



The Network News

A Quick Look Ahead...

Sundays	Social Bridge 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Millennium Corniche Hotel, Khalifa St.
Sunday Dec 6	Golf Christmas Tournament Abu Dhabi City Golf Club
Wednesday	Golf Clinics 9:00 am Abu Dhabi National Golf Course
Thursday Dec 10	Coffee Morning 10 am to noon Khalidiya Palace
Wednesday Dec 16	Mahjong 9 am to noon Hemingway's, Hilton
Monday Dec 13 Dec 14	Book Club 7:00- 9:00 pm 1:00- 3:00 pm Various locations
Monday Dec 7	Explorers' Outing New Tourist Ferry Meet at 9:15 am, Jalboot Kiosk, Abu Dhabi Mall (See details on page 2)

December is a busy month that literally starts off with a bang, as we celebrate the National Day. (See related article page 3). Look for airshows, fireworks and merrymaking all over the UAE, but especially on the Abu Dhabi Corniche starting December 1st. If you choose to stay in town you won't be disappointed!

Following the National Day, Western expats get busy with their own holiday traditions. Many AWN members travel home to visit friends and family. Others entertain visitors by showing off this wonder filled city that is our temporary home.

A nice way kick off to the season is to attend the Carols in the Desert event on December 11. If you go, take a look up into the night sky. I just went on a camping trip to the big Liwa sand dunes and found that the majestic display of stars there just might rival the fireworks on the Corniche. It is especially awesome when you remember that those same stars were there a couple of thousand years ago when a pretty significant event happened not so very far from here. A special baby was born into a society that was cruelly controlled by the Roman Empire. His parents had travelled back to their hometown to pay their taxes, so he was born in a barn, under the same stars we see today. As an adult, He bravely spoke up for the oppressed and His Words changed the course of history. In a world that is admittedly a little scary right now, it is important for us to remember that He was later called the Prince of Peace.

Whatever your plans, the American Women's Network wishes you and your family a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Lee Nichols
AWN Co-President

Coffee Morning

December 10 Due to **The National Day celebrations on December 2**, AWN will host its regular open coffee on **December 10**. Expect a special coffee morning with a few Christmas twists. Tish Dalby will be our Christmas Party Coordinator, and has tons of fun planned for us...Please note there is only one meeting in December to accommodate people going home for Christmas. See you all December 10th!

Shukran!

AWN would like to extend a big **Thank You** to James Langton, Focus Editor at **The National** newspaper, for his wonderful talk "Catching the Sand Tiger" on November 5. His fascinating true account of Abu Dhabi's quest for oil in the 1950s gave us all a different perspective on the makings of the oil industry in Abu Dhabi.



Explorers

On Monday, December 7, come join us and try the new tourist ferry in Abu Dhabi. The trip will take us through the waterways surrounding the city. The cost is at the discounted price of 110 AED. We will meet at 9:15 am at the Jalboot kiosk at the main doors of Abu Dhabi Mall. We'll finish back at the Abu Dhabi Mall at approximately 1 pm. Registration and payment must be made in advance.

For more info, please email explorers@awnabudhabi.com

Philanthropy

Help spread joy and bring smiles to the faces of women laborers this Christmas by bringing along some toothpaste and canned tuna to our December 10 coffee morning. We will have a donation box on behalf of 'Feel Great Helping' which is a voluntary network founded in 2012 to encourage people to support good causes and use their skills and talents to make a positive contribution to their community. Since 2015, 'Feel Great Helping' has focused its efforts on grass roots initiatives to support women and empower them through social and self-development opportunities.

UAE Celebrates its 44th National Day

The National Day, celebrated on December 2nd each year in the United Arab Emirates, marks the unification of the seven emirates and the founding of the country in 1971 under Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president. The day also marks the adoption of the National Flag which was unfurled by Sheikh Zayed to officially announce the formation of the UAE as an independent nation.



Historical background:

Before the formation of the United Arab Emirates in 1971, the UAE was called the Trucial States, a group of loosely defined sheikhdoms mired in rivalries among local emirs, and plagued by pirates who ransacked the seas and used the shores of those sheikhdoms as a place of refuge. Ties with Britain strengthened when the British Empire started assaulting pirates to protect its commerce with India. In 1820, the relations were formalized as Britain offered to protect the region. This special relationship lasted a century and a half until, in 1968, Britain declared its intention to end its long-standing commitment to defend the sheikhdoms of the Arabian Gulf and to withdraw from the Gulf by the end of 1971. This sudden decision helped reduce the difficulties that had hindered the earlier attempts at union of the emirates. Immediately, Sheikh Zayed took the lead in calling for a federation of the emirates, and on the 2nd December, 1971, the United Arab Emirates formally emerged onto the international stage.

Within four decades, the United Arab Emirates has been transformed from one of the least developed countries to a modern nation state. Happy 44th National Day!

Sources: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/united-arab-emirates/independence-day.html>
<http://middleeast.about.com/od/unitedarabemirates/a/me081203.htm>
<http://www.sheikhmohammed.co.ae>

Spreading Kindness and Compassion through Volunteering

In this season of sharing, it is important to recognize those among us who give of themselves all year long. (You know all three of these ladies as organizers of AWN Explorers.) In October, Lisa Stoclet went to Malawi in southeast Africa to work on a Habitat for Humanity house build. It was her fourth build. Sharon Irwin supports a children's home in Kathmandu, Nepal, and visited there last October. Closer to home, Anne Fuller volunteers weekly at the Special Care Center in Abu Dhabi.

Below you will find a reprint of an article about Anne that appeared in a Special Care Center publication:

Special Care Center Volunteer Voices – Ms. Anne Fuller

Volunteers are an integral part of the Special Care Centre family. Ms. Anne volunteers at Special Care Centre and is assigned to assist the students with Occupational Therapy.

Here is what Ms. Anne had to say about her experience:

"My name is Anne, and I have lived here in Abu Dhabi for over three years. Since my background is in Occupational Therapy, I am now volunteering one day a week at the Special Care Centre. I work with Ms. Namrata, Occupational Therapist, who has drawn up the children's long term goals and individual educational program.



I am learning something new each day working with Ms Namrata, and the children. While I am working with a child, I help that child master skills in self-care, putting on and off socks, fine and gross motor skills, like drawing, using scissors, hopping, personal hygiene like brushing teeth and working with the families to help the child reach their potential. The child is benefiting from Occupational Therapy at the school. As a therapist, when I can help facilitate the children to participate in the school's activities, field trips and classroom routines and see the children reach their potential, it is very gratifying.

Working with the Down syndrome children at the Special Care Centre School is truly amazing and has been so rewarding for me. The children are all unique, different with their own personalities, some can be stubborn, while others are funny, and some are very affectionate and can melt your heart away."

Anne Fuller

Golf

Mark your calendar for our annual **AWN Golf Christmas Tournament** which will be held on Sunday December 6 at the Abu Dhabi City Golf Course. As usual, the tournament will be a scramble which means no pressure! We'd like to see lots of beginners who will be paired with some of the more experienced players so if you hit a bad shot, no worries, just pick up your ball. Pricing and specifics to follow. Optional: Dress in a Christmas theme.

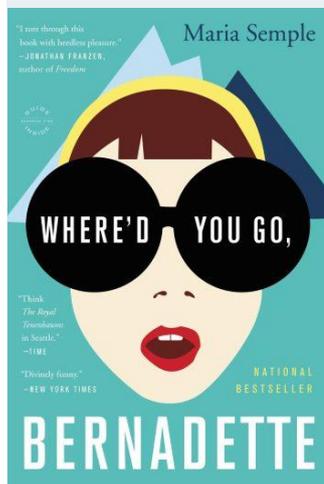


Our Abu Dhabi Golf Course Wednesday clinics are continuing through December 9, 2015 and will begin again in mid-January 2015. Just make sure we have your email address so we can notify you by email of the clinic and then the first 14 ladies responding to my email will get to participate in the following Wednesday clinic. Our Wednesday clinic starts at 9am with a 1 hour golf lesson followed by 9 holes of golf include cart, water and cold towels followed by coffee or tea. Cost is 210 AED (Abu Dhabi Golf Club and Saadiyat Golf Club members pay 110 AED). These Wednesday golfs sessions are limited to 14 players (4 minimum), which is determined by whomever responds first to my weekly emails.

If you are interested in booking any of these events, please email us at golf@awnabudhabi.com or sign up at the AWN Coffee Mornings.

Book Club

The book selection for December 13 -14 is **"Where'd You Go, Bernadette"** by **Maria Semple**



Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15 year-old Bee, she is a best friend and simply Mom.

Then Bernadette disappears. It began when Bee aced her report card and claimed her promised reward: a family trip to Antarctica. But Bernadette's intensifying allergy to Seattle -- and the people in general—has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands. A trip to the end of the earth is problematic.

To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence—creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world.

Please join us for an enjoyable time with lots of good conversation. Bring your opinion! **Only this month**, evening group will meet on Sunday, **December 13** from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and afternoon group will meet on Monday, **December 14** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please RSVP at bookclub@awnabudhabi.com stating "afternoon" or "evening" in the subject line. **LOCATION DIRECTIONS WILL ONLY BE SENT TO THOSE WHO RSVP.**

Bridge



Our Sunday afternoon Bridge group meets at the Millennium Corniche Hotel on Khalifa Street. There will be a cost of 25 AED, and parking will be validated by the hotel. If you want to play, and are not on our email list, please contact us at bridge@awnabudhabi.com and we will be sure you are added. We look forward to having you join us!

Beginners can sign up for the new lessons' session that resumes in January 2016. The classes will be held Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Maximum 12 persons per class. Stay tuned for further updates. For more info, please contact bridge@awnabudhabi.com

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 session is scheduled for December 16. 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

'Grapes and Snacks' Memorable moments at La Cava, Rosewood Hotel on November 6, 2015

A very special **Thank you** goes out to the organizers of this lovely evening: Diane, Rubina and Sharon. Photos are courtesy of Brandi Gribbin, photographer and AWN member. **Thank you ladies...**



The information in this newsletter is produced 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.

awn@awnabudhabi.com www.awnabudhabi.com

AWN Ladies' Visit to Abu Dhabi Art Festival at Manarat Al Saadiyat on November 18, 2015



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