



The Network News

A Quick Look Ahead...

Sundays
Resume in
September

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

**Wednesdays/
Sundays**
Resume in
September

Golf Clinics/ lessons
Abu Dhabi National
Golf Course/ Abu Dhabi
City Golf Club

Wednesdays
Resume on
July 13

Mahjong
9:30 am to 12:30
Kamoon Restaurant
Khalidiya Palace

Thursday
June 2, 16, 30
July 21
August 4, 18

Coffee Morning
10 am to noon
Khalidiya Palace

Monday
June 27
July 25
August 22

Book Club
1:00- 3:00 pm &
7:00- 9:00 pm
Various locations

Please note there will not be a newsletter or a Mid-Month Update in July and August. Have a great summer and see you again in September!

Welcome June! While many will be traveling over the summer, remember that AWN will continue with coffee mornings. Check in with us when you return and reconnect with your Abu Dhabi friends!

In the April and May newsletters we thanked many of our leadership who are moving on to new adventures. This month we extend our heartfelt thanks to outgoing Membership Services Chair, Monica Warner. For over three years Monica has faithfully greeted our new members with the welcoming support of AWN. We will miss her smile, warmth and kindness. Thank you Monica for your dedicated, longstanding service on the board of AWN.

Please join us in bidding a fond farewell to all these wonderful ladies at our June 2nd coffee morning.

With Ramadan fast approaching, read on for useful tips regarding the upcoming celebrations.

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 6 and July 5. It ends with a three-day celebration and holiday called Eid Al Fitr.

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.

(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

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.

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 June 2 Our speaker will be Jody Ballard, founder of the Women's Heritage Walk. Jody and the official Walk photographer, Marie, will give us a sneak preview of their photo exhibit that runs from May 31 to June 14 at the Emirates Palace. We will have the opportunity to hear more about the 125 km walk from Al Ain to Abu Dhabi.

AWN continues to hold Thursday Coffee Mornings during the summer months. Please note these dates on your calendar: June 2, 16, 30, July 21, August 4 and 18. We will not meet on July 7 due to the Eid al Fitr holiday.

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

Newcomers' Coffee Morning

On May 11, another delightful coffee morning, especially for our newest AWN members, was held at the home of our Newcomer Coordinator. It was a lively morning filled with laughter and good conversation. Most importantly, the seeds of many new and precious friendships were sown. This, after all, is at the heart of what AWN tries to do - to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in which friendships can blossom and meaningful activities can be enjoyed.

If you are newly arrived in this exciting city and are keen to make friends we would love you to join us! Everyone who signs up as an AWN member through our website will automatically be invited to a Newcomer Coffee. We really look forward to greeting you at our next special event for new members in September.

Introducing Birgitt Adams, our new Membership Services Chair, in her own words...



My family has been living in Abu Dhabi since January 2015. Like many of us, we came for my husband's job. Gary and I are the proud parents of two teen age boys that attend the American Community School here in Abu Dhabi. Nick is a junior and Max is in eighth grade. I have always wanted an expat experience for my family, and we have been enjoying this adventure!

Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, I co-founded the web-based travel auction business, Luxury Link. Prior to that, I worked as a sales executive for Ritz-Carlton and Rosewood Hotels in Palm Springs, Washington, DC and Manhattan. Travel has been a big part of my life and we enjoy taking advantage of the travel opportunities we have here!

Volunteering has always been important to me especially when I stopped working. I have been active in my church leading Bible studies and teaching Sunday school, and have done various jobs at my children's schools and in my community such as fundraising, travel and event planning. This year I co-chaired ACS' annual gala.

Many women experience loneliness, depression or loss when leaving a career or moving across the globe. I believe service is the antidote! I was delighted to encounter AWN when we first arrived. Not only did it offer me the opportunity to meet many wonderful women, many who have become my closest friends, and opportunities to get to know Abu Dhabi, but also the ability to serve this community. I have enjoyed using my sales skills as Guidebook Coordinator and am honored to now serve as the new Membership Services Chair.

Mahjong



Mahjong has a new home!!! Starting Wednesday, July 13 the Mahjong group will meet at the Kamoon Restaurant in the Khalidiya Palace Hotel. We will start promptly at 9.30-12.30 a.m. A fee of 35 AED will cover coffee, tea, water and a light snack. Thank you Khalidiya Palace for offering us a beautiful new home!!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the people at Hilton Hotel for their warm hospitality and attentiveness they had offered us all these years. They truly went over and beyond their call of duty to provide us with courteous service and attention to detail every single time. Thank you to all who contributed to make sure our

meetings would be successful. We will miss seeing your friendly and smiling faces!!!

Please note that there will be no Mahjong for the month of June. Play will resume normally on Wednesday morning, July the 13th at the new location and time (Kamoon Restaurant at 9.30 am). We welcome players of all levels and if you want to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to

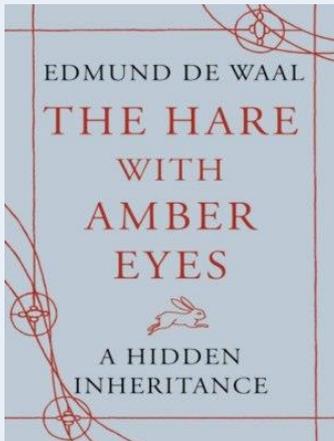
mahjong@awnabudhabi.com

See you all again in July!!

Ramadan Kareem!!!!

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.

Book Club



The book selection for June 27 is “The Hare with the Amber Eyes” by Edmund de Waal.

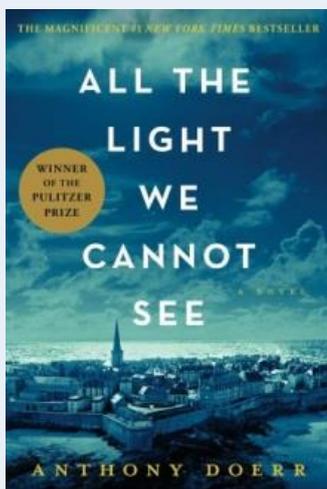
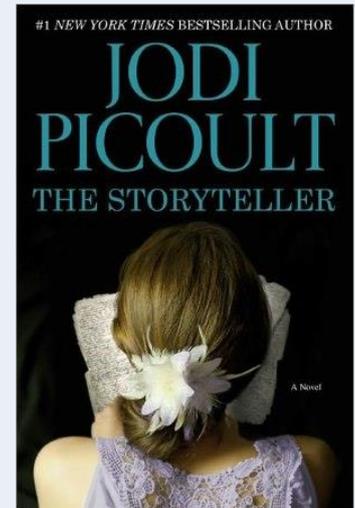
The Ephrussi were a grand banking family, as rich and respected as the Rothschilds, who “burned like a comet” in nineteenth-century Paris and Vienna society. Yet by the end of World War II, almost the only thing remaining of their vast empire was a collection of 264 wood and ivory carvings, none of them larger than a matchbox.

In *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, Edmund de Waal unfolds the story of a remarkable family and a tumultuous century. Sweeping yet intimate, it is a highly original meditation on art, history, and family, as elegant and precise as the netsuke themselves. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

The book selection for July 25 is “The Storyteller” by Jodi Picoult

Sage Singer is a baker. She works through the night, preparing the day's breads and pastries, trying to escape a reality of loneliness, bad memories, and the shadow of her mother's death. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage's grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship. Despite their differences, they see in each other the hidden scars that others can't.

Everything changes on the day that Josef confesses a long-buried and shameful secret and asks Sage for an extraordinary favor. If she says yes, she faces not only moral repercussions, but potentially legal ones as well. With the integrity of the closest friend she's ever had clouded, Sage begins to question the assumptions and expectations she's made about her life and her family. In this searingly honest novel, Jodi Picoult gracefully explores the lengths to which we will go in order to keep the past from dictating the future.



The book selection for August 22 is “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

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@abudhabi.com stating “afternoon” or “evening” in the subject line. LOCATION DIRECTIONS WILL ONLY BE SENT TO THOSE WHO RSVP.

Creative writing Group

You don't have to be a closet poet or the next Margaret Atwood to join - or even 'a writer'. This group is for everyone who enjoys writing in any form and wants to expand their skills. Come join the fall session after the summer break and discover your hidden talents. To sign up, please contact Hilary Pooler at writing@awnabudhabi.com



Bridge

Beginners' bridge classes started April 26 and will end June 7. The next series will begin in September. Please email bridge@awnabudhabi.com to add your name to the list if you'd like to learn to play.

Play bridge at the Millennium Hotel continued until May 29, which was the last session there. We expect to resume playing there in September. During the summer we'll play in people's homes so please email bridge@awnabudhabi.com to find out where we're playing and when.

Golf



Golf classes and golf clinics continued through end of May. Both will resume in September. To sign up for the fall session, please email golf@awnabudhabi.com

We bid farewell to Heidi Garrity, our Golf Coordinator and Activities Chair, and wish her the best on her new endeavors, and we welcome Patty Hubbard as our new Golf Coordinator. Welcome aboard!!

Explorers

There were 2 events organized in April, both with great participation. One was to the Emirates Palace Art Exhibition. (See pictures on page 8). The other Explorers' event was to NYU Modern Art Exhibition. Both events were free of charge and included a guided tour of the exhibitions.

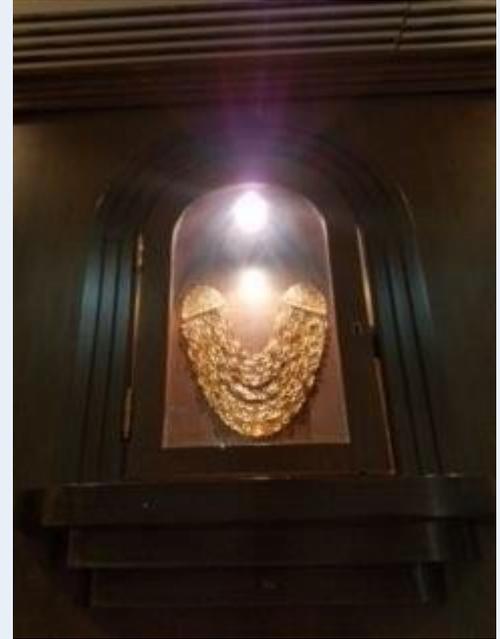
More events took place in May. On May 23, twenty-two enthusiastic AWN ladies were treated to a tour of the Women's Handicraft Center run by the Abu Dhabi Women's Association. The center showcases many of the Emirati's traditional handicrafts including embroidery and weaving. During the visit, we were treated, firsthand, to how women cultivated their crafts, in a bygone era. Upon arrival, one is taken away by the sheer size of the complex. However, once you pass through the security gate, you are transported to an entirely different world. We were escorted via a short walk, to a courtyard with beautiful ironwork fencing, and mature trees brim with hanging crafts. Arranged in a crescent, were a collection of doors, in front of which were all sizes of slippers and sandals; behind of which were many small and intimate workshops, where these women create their crafts. As we added to the collection of slippers, with our own, and peered into door after door, we discovered women making beautiful ribbons; thin ones, thick ones, sparkly ones, colorful ones. We witnessed them make fantastic rugs on a rustic loom. They wove straw mats, and straw food covers. They sewed lace applique onto little girls' dresses, and decoupage flowers on ceramic tea sets.

Their handicrafts are sold in the visitors' center that also showcases exhibits of traditional Emirati life including traditional dress, perfumes, herbal remedies, henna, elaborate jewelry for special occasions and ceremonies as well as a dhow boat and tools used by former pearl divers. In the middle of the visitors' center is a huge diorama of Abu Dhabi from the pre-oil era. The Abu Dhabi Women's Association offers a venue to give women a place to demonstrate and sell their handicrafts as well as keeping Emirati traditions.

Exporters' team: Rubina Haider and Holly Buckley

Explorers' visit to the Women's Handicraft Center on May 23

A special Thank You goes out to Fatima & Azif, our tour guides.



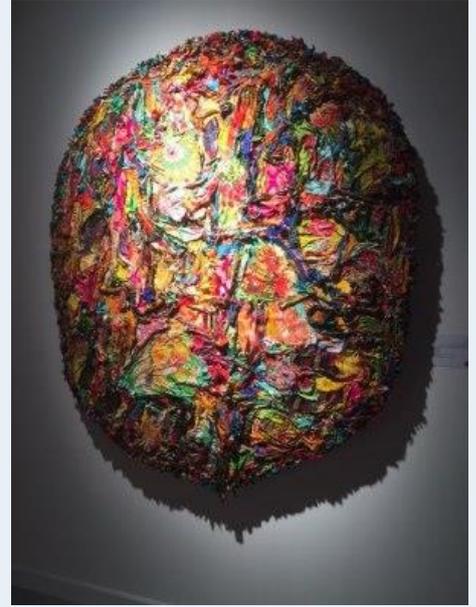
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AWN Spring Social Event / Special Care Centre Gala on May 13, 2016

Follow The Yellow Brick Road, this year's AWN Spring Social Event and Special Care Centre Gala was a great night that was enjoyed by 150 guests who contributed very generously through sponsorship, buying tables, bidding in the live and silent auctions and also by buying raffle tickets. AWN was well represented as over 40 members attended. The event brings us another step closer to reaching the goal of getting students with special needs into their new school location. Again, we want to thank AWN members for their support of our highlighted charity and especially Viola, Kristi, Bonnie and Meredith for their fine work on the AWN Auction Committee.



Explorers' guided tour of "Portrait of a Nation" at the Emirates Palace Hotel on April 28...



Explorers' visit to Diana Al-Hadid "Phantom Limb" Exhibit on May 10

The Explorers Group toured the Diana Al-Hadid "Phantom Limb" exhibit at the Gallery at New York University (NYU) on May 10. We were expertly guided through the work by Maya Allison, the Chief Curator and Gallery Director. Her commentary gave us context and background to the amazing art we were experiencing. We had a great turn-out of 23 ladies. NYU generously provided refreshments after the tour. It was fun to listen to all the conversations that Al-Hadid's work inspired. Later we enjoyed lunch on campus at The Marketplace Restaurant. Thank you to everyone who participated!



The Explorers' Team



