Message from the President:

Happy Holidays!

Our year is quickly coming to a close and we are all getting ready for our holiday plans, wherever they may be.

I want to say it has been a great first half of the year and I know we as a Board and club are looking forward to the remainder of the year. We have seen many new faces and volunteers! We welcome everyone to participate as much as you can.

Happy holidays everyone and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Gina Muller
2012-2013
President
The AWC

Betti-O first arrived on Nigerian soil in 1963. She quickly called Abeokuta 'home' and it was there that Betti-O began to immerse herself in the local textile industry.

What began as a simple interest in local culture, soon turned into something even greater. Betti-O pioneered the use of modern chemical dyes for adire production and became internationally recognized as 'the' expert in adire and other Nigerian cloths.
A TRIBUTE TO “BETTI-O”

Marla Kunfermann, Trustee for The AWC, shared a close friendship with Betti-O. Some years ago, Marla heard a beautiful poem recited at a family member’s funeral service. Marla shared the poem with Betti-O and it quickly became a favorite of hers as well. Marla has kindly agreed to share this touching poem with The AWC membership as we mourn the loss of our dear friend, the incomparable Betti-O.

Gone from My Sight
By Henry Van Dyke

I am standing upon the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky came to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, “There, she is gone!”
“Gone where?”
Gone from my sight.
That is all.
She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone at my side says, “There, she is gone!” there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, “Here she comes!”

She will be missed.

All this because Betti-O had simply wanted an adire fabric that wouldn't turn white skin blue!

It wasn't the dying process alone that Betti-O was drawn to - her real passion lie in the art of fashion design. Betti-O eventually moved her primary residence to Lagos and went on to found her own successful clothing line aptly titled “Betti-O”.

Knowing intimately the challenges of being a foreign newcomer to Nigeria, Betti-O lent her expertise to The AWC's Lagos Easy Access publication team. Betti-O contributed a significant amount of content to both the 1st and 2nd editions of the LEA. By the time the 3rd edition of the LEA was underway, Betti-O had become one of the publication’s editors, devoting a considerable amount of time and energy to the project, despite the fact that she was neither American, nor a member of The AWC. The 3rd edition of the LEA was published in 2008 and Betti-O was then invited to become a member of The AWC, in recognition of all she had given to the club. Ever the trailblazer, Betti-O quickly became a cherished and beloved member of The AWC.

In addition to her involvement with The AWC, Betti-O was also an active member of The African Book Group, The Nigerian Field Society and the Nigerwives organization.

Betti-O is survived by her children and numerous grandchildren.
November General Meeting

Dr. Robert, an expert on orchids, was our guest speaker at The AWC's November general meeting. Following a very informative presentation about the care and keeping of orchids, Dr. Robert delighted members of The AWC by providing numerous orchid plants for a special raffle drawing. All members who brought donations for the Child Life Line charity were entered in this exclusive raffle. Congratulations to all of the winners and many thanks to all who brought in donations!

Dr. Robert owns the Orchid Bistro in Ikeja, located at 58a Isaac John St. GRA. The phone number is 01 773 9090.

The Orchid Bistro is a nice café with a beautiful outside patio full of flowers, especially orchids.

October General Meeting

Our guest speaker for the October general meeting was Okechukwu Ofili. He's a published author, a professional speaker and an all-around interesting guy. Ofili spoke with us about the journey that has led him to where he is today and read from his most recently published book, “How Laziness Saved My Life”. Ofili generously stayed after the meeting to personalize and sign copies of his book. Ofili also demonstrated his philanthropic side by offering to have his books and prints sold through our Ways & Means Committee. This means that a portion of all sales will go to the charities The AWC supports! Thanks Ofili!

Ofili also spoke about what an impact the Toastmasters had on his development as a public speaker. To learn more about Toastmasters International and to find a chapter near you, please visit http://www.toastmasters.org/default.aspx.

To purchase Ofili’s books or prints, please contact our Ways and Means committee chair, Beth Cook.

Caroling by Candelight

The AWC got together in December for a night of caroling. Special thanks to Renata and Peter Edghill for hosting.

Many thanks also to Lynn and Dan Feuerbach for providing the musical accompaniment for The AWC singers!
From the Office of the 1st Vice President

We had an incredibly successful in-kind donation drive at our most recent general meeting. Thank you to all the ladies who generously donated foods, clothes, games to Child Life Line. Everything was delivered by our wonderful and dedicated CLL sponsor Irina Curechian. The members who donated were entered in a special raffle and received stunning orchids as prizes.

The Ife Oluwa School received brand new layers of colorful paint on November 24, 25 and 26. Many talented members took part in the painting including Janet Hall, Robbin Unietis, Carolee Weber, Sherry Lory and Jameelah, Adeola and Niyi Ayidun. This painting project turned into a real community event. Students and teachers of the Ife Oluwa school, members of the Scouts, and students from C.O.W.S (Citizens of the World Society, AISL), along with their High School Principal, Garth Wyncoll, all pitched in to help the ladies of The AWC!

A very special thanks to Neconde Energy Limited for donating ALL of the paint for this project! Thanks to Claartje Demeur and her husband for facilitating this donation.

On December 4, Janet Hall, Kelly Hobbs, Patty Bauerband, Robert Kerchner, Denise O’Neal and Pascale Anglade visited the Ife Oluwa Clinic to closely assess the renovations that will need to take place once the Small World money is disbursed next year. This project will make a tremendous difference in the lives of the women delivering there, who will soon be able to deliver in a safe and clean environment.

Scholarship forms are now available on The AWC website and have also been sent to each member of The AWC by email. If you are mentoring a new student for The AWC scholarship there are three forms to fill out; if you are helping your student to be considered for renewal of their scholarship, four forms need to be filled and submitted. The deadline for submission of completed applications is January 31, 2012. Any questions please reach out to our scholarship committee chairperson Margaret Anyigbo at anyigbom@state.gov.

From the Office of the 2nd Vice President, Fundraising

Reserve February 23, 2013 on your calendar for the Small World charity fundraiser, which will be on the grounds of the Federal Palace Hotel. It promises to be a wonderful evening of international food, great entertainment and lots of naira raised to benefit many worthy charities. Tickets will go on sale at the end of January. We will need volunteers to bake cookies and to prepare sloppy joe mix (recipe and seasoning provided), which we will serve at our booth. We will be organizing volunteers to work a half-hour shift during the event, which is a fun way to assist in the effort. E-mail Carolee Weber at caroleew@byu.net if you missed the sign-up and can help!

Bonnie James is working on organizing a fundraiser for The AWC that will happen in March or April. She is working on gathering items for a silent auction. If you have something you could donate to that effort, or can prepare a gift basket for the auction, please let us know. Details will be announced.

If your employer or your husband’s employer might be willing to make a donation to help support the efforts of The AWC, our charities or scholarship program, please contact me so we can get a packet of information to the right person at the office to
make them aware of our efforts. And if you have any other suggestions for avenues for fundraising for the club, don’t hesitate to let me know!

**Message from The 3rd vice president**

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt.

While there is much to accomplish in 2013, we are very pleased with the measure of our progress in 2012. All planned charitable and social activities, monthly meetings, publication expenses and more have been successfully accounted for and our expenses are well within the budget to kick off 2013!

A HUGE thank you to all the ladies who contributed to our balanced budget! Whether you help by generating revenue, paying your dues, giving donations, soliciting for funds and gifts from corporate donors or purchasing supplies for activities and staying within the budget, it all helps to ensure that The AWC has a positive bottom line to continue to serve our community and our membership-at-large.

Keeping a positive account with so much going on is not easy so we graciously recognize all ladies who participated in the fundraising bazaar coordinated by Lisa Alexander; volunteers helping with corporate fundraising activities led by Carolee Weber; our members who generously donated in-kind to many charities under the office of Pascale Anglade; our committee chairpersons Beth Cook (Ways & Means); Patrenia Onuoha and Afie Braimoh (Lagos Easy Access); our dynamic membership drive championed by Janet Hall and Dorisanne Omobonike; and to our treasurer and assistant treasurer respectively, Frances Mathews and Donna Davis. All these great works are possible because of strong leadership and excellent communications which The AWC is truly blessed to have through Gina Muller, Gail Vendeland and Karin Troy!

Our desire for 2013 is to continue to generate/manage revenues to support planned charitable and social activities, scholarships and general operating expenses. Ideally, we should maintain a surplus for continuity and sustainability of The AWC.

We look forward to your continued participation in 2013 so that we can confidently measure our progress by how much we provide to those who have too little. Happy Holidays!

**From the Membership Office**

The AWC Membership Directories are available by contacting Janet Hall or they can be picked up at general meetings and coffees. Applications for membership are available online at www.theawclagos.com. You may also request an application via e-mail to Janet at janet@thehallz.com or Dorisanne Adaralegbe at doris_anne2002@yahoo.com.

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

From your Communications Team, Karin, Kelly and Susan.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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Mark Your Calendar...

**Tuesday, January 22**
9:30 a.m. AWC General Meeting at the GQ
Guest speaker to be announced.

**More January Events**
**Mozzarella Cheese-making Class**
Learn to make mozzarella from scratch! December 15 will be the cut-off date for the class since the kits have to be ordered. The kit is $30. The maximum number of participants is 11 so sign up early.
Contact Lisa Alexander at annalisaa@yahoo.com.

**Bonnet-making Class**
There will be a class for learning to smock a baby bonnet. An alternative project is also available if you would like. Materials should be approximately $25. This is very EASY and very QUICK and very BEAUTIFUL. This project can be completed in a day. Sign up by December 31.
Contact Lisa Alexander at annalisaa@yahoo.com.

**Crocheting Class**
There will be a class for crocheting a children’s cap for experienced ladies and pot holders for beginners.
Contact Connie D’Souza at conniedsouza@mac.com for a supply list. It will be easier to get the supplies while home for the holidays!

**Saturday, February 23**
**Small World 2013**
Mark your calendar for the biggest ex-pat fundraiser of the year, featuring food booths from 31 country groups and a live show!

General Elections

**Dear members,**
Every April The AWC conducts general elections to elect the members who will serve on the Board. The first step in organizing those elections is to set up a nominating committee. The role of the committee is to put together a slate of qualified candidates for presentation at the general meeting in March. The nominating committee is made up of four voting members, chaired by the 1st Vice President, and can include one additional Board member.

If you would like to serve on the nominating committee in 2013, please send an e-mail to Pascale Anglade, pascale_anglade@hotmail.com, no later than December 18.

The Board appreciates your willingness to serve and support The AWC!

Please Buy an Ornament (On Sale) for 2013 Bazaar
In January, we will begin planning for the 2013 Christmas bazaar, and we will begin making crafts for the bazaar. If you have an idea for a Christmas craft, contact Lisa Alexander at annalisaa@yahoo.com. We would also like to ask each member to pick up one Christmas ornament while you are home or traveling to donate at the January general meeting. We will sell these at the Christmas bazaar. After Christmas, you should find really good deals on beautiful ornaments.