly plan out the reconstruction work without delay.

*Olivia Werapermall,
Financial Chairperson, BPW Sri Lanka
olivia@wow.lk*

Thailand:

Thai people and BPW Thailand members are doing all they possibly can to help the thousands of victims through donation of bloods, money and other necessary things like water, food, blankets, coffins, etc. Millions of Baht are being raised to help Tsunami victims. His Majesty the King personally donated 30 Millions Baht. BPW Thailand had transferred fund to BPW Phuket to help out. BPW Thailand President Maleerat Plumchitchom also contributed personally.



The loss is felt by everyone. H.M. the King has lost his grandson in this tragedy. To mourn those who passed away, all Thai people wore black for 3 days. New Year celebrations had been cancelled.

While it's the saddest new year that I ever experience, it's also the first time that I ever witness such a world-wide kindness and unity in working toward a common good. It takes the worst of time to bring out the best in people.



*Chonchanok Viravan, PhD.
First Vice President
Chonchanok.viravan@bpw-international.org*

DIARY DATES

BPW EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
26-27 February 2005	Sendai City, Japan	BPW Japan National Congress
6 March 2005	New York, U.S.A.	 BPW International New York Annual Meeting
22-24 April 2005	Kaitaia, New Zealand	National Conference BPW New Zealand
11-12 June 2005	Amsterdam, Netherlands	BPW Netherlands 25 th Anniversary
17-20 June 2005	Luzern, Switzerland	 25 th BPW International Congress
10-? August 2005	?, Mexico	National Conference BPW Mexico

OTHER EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
17-25 January 2005	Geneva, Switzerland	WHO Executive Board 115 th session.
24-26 January 2005	Geneva, Switzerland	Expert Meeting on the Impact of FDI on Development
7-9 February 2005	Geneva, Switzerland	WSIS Thematic Meeting “Measuring the Information Society”
7-9 February 2005	Geneva, Switzerland	UNCTAD Expert Meeting on New and Dynamic Sectors of World Trade
26 February 2005	New York, U.S.A.	 Five-O Meeting
28 Feb – 13 March 2005	New York, U.S.A.	 The 49 th Session of Commission on Status of Women (Beijing+10 Review)
28 – 30 March 2005	Bangkok, Thailand	E-Commerce Seminar by BPW, APWINC, UN ESCAP
31 May – 16 June 2005	Geneva, Switzerland	93 rd Session of the International Labour Conference



President Travel

BPW News International

Editor-in-Chief

Antoinette Ruegg, PhD.

Editorial Team

Chonchanok Viravan, PhD.

Ann Swain

Jo-An Partridge

Sharon Selkirk

Lay out and Production

Chonchanok Viravan, PhD.

Translation:

Italian: Dr. Livia Ricci

Spanish: Cecilia Quadri

French: Diana Barragan

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