

May 21, 2018

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Dear Presidents and CIRs

In 2019, GWI will be one hundred years old. Planning is underway for an event that honors our past and looks towards GWI's future within a rapidly changing social, economic and political landscape.

This is the first of many communications on the subject to say that we need your unbridled enthusiasm in celebrating this meaningful milestone! Just as importantly, we need your support as GWI begins to shape its future as the only credible voice for graduate women and education.

We hope very much that you will put some time aside and start planning for your trip because this will be the gathering of a lifetime – fun, joyful, enlightening, hopeful, reassuring and positive.

The Graduate Women International 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration and “*Peace Through Education*” Conference will be held 25 July through 28 July 2019 at Université de Genève, Uni Mail Ground Floor Boulevard du Pont d’Arve 40, 1205, Geneva, Switzerland.

Location:

We've chosen the city of Geneva for this momentous event because of GWI's long association with the city, its ubiquitous support for NGOs and our close-knit relationship with the UN Human Rights Council.

Additionally, Geneva is a particularly appropriate setting for our “*Peace through Education*” Conference because of the city's glorious history of “peace- enabling” as the site for peace talks for Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Balkans and Syria and nuclear non-proliferation discussions between the United States of America and the Soviet Union.

Logo:

Planning for the Graduate Women International 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration and Conference began with a Logo Contest. Over the years, each Triennial has had its own unique logo that is a variation on our traditional logo. We're not quite sure where and how this practice began but we thought it would be good to continue it.

We put out a call to the membership for a Centenary Logo and were delighted to receive a number of entries. All of the entries were beautiful – each embodied perspectives on GWI's work, its status in the world and its bountiful potential.

Although all were winners, we picked one that most captured the spirit of the Centenary. Our artist belongs to Graduate Women Fiji. Her name is - Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi.

Our thanks and congratulations go to all the participants for their thoughtful work.

The Local Activities Committee (LAC)

We are absolutely delighted to tell you that the President of the Swiss Association (SVA), Doris Boscardin, is heading up the LAC which of course is comprised of members of the Swiss Association. Gracious, efficient and endlessly helpful with their reflections on Geneva, Doris and the LAC have already been hard at work. They have reserved the facilities, chosen a caterer and menus, organized a delightful Swiss Evening on Lake Geneva, identified sightseeing trips and are fundraising in Geneva.

In fact, we have been overwhelmed by the many kindnesses of the SVA not the least of which are the generous donations towards the Centenary General Assembly (GA) and Conference: CHF 8,000 from Zurich and CHF 18,000 from the SVA. For their generosity, our Swiss sisters have our undying gratitude.

General Assembly:

Very soon, at the appropriate intervals, we will begin to send you the requisite constitutional materials to prepare for the next Triennium. The timeline for the dissemination of materials begins 8 June 2018. ***Your responses to these materials and your participation in the GA's preparatory process is indispensable so please check your email frequently.***

Conference:

At the end of the first World War, our founding mothers Virginia Gildersleeve, Caroline Spurgeon and Rose Sidgwick understood that graduate women, bound by friendship and mutual respect and working across country borders could provide leadership in advancing the full complement of human rights for all people including the right to live in peace.

On the eve of our Centenary, the voices of our founding mothers ring in our ears, urging us to remember this vision.

Therefore, with more than half the world ablaze in war and internecine conflict, over 200,000 refugees and displaced persons and the disproportionately higher price that conflicts and war extract from women and girls, it is only fitting that GWI facilitate a discussion about the role that education can play in establishing peace.

At our Centenary GA and Conference, we will bring together our members, academics, activists, institutional and grassroots leaders, civil society organizations and multilateral entities for a meaningful discussion of the essential relationship between education and peace.

The conference will offer workshops and seminars that provide awareness, information and training on how education is instrumental in creating a culture of peace; why education and the empowerment of women and girls are crucial to lasting peace; why peace itself is important to all people regardless of where they live in our global society; how educated women can influence national and global agendas to enhance the relationship between education and peace.

Keynotes for each of the four days given by global leaders are sure to make us reflect, expand our understanding of the socio-economic and political dynamics of global connectedness and its impact on education and peace and the role that GWI and its members must rise to in the coming years.

Please review the attached accompanying Conference Concept Flyer for additional details.

The Caroline Spurgeon Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee has announced a special Centenary Fellowship – The Caroline Spurgeon Fellowship. Caroline Frances Eleanor Spurgeon was the first President of the International Federation of University Women (now Graduate Women International). Her term ran from 1920 to 1924. This is a CHF 12,000 Fellowship that is to be awarded to an established PhD or Post- Doctoral Student whose research is relevant to GWI. You can read about the [Fellowship](#) on the website.

Other Awards

We will also make the Chitra Ghosh Award established by this Past President of IFUW and new this year will be an award from Turkish Association Past President, Nazan Moroglu. Details to come.

Hegg Hoffet

As is our tradition, we will be calling for Hegg Hoffet items to be sold at the GA and Conference. Details to come.

Website Updates

Website updates have begun and will ramp up as our work evolves. Early Bird Registration for the GA and Conference begins in the first week of October 2018.

Please distribute this information as widely as possible to your membership and together please visit the [website](#) as frequently as possible.

In closing let us reiterate our invitation to you and our sincerest desire to see you at the GA and Conference. Please plan to come. It won't be the same without you.

Sincerely,

Geeta Desai
Hazel Bowen
Rae Duff
Eileen Focke- Bakker
Louise McLeod
Basak ovacik
Katharina Strub