



# The Network News

## A Quick Look Ahead...

Sundays & Mondays	Social Bridge 2 pm to 5 pm Various locations
Sunday Feb 1	Golf 9:00 am Abu Dhabi City Golf
Monday Feb 23	Book Club 1- 3 pm, 7-9 pm Various locations
Wednesday Feb 4,18	Mahjong 9 am to noon Hemingway's,Hilton
Thursday Feb 5,19	Coffee Morning 10 am to noon Khalidiya Palace
Tuesday Feb 17	Global Village 2:00 – 11:30 pm See page 5 for details
Tuesday Feb 24	Neighborhood Walk 10 am to noon Tourist Club Area See page 4 for details
Thursday March 5	AWN Masquerade Party starting at 7:30pm See page 2 for details

## A Word or Two...

February is a short month that is long on holidays. In the U.S. it starts with Groundhog Day on February 2. According to folklore, if it's cloudy when the groundhog emerges from its burrow on this particular day, then spring will come early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow so that winter weather will persist for six more weeks. Given how nice "winter" is in Abu Dhabi, let's hope for six more weeks of it.

The third Monday in February is always Presidents' Day. It falls between the actual birthdays of George Washington, the founding father of the U.S., and Abraham Lincoln, who preserved the Union.

Of course, everyone's favorite February holiday is Valentine's Day; a day to celebrate love and chocolates and the love of chocolate.... Roses are optional. Happy Valentine's Day!

It's also that time to look forward to the spring line-up of great AWN activities our committee chairs are planning. In particular we encourage you to come join us at the AWN Masquerade Party next month. Thursday, March 5, will be an evening full of good food, music, friends, and a great chance to meet some new friends. You can wear a party dress and a mask, or put on your favorite costume! The best part of joining in the fun is meeting new people and adding to your Abu Dhabi experiences.

We  AWN,  
Lee and Susan  
Co-Presidents, AWN Abu Dhabi



## Monica Warner, our Newcomer Chair, in her own words...



Just like many of you, my first few weeks in Abu Dhabi were a potent combination of excitement at the adventure that lay ahead and sadness at the sudden loss of familiar friends, family and career. My professional qualification, obtained in London many moons ago, is as an analytic group psychotherapist and I have worked, both in the British National Health Service and in private practice, for twenty years. I believe that it is my background in this work, which focusses on the power of 'groups', that led me to jump at the chance of taking on the role of Newcomer Chair in the spring of 2013. I know that if we, as Newcomers, are helped to feel really welcome in this new environment and encouraged to make close groups of friends, we can

thrive as individuals and meet whatever challenges life throws at us. It is the support, love and understanding of like-minded women that is the key and can turn this adventure from one of initial trepidation into one of real enjoyment.

Until my Abu Dhabi journey began, nearly three years ago, I had lived my entire life in London. My husband works in the aviation industry and we have four children, all in their twenties. It is wonderful to be able to offer them an alternative home when they come to stay with us. I adore skiing, travel, film and cooking. Add to these interests my newly found passions for mahjong and bridge (both played in small groups of course!) and my days in Abu Dhabi are happily busy.

My role with AWN means that I am privileged to have found a 'working group' to be a part of and many of our wonderful Board members have become my greatest pals. I hope that as expat women in this amazing environment we will continue to enjoy the support and friendship of the many groups of which we are a part, and in so doing, continue to enrich our own and each other's lives.

## Masquerade Party

**Don't miss the AWN Masquerade Party on Thursday, March 5, starting at 7:30 pm at Dusit Thani Hotel.**

Along with music and dancing, you will enjoy a fabulous International Buffet including soft beverages for only 240 AED per person.

Complimentary Valet Parking, and a cash bar will be available.

You can purchase the tickets for you and your guests at the morning coffees on Thursdays, February 5 & 19. Cash only please!

For more information, please send email to [socialevents@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:socialevents@awnabudhabi.com)



## A visit to the Sharjah Archaeology Museum

By Izabella Sluzek

The Sharjah Archaeology Museum's permanent collection explores the Emirate's pre-Islamic past, and ranges from the oldest stone tools of 125,000 years back, to the later period ceramic vessels, weapons, jewellery, models of ancient houses and burials, coins, and more. Currently, on show there is a special exhibition titled 'Ancient Bahrain: The Power of Trade'. It is on loan from the Bahrain National Museum and will run until March 29.



Also on display is this ceramic incense burner. It was excavated from the ruins of a house at Mleiha, a large settlement which flourished between around 300 BCE – 150 CE in the present-day emirate of Sharjah. It has been dated between 150 BCE – 1 CE and it was probably imported from today's Pakistan.

Mleiha was a prosperous inland oasis town made rich due to its strategic location on the busy camel caravan route. The settlement existed for at least 700 years, during which period it actively participated in the thriving incense trade between Arabia, the Mediterranean, Mesopotamia and South Asia. In Arabia, the 5,000-year old Incense Road merged with the western Silk Road. Myrrh and especially frankincense were the most prized export items from the Arabian Peninsula. When some 2,000 years ago the aromatics trade intensified, the frankincense price equaled that of gold. Apart from incense, the region also exported pearls, whereas its

imports included ceramics, metalwork, glass and luxury objects from Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean.

Frankincense was one of the gifts brought to baby Jesus by the Three Magi. It is resinous sap obtained from the bark of a tree of the genus *Boswellia*. The best frankincense is harvested in southern Oman and Yemen. To tap a tree, a cut is made in its bark through which milky sap drips into a small container where it hardens.

To extract the famous fragrance, frankincense clumps are placed over hot coals in an incense burner. Every Arabian household has it and regularly uses it on various social occasions.

Today the highest quality frankincense, secreted from the trees growing in Oman's Dhofar Mountains, is sent directly to the Vatican.

If you plan a visit to the museum, it is open between 8 am-8 pm, Thursday-Saturday, and between 4 pm-8pm on Friday.

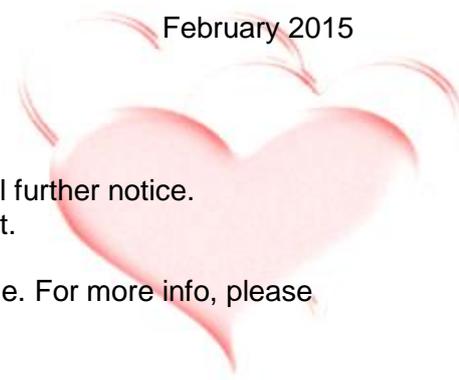


Modern burner

## Coffee Mornings

Thursday, Feb 5. A presentation by Dr. Al Aly, Plastic Surgeon. Postponed until further notice.  
Thursday Feb 19. Izabella Satrigersang, Art Historian and Expert in all things art.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our schedule of speakers is subject to change. For more info, please email [morningcoffees@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:morningcoffees@awnabudhabi.com).



### Shukran!

A very special "Thank You" goes out to Tasleem Sayani, our guest speaker on Thursday morning coffee, Jan 15. Ms Sayani gave a very informative presentation about wills and inheritance laws in UAE. She engaged the audience and answered all their questions in an elaborate and professional way. Thanks to her talk, we all are way better informed about those laws in effect in UAE.

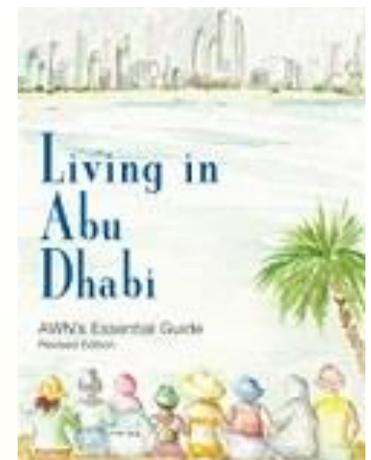
### Neighborhood Walk

Tuesday, Feb 24, put on your walking shoes and come join us in exploring the Tourist Club Area in Abu Dhabi. Meet at Tim Horton's Coffee shop, next to Abu Dhabi Mall. We will leave at 10:00 am sharp.

For more info, please email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com)

### Guide Book

Attention Newcomers!! Get your copy of AWN's guide book, "Living in Abu Dhabi", on sale for 50 AED at our coffee mornings. It is an excellent resource and a helpful tool as you settle in and discover what Abu Dhabi has to offer. All proceeds go to charities selected by AWN. For bulk corporate sales, please contact Linda at [guidebook@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:guidebook@awnabudhabi.com)



### Shukran!

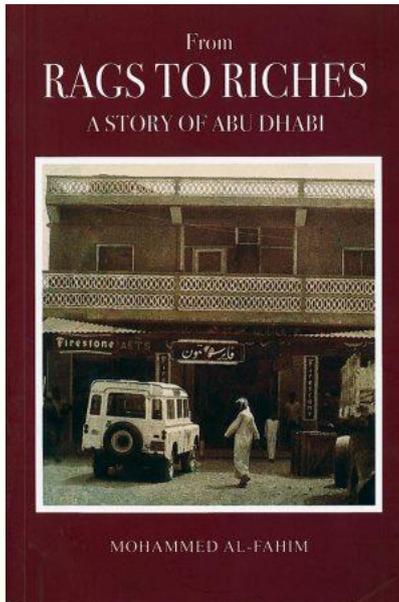
As always, AWN wishes to thank Khalidiya Palace Rayhaan by Rotana for hosting our Thursday morning coffees. We greatly appreciate its welcoming atmosphere, and its dedication in meeting our needs and expectations. Members please remember that Khalidiya Palace offers 20% discounts in their restaurants following our coffee gatherings.

### Bridge

Bridge lessons are offered again by AWN. If you are interested in learning to play bridge, please send email to [bridge@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bridge@awnabudhabi.com) and provide your contact information. You will be contacted regarding the upcoming schedule.



The book selection for February 23 is **"From Rags to Riches: A Story of Abu Dhabi"** by **Mohammed A.J. Al Fahim**



Born in 1948 in Abu Dhabi, the author knew dreadful poverty in the years before fabulous oil wealth transformed his country forever. He grew up in the ruler's palace, barefoot like his friends, who are all now senior figures in the United Arab Emirates. This is a vivid eye-witness account of the total transformation (within only 30 years) of a Bedouin society into a country with the world's highest per capita income. Al-Fahim speaks with great frankness about his own life and provides remarkable insights into the workings of the business community and the ruling elite with the UAE.

Please join us for an enjoyable time with lots of good conversation. There is both an afternoon (1:00 – 3:00) meeting and evening (7:00 – 9:00) meeting.

Please RSVP to [bookclub@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bookclub@awnabudhabi.com), stating "afternoon" or "evening" in the subject line. LOCATION DIRECTIONS WILL ONLY BE SENT TO THOSE WHO RSVP. To be put on the book club mailing list please send an email to [bookclub@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bookclub@awnabudhabi.com).

## Mahjong

Come join the crowd, and learn a new game. We play on the first and third Wednesday of each month and meet from 9:00 am – to 12:00 noon, at Hemingway's, Hilton Hotel.



Upcoming sessions are scheduled for February 4 and 18, and March 4, and 18. There is a cost of 35 AED that includes coffee, water and a light snack. Players of all skill levels are welcome. Please join us and have some fun! If you wish to be added to the mahjong mailing list, please send an email to [mahjong@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:mahjong@awnabudhabi.com)

## Explorers

Tuesday, Feb 17 from 2:00 pm to 11:30 pm. Get back into the new season of AWN's Explorers with a trip to Global Village. Shop at the 37 Pavilions representing 65 countries. Try the 25 restaurants if you can! The bus trip costs 60 AED. Tickets are on sale at our morning coffees. Meet the bus at the main front entrance of Mushrif Mall in time to leave the mall at 2:00 pm sharp. We will be back close to 11:30 pm. For more info, please email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com)



## English Conversation Group Leaders

**WANTED!** First language English speaking volunteers are needed to lead English Language Conversation Groups for women who speak English as a second language. You do not need to be a teacher. This is a great opportunity to maintain or hone your skills, while at the same time enjoy a cross cultural experience with women from the four corners of the globe. AWN members have been asked to collaborate in this project run by WIAD (Women in Abu Dhabi). Support and coaching will be provided. Please contact Joan Grant or Maria Teju at [www.womeninabudhabi.com](http://www.womeninabudhabi.com)

## Women's Heritage Walk UAE Rescheduled

The Women's Heritage Walk UAE that was due to take place from February 2 to 7 has been rescheduled. Please stay tuned by reading AWN newsletter, as well as our Mid-Month Reminders for updates about the new time and date of this epic walk planned and spearheaded by Jody Ballard, professional counselor, and Sana Bagersh, managing editor of Tempo magazine and chair of AmCham's Women in Business Committee.



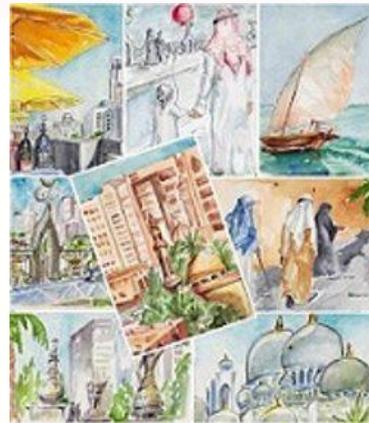
## Golf



Golf lessons start on Sunday at 9:00 am, February 1, at Abu Dhabi City Golf. We will run a course of 8 lessons at a cost of 400 AED. All lessons will be in groups of 6-7 people. You will have the option to play afterwards at a reduced rate. Beginners welcome! No clubs or golf shoes necessary! For more info, please email [golf@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:golf@awnabudhabi.com)

## Notecards

AWN member, Dottie Knopp, provided the artwork for a set of 8 notecards (blank inside) for sale at our coffee mornings. Abu Dhabi inspired designs are sure to delight friends and family. The set of eight cards is priced at 35 AED. All proceeds from the sale go to charities selected by AWN. For more info, please email [projects@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:projects@awnabudhabi.com)



## Volunteers Needed

The USO (United Service Organization) is looking to establish a base of volunteers in Abu Dhabi. Millions of times each year at hundreds of locations around the world, the USO lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families. The USO is a nonprofit, congressionally chartered, private organization, which relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations to support its activities. The USO is not part of the U.S. government. Most services provided by volunteers do not require special skills. A staff member will provide training and guidance and will answer your questions. In making assignments to specific duties within the USO, we are asking you to share your abilities to assist us where you are needed the most. Volunteer opportunities are open to all nationalities. If you are interested please go to [www.awnabudhabi.com](http://www.awnabudhabi.com) and your message will be forwarded to the organizer, Lisa Stoclet. You will receive a set of application forms that require security clearance. You will send your information directly to the USO. Thank you!

The information in this newsletter is provided by the American Women's Network of Abu Dhabi as a service to its members. AWN takes no responsibility for the information provided. Please confirm all details with any of the organizations and contacts listed.