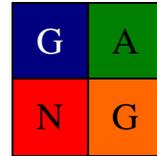


GRANDMOTHERS OF ALBERTA FOR A NEW GENERATION



Newsletter – Autumn 2012

Greetings from the Chair

It's a reality check as I sit here and realize that eight months of 2012 are gone. But on the positive side we still have plans for an action packed remaining four months! The end of August also brings the sixth anniversary of The GANG. Upon reflection it has been six years with an incredible group of women. Many hours of volunteer work have been done, hours of committee meetings attended, friendships formed, lives and stories shared, support given and received, and all as a result of our commitment to help the grandmothers in Africa. Their day-to-day struggle goes on and we must continue to stand in solidarity with these heroic grandmothers.

As we advocate for the African grandmothers the influence that we make is sometimes very subtle. However the picture on the right shows that our message is being heard. Vicki Strang's granddaughters, Zaya and Bailey (shown with Louise Barr) raised \$68.00 by holding a lemonade and iced tea sale in July. At our Board meeting in August they generously and proudly donated all of their earnings to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. These young girls are aware of the difference this amount will make in the daily lives of the African grandmothers. (Photo by Joyce Madsen.)



(Photo by Joyce Madsen.)

This brings me to our GANG Mission Statement which in part reads “reaching out in love to African grandmothers who are carrying the burden of HIV/AIDS.” ***Solidarity means money.*** Our Treasurer, Lee Dioszeghy let me know that we have raised and sent over \$352,000.00 to the SLF in six years. This is astounding and I thank each and every one of you for your part in doing this. Give yourself a hug, and hug the next member you see. You are doing a fantastic job. Which brings me to our major fundraiser each year – “*Scrabble.*” This year we changed the name to *The Power of Words.* Words have the magnificent power to change the way people think and behave. As members we are able to share the AIDS story and the work that the Stephen Lewis Foundation has undertaken. Let's invite people to help the African grandmothers by getting involved with the Scrabble event. We ask members to gather donations and either (1) play on the day of the event, (2) assign the donations over to another player, or (3) play an early game with members who will be volunteering on the day of the event. Every donation makes a huge difference in the lives of the African grannies. It would take many, many, many lemonade sales to replace the money we raise at this annual event!

Earlier in September nineteen of The GANG attended the Provincial Gathering in Camrose and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality and interesting sessions. It is always a great time to reconnect with other Alberta groups and to meet new grannies. A huge thank-you to Vicki Strang and the Grateful Grannies for all of their work in organizing this event. A separate report on the Gathering can be found later in this newsletter and several photos from the event will be sent in a separate e-mail. Zahra Mohamed from the Stephen Lewis Foundation shared with us that the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign has now raised 16.5 million dollars! This is truly remarkable and shows the will and the power of the Canadian grandmothers.

The Education and Fundraising Committees continue to be very busy and their reports are included in this newsletter. You will be impressed with the number of activities that keep GANG members involved on both of these committees. The FRC has wrapped up four successful months with a booth at the Old Strathcona Antique Mall, and held a couple of BBQs at their boot sale events. Members put up the gazebo at the St. Albert Market for a day in July and again in August, giving us the opportunity to bring awareness to the public about the G₂G Campaign. The cookbook ladies have been busy all summer gathering and working on the launch of the memories cookbook. Many exciting things are always happening.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, let us take a moment to give thanks and be grateful for everything that we have.

As you will see from our Upcoming Events, there are lots of opportunities for you to get involved and *we welcome your support*. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board members.

From the Toronto Statement
“We will not rest until they can rest”

Louise Barr
Chair, The GANG

Power of Words Scrabble Benefit – Oct 13, 2012



Image taken from The GANG website www.edmgrandmothers.org

UPCOMING GANG HAPPENINGS FOR 2012

Date	Event
September 22	GANG has a table at Chapters on Whyte Avenue promoting the upcoming Scrabble Benefit. Come out and say hello.
September 20	Scrabble game at *St. Margaret's Anglican Church for those attending breakfast club
September 23	AIDS Walk, Sir Winston Churchill Square, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 24	Training for Read-In Week (see p. 8)
September 26	Interview with Mark Milne at Global TV – 7:40 a.m.
October 1 – 5	Read-In Week (see p. 8)
October 10	Scrabble game for volunteers at **Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, 7:00 p.m.
October 13	<i>POWER OF WORDS</i> Scrabble Benefit: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at **Southminster-Steinhauer United Church (see p. 8)
November 3	Annual General Meeting, craft, and cookbook sales, 10:00 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch, **Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
December 1	World AIDS Day – watch the media for details of activities
December	Craft Sales & GANG Christmas Gathering
April 13, 2013	Advance notice: <i>Fabulous Fabric Frenzy</i> , Strathearn United Church (see p.8)
Walking Group	Every Wednesday except 2nd Wednesday of the month (see below)

*St. Margaret's Anglican Church is located at 12603 Ellerslie Road, Edmonton

** Southminster-Steinhauer United Church is located at 10740 – 19th Avenue, Edmonton

For further information on any of the events listed, please contact Louise Barr, 780-417-2754 or zlbarr@shaw.ca, or Judy Dube, 780-988-8392 or judydube@hotmail.com

Gang Walking Group

The Walking Group continues and is always happy to welcome new “wanderers.” If you enjoy:

-  walking outdoors,
-  exploring new areas of the city,
-  connecting with fellow GANG members on a casual basis,

please join The GANG's Walking Group. Our informal Walking Group meets every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. (except for the 2nd Wednesday of every month) at a location agreed upon the previous week. We walk for about 1 to 1½ hours at a speed and intensity that works for each of us. Our plan is to walk all seasons, weather permitting! If you can join us once, often, or every time, please contact Judy Hayman (780-434-0036) to be included on the email walking list. Then you will know where we are meeting each week. It would be great to have YOU join us!

Originally submitted by *Judy Dube*

Grandmothers To Grandmothers Provincial Gathering
“Power Of Grandm/Others – Inspired To Care”
September 7 & 8, 2012 – Augustana Campus
Camrose, Alberta

The drive to Camrose - peaceful; the weather – beautiful; the Augustana Campus – perfect; the food – delicious; the speakers – inspiring; the Grannies –absolutely delightful! What an amazing gathering of remarkable women...all of same mind and intention, celebrating our past victories, while simultaneously planning for the future. My first time, and I was so impressed. Nineteen GANG members were present, with a total registration of about sixty! The event started Friday evening, with the setting up of craft and jewelry tables, lots of camaraderie, renewing of old friendships, and the making of new ones... all the while, munching on yummy snacks catered by the Augustana Cafeteria staff.

Our distinguished speakers were awesome in every way. Internationally acclaimed author and photojournalist, Paola Gianturco, was so inspiring, with not a dry eye in the room, as she spoke of her encounters while gathering photos and materials for her newest book. Much to our delight, Paola chose to launch this book, *Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon*, at our event and is donating all author royalties to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign! The book profiles activist grandmothers in fifteen countries on five continents, and tells compelling stories of courage in the fight against poverty, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and human rights abuse, all to create a better world for their grandchildren.

Our very own Zahra Mohamed, SLF Grandmothers to Grandmothers Coordinator from Toronto, reminded us that our work is not to be termed as charity, but rather as a vigorous fight for social justice. She talked about the challenges in working with African communities where trust must be established, priorities imposed, cultural barriers overcome, support and awareness programs created, and training provided for African women to give them the tools with which to implement the changes. And Zahra’s very exciting announcement ... as of the June 30th fiscal year end, the G2G Campaign has raised **16.5 MILLION DOLLARS** in Canada! Zahra challenged us to keep growing our groups and developing our campaign strategies to ensure our good work thrives.

Sessions on such topics as *Fundraising*, *Storytelling*, and *Advocacy*, kept everyone busy all day Saturday. Grace Hamilton, who has so enthusiastically spearheaded our cookbook fundraiser, facilitated the session *Write Food Memories*, with assistance from Sandra Black and Phyllis Molyneux. Vicki Strang’s session, *The Alberta Region Going Forward: A Conversation*, reflected Vicki’s passion for this organization. The work she has done over the past two years as Alberta’s Regional Liaison, is nothing but phenomenal. Vicki asked for help from the audience in establishing a future direction, and many good ideas were suggested for moving forward efficiently and effectively. Judging from the abilities of those present, challenges will continue to be overcome, and the future of G2G is safe in the arms of the Alberta Grannies.

A final important word...**CHOCOLATE AND ROSES** to the **Grateful Grannies of Camrose** for a job magnificently done! Please accept our *grateful* appreciation for all your hard work in organizing this event. Such a good time was had by all!



Submitted by *Carole Henson* (who likes to startle new acquaintances by telling them she is a member of a GANG...)



Paola Gianturco signing copies of her book *Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon* at the G2G Provincial Gathering in Camrose.

An inspiring five minute interview with Paola aired on Breakfast Television Edmonton on September 7, 2012. To view it, go to:
<http://video.citytv.com/video/detail/1828183329001.000000/grandmother-power/>

(N. B. The interview sometimes crashes but two or three attempts will have it up and running properly. It cannot be viewed on an iPad as it requires FlashPlayer which is not available for iPad use.)

Summer at the Old Strathcona Antique Mall

What a busy summer it was at the Old Strathcona Antique Mall! The fundraising opportunities just went on and on! It all started with the donation of a booth in the mall. With the help of many, many people, we were able to stock it full of collectibles, vintage items and even a few antiques. The donated items were generous and so appreciated - I had no idea that clip on earrings were such a hot item!! A few of the grandmothers hosted an antique appraisal at the mall in June, with two accredited appraisers donating their time. It was a really fun day with so many treasures coming through the doors! It was a great success and some people even signed up for the next one! Summer at the mall is never complete without good old fashioned boot sales. Many people came and sold their items in the parking lot set up for the sale. It was a beautiful (but hot) day and there were many customers looking for that "one special item." The GANG participated in the sale in July, and also ran the Bar-B-Q for the boot sales in June and July. The participation from members in so many capacities - donating items, flipping burgers, cleaning and pricing items, setting up and maintaining the booth and so much more - was generous and inspiring! Our thanks go out to all of you.

Lorna Rogers

Committee members:

Lorna Rogers, Colleen Kennedy, Sally Floden, Dianne Linden, Joan Knesh

Cookbook



We are delighted with the response we've had to our Call for Submissions for the food memories cookbook being published as a fundraising project. To date, we have almost 60 entries including several from notable local authors, community leaders and most importantly, our members, friends and supporters of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. With one more writing workshop being held on September 8th in Camrose at the Alberta Gathering, we expect to reach our goal of 70 entries, providing a wide range of heart-warming memories and unique recipes to complete the collection. Then it goes to the publisher and with time for final editing, should be ready for sale by November at an approximate price of \$20 each. Members and those who made contributions to this collection will be notified by e-mail and we expect to have copies for sale at the Annual General Meeting on November 3rd, 2012. Watch our website www.edmgrandmothers.org for availability and a possible book launch event.

Grace Hamilton

Website

If you haven't checked out our website lately, please do so. It is polished, informative and a credit to The GANG. Visit it at www.edmgrandmothers.org. We owe a huge thank you to our webmaster, John, who has done an excellent job for us. (When you go to the website, take the time to click a link to Breakfast TV of May 18, 2012 to watch an interview with Louise Barr and Judy Dube about The GANG.)

Kazuri Jewellery

Kazuri Jewellery continues to be a steady fundraiser for The GANG. GANG members sold jewellery at over 8 different events this spring, with total sales of **\$5946.00**. Congratulations to Judy Dube, the top seller this spring with sales over \$2000.00.



The fall shipment of jewellery will be here in time for the Scrabble fundraiser October 13th.

If you are interested in hosting a jewellery party or if you know of an appropriate event for selling jewellery, (Kazuri jewellery makes a wonderful Christmas gift!), please contact Candice, candicejcksn231@gmail.com or phone me at 780-416-8208.

Candice Jackson

GRAN ON THE MOVE

Recent information from the Stephen Lewis Foundation announced that all activities focused on advocacy had officially moved from under the umbrella of the Foundation to a new network - known as GRAN (Grandmothers Advocacy Network). And yes, watch out - GRAN is on the move!

Andrea Beal, co-chair of GRAN attended the recent Alberta Grandmother Gathering. She shared that the former Bill C-393 has been “revised.” The new bill – Bill C-398, was approaching 2nd reading in the House of Commons. If passed by parliament, the bill will insure easier access to generic drugs for people in developing countries. This would include drugs so badly needed by those facing the challenges of HIV /AIDS. A petition in support of the bill circulated at the Gathering to be submitted to MPs by mid-September. We will keep you informed of its progress and other opportunities to participate in future advocacy activities.

A big thank you is extended to GANG member Ruth Elliott, who retired as the Advocacy Cluster Leader for northern Alberta. Louise Horstman from HATS in Morinville is our contact now. Visit the GRAN website at www.grandmothersadvocacy.org to learn more about this group.

Judy Dube

Garden Party



The GANG Garden Party was held on a wonderfully sunny day as only a perfect day in August can be in Alberta. The garden at the Sherwood Park home of Candice Jackson was an enchanting setting. There were a multitude of flowers, an herb garden for flavorings and of course vegetables, including a fine stand of corn to delight the eye. The members and their guests enjoyed fine food and drinks with wide-ranging talk mixed with much laughter, reflecting yet another successful GANG event.

Lil Selby

Public Relations and/or Communications volunteer

Position available immediately

Call on your unknown talents or refresh old skills! The Board is still looking for someone who is able to develop a press release, and be the media contact person for our GANG events. This individual would not necessarily have to be the spokesperson as our events usually have a Chairperson who would be capable of doing this. The position would include being the liaison with other organizations on joint projects such as *Stride to Turn the Tide* National Walk.

COMMITTEES

Fundraising Committee

In the Spring Newsletter I reported that the Fundraising Committee had scheduled a workshop to make small gift bags. It was a fun experience. Grace led the group. It felt like we were back in school with paper, (wallpaper that is), and scissors and glue. We left with patterns and measurements to make more bags. Mary Brice was our champion and has since made many, many bags that are just right to package our Kazuri jewellery.

Donations of fabric for the *Fabulous Fabric Frenzy* have been coming in. At our August meeting we had a trial run on measuring and packaging the fabric. Sally has made up a kit and anyone who is collecting fabric is encouraged to get the kit and package their fabric, or have a work bee with several of your friends. We are still looking for a safe storage space. If you have any ideas, please let us know. Sally and her crew talked to other grandmothers who have held fabric sales and they all told us it is a lot of work to get the project off the ground, but the results are worth it. Mark your calendars for next year . . .Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Strathearn United Church.

Our many crafts are selling well. Since June, our crafters, guided by Colleen, have been represented at the St. Albert Market on July 14th and August 18th, and at the Grandmother Gathering in Camrose on September 7th and 8th. They are so creative and come up with wonderful products for each sale: dolls, angels, wooden Christmas ornaments, beautiful bags of all sizes, knitted socks and mitts, scarves, cards, and the list goes on.

Also selling very well is the Kazuri Jewellery. Candice Jackson manages the jewellery for us and she reported that our sales for 2012 to date have amounted to about \$5900. As of September 1st, she had 104 pieces for sale but I know that the sales at the Camrose gathering were brisk to add to the total. Candice has ordered six new packages of jewellery for fall in time for the Scrabble Tournament on October 13 and the Camrose Christmas market on Decembmer 2nd. If you are interested in having a jewellery party or know of other Christmas market opportunities, please get in touch with Candice. (See page 6 for Kazuri jewellery report and contact details.)

Two major projects are the Memory Cook Book (see report by Grace, p. 6) and the Antique Mall sales and activities (see report by Lorna, p. 5).

I know Louise has covered our upcoming Scrabble Tournament *The Power of Words* in her President's remarks. This is another reminder that the date is Saturday, October 13, 2012 at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church. Call either Louise Barr at 780 417 2754 or Sally Floden at 780 434-4173 for pledge packages.

The Fundraising Committee meets on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at the WeCan Office in St. Brendan's School, 58 Street & 93A Avenue. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Judy Hayman, Chair, 780 434 0036 or jhayman@shaw.ca

Education Committee

Things have been quiet on the Education front over the summer, but we are gearing up for a busy fall. Read-In Week is the first week in October this year and we are hopeful we will get the opportunity to visit several schools during that time. It is a great opportunity to share our story and engage young people in a global fund raising project. If you have a connection at a school that would help us connect please let us know. If you can be available to read during the week we invite you to come to the Read-In Week information session on September 24th at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church.

We are also actively seeking opportunities to speak to organizations about our work. A message has gone out to the mainline churches in Edmonton, so if you attend one, please encourage them to make contact us with an invitation to share the story of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the work they do.

We welcome new members and new ideas – please let me know if you can help us in our work, or if you have a contact that would like to hear more about our work.

Joyce Madsen, Education Committee
780- 438-6016

Membership



It's time to renew your membership to The GANG (Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation). Annual fees are due August 31st.

Membership fees for the year are \$20. Renew your membership by sending a cheque to:

The GANG
P.O. Box 82049
Yellowhead RPO
Edmonton, AB T6J 7E6

Your membership can also be renewed in person at The GANG's annual Scrabble Benefit October 13th at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, 10740-19th Avenue or the Annual General Meeting on November 3rd.

If your address, phone and e-mail address have not changed, filling out a form won't be necessary. A Membership Application form is included in this newsletter just in case.

We have valued your involvement with The GANG in the past and hope you will join us again.

Karen Kennedy
Membership

GRANDMOTHERS OF ALBERTA FOR A NEW GENERATION
a.k.a. The GANG

Membership Application
(Please print clearly)



Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Membership Fee to Aug. 31 -- \$20.00

Renewal _____ New Membership _____

Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the yearly SCRABBLE fundraiser and in one of the committees listed below. Please indicate your area of special interest.

_____ Fundraising _____ Education _____ Communication _____ Advocacy

*The above information may be shared with other GANG members _____ YES _____ NO

** I understand that all projects undertaken in the name of The GANG must first be approved by the Board of Directors and that any use of the Stephen Lewis Foundation name must be approved by the Foundation.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

Mail applications to:
PO Box 82049
Yellowbird RPO
Edmonton, AB T6J 7E6