

A PROJECT OF THE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

**University of Nigeria,
Nsukka, Nigeria.**

*By reading we learn,
By knowledge we serve*

NEWSLETTER

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In This Issue

The year took off in a big way with celebration of the Children's Centre 40th Anniversary on April 5, 2019. Reading activities also got started early in the year, with initiating of reading clubs with two schools and literacy promotion visits for World Book Day. These continued to the end of the year with participation in the International School Library Month in October. Vacation activities were not left out—2019 saw one of our most successful holiday programs. All these are featured in this issue of the Newsletter.

Reminiscences of 40 Years of Service—1978-2018



This was a year of remembering the origins of Children's Centre and looking back on our journey since. On October 17, 1978 Children's Centre Library opened in a small room

behind the gym. We went down memory lane with face book posts on those early days, right from the opening ceremony and inaugural story hour; to our



founding committee members, whose voluntary service kept the library and activity programs going for years; remembering as well early book donations from near and far; and our first big event during the International Year of the Child (IYC) 1979.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Children's Centre 40th Anniversary was celebrated on April 5, 2019 in a colorful outdoor event on the Children's Centre grounds. An invitation went out to area schools, with 13 schools responding. These included Central School 1 Nsukka; Model Primary Schools 1, 2, 3 & 4; Community and Central Primary Schools, Onuiyi; Agu Achara Primary Schools 1 & 2;



Union Schools; and Primary Central School, Odoru. Each presented either a dance or drama. Pupils were also asked to prepare an essay on “The book I enjoyed most” and prizes given for those judged to be the best. Organizers, donors and all the children who attended were given a souvenir Children’s Centre 40th Anniversary polo or t-shirt. Thanks to all our organizers, the Children’s Centre Committee, our Patron, officers and members of the University Women’s Association, and to all the participating schools.



Reading Clubs Launched with Two Schools

Children’s Centre launched reading activities for the year on February 4th 2019 by inaugurating a reading club with two neighboring primary schools: Community



Primary School and Central Primary School, Onuiyi. The club first met in the Children’s Centre Library with children reading and discussing *The Beautiful Tree*, *Happy the Street Child* by F M. Mlekwa, and *Ziata’s Diary*. A March outing had to take place in the school compounds, but the April club meeting was once again at Children’s Centre, with an attendance of 40 children. Two children led discussion of *The Frightened Thief*, by Amu Djoletto, while issues of disability were taken up in *The Handicapped Child*. In June the club moved back

to the schools to consider two serious social issues. *Afi and the Magic Drum* took up the causes of war and its effect on children and adults, while *Eno’s Story* explored the dilemma of a child accused of being a witch, a current, unfortunate phenomenon in parts of Nigeria. July meeting looked at life problems children face. A *Fortune for Bose*, by Fatima Pam tells the story of a poor girl who later became rich as the result of a trade (akara frying) learned while helping her mother. It’s OK to be sad, by Adwoa Badoe considers the plight of a boy whose father is suffering from HIV/AIDS.



Yet another innovation was a STEM girls’ club at the same schools. Elizabeth Babarinde introduced the club in June by reading science poems, while in July the children looked at engineering as a profession.

Celebration of World Book Day, March 7



World Book Day was marked with a host of activities. A team of storytellers set off from Children’s Centre to primary schools in Nsukka and environs. Storytellers included Amaka Ejikeme (to Union



P.S., Nsukka), Grace Onyebuchi (to Isiakpu), Judith Ezugwu (to Onuiyi), Elizabeth Babarinde (to Agu Achara), Ify Obim (to Central School, Nsukka), and Evangel Nwankwo (to Model P.S., Nsukka).



Judith Ezugwu read *The Secret Room* by Uri Shulevitz, about a poor man whose wisdom is recognized and rewarded by his king. Evangel Nwankwo shared *Aliyyah Learns a New Dance*, by Fatima Akilu, a story illustrating the Millennium Development Goal of developing global partnerships. Amaka Ejikeme

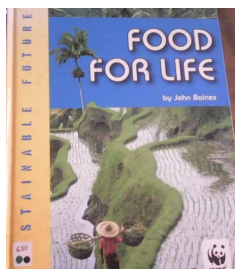
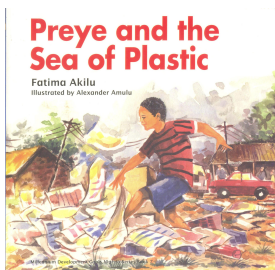
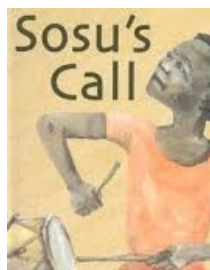
read *The Magic Goat*, which relates the travails of a goat and sheep who unknowingly take shelter in a leopard's home. Another MDG was the theme of Ify Obim's story, *Timi's Dream Comes True*, also by Fatima Akilu, on realizing one's educational aspirations.



Library and Information Science students joined the celebration with a World Book Day train through the university campus, sensitizing the public on the essence of Good #Readership for Positive #Leadership. Head of Library and Information Science Prof. Nancy Achebe also promoted literacy in during her interview on Lion FM.

ISLM 2019

Special reading events rounded up for the year with our annual participation in the International School Library Month (ISLM), centered this year on the theme: Imagine. Coordinators Dr. Ngozi E. Osadebe, Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde and Mrs. Evangel Nwankwo led classes at Model Secondary School in discussing the theme *Imagine* in terms of an inclusive world, a world without pollution, and eating for health.



Holiday Program 2019

The month of August brought a fun-packed Holiday Program to children and youth of the community. A committee led by Meg Ngwuchukwu and ably assisted by Grace Onyebuchi, Elizabeth Babarinde, Uche Evangel Nwankwo, and others took the children in four age groups (3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12 and above) in a variety of activities, including stories, puppetry, games and outdoor activities for the little ones; use of computer to design power point presentations, games, and cards; crafts like bead

and slippers making; cookery; and excursions. The grand finale featured songs and dances, debate and a drama. Let photographs tell the story!



Excursions



Grand Finale: drama, song naming the continents, dance

Obituary – Mrs. Roseline Idenyi Asogwa

Children's Centre suffered a grievous loss with the passing of our beloved Auntie Rose on November 19, 2018 at the age of 58 years. Mrs. Roseline Idenyi Asogwa (nee Onyishi) was a mainstay of the Children's Centre Library since her first posting in 1988, beloved by generations of children who associated the library with the friendly face of Auntie Rose.



She was equally valued by staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science, who she helped guide through the routines of library service. Rose Asogwa was posted to the library in 1988, soon after it moved to the new Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu building. Initially serving as Chief Cleaner/Messenger, she gradually took on all duties of a library assistant and rose to the position of Assistant Chief Clerical Officer. Due to her exemplary service and devotion to duty, Children's Centre made sure to retain her services for the 30 years until her death. At the Children's Centre Silver Jubilee in 2004, Rose Asogwa was awarded a certificate of merit for her long, meritorious service.

A large delegation from the Children's Centre and Department of Library and Information Science attended her funeral mass at St. Peter's Chaplaincy, University of Nigeria and burial in Isamelu, Ede Oballa on March 30, 2019. We thank God for the wonderful gift of Auntie Rose Asogwa. May she rest in perfect peace.

