



# BTA News

*A Quarterly Newsletter of Bridge to Africa 2010:1*



*Editor - Afaf Kamal-Eldin*

## *4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter*

*Where are we? Page 1-2*

*Nomination of candidates for the EC, Page 2*

*Book Summary: Daughter of Dust, Page 3*

## **Recipe Zimbabwean DOVI**

Fry onions and add salt and garlic, add green peppers, chicken and continue cooking until the chicken is brown. Add tomato paste and water and cook until the chicken is half cooked. Add peanut butter and cook on a low heat until the chicken is cooked.

In the same way, you can cook vegetables (e.g. carrots, potatoes) or beans instead of the chicken.

Dear BTA members

It is a while since our Newsletter. We have been focusing on the projects during the past months and several progresses have been made! The project "Activities in Sweden" started a number of activities including café, seminars, and a book club. We have spent a very good time at our annual cultural event last November, which was Zimbabwean. We listened to the ManLuckerz and The Zim-Traditional Unity and enjoyed Zimbabwean food, especially Dovi (peanut butter stew) with Sadza (maize porridge). We will keep this tradition of a yearly African cultural event. During our preparation of the food for the event, we discovered that cooking and eating together is a very nice and effective way of cultural communication. The project "Activities in Sweden" will soon start a joint cooking activity, please write to us if you are interested to join. Some BTA members have started to read together, books written by African authors or written about an African issue. They have read and discussed 3 books so far; *Slave* by Mende Nazer, *Dead Aid* by Dambisa Moyo, and *Daughter of Dust* by Wendy Wallace. A summary of the last book, which is connected to the project abandoned children, is given on page 3 of this Newsletter.



**ManLuckerz and The Zim-Traditional Unity**



BTA held two seminars,

- (1) Abandoned Children: How can we Help? (December 3, 2009) by Mrs. Saud Abd Alaal El Tahir, Director/Manager of Women Centre for Human Rights, Khartoum, Sudan, and Adila Elobeid, leader of the project abandoned children.
- (2) Tree-planting: the way to maintain a safe environment for future generations in Africa? (March 11, 2010) by Dr Pia Barklund, Researcher at the Department of Forest Mycology & Pathology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Uppsala, Sweden) and Dr. Asha Yahya, leader of the project tree planting.

The "Book Donation" project has now collected more than 300 books! In April the first shipment of books to Africa was made. Around 50 books were sent to the Department of Chemistry at the University of Zambia in Lusaka. The shipment was arranged in cooperation with the Uppsala University - International Science Program, an organization that assists developing countries to strengthen their domestic research capacity within the chemical, physical and the mathematical sciences.

BTA are looking forward to welcome new and old members to our activities, please sign up and join us! You can support and help BTA in any way that suits you; the only demand is that we share vision and dream. Please visit our web-site at [www.bridgetoafrica.se](http://www.bridgetoafrica.se).

Valeria Giandomenico is sending her greetings and best wishes for nice spring and summer

With best greetings

Afaf Kamal-Eldin  
BTA, Chairperson

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*Coming  
Soon  
African  
Cooking  
Activity*

## *Nomination of candidates for the BTA's Executive Committee (2010-2012)*

**Members of BTA are invited to nominate candidates for the Executive Committee (EC) in the forthcoming e-voting of a new EC at the end of October 2010. Maybe you are interested yourself in becoming an officer? Do not hesitate to contact the election committee! Please, give us suggestions latest by 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 to this email address:**

**[electioncommittee@bridgetoafrica.se](mailto:electioncommittee@bridgetoafrica.se)**

**The Election Committee**

**Asha Yahya,  
Cornelia Witthöft, and  
Marianne Pråhl**

## BOOKCLUB

### *Daughter of Dust – Summary by R. Elkari*

<http://books.simonandschuster.co.uk/Daughter-of-Dust/Wendy-Wallace/9781847375308>

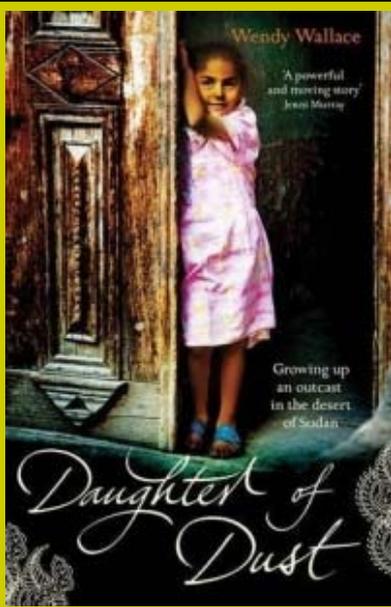
The book narrates a real story about a girl, Leila, who lived her early and youth life in orphanages in Sudan, where some of the children born outside marriage live. Daughter of Dust is a voice of Leila throughout the novel, although it is written by Wendy Wallace a journalist and writer from U.K. The voice of Leila's cry meets the other children's voices and the smell of the place, that all little Leila can recall from her early childhood, but mostly she sought something else, something that she couldn't even identify at those early stage.

The story goes on, Leila moves from Maygome, the house of infants, to the institute of the protected, where she begins to realize that she is different from others. When she started school, she had hard time to find friends, being discriminated by other children, but after all she could manage to get an education.

She goes on to describe her life at the village for abandoned, the new mother, brothers and sisters she has got, and her relation with her sister Zulima, she learned that she and Zulima are *real* sisters and they have got the same mother. Leila tells us about her experience and suffering with female circumcision. Leila got through very hard times comparing her self with other children, and met her father who showed up and disappeared again. She told us about 'Father Saif', the new manager of the village, and the support he gave to her and to the other girls.

The story goes on, Leila managed to get a job at the village and even travelled outside Sudan for a certificate. Her life began to change, she got married and had children of her own, she experienced a normal family life for a good while and had a happy marriage and a decent life, the story goes through many Sudanese social and gender issues and problems. She faced life again as an abandoned, divorced, unemployed women with three kids, but again Leila showed unlimited strength, she could manage even to support others and had adopted one more child.

*Leila starts her own NGO, speaking out her own life and fighting for the abandoned children in Sudan.*



Daughter of Dust  
Publisher: Simon &  
Schuster, UK,  
August 2009  
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## Bridge to Africa (BTA)

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