

## **VG4A Membership Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Elizabeth Sebesta**

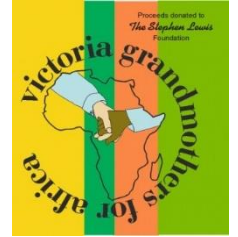
Since our general meeting in June we have welcomed ten new members: Karly Astley Haigh, Donna Massey, Laine Lunde, Tara Kenning, Suzanne Moreau, Darlene Di Cicco, Priscilla Tumbach, Anne Kirkaldy, Deb Ballak and Rande McMurray. How exciting!

Our next Welcome Gathering will be held in the afternoon of November 21. Invitations will be sent out early in November.

A member list, including email addresses and phone numbers was sent to all members during the summer. Many of us find it useful to print this and keep it handy.

The list of members, with their email addresses is sent annually to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Members have to agree that we can submit this information. This was prepared and sent this summer.

It will not be many more weeks until you receive an email message that it is time to renew your membership for 2024.



## **African Dinner Project Group Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Laurie Wilson**

Our fabulous and finally-resurrected African Dinner will take place Saturday evening, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the DaVinci Centre. Award-winning local chef Castro Boateng will make the dinner: <https://www.houseofboateng.ca/meet-our-owners>.

We will need help from the membership with many things, not the least of which will be buying and selling tickets for this celebratory dinner Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The price will likely be \$80. We hope to have tickets available by the AGM in February. In the meantime, we need help NOW with the following:

- We need a few people to work on the decorating team. You will be ably mentored by Orleen MacLulich and we already have several beautiful decorations to work with. If you are willing to be part of this team, contact Meg Harrigan-Lee at [vicharrlee@gmail.com](mailto:vicharrlee@gmail.com). There is no great time pressure to get things done soon but we want to know that this part of the evening is covered by a small team.
- **EVERYONE PLEASE!** We will be having \$20 “surprise bags” and need some help collecting items to put in them. Gift certificates from local restaurants / coffee shops or retail outlets would be perfect. Some small consumable item such as a few chocolates or a jar of jam or chutney would also be suitable. If almost every one of our members was able to get one (and a few keeners to get two or three) we could have 100 surprise bags which would net \$2000 of pure “profit”. Please try to think of a business you frequent or where you know the owner and see if they would be willing to donate a gift certificate for \$20 or \$25. To make the bags more fun ask the retail businesses if they would throw in some small item to complement the GC – a special spoon from a kitchen store, a pair of shoelaces from a bike store, you get the idea. When you get either a donation, a rejection or a NO REPLY from a business, please e-mail Rose Mary Ormerod ([ormerod@shaw.ca](mailto:ormerod@shaw.ca)) with “surprise bags” in the subject line and keep her informed of which local businesses have been approached. We will display a banner at the dinner advertising the names of our supporters – you can tell them that. We will also send each of them a thank you letter after the event. Rose Mary will make arrangements to receive GCs and other donation items after November 1<sup>st</sup>.

This is our current list of members in this group. If you think your name should have been included, please mention that to one of the Chairs ASAP. We could use the help! Chairs – Jean MacDonald, Meg Harrigan-Lee, Terry Chalmers; Members: Barbara Jolliffe, Barbara Langton, Carol Long, Cyndi Frame, Donna Jokinen, Gillian Scadeng, Laine Lunde, Pat Mayhill, Sandra Carelius, Suzanne Moreau.

## **Communications Working Group Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Lisbie Rae**

### **1. Digital Skills Team.**

**iPads** 6 members have received i-Pads and training in their use: Sue Carr, Carol Long, Cynthia Quinn-Young, Jane Carroll, Kay Mulholland and Nancy Harrigan Lambert.

**Workshops:** We've had 5 workshops on Digital Skills with 5 still ahead. A scheduling conflict has changed the date of the second October workshop to November 2. Check the newsletter and website for future dates.

**Mentor Training.** We now have a team of VG4A mentors ready to respond to members' requests for skill training. By the end of October we will be offering 1-1 sessions to meet member requests. Email your request for training, or for help with a particular problem, to Lisbie at [vg4aweb@gmail.com](mailto:vg4aweb@gmail.com)

**Equipment Purchase: Printer, Digital Projector, Outdoor Speaker System.** We are researching equipment that will best meet our needs -- \$3,000 budget as part of our New Horizons grant.

### **2. Publicity for Cycle Tour.**

Lisbie, Nancy and Joyce teamed up to write and distribute press releases and messages to the media. CHEK News covered the Tour twice. Christine Scott wrote 5 Pedalling newsletters for the Cycle Tour participants. Thanks to these and to writers Linda Doctoroff and Peggy Frank.

### **3. Newsletter**

Christine and Jane's newsletters are the envy of other groups; Over 90% of our members open it each month and generally 66% click on the link. (Some groups have a 20% open rate.) Keep reading that news!

### **4. Photos.**

Log in to the website and go to the MEMBERS ONLY page to view photo albums of all our events, most by Jane Player, with some others by various photographers. You might find a perfect photo of yourself there.

### **5. Website**

Lisbie is looking for someone willing to be trained in website maintenance to help post the many items to be found there. A large and active group like ours has a lot going on that keeps the present managers busy.

## **Education Working Group Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Charlotte Caron**

The Education Group has started back into fall activities with presentations coming up at the Cridge and Tapestry in November. In the spring we also did retirement home presentations.

We are also looking for Connections with schools to do our presentations and bead making. Many of you joined in making beads at our last General Meeting so know how much fun it is! Please help us with connections—if you have grandchildren or teacher-friends in a school that might be interested in this kind of a learning event, please let any member of the Education Working Group know. In the spring semester Grandmothers went to 3 schools (10 classes) to do educational events. They were delighted to receive donations of \$678 (not generally an expectation of our classroom visits). Sandra Berry has updated the record of presentations on Google Drive [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bQ3ZW8SgQith\\_ShKSQLTIVyUzoNIP087M715lIMlfcY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bQ3ZW8SgQith_ShKSQLTIVyUzoNIP087M715lIMlfcY/edit?usp=sharing).

The Education Table at the Art from the Attic on July 15 was well received with many interested people asking questions and some making donations.

We currently need organizers for the School Program for children and the Community programs for adults—someone who likes connecting people to people.

Several of our group members are going to the national Grandmothers Gathering in Winnipeg. We are looking forward to their reports and to planning the educational moment for the African Dinner based on the quilt that will be with us then after its debut at the Winnipeg Gathering.

Information will be going out for training of speakers. Everyone is invited to participate. The first round will be focused on talking to people one-on-one about the work of VG4A and the SLF Grandmothers' Campaign. Later sessions will be for people willing to do presentations. Stay tuned!

### **Cycle Tour Working Group Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Lynn Kobierski**

Our 2023 Cycle tour year has been a resounding success with over \$131,000 raised for our sister Grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa, thanks to our donors, supports and you, the cyclists and supporters here in VG4A! The expanded four week format was inclusive and very popular and will be used again next year with even more cycle choices. The Grandkids were sweet and many hoped this ride will be available next year. A survey was distributed to assist the CTWG improve the Cycle Tour for 2024. Thanks to all of you who contributed. For now, we will continue our camaraderie with weekly rides on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you wish to join us, check out the schedule on the Cycle Tour page of the website. <https://www.vg4a.ca/Cycle-Tour>. If you'd like your name on a cycling mail out list, please contact Cynthia at [vg4acycleregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:vg4acycleregistrar@gmail.com).

### **Sales and Crafts Working Group Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Orleen MacLulich**

Summer was relatively quiet for the Sales and Crafts group in terms of sales. After 3 years of having a major backyard summer sale at Elizabeth Sebesta's place we took a break this year and put our energy into organizing the Jazzy Junk from Granny's Trunk sale in April and providing cashiering services for the very successful 'Art from the Attic' sale in July.

In June we got a jump on Christmas and started thinking about Christmas Craft fairs and Christmas sales. We wanted some new items in our inventory and so we have held a number of work bees over the summer to make felted Christmas Ornaments and Crystal Prism ornaments. Those work bees are continuing into the fall and we have added card making workshops as well. We have a busy sales season planned for November. We have sales at the Cridge Centre for Seniors on November 10, at The Tapestry on November 16 and we will be attending the Doncaster school's Christmas Fair on November 25.

We need help with our marketplace on the VG4A website. With Lisbie's help and Jane Player's photographic skills we created a slide show entitled "Feature of the Month" in which we showcased our lovely, handcrafted doll clothes for the month of September. We would like to continue featuring different items from our inventory on a rotating basis and need some technical help with that. Please contact either Carol Long [calong@telus.net](mailto:calong@telus.net) or [orleenm@telus.net](mailto:orleenm@telus.net)

### **Grandmothers Regional Liaison (GRL) Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Dale Rolston**

The biggest buzz for the GRL Report is the upcoming IGG to be held at the end of October. This is the first International Grandmother Gathering in Canada since 2006.

There is still time to register, either in person or virtually. Much of the information can be found following this link:

[https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/internationalgrandmothersgathering?\\_gl=1\\*1dzowc\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MTEwOTcwMTU3NC4xNjk1MTY3ODMy\\*\\_ga\\*MzUxMTQ5MzA1LjE2OTUxNjc4MzI.\\*\\_ga\\_CFE25LRLN8\\*MTY5NjQzNTc2OS4yLjAuMTY5NjQzNTc2OS42MzC4wLjA](https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/internationalgrandmothersgathering?_gl=1*1dzowc*_gcl_au*MTEwOTcwMTU3NC4xNjk1MTY3ODMy*_ga*MzUxMTQ5MzA1LjE2OTUxNjc4MzI.*_ga_CFE25LRLN8*MTY5NjQzNTc2OS4yLjAuMTY5NjQzNTc2OS42MzC4wLjA).



In honour of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the SLF has refreshed the Grandmothers Campaign logo as well as the SLF logo. Both were designed by Lulu Kitololo Studio, which is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Several of the Island



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Grandmother Groups are settling in with many Fall activities and feel free to attend/support any or all:

- Nanaimo NanGo Grannies will be at a Christmas craft fair at Dover Bay Senior Secondary Friday Nov24th evening and Saturday 25th in the day. They will also be at the Island Soul Choir concert Sunday Nov 26th at the Port Theatre before and during intermission. They will be selling our homemade crafts and intermission treats. The choir is awesome and worth the drive.
- The PAGO (Port Albertini) Grannies are booked for 3 craft fairs as well. November 4&5 at Glenwood Center, November 18 at Cherry Creek Hall and November 25 at the Barclay Hotel.

**Treasurer's Report, October 14 GM, submitted by Sandra Carelius**

VICTORIA GRANDMOTHERS FOR AFRICA								
As at: September 30, 2023								
<b>ASSETS</b>	Balance per Bank Statement at Month end:				24,785.08			
	(Less Outstanding Cheques:)				-229.41	#804, #807		
	PLUS o/s deposits (Website)				0.00			
	Actual Available Coast Capital Chq Acct:				24,555.67			
	Float for Double Your Money (cash)				300.00			
	African Dinner Deposit Exp. for 2024				801.50			
	Wild Apricot Subscription for 2024				1,117.02	26,774.19		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	Memberships for next year:				-30.00			
						-30.00		
<b>NET FUND BALANCES</b>						<b>26,744.19</b>		
<b>Detailed Fund Balances at end of Period:</b>								
	Opening Fund Balance (Beg. Of 2023)	Income	Donations Received	(Expenses)	Net Income (2023)	Net Fund Bal (Before transfer)	Transfers to SLF (at yr end)	Net Fund Bal (End of Period)
Membership Fund for Operating Expenses	4,054.45	4,080.00	1,778.50	-2,682.98	3,175.52	7,229.97	0.00	7,229.97
Sales and Craft Fund	0.00	3,419.36	20.00	-608.50	2,830.86	2,830.86	0.00	2,830.86
Jazzy Junk Fund	0.00	3,977.70		0.00	3,977.70	3,977.70	0.00	3,977.70
Art from the Attic Fund	0.00	3,667.72	200.00	-79.89	3,787.83	3,787.83	0.00	3,787.83
Double Your Money Fund	0.00	1,735.00		0.00	1,735.00	1,735.00	0.00	1,735.00
Cycle Tour Fund	0.00	15,337.50	0.00	-14,187.47	1,150.03	1,150.03	0.00	1,150.03
Special Event - Fun Golf	0.00	1,255.00		-1,239.39	15.61	15.61	0.00	15.61
Tru Earth Fund	0.00	67.17		0.00	67.17	67.17	0.00	67.17
Virtual Stride Walk Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Projects Fund	0.00	700.00		-700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel Fund	1,212.89	351.06		0.00	351.06	1,563.95	0.00	1,563.95
Cycle Tour Contingency	1,000.00	0.07		0.00	0.07	1,000.07	0.00	1,000.07
New Horizons Grant Fund	0.00	24,539.00		-21,153.00	3,386.00	3,386.00	0.00	3,386.00
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>6,267.34</b>	<b>59,129.58</b>	<b>1,998.50</b>	<b>-40,651.23</b>	<b>20,476.85</b>	<b>26,744.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,744.19</b>
						Discrepancy: Fund bals:		0.00
						G/L:		0.00
							Enter Bank	
							Balance in G4	
<b>INCEPTION TO CURRENT DATE TRANSFERS TO THE S.L.F.:</b>								
Inception to Dec 31, 2022 (prior yr end)	1,938,423.60				Per SLF			
Transfers during 2023 (not incl year end)	118,978.00				Tour Donations to Sept 30 (per Lynn K.)			
SLF Transfers at year end 2023	15,508.61				Not remitted to SLF yet (est'm, per NM)			
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>2,072,910.21</b>							
	<b>2,000,000.00</b>							
	<b>-72,910.21</b>				<b>2 million surpassed!</b>			