



Photo credit: Alexis MacDonald/SLF
Project: Kulich Youth Reproductive Health and Development Organization (KYRHDO) in Ethiopia

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina Newsletter

April 2018

EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

APRIL

- 6 – Coffee Safari Stop
- 9 – Executive Committee
- 17 – G4G Meeting

MAY

- 4 – Coffee Safari Stop
- 15 – G4G Meeting

JUNE

- 1 – Coffee Safari Stop
- 9 – A Chair Affair
- 16 - Bazaar
- 19 – G4G Meeting

JULY

- 6 – Coffee Safari
- No Meeting

AUGUST

- 3 – Coffee Safari
- 21 – G4G Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 7 – Coffee Safari
- 18 – G4G Meeting
- 22 – Art from the Attic

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We fundraise for the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support African grandmothers who are raising a generation of children orphaned by AIDS.

A CHAIR AFFAIR

With just under two months until **A Chair Affair**, the planning team is busy! Here's some key information for you:

- Event Day is Saturday, June 9th in the Agra Torchinsky Salon at the MacKenzie Art Gallery.
- Tickets: \$25, available through Picatic. On sale May 1.
- Doors open at 6:30; Cash Bar and Silent Auction ongoing; Live Auction at 7:30
- MC will be Lisa Peters; Auctioneer will be George Grassick.
- Selected chairs in the live auction; all other chairs will be in the silent auction, for a total of approximately 50 chairs, stools, pews, and benches.
- Raffle: three items. As per the licence, tickets will be \$2 each; 3 for \$5; 7 for \$10.
- Cash bar will feature wine and beer.
- Appetizers: Catered, will include hot and cold finger foods. Coffee and tea will also be available.
- Catalogue of auction items – we're preparing a hard copy and a version for our website.
- An artist appreciation event will be held a week or so prior to A Chair Affair.
- We have about \$5,300 in sponsorship. If you have suggestions of places to approach, please let us know.
- We will need at least 10 people for set-up; between 20 and 30 volunteers during the event and for clean-up. Watch for sign-up sheets at upcoming meetings, or contact us to express your choice.
- Promoting the event is a key item. In addition to the usual media, social media and community announcement options, we hope to display chairs at a variety of locations throughout the city. If you have ideas or suggestions, please be in touch with us by emailing Sheila at sfahlman@sasktel.net.

How about these Jason Robins pieces for a bedroom? →



Just teasers: these two aren't quite complete yet!

VOLUNTEERING AT THE GRASSROOTS

This column highlights African grandmothers who are courageously and voluntarily stepping out into their communities to educate, to advocate, and to try to change the tragic path of HIV and AIDS.

NLK, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Asnaketch Mekbib is a voice in her community to end stigma. Read about her volunteer commitment in *Powered by Love*, starting at page 200.) Asnaketch was in Regina last fall as part of the Book Launch (and stayed at the home of Arleen Cornish!)

Rwanda Women's Network: The Community Paralegal Program

This activity is aimed at building capacity for women and communities to solve their problems. Paralegals are trained and are given basic legal knowledge that facilitates them to provide legal aid to victims of land rights, orient, monitor, as well as accompany victims and report human rights violations to the respective authorities. In addition, RWN has developed specific training modules/materials to paralegals, which they apply when educating the community on their rights.

It is easy for women to make use of other existing structures and government programs when they are together in cooperatives or associations. These centres are meeting places for women to discuss their issues.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...Penthes Rubrecht

How and when did you hear about G4G Regina, and how did you come to the decision to join?

My friend Rosanne Glass had attended the very first meeting of the group and was so excited when she told me about the fabulous group of women and the worthy cause that I joined right away. I have now been a member since the second meeting, already 11+ years ago. Unfortunately I have not been able to attend meetings for some time because of other commitments and a few health issues, so I have been a "silent" member, but if you know me, when I am there, I am anything but silent!



What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives, and why?

I think everybody should live and work in another country for at least six months, preferably a country where a different language is spoken, where different cultural values are appreciated and where you are in a minority. These experiences broaden the mind and help us understand the challenges in the lives of others.

How many countries have you visited and which ones would you love to live in?

I was born and grew up in Switzerland, where I travelled to other European countries with my parents. I immigrated with my Swiss husband in 1966 and continued my studies at U of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus. Later on, in my work as an English language teacher and as Head of the ESL program at the University of Regina I travelled a great deal, mostly in Asia. Wherever I go, that is my favourite country. At the moment it is Peru.

What is your favourite book, fiction or nonfiction? Your favourite author?

I LOVE reading, there are always a number of books on my bedside table. I don't have favourites, what I really like is picking up one of the new arrivals that the library displays and just take a chance. Once I have read a book I look around on the internet until I find a review that agrees with my own thoughts, then I print it out and keep it in a binder. This helps when I want to talk about a really great book but cannot remember the title of the author.

What is a heartwarming thing you have experienced recently?

My second husband (of 7 years now) and I stayed for a few days with a friend in Peru, who introduced us to the family of her in-laws. We were sitting in the living room when the family members came to greet us, and each person shook our hand and gave us a kiss on the cheek. A bit later another lady came in and greeted us in the same manner. I thought she was also a sister-in-law, but it turned out that she was the cleaning lady. She was just like a member of the family and I was deeply moved by this incredibly warm welcome.

Why do you love about G4G?

G4G is a group like no other! What struck me first was the fact that there is a tremendous positive energy in this group. And all the different talents that come together at our events. Whatever we touch turns out to be a success, often beyond our dreams. G4G is a great cause, and we are dedicated to our African grandmothers, but the friendship of the members of this group has also been invaluable to me in both good and bad days.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rosanne Glass and Gail Greenberg, Co-Chairs
Danni Boyd, Secretary
Jan Stirr and Candice Gross, Co-Treasurers
Susan Holmes, Communication (susan.holmes@sasktel.net)
Sheila Fahlman, Education (sfahlman@sasktel.net)
Linda Mann, Membership (linda.mann@sasktel.net)
Merchandise – vacant
Sponsorship – vacant

STANDING COMMITTEES

Communication

Susan Holmes, Chair
Nola Ayers
Janet Bailey
Sheila Fahlman
Cathy Kirby-Tapp
Jane Newton
Violet Smotra-Cook

Education

Sheila Fahlman, Chair
Catherine Arthur-MacDonald
Sheila McKague
Bev Zizzy

Membership

Linda Mann, Chair
Sharon David
Arlene Frolick
Laureen Graham
Barb Quine
Nancy Thue

Merchandise

Chair - vacant
Judy Cormier

Sponsorship

Chair - vacant

If you'd like to share your skills and passion on one of our Committees, please be in touch with Gail or Rosanne!



MERCHANDISE IS ON THE MOVE...

After listening to what members had to say about the challenges with merchandise and the benefits, a few volunteers have come up with a way to streamline merchandise while also making sure we have a way to keep Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers in the public eye.

We have secured a table at Bazaart at the MacKenzie Art Gallery for **Saturday, June 16th** and are planning to sell our now famous Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers bags, as well as table napkins hand-made made from Shweshwe fabric produced in South Africa.



With instructions from Linda Bojarsky, several volunteers are working hard at producing about 35 bags for sale. They will make a most colourful display at Bazaart and we know will draw a crowd.

Fabric for the table napkins is on order. When it arrives at the end of April, volunteers with sergers are ready to turn the fabric into beautiful, colourful napkins. Customers can mix and match to suit their own tastes. Thank you to those who have stepped up to keep *merchandise on the move*.

COFFEE SAFARI



Mark your calendar for **Friday, May 4th**. Our Coffee Safari will take us to **Abstractions Café**, 2161 Rose Street (there is 2 hour parking on Rose Street and on 14th Avenue.) We hope to see you there (9:30ish to 11:30ish)!



THE BOOKSHELF

FICTION

Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A businesswoman, villager turned houseboy, British tourist, university professor; these are some of the individuals central to a story that unfolds during the 60's Nigerian Civil War. Adichie did extensive research to ensure her protagonists' narratives accurately reflected the vicissitudes and unfolding turmoil and violence of life during the secession and subsequent creation of Biafra. If you enjoy historical fiction (my fav), and lean towards a preference to jump right into a book (versus gradual immersion), this will be your next greatest find.

~ Gail Greenberg

NON-FICTION

The Reason You Walk by Wab Kinew

Wab Kinew is an indigenous Winnipeg broadcaster and musician, and recently elected leader of the Manitoba New Democrats, who tells the story of his dad's life in and after residential school, as well as his own struggles to find the right path. I learned a lot about Aboriginal people and their different cultures and traditions.

~ Judy Jones

**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK
April 15-21, 2018**



National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 12.7 million volunteers and to recognize the contributions of volunteers in our communities. **A special thank you to the members of G4G Regina – you are terrific!**

This year's theme is: "Celebrate the Value of Volunteering – building confidence, competence, connections and community".

Volunteering is often seen as a selfless act; a person gives their time, skills, experience, and passion to help others, without expecting anything in return. And while volunteering is a form of service, many volunteers will tell you that "you get more than you give". From opportunities to develop new skills, to finding deep and meaningful personal connections, the magic of volunteering is that it creates social and economic value for all.



PHOTO GALLERY

TOTE BAG KIT PRODUCTION



Dave Calam, husband of G4G member Liz Calam, enjoying his silent auction win of working at Italian Star Deli.



Sherry Wolf



Pam Smith



Janet Bailey, with Linda Bojarski and Mary Wallace in the background.



Charlotte Henshaw



Bette Craig (L); Janet Bailey

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Rosanne Glass: 306-525-4067

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