



**AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES**

**Thursday  
April 20**      **AWN Coffee & Speaker Series**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Khalidiya Palace

**APRIL EVENTS**

**Sunday  
April 16**      **AWN Ladies Easter Brunch**  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Khalidiya Palace Hotel

**Friday  
April 21**      **Social Event Outing**  
Sailing

**Tuesday  
April 25**      **Explorers**  
Emirates Palace Tour  
10:30 a.m.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**Sundays**      **Social Bridge**  
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Various Locations

**Mondays**      **Art Club**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Fanr Cafe, Saadiyat

**Mondays  
April 3, 17**      **Knitting Group**  
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Bee's Knees Cafe,  
Nation Towers

**Wednesdays**      **Golf Clinic & Lessons**  
9 & 10:45 a.m.  
Abu Dhabi Golf Club  
Sas Al Nakhl

**Wednesdays**      **Mah Jong**  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Al Kamoon Restaurant  
Khalidiya Palace Hotel

**Monday  
April 17**      **Book Club**  
1 - 3 p.m. // 7 - 9 p.m.  
Various Locations

**Various Days**      **Tennis**  
Khalidiya Palace  
Tennis Courts

**COMING SOON...**

**Tuesday  
May 2**      **Explorers**  
Nurai Island

**Friday  
May 5**      **Social Event**  
Grape Tasting | 7 - 9 p.m.  
Manhattan Lounge

**A LETTER FROM CAROLYN**

**MARY CORRADO: AWN DISTINGUISHED HONORARY BOARD CHAIR**

AWN is delighted to announce the addition to our Board of **Mary Corrado**. Mary will serve as the Honorary Chair and assume the duties of advising and guiding the AWN Board.

Mary has lived in Abu Dhabi for over 40 years and has become woven into the fabric of the community. She was one of the first American non-embassy expat women to arrive in Abu Dhabi and has lived an extraordinary life.

Mary recently spoke during one of our AWN Coffee and Speaker Series and shared many personal photos and stories about life in Abu Dhabi. She encouraged expats to explore and embrace local customs.

When asked for her advice at a recent Newcomers Coffee, Mary's reply: "Patience - just wait and things will work out." Local customs and familiarizing yourself to new systems in a foreign culture can be challenging but patience and a bit of waiting is the best approach for success.

I encourage you to read Mary's complete bio, which is included on the next page.

I look forward to seeing you at our next coffee morning on Thursday, April 20 where our guest Dr. Zeinab S. Farah, founder of Bayt Al Qindeel, uncovers and examines the richness of our culturally diverse Abu Dhabi.

**Kind Regards,  
Carolyn Neubauer, AWN Co-President**

**AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES:  
DIFFERENT NAME, SAME GREAT MORNINGS!**

The title **AWN Coffee & Speaker Series** will replace the old title of Coffee Mornings as the AWN main meeting which is usually held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. According to Marta Rodriguez, the Chair of AWN Coffee and Speaker Series, our new name better reflects our commitment to educational, cultural and engaging meetings. Remember, our meetings are always free; please drop by!

**APRIL SOCIAL EVENT - SAILING!**

**Last chance to buy your tickets!**

**April 21, 2017, 4 - 8 p.m. | 550 AED per person inclusive**

Meet at the Pindar Sailing dock adjacent to the Pool Bar, Jumeriah Etihad hotel. [www.pindarsailingad.com](http://www.pindarsailingad.com) For more information visit page 3 or email [socialevents@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:socialevents@awnabudhabi.com).

**SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP**

**Mary Corrado** is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a background in nursing and education. She first came to Abu Dhabi in 1977 and moved here 40 years ago. She raised her three children here and became part of the fabric of the community.

In 1996, Mary became the founding Country Director of AMIDEAST UAE. AMIDEAST is an American education and training organization that facilitates and assists students in all aspects of studying in the USA.

As the AMIDEAST UAE Founding Country Director, Mary Corrado, was honored with the **2014 Woman in Business Award** by the American Chamber of Commerce Abu Dhabi. "This award recognizes working women who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and accomplishment by pushing barriers, overcoming challenges and setting an example of perseverance and professionalism."

Since retiring from AMIDEAST, Mary has continued to be actively involved in the Abu Dhabi business community. Mary is the Head of the Advisory Committee for Make-A-Wish Foundation UAE; she serves as an Advisor to the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation, and is a Governor at a local Abu Dhabi school.

I had the privilege over lunch and at other events to get to know Mary a little. She has lived an extraordinary life. I am so pleased that an American woman with the intelligence, grace and poise of Mary was one of the first non-US Embassy Americans in the region. Please join me in welcoming Mary Corrado to AWN.

**AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES**

**Thursday, April 20** – Join us for an enlightening morning as **Dr. Zeinab S. Farah**, founder of **Bayt Al Qindeel**, uncovers and examines the richness of our culturally diverse Abu Dhabi.

Bayt Al Qindeel, Arabic for House of the Lantern (Light) draws inspiration from the 9th century House of Wisdom in Baghdad. Bayt Al Qindeel serves as a cultural melting pot and beacon of light in Abu Dhabi; bringing people together through understanding and respect for cultures through workshops, art and other cultural activities.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our schedule of speakers is subject to change. For more info, contact [morningcoffees@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:morningcoffees@awnabudhabi.com).

**SHUKRAN!**

We want to say "Thank You" to **Tish Dahlby** and **Lilian Kamal** for organizing a terrific UAE trivia game at our March 16th coffee morning! After dividing ourselves into neighborhood groups, Tish presented a brilliantly creative power point quiz. Everyone had a super time with the scholarly competition; the winning team members even won some chocolates! Thank you, Tish and Lilian!

Here's a link to the Trivia Questions: <http://awnabudhabi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/THEawn-quiz-on-AbuDhabi3.14.pptx>

## NEWCOMERS COFFEE

Newcomers to Abu Dhabi connect with AWN during special coffees in February and March.



## AWN LADIES EASTER BRUNCH

*FOOD, FUN, AND PRIZES. A GREAT COMBINATION!*

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 16 | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Khalidiya Palace Indoor/Outdoor shaded garden area.

**COST:** 100 AED per person which covers Quiches, Salads, Carrot Cake, and More! Plus, a few surprises! Tickets on Sale at Coffee Mornings or write to: [socialevents@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:socialevents@awnabudhabi.com)



## APRIL SOCIAL EVENT: SAILING



*Wind in your hair, sun on your face, and the thrill of victory... It can all be yours! AWN members and spouses will crew racing yachts with the professionals of Pindar Sailing. Afterwards, we will be rewarded with a sunset BBQ on the Jumeirah Etihad private beach.*

Buy your tickets at the coffee morning and be one of the lucky 30 people to participate!

**April 21, 2017, 4 - 8 p.m. | 550 AED per person inclusive**

Meet at the Pindar Sailing dock adjacent to the Pool Bar, Jumeriah Etihad hotel. [www.pinarsailingad.com](http://www.pinarsailingad.com)

Email [socialevents@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:socialevents@awnabudhabi.com) for more information.

## MAY SOCIAL EVENT: AN EVENING OF OLD AND NEW WORLD GRAPE TASTING

Join us along with your husband or friend, for a relaxing evening with a welcome glass of Moët and Chandon followed by six grape varieties from France, South Africa, Italy, California, the Rhone Valley, and Australia. Tasting notes will be provided to guide you through each. There will be an opportunity to buy at a discounted rate at the end of the evening with delivery to your local store.

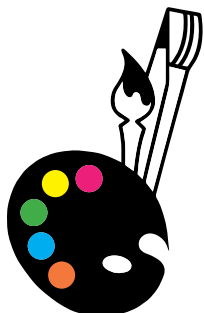
We will also have delicious hot and cold canapes and a prize draw!

**Friday, May 5 | 7 - 9 p.m. | Manhattan Lounge at the St. Regis, Saadiyat Island | 200 AED per person**

Email [socialevents@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:socialevents@awnabudhabi.com) for more information.



## ART CLUB



The Art Club is open to beginners, as well as those with some or extensive experience. The meetings include an exchange of knowledge and ideas, along with guidelines for the beginners.

The Art Club meets every Monday, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., at the beautiful Fanr cafe in the Manarat, Saadiyat Island. Space is limited so please contact Julia ([artclub@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:artclub@awnabudhabi.com))

as soon as possible in order to reserve your place and receive instructions regarding the meeting. Those of you who have 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!

## BRIDGE

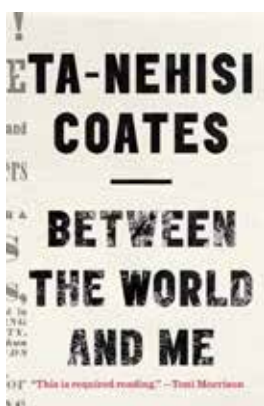
The Bridge Club meets every Sunday from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. in Khalidiya. We welcome players of all levels.

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 information, please email [bridge@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bridge@awnabudhabi.com).



## BOOK CLUB



The book selection for **April 17** is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men – bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. (Spiegel & Grau)

We meet on the 4th Monday of the month in various locations, coffee shop/host's flat. We have two meeting times. Afternoon group meets 1 - 3 p.m., and Evening group meets 7 - 9 p.m. You can sign up at the AWN Coffee Morning or by email at [bookclub@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bookclub@awnabudhabi.com).

## KNITTING GROUP

AWN knits for a cause! Join our newest group, build up your knitting skills and socialize at the same time!!! All items will be donated. The Knitting Group meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Bee's Knees Cafe, Nation Towers.

If you plan to attend please send an email to: [knit@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:knit@awnabudhabi.com).



## MAH JONG



### **Attention! Please note that there will be no Mahjong on April 12!**

The Mah Jong group plays every Wednesday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 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 mah jong mailing list, please send an email to [mahjong@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:mahjong@awnabudhabi.com).

## GOLF

Join the AWN lady golfers every Wednesday morning at Abu Dhabi Golf Club, Sas El Nakhl.

Intermediate lessons begin at 9 a.m. 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 a.m. for one hour (cost 110 AED).

You can sign up at the regular AWN Coffee Mornings or by email at [golf@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:golf@awnabudhabi.com).



## TENNIS

AWN is pleased to announce one of our newest activities, tennis. Whether you are a novice or an old pro, AWN tennis is a great way to get outside, enjoy some exercise, meet new people and most importantly, have fun!

Classes are one-hour long and taught by tennis pro, Florin Oprea at the Khalidiya Palace courts.

Lessons are set in smaller group settings allowing players to grasp new skills, correct bad habits, and strengthen their game while receiving individualized coaching from the instructor.

For beginners, lessons are geared towards learning the rules of the game, how to keep score and the proper way to hold the racquet. Additionally, players will learn



forehand and backhand swings, volleys, overhead shots and how to serve. The Beginner's Class is also a great way to get "back in the swing" if you haven't played tennis in a few years and are looking for a refresher course.

For intermediate/advanced players, the Tuesday morning drills will be set at a faster pace, enabling established players an opportunity

to refine their game with the guidance of the tennis pro.

Beginners can sign up for either Sundays at 8:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 9 a.m. For the more experienced player, Intermediate/Advanced Drills will be held on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m., starting April 4th.

All players must sign up at [tennis@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:tennis@awnabudhabi.com) to participate. The next session begins on April 2nd and runs throughout the month. The cost per session is 320AED (4 lessons). Sessions do fill up early, so sign up soon if you are interested in reserving your spot on the court. AWN tennis lessons will continue through mid-May, with instruction resuming the first week of October.



Beginner's Tennis Lessons are held Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Attention Intermediate/Advanced players - Join us for drills on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m., beginning April 4th. All lessons are one-hour, held at Khalidiya Palace Tennis Courts and taught by Tennis Pro, Florin Oprea.

For more information or to sign up, email [tennis@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:tennis@awnabudhabi.com).

## EXPLORERS

### Upcoming Trips

- **Tuesday, April 25: A Royal Tour: Emirates Palace Life Demystified**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. // Cost: 200 AED**

Emirates Palace cordially requests your attendance for an exclusive VIP tour of the Palace followed by an *al fresco* buffet lunch. This private tour will journey to parts of the Palace usually reserved for royalty and the world's wealthiest guests. Don't miss this chance to get a window into a world of wealth and privilege and to explore the inner machinations of Emirates Palace – a small city within the city of Abu Dhabi. The tour will be followed by a delightful lunch tailored exclusively for our guests from the American Women's Network on our outdoor terrace.

- Location: Emirates Palace
- Meet in the Dome Area at 10.30 a.m.
- Tour will take place at 11 a.m.
- Lunch will be served at 12 p.m.

To reserve your place please sign up at the Explorer's table or email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com).

- **Tuesday, May 2: Nurai Island**

**Time: 10:15 a.m. // Cost: 250 AED**

Inspired by the Arabic word 'nur' meaning 'light' – Nurai Island is a stunning piece of paradise surrounded by the pristine waters of the Arabian Gulf. Our day will start with a leisurely 10-minute boat ride from Saadiyat Island. Upon arrival, we will be given a brief history followed by our very own buggy tour! Next, we will sit down and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch and to end the day, we will have access to the pool until 4 p.m.

Sign up at the Explorers table or email to [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com).

*Experience all of this for only 250AED!*

**Boat Ride to NURAI ISLAND**

**A brief history of the island**

**A buggy tour**

**Buffet lunch**

**Pool access until 4 p.m.**

- **Tuesday, May 16: The Green Planet and Souk Madinat, Dubai**

**Time: Depart Mushrif Mall 8:45 a.m., return 5 p.m. // Cost: 200 AED**

The Green Planet is the region's first bio-dome that recreates the enchanting world of a tropical forest with its rich biodiversity of over 3,000 plants and animals. The enclosed ecosystem, located at CITY WALK, will offer visitors an immersive expedition into the tropics, inviting them to delve deeper into the secrets of nature and experience first-hand the magnificence of one of the world's oldest living ecosystems. The Green Planet includes the largest indoor man-made and life-sustaining tree in the world.

*Cost includes bus and entrance fee to The Green Planet (free time to shop and have lunch). Lunch is not included.*

Please sign up at the next AWN coffee on April 20 or email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com).



## EXPLORERS

The Explorers' outing on **Tuesday, February 28** delivered some wonderful surprises at **Dubai's Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood**. We started the morning with a quick perusal of art calligraphy, followed by a visit to the renowned **Majlis Gallery**, one of the first galleries in the UAE. We were



treated to an impromptu talk by Alison Collins, greatly instrumental in preserving the **Bastakiya Housing** area. We ambled through the narrow pathways of **Bastakiya** to visit Mawaheb from Beautiful People, a gallery featuring the work of special needs artists. We made a quick stop at the **XVA Gallery**, where we also enjoyed a talk, while savoring the best mint lemonade this side of the Empty Quarter.

As we backtracked the narrow pathways, we stopped at multiple shops, galleries and spice depots to reach the **Sheikh Mohammed Center for Cultural Understanding**, the highlight of the day. While we enjoyed a delicious Emirati meal, and learned about the Emirati culture, we were encouraged to ask



questions about all things Emirati. We finished the day off with a stop at the **Dubai Museum**, sorted with an array of photos of Dubai, from its humble pearling village roots to the childhood of Sheik Mohammed to current high riser skyscape. We suspect this outing will be repeated over and over. A big thanks to Holly and Rubina for all they did to make this day a perfect event.

– Marty Holm



If you've recently moved to Abu Dhabi you'll quickly become familiar with images of falcons – they're the national bird of the UAE and a symbol of force and courage. On **Tuesday, March 7**, AWN Explorers Club visited the **Falcon Hospital in Abu Dhabi** to see first-hand the work of this unique veterinary centre. Established in October 1999, it is the largest Falcon Hospital in the world.

Greeted by Denis, our entertaining and knowledgeable guide, he shared the fascinating history of falconry in the Arabian Peninsula and explained the differences in speed, strength and characteristics of the three most commonly used species in the region.

We learned that this award-winning institution has grown rapidly since its inception and they're incredibly busy, receiving some 11,000 plus

falcons a year. They have a Pet Care Centre complete with dog and cat "hotel," a small animal hospital and a dog agility park – the canine equivalent to a work out! They have an animal shelter and a humane neutering programme that helps to manage the number of stray cats in our communities. The centre has developed an exclusive passport system for falcons which helps to combat illegal practices; they also have a Falcon Release Programme through which birds are released back into the wild.

Educated and highly impressed, we moved to a room where we were greeted by the surprising sight of over 20 falcons; each hooded, perched and awaiting treatment. Anyone who has taken a beloved pet to the vets will be familiar with the noise and occasional chaos of the waiting room. In

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## EXPLORERS

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contrast, this room was a sea of calm – the birds apparently at ease and unperturbed. Here we were privileged to see a falcon sedated and watched at incredibly close quarters the grooming of its talons and beak. Some of our group were even allowed to gently touch the falcon and feel its beating heart.

I was thrilled to be in such close proximity to falcons during our visit and as we stood in one of the 'moulting facilities' it was quite something to feel the strength of the downdraft from a free flying falcon circling overhead.

Finally, before an abundant and delicious lunch, those who wished to were given the opportunity to



don a glove and hold one of these striking creatures.

A huge thank you to Denis and colleagues for their warm

hospitality and sharing their inspiring work.

*- Angela Walmsley*



On **Tuesday, March 14**, AWN ladies visited the **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque (SZGM)** in Abu Dhabi. We were taken on an-hour long private tour by Noor, our lovely and knowledgeable guide. The Grand Mosque was completed in 2007, three years after Sheikh Zayed's death, and it serves as his final resting place. Its external lighting, designed by an Edinburgh company, reflects the phases of the moon. SZGM also holds several world records; to name just a few, it is the world's third largest mosque, and has the largest mosque dome, third largest chandelier, largest carpet and largest courtyard marble mosaic in the world, among many other outstanding architectural features. We also learned from Noor that white Macedonian marble was chosen for the external walls and the courtyard not only for its unmatched purity but also for its quality of not absorbing heat even in strong sunlight. Indeed, when encouraged by Noor we stepped on the brightly lit fragment of the courtyard, it felt wonderfully cool under our overheated feet.

After the tour, our group headed for the nearby Ritz-Carlton hotel for a quick lunch. In a lovely cafe we enjoyed delicious and individually presented sandwiches, scones and cakes, which were much needed after the excitement and demands of our midday Grand Mosque tour.

*- Izabella Sluzek*



## CULTURE GROUP

On **Sunday, May 7**, AWN Culture Group will have another cultural meeting which will take place between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., at **Art House Cafe, Villa 15**, next to Etihad Modern Gallery (opposite Al Bateen Mall). This time round our topic will be **Houses Around the World**. As usual, we need several presenters, so if you are passionate about this beautiful old house you know from your country or from your travels, please contact the Explorers team at [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com) to sign up and to let us know what you would like to talk about. And do not forget to bring a photo of the object of your 5-10 minute presentation.

Cost per participant is 30 AED, which includes snacks and drink. Hope to see you there!

## STRETCH FOR A CAUSE!



Join us for a **60 minute yoga and 20 minute meditation beach walk** on **Tuesday, April 11, 9-10:30 a.m.**, led by our own **Tara Footner**. St Regis Saadiyat Beach. 100 AED, all of which goes to our AWN charities!!

Seven more spots available ... sign up asap by emailing [philanthropy@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:philanthropy@awnabudhabi.com).

## AWN COOKBOOK

*CALLING ALL COOKS, BAKERS AND RECIPE MAKERS. AWN has a fabulous new cookbook! From drinks to desserts and everything in between, all recipes are wanted.*

Here's what you need:

- A recipe from your home country or one you enjoy making.
- A small story to go with the recipe for example who gave it to you, why you enjoy it, who made it for you, who you make it for, etc.
- Where you are from.

Log into [bakespace.com](http://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. For more info, please email [cookbook@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:cookbook@awnabudhabi.com).

Prefer to hand in a hard copy? No problem. Just hand your recipe in to any member of the committee at our coffee mornings, or send it to [cookbook@awnabudhabi.com](mailto: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.