

The American Women's Club

Uniting American Women in Lagos

Message from the President

In the Spirit of Unification



I am really looking forward to the year ahead! We have such a great board in place ready to serve you and I think you are going to like what you see in the coming months! Our board and our membership planning committee have been hard at work organizing the Membership Tea. I know that a lot of time and hard work have gone into it and I'm sure it will be great. Enjoy!

I have been looking forward to greeting our returning members and welcoming all new members at The AWC's Annual Membership Tea this year, and I regret that I will now be unable

to attend the tea. I'm extremely disappointed as I've looked forward to this for so long, but I have encountered an unavoidable scheduling conflict. I know that you will be in good hands with the other board members present.

I'd like to remind you all that The AWC can only keep going with volunteers and support from our members so if there is anything you would like to participate in, please let us know. We genuinely want everyone to be involved.

Our big events coming up on the calendar are the Holiday

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are delighted to welcome you to a new and exciting membership year with The AWC. We have a dynamic and diverse Executive Board firmly in place and we are all looking forward to leading you into a year of 'Uniting American Women in Lagos'.

Although you've been waiting for the Membership Tea to kick-off our year's activities, we haven't. In fact, we've been hard at work since elected to office last May.

Our office of Social Programs has an incredible year of activities planned for us—all—just take a look at calendar of events on page five and you'll see what we're talking about! We have both daytime and evening activities planned to accommodate all schedules. Lisa and company are offering a range of activities from scrap booking, competitive card games, beach outings and photography classes to fine dining events in order to accommodate as many interests as possible.

Our office of the 2nd VP has already begun to work on our fundraising efforts, including the Small World

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD *Continued from p. 1*

event. We are now actively seeking Committee Chairs for Small World. Please contact Carolee, our 2nd VP, if you would like to be a part of this exciting annual event which generates millions of Naira for deserving charities—ours included!

Our 1st VP is already at task overseeing our Scholarship Program and working with our charities. You will be hearing more from Pascale about opportunities to get involved in these important programs.

The office of the 3rd VP is responsible for overseeing both the Ways and Means Committee and the Lagos Easy Access Publication. Jameelah has teamed up with committee chairs Beth and Patrenia and we know that only good things will come from this trifecta of talent!

The Communications team keeps us all informed about club and community events via email, but there is so much more to them than that! The office of Communications has provided our club with a clean and professional new look, they've brought the newsletter back to life and they have launched our new Facebook page! If you did not have the opportunity to visit our table and 'friend' us at the tea, please look for us on Facebook—we'd love for you to 'like' us! The Ladies working on the club's communications have some other fabulous new projects under development as well. Stay tuned for exciting new announcements from your Communications Officer, Karin,

and her fantastic team: Kelly and Susan.

While their offices may not be as visible to the membership in general, our Treasury and Secretary are vitally important to the efficacy of our Board. Frances, Donna and Gail have been hard at work, not only their designated capacities, but also stepping in for other jobs when needed in order to support the Board as a whole.

Finally, our Membership team has been hard at work organizing the Membership Tea and welcoming members, both new and old, to The AWC. This team has two co-leaders and when we combine the energy and enthusiasm Janet brings to the table with Dorisanne's experience, we know we are in good hands. Thanks to the efforts of our Membership planning committee, led by Janet, we know will be starting this new year off in style at the Membership Tea.

Our President? Well, it is her job not only to lead our little democracy, but also to keep us all in check and on task. As you might expect, Gina's great diplomatic skills are put to good use in her new position.

While a dedicated Board, such as ours, is essential to make this club one that we can all enjoy, we do recognize that The AWC is really all about its members. Without you, there would be no us and we are here to serve you, not the other way around. The only way to ensure the longevity and health of this organization is if we all get involved and

contribute in whatever way we can. The opportunities for involvement with The AWC are many and varied. We encourage you to choose one, two or even three areas of interest and join us as we take The AWC to a whole new level this year! Please feel free to contact any one of your Board members to find out what opportunities are available or to offer your suggestions for future activities.

We are looking forward to a successful year of cooperation and success 'Uniting American Women in Lagos'!

Message from the President *Continued from p. 1*

Bazaar and Small World, in that order, please let us know where you can help.

I will look forward to seeing everyone at our Hospitality Coffee (2nd Tuesday) and General Meeting (4th Tuesday) in October.

Here's to a successful 2012-13 membership year as we all work together in the spirit of unification!

Regards,

Gina Muller

2012-2013 President,
The AWC

GET TO KNOW YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD...

President: Gina Muller



Gina has been in Lagos for five years and she is quick to confess that she absolutely loves it here. She previously served on The AWC board in both the Social Programs and Membership offices. Gina is looking forward to her tenure as President of The AWC with this dedicated and enthusiastic Board elect. Gina welcomes the opportunity to lead

the club in the spirit of 'Uniting American Women in Lagos' as The AWC embarks on this, its fifty-second year.

Gina holds dual degrees in education and business administration. She enjoys running and keeps herself busy with her two-year-old daughter.

1st Vice President: Pascale Anglade-Onyegbule



Pascale has called Lagos home for a year after having spent most of her adult life in New York City. And, perhaps it is because Lagos also exudes so much energy, she feels right at home here. Pascale relocated to Lagos last fall along with her husband and their two sons (age four and five) who attend the French School. Pascale is a physician

(gastroenterologist) who, after taking a few months off to settle in this new environment, has started to care for patients once again. She enjoys the many challenges and rewards practicing in Nigeria brings.

Pascale encourages all members to get involved with our charity and scholarship programs. She would like to remind members that community outreach is a fundamental part of what The AWC is all about. These programs serve as gateways into the larger Lagos community, providing us with opportunities to contribute and make a difference in our host country.

2nd Vice President: Carolee Weber



Carolee has been a Lagos expat for six years, and still can't believe how quickly the time has passed! For many of those years Carolee dedicated her energy to The AWC's Community Service committee, which she chaired. During this time Carolee thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the good work so many people do to help others in Nigeria. She is now looking forward to her new role with The AWC as 2nd VP in charge of fundraising.

Carolee likes to read and enjoys participating in two book groups in Lagos. She is a new quilter, loves to travel, play tennis and also enjoys the occasional opportunity to substitute teach at AISL. Carolee is also passionate about art and art museums—in fact, she was a long-time docent

at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Carolee is an accomplished musician and in other places has enjoyed a full range of musical roles including: piano teacher, professional piano accompanist, choir director and singer. She has not yet been as involved in music in Lagos, but would welcome the opportunity to make music with like-minded members of The AWC.

3rd Vice President: Jameelah Sharrieff-Ayedun



Jameelah moved to Lagos, Nigeria in 2008 and is the Executive Vice President, Business Development of Nigeria's pioneer and leading credit bureau operator, CR Services (Credit Bureau) Plc. Jameelah has a passion for success, family and serving others. She serves on the Board of AWC as 3rd VP, Operating Revenue, and oversees two committees:

Lagos Easy Access and Ways & Means. She is happily married and is the mother of three fantastic children.

Secretary: Gail Vendeland



Gail moved to Lagos from Jakarta, Indonesia January 2011. She's an attorney licensed to practice law in California, USA, and serves as Vice Chair of the Ishahayi Beach School Foundation board. Gail keeps busy with African Book Group, Lagos Yacht Club, water aerobics, and travel.

Treasurer: Frances Duke Mathews



Frances has been a member of The AWC for almost three years. She previously served as Assistant Treasurer of The AWC and is currently serving as the club's Treasurer. Frances has worked in the Aviation and Banking Sectors and is currently pursuing additional studies in Public Relations.

Frances enjoys walking, tennis, going to the gym and taking salsa dance lessons. She has a wonderful daughter in the third grade who keeps her busy with team mom duties for soccer and baseball.

Assistant Treasurer: Donna Davis



Donna Williams Davis has been in Lagos and active in The AWC for two years. Prior to that she spent two years in Doha, Qatar where she was active in the American Women's Association. Her first fifty-seven years were spent in Sugar Land and Houston, Texas where she worked in government and industry as a CPA.

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GET TO KNOW YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD...

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Donna enjoys quilting, bunco, African Book Club, Bible study, water babies and other expat-wife activities in Lagos.

Communications: Karin Troy



Karin has lived in Lagos for the past three years, bringing her time in Nigeria to six years. West Africa has been 'home' for more than 15 years now and during this time Karin has enjoyed learning about West African art, cultures and literature. In addition to a love for the land, she brings a strong background in communications and business management to her position.

Karin and her husband, Mark, have one daughter, Alexandra, born in Abidjan. Karin enjoys yoga, has a passion for photography and travel, and is actively involved with AISL and the African Book Group. She also continues to support and oversee the schools and healthcare clinics she developed while living in the Ivory Coast.

Membership: Janet Hall

Janet moved to Lagos in March 2011 from Houston, Texas after three prior international moves. She has started many



new hobbies since coming to Nigeria, including quilting, golf and sailing. She joined the board of The AWC in May as Membership Chair and brings a background in both education and in business. She also serves on the board of IBSF and heads the scrapbooking group for The AWC.

Membership: Dorisanne Adaralegbe



Dorisanne Adaralegbe has been in Lagos since November 2003, but had the opportunity to visit Lagos on many occasions before then. She is the managing director of Gedaliah Ltd, a company that has interests in tourism as well as the the oil and gas sector. Dorisanne is blessed with three boys and two girls. Her hobbies include jogging, baking and cooking.

Social Programs: Lisa Alexander



Lisa and her husband, Richard, have been in Lagos for three years. Richard is employed with ExxonMobil and this is their second time living in Lagos. Since her most recent arrival in Lagos, Lisa has been active in The AWC with both the membership and social programs offices. She previously served as the club's newsletter editor from 1993 to 1996. Lisa moved to Lagos from

Equatorial Guinea. She has two children and one grandson in Dallas, Texas.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 9/1 Frances Mathews
- 9/3 Veronica Ebie-Odeke
- 9/4 Anna King
- 9/5 Ebele Mbanugo
- 9/7 Gabi Prochaska
- 9/9 Kelly Metcalf
- 9/10 Mudirat Danmole-Logun
- 9/10 Aishetu Dozie
- 9/10 Josephine Parker
- 9/12 Eman Hegazy
- 9/13 Teresa Sabatini

- 9/16 Melanie Tolan
- 9/18 Sherri Epongo
- 9/18 Arlene Manning
- 9/18 Sarah Prunster
- 9/19 Susieta Stephen
- 9/23 Rebecca Hochstetler
- 9/25 Patrenia Werts
- 9/27 Lavonya Hayward
- 9/29 Jackie Wyncoll
- 9/30 Cary Parra
- 9/30 Pauline Fox



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Mark Your Calendar...

Monday, October 1

10:00 a.m. to noon **Stitching Group**

Contact Kristen Tierney for venue
mk_tierney@yahoo.com

Tuesday, October 2

9:30 a.m. **Community Service
Committee Meeting at the GQ**

The Community Service Committee will have a standing meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30

Friday, October 5

10:00 a.m. **Scrapbooking**

Contact Janet Hall janet@thehallz.com

Monday, October 8

10:00 a.m. to noon **Stitching Group**

Contact Kristen Tierney for venue
mk_tierney@yahoo.com

Tuesday, October 9

9:30 a.m. **AWC Coffee**

Beth Cook's Home
e_bethcook@yahoo.com

Wednesday, October 10

10:00 a.m. to noon **Halloween candy-making class**

Contact Renata Edghill for information
rmedghill@yahoo.com

Monday, October 15

10:00 a.m. to noon **Stitching Group**

Contact Kristen Tierney for venue
mk_tierney@yahoo.com

4:00 to 6:00 p.m. **CPR and First Aid
Class at the GQ**

Learn CPR for adults and children plus basic first aid.

Contact Pascale Anglade-Onyegbule to reserve your spot in this class
pascale_anglade@hotmail.com

Wednesday, October 17

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. **Wednesday Night
Out at Pier Harbor**

TENTATIVE: We hope to host a gele (headwrap) class (small fee required).

Contact Lisa Alexander to reserve a spot in this class
annalisaa@yahoo.com

Thursday, October 18

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Day at the Beach**

Contact Lisa Alexander to reserve your spot
annalisaa@yahoo.com

Friday, October 19

10:00 a.m. **Scrapbooking**

Contact Janet Hall janet@thehallz.com

10:00 a.m. to noon **Continental Card
Game**

Join us at the GQ for cards. Stay for lunch.

Contact Lisa Alexander to have your name on the security list
annalisaa@yahoo.com

Saturday, October 20

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. **The Galloping
Gourmet**

Join us at the Oriental Hotel for Japanese.

Contact Lisa Alexander to reserve your place
annalisaa@yahoo.com

Monday, October 22

10:00 a.m. to noon **Stitching Group**

Contact Kristen Tierney for venue
mk_tierney@yahoo.com

Tuesday, October 23

9:30 a.m. **AWC General Meeting at the
GQ**

American Citizens' Services will be guest speaker

Wednesday, October 24

10:00 a.m. to noon **Christmas candy-making class at Lisa Alexander's**

Contact Lisa to reserve your place
annalisaa@yahoo.com



Thursday, October 25

10:00 a.m. to noon **Camera Workshop
in the Pier Harbor club room**

Contact Regina Fugate for more information and to reserve a spot in the class
reginafug@yahoo.com

Friday, October 26

10:00 a.m. to noon **Continental Cards**

Join us at the GQ for cards. Stay for lunch.

Contact Lisa Alexander to put your name on the security list
annalisaa@yahoo.com

Saturday, October 27

4:00 to 6:00 p.m. **Children's Halloween
Party at Rebecca Court**

Contact Carolyn Gaither for more information and to volunteer to help make the party a success
ckavanagh_2000@yahoo.com

Monday, October 29

10:00 a.m. to noon **Stitching Group**

Contact Kristen Tierney for venue
mk_tierney@yahoo.com

For November:

We will have AWC's Christmas bazaar on Saturday, November 3

We need volunteers to sell tickets and hot dogs, and to bake cookies and holiday baked goods.

Contact Lisa Alexander at
annalisaa@yahoo.com

For November:

Lisa Alexander is offering to take a small group of ladies to the German Christmas Markets

The group will land in Frankfurt on November 29 and make visits to Christmas markets in Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Wurzburg, Rothenberg, Regensburg and Munich.

The group will return to Lagos on December 6.

Space is limited. Contact Lisa Alexander at
annalisaa@yahoo.com

THE VOTES ARE IN! 2013 SMALL WORLD CHARITY SELECTED

Members of The AWC were given the opportunity to vote for the Small World charity they felt most deserved to receive additional funds and support this year. Members were asked to choose between two established charities of The AWC: Child Life Line and Ife Oluwa Maternity Clinic, and register their vote via an electronic survey. Both charities are equally deserving but, in the end, only one could be selected: **This year's Small World charity recipient for The AWC is the Ife Oluwa Maternity Clinic!**

Thank you all for participating in the vote and please join us for the Small World event so that we can help raise the maximum amount of funds possible for the Ife Oluwa Maternity Clinic.

The Ife Oluwa Maternity Clinic. Hospital (and Primary School) reaches those in the Ilason Market area who can't pay for other clinics or schools in the vicinity. There is an open door policy for both visitors and patients, which has earned them respect with both the community and the local government.

The maternity clinic began in 1963 by a young nurse named Theresa Marques, who vowed to help poor pregnant women get the nourishment and help they needed. "Mama Theresa" still runs both the clinic and school at age 84. The patients pay a minimal sum for treatment if they are able to afford it. Approximately 250 to 300 babies are delivered there annually.

The AWC has given money in the past for salaries and for operating costs. They have provided many in-kind gifts as well as pasta from donations of the Flour Mills of Nigeria. Several years ago, The AWC helped fund tiling in the surgical room of the clinic, provided an operating theater light and a medical gurney that is also used as an examination table. In 2009, the Ife Oluwa Maternity clinic was given a used anesthesia machine.

Mama Theresa personally subsidizes the costs not covered with her own income from rental of an inherited house. Unfortunately those funds were stolen about 18 months ago and the clinic has struggled financially since the fees charged to the patients do not cover costs incurred.

Mama is extremely proud of her relationship with The AWC and has a plaque displayed on the school grounds, which The AWC has also supported in the past. The charity is well run and they are open and responsible with the funds and materials given.

The clinic has a desperate need for a new delivery table and this is what the Small World funds will be used for. The table currently being used for deliveries is rusted and held together with string. Estimated cost of a new delivery table is between 750,000 and 1 million naira. Other desperate needs include plastic coverings for beds and pillows, linens, pillows and blankets, medicines and vitamins, medical supplies including syringes,



Top: The AWC's 2013 Small World charity recipient: Ife Oluwa Hospital

Middle: The clinic's existing delivery table

Bottom: The clinic's recovery room.

gloves, cotton balls and alcohol, cleaning supplies, towels, clothing, baby clothing and supplies, and new mattresses for recovery beds.

If you would like more information about this charity, or would like to make any in-kind donations to Ife Oluwa, please contact their AWC sponsor, Janet Hall at janet@thehallz.com.

Scholarship Student Profile: Samuel Eze by Carolee Weber



I first got to know Samuel Eze through my church congregation shortly after I came to Lagos. I was accompanying our hymns on the keyboard for our worship service and he approached me with a desire to learn how to play the piano. He already knew a bit about how to read music and had started to teach himself piano. He became my very avid and disciplined piano student and I enjoyed getting to know him better.

Samuel told me about taking his entrance exams and university applications and I was very excited for him when he was accepted into the University of Nigeria at Nsukka. I told him of The AWC's scholarship program and said that while he was in his first year of studies, he was eligible to apply for a scholarship to help him continue with his studies. Having witnessed Samuel's discipline, I just knew that he would be a good student and I was confident that he would be awarded the scholarship. He was.

Each year through his university studies Samuel has

been very faithful about getting his necessary forms and documents to reapply for his scholarship and to return for his interview to get his scholarship renewed. With every communication, he never fails to thank me on behalf of The AWC for our support of him.

"I sincerely wish to thank you and all the members of AWC for the unalloyed support I received both financially and morally throughout my four years of study..."

This past summer, Samuel graduated from the University of Nigeria at Nsukka with a degree in Economics. In an email communication he told me, "I sincerely wish to thank you and all the members of AWC for the unalloyed support I received both financially and morally throughout my four years of study. I can never say thank you enough, God has blessed and will continue to bless you. I am most grateful." He also said that he considered all The AWC women his mothers because "you are all wonderful people filled with so much compassion and the strong desire including obvious efforts to change Nigeria's fortune for the better. I am most grateful for this rare opportunity of associating with you."

Samuel plans to work and study for a graduate school entrance exam before starting his National Youth Service in February, after which he hopes to

study for a master's degree. It has been a rewarding opportunity to be a sponsor/mentor to Samuel during his college years. His younger sister is now beginning her application for her university studies and hopefully The AWC scholarship program will be able to assist her as well.

I encourage all AWC members to be aware of the University students among the family members of your Nigerian staff and associates. Let them know of our scholarship program and provide them with an application when it becomes available at the end of the year. If you can spare just a bit of time and energy, volunteer to be a mentor for one of our scholarship students. It is a way to make a difference in improving the future of Nigeria.

ABOUT THE AWC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The AWC Scholarship Program has been active in the Lagos community for over 30 years. This program offers academic scholarships to secondary school students accepted in university programs.

So far, over 300 students have benefited not only from the financial support but also from the mentorship provided by numerous members of The AWC who have acted as student sponsors.

Sponsors help to identify potential students, assist them through the application process and act as mentors throughout their time in university.

Club members who have acted as sponsors always describe the experience as one of the highlights of their stay in Lagos.

To learn more about becoming a sponsor with The AWC Scholarship Program, please contact Margaret Anyigbo at anyigbom@state.gov.

RAISE YOUR HAND! HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE AWC...

From the Office of the 2nd Vice President:

As 2ndVP in charge of fundraising, I need assistance in planning a good fundraiser or two this year. We had some volunteers working on a fall fundraising dinner, but now they are either leaving Lagos, or away for an extended time for unexpected reasons. So anyone who is willing to either help follow through on their preliminary planning for a dinner, or has another fundraising idea, I would welcome your help.

Also Small World comes under my responsibilities. This is the biggest expatriate fundraising effort in Lagos and many of the women's clubs are involved in this February evening which includes great food and entertainment. The AWC needs someone to chair the Small World committee.

If you would like to learn more about this great adventure, please contact me!

Carolee Weber at caroleew@byu.net or 0803 978 6762



Be part of Lagos' biggest expat fundraiser, Small World! Last year, dozens of AWC volunteers worked together to make this event a success.

From the Office of the 3rd Vice President:

Lagos Easy Access (LEA) is a valuable source of information for all expatriates living in Lagos. Our two chairwomen, Patrenia Werts Onuoha and Afie Makinde, are looking for editors, writers, interviewers, photographers and other creative minds to join the committee to write and publish the next edition of LEA!

Contact Patrenia Werts Onuoha at patrenia.onuoha@shell.com or Afie Makinde at makinafie@gmail.com

Interested in sourcing and selling unique items that can only be found from The AWC in Lagos? We are looking for good shoppers and sellers to make this a reality! Join our Chairwoman, Elizabeth Cook, for an exciting year of generating revenue through this committee. Revenues generated help to fund The AWC's operational budget throughout the year. So bring your ideas and sales acumen to help us do more for 2012-2013.

Contact Elizabeth Cook at e_bethcook@yahoo.com



Editors, writers, interviewers and photographers needed!

From the Membership Office:

We are seeking committee members who would be willing to help at the welcome table of our AWC meetings and coffees. This person would be friendly and willing to welcome new members to The AWC, help give out name tags and assure that all members sign in to our events.

Contact Janet Hall at janet@thehallz.com

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB STRIVES TO:

- provide a 'soft place to land' for American Expatriate Women in Lagos.
- foster goodwill and mutual understanding between our Nigerian Host Country and the American Expatriate Community.
- promote philanthropy, scholarship and the rights of women and children.

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