

PROGRAMS ON A PAGE (or two)

PENNIES FOR PEACE

At the 2007 AAUW National Convention held in Phoenix, AZ, one of the compelling key note speakers was Greg Mortenson. He spoke of his mission to promote peace by building schools in the remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. He first became interested in educating young girls, who often were left out, when he visited the area on a mountain climbing expedition. His best selling nonfiction book on the New York Times list, *Three Cups of Tea*, tells of his adventures and experiences in creating 55 schools in primitive conditions with little financial help. *Three Cups of Tea* speaks to AAUW's mission of educating women.

Many groups have become interested in helping him in his efforts and in several schools, students put their pennies together to help build and supply these schools. Hence, the project *Pennies for Peace* originated. Pennies for Peace, www.penniesforpeace.org, is designed for schoolchildren. It costs a penny to buy a pencil, a \$1 per month for one child's education, and a teacher's salary averages \$1 per day. Since 1994, more than 8 million pennies have been raised through Pennies for Peace! AAUW members could encourage a school to consider this project.

Visit his website www.threecupsoftea.com for more information, book reviews, events and ideas. Purchase of the books online through the website gives 7% of the proceeds to a girls' education scholarship fund in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Central Asia Institute, P.O. Box 7209, Bozeman, MT 59771-7209. Their website is www.ikat.org.

Your branch members may wish to help by giving your local library a copy of *Three Cups of Tea*.