



April 2016

# PRAIRIE REGION UPDATE

*The Prairie Region Update is intended to keep grandmothers groups across the Prairies connected to each other and informed about the SLF Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.*

## NEWS FROM THE SLF AND OUR PRAIRIE REGION

### The 10-year Anniversary of the Grandmothers Campaign



A take-away from April's Grandmother Region Liaison teleconference was the reminder that there is an abundance of material for use in fundraising and awareness-raising to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Grandmothers Campaign. Content includes print and multimedia material, and is viewable online at <http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/news-resources/campaign-materials>.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grandmothers to Grandmothers SLF pin is now available for members and sale to the general public. At a cost of \$1.50 each to members of the Campaign, you are welcome to order them on



consignment and sell to supporters for the suggested price of \$5.00. If you would like to sell them to Campaign members in your group/region for more than \$1.50, that's up to you. All who attend the Prairie Regional Gathering will be gifted a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin as a memento of your support to the G2G Campaign.

### Prairie Region Gathering ~ September 24 & 25, 2016 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Your *Prairie Region Gathering* planning committee is excited about the program that is falling into place. Please plan on joining us in Winnipeg on September 24th and 25th, 2016. Registration material will be out soon. We encourage you to complete and return it as soon as possible so that we know how many people to plan for. We have arranged for special *Gathering* rates at several hotels which are time-sensitive, so we encourage you to reserve your hotel room soon. If you prefer to be billeted by a Grands 'n' More Winnipeg G2G member, there is a place on the Registration Form to let us know. We are looking forward to sharing ideas and celebrating 10 years of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign together!



## G4G Prince Albert

It's a busy time in Prince Albert at the moment. We are getting ready for our big concert "Arioso". On April 24<sup>th</sup>, our 9th annual Arioso concert will be presented and it will be bigger than ever. We hope to sell 400 tickets and bake the same amount of cookies 12 to a pkg. The ladies who are donating their talent have a 6 piece band this year and as always the concert will be spectacular!!!! It could be our biggest financial fundraiser yet. Tune in next Newsletter!

## G4G Saskatoon

Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Dinner held on March 11, 2016, was a huge success, selling out a week before the event. Our guest speaker,



Sally Armstrong, received rave reviews. We shared a poignant moment when at the end of Sally's talk, a woman dressed in African attire, tears streaming down her face, hugged Sally in gratitude. People donated generously, purchased crafts and raffle tickets, and bid on silent auction items. Joy of Vox ended the evening with a lively performance.



Our Stride Walk will take place on June 11, 2016.

## Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Shellbrook

"One Voice...then Many Voices" successfully accomplished its two goals—raising awareness of and funds for the grandmothers in Africa who are raising AIDS orphans. Bea Kobiialko was the "One Voice" and the Prince Albert Concert Choir the "Many Voices" of the concert.

Kobiialko is an accomplished musician and singer plus she writes all her own songs. Her great sense of humour was evident from the moment she strode on stage in a beaver hat and bison coat but equally great were her thoughtful reflective lyrics based in personal life experiences.

The Prince Albert Concert Choir's song choices ranged from gospel to show tunes with Oklahoma being an audience favourite. Under the expertise of director Bob Gibson the many voices of the choir harmonized beautifully filling the theatre with rich music. The choir brought pleasure to the audience and their pleasure in singing together was noteworthy.

G4G emcee Nancy Carswell assured the audience that their generosity would be put to good use by the Stephen Lewis Foundation, "Your donation will go to grassroots organizations which support the grandmothers' short-term needs—nutritious food, health care, and housing, and longer-term needs—bereavement counseling, HIV awareness training, and grandmother support

**One Voice... then Many Voices**

Featuring Bea Kobiialko and the Prince Albert Concert Choir

Sunday October 25, 2015  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Shellbrook Theatre

Hosted by Shellbrook G4G  
Refreshments at Intermission  
Admission by Donation

All proceeds to  
Stephen Lewis Foundation  
campaign

groups. Something separated out from this list to highlight it is one of the most important things to the grandmothers—the school fees, uniforms, and supplies for their children because the grandmothers know that education is a key to a better future for the whole community."

At the end, Carswell thanked the audience, the performers, fellow G4G members, and volunteer sound technician Fred Pomrenk. As participants left the theatre there was agreement that it had been an amazing experience of live music.

## Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

**AFTA2 – Art from the Attic 2:** We "launched" this year's event, with our Hon. Chair, Terry MacLeod (from CBC), who received various donations of art – including original pieces from our Graffiti Gallery and our local Muslim community, as well as others. We will collect art from now until mid-September, culminating in the sale on September 18<sup>th</sup>. As well, "The Winnipeg Sun" is sponsoring this event again – articles and ads over the coming months. We are contacting local French media, too, as we are blessed with members fluent in French. "The Winnipeg Free Press" has done articles in the past, and we anticipate further coverage this year. Our post card promo will be placed in the conference bags of 700 participants in an upcoming Seniors Lifestyle Expo.

Our **Annual Gathering** in late-May will feature Jan Stewart, a professor from the University of Winnipeg, whose expertise is with newcomer settlement. We will show the new SLF "Tenth Anniversary" video (isn't it great to see the young man from PEFO – Phoebe's Education Fund for Orphans - so grown-up?). And, of course, we will celebrate our amazing members for their tireless work on our many projects of this past year.

**Special Link:** For our last three March Member Meetings, we have met jointly with a special group of grannies. Here's a little background – they started as North End Grannies, and were formed originally because they were all caring for grandchildren, and came together through the efforts of the local high school vice principal, who saw the opportunity for them to support one another. After a couple of years, they expanded their interest to include African grannies, and are now called Grannies Gone Global. They fundraise, with the proceeds going to various micro-lending projects, which are enabling African grandmothers to support themselves and their families. Our annual "visits" help keep us grounded in things local, while maintaining a global view on our G2G efforts.

## Scrabble For Africa



The Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> torrential downpour in Winnipeg did not keep players from turning up at St. Andrew's Church Hall to play Scrabble, buy Grands 'n' More merchandise, take part in the silent auction and 50/50 draws. Participants were especially good at cheating! Who says Crime Doesn't Pay? When our players wanted to cheat, they had to pay a twonie, which got them a prize ticket. Lots of cool prizes, great cookies and refreshments kept our players going all afternoon. With the on line donations added to what was collected, Grands' n' More Winnipeg raised almost \$7,000.00 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Once again the G 'n' M fundraising volunteers put the "fun" in fundraising.

# IDEAS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Each month we share a fundraising idea from another Grandmothers group. Some of the events were held a year or two ago, some are more current. But all are shown to give your large or small group on the Prairies some ideas in case you're looking for something new to take on. This month, we're featuring an event being held by our Grandmother sisters in the U.K.



## BRANDENBURG CHORAL FESTIVAL OF LONDON

SPRING SERIES  
2016

# Vivaldi Gloria

by candlelight

In association with



Bach Violin Concerto in E  
Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.3

Vivace Chorus  
Brandenburg Baroque Soloists

Violin - Persephone Gibbs  
Conductor - Jeremy Backhouse

Thursday 14 January 2016 7pm  
Tickets £18 (reserved)

Sponsored by:



St Martin-in-the-Fields

For info and tickets, please phone Val Hewitt on  
07951 560399 or email [grandmothers4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grandmothers4@hotmail.co.uk)

*Please let us know of any events your group is holding, or has held recently, and we'll post it here. Disclaimer: we try to get the information accurate – but please be sure to check with the local group before you venture out to an event in case there are any errors or changes.*

If you would like more information on any of this material, please do let us know. We are here to support you and your groups with information sharing and connections, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Deb Radi  
Co-liaison, Prairie Region  
Winnipeg, MB  
204-254-1889  
[dradi@mymts.net](mailto:dradi@mymts.net)

Gail Greenberg  
Co-liaison, Prairie Region  
Regina, SK  
306-761-2304  
[support@imgcommunicationspecialist.com](mailto:support@imgcommunicationspecialist.com)