



# The Network News

**2016**  
**HAPPY**  
**NEW YEAR**

## A Quick Look Ahead...

**Sundays Social Bridge**  
 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm  
 Millennium Corniche  
 Hotel, Khalifa St.

**Wednesday Golf Clinics**  
 9:00 am  
 Abu Dhabi National  
 Golf Course  
 (details on page 4)

**Thursday Coffee Morning**  
**Jan 7, 21**  
 10 am to noon  
 Khalidiya Palace

**Wednesday Mahjong**  
**Jan 6, 20**  
 9 am to noon  
 Hemingway's, Hilton

**Tuesday Neighborhood Networking**  
**Jan 12 Lunch at 12:30 pm**  
**Circo Restaurant, Al Bateen**  
**RSVP by January 7**

**Monday Explorers' Trip**  
**Jan 25**  
 Blue Souq , Sharjah  
 Meet at Mushrif Mall  
 7:15 am  
**RSVP by Jan 21**

**Monday Book Club**  
**Jan 25**  
 7:00- 9:00 pm  
 1:00- 3:00 pm  
 Various locations

## Happy New Year!

I hope your Christmas holidays were fun and festive! With our three sons visiting, we enjoyed spending time in the kitchen cooking, as well as getting out to see Abu Dhabi. We had our Christmas dinner on the terrace with a view of the palm trees. Perhaps not a typical Christmas like back home, but we embraced our surroundings and enjoyed the fact we weren't shovelling snow!

AWN is looking forward to the new and exciting year ahead. We warmly welcome women from all over the world to come together for our coffee mornings. While AWN started primarily as an American women's organization, we are happy to be part of the larger international community looking for friendships and activities. Two fun Explorers activities this month will be lunch at Circo on January 12 and the trip to the Blue Souk in Sharjah on January 25. I hope you can join us.

Be sure to check out the article on page 3 about our **Friends of AWN**. This group is for those who would like to volunteer for the American Women's Network in either a big or small way. If you would like to learn how you can share your time and talents with AWN, our first lunch gathering will be in early February.

AWN has seen a large growth in our membership in the past few years. In order to keep up with all we want to offer, we rely on members to volunteer their time so that we may continue providing interesting activities and coffee mornings. Giving of yourself can be one of the most rewarding activities and it can help make the most of your experience living abroad.

The American Women's Network would like to extend our very best wishes to you for 2016!

Susan Foster,  
 AWN Co-President

## Coffee Morning

**Thursday January 7** This will be an open coffee morning. Nothing better than spending time talking about our Christmas adventures, while having a hot coffee and cake! What a great way to start the New Year, surrounded by friends and meeting new people!

**Thursday January 21** Speaker TBA. Please stay tuned for further information.

**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!

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

## Neighborhood Networking Lunch

**Tuesday, January 12 at 12:30 pm.** Please join us for another Neighborhood Networking Lunch at Circo Restaurant in Al Bateen. Enjoy Italian food in a playful European setting. A 2 course meal followed by a delicious dessert. Coffee, tea, water or soft drink included for 110 AED per person. **Please RSVP by January 7.** For more info, please email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com)

## Explorers

**Monday, January 25. All Day Event** The Explorers invite you to join us on a trip to the Blue Souq in Sharjah. Lisa Stoclet coordinated a lecture on oriental carpets at the Sheba Iranian Carpet Store. There will be time to shop in the souk before heading to lunch at the Dhow Restaurant, just a few steps away from the Souk. We meet at 7:15 AM with the bus leaving promptly at 7:30 AM from the Mushrif Mall. We will arrive back in Abu Dhabi around 4:30 PM. To secure your reservation so we can plan the bus size, payment of 130 AED is appreciated when you sign up. Final **RSVP** due January 21. For more info, please email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com)



## Philanthropy Special Care Center Gala

On February 26, 7:00 pm, **Special Care Center**, one of AWN's special charities, is hosting a gala event and is inviting you to join the festivities. Tickets include dinner, dancing and silent auction. 500 AED per person or a table for 10 for just 4500 AED. Tickets will be on sale at our January 7th and 21st coffee mornings, or by emailing [tushna@specialcarecentre.ae](mailto:tushna@specialcarecentre.ae)

## Become a "Friend of AWN"

We are starting a new initiative called **'Friends of AWN'**. The idea came to us as we were thinking about all the amazing talent within our membership. We have come to understand how many of you would like to give some time to help AWN develop and grow in its aim of fostering cross-cultural friendship and activities. So we hope to arrange some meetings, two or three times a year for those of you who would like to volunteer just a little of your time and feel you have something to offer. No long term commitment is needed! Our wonderful 'Sadeeqas' (friends) already do this by helping out on the Newcomer Tables from time to time..... There are so many skills our organization could use: people skills, computer skills, organizational skills, commercial skills, creative skills.....Inevitably our leadership team changes over time as people move on, and we are keen to foster new talent!

It just needs you to feel it would be fun and fulfilling to volunteer a little of your time to help AWN continue to grow. We would love you to become an "AWN Friend".

Our first lunchtime meeting will be in early February at the home of our Guide Book Coordinator.

Sign-up sheets are available at coffee mornings on the activities tables. You can also register your interest by dropping us a line at [guidebooks@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:guidebooks@awnabudhabi.com)

So, please, come and join us.

## Newcomers' Coffee

On December 9, a delightful group of 21 newly signed-up AWN members plus several members of the Board gathered for another Newcomers' Coffee at the home of our Newcomer Coordinator, Monica Warner. The group was comprised of women from all over the world, many of whom had previously been expats in several countries. Our number included fascinating women from Scotland, France, England,



South America and India. Many stories were exchanged and wonderful new friendships forged. So the answer is definitely a 'yes'; despite being called The American Women's Network, we welcome women from every corner of the globe. If you have come to live in this amazing city and are keen to make new friends and share interesting and fun activities, we are here for you!



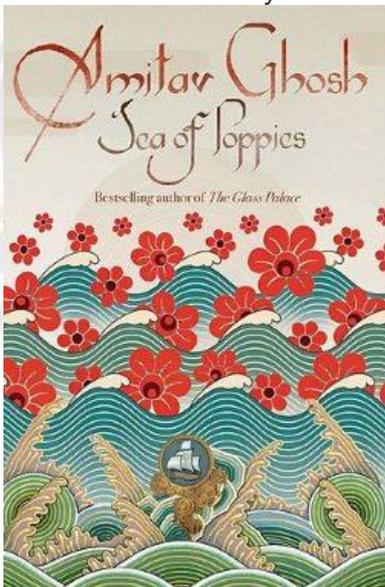
Everyone who joins AWN through our website will automatically be invited to a Newcomers' Coffee. We look forward to greeting you at our next event in February 2016.

For more information, contact [newcomers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:newcomers@awnabudhabi.com)

## Book Club

The book selection for January 25 is **"Sea of Poppies" by Amitav Ghosh**

At the heart of this vibrant saga is a vast ship, the *Ibis*. Her destiny is a tumultuous voyage across the Indian Ocean shortly before the outbreak of the Opium Wars in China. In a time of colonial upheaval, fate has thrown together a diverse cast of Indians and Westerners on board, from a bankrupt raja to a widowed tribeswoman, from a mulatto American freedman to a free-spirited French orphan. As their old family ties are washed away, they, like their historical counterparts, come to view themselves as "jahaj-bhais", or ship-brothers. The vast sweep of this historical adventure spans the lush poppy fields of the Ganges, the rolling high seas, and the exotic backstreets of Canton. With a panorama of characters whose diaspora encapsulates the vexed colonial history of the East itself, *Sea of Poppies* is "a storm-tossed adventure worthy of Sir Walter Scott."



Please join us for an enjoyable time with lots of good conversation. Bring your opinion! Afternoon group meets from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, and Evening group meets from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Please RSVP at [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.**

## Golf

Thanks to all our Lady Golfers for participating in our Christmas tournament ...Great fun was had by all and a big Thank You to Abu Dhabi City Golf Club for hosting AWN.

Ladies Golf fans get ready for the new season! Upcoming golf lessons will start in February at Abu Dhabi City Golf Club. Please sign up at the next coffee morning in January or email: [www.golf@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:www.golf@awnabudhabi.com)



Wednesday clinics resume at Abu Dhabi Golf course in mid-January 2016. The clinics begin at 9 am with a one hour lesson followed by 9 holes of golf. A cart, water, and cold towels are included, with coffee or tea provided after play. Cost is 210 AED (Abu Dhabi Golf Club and Saadiyat Golf Club members pay 110 AED). These sessions are limited to 14 players with a minimum of 4 required by the club. Sign up is determined by whoever responds first to weekly emails. If you are interested in booking any of these events, please email us at [golf@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:golf@awnabudhabi.com) or sign up at the AWN Coffee Mornings.

## Bridge

Sunday afternoon Bridge will begin again on January 10, 2016. It is held at the Millennium Corniche Hotel on Khalifa Street. The cost is 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](mailto: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 on January 12, 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](mailto: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 January 6 and 20. 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](mailto:mahjong@awnabudhabi.com)



## Spreading Kindness and Compassion through Volunteering Sharon Irwin, AWN Good Samaritan!!

Sharon Irwin, AWN Explorers' Co-Chair, has supported a children's home in Kathmandu since 2008. The children's home, called 'Ramro Sathi' which means Best Friend in Nepali, houses 16 children living with two house mothers, the founder, Rajendra, and his family. It is operated by a charity called OCEAN Nepal which aims to provide a "Safe, clean living, health care, good food, and education" to the children as stated on its website.



Sharon says, "I have been lucky enough to go four times. The first 2 times, travelling from Calgary, I stayed for about 3 weeks each visit. Going from here (Abu Dhabi) I have stayed about a week each visit." She appreciates the 4 hour trip from Abu Dhabi versus the 42 hour journey from Canada, and hopes to go again in March 2016.

"Drew and I sponsor 2 lovely children. And 2 of our own children and our son-in-law sponsor another child. So I am 'mom' to 2 kids and 'grandma' to another!!" They are happy to be involved in

a grass- root charity that is locally created, inspired and operated."

Despite her selfless gifts to the children she sponsors, Sharon says, "People think I go to 'volunteer' but I don't !! I go to play !!, and to help out a little if I can." In closing, she remarks, "Thanks for being interested. I don't think of myself as a good example of anything. I really just feel lucky to be connected to such lovely people in such a beautiful country."

The information in the 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.

## **AWN Seafarers Group!! On Board the New Abu Dhabi Tourist Ferry December 7, 2015**



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