



# 2024 Spring Newsletter

## May Fundraisers

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am-1pm**  
 Oomama is selling Jewellery at this Spring Sale  
 St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church  
 998 Indian Road, Mississauga




**Jazzy Junk from Granny's Trunk**  
**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 9am-Noon**  
 Oomama members have cleaned their closets and purged their basements for unique finds & super bargains!



Maple Grove United Church  
 Parking Lot,  
 346 Maple Grove Dr, Oakville

### Greetings from the Oomama co-chairs - Pat McKee & Barb Podgorski

Contrary to Pat's message in the fall newsletter and her stated intention to retire as co-chair from Oomama, she has decided to remain as co-chair with Barb for the time being.

We now have just one combined monthly meeting for Fundraising and OMG, on the third Tuesday of the month.



In January, we recognized the one-year anniversary of the passing of Rita Hutton on January 8, 2023. We still feel her absence and miss her energy, enthusiasm, passion and friendship.

Early this year, we initiated a partnership with two local grannie groups – Bronte Grans and Burlington Ubuntu Grandwomen. To date, we have had four enthusiastic meetings with the principal goal of jointly planning the next Regional Gathering. We have assigned responsibilities to each group and have settled on March 29, 2025, at Burlington Baptist Church for the event. Sometimes, we will attend each other's monthly meetings. Working together has been energizing.




**Zoom Presentation: May 16<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm ET**  
**The Aging Gardener: Gardening in the Golden Years**  
 Ingrid Janssen, a horticulturist, speaker, blogger, and master gardener will help us rethink how we garden and use tools and techniques that allow us to continue to enjoy gardening. Click this [link](#) to register. Donations of over \$20 will get a tax receipt. After you register you will get a link to live stream and a link to recorded event after it occurs. Let's get Gardening!

**Inside**  
**Stride to Turn the Tide p2**  
**Hello Friends Event p3**  
**Highlighting Imedy Chiduuro p4**  
**Marketplace p5**

**Donate to the Stride Halton/Peel Team!**



Check out our progress online [oomama.org](http://oomama.org)

## Stride to Turn the Tide

The Halton/Peel Virtual Stride Team

### Stride 2024 Kick-off!

Once again, in the 17th year of Stride, Oomama and Bronte Grandmothers for Africa are joining together for a Virtual Stride and Fundraiser. On March 26, ten virtual striders and one visiting guest from Ottawa met at Barb Podgorski's home to celebrate our Launch for Stride 2024. We heard a warm message from Megan Karges welcoming us to Stride, and we enjoyed one of SLF's videos, featuring a younger Stephen Lewis, who spoke compellingly about the grandmothers in Africa. A light lunch followed, and information about our Stride registration was delivered.

We will be virtually striding across Canada, hitting all of our provincial and territorial capitals from April 1st to June 30th. Starting in Iqaluit, we'll stride through Newfoundland and Labrador, PEI, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, and Northwest Territories. This route will have us striding 15,077 km. If we surpass that number of km, we will continue our route back to Iqaluit from Yellowknife. If we manage another 2,262 km, our circle route will total 17,339 km.



OOMAMA & BRONTE GRANS STRIDE LAUNCH March 26, 2024

L-R: Susan, Maureen, Barb P., Pat B., Wendy B, Maria, Dell  
Back Row; Anne, Pat M., Neda, Wendy M., Maria

There are 19 striders currently registered to help us get around Canada, and so far there are 12 striders who are online to fundraise. We hope that some of our members and super friends of Oomama will support those who are fundraising for Stride.

Co-Chairs: Leslie & Wendy M.





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

### ***Hello Friends!***

Have you **registered** for Grans' national gathering, *Hello Friends!* that is taking place in Toronto, at the International Living and Learning Centre of Toronto Metropolitan University [formerly Ryerson University] **May 13 – 15**. You will find everything you need to register and book your stay on our ***Hello Friends! webpage***. The registration fee for the full in-person program is set at \$150. Registration to attend via Zoom is set at \$25. There is also an option to attend just the opening banquet to hear keynote speaker Sally Armstrong. Registration for just the opening banquet is \$40.

We encourage you to explore the two full days of *Hello Friends!* programming in our **Program Overview**. You will find everything you need to register and book your stay on our ***Hello Friends! webpage***.

We hope to see you there! --Linda and Sharon, Co-Chairs

### **Introducing *Hello Friends!* Keynote Speaker Sally Armstrong**



Photo credit: Globe and Mail

*“Striding into Taliban-held Afghanistan with a chador over her six-foot frame, playing high-fives with a traumatized child rape survivor in the Congolese jungle, marching with the defiant grandmothers in Swaziland, Sally explores the darkest reaches of women’s experience and brings back astonishing news of hope, challenge and change.” -- Michele Landsberg*

Sally is a globally recognized expert in conflict reporting and women's rights advocacy. Renowned as the "war correspondent for the world's women," she has covered conflicts spanning Bosnia to Somalia, Congo to Afghanistan, and Iraq to Guatemala. Sally is a former member of the International Women's Commission at the United Nations and has received international recognition for her work on human rights and gender equality. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada, with 11 honorary doctorate degrees, and is a four-time winner of the Amnesty International Canada Media Award. In 2019 Sally was chosen to deliver the Massey Lectures, in which she argues that the future of humanity depends on strengthening the status of women and girls. We are so very fortunate to have Sally with us on our opening night at *Hello Friends!* to set the stage for our time together.





At our January OMG, Carolyn A brought a box that contained 35 lovely greeting cards. We decided to sell the boxes as a fundraising effort. The charge for a box is \$35.00, however the company sells them to us for \$24.00 so we can keep \$11.00 from each box sold.

However, nine Oomama's made the attempt over the next six weeks and eight of us managed to sell between two and ten Big Box of Cards (45 all together) while one Oomama outsold us all (49) for a whopping total of 94 Big Boxes of Cards sold! A big congratulations to all the sellers, but especially to Barb for her huge effort to help us make money.

Oomama has sent a cheque to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for \$1,159.00. The Big Boxes brought in \$1,034 and there was \$125 in donations for this fundraiser. A good start for the spring.



*"I am proud to be a part of this work."*  
**— Imedy Chiduuro, Zimbabwe**

Every community striving for health and human rights deserves leaders like Imedy. Despite her own life challenges, she rises to the occasion to elevate and empower those around her. **Join us in amplifying the voices and actions of women like Imedy who are a formidable force in the fight to end AIDS.**

Those who have the pleasure of working alongside Imedy Chiduuro know it is impossible not to be taken by her unmistakably vibrant personality. Her leadership is a beacon of hope and change, and her immense impact shines throughout her community.

Imedy is passionate about supporting grandmothers and their grandchildren, especially grandmothers who are facing the challenges of parenting anew after losing their own children to AIDS-related complications.

As a mother and caregiver to two adult children who both live with epilepsy, and six grandchildren, Imedy's drive to contribute to her community stems from her own deep, personal commitments. She understands that everyone requires support that goes well beyond simply meeting a person's day-to-day health needs. This is why, in addition to working as a champion of health awareness and testing, including for HIV and TB, Imedy motivates people to care for one another, and to grow a strong sense of community and belonging across generations.

Since 2008, Imedy has volunteered with SLF partner Hope Tariro Trust (HTT) in Zimbabwe, where she is often at the centre of meaningful and uplifting moments of connection. Through her singing and dancing, she creates a contagious sense of joy for grandmothers, their families and community that offers relief from the weight of their responsibilities and health concerns. Imedy also finds time to act as the chairperson of her local community garden, which nourishes her family and contributes to their income while also sustaining the broader community.

Most recently, in October 2023 she participated in the International Grandmothers Gathering held in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. The experience of gathering proved to be rejuvenating for Imedy, who describes the opportunity to learn from her peers as inspiring and re-energizing. She is now ready to continue her profound contributions to her community.



## Check out our online Marketplace:

[oomama.org/marketplace](https://oomama.org/marketplace)

Find gifts for your friends and family and useful ones for yourself!  
Fabric items: masks, bags of all kinds, beaded and netted jewellery are handmade by our crafty grandmothers. As part of our 'GoGreen' initiative, we have reusable products replacing plastic.  
Jewellery Repair, too!



GRAND(M)OTHERS ACT  
TO SAVE THE PLANET

This video from GASP tells their story well...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eODbXjc6il>

GASP is involved in several environmental issues - locally, provincially, and federally. The campaigns we are presently working on: Basic Income; getting Canadian Banks and Pension funds to stop investing in fossil fuels; our Ontario Climate Watch Team are working on sprawl; firm urban boundaries; saving farmland and wetlands; and protesting HWY 413.

[GASP website](#)



Remember to check out  
Oomama's Fundraising at  
May's Spring Sales, and  
Zoom presentation about  
Gardening!  
See Page 1 for details

*"Mix a little foolishness with your prudence: It's good to be silly at the right moment." – Horace*

