



The Network News

A Quick Look Ahead...

Friday May 1	Beach Party Shangri-La 6:00 pm
Sundays	Social Bridge 2 pm to 5 pm Skybox, behind Bright Point Hospital
Sunday May 10	Golf Tournament 9:00 am Abu Dhabi City Golf Club
Sundays	Golf Lessons 9:00 am Abu Dhabi City Golf Club
Tuesday May 12	Explorers Masdar City 9:30 am Fully booked
Monday May 27	Book Club 1- 3 pm, 7-9 pm Various locations
Wednesday May 6, 20	Mahjong 9 am to noon Hemingway's, Hilton
Thursday May 7, 21	Coffee Morning 10 am to noon Khalidiya Palace

Happy May Day!

Spring has definitely arrived. The kids have had spring break. It's getting hotter, and summer is peeking around the corner.

This is my 10th springtime in the UAE. I'm not sure I'm any more prepared for the humidity that is coming, but I know I'll adjust! It is easy for all of us to stay inside during the hot months, barely emerging from our houses except to run into the air conditioned malls! However, an unadvertised benefit of AWN membership is that there are ladies constantly planning fun activities so you can venture out.

Our May activities include several anticipated events. The annual AWN Beach Party is at the Shangri-La Hotel on Friday, May 1st. It's a casual evening with friends under the stars. Paradise! The Golf group will hold a tournament, which is open to players of all skill levels, on Sunday, May 10th. The competition will be held at the Abu Dhabi City Golf Club. On May 12th, the Explorers group has a tour arranged in Masdar City, and a chocolate tasting event is in the works for May. Watch for the date to be announced. Spaces are limited for both events, so sign up early. Last but not least, after a highly successful trip last fall, the Bridge group is planning another overnight trip to Al Ain this month.

AWN ladies are a great group of energetic volunteers who are the glue that holds us together.

Warm Regards,

Susan Foster
AWN Co-President



Mary Lee Nichols, AWN Co-President, in her own words...



Before I moved to Abu Dhabi, I lived in the same house in Decatur, Georgia, for 29 years and raised three children there. I am a nurse practitioner and worked at Emory University Hospital for 35 years. To people who have lived all over the world, this may sound boring, but I was never bored. My mother used to say, "Smart people don't get bored, they find something to do." She was trying to get me to stop whining at the time, but I always found things to do.

Along the way, I learned life lessons from everyday experiences and from people who weren't necessarily trying to teach me anything.

From my patients, I learned that life is not fair, and yet we have to cherish every minute of it whether life goes as planned or takes unexpected turns.

From my children, I learned the beauty of maternal love, how many cool things you can do on a computer, and how fast 18 years go by.

From my husband, I learned how to take risks that help you grow and learn, and how to have a good time doing it.

From gardening, I learned the discipline of daily weeding and watering.

During my expat experience, I learned to garden in flowerpots on a balcony, and a better way to play bridge! But more importantly, I learned that the world is a lot bigger than the United States, that it is beautiful beyond belief, and that the people who inhabit it are a lot more alike than they are different.

I thank the women of the AWN for entertaining me, teaching me, putting up with me, letting me be part of their lives and let them be a huge part of mine.

Explorers

May 12, 9:30 am. Masdar City facilitated tour. The tour takes approximately 60-90 minutes, and there is no fee but you'll have to provide your own transportation. Cafés and restaurants are available. The trip is **fully booked** as space is limited to 30 people maximum. Please sign up early for any trips or activities at AWN morning coffees. For more info, email: explorers@awnabudhabi.com

On April 21, Explorers' ladies went on Captain Tony's Rescheduled Sunset Cocktail Cruise and enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Abu Dhabi skyline and a stunning sunset aboard Captain Tony's cruise.





Newcomers' Coffee



Another delightful coffee morning, organized especially to greet AWN newcomers, was held at the home of our Newcomer Coordinator, Monica Warner, on April 22. There was much laughter and animated chatter across the group as new ladies made connections with one another, excitedly identifying cities, states and countries in common. What a well travelled and enthusiastic bunch we turned out to be!

This special event that is held five times a year has proved, over the years, to be a sure place to forge new and enduring friendships.

Everyone who signs up to become of AWN is automatically invited to a Newcomers' Coffee. We look forward to greeting you at our next event in June 2015. For more information, contact newcomers@awnabudhabi.com

"Sadeeqas" Needed!

If you are here over the summer period why not support our new ladies for one week by taking your place at a Newcomer Table? By offering to be a welcoming friend or a 'Sadeeqa' at one of our Thursday coffees in June, July, August or September, you will make a real difference to someone just beginning their Abu Dhabi adventure.

There are sign-up sheets at each Thursday coffee or contact the Newcomers' Team at newcomers@awnabudhabi.com

Golf

Due to popular demand, we are now offering ongoing lessons. New classes will start at any stage once 4 or more people sign up. Eight lessons @ 400 AED. Golf lessons will be held in Abu Dhabi Golf Club.

May 10, Golf Tournament will be held at Abu Dhabi Golf Club. All AWN members are welcome to attend. For more info, contact golf@awnabudhabi.com

Coffee Mornings

Thursday, May 7 Mohammed Al Otaiba, editor-in-chief of "The National" newspaper, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Al Otaiba has a background in diplomacy and media. **The National newspaper will be offering a year's subscription for 100 AED to our AWN members.**

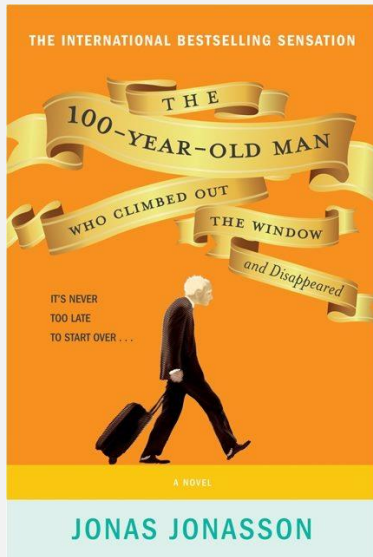
Thursday, May 21 Social gathering
Due to unforeseen circumstances, our schedule of speakers is subject to change. For more info, please email morningcoffees@awnabudhabi.com.

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.

Book Club

The Book selection for May 27 is **"The 100 Year Old Man who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared"** by Jonas Jonasson



It all starts on the one-hundredth birthday of Allan Karlsson. Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, he is waiting for the party he-never-wanted-anyway to begin. The Mayor is going to be there. The press is going to be there. But, as it turns out, Allan is not... Slowly but surely Allan climbs out of his bedroom window, into the flowerbed (in his slippers) and makes his getaway. And so begins his picaresque and unlikely journey involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, and incompetent police. As his escapades unfold, we learn something of Allan's earlier life in which – remarkably – he helped to make the atom bomb, became friends with American presidents, Russian tyrants, and Chinese leaders, and was a participant behind the scenes in many key events of the twentieth century.

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 at bookclub@awnabudhabi.com stating "afternoon" or

"evening" in the subject line. **LOCATION DIRECTIONS WILL ONLY BE SENT TO THOSE WHO RSVP.**

Mahjong

The Mahjong group plays on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:00 am to noon at Hemingway's, Hilton Hotel. All levels are welcome including those who have never played and would like to learn. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for May 6 & 20, and June 3 and 17. There is a cost of 35 AED that includes coffee, water and a light snack. If you wish to be added to the mahjong mailing list, please send an email to mahjong@awnabudhabi.com.



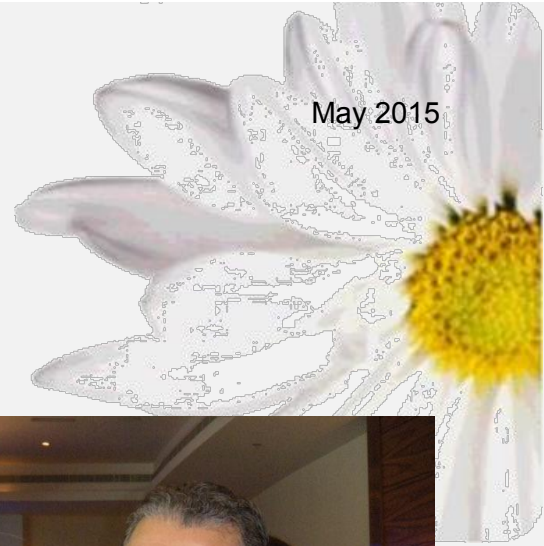
Bridge



AWN offers bridge play, welcoming all levels (except complete beginners). The AWN bridge group meets at Bright point Royal Hospital (in the Skybox of Al Jazeera Stadium) on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. This group will continue to meet throughout the summer. For further details, please e-mail bridge@awnabudhabi.com.

ATTENTION to all who want to learn to play Bridge!!

There is a possibility that while the temperatures rise in the summer, so will your opportunities to learn the game of bridge! Summer is a great time to find indoor activities in Abu Dhabi and if you are one of the people who will be here during that time, and you would like to learn this wonderful game, please let us know!! Send us an email to bridge@awnabudhabi.com and request information on summer classes. We will still be having classes in the fall, but this will give you an opportunity to get a head start on meeting people and having fun! We're looking forward to hearing from you. Beginners can sign up for the next lessons session starting in the fall (October, 2015) by sending an email to bridge@awnabudhabi.com



Shukran!

A very special **“Thank you”** goes out to Dr. Al Aly, with the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, our guest speaker on April 16 coffee morning. Dr. Aly gave a presentation that was both informative and engaging, discussing topics such as how to choose a plastic surgeon with precautions regarding certifications and qualifications of the multitude of aesthetic clinics and practitioners. With use of a powerpoint presentation, Dr. Aly emphasized the need for careful and diligent consumer research on medical backgrounds of surgeons/practitioners and the need for multiple medical opinions before making any surgery decision. He likened it to the thoughtful research and planning that one would make before purchasing a car or home. Dr. Aly also discussed expectations and results and the importance of balancing both as part of the decision making process. The presentation ended with a brief Q&A and all members present were truly appreciative of Dr. Aly's warmth, professionalism and expertise.



Farewell to Denise Schnitzer



Denise Schnitzer, Coffee Chair, was presented with a silver dhow pendant and chain in appreciation for all the hard work and efforts she has put in to her position as the Meetings Board member. Denise has been on the board for the past two years and has worked tirelessly and given generously of her time to ensure the fun and informative coffee mornings we've experienced during that time. AWN is truly grateful of Denise's contributions over this period and we wish her only the best as she pursues her other interests and adventures here in Abu Dhabi.

Neighborhood Walk

On Tuesday, April 14, AWN explorers laced up their walking shoes and explored the Khalidiya area and its surroundings on foot. There was plenty of walking, talking and eating during the walk. To name just a few points of interest: the Rotana shopping mall where we visited an Iranian carpet shop and listened to an informative presentation about what makes Iranian carpets so unique and precious. Next was “Elegant Touch”, a Palestinian handicraft shop. We stopped at “The Dar Alturath Oud” shop where we were treated with a performance by the shop's music instructor. We also stopped in at Patchi, Silver Rock Framing Shop, and Eclectic antique/art gallery. We ended the walk on "Shawerma Alley" to pick up lunch and head to Lee's home to enjoy more conversation and views of Abu Dhabi from her balcony.



Memorable Moments from the Neighborhood Walk in the Khalidiya area



Explorers Tea Outing

Sixteen AWN ladies gathered at the TWG Tea Salon and Boutique at Yas Mall on April 29th. Sebastian, the manager, gave us informative talk about some of the 700 teas sold at this Singaporean tea venue. We had fun trying to guess the most expensive teas by their texture, appearance and aroma. Of course, the tea with the 24K gold dust won top spot! The afternoon was complete with entertaining conversation while sipping various teas from all over the world and enjoying little finger sandwiches and pastries. We send out a big Thank You to TWG for making it a successful afternoon!

