



oomama

Supporting African Grandmothers and Orphans Through the Stephen Lewis Foundation



2022 Fall Newsletter



See page 2 for bigger poster.



Message from our Chair, Pat McKee on page 3



Stride 2022 Report page 4



In-Person Marketplaces
Nov. 29, 9:30 am-2 pm
Christ First United Church
1700 Mazo Cr. Mississauga

Nov. 26, 8 am- 5 pm
St. John's United, 262 Randall St.
Oakville
and online:

oomama.org/marketplace

From Sandy for Fundraising Committee:

Resilience: Lest We Forget

November 4, 2022 Doors 6 pm, Welcome 7 pm
Small Arms Inspection Building (SAIB)
1352 Lakeshore Rd. East, Mississauga (Lakeshore and Dixie)

In order to make this event a success, we ask all Oomamas and Superfriends to support and attend the evening. Please share the poster broadly with your contacts. Tickets are available at: [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) The FUNdraining Committee has been working for over two years on this event, with stops and starts caused by the Covid19 pandemic.

This is a celebratory speakers event with a **Silent Auction and Marketplace**, supported by three generous sponsors who have been with us since the beginning of our planning: Angela Shryane of Asante Wealth Management; GEOTAB; and Team Nasiry of iProRealty are all Silver Sponsors, each having donated \$500.

Our speakers will honour the resilience of all those who have often been overlooked or discounted:

Barry Gilbert is the founder of *Eagle Spirits of the Great Waters* and is an Indigenous activist. He will speak to Indigenous education, past and present.

Barbara Dickson is the best-selling author of *Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo* and *United for Peace*. She will speak to the resilience of the women who worked in the munitions factories. A little-known fact is that there were 200 Cree women working at the Small Arms Building during the war.

Dr. Robyn Bourgeois (*Laughing Otter, Caring Woman*) is a contributing editor to *Keetsahnak/Our Murdered and Missing Indigenous Sisters* and will speak to the stories behind the book.

To commemorate veterans who have also demonstrated their own incredible resilience, Oomama is partnering with the [Port Credit Legion](https://www.portcreditlegion.com). They will have a table at the event.

This is our largest single-day event and we hope to make it a great success.



Who do we know that received the QEII Platinum Jubilee pin? See page 5.





**SEATING IS LIMITED!
MARKETPLACE, SILENT AUCTION**

STORIES OF *Resilience*

**INSPIRING STORIES
THAT TRANSFORM LIVES**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH • 7PM
DOORS OPEN at 6PM**

The Small Arms Inspection Building 1352 Lakeshore Rd E, Mississauga



Barry Gilbert
*"Indigenous Education,
Past & Present"*
Barry Gilbert, founder of Eagle
Spirits of the Great Waters,
is Haudenosaunee/Metis
and an indigenous activist.



Barbara Dickson
*Author of Bomb Girls:
Trading Aprons for Ammo
and United for Peace*
Barbara Dickson is a local historian,
motivational public speaker, and an
award-winning, best-selling author.
2016 Speaker's Book Award
2016 Heritage Toronto Book Award



Dr. Robyn Bourgeois
(Laughing Otter Caring Woman)
Dr. Bourgeois is a contributing
author to "Keetsahnak / Our
Murdered and Missing Indigenous
Sisters". Robyn is also an activist,
author, and artist.



**TICKETS:
\$30 - <https://StoriesofResilienceOomama.eventbrite.ca>
www.oomama.org**

Net Proceeds to:  **the Stephen Lewis
FOUNDATION**

In Partnership With:



With Thanks to our Sponsors:

GEOTAB



Poster Design Donated by:



\$30 Get your tickets here:
<https://StoriesofResilienceOomama.eventbrite.ca>



**Pat McKee,
Chair of Oomama**



Goodness, where do the years go?! I am now into the fourth year of my two-year term as chair of Oomama and I must say that it is my pleasure to be at the helm of this wonderful group of women.

The lion's share of the activities focuses on FUNdraising. Again, the annual Stride to Turn the Tide was an amazing success, resulting in almost \$16,000 raised by the joint efforts of Oomama and the Bronte Grans – very similar to last year.

Speaking of Judy Pearsall, she turned 90 in September. We had a delightful small gathering to honour her. We wrote a couple of songs. The lyrics capture our admiration of this amazing woman. Here are some excerpts from those songs:

To the tune of Do-Re-Mi from The Sound of Music:

Ja jewel and gleaming jewel
U the ultimate kind soul
Da dear a female dear
Y she's young and never old
 Judy is so very wise
 She edits text with both her eyes
 Her laughter always makes us smile
 And that brings us back to J U D Y

And based on the Major-General's Song from Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance:

She is the very model of a mod nona-genarian
 She reads a lot of books and speaks French just like a Parisian
 She's all that we would like to b-e
 when we to get to ni-nety
 She is the very model of a mod nona-genarian

Did you know that a "nonagenarian" is someone in their nineties?

Judy shared a profound quote that is worth sharing with all of you.

The FUNdraising team has been working towards an exciting Speakers' Event which will take place on November 4. We hope to see many of you in attendance. You can find out more about this event inside this newsletter.

We are so grateful to our editor Bev Carr, for designing this newsletter, and to her copy editor, Judy Pearsall. And thanks Bev, for reminding us to get our contributions submitted!



Back Row: Rita Hutton, Carole Holmes, Lorraine Green, Judy's granddaughter Laura and Judy's daughter Deb. Front Row: Beverly Carr, Judy Pearsall, Sherry Ardell, Pat McKee

From the Buddha: "*The trouble is that you think you have time*". She followed that by telling us "That's a wonderful rallying call for the climate crisis we are experiencing, as well as for me."



Stride to Turn the Tide 2022

From Wendy Merson

We have completed another successful virtual Stride. A celebration luncheon, hosted by *The Bronte Grandmothers for Africa*, was held in the party room at 6 John Street, Oakville.

Oomama members, Bronte Gran members and some friends of Oomama individually walked, cycled, gardened, exercised, cleaned house, and a multitude of other tasks to accumulate one kilometre after another, through a virtual trail covering 15 sub-Saharan African countries.

Twenty-six striders covered 16,536 kilometres in over four months, and raised \$15,750 for The Stephen Lewis Foundation. Anne once again treated us to several poems about the countries and SLF-funded projects that we were virtually walking by, in Africa.

At our celebration luncheon, we heard stories sent by Ruth-Anne Seburn (campaign officer at the SLF) about the home visitors and helpers from one of the projects. It was heartening to hear how effective our donations are, for the day-to-day needs of the Grandmothers.

On the map of Africa, Leslie showed us where we ‘walked’, and she announced that **Susan Eadie had covered the most kilometres** for our team. Wendy talked about the amount of fundraising that had been done, and congratulated **Pat McKee, who was the top fundraiser** for Stride this year. Everyone is looking forward to another successful *Stride To Turn the Tide* in 2023.



Left to right: Carolyn Hutchinson, Linda Wilbur, Wendy Merson, Dell Langham, Peggy Brightwell, Carolyn Archer (Bronte Liaison) Sandy Milakovic, Leslie Kulokas



To celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70th year on the throne, a **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** pin was created to honour people across the Commonwealth who have made significant contributions to their communities.

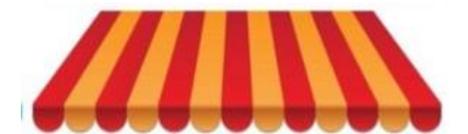
Congratulations to Irene Clark, Carole Holmes, Lorraine Green, and Sherry Ardell – members of Oomama and Superfriends – who were recognized for their participation and in the founding of GASP (Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet).



**GRAN Grandmothers
Advocacy Network**
<https://grandmothersadvocacy.org>



A grass-roots community group committed to climate action and advocacy.
<https://www.gasp4change.org>



**Bags, Jewellery, Go
Green products. A great
start to Holiday
Shopping!**



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**Looking for a Speaker for your Club?
Our Speakers/Education Committee is
offering presentations....**

Do you belong to a club that invites speakers to their meetings? Oomama can present an inspiring and thought-provoking PowerPoint presentation to them. We have presented to chapters of CARP, University Women, Rotary Clubs, and in June 2022, we presented to Sheridan Probus.

Resilience, African Grandmothers Facing Dual Pandemics and Climate Change

The Climate Crisis has severely challenged the African grandmothers. Gardens they had nurtured, fell to floods and droughts. COVID-19 has added a second pandemic to their lives. Our presenters tell the inspirational stories of how the women have risen to their challenges of raising the orphaned children by caring for their health and providing them with a home.

Oomama members Rita Hutton, a retired high school science teacher, and Pat McKee, associate professor emeritus at UofT, present a beautifully illustrated powerpoint while telling the stories of the grandmothers. *For more information about booking a presentation*, email Rita: huttonrita@gmail.com



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posts to your friends.



and Oomama.org

