

October 1, 2018



Dear Fig Tree Community:

AGM/Roundtable Follow-Up & Capacity Opportunities

We held our first Annual General Meeting as an open-membership society last Thursday, September 27, 2018 at the Kahanoff Centre. This represented an expansion of the previous closed-membership roster of board members to now include volunteers, major donors, and our Roundtable Members (one vote for each organisation). Re-elected to the Board to each serve a 3-year term were Dr. Sarah Skett (Chair), Kathleen Spelliscy (Secretary to the Board), and Tom Smillie (Treasurer). Long-time Board members Paul Gomes and John Moreland were approved for a term extension. Finally, Calvista LLP (to be succeeded by BDO Dunwoody) were appointed auditors for 2018. The audited 2017 financial statements were tabled.

Another first was the Haynes Volunteer Award, which was presented by Trevor Haynes to Marie Delaporte. Marie and her baby son, Leo, were ill that night – we wish them a speedy recovery.

Haynes Volunteer Award

Presented to
Marie Delaporte

In appreciation of her
generous commitment
of time, support, and
dedication to our
ideals



"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." ~Sherry Anderson, teacher & author

Long-time friend and Fig Tree colleague Dianne Losing accepted the award on Marie's behalf. This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of all volunteers in Fig Tree and was named after Trevor Haynes, a long-time Board member and former Chair who retired from Fig Tree last Fall. Marie was nominated for the award by the Fig Tree volunteers and was enthusiastically endorsed by the Board. She is beginning her new journey as a mother and traveller. We will

welcome her with open arms if and when she returns!

The third Roundtable Forum of 2018 was held just after the AGM. Approximately 35 people attended to discuss and share experiences around "Transparency" for international development. To kick off the forum was a presentation by Jeff Arsenych, Interim CEO, to review the activities and performance of Fig Tree including lessons learned. The presentation will soon be downloaded to the Fig Tree web site. Forum Facilitator Ed Temple and volunteers Dianne Losing, Sarah Piwowarczyk, and Grace Adaghe deserve full credit for this well-received event.

Training opportunities were summarized by Jeff Arsenych for internal capacity-building. The SEEDS Excelerator coaching training will be held on October 17-19, 2018 at the Kahanoff Centre. I personally took this course last year and was sufficiently impressed to convince the Fig Tree Board to fund three of our volunteer co-leads to attend this upcoming course. I believe it to offer a valuable opportunity for leadership building. Please contact directly Ed Temple, course instructor, for more information: ed.temple@triconsolutions.ca or (403) 470-4218.

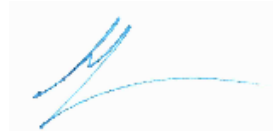
Our very own Grace Adaghe (HR/Planning Co-Lead) is offering an empowerment workshop on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at Vivo For Healthier Generations. I have attended two of her workshops this year and was impressed with her contagious, positive attitude and passion for her work. She offers hard-won wisdom and experience having worked in the private and non-profit sectors on three continents. She can be contacted at: grace.adaghe78@gmail.com or (587) 719-1977.

Fig Tree is hosting a free tax-planning seminar to enhance and augment donor support on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at Assembly (119 – 14th Street NW). Ryan Morrison from Debowski & Co./Give For Generations will provide more detail on tax-advantaged insurance gifting structures. He will be followed by Danny Mah from Peartree Canada, who will discuss flow-through share donations for optimal tax advantage. Please contact me at jeffa@figteefoundation.com or (587) 889-8035. Space in this seminar is limited, so reserve early.

As mentioned at the Roundtable Forum, two of our NGO members are holding fundraising events. People For Progress is holding their “Harambee” event on October 19 from 6 to 9 pm at the Cardel Theatre. Please contact Mary-Ann Stushnoff at mary-ann@peopleforprogress.net On November 3 from 6 to 9 pm, Malawi Water Project is holding their “Music for Malawi Concert” at the Deer Park United Church. Please contact Helen Timoffee at helen@malawiwaterproject.com I plan to attend both events!

As always, we will continue to change the world in new and wonderful ways!

Warm regards,



Jeff Arsenych,
Interim CEO
jeffa@figteefoundation.com