In this issue:

- President’s Candle Lighting Ceremony Message...........2
- Membership News............3
- United Nations News...........4

Events in 2019
- January-March 2019..........5
- April-June 2019..............7
- July-September 2019.........8
- October-December 2019....9

Events in 2020................10
- Young BPW News...............11
- BPW Activities & SDG 8.........12
- BPW Power to Make a Difference..13
Raise Your Head and Go Ahead

My very dear BPW Sisters across the World,

It is my real pleasure to address you all during the Candle Lighting Ceremony 2019. My theme this year for the Candle Lighting Ceremony is “Raise Your Head and Go Ahead”.

When you believe in yourself, when you have faith in your work, when you fight for the best, when you put in all your efforts, when you are full of enthusiasm and when you are motivated to achieve your goals...you often hope for support and encouragement from others.

Yet anyone in the limelight would cast a shadow. So you often find people who undermine your work, demotivate you, pull you down and oppress you with their negative thinking. But don’t be afraid and don’t allow such negativity to break your soul.

Remember, it is well known that nobody would throw stones onto a tree that has no fruit.

Remember also that scientifically, high pressure and heat transform coal into diamonds.

So let the challenges you face bring out the best in you. Fill yourself with positive energy. Even if nobody believes in you, you must believe in yourself. Continue to advance on the path of your choice. Let your inner voice guide you to your destiny.

To brighten up the room, you should light your candle first, then use it to light many other candles. Spread the love with the light.

The mission of most BPW members is to empower women. To achieve this, please remember to first empower yourself.

Light always emerges after Dark, and so when you light your candle please remember all your sisters across the world. Remember our founder Dr. Lena Madesin Phillips who travelled from USA to Europe in 1930 to unite the world in peace through gathering together all of us business and professional women from all over the world and dreaming for a better world through empowering women all over the world. So, let us carry the torch to continue our fight for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment through our unity and our confidence in ourselves.

And we light our candles remembering that all of us in the world have the BPW spirit of encouragement, of confidence in each other, of empowering each other, of supporting each other, of believing in ourselves and in our great organization that we can do it together.

Raise Your Head and Go Ahead....

Dr. Amany Asfour
International President
BPW International 2017-2020
Warmest Greetings from BPW International!

This year sees an important calendar event for BPW as we celebrate the 100th year of BPW’s foundation in the USA. We celebrated in traditional 1920’s style at the Claire Fulcher Dinner in New York during CSW. As Membership Chair, I would like to welcome some of our newest members to BPW International. BPW continues to grow our international presence with BPW in new countries in both Africa and Europe.

**BPW in Ghana**

BPW International welcomes Ghana, Africa to the worldwide sisterhood. BPW Accra members celebrated their first candle lighting ceremony this year 2019.

The club program for the year includes a visit and donation to Female Prisoners and a Health Education Reach out Project to young girls aged 12-16. Congratulations Gifty.

**BPW in Europe**

We have seen new growth in Europe too, with the approval of BPW Panevezys, Lithuania and BPW Yerevan in Armenia. Congratulations to BPW Europe, it’s wonderful to see BPW in two new countries.

**BPW in the UAE**

President Amany Asfour and Vice President Susan Jones attended the launch of three new Affiliate Clubs in the UAE; BPW Abu Dhabi, BPW Al Ain and BPW Dhafra.

“Friends of BPW International” receive a pin and also enjoy an exclusive special event during the International Congress.

**FRIENDS & FELLOWS for Sustainable Development of BPW**

In 1985 the BPW Friends Program was introduced to help gain financial support for BPW. Money raised from the program is used to support administrative costs and to help clubs and young BPW members from economically disadvantaged countries to attend and participate in the International Congress. As an acknowledgement and a thank you for the generosity in subscribing to the BPW Friends Program the BPW Friends names are published on the BPW website.

For more information about “Friends” and how to download the application form to apply, please visit the Friends web page at https://www.bpw-international.org/index.php/members/friends-fellows/friends or contact Member Service via e-mail at member.services@bpw-international.org. Your generosity in subscribing is very much appreciated.
CSW63

On 11 March 2019, the Annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 2019) started in New York. The main focus of this year’s conference is “Social Protection, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls”. The review theme picks up the topic of the 60th session of CSW “Women’s Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Empowerment”. BPW International was present at the conference with a large delegation. Our organization was presenting 10 parallel and side events, among those four in collaboration with the Mission of Germany, Italy, Japan and New Zealand. For additional information to CSW 2019, please connect to www.bpw-un.org.

Quadrennial Report

On June 1st 2019, the Quadrennial Report to renew our consultative status with the UN is due. I would like to encourage and beg you all to register your projects at www.bpw-projects.org. I am aware that women are very pragmatic: They work on changes rather than talking about their work. To get sponsors and funds and to justify our belonging to all international bodies it is necessary to take the time for the registration.

What positive effects does the registration of your projects have?

- It showcases the work and achievements of BPW to other organizations, foundations and businesses.
- It helps leaders of similar projects in different regions to connect and exchange experiences and improve their own projects.
- It facilitates partnerships with UN agencies and other organizations with likeminded aims. We are working on several partnerships and contracts with other organizations and can only do this when people know what we are doing.
- Consultative Status at the UNO, OAS, WHO, FAO comes with the obligation of accountability. I can only write about what we are doing if you are telling me what you do.
- Our triennial theme is: “Empowering Women to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Therefore, register your projects and showcase the creativity and empowering strategies of our affiliates to the public! Our members deserve it.

Background papers of the Expert group are uploaded under https://www.bpw-un.org/csw-63/
The National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc., United States (NFBPWC USA) celebrated their 100th Birthday in 2019 during Claire Fulcher’s Dinner on 10 March 2019.

While mobilizing for World War I, the U.S. Government recognized the need for a cohesive group to coordinate identification of women's available skills and experience. A Women's War Council, financed through a federal grant of $65,000 or approximately $1 million today, was established by the War Department to organize the resources of professional women. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was founded on July 16, 1919, at a meeting led by Lena Madesin Phillips of Kentucky. In the 1930s it became a charter member of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

BPW became the first organization created to focus on the issues of working women. BPW was one of the first women's organizations to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment in 1937. The establishment of "Status of Women" commissions in the U.S. in 1963 was due largely to BPW efforts. Virginia Allan initiated the "Young Careerist" Program to develop the business and presentation skills of young women.

Workplace equity issues including sexual harassment, opportunities for women veterans, work-life balance, health care reform, dependent care, tort reform, increasing the minimum wage, lifetime economic security and pay equity continue to be BPW's targeted issues.

Dawne Williams,
North America and the Caribbean Regional Coordinator

8-9 March 2019  BPW Leaders’ Summit 2019  New York, USA
10 March 2019  Claire Fulcher’s Dinner, Celebrating 100th Anniversary of NFBPWC USA  New York, USA
11-22 March 2019  **BPW Side & Parallel Events to 63rd Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**  New York, USA

Note: For more information about BPW Leaders’ Summit, visit www.bpw-leaderssummit.org

Download a list of BPW events at http://bit.do/BPW-events-during-CSW63
Oceania Sub-Regional Conference was held on 8 April 2019, immediately after the 80th Anniversary, BPW New Zealand National Conference 5-7 April 2019, in Wellington, New Zealand. Oceania consists of the second largest country with a population of 25 million, to groups of Islands with cultural and environmental diversity and a wealth of knowledge, history, skills and experience. Environmental and climatic disasters affect all, through severe droughts, temperature extremes, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes and loss of coastal and agricultural land. Women’s resilience through periods of disasters is at the forefront to ensure protection of their families and communities. What is missing is a significant number of women at the decision-making level. To have an impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the engagement of women needs to shift to ensure 50% representation at all levels. This meeting addressed the SDGs and how we can progress to ensure BPW member countries in Oceania, through partnerships and collaboration, to make sure no woman or girl is left behind.

Carolyn Savage
Oceania Sub-Regional Coordinator, Asia-Pacific

6 April 2019  Presidents Training  Switzerland
6-7 April 2019  BPW Italy General Assembly – Conference - Positive strategies and actions to affirm gender equality: FIDAPA  Naples, Italy
                        BPW Italy at the time of Gender Mainstreaming
5-7 April 2019  80th Anniversary of BPW New Zealand  Wellington, New Zealand
8 April 2019  BPW International Oceania Sub-Regional Conference  Wellington, New Zealand
23-25 April 2019  5th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Network of Business and Professional Women Meeting in Honor of PIP Livia Ricci  Cairo, Egypt
BPW Europe and BPW Ireland are excited to welcome you to the 16th European Conference in Galway. We are working very hard to present a wonderful Conference experience for you. Partaking in a BPW Conference is a unique opportunity to experience how the strength of the BPW network supports women in their career and personal development.

The theme is “Nothing without Peace” and we, as women, have to be true ambassadors of peace. We are ready to take registrations and guide you with your accommodation needs. Please keep in touch with our www.bpweurope.org over the next few months as we will be regularly updating the Conference Program’s important information as well as many ways for you to enjoy your visit to the beautiful west of Ireland.

This is your Conference; a warm European and Irish Welcome awaits you in Galway!

Pinella Bombaci
Regional Coordinator BPW Europe

Carmen Taheny
BPW President BPW Ireland

4 May 2019 20th Anniversary BPW Club Vorarlberg Austria
24–26 May 2019 16th European Conference and Young BPW Symposium Galway, Ireland
22 June 2019 Charter of the Girls’ Rights in Livorno Club Italy
26 June 2019 BPW Switzerland Delegates' Meeting 2019 Switzerland
27–28 June 2019 BPW Spain’s Leader Summit and General Assembly Spain

July – September 2019

Latin America Regional Conference
13–15 September 2019
Quito – Ecuador

The importance of professional and business women in Latin America to promote fundamental changes that project us into the XXII Century
BPW Latin America will hold its IX Regional Congress from September 13 to 15, 2019 at the Hotel Quito in the business center of the capital. BPW Ecuador will host the Conference. It is the opportunity for BPW Latin America to welcome its sisters in this splendid setting, in the middle of the world. Quito, Colonial city and World Cultural Heritage, is located at 2800 meters above sea level, between snow-capped mountains, mountains and valleys.

During the conference, in addition to choosing their next authorities, the Affiliates will address topics of interest to them. There will be interesting lectures with speakers who are specialists in the different topics to be discussed. Participants can also mingle and network, during the events we have organized: an informal dinner and a Gala Dinner to be held in the Hotel Plaza Grande with a colonial atmosphere. Finally, yet importantly, we will put at your disposal various tours so that participants can get to know this attractive and diverse Andean country. The Galapagos Islands will also be on the menu.

We welcome dear BPW friends with open arms to enjoy our beautiful city of Quito!

Dianna Barragan
Latin-America Regional Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6 July 2019</td>
<td>Global Summit of Women</td>
<td>Basel, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 July 2019</td>
<td>BPW Thailand Award Ceremonies</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 August 2019</td>
<td>BPW Canada Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>Montreal, Quebec, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15 September 2019</td>
<td>Latin America Regional Conference</td>
<td>Quito, Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>BPW Italy General Assembly</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–21 September 2019</td>
<td>Leadership Training for Women</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**October – December 2019**

The BPW International Africa Regional Conference will be held in Khartoum, Sudan on 15-17 October 2019 under the theme “Women Economic Empowerment for Achieving Peace and Sustainable Development”. BPW Sudan and Hawa Society for Women, which will host this event, warmly welcome BPW members to exchange experiences and knowledge as well as exploring ancient civilizations once located in the land of Sudan.

Abla Mahdi
Africa Regional Coordinator
BPW Japan is excited to host the **East Asia Sub-Regional Conference** on 30 November – 2 December 2019 in Tokyo, Japan, under the theme “**Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals**” and “**Empowering Women**”. BPW Japan will focus on the 2030 Agenda SDGs, especially SDG#4 quality education, SDG#5 gender equality, and SDG#17 partnerships for the goals that East-Asia Sub–Region targets on. The Conference will be held in both Keio Plaza Hotel, in the center of metropolitan Tokyo, and at the National Women’s Education Center in the picturesque suburb of Saitama. On 2 December 2019 in the afternoon, participants will enjoy Japanese Culture such as the tea ceremony, wearing a kimono, etc. On 3 December, BPW Japan prepares an optional cultural tour to Kawagoe, Saitama, for you all to enjoy our Traditional Town and Japanese traditional paper ‘washi’ craft experiences. It will be lots of fun.

Welcome to you all to Japan to enjoy our remarkable and traditional Japanese hospitality.

*Masako Hiramatsu*  
President of BPW Japan

*Caterina Park*  
East Asia Sub-regional Coordinator

### 2-5 October 2019
2nd WIN Congress and 25th BPW Barcelona Anniversary  
Barcelona, Spain

### 15-17 October 2019
Africa Regional Conference  
Khartoum, Sudan

### 2-7 November 2019
NFBPWC USA 100th Anniversary Cruise  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Bahamas, Turks, and Caicos Islands

### 11 November 2019
Autumn Conference 2019  
Switzerland

### 30 November 2019 – 2 December 2019
BPW International East-Asia Sub-Regional Conference  
Tokyo, Japan

## Events in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2020</th>
<th>BPW Canada Convention</th>
<th>Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-26 August 2020</td>
<td>The XXX BPW International Congress</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CALENDAR OF BPW EVENTS** with more details is available for download from https://www.bpw-international.org/images/pdf/BPW-Calendar.pdf

BPW Affiliates can add key their national or regional events to the calendar by e-mailing the information to communication.admin@bpw-international.org
By Neelima Basnet, Young BPW International Representative

Young BPW members at UN Head Quarter, New York, USA on 10 March 2019

Young BPW at United Nations CSW 63

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 63 was attended by more than 5,200 women and men representing civil society, along with at least 1,850 government delegates. While there were many powerful panel discussions on youth mobilization during UN-CSW, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women gave an opportunity to around 20 young members from around the world to be part of this global conversation. Not everyone was there with ground passes but they made sure that they were part of all the side and parallel events.

World leaders discussed the involvement of youth-led organizations to ensure innovative solutions and believed that by including youth, it would be easy to achieve the SDG 2030 agenda. During CSW63, young people asked for increased investment, accountability and seats at decision-making tables. UN Youth Envoy, Jayathma Wickramanaya, said “Let it be expensive, but it is an investment we have to make. If there is no space at the table, then we have to make our tables bigger so that those voices that were not heard before can be heard now.”

Young BPW members engagement during CSW63 was exceptional this year. They were not just audience members but were part of the conversations and made sure they were voice of vulnerable and marginalized young people across the globe. This year young BPW participants were greatly inspired to embrace the path to make change and work towards achieving gender equality for women worldwide. We hope to see more young BPW members next year at CSW64. #youthcsw

During BPW regional and sub-regional conferences in 2019, BPW International encourages the involvement of Young BPW. This can be in the form of a Youth Symposium, a part of the conference program itself, social activities such as Young BPW breakfast with International President, Young BPW’s Girls Night Out, Young BPW’s Lunch Talk or other activities.

To follow up on Young BPW News, visit https://www.facebook.com/YoungBPWInternational

Young BPW participated at the UN CSW 63 event, 11 March 2019

Young BPW participated at the UN CSW 63, 12 March 2019
Equal Pay Day 2018 in Europe

For many years, BPW Europe has been managing an important project about the equal pay for equal work, a pillar of the decent work topic, involving all Federations and Clubs.

The EPD Campaign, started in the year 2008, aims to reduce the gender pay gap and to attract the attention of the Institutions. Before no one spoke about this problem; now the movement of opinion is there and it is strong.

The gender pay gap was one of the points that Hillary Clinton put in her political campaign. President Barack Obama highlighted the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act that President John F. Kennedy signed in 1963.

Pope Francesco on this matter said: "Why is it assumed that women have to earn less than men? No! They have the same rights. Disparity is a pure scandal!"

Our campaign on Equal Pay day had and has the merit of increasing awareness on this issue and many countries are approving appropriate laws and we consider as our success that the law entered into force in Iceland and France, the first countries in the world to apply seriously the concept of equal pay for equal work.

We achieved another important result: now the equal salary for equal work is one of the seventeen sustainable development goals on the Agenda 2030.

Other BPW member Countries that advocate through “Equal Pay Day” in 2018

| 2. Australia | 15. Finland | 28. Poland |
| 3. Austria | 16. France | 29. Portugal |
| 4. Belgium | 17. Germany | 30. Russia |
| 6. Brazil | 19. Ireland | 32. South Korea |
| 7. Canada | 20. Italy | 33. Spain |
| 9. China (Hong Kong) | 22. Lebanon | 35. Switzerland |
| 10. Croatia | 23. Luxembourg | 36. Turkey |
| 11. Cyprus | 24. Malta | 37. United Kingdom |
| 12. Czech Republic | 25. Moldova | 38. USA |

BPW Affiliates are invited to register their projects with respect to SDGs at www.bpw-projects.org
Also, please share your Equal Pay Day Activities with communication.admin@bpw-international.org so that they can be posted on web site and Facebook pages of BPW International & IFBPW.
BPW Power to make a Difference

BPW Nepal’s Decades of Women’s Empowerment

Nowadays, the challenges of women’s empowerment are how to make it long-lasting, financially sustainable and also to earn income in environmentally-friendly ways.

BPW Nepal, through decades of working with women at the grass roots level, triumph over these challenges. From village to village, BPW Nepal helps to transform illiterate women into entrepreneurs, give women professions and even to turn women who were victims of domestic violence into medium-size business owners.

BPW Nepal’s efforts to help earthquake victims went beyond donating food and supplies. BPW members helped by giving materials to people to build 48 houses, gave them seeds to plant vegetables, taught them to work together to negotiate for a good price and even gave them the know-how to start a coffee plantation.

At BPW International Congresses over the last two decades, in every triennium, BPW Nepal always won one of the Excellent Project awards from BPW International for the works they did over the past four decades. Their projects ranged from improving literacy, various skills training, Affordable Day Care Center for children of factory workers, Micro-Credit, Business Service Centers, etc. Their latest efforts to help victims of earthquake that devastated Nepal in 2015 won them BPW Power to Make a Difference, first place Excellent Project Award at the Cairo Congress in October 2017.

Watch this video interview of Ambica Shrestha, President of BPW Nepal on “Decades of Women Empowerment work by BPW Nepal” at https://youtu.be/LFB2G_TUIBU

For the list of all the winners for BPW Power to Make a Difference Awards 2014-2016, visit http://bit.do/BPW-power-to-make-a-difference

Submission for BPW Power to Make a Difference 2017-2019 will open April – Dec 2019. The awards will be given at the gala dinner of the XXX BPW International Congress in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Contact Us

BPW International President’s Office:
E-mail: presidents.office@bpw-international.org

BPW Member Services:
E-mail: member.services@bpw-international.org

Communication Administrator:
Email: communication.admin@bpw-international.org

BPW International News 1/2019

Editor-in-Chief: Chonchanok Viravan, Ph.D.
Editorial Team: Naphaphen Vejjajiva (Deon)
Lolwa Awad
Janice Bancroft

Layout Design: Chonchanok Viravan, Ph.D.
Translation: Pinella Bombaci (Italian)
Diana Barragan (Spanish & French)

E-News Production: A-Plus-Ready

The views expressed in BPW International News are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher. While considerable effort is being made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, BPW International does not accept responsibility or liability for errors and omission.