



The Network News

Happy New Year

A Quick Look Ahead...

Thursday January 19	Coffee Morning 10 am to noon Khalidiya Palace
Sundays January 15, 22, 29	Social Bridge 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Various Locations
Wednesdays	Golf clinic & Lessons 9:00 and 10:45 am Abu Dhabi Golf Club Sas Al Nakhl
Monday January 16,23,30	Art Club 9:30 am- 12:00pm Sio Fanr cafe Manarat El Saadiyat
Wednesday January 11,18, 25	Mahjong 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Al Kamoon Restaurant Khalidiya Palace Hotel
Monday January 23	Book Club 1:00- 3:00 pm 7:00- 9:00 pm Various Locations
Thursday February 16	Trivia Night 7:30- 10:30 pm British Club

A message from Susan...

Happy New Year! Besides decorating the house and numerous trips to the grocery store, I love going through old family recipes and reliving many fond memories. My mother's favorite recipes are on well-worn hand-written index cards. I'm excited about our terrific opportunity to contribute recipes to our newest philanthropic endeavor, the AWN Cookbook at Bakeshare.com. You may have a few recipes you'd like to share too. Along with your recipe put down a family story or share a picture. Please look on page 4 for details.

Our next coffee morning is January 19th and our speaker will be the delightful Mary Corrado. She has been actively involved in the Abu Dhabi community for the past 39 years. In January 2014, Mary received the Woman in Business Award from AmCham Abu Dhabi for her exemplary leadership and accomplishments. You won't want to miss her slideshow and interesting personal stories! Please look on page 2 for more details.

We also want to say a big "Thank You" to Mona Sedky who recently moved back to the U.S. Mona diligently edited our Network News over the past two years. We are going to miss her experience and positive attitude! We are very pleased to announce that Kim Cottin has agreed to join the leadership team as our new editor! Thank you, Kim!

Whether you are dashing around town trying to finish up family visits or wondering if you can fit everything in your suitcase to come home, I wish you a Happy 2017!! We look forward to seeing YOU at our next AWN event!

Susan Foster
AWN Co-President

Coffee Morning

Thursday, January 19. Kick off 2017 at the first AWN Coffee Morning of the year, with our featured speaker, Mary Corrado. Arriving in Abu Dhabi in the early 1980s, Mary Corrado was one of the first non-US Embassy Americans in the region. Join us as Mary shares her tales of a time and place very different from the Abu Dhabi we know today in her presentation, "Reflections of 33 years as an American Expat in Abu Dhabi."

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

Shukran!

An enthusiastic Thank You to our fabulous December Coffee Morning speaker, Arabella Willing, Head of Conservation at the Park Hyatt, Abu Dhabi.

Below are Arabella's suggested links to local initiatives and volunteer opportunities that support ecological endeavors, especially the turtle and dolphin population. So get out your binoculars and start counting those dolphins!

To join Arabella's "alert list" or sunrise beach patrols in the summer please email: Arabella.Willing@hyatt.com Check out the Emirates Natural History Group website <http://abudhabi.enhg.org/>. There are talks twice a month which are open to the public and field trips for members (it's only AED100 for the year).

The Emirates Wildlife Society website, <http://howyoucanhelp.uae.panda.org/> can provide you with volunteering opportunities.

If you see a dolphin, please report your sightings to <http://www.uaedolphinproject.org/> Spot a shark or a ray, please report your sightings to

<http://www.gulfelasmoproject.com/your-eyes.html>

To learn more about the mangroves and if you're lucky see dolphins, join the Eco Boat Tours <http://captaintonys.ae/dolphin-bay-eco-boat-tour/>



Valentine Trivia Night

Join us for **Valentine Trivia Night!**

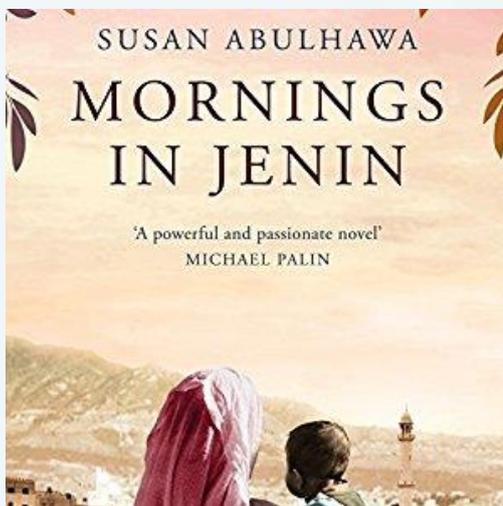
The event will be held at The British Club on February 16, 2017 from 7:30 -10:30pm. Tickets are 300 AED per couple and can be purchased at AWN Coffee Mornings in January and February. We will have a great DJ, some wonderful canapes, and an open bar. Each trivia team will consist of three couples, so it's a perfect opportunity to meet new people or enjoy an evening with old friends!



Art Club

We are thrilled to let our members know that the much anticipated Art Club is ready to kick off on Monday, January 16!!! The Art Club will be open to beginners as well as those with some or extensive experience. The meetings will include exchange of knowledge and ideas, along with guidelines for the beginners. The Art Club will meet every Monday, starting January 16, from 9.30-12, at the beautiful Sio Fanr cafe in the Manarat, Saadiyat Island. Space is limited so please contact Julia as soon as possible at juliakimflowers@yahoo.com in order to reserve your place and receive instructions regarding the meeting. Those of you who had already signed up, please send a confirmation email. There are no participation fees but purchasing a beverage, snack or staying for lunch would be much appreciated. So pack your brushes and talent and let your creativity soar!

Book Club



The book selection for January 23 is **Mornings in Jenin** by Susan Abulhawa

Forcibly removed from the ancient village of Ein Hod by the newly formed state of Israel in 1948, the Abulhejas are moved into the Jenin refugee camp. This is the Palestinian story, told as never before, through four generations of a single family. (Bloomsbury)

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

Bridge

The Bridge Club resumes its activities on January 15, then meets every Sunday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at various locations. We welcome players of all levels. Bridge lessons are offered periodically and if you are interested in learning to play, please contact the bridge coordinator either by email or at a coffee morning. For more info, please email bridge@awnabudhabi.com

I LOVE BRIDGE



Golf

Join the AWN lady golfers every Wednesday morning at Abu Dhabi Golf Club, Sas El Nakhl. Intermediate lessons begin at 9:00am for one hour followed by a round of play on the 9-hole Garden Course (cost 210 AED). Beginner lessons are held at 10:45 am for one hour (cost 110 AED). You can sign up at the regular AWN Coffee Mornings or by email at golf@awnabudhabi.com.



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.

Mahjong

The Mahjong group resumes its activities on January 11 and plays every Wednesday morning from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. We meet at Al Kamoon restaurant, Khalidiya Palace Hotel. All levels are welcome including those who have never played and would like to learn. 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



Philanthropy

Our fabulous new AWN cookbook app is our newest fundraiser coming next year. So, while you have your favorite recipes out for your Holiday entertaining, think of us and please share. From drinks to desserts and everything in between, all are wanted. Log into bakespace.com with username AWNADcookbook; password ADcooks. In the left menu, you will find "ADD A Recipe", an easy online form to fill in. Uploading a pic and writing little backstory makes your recipe even more special. We are collecting delicious treasures until February 6, 2017. For more info, please email cookbook@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

Friends of AWN

The next Friends of AWN luncheon will be held on February 9th. This event is an opportunity to learn more about the organization and how you might become more involved. Signups for the luncheon are at our regular coffee mornings, or you may email us at philantropy@awnabudhabi.com

Explorers

Explorers Club triumphs once again!

On Tuesday December 13, a large group of ladies gathered in the foyer of the Park Hyatt, Saadiyat Island in anticipation of an on-site follow up talk of Thursday 9 with the inspiring Arabella Willing, Head of Conservation, Community Engagement and Activities.

We continued to the beach via one of the many boardwalks the Park Hyatt has constructed in order to protect the turtles nesting sites, there we sat in the glorious sunshine with the waves breaking in the background listening to the many interesting facts about turtles and beach wildlife. Many of the ladies asked interesting questions, which Arabella responded to from her vast font of knowledge. We then wandered along the shore collecting shells and cross referencing our finds with the helpful laminated information card provided by Arabella with the names and pictures of shells, seaweeds and grasses, plus the Latin names with which we could later impress our families and friends!



On a personal note, I was feeling quite lacking in my contribution to nature conservation and red-faced as a human being who contributes to the struggle turtles and other creatures have to survive in a human dominated world.

On the bright side, though, Arabella eased my guilt by offering various opportunities for volunteering such as to keep watch for hatching turtles during the summer months. While this job requires a 5am start, I'm sure I could convince my husband that I would need to overnight in the Park Hyatt to make the wake up call, all in the interest of conservation!!



Also, another volunteering job would be to transport sick Turtles to the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, which Arabella informed us is one of the best in the World. So, I came away feeling heartened that I could help in some small way, at least, to the wonderful work that Arabella and her team does to preserve what

are fascinating self-armoured, marathon swimming, multiple egg laying, surviving against the odds wonders of the natural world.

We then enjoyed a very tasty buffet lunch presented to us by the resident Chef who received a round of applause when he informed us his primary concern was to make us Happy!

Many thanks to Rubina and the Explorers Club for organizing an enriching day out.

By Deirdre Dudeney