

International Relations:

January Board Report

- The Loess Hills Branch showed the video “Where the Water Meets the Sky” in December.
- Our committee is encouraging each branch to do something with an international theme sometime this year and send us that information so we can share it with other branches. If programs were set for this year we would encourage this for next year.
- March 8th, 2011 will mark the 100th anniversary celebration of International Women’s Day. The UN designated theme is “Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women”. More information can be found on the International Women’s Day website.
- Around the world, CEDAW has been used to reduce sex trafficking, domestic violence, and female genital mutilation; ensure primary education for girls and vocational training for women; ensure the right to vote; end forced and child marriage; improve health care services and save lives during pregnancy and child-birth; allow women to own and inherit property; and ensure the right to work and own a business without discrimination. To date 186 out of 193 countries have ratified CEDAW. The US is one of only seven countries – including Iran, Sudan, Somalia, and three small Pacific Island nations – that have not yet ratified CEDWA. On November 18, 2010 the Senate Judiciary Committee’s subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law held their first Senate hearing since 2002. You can get more information at Cedaw2010.org. We urge members to e-mail or call their senator (s) to support the ratification.

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