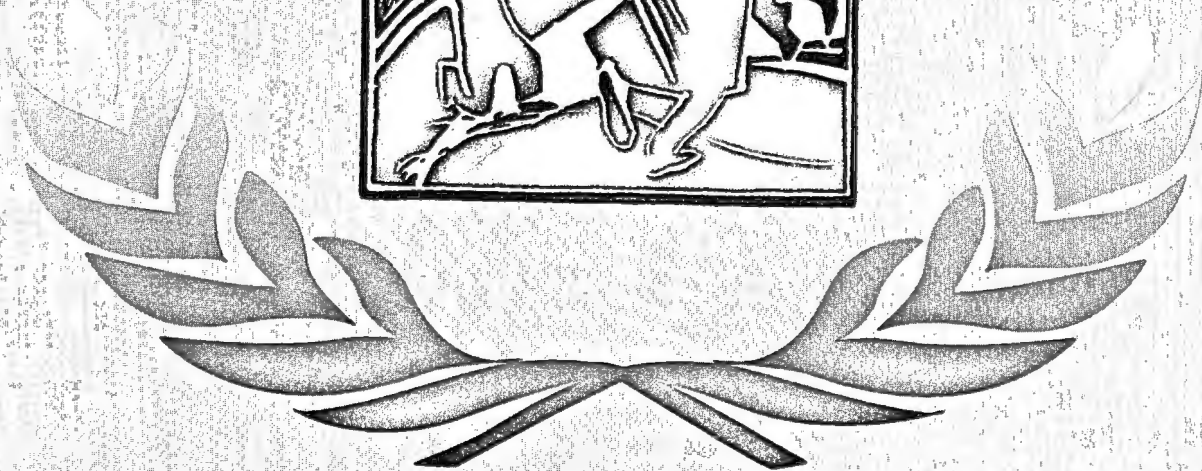




A Brief History
of
The United Nations Women's Guild
1948-1995



**A Brief History of the United Nations Women's Guild
1948 - 1995**

List of UNWG Publications

Ride With the Sun, MacGraw Hill Inc.,

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Ride With the Sun (Japanese), Nupun Jido Tosho Ltd.,

© 1992 United Nations Women's Guild.

United Nations Women's Guild Cookbook, Second Edition,

© 1992 United Nations Women's Guild.

Blessed by the Sun Volume I, (CD-ROM published in Japan) ,

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In a spirit of appreciation for the goals of the United Nations, for its encouragement and relationship to the United Nations Women's Guild, we dedicate this history to this august body on the occasion of its Fiftieth anniversary. The members of the Guild are happy to share in this momentous celebration.

The United Nations Women's Guild

Leia Maria Boutros-Ghali

**FOREWORD TO THE HISTORY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD**

The history of the United Nations Women's Guild reflects, to a large extent, the history of the United Nations itself. From its heroic beginnings in Great Neck, New York, to its worldwide scope of activities today, the United Nations Women's Guild has demonstrated true commitment to the ideals of the Charter. In the year 1994 alone, 145 projects of the United Nations Women's Guild were spread over four continents. These projects benefit children in need from all over the world.

The United Nations Women's Guild's active concern for future generations reflects the concerns of the United Nations. Reading the history of the United Nations Women's Guild, I am proud and honoured to be in such company. The spirit of the Charter lives in us all who have been associated in one way or another with this great enterprise: the United Nations Organization.

Leia Maria Boutros Ghali

The Children's Charter

*There shall be peace on earth but not until
All children daily eat their fill;
Go warmly clad against the winter wind
And learn their lessons with a tranquil mind.*

*And thus released from hunger, fear and need,
Regardless of their color, race or creed,
Look upward smiling to the skies,
Their faith in life reflected in their eyes.*

This poem, first published as words to a song, was composed in 1954 by President Dorothy Roigt.

It was included in "Ride with the Sun", eventually translated into fourteen languages.

In 1977, it was updated to eliminate any reference to gender.

This poem is yearly reproduced in the "Calendar Towels", one of the important fund-raising projects of the Guild.

Editor's Note

Congratulations to Kamala Sen and Janet Collins for their unstinting efforts and time which they devoted to writing this history. Salient points which have propelled the Guild to its present state have been captured in this excellent work by these two long time members of the Guild.

It was a joy working with Kamala and Janet.

Lottie Robbins

Acknowledgements

History has no obligation, but the narrators have. It is with gratitude and great pleasure that we would like to pay our tribute to our predecessors - Luba Rodzianko and Dolores Lawler. Their written documents formed the basis of this short history of the Guild spanning the years from 1948 to 1995.

Luba is one of the founding members who from her Retirement Home in Florida still takes interest in the Guild. Her constant enquiries kept us on our toes and never let us forget the honourable duty that we voluntarily undertook to perform. We are immensely grateful for her contribution to the growth of the Guild and enriching it with a valuable record of her times.

For Dolores Lawler no praise could be too much to express our admiration for her well-researched and well-documented work. For the early period we depended on the records of both ladies quite freely. But for later years from the seventies, our own experience and memories have been the primary source of our writings.

We are also indebted to the editors of our Newsletters whose publication began in 1960 and has continued to appear to this day. We often turned to this store of information to refresh our memory or to fill in any gaps as necessary.

Finally, we would like to offer our heart-felt thanks to our editor, Lottie Robbins, who has been working with us on this project from the very beginning. Her support and patience were very much appreciated. To every question, the answer came from her with her usual aplomb, always a relief in our times of need.

The story of over 50 years of service has been compressed in these pages. So much remains unspoken - obligations to acknowledge, honour to extend and credit to recognize. We apologize for any omissions made unknowingly. Our job is done. Time will evaluate its worth.

United Nations, New York
March 1996

Kamala Sen
Janet Collins

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The Call of the UN to rebuild the world: A tiny Group's response 1948 - 1960

On April twelfth, 1948, there was great jubilation among the women of a small sewing group in Great Neck, N.Y. They had formed an association to help the needy children, mostly in war-torn Europe. A memorandum had just arrived from the United Nations permitting them to add "United Nations" to their title, thus recognizing the group as an affiliate of the most prestigious world body. The significance of the memorandum conferred honour and responsibility on them. They welcomed their new status with awe; they also considered it their reward and challenge. Immediately, they proceeded to place their house on a footing worthy of its name - "The United Nations Women's Guild."

The latest war had completely changed the political landscape of the world. The centre of the collective power had shifted from Europe to North America and symbolizing that fact, the new custodian of world peace, "The United Nations," was established in New York.

The members of this Group had accompanied their husbands who were among the first recruits of the U.N. from Geneva. They could well remember the days when their husbands were grappling with the issues of war and peace in the chambers of the League of Nations and they were knitting and sewing, hand in hand with the members of the SOS (Save the Children Federation), adopting their motto of a 'warm sweater for each child.'

That epoch was gone.

It was a new beginning. They pursued the same mission of giving a helping hand to a child for a better life. They quickly realized that to become a part of the U.N. even as a volunteer group was a big step forward in their charitable work.

These families from Geneva were international in character. They had chosen Great Neck as their home because of its proximity to the U.N. whose temporary head quarters had been established in Lake Success not too far from New York City. It was natural for them to get together from time to time. As a consequence, a sewing group was created to keep up their old Geneva ties. Friendly Teas combined with their charitable work for SOS was the specialty of these meetings, and Great Neck proved to be a fertile ground for such events.

Those housewives were responsible citizens of the world and definitely aware of their own worth. It was their initiative that led them to ask for an official seal on their activities and Charlotte Boudreau, a dynamic personality, had already discussed this with the members. As soon as the memorandum came granting their wish, Jane McAfee called the first meeting at her home to ratify the naming of the organization as "The United Nation Women's Guild." The date was 22 April, 1948. The members present on that day were:- Mesdames Boudreau, Butterworth, Mequet, Roigt, Godet, Van de Vekene, Giraud, Karkacheff, Macguire, MacMahon, and, of course, the hostess, Jane McAfee.*

* Draft report, Page 3, by Dorothy Lawler: 1983.

This new development was an exciting piece of news. They happily endorsed the formation of the Guild. Little did they think or know that history would record the occasion as the birth of the Women's Guild, and that their names would be treasured as the founding members of the organization headed by Charlotte Boudreau and Jane McAfee.¹

As soon as word went out announcing the creation of the Guild, new members began to join the group. Their contribution towards the growth of the Guild was no less important than that of the founding members. Together they left an indelible mark on the pages of history. These were Mesdames Protitch, Frank, Rodzianko, Vigier, Hadjioannides, Read, Cordier, de Rosso, Le Bosquet, Pelt, Verbrugge, and Lippetz.

With the increased membership, credentials began to change. They were no longer only from Geneva, they were also from different parts of the world, all converging on the U.N. But the Geneva tradition was still strong. The members continued to sew and knit for SOS sponsored children. However, there was a world of difference between Geneva and New York. Soon the members concluded that there should be a reorientation in their thinking. First, there could be no denying of the fact that the focus of the Guild was moving away from Europe to Asia, Africa and Latin America. Secondly, the motto of a 'warm sweater' was no longer viable for an organization like the Guild, not even relevant to most of the countries whose members now belonged to it. The huge colonial empires had broken down to clusters of independent nation-states. Each of these was proud of its political freedom but many of them were in dire need of help to free themselves from hunger, disease and illiteracy.

The signing of the U.N. Charter in the name of 'We, the people' had touched many hearts in many corners of the world. It had opened up a vista of hope and regeneration for the people who were anxious to dedicate themselves to nation-building activities as if thereby they would be able to heal all the wounds that had been inflicted on human society for so long. In a short span of time, a number of international agencies had sprung up around the U.N. Capturing its significance, journalist Walter Lippman said in an address to the U.N., "You make peace and keep peace, but that is not enough - you have to build peace."

In this atmosphere, it was not difficult for the Guild to find a place for itself. It did not shy away from offering its minuscule contributions in the midst of a vast network of humanitarian operations that was spreading all over the globe. The Guild was only a speck on the map of the U.N. - but it was unique. It was run entirely by women volunteers. The Guild had only a handful of volunteers but it took up the challenge boldly. They had the understanding of the problem and knew how to nurture a seedling into a fruit bearing tree.

At this critical point, the Guild found exactly the right person in Dorothy Cordier - wife of the Executive Assistant to Secretaries-General Trygve Lie, Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant. Her organizing ability made her an invaluable member of the Guild. During the first ten years, 1949-59, when the Great Neck Group was almost synonymous with the Guild, Dorothy Cordier held the position of president for three terms. In that

¹ Letter from Mrs. McAfee - Newsletter 1977.

capacity, she made significant contributions in broadening the outlook of the Guild and raising its aspirations to a higher level.

As soon as Dorothy Cordier joined Great Neck, she found a place for their meetings in the Hall of the local Community Church. That made it easier for the members to attend the meetings regularly. The next step was the formation of an Executive Committee to organize the functions of the Guild in a professional manner.

The first meeting was held in 1949 with Madame Pelt in the Chair. There were three other officers - Jane McAfee, vice-president, Dorothy Roigt, secretary, and Aline Butterworth, treasurer. This set a most useful precedent. In time, all groups formed their executive committees in the same way.

In the meantime, several smaller groups had begun to function elsewhere, but all looking up to this mother group for guidance. Within a short time, the leadership recognized that to hold all the groups under one umbrella and to give it cohesion, they should be structured and operated in a uniform way. In addition, there should be an apex body having the authority to keep them within a single framework. Of course, all this had to be accomplished without encroaching on the autonomy of the Groups, which was accepted from the beginning as an integral part of the make-up of the Guild. No wonder, the writing of the constitution became an exercise in tight-rope walking.

The first general meeting was held in 1952. The first Co-ordination Board met in 1953, though its composition was not yet agreed upon. It was decided that the Board should consist of two members from each group, one of whom would be the director. Even the procedure of selecting the president of the Guild became controversial. In this uncertainty, Dorothy Cordier was chosen to be the first president of the Board. Mrs. Trygve Lie graciously accepted an honorary position as patroness. Being faced with an odd situation for lack of consensus, the members quickly appointed Tressa Benson and Luba Rodzianko to head a committee for the preparation of a constitution and a set of by-laws. The work started immediately but it took until the sixties to complete and ratify it by the general membership.

In spite of this drawback, the work in the guild did not really suffer, thanks to the autonomy of the groups. The purpose of the Guild had already been clearly defined thus - "to assist children in need throughout the world and to serve as a mutual bond and centre of interest for women connected with the United Nations and the specialized agencies." The members not only believed it but their heart was in it. They were ready to give their labour of love freely without being much concerned about rules, or caring for the trappings of position on some committees. They followed their own initiative and maintained their own momentum.

In 1951, the U.N. had moved to its permanent Headquarters in New York on the banks of the East River. This led to different groupings of U.N. families in and around the city, and as a result, some of the smaller groups folded up and others became much stronger. The centre of power of the Guild followed the same route, away from Great Neck to Manhattan.

By 1954, the Guild looked stable and well defined. There were now five groups, and in chronological order:

Name	established
1. Great Neck	1948
2. Parkway/Queens	1949
3. Manhattan	1951
4. Westchester in Scarsdale	1953
5. Secretariat in U.N.	1954

In 1950, the membership had increased from the original ten or so to seventy-two. By 1960, that figure had grown to over one hundred.

In the beginning, the Guild was open only to the wives of the U.N. staff members. In 1954, the women staff members were also admitted if they had full-time jobs in the U.N.

Each group began to hold regular monthly meetings where the members could congregate easily, enjoy each other's company and combine with it some useful work for the children - their ultimate objective. These meetings usually ended with some tea or refreshments prepared by the members thus creating a very congenial atmosphere. These also became perfect occasions for the newcomers to get acquainted with the U.N. community. Many lifelong friendships were forged in this manner - a gift of the United Nations.

Gradually, the members began to organize various fund-raising activities. Bazaars and Fairs were the most attractive outlets to sell their handicrafts and display their culinary talents. Other events included Dinner-Dances and Fashion Shows which also produced some money for their Charity Fund. This was a happy combination of fun, entertainment and good deeds. They were comfortably settling down to such events.

But there were others whose vision of the Guild was larger than life. They could not accept this image of domesticity delineating its voluntary work within very narrow limits.

With the creation of the Board, a solution was found. The groups could follow their trodden path while others, in the name of the Guild, were free to explore new avenues for more challenging work.

Just at this point, in 1953, a call came from UNESCO, requesting the Guild to help run one of their fund-raising programmes. It was an opportunity to add a new dimension to the Guild. After some deliberation, the Board accepted this proposal. A sales booth was established in the Visitors' Lobby under the supervision of Luba Rodzianko.

Some excerpts from the writings of the early members-historian will tell the story in more detail.²

"In August, 1953, the United Nations Women's Guild accepted to sponsor, for three months, the UNESCO Gift Stamps Drive to help reconstruct the educational system in Korea. Wonderful volunteers from all groups of the Guild started converging six days

² All the quotations here were taken either from the writings of Luba Rodzianko, Dorothy Lawler, or from the Guild newsletters. Everything is held in the Guild archive.

a week to the UNESCO booth to sell (at 25 cents each) the UNESCO Gift Stamps issued by the U.S.A.”

“Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold launched the UNESCO drive by purchasing the first set of stamps from the president of the Guild, Dorothy Roigt. He commended the Guild for undertaking to conduct this appeal.”

“Both morally and financially, the Drive was a great success. In the Spring of 1955, \$34,370.99 had been raised and allocated: \$10,000 to the Working Boys School (Shoeshine Boys) in Seoul, \$5,000 each to the Y.M.C.A. Hostel for Homeless Girls and to the Vocational School for Orphan Boys; \$14,000 to the Children’s Ward at the National Rehabilitation Centre in Tongnae.”

UNESCO wanted the UNWG to continue with the Drive, but for lack of volunteers, the Guild had to discontinue the contract. However, with permission from the president, Luba Rodzianko offered her personal services to UNESCO. With help from a few more members, the Drive continued for several more years, still under nominal patronage of the Guild. The untiring efforts of Luba Rodzianko were appreciated by everybody and she was awarded the UNESCO Bronze medal in recognition of her outstanding service in the years 1953-65. The ties between the Guild and UNESCO were finally broken in 1965 when the UNESCO office in the city took charge of the Stamp Drive.

The Guild newsletter of 1965 ended with the following passages - “Mrs. Rodzianko is still faithfully in charge of Public Relations and Liaison (of the Drive). Loyal manning the booth in the General Assembly Building are Mesdames Hadjioannides, Hopkins, Kiss, Pilarski and Vasudev. Mrs. Bihlet is also back with the UNESCO Drive.”

“Since Aug. 1953, a total of \$165,266.53 has been raised: allocations have been made to 41 countries, 5 U.N. agencies or International Projects.”

It could be easily said that “the UNESCO Drive was the first large fund-raising effort by the Guild. It paved the way to further fund-raising on a still larger scale”. It was a turning point in the history of the Guild.

Charlotte Boudreau was right when she eulogized, “the Guild learnt to grow with UNESCO.”

Encouraged by the success of the Drive, the Guild turned its attention to a new direction. From the outset, the Guild had considered bringing out a book that would clearly define its international character to the outside world. A cookbook with authentic recipes from member countries might have been an answer; but UNICEF was already working on one. The Guild also had a second proposal from a member. Claire de Hedervy had suggested publishing a ‘book of Legends’ consisting of folk tales from around the world. Since 1950, she had collected twenty stories and had laid a firm foundation for the project. The Board gladly decided in its favour. A Book Committee was formed to explore the possibilities. Kathleen Read served as Chairperson with Dorothy Roigt and Silvia Godet as her associates.

The fifties was a propitious time for this publication. The name of the United Nations had a great appeal among the elite of New York; it was new and exciting. Even

McGraw Hill, a well-known publisher, happily agreed to work with the UNWG. The publisher sought out Harold Courlander, one of the world's foremost authorities on folklore, to be the editor and the contract was signed between the Book Committee of the Guild and McGraw Hill.

The real hard task began - the collection of stories. Because of the U.N. association with the project, it was imperative that the book should have one story from each member country. Second, each story had to be submitted to the delegation or government for their approval in writing. McGraw Hill was only interested if these conditions were met. Beyond that Harold Courlander, a ruthless editor, demanded that all stories be genuine folk tales. From the previous stock of twenty stories in the possession of the Guild, he accepted only five.

The Book Committee, under the able guidance of Kathleen Read, rose to the challenge. Hundreds of letters written on the Guild stationery went out from Kathleen Read's office to delegations, editors, publishers, illustrators and even to the Internal Revenue Service. Hundreds of stories were read and discarded. Only those which could stand the Editor's test were accepted. These stories had to be procured as donations since the Guild had no cash. In the end, everything fell in place. On the scheduled date of 24th Oct., 1955, the 10th anniversary of the U.N., the book came out with sixty stories bound and wrapped in a colourful jacket, designed by Roger Duvoisin.

The master stroke was the title of the book 'Ride with the Sun.' This was suggested by Kathleen Read who chose it from an old English Ballad - "King John and the Abbot of Canterbury."

The book was an immediate success and the reviews were full of praise. Even now, the Guild feels proud of the compliments received from the press in 1955.

A fine savory sampler of folk wit, satire and wisdom (New York Times)

Fresh and surprising...an unusual roll call of the world's folklore
(New York Herald Tribune)

A truly international book. A fine collection - Enchanting, Exciting, Educational
(Childhood Education)

The success was sweet and shared by many. But those who were familiar with the project knew that "as chairperson of the Book Committee during the initial stage and for five productive years after publication, Kathleen Read was responsible for much of the Book's success."

The Guild reaped the benefit of the royalties for decades and the total surpassed \$10,000 over the years. Money was not its only measure. The publicity it brought through radio, press and individual effort was remarkable. It was translated into fourteen languages. Although it went out of print in 1977, it was never forgotten. 'Ride with the Sun' will always stand as the first and foremost achievement of the Guild.

Still, this was not the whole story of the decade. The future was beckoning to the Guild to strike out on new paths and win fresh laurels.

The decade of 1950-60 was a period of great development. It was not only the Board and Great Neck that were floating big ideas, the Groups were also bubbling with creative energy. The Board was, after all, a mirror of the groups. All the Board members had their roots in their respective groups.

In 1959, Helena Skvorzov, the fund-raising chairperson of Manhattan, suggested that a linen Calendar Towel could be sold to raise money. In the sixties, the Towel became the hottest item for sale at the Guild booth.

About the same time, Cecile Antoine, director of the Secretariat group proposed that at the end of ten years, a yearbook of the Guild be made. That idea resulted in the annual Newsletter.

Westchester had the good fortune of holding their meetings at a prize location in Scarsdale in the Friends Meeting House. In the late fifties, their annual Bazaars were becoming almost a 'talk of the village.' An old member still lovingly looks at a faded snapshot which shows a row of chutney bottles on her kitchen counter that had been prepared to fill the advance orders from some Scarsdale residents. About that time, Ruth Olver's project of 'collecting learning tools' for children in Africa carried the name of the Guild around New York.

In this burst of activities, in spite of its smaller size, Queen's Group did not fall behind. Their members were working with the University Mission of Central Africa in Tanganyika. They also made small monetary donations to a hospital to buy sheets and other linen needed desperately.

During this whole period, the Groups never gave up their close contact with SOS. The amount of labour they put in supplying 'garments and comforts' for the children and the way they faithfully honoured the 'motto' of SOS, there could not be any price tag to measure its real value. It was all very true. But a new trend had set in that was also quite obvious.

Just as a picture even by an obscure artist could be more precious to its owner than a renowned painting on a museum wall, so is it true of charities. The Guild began to find more pleasure in selecting its own projects and raising funds in its own way.

Almost after its birth, in 1949, the Guild decided to help a school in Northwestern Greece providing each of their thirty children with school equipment, clothing, a pair of shoes, and a daily meal for a year. It cost the Guild \$150.00 and that depleted its treasury completely! But the contentment the members felt by establishing a personal contact could never be forgotten. So with their first cash fund from book royalties, they found a new direction for their donations. The project in 1949 had set an example and provided a new incentive.

Autonomy and financial independence, of course, within some prescribed limit, go hand in hand. From the start, the Guild decided that the common funds which accrued to it from joint operation would be controlled either by a joint committee or would be divided equally among the participating groups. The group funds, on the other hand, would be managed by the executive committee of each group. Equitable sharing was an important component in the chemistry of viable partnership that the Guild had learnt at an early age.

As for selecting the projects, the constitution, by two broad strokes, had laid down the following ground rules -

- a) All monies received from any fund-raising project of the Guild, or of any group thereof, shall be used solely to assist children in need throughout the world.
- b) All monies raised by an individual group shall benefit the purposes of the Guild and shall be administered by the Group.

The constitution was not passed until much later. But the rules laid down in it were observed even in the fifties because the constitution was the reflection of the wishes of the founding members, not the other way round.

The first newsletter of the Guild dated spring 1960 was in the making in 1959. A summary version of the reports made at the Annual General Meeting and published in the first issue would give a broad picture of the development of the Guild in the decade since its birth as outlined below.

- * It began with the address from President Winifred Tickner, announcing, "we launch our first newsletter."
- * This was followed by reports from the directors of the 5 groups, each describing its major activities during the past year including the financial operations e.g. funds raised and charities supported.
- * Common funds were managed by separate committees.
- * Special reports were submitted by special committees in charge of UNESCO Gift Stamp Drive and Book Fund.
- * Special reports were submitted from overseas - Bangkok and Ghana - where sister relationships had been established between the Guild and similar associations there.
- * A report was received from Peru where a past member, Mrs. Trueblood, had formed an association and was now asking for affiliation with the Guild in New York.

In all this, one could sense the stability and see the stature of a full-fledged organization ready to be formalized by a proper constitution. The agenda of the Guild in the nineties has not changed much from what was reported in 1960.

Most of the major decisions had been made, the track was laid and the engine was on the way. The founding members had demonstrated their remarkable ability to conceive and implement an idea. The time had come for the future members to take over the lead and guide the Guild to its destination.

Fortunately, the Guild had already acquired a strong feeling for its goal. It was fixed like a polestar in the minds of its members, and was embodied in the now famous poem of the Guild - the 'children's charter' written by Dorothy Roigt of Great Neck in 1953. She once said that on a special occasion the lines of the poem came to her mind unbidden, all in one piece, and so rapidly that she had to grab some paper to write them down in shorthand before they could escape from her for ever.

The words can no longer escape, they will remain in the embrace of the Guild inspiring and uniting the members in a worthy cause.

Here ends the saga of the fifties. With the memory bag full and the future set on its course, the Guild triumphantly entered the decade of the sixties.

Honorary President, Mrs. Leia Boutros-Ghali opening the U.N. Women's Guild Bazaar in the South Lobby of the U.N.



The U.N. Women's Guild Shop decorated to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations. The shop is run entirely by volunteer workers from among the Guild Members

United Nations Women's Guild Presidents from 1948-1995



1949-53 & 55-56 Mrs. Cordier



1953 -55 Mrs. Roigt



1956 - 57 Mrs. Benson



1959 - 61 Mrs. Tickner



1961-63 Mrs. Reed



1965-67 Mrs. MacFarquhar



1967-68 Mrs. Bihlet



1968-70 Mrs. Hogg



1970-71 Mrs. Stark



1971-74 Mrs. Egger



1974-78 Mrs. Muller



1978-80 Mrs. Grun



1980-82 Mrs. Roller



1982-84 Mrs. Lawler



1984-86 Mrs. Edwards



1986-92 Mrs. Wurfl



1992-94 Mrs. Sen



3/94-12/94 Mrs. Makela



12/94-2/95 Mrs. Hüter



1995-- Mrs. Habal

The Founding Members of the United Nations Women's Guild celebrate their First Anniversary in 1949



Some of the U.N. Women's Guild members with Honorary President Leia Boutrs-Ghali at their 45th Anniversary in 1993.

Oaks From Acorns Grow

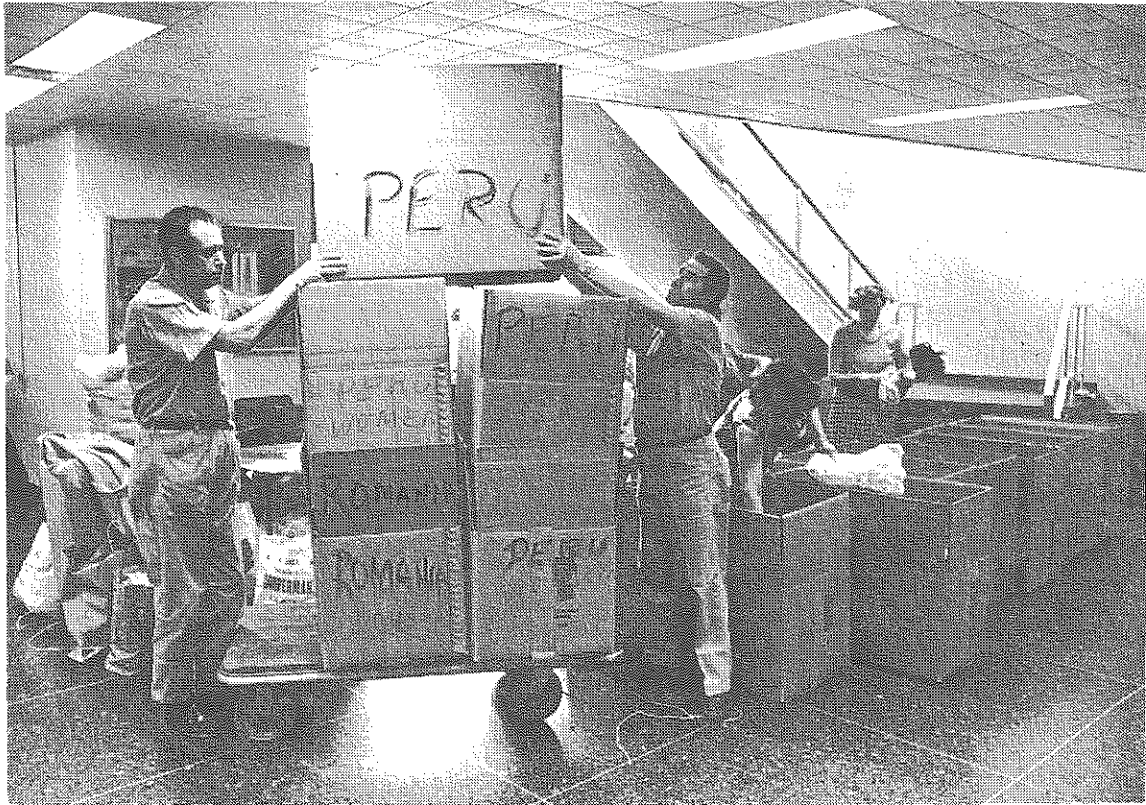


In March, 1988, Secretary Xavier Perez de Cuellar wrote, in a message to the UNWG on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary: "What a group of dedicated women started as a spontaneous movement in support of needy children around the world has now grown into a charitable organization admired by the whole diplomatic community."



Pioneers such as these of the Women's Guild knitted and sewed hundreds of garments and cooked and baked to raise funds for their volunteer work, making worthy and significant contributions to the relief of suffering children

Packing Clothing for Headquarters Drive (1983)



International gifts from the Missions at Bazaar in the early eighties

U.N. Women's Guild Members participating with school children at a Guild Sponsored Party in Manhattan



Sewing Group working on Quilts to keep children warm in the Sixties

Self-reliance in charitable work: A New Way 1960 - 1980

It was a new era for the United Nations Women's Guild. Their logo first appeared in 1960. It was designed by M. Claude Bottiau of the Presentation Unit of the Publishing Service. His cooperation and his artistic talents were much appreciated.

As we have seen, 1960 also marked the publication of the first edition of the Newsletter to serve as a "means of keeping in touch with past members and also with associations of U.N. Women in other parts of the world." Besides being a record of annual events, it contained reports from Ghana, Burma and Peru, and as the years went by, the list grew: Costa Rica, Tunisia, Turkey, Switzerland, Thailand, Zaire, Philippines, Cameroon, Venezuela, Austria, Trinidad and Tobago, Afghanistan, Iran, Italy, Ethiopia, Korea, India, Egypt, Indonesia, Zambia, Pakistan and Guatemala. Because of the increasingly encouraging interest, a resolution was adopted at the 9th Annual General Meeting in 1961 expressing friendship and promising assistance and cooperation with sister groups around the world.

For the first time, an itemized list of donations appeared in the 1962 newsletter. The five groups (Great Neck, Parkway Village, Manhattan, the Secretariat and Westchester) provided \$1,242.00 to eleven charities. On that list was a contribution of \$425 to buy equipment for the Handicapped Centre in Leopoldville in the Congo near to where the late Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, had been killed in a plane crash. By comparison, 1980 accounts showed donations of more than \$33,000 to seventy seven different hospitals, child care centres, schools, orphanages and children's projects.

Much of the Guild's income in the early days came from the sale of the book of folk tales 'Ride with the Sun,' but the decision to publish a second volume met with difficulties. Harold Courlander moved to Washington and his busy schedule made it impossible for him to continue as editor. The number of countries to be included had risen from twenty-three to forty and with so much still to be done before publication could be considered, the committee reluctantly agreed to postpone the project. Ultimately, the whole undertaking was shelved since it became too unwieldy. The UNWG committee returned to the idea of a paperback edition of 'Ride with the Sun' but this required complicated negotiations with the publishers, McGraw-Hill, for a reversion of rights.

In 1962, the outgoing president, Kathleen Read, expressed the hope that the Guild, now more involved in fund raising, would not forget its original purpose "to supply garments and comforts and otherwise assist children in need throughout the world, and thus serve as a mutual bond of interest for women connected with the United Nations."

In the 1963 newsletter there is certainly much evidence of busy hands. In Lima, members of the U.N. Women's Club prepared layettes for needy mothers. In Ankara, ladies created soft toys and sewed blouses for older girls to wear to school. In Accra, there were soft toys and books to be made. In New York, the small Parkway Village Group completed 139 garments, while the eleven members of the Great Neck Group knitted baby garments, blankets and sweaters. Westchester dispatched 154 knitted items and the busy, working members of the Secretariat Group also sewed 40 dresses and

knitted sweaters. But problems were becoming apparent throughout the New York Groups.

On the positive side, the Calendar Towel project, conceived at this time, was not only a financial success but also brought a spirit of unity and cooperation to the groups, something which was sorely needed at this point. A shrinking membership with constant departures to "the field" was a depressing fact. In the beginning, the fellowship and common purpose of the Guild members was a comfort to women who found themselves in a strange environment unprepared to receive them. Later, however, with the expansion of the U.N. they were accepted in the community. Wives were busy, and since their stay in New York was often for only a short time, they were not always enthusiastic about giving their spare hours to knitting, chatting and exchanging recipes. Mention should be made here of the Hospitality Committee of the National Council of Women and the warm welcome it extends. This wonderful organization has continued from the beginning to offer weekly programs of great interest to U.N. and diplomatic service wives.

Although members still responded immediately and generously to emergency clothing drives and could be relied on to knit garments for destitute children, the Guild was developing a more practical and efficient approach to fund raising. Volunteers discovered that it was fun to sell Calendar Towels, to talk to customers, and to explain the aims of the organization which brought a sense of achievement, especially if the sales were good. Initially, the Guild set up a table near the UNESCO Counter and the book shop to sell the Calendar Towels. Phyllis Luke said, "We have made a large sum of money all of which will go to children in need. We have made it together. Each group has supplied some of the effort to bring about this result, and in that effort many friendships have been made and strengthened."

In 1967, UNWG shop moved across the concourse facing UNICEF. Here they had a spotlight and a poster, made by M. de Hamann, entitled "where your Calendar Towel dollars go" with photographs of some of the young recipients of UNWG assistance. Members of the Parkway-Queens, Westchester and Manhattan Groups took turns to staff the table while the Secretariat ladies handled supplies. The small Nassau (Great Neck) Group took care of mail orders.

A committee supervised the choice of designs and also arranged for printing and packaging. Artists in those early days included Mesdames Kay, Bimbi, Poullain, Wronker, Lee, Kim, Ikemoto, Case, Morris Granby, Zinna and Chan. Help came from the Office of General Services and, in particular, from the Buildings Management Services. They assisted with the sales and storage facilities. Lenka Reiner and Ruby Brill deserve special mention for volunteering to keep the shop open during the weekends as does Alice Lippetz, a founding member, who is exemplary in her service to the Guild. 1967 was a record year for the Calendar Towel since the Montreal Expo brought many tourists to New York. Amazingly, 17,632 towels were sold.

Other fund raising ideas came to the fore over the years and in 1960, a small 'Study Group' from Westchester announced plans to compile an International Cookbook. Two small booklets of recipes had already proved very popular and Parkway-Queens contributed a selection from their recipe club. Overseas groups were also asked to contribute and eventually in 1976, Elsa Shapiro undertook the mammoth task of testing,

tasting and talking to publishers. Great care was taken to adapt quantities to standard American measurements and to choose dishes with readily available ingredients. Lili Wronker and Maria Davelaar provided the art work while other volunteers edited and proof-read the recipes.

The first copies went on sale in October, 1977. A second, and even a third, printing followed. Now the shop had the Calendar Towel and the Cookbook and Laura Zinna's canvas tote bag was added soon after. This too proved extremely popular and the first order of three thousand sold out. Other items included souvenir 'pop-up' cards, hexagonal calendars, button pins, New York city street guides and flower seeds. The Guild shop had become a busy and profitable enterprise and the main focus of Guild fund raising.

In 1966, a Welcome Committee was formed to provide every newly arrived U.N. wife with the personal support of a Guild member. This 'good neighbour' would be armed with information about schools, kindergartens, baby sitters, language classes, medical services, transport and shopping. The Committee tried to find ladies of the same nationality or, at least the same language.

Meanwhile, a revised constitution to reflect the increased scope of the Guild was under discussion in a committee led by the dynamic Alice El-Tawil. This was officially accepted in February, 1971, sixteen years after the Guild's first constitution was drawn up. Among the revisions were:

- a more explicit definition of the duties of the Co-ordination Board.
- the Co-ordination Board was given official sanction to administer and apportion monies raised by Guild efforts.
- the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were to be elected at the Annual General Meeting in February (not just the President as in the past).
- members could attend any Group meeting but hold voting privileges only in the Group to which they paid their dues.
- provision was made for special members.

The office of Honorary President was added in the expectation that the wife of the Secretary-General would agree to serve and, in 1972, Mrs. Elizabeth Waldheim graciously accepted the Guild's invitation.

Thus the Co-ordination Board now had a president, secretary and treasurer elected at the Annual General Meeting. These officers acted for the Guild as a whole and not for their respective groups. As laid down in the constitution, the money raised by the joint efforts of the Guild members continued to be administered by the Board which had no jurisdiction over group funds.

The introduction of a Co-ordination Board was important because it united the groups under a common leadership. The Board met once a month, initially in the president's house but later in the Church Centre of the United Methodist Office. However, in September, 1976, due to the extraordinary efforts of President Margarita Muller, the Guild was given the right to rent-free office space as an organization supporting the work of the U.N. (General Document A/C 5/31/17). The Guild moved

into the newly opened D.C.I. Building in 1977 and this became its home and repository of records, archives and stationery. Better yet, it now had a permanent mailing address and its own telephone number.

Over the years, the number of Groups shrank from five to four. With the removal of the U.N. from Lake Success, few families remained in the area. In 1970, the Great Neck Group became the Nassau Group but, in spite of the heroic efforts made by Charlotte Cashton, the president elected in 1967, the Group was disbanded in 1974 and its seven remaining members were encouraged to join other Groups. A notable achievement of the Great Neck Group was the hugely successful 'Ride with the Sun.' Their generosity in sharing the profits with all the Groups set an important precedent.

The Parkway Village Group also changed its name, becoming, in 1972, the Parkway-Queens Group. Meetings were held in members' homes between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM to accommodate the variety of schedules of mothers with young children. These members were knitters, did handicrafts and were also known for their exotic dishes. Although small, the Group was always ready to assist in the Guild projects.

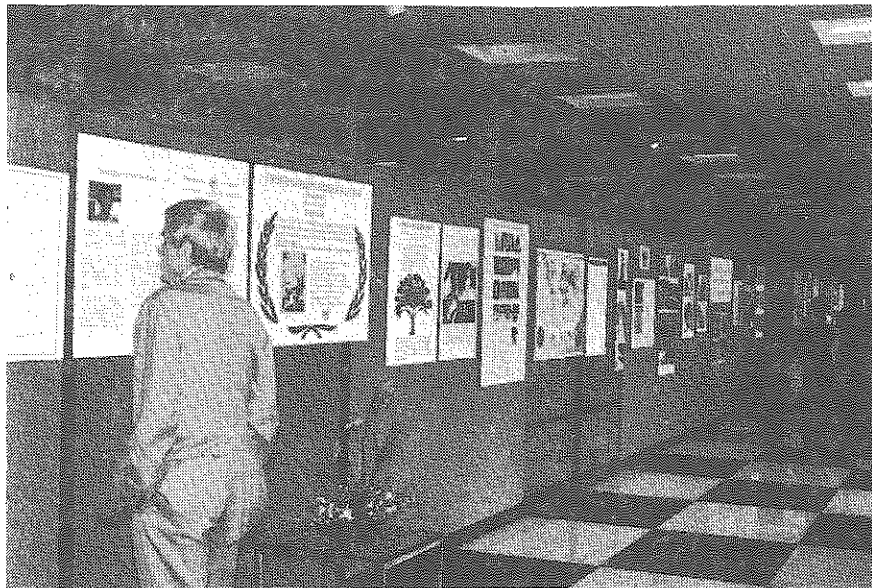
Luba Rodzianko, assistant director of the Manhattan Group, moved to Westchester County in 1953 and immediately helped to form the Westchester Group. It benefited from a warm relationship with the local community through the Westchester Hospitality Committee to the International Community headed first by Clara McIntyre and later by Mary Alice Ughetta. These ladies were unfailingly generous and supportive. The Scarsdale Friends provided their Meeting House for bi-monthly gatherings. At that time, it was the only Group with an adjunct Bridge Club. Westchester was happy to join in all activities, the membership rose steadily and by 1980 had become the second largest Group in the New York area.

Qualification for membership of the Secretariat Group was full time employment in the U.N. However, the achievement of this small band was out of all proportion to its size. Members arranged for the U.N. staff to help them with the reception of supplies, preparation of inventories, finding storage and space and equipment for bazaars. They maintained excellent relations with the Printing Section. Indeed, the Guild had good reason to believe that without these resourceful ladies it would not have been easy to function at all.

From 1960, the Manhattan Group met at the New York Academy of Sciences on 44th Street. In 1965, they began holding their meetings in the Church Centre opposite the U.N. This was a happy choice. Director Lousie McCrensky wrote of the Church staff in 1971, "They make us feel so welcome and give one answer to our every request - no problem."

Being so close to the U.N., the Group benefited from a large and enthusiastic membership. Many ladies served on the Co-ordination Board and volunteered to work on standing committees and special projects. Their annual bazaars and other fund-raising events were highly successful and enabled the Group to sponsor a wide variety of projects in many countries, never forgetting help for the less fortunate children in the poorer areas of New York City. With the expansion of the U.N., the Group also grew and was a constant source of strength and vitality.

Thus the Guild developed and prospered. Guidelines had to be followed and committee meetings could be long and, on occasions, difficult. Nevertheless, the ladies of the Guild were united in their determination to 'make a difference' in the lives of at least a few of the world's countless needy children. The shop provided a steady source of income, although never enough to meet all the requests, the ladies were ready with helpful ideas. The 21st Newsletter in 1980 was full of happy photographs, much information and an overall sense of optimism. Looking at the smiling faces from so many lands, the future of the UNWG looked bright and assured.



*The Women's Guild 45th Anniversary Exhibition
in the South Lobby of the Secretariat Building*



BARRIO DE 17 METROS - LATIN AMERICA



Missionaries of the Child Jesus - Philippines

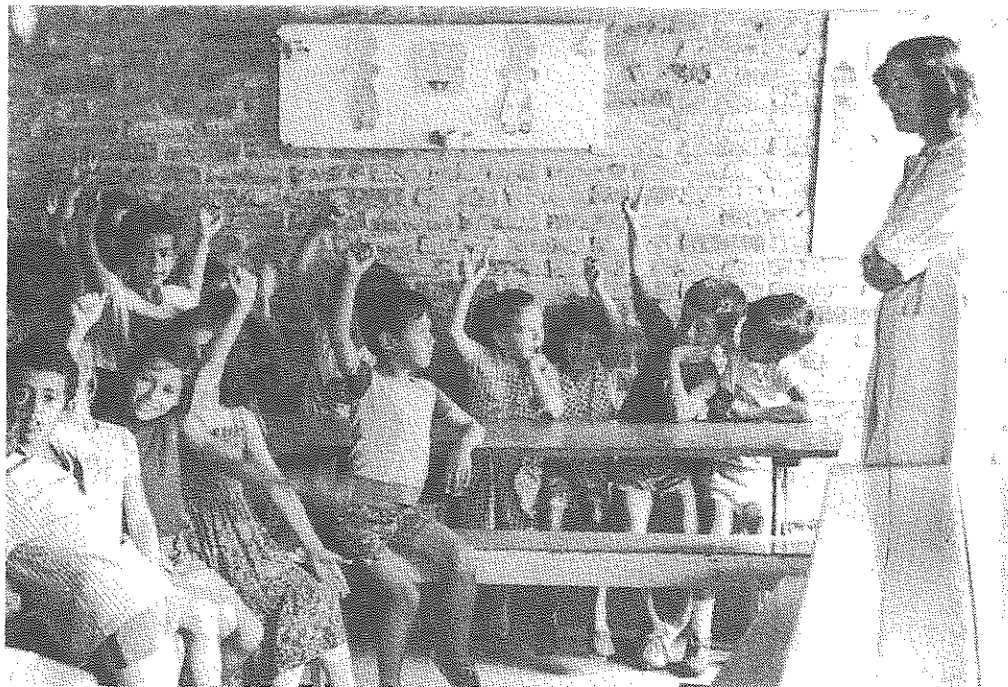
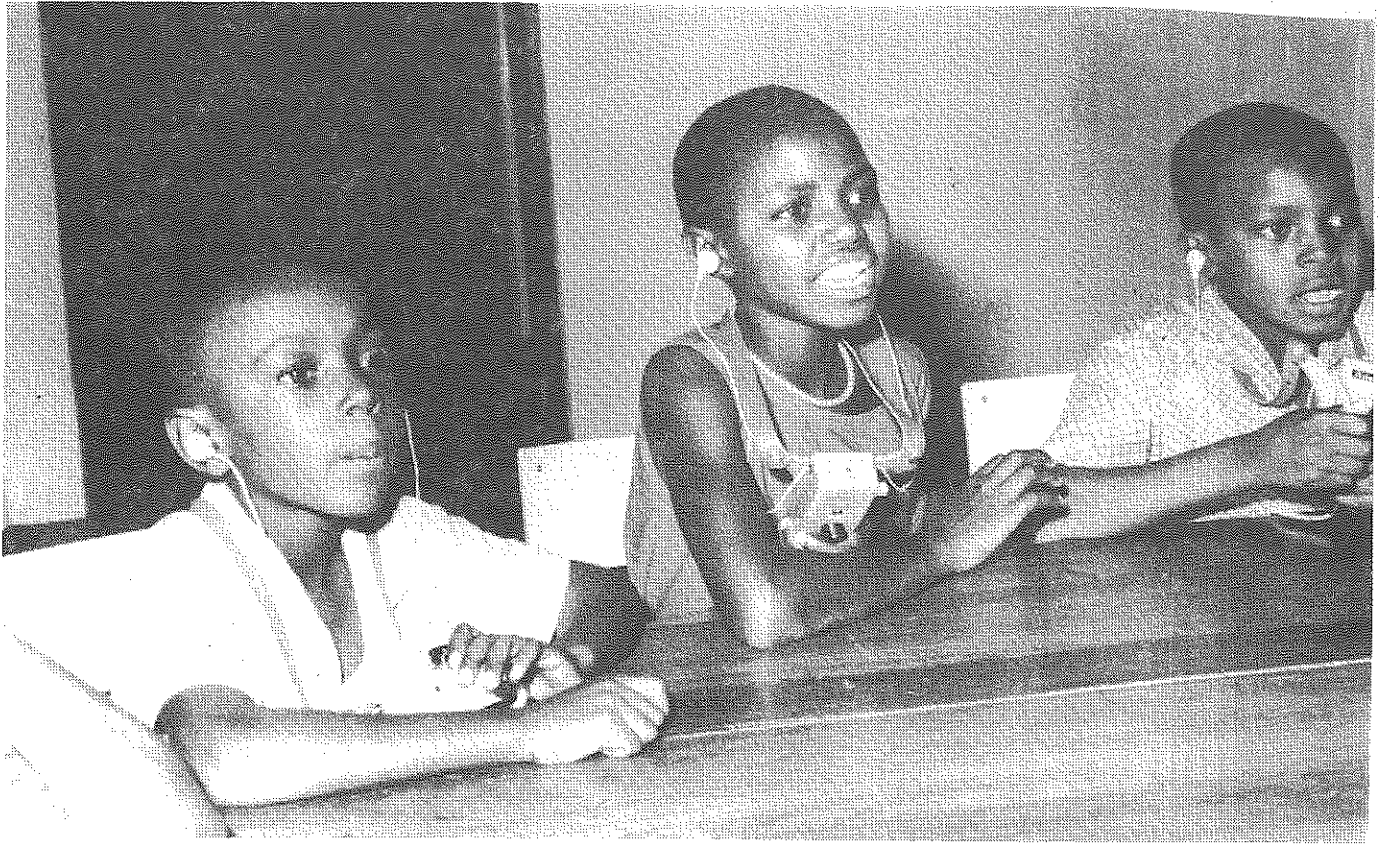


UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION KINDERGARTEN,
ASIA



SHISHONG ORPHANAGE IN AFRICA

Deaf Children from Tanzania



School in Latin America

Handicapped Child



Indian Children at Lunch

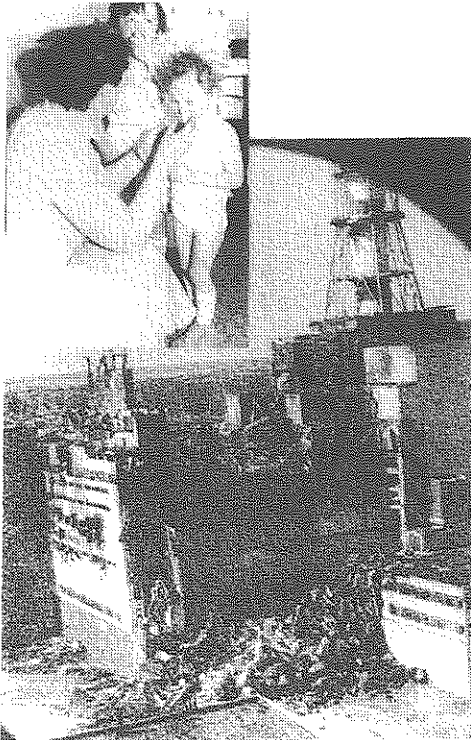


INNER WHEEL CLUB, KATHMANDU, Nepal

**"WE THANK ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR GUILD..... WE GIVE FREE MEDICAL
ADVICE & MEDICINES AT THE CLINICS. WITH YOUR DONATION WE HAVE
PURCHASED A NEW EXAMINATION TABLE, 5 CHAIRS AND SOME
MEDICINES....."**



WHEN CATASTROPHE STRIKES THE WOMEN'S GUILD RESPONDS WITH ITS HEART



A NEW CALL FOR HELP - CHERNOBYL

When Russia was falling apart, Guild members were spending sleepless nights over how to send financial help to the young victims of the disaster.

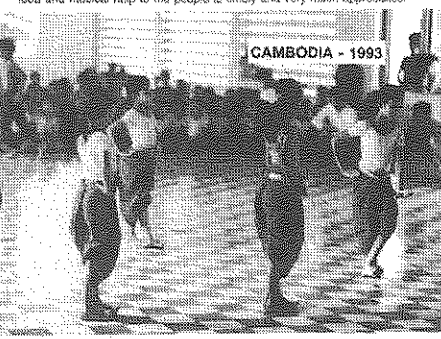
"The money from the U.S. Women's Guild was put toward purchasing medicine and vitamins for children who are given treatment at the Maria Chigorina Hematological Hospital. We appreciate every dollar that goes toward the life of a child of the Chernobyl disaster."

Chairman: Barbara J. Burdette
President: Barbara J. Burdette
Secretary: Barbara J. Burdette



CIVIL WAR: CAMBODIA - 1974

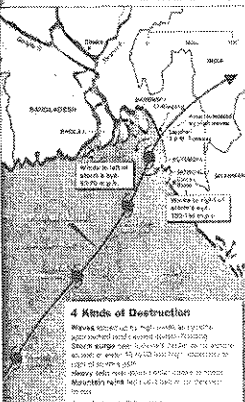
In 1979 Mr. Labouisse, the then Executive Director of UNICEF, wrote to the Guild: "your swift support to the emergency Relief Programme which was bringing food and medical help to the people is timely and very much appreciated."



CAMBODIA - 1993

The big cyclone of 1991 swept away thousands of children, men and women into the Bay of Bengal. The Guild stood by the U.N. Staff Committee for relief in Bangladesh. "All contributions will be handed over to UNICEF for providing direct assistance to the victims and your contribution will help many an unfortunate child."

BANGLADESH



4 Kinds of Destruction

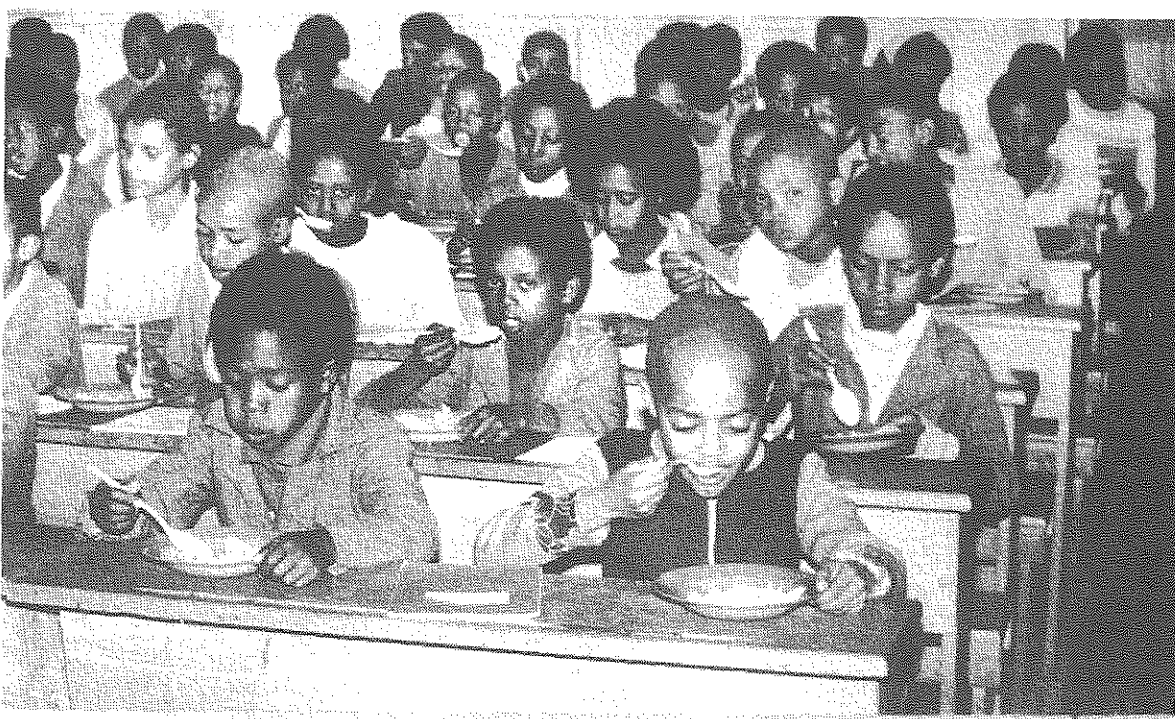
When struck by high winds, the people who lived in the area were killed. The people who were killed were killed. The people who were killed were killed. The people who were killed were killed.

ECUADOR	
<p>Comité Nacional de Mujeres Ecuatorianas Calle 10 de Agosto Quito, Ecuador</p>	<p>Comité de Mujeres Ecuatorianas Calle 10 de Agosto Quito, Ecuador</p>



CENTRAL INDIA

Only recently a killer earthquake flattened hundreds of villages in Central India. Immediately the Guild came forward and sent an embassy of goodwill with help and sympathy for the people in the afflicted area.

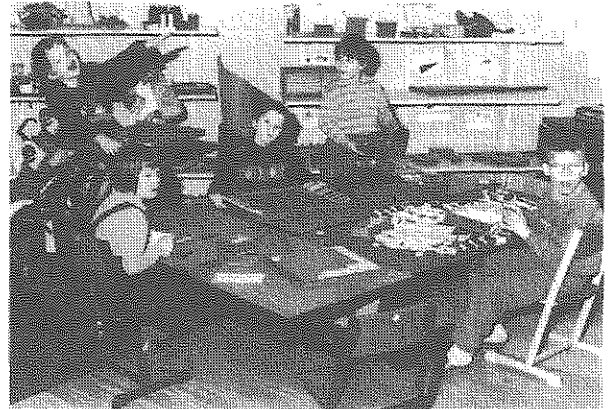


Daughters of Charity Orphanage, Ethiopia

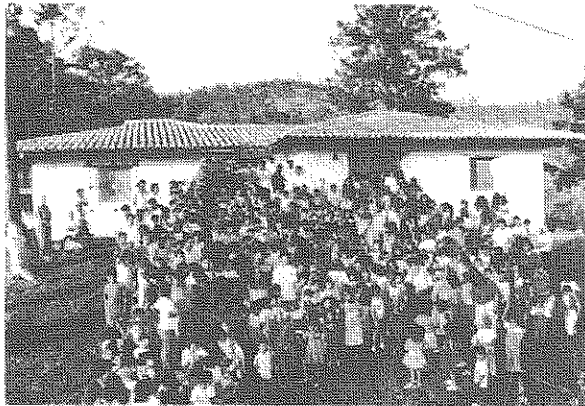
OVERSEAS AFFILIATES PROJECTS



Mrs. Perez de Cuellar visiting UNWA sponsored Kindergarten in New Delhi, India



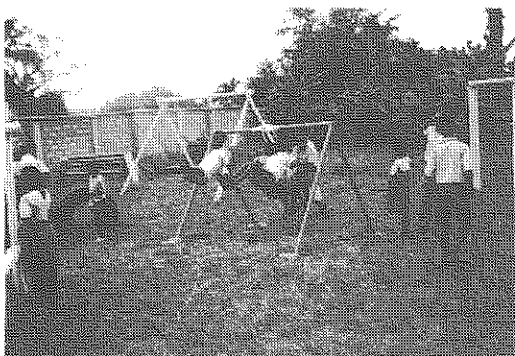
Hans Radl School - Vienna, Austria



Home for the Children - Honduras



Community Rehabilitation Center - Nahr-El-Hared



School for the Special Child - Ghana



Leprosy Center for Children - New Delhi, India

Overseas Affiliates Fund Raising Events and Other Activities

CERCLE FEMININ DES NATIONS UNIES
GENÈVE

**UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GUILD
BAZAAR**

MARDI 23 NOVEMBRE 1993 / TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER
DE 10 H À 16 H / FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM
PALAIS DES NATIONS, PORTES 13 ET 14 / ROUTE DE PRIGNY
GENÈVE



UNWOG

NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S GROUP IN JORDAN
SUMMER ISSUE JUNE 1993

Dear UNWOG members,

Summer is already here and most of UNWOG activities are slowing down. The members are enjoying the blue sky and the fresh breeze of Jordan.

We are happy that the inaugural issue of the UNWOG newsletter received your encouragement and valuable support. It was exciting for those members of UNWOG who had put together the inaugural issue, when during the Third General Meeting you expressed your overwhelming appreciation. We have received a number of valuable suggestions and ideas to make this newsletter useful, relevant, interesting and as personal as possible.

The third General Meeting, held at ESCWA conference room attracted many new members from ESCWA. The ad hoc committee members reformulated the meeting that UNWOG intended to become Jordan Chapter of United Nations Women's Guild of New York. The Guild's constitution is being rewritten in Jordan's context. The copy of the Constitution will be available during the first week of September and a vote on the constitution will be held in the fourth General meeting to be convened in the second half of the same month. The First General Elections to elect the Board of UNWOG will follow immediately afterwards.

We are pleased to introduce three new columns in this edition of UNWOG newsletter: EXPERIENCES & IMPRESSIONS, UNWOG CUISINE AND LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS. We would be delighted to receive your contribution for these columns.

Alka

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

The fourth General Meeting is scheduled during the second half of September, immediately after the summer vacations.

Date, time and venue will be announced in the next edition of UNWOG newsletter.

LOGO COMPETITION

You may have noticed that UNWOG is still without a LOGO. We did receive some very symbolic and creative entries for the competition which were displayed during the Third General Meeting, including a very beautiful entry in oil paint, creation of a refugee of UNHCR in Jordan. It was decided by the members to extend the deadline to give more time to those who might be interested but could not capture the idea of LOGO COMPETITION.

The new deadline is 15th of August. The members are requested to send in entries for this competition to Alka Ben Fazel, c/o UNRWA, UH569. Please keep in mind the UN emblem and try to incorporate it into your logo.

RECIPES

AN INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION

compiled by The United Nations Women's Association
Bangladesh 1980, Second Edition 1982

BAZAAR

'93

SPONSORED BY
UNWOG

5 NOVEMBER 23 NOVEMBER
AUSTRIAN CENTER
10.30 - 17.00

March towards the 21st century 1980 - 1995

History flows with time like a river, its waves following each other without any end or beginning. It has many layers. The historian tries going deeper to find the roots of the events which are manifested on the surface. She wants to show the links in order to give some meaning to all the happenings otherwise they would appear like masses of episodes thrust upon us by our destiny.

Fortunately the Guild's history has been recorded in its annual newsletters by the participants. By putting them together one can see a pattern and find the threads that have tied us with the past and are now leading us to the future.

1980 appears to be a glorious year and the ones that followed were no less significant, one from the other. In 1980 Doreen Grun handed over the torch to Vesna Roller, a step which by itself is rather noteworthy. Since the birth of the Guild, it was mostly English speaking members, either British or American, who had piloted the affairs of the Guild and had brought it to its fullness. The break with the tradition came with Vesna Roller, who was from Yugoslavia, and after her the presidents were elected from almost all corners of the earth. In 15 years from 1980 through 1995 the chain has run through many countries reflecting the reality that has taken shape at the United Nations. It began with Vesna Roller (Yugoslavia) and continued under Dolores Lawler (Canada), Nalini Edward (Sri Lanka), Elsa Wurfl (Panama), Kamala Sen (India), Paivi Makela (Finland), Petra Hütter (Germany), and Munawar Habal from Syria. The presidents and the whole membership reflect the same transformation, from the West to the East, from the developed to the developing. Of course, it did not happen in a day, but when we look back over the decades the change is spectacular.

The purpose of the Guild has remained the same. It anchored itself steadfastly to the welfare of the needy children avoiding any kind of political or sectarian controversies that were swirling around all over the world during the cold war. But its focus shifted from regional to international, and to keep up pace with the enormity of the needs of the children, it stretched its arms as far as it could. Consequently, the fund-raising activities required tremendous efforts on its part and a knowledge of the facts of life beyond its doorstep became imperative.

The first recorded balance sheet dated 1961 appeared in the Newsletter of 1962. From that we know since 1956 when these summary accounts were started through 1959, the Guild had donated a total of \$12,346.62 from Group and Book funds. Since then the Guild has published its Balance Sheet for every calendar year. The following chart shows only the annual donation of a single year made at the beginning of each decade. It indicates the trend of the increase in donation during that period.

\$ 1,242.00 in 1960
\$ 20,412.00 in 1970
\$ 29,528.00 in 1980
\$ 71,465.00 in 1990
\$100,300.00 in 1995 (latest available)

These bare figures illustrate not only the effectiveness of the Guild's enterprise, they also carry within themselves many of the stories that led to the flowering of the Guild's potentialities.

In the fifties, the Guild took its first step towards establishing a cash fund for its humanitarian work. The book of folk tales came out in 1955, and the royalties from this source became a regular part of the annual income which dried up in the eighties.

In the sixties, the Calendar Towel was added to the list as the second money-earner. What an exciting experience for everybody it was! The book was in the hands of the publisher McGraw Hill, but for the towel the responsibility fell on the Guild. The designing, the selection of the printer, pricing and marketing, all business decisions depended on the Guild, and the members carried out their duties proudly and efficiently. To this day, every year the Guild Towel hangs on the walls of thousands of homes here and abroad. Every penny earned flows to the children without fail.

In addition to the towel, the Manhattan Group had found another lucrative way of replenishing their group funds - their annual Charity Bazaar. This was not a new idea. Some time or other every group had planned a Bazaar to sell their handicrafts or unused gifts or even stacks of used books. On such occasions, home-made cookies and cakes always added a unique feminine touch. But Manhattan Group began to do it in a very systematized way, making full use of the privilege that they enjoyed because of their proximity to the U.N. Headquarters or as a result of their special relationship with many of the missions. The benefits from this began to show up in their annual income column, and also in the long list of projects they supported from their funds.

In the seventies, this lesson was not lost on the other three groups. Happy with their own success, the Manhattan Group remained aloof. So the rest of the groups decided to join hands, and started a Fall Bazaar differentiating it from the Spring Bazaar of the Manhattan Group but both were held in the U.N. The new initiative gave a boost to the total income of the Guild and all the partners were pleased to increase the number of their charities.

The Tri-Group Bazaar was significant in more than one way. Apart from bringing financial gains to the Guild it also provided for all groups the same kind of exposure to the U.N. and its community as did the Spring Bazaars for Manhattan Group.

This proved to be most beneficial for the Queens Group. By seizing this opportunity it demonstrated once and for all that it could be an effective partner to count on for any venture the Board might decide to initiate.

If a single name could be quoted in this context, it would be that of Phyllis Madwella. For years she was a driving force behind the Queens Group. At the time of the first Tri-Group Bazaar she was its director. Even when her health was failing, she tried to keep on working with great fortitude not only for the bazaars but also at the sales counter. Regrettably, her death came much too soon in February 1993.

The eighties opened a new chapter in the history of the Guild. Manhattan had already perfected their Bazaar under Shirley Goundrey, a most competent member in every way. Some time later, Zaida Carleton, also a member of many talents, took her

place and went a step further by raising the Bazaar earnings to an all-time high. The Manhattan Group was elated.

This, however, led to an imbalance in the incomes of different groups which was not a very healthy development in an organization which was basically built on the principle of "separate but equal." To maintain an equilibrium, in 1984 the Board decided to merge the two Bazaars into one and to have some equitable distribution of income from this source. The transformation of the Bazaar from a Group to a Guild project needs some elaboration.

It was mentioned before that Manhattan Group had developed the Bazaar into a well-organized source of income for its charities. The enthusiasm and ingenuity of its members made it a major annual event carrying the name of the Guild all through the U.N. The reputation of its International food tables never failed to draw captive customers from the staff to the Bazaar area every year. Also some friends and invitees would come from the outside providing a fairly large crowd for the occasion.

To make the Bazaar financially successful, the Group depended mostly on the gifts from three sectors - the Permanent Missions to the U.N., the Commercial Sector in Manhattan, and, last but not least, on the contributions of the members themselves in food, handicrafts, and miscellaneous gift items.

A Raffle was added to create an exciting finale at end of the Bazaar day. The main prizes were donated by the airlines, Raffle tickets were sold for weeks both in and outside the United Nations. Over the years, it became the blue-print for a successful Bazaar. When the Joint Bazaar was introduced, this was adopted as a model.

Although Manhattan Group was a willing partner in the new arrangements, it was a little hard for its members to part with the tumultuous past when the Bazaar was their exclusive prerogative. During later Bazaars suddenly the names and faces of some of their stalwarts like Dorothy Wilner, Vesna Roller, Katy Mohan, Chantal de Paola, Branka Rifai, Earlene Smith, and of many others would flip through their minds, who were part of that past and now all gone from New York. For a moment they would cast a glance at the corner where Rebecca Lipovetsky, upholding the old tradition, was still selling the art wares donated by many Art galleries located in Manhattan. But quickly they would turn to their own assignments and begin to solicit the customers as diligently as before.

A new development in the field of fund-raising started transferring the focal point from the Bazaar to the shop. In the mid-seventies when Margarita Muller of Westchester became the president of the Guild, the most important contribution she made was to establish useful contacts with the high officials in the U.N. That came easily to her because of her achievements both in the academic and professional life. With her easy access to the higher echelon of the U.N. and her persuasive pleading, she managed to obtain official recognition of the "equal status" for the Guild with AFICS, the revered group consisting of the retired officials from the U.N.

This opened up a new world of privilege for the Guild. The first thing to happen was the allotment of an office in the United Nations, the second step was a coveted spot for the shop in the concourse with a stockroom nearby. To complete the picture, the Chemical Bank stepped forward with the gift of a set of wooden counters with attached storage drawers. For the shop, the days of make-shift arrangements were gone. It

established itself as an equal partner with other shops run by the U.N., UNICEF, and UNESCO in the same area.

In 1985, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the U.N., when Robert Muller came to inaugurate the souvenir sale at the shop, Kamala Sen as sales coordinator welcoming him told the gathering "This shop is the jewel in the crown of the Guild." It was no exaggeration. Today, as the Guild is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.N. embellishing the T-shirt it sells with the new anniversary design, we can repeat the same attribute of adulation for our shop without hesitation.

In the eighties, it was not only the appearance of the shop that improved, but the business itself took a quantum jump in its volume. For that, a miracle was needed and so was it ordained. Towards the end of 1983, on a lucky day, Margarita Muller brought a proposal to the co-ordinator requesting to help the Westchester Group sell 200 T-shirts from the Guild shop. These shirts had been prepared for sale at a local charity Bazaar in their county but the sale was a failure. The offer was immediately accepted, and with permission from the Board the shirts were brought over to the shop. Within a few weeks, the whole assignment was sold. Literally speaking, the burden became a blessing. Immediately, a new order was placed, and in 1984, the sale of the shirts went up to 2000 pieces. Now a second miracle was in the wings. Afraid to break the spell of success, yet tempted by the call of 40th anniversary of the U.N., Kamala Sen proposed to change the original design of the group of U.N. Buildings on the shirt to a new emblem based on the U.N. logo. The success of this move was fantastic. The number of shirts sold rose to 8000. In 1986 as it was no longer the anniversary, the design was again modified a little, a chain of children holding hands replaced the inscription of "40th anniversary" under the logo and thus it became the hallmark of the Guild. Since then, its popularity has remained undiminished. True, there are other articles in the shop which are also selling well, but the T-shirt with its ancillaries like the sweat shirt and the golf cap with the same design is generating bulk of the income for the Guild for over a decade.

The first T-shirt was the brain-child of Uma Banerji of Westchester. She will be remembered by the Guild for this fine contribution.

Outside the Guild, some questioned the use of the logo for the T-shirt. But timely help from Mrs. Marcela Perez-de-Cuellar, the Honorary President of the Guild, resolved the dispute in favour of the Guild.

When the dust settled, Mrs. Marcela Perez-de-Cuellar wrote to the Guild "I am glad we were able to help you overcome your difficulties and I wish to thank you for providing me with samples of the new Women's Guild T-shirt." The Secretary General accepted it with pleasure. Earlier, another letter had come, it was from Mr. Bourbonniere (Director, Communication, Records and Buildings Services Division, under whose supervision the Guild Shop operated) congratulating the Guild for its performance during the 40th anniversary year - 1985 - and "thereby assisting the United Nations." The approval from right quarters assured victory to the Guild for the design and a door was opened for the benefit of the children.

Though the eighties were showing prosperity at the shop, some clouds were gathering on the horizon, casting a shadow on the Guild's future that could not be completely ignored.

The joint Bazaar which was introduced earlier did not bring in enough money to compensate for the merger of the two Bazaars. Coupled with the dwindling number of gifts from the Missions and the commercial firms, this caused a temporary setback for the Guild. But, worst of all, fewer members were showing enthusiasm to share the responsibilities. Those who were at the helm of the Guild were aware of this sea change which was repeated in their various reports.

As early as 1981, President Vesna Roller was reporting "We are losing, in less than 13 months, six members of the Co-ordination Board, all of whom have been, for many years, actively involved in the work of the UNWG and of whose absence we will be aware for a long time to come." Such regrets could be heard from the directors of Manhattan and Queens again and again. The Secretariat Group never had too many new recruits. Only Westchester was showing strength in their number. Even there, in 1984, the outgoing director, Gerta Ambrozek, made this parting remark, "As with all organizations, time marches on and with it comes change. I believe that we have reached a moment of great decision. Many of our members either work or have children or other obligations. Thus the many tasks to be fulfilled fall on the shoulders of the few."

In the expansive days of the U.N., there was a constant flow of newcomers who would readily join the Guild and participate in its activities. At the time of shrinkage, the opposite was happening. To complicate matters, a new rule had been passed, allowing the wives to work in the U.N. A boon for the women had become a bane for the Guild! Under such adverse forces, the Guild was desperately searching for new recruits as replacements to the old ones who were either retiring or being transferred to the field.

This same dilemma had also spread to the U.N. centres abroad. When the Guild was born, the members had high hopes that, by establishing volunteer units (composed of the wives of the Staff members with a sprinkling of local recruits) in the different parts of the world, the Guild would be able to create a network of volunteers affiliated to the Guild. They thought that in time it would become a unique international organization of volunteers carrying the message of peace and caring for children all around the world. It showed much promise at the beginning, and its progress continued even into the early eighties. At that time, there were some positive signs that the overseas arm of the Guild could even become more powerful in the future. Marie-Elizabeth Egger reported in the Newsletter of 1981, "Sometime during the month of March, 1981, a new U.N. Women's Group will become a reality thanks to the initiative of a former member of the Parkway/Queens Group. Elizabeth Mathai has been able to bring together nearly 100 U.N. wives in Brasilia, Brazil, and together they have drawn up their by-laws, programmes etc. and will formally start their new activities after a new constitutional meeting next month." The same newsletter published reports from Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Bangladesh, Botswana, Geneva, Georgetown (Guyana), Guatemala, Jakarta, Kabul, Seoul, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Vienna - altogether 14 groups. No wonder the Guild was delighted to enrich itself with this treasure of information from abroad. In 1985, eleven names appeared in the report of the Liaison Officer Christiane Joubert. Next year, her report was still very encouraging. She said, "Overseas, I very proudly saw the number of their groups increase regularly and getting better organized, emulating each other." Then came the lull. The number was reduced to only a few letters, the reason was that either nobody else wrote or they did not arrive in

time for publication. In 1992, Sally Patten, a long-time member with experience both in the field and in New York, became the Liaison Officer on the Board. New contacts were established and letters came from Geneva, Bangladesh, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Zambia, Fiji, Vienna, and Rome. Because of business operations the Guild was always in touch with a few of these centres.

We regret to admit that in one decade from 1980 to the nineties, the overseas groups have undergone a fundamental change. That became quite clear in the report of Barbara Berke given at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild in 1995. She had spent 25 years with UNDP and was very much involved in the activities of her groups while she was in the field. What she said is worth quoting here: "One of the continuing problems faced by field groups is the question of membership and we sadly received a letter from Fiji informing us that they could not find a president or vice-president from the U.N. community and were therefore disbanding and would become an international club to continue their charitable work." The reasons given for this calamity are similar to what the groups are faced with here - fewer wives are coming, and when they come usually they want jobs or have children at home.

If these were the constraints that were hampering the running of charitable organizations either here or in the third world countries, the Guild could not offer any solution. The Guild exists under the patronage of the U.N. Its fate is inextricably woven into the U.N. system. If any decision of the U.N. affects it adversely, it will have to find ways and means to soften its impact and continue with its mission.

Fortunately, even in the late eighties when the Manhattan Group, a leading partner and known for its efficient management, was faced with a crisis due to a vacuum of leadership and at the same time the Board was unable to cope with its regular activities, the Guild did not despair. Some members were always there in each group whose unflinching devotion to duty had helped the Guild to carry on with its vital functions. The shop at the U.N. Headquarters - the main source of income - remained open seven days a week thus earning a profit. But most important, the members did not fail to review the projects and send the donations without delay. These women were not unknown or unsung. Their names were immortalized in the pages of the Newsletter every year. They were willing to give their blood for the Guild, but in no way they would take the final responsibility and agree to become the president or a director. So uncertainty continued, but the work did not stop.

With the nineties, things began to improve. The winds of change were blowing through the U.N., and maybe that gave a shock treatment to the spirit of the Guild. In 1992, a new Board was elected, the priorities were sorted out, and actions were taken accordingly.

Everybody understood that the shop should have the top priority and all attention was turned to it. For several years, there had been talks about introducing internal audit of all five accounts of the Guild held by the Board and 4 groups separately. Before leaving, the outgoing president had sent a letter to the director of Audit Division to that effect. At that point, the understanding was that only the Bank Accounts would be audited. The new president taking over in 1992 knew from her past experience that something more than that was needed - the focus should be on the shop and the control of

the inventories. She personally spoke to the director explaining the Guild's requirements and the response was immediate. The director put his deputy in charge of this assignment and assured the president if the Guild needed further help, he would give it his personal attention. Steps were set in motion to put the available records in order. The auditors were quite aware that this was the Guild's first audit, and they knew that much of the records could not be reconstituted backwards, so the director made it very clear in his covering letter, "These reconstructed statements should not, however, be construed as the Guild's official statements or as audited financial reports." A long list of suggestions was submitted as guidelines and he expressed his appreciation for "the cooperation and assistance extended to the auditors in conducting this audit."

The advice given by the audit was accepted wholeheartedly by the Board. How to put them in action could have been a formidable task. But "where is a will, there is a way." In Petra Hütter, then Vice President, the Guild found the right person to deal with the problem. All the operations related to the shop were delegated to her, the rest remained for the treasurer and other members to handle. The audit report was handed in at the end of 1993 and within a couple of months, in March 1994, the shop began to work in a faultless manner. By introducing some generally accepted business practices, Petra Hütter brought about a miraculous change in the running of the shop. Everybody heaved a sigh of relief - the sellers were happy to work in a trouble-free atmosphere, more money was generated for the children, and compliments were showered on the Vice President.

This was a turning point in the fund-raising activities of the Guild preparing it for the entry into the 21st century.

In reviewing the business practices of the Guild, the auditors had also touched on a fundamental point which went to the heart of the matter. When the Guild was founded, it was based on 'Honour System.' 'Trust and Integrity' was its first tenet. The constitution was drawn up accordingly. The founding-members were not aware that the hand that would distribute the money would be so deeply involved in earning it in the market place of the general public. Circumstances have changed so much, so that 'Rigours' should be added to 'Honour.' 'Accountability' should be the watch-word.

To consider this point and to introduce necessary changes in the constitution and by-laws, the Board appointed a standing committee under it. Over the years the Guild had adopted a few amendments. At the AGM of 1995, two more amendments were passed, one to the constitution, the other to the by-laws. It was another momentous step to modernize the Guild.

This period of 1980 through the nineties should be remembered for the major changes it brought about without much dissension. Even in bad days, the four groups working in unison kept the business in top form which demonstrated the inner strength of the organization and the unity of purpose among the four groups. The sales were healthy at the shop and other good things were also reaching the Guild in small measure.

In 1989 a silk scarf was introduced at the shop in three different colours. The print was adapted from a design donated by Laetecia Chan, a Philippino artist, with the same purpose in view. The response from the public was very favourable. In 1992, the new edition of the cookbook appeared on which the Westchester Group under Rosemary ap Rees had spent a great deal of time and thought. The presentation was beautiful.

About the same time, Chieko Tagaya, an old member of the Manhattan Group informed from Tokyo (her home town) that the Japanese translation of 'Ride with the Sun', which she had undertaken as her personal project for the Guild, was finished and ready for publication. She found a publisher in Japan who signed a contract with the Guild and soon after that, in 1992, the book was in the market in Japan. The beautiful cover was done by Mr. Tagaya. Two years later in January 1994, the same publisher asked the Guild for permission to produce a CD-ROM Japanese/English version from five stories borrowed from the same book. The Guild was delighted. In September, the contract was signed by the two parties, and CD-ROM disks began selling in December of the same year. This was followed by another proposal from a different party. This time it was a subsidiary of McGraw Hill who approached the Guild for the rights to publish the American story from the original book of folk tales in one of their publications named: © 1997 Reading/Language Arts Program (the 1997 Program). The Guild gladly accepted the proposal. After several months of friendly negotiations, the contract was signed by both parties in November 1995.

These transactions brought in handsome returns to the Guild funds. It was a most pleasant surprise to find that a book, which was published in 1955, ran its course for 20 years and went out of print in 1977, could return to life in such unusual ways. It was as if the past was signaling the present generation to go forward with their work with new hope and commitment.

It is time to state clearly what is meant by 'commitment.' Once a member describing the functions of the Guild said, 'The projects form the core of most of our activities in the Guild, and at the heart of each project there is a group of children. These children represent the whole world to us. By serving them we feel we are also serving the cause of the United Nations.' True, but for these projects the Groups have no executive responsibility, nor do they have any contractual obligations in any form. Yet working under the banner of the U.N. the members know deep in their heart that for them there is an obligation to humanity which can never be forgotten. This is what impels them to join the Guild to work and raise funds for the children who are growing up in the midst of deprivation and poverty all around the world. This is their commitment.

Since the Groups cannot have direct contact with the children they turn to the organizations which are caring for them at a great sacrifice of the volunteers' own time and comfort. The selection of an institution is not an easy matter. Each Group has its committee whose function is to gather all relevant information and on the basis of that a project is chosen. The primary requirement is that it should be a charitable organization with a record of able management. In most countries these are run by women volunteers like the members of the Guild. That is an additional qualification.

These centres belong to three categories - schools, hospitals, and orphanages. The donations from the Guild are usually in small amounts running in the hundreds, but they are often renewed over several years and that help establish a relationship between the donor and the recipient. This way the Guild can cover more projects and get more information from different parts of the world.

Looking at the statistics, it is heartening to find that how in 1949 a single project in North West Greece emptied the Guild's coffer completely. It had spent \$150. In 1994

the total donations rose above \$80,000, yet it was left with a surplus balance in its account. 145 projects spread over four continents and some Islands were benefited indicating a fruitful year for the Guild.

In reality, during these long years a demographic revolution had taken place. In 1949 the world population was 4.2 billion, in 1995 it had reached 5.7 billion. The urban societies are multiplying fast but with it rearing children is becoming more of a problem. Today the concern is not from disease so much as it was in olden times, but from other ills in the societies. So these figures are not much of a consolation.

However, the Guild is not in the field for its own success story. It wants to carry a message of hope to those who are on the brink of hopelessness. In a quiet way using their own time, labour and initiative, the members try hard to make a modest sum of money from all possible sources. This will provide at least some children with more opportunities in their formative years so that they can build a better world in the unfolding future.

All that had been recorded until now is related to what the constitution says - "the purpose of the Guild should be to assist the children in need throughout the world." But what about "to serve as a mutual bond and centre of interest for women connected with the United Nations?"

In a wider sense, the work the members do for the Guild has been the major unifying force. In this respect the annual Guild Bazaar has always played an important role. Weeks and months of working together culminate in the excitement of a single day bringing a joy of fulfilment to all. Reminiscing of her days in the Guild a past member from Paris wrote "At the Bazaar I learnt how to work with people with such different backgrounds. I found it extremely rewarding giving me tolerance and understanding of others' point of view. It often led to long standing friendship."

The Bazaar also serves as a vehicle for showing honour to the patrons of the Guild in the U.N. or in the City Liaison Office to the U.N. The opening ceremony makes a worthy occasion for inviting a 'Guest of Honour.' Previously, Madame Lie and Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold had honoured the Guild by their presence at other events. In 1971 Secretary-General U Thant accompanied by his daughter came to open the Bazaar. Since then, the wife of the Secretary-General, who serves as the Honorary President, has gladly accepted the invitation to this particular day. Mrs. Waldheim, Mrs. Perez-de-Cuellar and Mrs. Boutros Ghali have all shown their appreciation of the Guild activities in various other ways. In 1990, the Guild was fortunate to have Mrs. Joyce Dinkins, the First Lady of the City of New York, as its 'Guest of Honour.' She opened the Bazaar surrounded by a crowd of cheerful women. They were proud to welcome her at a time when they could display the product of their group efforts for fund raising at its best.

In a narrower sense, in their day to day life, the group activities provide them with ample opportunities for getting together and knowing each other more intimately, and setting their own programmes for entertainment or for helping each other whenever needed.

Beyond this there is an area which has not been much talked about among the members in general. In broad terms, it is 'Women's Cause.' Of course, 'Women's

Decade' launched by the U.N. had made an impact on their consciousness and brought a new awareness of the existence of vast discrimination against their own sex, universally.

The newsletter record indicates that in 1975/76 with support from the Board, Margarita Muller took steps to initiate intensive lobbying in the Fifth Committee (the most powerful decision making Committee in the U.N.) to fight against the meager pensions allowed to the widows of Staff Members. Those efforts at some point produced some positive results. In 1984/85, Nalini Edward in her annual address urged the members to take some active interest in 'Women's Cause.' The 1990 Newsletter indicated clear signs that 'Spouses' Rights', if not 'Women's Cause', was a live issue with the Guild affiliate in Vienna. Its report stated, "In response to this need of recognition of 'Spouses' Rights', the Women's Guild of Vienna established a Committee on the 'Rights of U.N. Spouses'." The Newsletter also published views by Elsa Wurfl and Connie Vegega on this matter. Both had reported favourably. This initiative from Vienna had its ripple effects. A similar group was started in Geneva and a working Group in New York began to operate.

In 1992 when the sitting president realized that there was a nucleus of such a working committee in New York, she proposed that it should come under the Board. Since then there has been a 'Spouses Rights Committee' in New York with limited activities. The Guild decided to remain as observers. No formal strategy or plan of action was established.

The members might disagree about their rights but the approach to their duties is the same. In human relationship, the Guild never failed in maintaining its image of dignity and compassion while working with people in the U.N. at all levels starting from the 3rd basement to the citadel of the U.N. - the 38th Floor. The members knew how much they owed to the cooperation of the people around them to achieve success in their objective. They were genuinely grateful for the understanding that was accorded to them on all occasions. In 1982, President Dolores Lawler spoke for every president and every member of the Guild when she said, "We must thank, of course, the Church Center and staff for all their help and the space they make available for us for our meetings and parties. We also thank the U.N. Staff and Buildings Management Service, Security, the Secretariat News and Photo and Printing Sections for their help and cooperation." It began in 1948 and in 1995 it is the same story, underscoring the bond of friendship and gratitude among diverse people, men and women, brought together by the United Nations.

It is amazing that living in America, a land which is full of '15 minute celebrities' the Guild never came forward to claim its share at any moment. Occasionally there was an urge to promote the cause of children using some publicity but it did not materialize. The members depended on the good deeds that they were performing year long at the shop and annually at the Bazaar to carry the name of the Guild. In 1989 President Elsa Wurfl mentioned "We were unable to execute several excellent suggestions to celebrate the 40th anniversary (of the Guild). One was by Sheila Farah to open an exhibition depicting 40 years of development and growth which could become a permanent display near the sales counter. The plans for implementing this idea were discussed with Building Management for some time."

Taking the cue from this desire of the members, in March 1994, the Guild unveiled a pictorial exhibition in the South Lobby of the U.N. before a huge gathering of friends and patrons. The concept of the exhibition with all its text was presented by President Kamala Sen. But for its execution, most of the credit should go to the Secretariat Group whose participation under its director, Genoveva Wallach, and its outside contacts led to the realization of a dream held so long by many members of the Guild.

The official record says, "The first picture that comes to mind of the opening of the exhibition on March 15th is its beautifully decorated Reception Area, and a few steps away in the sunbathed corridor hanging on the screens are the professionally produced posters and pictures telling the story of the Guild and its activities to our guests and patrons." There was Lady Hannay - the first lady of the British Mission to the U.N. in New York. She always wanted a closer relationship between the Guild and the ladies belonging to the missions. On every occasion she tried to make her contribution towards that goal. For the exhibition she did not hesitate to become an honorary adviser and to hold meetings at her home. She generously made substantial donations to its success. She will be remembered with affection by those who worked with her.

The display began with Sheila Farah's imaginatively designed poster of the 'Mighty Oak from an Acorn' followed by Zaida Carleton's creation of the "the laurel leaves embracing the heart of the Guild Constitution." More than fifty posters, large and small, showed the members at work, but more that that they showed the children from around the world who formed the core of many of the projects that the Guild has helped in so many countries since its beginning.

This made an indelible impression on the viewers. A member felt inspired and words flowed -

"The exhibits and interest of
Visitors revealed the rare
Tapestry of superb artistry
Of hope and help
To smoothen the ever-soaring
Flight of the white dove." (Natarajan)

Mrs. Gillian Martin Sorensen, (Under Secretary-General in charge of 50th anniversary celebration), who had opened the exhibition and knew the Guild from its early years wrote "I appreciated the chance to see your exhibit portraying the many people and programmes the United Nations Women's Guild has supported over the years. It was artistically presented and evoked recognition and appreciation for the Guild's work."

Overarching the exhibits stood the message from Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali clearly defining the image of the Guild which it had humbly tried to project. It said: "Today, as the United Nations faces new challenges such as ethnic violence and intolerance, the example of unity and understanding set by the Guild is needed and appreciated more than ever. In its modest fashion, the United Nations Women's Guild is helping to create the culture of peace and caring which the world needs as we approach the 21st century."

The Guild knows the contribution it makes is very modest, not even a drop in the ocean that is needed to alleviate the misery of millions of children. But a poet spoke for us:

“Jostling with the crowd in a country fair he saw a child with empty hands and empty pocket near a shop full of toys and tinsels. The sadness in his eyes had shadowed all the glitter at the fair. Suddenly from a corner, a little girl blew on her penny whistle - its note rose to the sky clear and joyful filling the air with bliss of happiness.” (Tagore)

We in the Guild like to believe that our efforts will buy some penny whistles for the children - that will be our reward.

List of Presidents, Vice Presidents and Directors

The United Nations Women's Guild was born in 1948 in Great Neck, thus the mother group was named the 'Great Neck Group.' In quick succession, four other groups were added. Two of them changed their titles in later years. The title heads of the group columns show those changes.

The following list was prepared accordingly.

UNWG Presidents

Madame Pelt (Mrs. Adrian)	May '48 - Feb '49	Netherlands	Great Neck
Dorothy Cordier (Mrs. Andrew)	1949 - 1953	USA	Great Neck
Dorothy Roigt (Mrs. Honorio)	1953 - 1955	UK	Great Neck
Dorothy Cordier (Mrs. Andrew)	1955 - 1957	USA	Great Neck
Tressa Benson (Mrs. Wilfred)	Feb. '57 - Nov. '57	UK	Parkway Village
Nancy Home (Mrs. Patrick)	Nov. '57 - 1959	UK	Manhattan
Winifred Tickner (Mrs. Frederick)	1959 - 1961	UK	Westchester
Kathleen Read (Mrs. George)	1961 - 1963	UK	Great Neck
Eeva Jansson (Mrs. Kurt)	1963 - 1965	Finland	Westchester
Berenice MacFarquhar (Lady MacFarquhar)	1965 - 1967	UK	Manhattan
Madame Bihlet (Mrs. Behnt)	1967 - 1968	Denmark	Manhattan
Pamela Hogg (Mrs. John)	1968 - 1970	UK	Manhattan
Rosemary Stark (Mrs. Andrew)	1970 - 1971	UK	Manhattan
Marie E. Egger (Mrs. Charles)	1971 - 1974	Switzerland	Manhattan
Margarita Muller (Mrs. Robert)	1974 - 1978	Chile	Westchester
Doreen Grun (Mrs. John)	1978 - 1980	UK	Manhattan
Vesna Roller (Mrs. Draggan)	1980 - 1982	Yugoslavia	Manhattan
Dolores Lawler (Mrs. William)	1982 - 1984	Canada	Westchester
Nalini Edward (Mrs. Alfred)	1984 - 1986	Sri Lanka	Manhattan
Elsa Wurfl (Mrs. Peter)	1986 - 1992	Panama	Secretariat Group
Kamala Sen (Mrs. Sudhir)	1992 - 1994	India	Manhattan
Paivi Makela (Mrs. Markku)	Mar. '94 - Dec. '94	Finland	Manhattan
Petra Hütter (Mrs. Joachim) (Interim)	Dec. '94 - Mar. '95	Germany	Westchester
Munawar Habal (Mrs. Saleh)	Mar. '95 -	Syria	Queens

The name of the Vice-President appeared for the first time in the Newsletter of 1970. The revised constitution with the by-laws was ratified in 1971. Since then, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Board have been elected regularly at the Annual General Meeting

UNWG Vice-Presidents

Charlotte Cashton	1970 - 1971	USA
Diane Paw U	1971 - 1972	Burma
Alice El-Tawil	1972 - 1973	USA/Egypt
Margarita G. Muller	1973 - 1974	Chile
Marie-Elizabeth Egger	1974 - 1978	Switzerland
Alice El-Tawil	1978 - 1981	USA/Egypt
Dolores Lawler	1981 - 1982	Canada
Elsa Wurfl	1982 - 1986	Panama
Gerta Ambrozek	1986 - 1987	USA
Kamala Sen	1987 - Oct. '90	India
Lottie Robbins	1991 - 1993	USA
Petra Hütter	1993 - 1995	Germany
Anowara Ahmed	1995 -	Bangladesh

UNWG Directors*

	Great Neck/Nassau	Manhattan	Parkway/Queens	Secretariat	Westchester
1951	Dorothy Roigt	Sven Grafström	Tressa Benson	non-existent	non-existent
1952	Dorothy Roigt	Charlotte Budreau	Tressa Benson	"	"
1953	Silvia Godet	Garcia Robles	Mrs. Vanne ³	"	Luba Rodzianko
1954	Silvia Godet	Garcia Robles	Mrs. Vanne	Tressa Benson	Mrs. Kinleyside
1955	Mimi Protitch	Mrs. Home	Mrs. Johnston	Flora Young	Winifred Tickner Gunnar Sandberg
1956	Mrs. Wood	Mrs. M. Evans Mrs. Townley	Mrs. Johnston	Tressa Benson	Mrs. V. Evans
1957	Mrs. Leonard	Mrs. M. Evans	Mrs. Edinger	Ms. Standen	Mrs. V. Evans
1958	Mrs. Leonard	Mrs. M. Evans Mrs. Townley	---	Ms. Standen	Mrs. V. Evans
1959	Mrs. Alpert	Mrs. Townley	Mrs. Saunders	Cecile Antoine	Mrs. Jakhelln
1960	Mrs. Clements	Mrs. Anderson	Mrs. Saunders	Cecile Anotine	Mrs. Hamilton
1961	Mimi Protitch	Mrs. Bihlet	Mrs. Corradini	Ofelia Yuen	Mrs. Hamilton
1962	Mimi Protitch	Mrs. Bihlet	Mrs. Coomaraswamy	Carmen Korn	Mrs. Obrdlik
1963	Mrs. Peissel	Mrs. Grigg	Constana Fabunmi	Paulette Wilmington	Mrs. Cook
1964	Mrs. Peissel	Mrs. Grigg	Mrs. Coomaraswamy	Amelia Charles	Mrs. Cook
1965	Charlotte Cashton	Mrs. Coltman	Mrs. Coomaraswamy	Amelia Charles	Jessie Millar
1966	Charlotte Cashton	Valerie Archibald	Mrs. Coomaraswamy	Amelia Charles	Jessie Millar
1967	Charlotte Cashton	Dorothy Bapat	Mrs. Coomaraswamy	Amelia Charles	Alice El-Tawil
1968	Charlotte Cashton	Irene Vladiminov	Essie Murray	Audrey Jones	Alice El-Tawil
1969	Charlotte Cashton	Louise McCrensky	Essie Murray	Audrey Jones	Karin Stigzelius

* In early years until 1951 the Guild was run by the 'founding members' without having any properly designated titles. A formalized structure was put in place in 1951 when a third Group known as 'Manhattan' joined the organization.

³ Where the 'First name' of a member was not available, only the 'Family name' was used.

	Great Neck/ Nassau	Manhattan	Parkway/Queens	Secretariat	Westchester
1970	Lois Bean	Louise McCrensky	Marcella Vandemaele	Elsa Wurfl	Mary Finn
1971	Katie Mohan	Khin Tint Shwe Mra	Marcella Vandemaele	Rosemarie Gonzales	Margarita Muller
1972	Katie Mohan	Khin Tint Shew Mra	Julie Bieler	Paullette Wilmington	Birgit Kimberg
1973	Katie Mohan	Kathleen Stanger	Sakti Mukherjee	Dorothy Zelleke	Joan Watts
1974	Celia Pozzi	Kathleen Stanger	Sakti Mukherjee	Dorothy Zelleke	Joan Watts
1975	closed	Lily Humphries	Phyllis Madwella	Rosemary Gonzales	Alice El-Tawil
1976	---	Lily Humphries	Phyllis Madwella	Rosemary Gonzales	Alice El-Tawil
1977		Margaret Henry	Rita Ido	Elsa Wurfl	Alice El-Tawil
1978		Essie Murray	Rita Ido	Elsa Wurfl	Ruth Albertal
1979		Essie Murray	Ratan Rajguru	Elsa Wurfl	Fina Perez-Ramirez
1980		Essie Murray	Ratan Rajguru	Elsa Wurfl	Elisa Navarro
1981		Neelu Dhar	Ratan Rajguru	Elsa Wurfl	Ria Tajibnapis
1982		Neelu Dhar	Martha Muteba	Diane Lin	Ria Tajibnapis
1983		Nalini A. Edward	Martha Muteba	Diane Lin	Gerta Ambrozek
1984		Branka Rifai	Phyllis Madwella	Diane Lin	Gerta Ambrozek
1985		Branka Rifai	Phyllis Madwella	Diane Lin	Barbara Bernarder
1986		Dorothy Wilner	Lottie Robbins	Diana Lin	Barbara Bernarder
1987		Sneh Singh	Lottie Robbins	Diane Lin	Ilse Reynolds
1988		Aurora Stephen	Phyllis Madwella	Diane Lin	Ilse Reynolds
1989		Hilda Vargas	Phyllis Madwella	Diane Lin	Ilse Reynolds
1990		Zaida Carleton	Munawar Habal	Diane Lin	Nina Abou Hamda
		Beatriz Taibi			
1991		Paivi Makela	Munawar Habal	Diane Lin	Nina Abou Hamda
1992		Paivi Makela	Munawar Habal	Genoveva Wallach	Nina Abou Hamda
1993		Branka Rifai	Munawar Habal	Genoveva Wallach	Emperatriz Machuca
1994		Ana Pazymino	Badria Mabrook	Fabiola Knight	Emperatriz Machuca
1995		Ana Pazymino	Badria Mabrook	Fabiola Knight	Emperatriz Machuca

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There is also another group whose help with the computer and the graphics was invaluable in the production of this book. The UNWG would like to express its gratitude and appreciation for the generosity of those friends who wanted to remain unnamed.

Lastly our sincere thanks go to Shampa Chanda who designed the cover of the book so beautifully incorporating all the traditional symbols of the Guild. Her mother, Kabita Chanda (wife of Ramesh Chanda), was a devoted member of the Guild for many years.

It has been a profound experience for us to enjoy the support and good-will of so many well-wishers of the Guild.

United Nations
New York
March 1996

Kamala Sen
Janet Collins
Lottie Robbins