



## Canadians in Support of Afghan Women

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Dale Butterill Editor

### Melissa Fung Returns

(by Linda Middaugh)

On September 9<sup>th</sup> at St. John's United Church with 110 people in attendance, CSAW hosted a Breaking Bread with Melissa Fung as the keynote speaker. You may recall Melissa Fung was the former CBC journalist who was kidnapped and held for 30 days in Afghanistan in 2008. She wrote a book about her ordeal entitled '**Under an Afghan Sky.**' Melissa, wowed the audience with her personal story of returning to Afghanistan in 2013 (the first since her kidnapping) along with volunteer members of CW4WAfghan including our own Linda Middaugh. The 15 minute documentary, 'Return to Afghanistan' which was originally shown nationally on the CBC Nightly News was also part of the evening's program. The host for the evening was former anchor at CHCH TV in Hamilton, Connie Smith.

Melissa's story inspired two separate groups of women in the audience to organize Breaking Bread fundraising events. Sufficient funds, \$4,000 in total, were raised to train 10 teachers through the Lantern Fund.



Kathy Clarke (left) buys 10 copies of "Under an Afghan Sky" by Melissa Fung (centre) with Linda Middaugh of CSAW (right).

### Additional Reading

(by Evette Sintichakis)

**The Pearl that Broke its Shell** by Nadia Hashimi - Harper Collins May 2014 is a fascinating work of fiction set in 2007 that accurately depicts the bacha posh custom through the lives of two women a century apart. Says CSAW member, Evette Sintichakis, "The story made me cringe at times, but it is honest, accurate and unapologetic."

**Saving Kabul Corner** by N.H. Senzai - Simon and Schuster Canada 2014 is a book for 8-12 year olds, companion to the author's first book *Shooting Kabul* 2009. An Afghan family comes to live with family in America. Twelve year old cousins Ariana and Laila are opposites but when another Afghan grocery store opens near Ariana's family's store, the cousins must put their differences aside and work together to bring peace to a decades old family feud.

**"COMMUNITY IS NOT CREATED BY FORCE"**  
Afghan Proverb

### Elaine's Breaking Bread

(by Elaine Scott, of Rockwood, Ontario)

In September 2014, two friends and I heard Melissa Fung speak at a meeting of Canadians Supporting Afghan Women (CSAW) in Oakville, ON. Her presentation was very enlightening but when she mentioned "Breaking Bread Together" in support of the Lantern Fund to pay for the training of female teachers, I started to think about how I could participate in that project. During the drive back to Rockwood, my friends and I discussed how and when we could also sponsor a Pot Luck Breaking Bread dinner and evening. November 14 was decided upon and we moved ahead.

In the end we hosted a very successful evening. Linda Middaugh from CSAW spoke passionately about her experiences in Afghanistan and you could have heard a pin drop in the room. Everyone listened attentively. There were 20 of us in attendance and several others mailed cheques to me as they were unable to attend in person. Our fundraising efforts netted a total of \$1200.00 so we were very thrilled with the results. This money will pay for the training of 3 teachers, which is very gratifying indeed.

In addition there was a lot of activity in Barbara's Afghan Marketplace and a number of people were able to purchase items as Christmas gifts as well as for themselves.

Further, there was interest from two attendees in organizing speaking engagements in a church and one for girls in a High School. I could not have dreamed of a better outcome.



### Breaking Bread for the Education of Afghan Women and Girls

One of CSAW's new initiatives for fundraising is encouraging people to hold Breaking Bread potluck dinners in their homes and communities. The host invites a number of interested friends to a potluck supper and asks for donations towards CW4WAfghan. Please see us if you are interested as we would fully support your efforts and let you talk to people like Elaine who took a chance and was delighted with the results. THANK YOU Elaine!

## The Lantern Fund: FANOOS

(by Liz Watson)



Students in Public High School in Parvan Province



Master Teachers' Workshops

In Malala Yousafzai's words, "A pen and a book can change the world." To that end CW4WAfghan has launched the Lantern Fund, the goal of which is to provide teacher education and training for 5,000 in-service teachers, 2,500 of whom will be female, in rural Afghanistan over the five-year period 2013-2018. The teachers registered in the program are trained in active learning methods with a heavy emphasis on math and science as well as social studies and language learning, utilizing highly qualified Afghan Master Teacher Trainers. Upon

successful completion of training, teachers are then certified by the Afghan Ministry of Education. Already established in and around Kabul, the FANOOS program will extend into the Kandahar area this year. CSAW, the Oakville chapter of CW4WAfghan, is dedicating a large portion of the proceeds from its fundraising activities in support of the Lantern Fund as we believe that education is one of the keys towards peace for the Afghan people. It costs \$400 to train one teacher and to date CSAW has raised \$22,450. - enough to train 56 teachers.

## CW4WAfghan AGM: WINNIPEG

Because Human Rights are universal

(by Liz Watson)

From the very beginning, the CW4WAfghan symposium in Winnipeg in October 2014 and the city itself sent a strong message about the central place of human rights in civil society. As we stepped into our room, and looked out the window towards the



In front of human rights museum

Linda Middaugh, CSAW

Rahee Raza, president of the Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow.

Canadian Museum for Human Rights, just behind the ancient train station, we felt that we were in the best possible place for the three days where we would be exploring the subject of human rights from many different perspectives. Starting with Lauryn Oates' keynote speech and ending with Sanjay Sohar, editor of Kabul's

largest daily newspaper, speakers powerfully and consistently addressed the importance of human rights, the challenges and the changes that have taken place in Afghanistan in this regard.

Those of us who attended the Royal Winnipeg Ballet production about the residential schools witnessed the amazing voice - throat singing by **young Inuit Tanya Tagaq** ....a voice that took us on a journey through the emotions felt by survivors. We are thrilled to announce that **Tanya Tagaq** is the keynote speaker at the 2015 WHAM/Zonta Dinner Party on March 4th in Oakville to benefit SAVIS and CSAW .

There is a path to the top of even the highest mountain

Afghan Proverb

Walking through the galleries  
Tingle limestone gracing the walls  
Fossils

Light streaming in through glass  
walls at every angle

Rainbows of colour  
Museum - like a tall fir tree,  
a bird with wings wrapping its body,

Pointing to the sky  
Ready to take flight  
In it

Human rights  
Living with dignity  
Accessibility  
Human rights..

a journey towards peace.

by Liz Watson



School Girls in school in Kabul

## We Couldn't Do It Without You!

(by Linda Middaugh)

CSAW thanks you for your interest, time, financial and in-kind support over the last 16 years. Your contributions have literally resulted in thousands of Afghan children being able to get an education. It's remarkable to think that over \$666,000.00 in donations have been received and distributed to our partners in Afghanistan since 1999. CSAW appreciates its sustaining donors:

- Women of Halton Action Movement (WHAM)
- Zonta of Oakville
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario: Halton Local
- C.J. Martin, C.J.'s Café in Bronte
- Brampton Business and Professional Women's Group
- 'John Beaudette Web Design'
- Marianne Vanderwel for her computer skills

And in 2014, CSAW is grateful to the many supporters below:

- Women of Halton Action Movement (WHAM) & Zonta of Oakville donated \$15,000 to us from their 2014 International Women's Day Dinner Party (IWD) bringing the 11 year total to over \$118,500.00!!!
- Ontario Secondary School Federation (District 20 Halton) and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Halton Local who participated in the IWD Dinner Party fundraiser and directly contributed to Afghan teachers' salaries.
- Ms. Sheila Zanyk's (CSAW Steering Committee member) enrichment students at Kortright Hills Public School in Wellington who held an Evening of Arts which raised \$800.00 in donations and sold \$163.00 worth of Afghan goods. This is the third year that Ms. Zanyk's students have held an event in support of Afghan children!
- Havergal College for Girls in Toronto for donating \$800 for the training of teachers through the Lantern Fund
- St. George's Lowville Anglican Church for providing both storage space and meeting space for our organization.
- Elaine Scott's Breaking Bread fundraiser event that raised \$1200, enough to train 3 teachers through the Lantern Fund
- Marianne Vanderwel and "A Tiny Shift In Connecting Schools" for donating \$2000 to CSAW for the running of our organization.

With the help of our many volunteers, over \$9,392.00 worth of Afghan goods and books were sold this past year at the following venues: Forestview Church Fair Trade, the Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga, Patty Torsney's IWD Breakfast celebration, Brampton BPW, ETFO's 'And Still We Rise Conference,' Eden Mills Writers' Festival, Southport Canadian Federation of University Women, CW4WAfghan's Annual Symposium, Elaine Scott's Breaking Bread, Grassroots Artisans' Market in Bronte, and St. John's United Church.