

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, NOV. 4,
2017

Loaves and Fishes Dinner
Doors 5 pm Dinner 6:00
Norsemen Inn
6505-48 Ave., Camrose

FRI/SAT, JAN. 12-13,
2018

Film and Speaker Festival
The Transformative Power
of Community
12th 7-10 and 13th 9:30-4
Augustana Campus, UofA
Keynote: David Goa

Watch for details to come.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Sahakarini would like to thank those who have supported our project work through financial donations and volunteer time. Thank you to the *Augustana Community Service and Learning* students who continue to provide assistance to Sahakarini in a variety of ways.



SAHAKARINI FILM AND SPEAKER FESTIVAL

One of the things I love about our committee planning meetings is catching up with the other members about what's been happening in their lives, what's been happening in the world, and eventually what films they've seen lately. During one of these pre-planning catch-ups in 2016, we noticed how often the concept of power continued to arise – whether it was the expression of power, hidden power, the power of positivity, systemic power, personal power, or the abuse of power, it was a word that continued to enter our conversation. Our discussions led us to making power our theme for the upcoming Film & Speaker Festival. Because of the complexity and many aspects of power, we decided to create a three year focus on exploring power through the lens of personal, communal, and the misuse of power, beginning in 2017 with “The Power of One.”.

The January 2018 festival theme is “The Transformative Power of Community”. We are planning a line-up of films highlighting both local and international stories of communities coming together to create positive change, to create safety and trust, and to empower others.

“The Transformative Power of Community” is taking place on the Augustana Campus, Friday, January 12th from 7-10pm and Saturday, January 13th from 9:30am-4pm. We hope to see you there!

Jen Lindstrand

SAHAKARINI DONATIONS

Donations can be made three different ways.

1. Canada Post @ Sahakarini, Box 1685 Camrose T4V 1X6
2. ATB Cares website @ <https://www.atbcares.com/donate>.

Your donation will be forwarded to Sahakarini plus a 15% matching donation from Alberta Treasury.

3. CanadaHelps website: @ <https://www.canadahelps.org>

Your support makes change possible. Thank you.

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Donations can be made online at www.CanadaHelps.org or through www.atbcares.com

Fall 2017

SAHAKARINI

ESTABLISHED 1979 CAMROSE AB



A new series begins...

TELLING HER STORY

What is it like for a girl growing up in a society that does not highly value the education of women? How are women working to improve health and economic conditions for themselves and their families? What challenges do women face as they address issues of human rights and civil liberties? Such questions are the subject of this four part series on **Women and Development** focusing on the areas of education, health, economy, and human rights.

Telling her Story: Part 1

Going to school as a girl in Uganda

By Jane Sewali-Kirumira

Growing up as a girl in Uganda, education seemed like the only way out of being viewed as a second class citizen by society and the only way out of poverty. The education system was set up in such a way that parents paid school fees for their children from elementary to grade 12. University was free. I grew up in a home where my father laid value on education. He made sure we attended the best schools at the time and our school fees were always paid on time. The schools I attended were missionary boarding schools, many of which were based on the British curriculum, as Uganda was a former British colony.

At the time, girls were expected to do specific chores at home. However, being in a boarding school saved me from this and being in school was the best part of my growing up. In many families, if the children were in a day school, girls were only allowed to do their homework after their chores were done. The boys, on the other hand, were not expected to do any chores.

If a family had enough money for one child, a boy was always taken to school first regardless of age. It was believed that a girl would get married, start her own family and be taken care of by her husband. When school fees were being paid, boys' school fees would be paid first. Many times girls would be sent home after a couple of weeks as the parents would pay only part of the school fees. In some cases, a girl's school fees would be paid but not the other necessities for school. Girls would then hope

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PROJECTS - The Heart of the Matter

The Project Committee is gearing up for another ambitious and creative cycle of project activity. The Committee oversees a continually evolving stream of projects ranging from mature (2 or more years running) to conceptual (new), and some in between. Projects are the heart of Sahakarini's work, and the Committee holds this responsibility with the highest of honour.

The Project Committee elicits, discerns and recommends suitable projects which: assist the more vulnerable and marginalized to help themselves; have partners on the ground who are trustworthy, knowledgeable, committed, accountable, have good administration and communication skills, and are sensitive to issues of gender equality; seek to empower women and children especially in areas of health care and education; and benefit all disadvantaged members regardless of colour, ethnic origin, class or creed.

Entering its 3rd year, the **Pipal Tree Children's College** for education of young Tribal (Adavasi) children, mainly girls, is hitting its stride (Bangalore, India). The project provides opportunity for youth to complete a high school education that would otherwise not be possible. The program is tailored to provide: a cooperative learning environment between children and teachers, a blend of Tribal with modern and culture, and a curriculum that respects Tribal worldviews, and has potential to create future Tribal leaders. Committee member Varghese Manaloor is the lead for the Pipal Tree Children's College project. Highlighting the merit of this project and Sahakarini's ability to fundraise for it, the Government of Alberta awarded a grant in spring 2017.

Featured in the spring 2017 Sahakarini newsletter, **Project SHINE** for health and sanitation is entering year 2 after a very successful start up year (Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania). This multi-year, multi-partner project seeks to empower Maasai pastoralists in addressing serious issues through education, new practises (bio-sand filters), and entrepreneurship (soap-making). A key partner is Rocky Mountain Soap Company (RMSC, Canmore, AB), who has provided expertise in launching the soap production component. RMSC has also developed a feature soap specific to Project SHINE. Staff from RMSC will be attending the fall Loaves and Fishes dinner to share their experiences ... and their feature soap.

Another supporter, the Camrose United Church Women's Group,

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that their teacher would improvise or some of the fortunate students would share their school accessories.

While my father paid my school fees promptly, he never once came to visit me throughout the year. In fact, in grade 1 at age 6, he forgot to pick me up at the end of the school term. After two weeks of waiting, the school principal took me in her car and drove to my father's work place. As my father never came to visit, I had nothing to eat during recess. The three meals a day we were provided with were not enough for children going through puberty. Parents would come for visitations on weekends and they would bring foodstuffs for their children. As my father never visited, I would wait for the teachers to start any lesson and I would then excuse myself to go to the bathroom. In reality, I and two other friends would go around the school compound and look for any fruits

that were available on trees. Going to get snacks for recess came at a high cost. My grades and those of my friends declined to such an extent that my father was requesting the school to have me repeat grade 7.

For Junior high school I had attended a mixed boarding school. There were three streams per grade. In my year each stream had 30 students with seven girls in each stream. We were in the minority.

One of the challenges that girls faced at the time, was that boys were raised to think that they were smarter than girls. They would make comments like, "I do not need to study hard as the girls will always come last in the class anyway". I had many physical fights with boys as I knew they would not hit me. I was a teenager trying to find my place in a world that favored boys and men.

We as girls overcame our challenges in school by forming

reading groups and shared our knowledge with fellow girls. We always worked three times harder than the boys as not much was expected to come from girls at the time.

School however was the place I felt safe and in 1985 when the country was going through years of civil war, I refused to go back home. After two months of refusing, my father was so mad that he yanked me out of the dormitory and forced me into the car.

With time, as a girl growing up you develop survival strategies. In my two final years of junior high school I was voted to be the class monitor and I was asked to choose my assistant. I chose a young man who was almost four times older than the rest of us, as I knew if anything happened he would be able to protect and defend me. After fighting prejudices against girls in school, at home and in a society where not much was expected of a girl, I was able to make it to the only university in the country at the time; Makerere University.

In an effort for the country to increase the number of female students going to university, the government introduced an automatic 1.5 grade point system added to the grade of every girl going to university. This in itself shows how the potential of girls was undermined. This system lasted three years and it was done away with as the female students who had graduated were viewed as not being as capable as their male colleagues.

Many things have changed in Uganda, but if a girl does not go to school she will never have any opportunity at a decent life. With all my father's flaws, I will forever be indebted to him that he knew the value of educating girls. The difference between me and the many house-girls who served in my father's house was school fees.

Note: Jane Sewali-Kirumira went on to earn a B.A. (Languages), a Diploma in Education, and a Masters degree in Journalism. She now lives in Edmonton where she works for the Alberta Dept. of Labour and operates her own business as an immigration consultant.

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has also recently joined in to expand the project's effect. Laurie Moffitt Barr will continue as project lead.

New this year was approval for funding another

er sand dam with established partner Utooni Development Organization (Kenya). The dam provides water for agricultural and domestic use during the dry season. The dams are constructed by local peoples with assistance and advice from Utooni. Varghese

Manaloor is also the lead for this project.

The Projects Committee is currently considering one or more project proposals in Nepal. As Chair, it is a joy to witness what often begin as improbable ideas gradually developing, becoming connected to gener-

ous donors, and ultimately bringing significant benefit to those in need in a far off corners of the world.

Michael Barr

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Together We SHINE!

Sahakarini Loaves and Fishes Dinner

November 4, 2017—Norsemen Inn
6505—48 Avenue, Camrose
5 pm Doors Open—6 pm Dinner

Tickets: \$40 adult, \$25 student, 10 and under free
Available from: Board Members and Wisemen's Way
For more information contact Sahakarini 780-672-8222,
email sahakarini@gmail.com or check our website: sahakarini.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THE NEED FOR WATER

Rains in harvest season and hurricanes Harvey and Irma have captured our interest and concern for the moment. Yet we know that there are agencies and individuals who have the ability to provide relief for those affected.

In other parts of the world, relief from problems concerning water, whether too much or too little, is often not forthcoming. Currently Sahakarini is supporting two projects that focus on sustainable sources of water for our project partners.

One project is another sand dam.

Another is Project SHINE (Sanitation and Health Innovation Education) in Tanzania is on-going. It has become

clear that reliable sources of potable water are vital to the success of this project. Providing bio-sand filters for our partners in this project is now an important component of our contribution. We are fortunate that Sahakarini's flexibility and frequent contact with trusted partners allows us to make adaptations to projects in order to better meet our partners' needs.

This year's Loaves and Fishes banquet, on November 4, will feature Project SHINE. Alberta's own Rocky Mountain Soap Company (RMSC) has made a special soap to support the SHINE project. The soap will be available at the banquet. Monies raised from the sale of the soap will be used to purchase bio-sand

filters for Project SHINE. RMSC is also donating \$1.00 for every bar of SHINE soap that is sold.

Imagine not being able to get a drink of clean water or being unable to wash your hands. Think about the challenges of dry weather for crops. We take our access to water for our needs for granted. With your help, Sahakarini can increase access to potable water for our friends in Kenya and Tanzania.

See you at Loaves and Fishes!

Becky Berger, President



President Becky Berger celebrates World Literacy Day reading stories from around the world to children at the Camrose Public Library. Sahakarini supports Pipal Tree Children's College for girls in India, and also supports literacy here at home.