

# Toast of the Town

## opens doors for children

BY ALISON WALDMAN

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For at least 25 years, the Freehold area branch of the American Association of University Women has organized a book sale to raise funds for scholarships for women.

The organization collects thousands of books that are stored at Freehold Savings and Loan bank before being transported to Reformed Church of Freehold for a three-and-a-half-day sale, said Carol Deneck, chairwoman of this year's book sale.

Although they raise thou-

### FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP

numerous quantities of unsold books.

For two years, the organization has donated the unsold books to Rutgers University students collecting books for the Global Literacy Project, an organization that ships used books to students living in rural parts of the world.

Last week about 20 members of the organization found out exactly how the donated books were being used and where.

Olubayi Olubayi, a biology professor at Middlesex County College and a guest lecturer at Rutgers University, spoke to the group of women about the literacy project he and Rutgers professor Denastion Bonadie created in 1996 with the help of their students.

The women were shown pictures of libraries in Kenya that were created with the 7,000 books they donated from the 2001 sale.

"It is very exciting for us to hear directly from the people who are using our books and to hear that they are doing so well," said Roc Rappaport, a co-president of the Freehold area organization and a Marlboro resident.

A former resident of Kenya, Olubayi said he developed the

sands through the sale, Deneck said the club usually has



**Olubayi Olubayi, a professor at Middlesex County College, discusses his experiences growing up in a rural Kenyan village and how books impacted his life. He spoke at a meeting held by the Freehold area branch of the American Association of University Women, which sends books to third-world countries.** (PHOTO BY ALISON WALDMAN)

idea in 1999 when visiting his family for Christmas. While talking with students, Olubayi discovered schools did not have access to books, maps and other necessary resources.

With the help of Rutgers student Steven Yooef and Bonadie, a former Caribbean resident, the team collected 17,000 books in the first year.

But the project is about more than just donating books. Olubayi said the Global Literacy Project also works to offer incentives such as reading, spelling and math competitions with cash prizes to encourage children to learn.

Bonadie said low income families face the same difficulties in accessing books on the Caribbean island on which he grew up.

"Reading is an opportunity that is not easily accessible," he said, adding that books are very expensive and difficult to find in some countries.

Bonadie said the Global Lit-

eracy Project, which also reaches to his former country, has established initiatives in reading, humanities, math and science for the communities the organization is assisting.

"We have tried to become very structured about this. We do not want to end up just dumping books," Bonadie said.

Leftovers from this year's sale again will go to the Global Literacy Project, Deneck said. In addition, the Freehold organization is setting aside any textbooks that are donated to the sale for the Global Literacy Project.

This year, the book sale will start at 6 p.m. June 5 with a preview, which requires a \$1 admission. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 6 and 7, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 8, Deneck said.

To donate to the book sale, call (732) 431-2297. To find out more about the Global Literacy Project, contact Olubayi at [olubayi@cc1.rutgers.edu](mailto:olubayi@cc1.rutgers.edu).