



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

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina Newsletter

March 2018

EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

MARCH

- 2 – Coffee Safari Stop
- 20 – G4G Meeting

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
- 19 – G4G Meeting

JULY

- No Meeting

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

Art is being created! We expect to have about 50 pieces (chairs, stools, small benches, and even a pew or two!) available for auction on June 9th. Our next big task is to create a catalogue of the finished pieces, and we'll get to that in May when the chairs are due back.

In the meantime, we're taste-testing (so we know what appetizers we're getting), we're exploring (places to advertise), we're shopping (identifying and purchasing raffle items), and generally sorting out the details of this special spring fundraising event.

Art isn't only a painting. Art is anything that is creative, passionate and personal. Art is the unique work of a human being created to touch another. Art is created to have an impact, to change someone else.

~ Seth Godin

You'll have a chance to get involved. There will be volunteer sign-up sheets at future member meetings for roles such as: transportation (picking up chairs from the storage space, bringing them to the MacKenzie), setting up the room for the evening, various tasks during the evening (bartenders, spotters, servers), and of course, clean up at the end of the evening.

WE NEED YOU!

We need a strong complement of volunteers to fulfil the tasks that will keep G4G Regina running smoothly. Here are two of the ways you can be involved next year:



We need one of you wonderful women to step forward to be our next Secretary. What's involved? Attending Executive and Member meetings, keeping the minutes and preparing them for circulation. A recent task has been the addition of the Flash Note, a one-page synopsis of key items from the monthly meetings. There will be occasional thank-you notes, and, depending on your skill set and interests, opportunities to assist with meeting activities.

Another 'vacancy' we'll have shortly is that of the Education Coordinator who is responsible for member education and community education. Again, attending Executive and Member meetings is part of the involvement. With your team, you will ensure an education component is included in each monthly meeting and identify and support members in an active Speakers' Group. As with all key roles, it is important to keep up-to-date on the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and related matters, and be informed on issues relating to HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

FOCUS ON...

TANZANIA

At after-school clubs run by **Upendi Na Matumaini (UMATU)**, teenagers educate each other about how HIV is transmitted, and about sexual and reproductive health. Students share stories about getting pregnant at an early age, and what it means to shoulder such responsibilities. UMATU reports that as a result, students are becoming more confident, courageous, and aware of high-risk behaviours that can interfere with their schooling and increase their risk of infection.

Source: Stephen Lewis Foundation

UGANDA

Three brothers founded **Phoebe Education Fund for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (PEFO)** in honour of their mother, Phoebe. The project began with providing school fees, uniforms, and food for orphans. It has since expanded to help women and orphaned and vulnerable children acquire skills in crop and animal production in farm schools, and apprenticeships on local farms. Massive organic gardens provide a major, sustainable food and income source, as well as mitigating the effects of climate change. All of these provide food security and disposable incomes for the entire community. PEFO continues to grow and expand to provide comprehensive support for an entire community.

Source: Theresa Randles, Grandmothers of Steel

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This month, we are featuring long-time member, Arleen Cornish:

1. How long have you been a member of G4G Regina and what made you decide to join?

This is my 11th year. On CBC radio, I heard the impassioned voice of Stephen Lewis speaking of the unsung heroes of Africa, who were raising their orphaned grandchildren with little in the way of resources. Sometime later, at the Cathedral Village Arts Festival, I saw two smiling women, sitting behind a little table with a sign saying 'Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers'. I made a beeline for them and said, "I've been looking for you!" So, in September of 2007, I came to my first G4G Regina meeting. It was the only organization I had encountered where there were more volunteer hands raised than required for the tasks. As I came to know this group of open and friendly women, the scope of their life experiences, skill sets, smarts, and organizational expertise sealed the deal for me. Plus, they started and ended their meetings on time. Bonus. When I joined G4G Regina, I could never have imagined that I would have the privilege to welcome into my home Ethiopian Grandmothers Meaza and Asnakech and their translator Bayessa, who were in Regina for the book launch of "Powered by Love" this fall.



2. What is your favourite childhood memory?

Curling up with a treasured book; Heidi, Black Beauty, Little Women, Arabian Nights, with a kitten on my lap.

3. Styles of women's clothing have changed many times over our lifetime. Which style/era did you like the most? Which did you like least?

I loved miniskirts and once sewed myself one with a tiny piece of material about the size of a large tea towel. Did I mention I weighed 103 pounds in the '70's? Hated the weight of bellbottoms, which tended to get wet and soggy with rain or snow.

4. How many grandchildren do you have, if any; and what are their ages?

*I laughed when I saw this question. You will be relieved that I will spare you the list of 30, **yes 30**, and their ages. Suffice it to say that, with great joy, we welcomed Soorik Isadore, a healthy 10 pounder, into our family on February 21st. There are also 6 great grandchildren.*

5. Do you have holiday plans for 2018? Going somewhere?

Although my most recent "big" trips were to Portugal and Russia; this year I will be closer to home. In May, I fly to Cincinnati to celebrate the achievement of my grandson, Aedhan, when he is honoured as an Eagle Scout. Then, in June, I will take 3 days to quiet my soul at one of my favourite retreats, the Qu'Appelle House of Prayer; where it is my delight to sit in the chapel, with its floor to ceiling windows, and watch the daily flight of a line of white pelicans down the lake, like clockwork, just at the time of Evening Prayer. Kind of puts one in tune with everything.

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 NEWS

A group of members is looking into the future of Merchandise as a Committee of G4G Regina. Ideas are coming together – please watch this space next month for more information.



COFFEE SAFARI



There were twelve members at the March Coffee Safari! As you can see, it's an event enjoyed by many. Some people came at 9:30, others a little while later, and even a couple of people who came around 11:00. Our next stop, on Friday, April 6, will be at Café Français, #1 – 425 E Victoria Avenue. We hope to see you there!

THE BOOKSHELF

FICTION

The Remains of the Day, by Kazuo Ishiguro



Based in England in the 1940s, this novel is the story of a butler/manager of a English country home, and his shy friendship with one of the maids, and his relationship with the owner of the mansion. Very well written, a pleasure to read.

~ Marian Clark

NON-FICTION

The Monk of Mokha, by Dave Eggers

A search for self, for coffee, and for safety during a civil war. This is the fast-paced story of a young Yemeni -American who embarks on a mission to find the best coffee berries in the world, from the original country that produced coffee. His journey takes him to Yemen where he meets some very interesting characters, and tries to make his dream of being a coffee importer come true, despite the harvest taking place in a war zone. Along the way, you'll learn so much about coffee growing, harvesting, and bringing the final product to your coffee mug.

~ Sheila Fahlman



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