

2017 Candle Lighting Ceremony President's Message

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure and honor to greet you and to extend my best wishes to you for a successful and outstanding 2017. As we reach our 87th year BPW International has representation in over 100 countries around the globe. Our members, a diligent and dedicated group, continue working to achieve gender equality in all ways of life.

For almost nine decades BPW International has advocated for equal representation in the workplace and political arena. We have brought awareness to existing inequities, have influenced laws and increased the status of women in the business world, the professions, and in society. Although there is still more to be done, we are proud of our accomplishments. We will continue our efforts to raise the standard of living for women until we reach equality for all.

We are living in an era of political and social unrest and we need to be strong, united, and determined. Our Founder, Dr. Lena Madessin Phillips said, "You are now pioneers in the dream of peace and social justice, of international understanding and goodwill. This dream will come to pass. It matters little whether you or I live to see the day. It is only important that each of us struggle without pause towards that day." She enriched us with a legacy and pledged us to fulfill a mandate.

Our theme for this Triennium, Making a Difference Through Leadership and Action, has inspired our Federations and Affiliate Clubs to take on many projects around the world. Thanks to the work of our dedicated members, we can see the improvements made by our Equal Pay Campaign and the initiative for Women on Boards, among others. In addition, several Member Initiated Taskforces and Projects have been established in the different Regions of BPW International which demonstrate the diversity of our work in our efforts to improve women's lives.

2017 marks the end of this Triennium and the beginning of a new one. This will take place during our International Congress to be held in Cairo, Egypt in October. The Congress will feature high level international presenters, interesting sessions, the General Assembly and International Board meetings and workshops as well as social events. I would like to extend an invitation to join us in this important event which is open to all our members and guests.

One of our most important traditions to celebrate our achievements and to honour our Federations and Affiliate Clubs in over 100 countries in the world, is our Candle Light Ceremony. This important ceremony is held during special BPW meetings and events, when we gather with members and friends.

As you light the candles to honour each of the countries represented, you will be paying homage to their members, present and past, and the accomplishments made through their dedication to our Mission.

Welcome to the 2017 Candle Light Ceremony.

Dr. Yasmin Darwich Darwich
BPW International President
2014-2017
