

Changing Tides

*Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign
Campagne des grands-mères à grands-mères*

Ottawa-Gatineau Region
Région d'Ottawa-Gatineau

December 31, 2024
Volume 12, Issue 11

Editor's Notes

As 2024 ends, we are gratefully enjoying family or holiday celebrations and renewing ourselves to face the new year's offerings. We are thankful for the many ways we have been able to look back on 2024 and know that we appreciated marvelous opportunities of being together as regional partners. We've taken part in fundraising events, in-person gatherings such as *Grannyfest*, the pre-Christmas gathering, open-discussion meetings, and putting our minds and hearts together to reflect on how we can dream new life and ideas into action. While we realize the

challenges of growing our movement, we have so much brilliant expertise among us and look to innovation to regenerate and nurture each other and ourselves. We have seen leadership shared in productive ways and haven't shied away from difficult and honest talks. We are experts at finding ways to try more unusual ventures and engage in regional possibilities.

Thank you to Sandi and Sarah for their innovative leadership and outreach. Thank you to all of you beautiful women who are

embracing novel ways of finding out who we are and how we can persevere!

Thank you SLF staff and Foundation for your abiding support and sharing brilliant resources to help us in our endeavors to extend our solidarity with the grandmothers in Africa and their efforts!

Let us look forward to a bright new year of working together and health! Happy 2025!

Mia Overduin, Editor

Inside this issue:

Editor's Notes/ The Book Nook	1
GRL Updates - December 2024	2-3
Additional Notes Gathering	3
Grassroots Events Calendar/Regional Contacts	4

The Book Nook - AFRICA BOOK CLUB

The book that will launch the official opening of **The Book Nook – Africa Book Club** is **Half a Yellow Sun**, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigerian Writer). You may want to consult your local library, bookstore, or know someone who can lend you the book. Our first meeting will be via Zoom which will be coordinated by Diane Woods. The date will be confirmed shortly with those of you who have signed up to join our book club.

Diane - drandallwoods@gmail.com and Mia - miawboverduin@gmail.com.

GRL Updates – December 2024

As we await the New Year, it's time to reflect on another successful year and to congratulate ourselves on having maintained our support for the courageous grandmothers in Africa. In the spirit of **Harambee**, we are finding a renewed energy in collaboration, much as the grandmothers in Africa have found strength in their combined voices. We look forward to updating and reinvigorating our message to reflect new realities.

The *SLF* staff were busy this month attending grandmother events across the country, from regional meetings to quilt displays and fundraising activities. Their personal support is very much appreciated and brings a sense of community to the national campaign. They are also planning more Campaign calls featuring *SLF* Community Partners to help keep us informed of changing realities.

The **Vancouver Gogos** have arranged to have their next **Contemporary African Voices** event live at the *SLF* offices in Toronto and have invited the Toronto groups to come and participate. It will still be available online for those of us who can't be there in person. This is a wonderful example of finding new ways to engage with each other to strengthen the Campaign.

The *GRL* December meeting focused on renewing our messaging. With reference to the strategies identified by the *DIRR Committee*, we had a very frank and open discussion about language and branding, how to best express our goals and purpose and how we can make the most of social media to spread the word. Older women have found their voice – found there's strength in numbers and out of this crisis, their desperation, they found their voice. And it's up to us to amplify that.

The trip to South Africa is moving forward quickly. There are now 19 members participating and 7 *SLF* staff including Meg French, Niambi Martin-John, Alanna Wallace, and Thushika Rajendrakumar. Travel arrangements have now been made and details of the visits to the community partners and grandmother groups are well underway. The excitement is building!

Regional group representatives will be meeting again in early February to explore ways to collaborate for our mutual benefit. Anyone who is interested in joining the discussion is

(.../continued on page 3)

GRL Updates – December 2024 (.../cont'd)

welcome. We will let you know when a date and time have been finalized and send out information on joining a Zoom call. We hope to make this a quarterly event to strengthen our regional ties.

We would like to thank every one of you for your dedication this past year and wish you all a Happy New Year!

Yours in solidarity,

Sandi and Sarah

Sandi (sandilondon01@gmail.com, 613-203-3026)

Sarah (sjaakafelix@icloud.com, 613-790-9537)

ADDITIONAL NOTES (Editor's Note: We are grateful to the SLF for providing videos of online events that you may not have been able to attend).

World AIDS Day Webinar – The HIV epidemic – then and now. December 2, 2024. You can access the video of the webinar by clicking on the links in the December *Granny Bulletin*. It features three of the SLF's "longest-standing partners" who reflect "on the past two decades of the global HIV response" and also look forward toward the future. The partners are: *Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA)*, Eswatini, *Wells of Hope* and *Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC)*, Uganda.

Farm Orphan Support Trust (FOST) – This SLF Partner in Zimbabwe provided a presentation to the November 21 Campaign Call. **FOST** supports children in farming communities who lost parents to AIDS-related illnesses. Operating in 10-15 provinces in Zimbabwe **FOST** provides school assistance, peer support, and mental health programs for grandmothers. The December *Granny Bulletin* features videos of the important work shared by **FOST's** leaders as well as the Campaign Call presentation.

One World Grannies' Holiday Grannies Gathering at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre – light buffet luncheon and Nancy Edwards' solo performance of her play "**Re-thinking Good Intentions**," about her time in Sierre Leone as a *CUSO* volunteer. Members from several grandmother groups attended and greatly enjoyed the unique and exceptional event. A warm thank you to the **One World Grannies** for hosting this welcome opportunity!

GRASSROOTS EVENTS CALENDAR

Editor's Note: Submissions for the monthly newsletter are due on the 23rd of the month.

DATE	GRANNY GROUP	EVENT/CONTACT	LOCATION/CONTACT

Solidarity Quilts (Excerpt from the December *Granny Bulletin*)

The two solidarity quilts *Nurturing Generations Under the Canopy of Sisterhood* (main solidarity quilt) and its companion *No One Left Behind* have been on display at annual fundraisers and strategically placed in spaces to attract new audiences and members to the G2G Campaign. The quilts will be on display at **Quilt Canada 2025**, hosted by the *Canadian Quilters' Association* in Mississauga, Ontario from June 18-21.

REGIONAL GRANDMOTHER LIAISON:

Co-GRLs

Sandi London

sandilondon01@gmail.com

Tel: (613) 203-3026

Sarah Archer

sjaakafelix@icloud.com

Tel: (613) 790-9537

- 1) Group Leaders Meetings
- 2) Grannyfest Coordinators

Mia Overduin

miawboverduin@gmail.com

Tel: (819) 684-9720

- 1) Changing Tides Newsletter

SPEAKER'S BUREAU:

Peggy Rasmussen

margaretmary.rasmussen@gmail.com

Tel: (613) 440-2765

Sheila Green

sgreen8954@hotmail.com

Tel: (613) 739-8954

REGIONAL CONTACTS

RESOURCES SLF:

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

www.grandmotherscampaign.org

Grandmothers Campaign Officer, SLF

260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 100

Toronto ON M5T 2E4

Tel: (416) 533-9292

Toll-free 1-888-203-9990

Fax: (416) 850-4910

GRANDMOTHERS ADVOCACY NETWORK

(GRAN):

GRAN Contact

Pat Dolan

Pat_Dolan@hotmail.com

Tel: (819) 230-3118