



The Network News

A Quick Look Ahead...

Sundays
June 7, 14
June 21, 28
July 5, 12, 19

Social Bridge
2:00 – 5:00 pm
12:00 to 3:00 pm
12:00 to 3:00 pm
Brightpoint Royal
Women's Hospital

Monday
June 8

AWN Culture Group
Show and Tell event
10:00 am- noon
Third Place Café
Khalidiya

Thursday
June 11

AWN Lunch Group
Bocca Restaurant
Hilton Corniche
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Monday
June 22
July 27
Aug 24

Book Club
1- 3 pm, 7-9 pm
Various locations

Wednesday
June 3, 17
July 1, 15
Aug 5, 19

Mahjong
9 am to noon
Hemingway's, Hilton

Thursday
June 4, 18
July 2, 16
Aug 6, 20

Coffee Morning
10 am to noon
Khalidiya Palace

Ramadan

Ramadan is the holy month of the Islamic year, during which Muslims fast from dawn (fajr) to sunset (maghrib). This observance is one of the five pillars of Islam. In addition to refraining from eating, drinking and smoking, Muslims are required to be pure in thought and deed, to give and aid those who are less fortunate and to visit family and friends

The exact dates of Ramadan are dependent on sighting of the crescent moon and may vary from one country to another. This year in Abu Dhabi, Ramadan is expected to fall between June 18th and July 17th. It ends with a three-day celebration and holiday called Eid Al Fitr.

You can learn more about Ramadan from our guest speaker at the June 4th coffee morning. Since many of you may have not experienced life in the UAE during Ramadan, we would like to share some hints and tips.

Get involved by exchanging Ramadan greetings. Say "Ramadan Kareem" to your Muslim friends throughout Ramadan and "Eid Mubarak" at the end. Iftar (evening) buffets are a great way to experience some traditional Arabic cuisine and entertainment. Make sure to book ahead and arrive promptly for the meal.

Changes during Ramadan include most cafes and restaurants remaining closed until sunset. However, most hotels will have restaurants open during the day and a few cafes may also remain open. Takeaways may also be available.

Office hours will be shorter affecting traffic patterns. Avoid driving close to sunset. Remember many drivers will not have had anything to eat or drink all day so exercise caution.

Be considerate. Fasting can play havoc with a person's eating and sleeping habits, so be sympathetic to people around you.

(Sources: www.yourabudhabiguide.com/what-is-ramadan.html
www.expatechodubai.com/whats-on/ramadan-dos-and-donts
visitabudhabi.ae/en/travel/essential.info/religion.and.ramadan.aspx
and the British Embassy Newsletter, June 2014)

Dos and Don'ts during Ramadan

- Do dress more conservatively as sensitivities are heightened during Ramadan
- Don't eat, drink, chew gum or smoke in public during the hours of sunrise to sunset.
- Don't dance, sing, play loud music or be intoxicated in public at any time, day or night. Licensed premises will only serve alcohol after dark.
- Don't show public displays of affection as you will cause offense.

Coffee Mornings

Thursday 4 Mr. Abdulla Al Shamsi will give a presentation on Ramadan.

Thursday 18 Our usual coffee morning at Khalidiya Palace will have an added and very special twist. Tables will be arranged in 'neighborhoods' so we get the chance to meet up with and get to know others who live in our area of town. This has proved, in the past, to be hugely enjoyable morning and we are really looking forward to an exciting and fun morning. Do join us. You are all so welcome.

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

AWN Morning Coffees will continue throughout summer on the first and the third Thursday of July (2 & 16), and August (6 & 20).

Now until September, we will be meeting upstairs at Khalidiya Palace, in "Meeting Plus 4" room on the Mezzanine level.

Shukran!

AWN wishes to thank Mohammed Al Otaiba, editor-in-chief of "The National" newspaper, our guest speaker on May 7 Morning Coffee. Mr. Al Otaiba talked about the challenges that the written media faces today in the age of the internet, and the fierce competition that "The National" has to cope with as a relatively young newspaper on the market. **Thank You** Mr. Oteiba for this great presentation!

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.



Volunteers Needed!

As the summer heat builds and many of our members leave town for a while, we continue to need the help of Newcomer Table Sadeeqas to welcome all the many new ladies who will be joining us. We also need volunteers to sit at the Welcome Table. If you are spending the sizzling summer months in Abu Dhabi, come and help as a volunteer at one of the Thursday Coffee mornings at Khalidiya Palace Hotel. Sign Up Sheets at the coffee mornings, or contact

newcomers@awnabudhabi.com

Introducing Diane Rudis, AWN Explorers Chair, in her own words...

Hi Everyone!

I am so excited to be a part of the AWN Explorers' Group. We have a lot of great adventures planned to make the members' experience in Abu Dhabi quite memorable!



My husband, Steven and I are from Baltimore, Maryland, in the suburb town of Ellicott City. With our son Anthony living in Vienna, Virginia, all grown up and busy with a career of his own, Steve and I spend a lot of time traveling, eating great food and having a good time with family and friends. Before moving to Abu Dhabi, I worked for many years in various industries in the accounting and finance realm. Most recently, I was employed with Marriott International in the Global Entity Reporting and Tax Department. When not working or traveling, I spend my time helping the local community of Howard County, Maryland. Most recently, I spent time in the DC Central Kitchen helping to make meals for the homeless. I also spent time in a butterfly sanctuary, planting plants exclusive for breeding the checker spotted butterfly. In addition, I helped the Howard County

Community College gain sponsorships and sell tickets for their Fundraiser Event offering scholarships to students who cannot afford to go to college. Prior to that, I helped the Ulman Cancer fund with the half marathon fund raiser and offered up my time to read essays submitted for college scholarships.

I realize how fortunate my life has been and want to continue to do what I can to make a difference in other people's lives. My husband and I are very happy to be in Abu Dhabi, meeting such wonderful people and having the adventure of a lifetime. Making ourselves open to the people we meet and to the opportunities offered have made it such a fabulous experience!

AWN Culture Group

On Monday, June 8, the AWN Culture Group will meet again, from 10 am to 12 noon, for yet another 'show and tell' event about Arabic calligraphy. All participants are encouraged to share with the other group members their knowledge, and an image, of their favorite artwork or museum artefact. The venue will be the Third Place Café in the Khalidiya area. There are few places left so if you are interested in joining us, please contact awn@awnabudhabi.com for more information.

AWN Lunch/Supper Group

On Thursday, June 11, the Lunch/Supper group will have lunch at Bocca Restaurant (Italian Cuisine), at the Hilton Corniche from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. If you are interested in joining the Lunch Group at Bocca, please email explorers@awnabudhabi.com. **In the subject line of your email, please include Bocca Lunch.** Seats will be offered on a first come, first serve basis for the first 12 and then you will be put on a wait list in case someone cancels. Entertainer coupons are accepted.

An Iftar Evening Meal is also being planned for July . If interested, please email explorers@awnabudhabi.com with the subject line of your email - Iftar meal. Stay tuned for more details. If you want to be added to the lunch/supper events, and if you are interested in helping the Explorers' Group coordinate an occasional Lunch / Supper Event, please email explorers@awnabudhabi.com

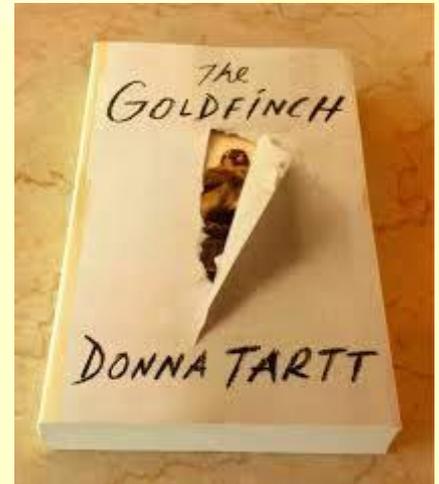
Book Club

The Book selection for June 22 is "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt

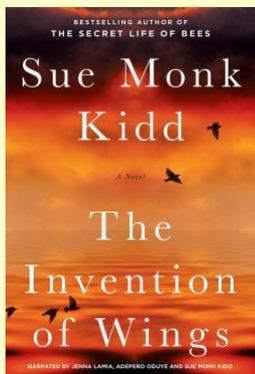
The Goldfinch is a haunted odyssey through present day America and a drama of enthralling force and acuity.

It begins with a boy. Theo Decker, a thirteen-year-old New Yorker, who miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his unbearable longing for his mother, he clings to one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.

As an adult, Theo moves silkily between the drawing rooms of the rich and the dusty labyrinth of an antiques store where he works. He is alienated and in love-and at the center of a narrowing, ever more dangerous circle.



The Book selection for July 27 is "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd



Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

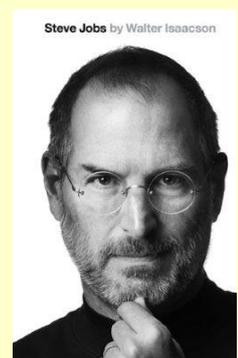
Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements.

The Book selection for August 24 is "Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson

In Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography, Isaacson provides an extraordinary account of Jobs' professional and personal life. Drawn from three years of exclusive and unprecedented interviews Isaacson has conducted with Jobs as well as extensive interviews with Jobs' family members and key colleagues from Apple and its competitors, Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography is the definitive portrait of the greatest innovator of his generation.

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.



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.

Explorers

AWN explorers laced up their walking shoes to explore Masdar City in a facilitated tour that took place on May 12. Masdar City is seeking to become the world's most sustainable eco-city, capable of accommodating rapid urbanization and dramatically reduce energy, water and waste at the same time. AWN members were impressed by UAE's leading efforts in the field of renewable energy and environmental protection.



Golf

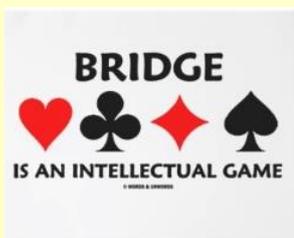
On Sunday May 10th, AWN held its Spring Golf Tournament at the Abu Dhabi City Golf Course. The ladies played 9 holes of golf, Texas scramble style, had a beautiful luncheon and prizes were awarded to the winners.



AWN Golf lessons will start up again in September 2015. For more info please contact Heidi Garrity at golf@awnabudhabi.com. For those interested in playing golf during summer time, Abu Dhabi City Golf Club will be offering 9 holes of golf during the day time

hours. No weekends or evenings. For more info, go to www.adcitygolf.ae

Bridge



AWN offers bridge play, welcoming all levels (except complete beginners). The AWN bridge group meets at Brightpoint Royal Hospital (in the Skybox of Al Jazeera Stadium) on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 pm on June 7, 14, and from 12 noon to 3:00 pm on June 21, 28 & July 5, 12, 19. 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

AWN Beach Party May 1, 2015

With the sun slowly sinking behind the Grand Mosque, AWN members and their spouses dined and danced on the beach at the Shangri La Hotel on Friday, May 1. It's great to see the Beach Party tradition continue and all who attended enjoyed wonderful food and friendly conversations that are always part of our special events.

A special Thank you goes out to our Special Events' Organizer Ghislaine Verne and to Barb Bubb and Karen Kwa for their help.



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.