

# THE NETWORK News



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AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

*Connecting cultures through friendship*

**AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES**

**Thursday, February 1, 15**      **AWN Coffee & Speaker Series**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Khalidiya Palace Hotel

**FEBRUARY EVENTS**

**Tuesday, February 6**      **Explorers: Tour the Louvre**  
10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Saturday, February 24**      **Couples' Golf Tournament**  
1 p.m.  
Abu Dhabi Golf Club

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**Sundays, February 4, 11, 18, 25**      **Social Bridge**  
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
The Club

**Sundays, February 4, 11, 18, 25**      **Tennis**  
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.  
Beach Rotana

**Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26**      **Art Club**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
National Theater Studio

**Monday, February 26**      **Book Club**  
1-3 p.m.; 7-9 p.m.

**Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26**      **Golf Clinic**  
9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
Abu Dhabi City Golf Club

**Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26**      **Knitting Group**  
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Bee's Knees Cafe

**Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27**      **Tennis**  
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.  
Beach Rotana

**Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28**      **Golf Clinic**  
9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
Abu Dhabi Golf Club

**Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28**      **Mahjong**  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
The Club

ADMAF is offering a special AWN discount of 30% on all ticket purchases when you use the **promo code AWN30**; offer expires Feb 15.

[www.abudhabifestival.ae](http://www.abudhabifestival.ae)

**WELCOME FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENTS**

Welcome to our new and current members. Please join us at one of our AWN Coffee and Speakers Series or one of our many activities we have planned throughout the year.

AWN is committed to connecting women of all nationalities through friendship, activities and cultural exchange. Make sure to explore our newsletter and visit our website often for our latest activities, outings and other interesting avenues of support.

Susan Foster and Carolyn Neubauer  
AWN Co-Presidents

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

We have some fabulous Special Events coming up in the next few months! Signups are available at our coffee mornings, or for additional information email [socialevents@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:socialevents@awnabudhabi.com).

**FEBRUARY**

On **Saturday, February 24**, we are holding a **fun golf tournament** at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club. It is a couples/team event and we welcome duffers! Our shotgun start (everyone starts at the same time, on different holes) is at 1 p.m. and is followed by a barbecue and swim (if you are so inclined). The cost is 315 AED for golf, barbecue and soft drinks (140 if you are an Abu Dhabi Golf Club member). There are clubs for rent at 180 AED per person.



**SIGN UPS BEGIN ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 and is limited to 22 couples.**

**MARCH**

We are once again supporting the **American Community School Gala**. This year it is being held at The Rosewood Hotel on **Friday, March 16** at 6:30 p.m. The cost is 500 AED per person and includes bubbly, dinner with wine and dancing. All proceeds support the ACS Annual Fund. Please register for this event at the February and March Coffee Mornings.

**APRIL**

We are hosting our **Third Annual Quiz Night** at The Club on **Thursday, April 19** at 7 p.m. Signups will begin in March. Mark your calendars!!!

## FEBRUARY COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Coffee & Speaker series mornings are held on the first and third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon at Khalidiya Palace Hotel.

**FEB  
1**

On **Thursday, February 1**, we will be able to find out more about the upcoming **Special Olympics MENA Games** which will be held in March 2018 followed by the Special Olympics World Summer Games from March 15-23 the following year. This will be the first time the games are being held in the Middle East! Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics benefit not only the athletes taking part, but their families and the community, leaving a legacy of acceptance and understanding of those with intellectual disability.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear more about it and register as a volunteer at these wonderful events for one of their many roles from technology, medical, communications to operations, events and sports!

If you are unable to attend, volunteers can sign up by going to [www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics](http://www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics) – please make sure you upload copies of your passport, visa, Emirates ID and passport photo as every volunteer will be security checked.

At the February 1st coffee morning we will also have on display over 100 handmade blankets from our very own *AWN Knitters Group* led by Füsün Tuzcu! The countless hours and beautiful yarns show such a dedication by this group of wonderful ladies. They are truly commended for their generosity. Come see their work and celebrate with us their donation to the Red Crescent.

If anyone still has a knitted baby blanket to donate, please bring it with you to the coffee morning.

**FEB  
15**

On **Thursday, February 15**, we will welcome **Hanadi Al Hashmi, an Emirati Mountaineer from Abu Dhabi** who admits - she lives and breathes mountains. As the first Emirati woman to have reached the top of North America's highest mountain as well as four of the "seven summits of the world" she will share her experiences and inspiration with us, always aspiring to inspire other women into the outdoors!

## SHUKRAN!



Many thanks to AWN's Coffee and Speaker Series first guest speaker of 2018, **Yvette Campbell, Consultant to the Founder and Strategic Business Development, for the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF)**. Yvette shared with us the fabulous line up of concerts and other cultural events coming to Abu Dhabi in February and March.

**Additionally, ADMAF is offering a special AWN discount of 30% on all ticket purchases when you use the promo code AWN30; offer expires Feb 15. Go to [www.abudhabifestival.ae](http://www.abudhabifestival.ae) to check out the calendar of events and book your tickets today!**

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.

Smile! Photos are taken at our events and coffee mornings to be used in our newsletter and website.

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## EXPLORERS

### Upcoming Events

#### Tuesday, February 6: Tour the Louvre

**Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. // Cost: 120 AED**

Meet at the ticket counter inside the museum.

Tour the Louvre; Tour the Art Galleries; Experience the Architecture! Slots are limited. Please reserve your spot ASAP. No lunch plans; you are free to continue exploring at your leisure, or grab a bite to eat.

Sign up at the Explorers desk at the next coffee morning or email [explorers@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:explorers@awnabudhabi.com).



#### Explorers Event: Folklore Art Gallery

The Folklore Art Gallery is situated on Zayed the First Street in Khalidiya area. It is a small unassuming building, though when you walk inside, there is a breadth of modern works balanced among antiques.

The proprietor gave AWN group a wonderful presentation on local artist works as well as regional artist works. There were old photographs, prints, paintings and also modern colorful renditions of calligraphy that could be purchased, framed or unframed. If you choose, you can have a personalised calligraphic artistic rendition of your name.

Also on display were antique coffee pots (brass pots handcrafted with detail that have lasted for many years), and he described the uses for brewing coffee, a tradition from the middle east, still used with the locals.

There were also antique silver jewelry on display from UAE and Oman; silver coins were used to make some of the pieces on display.

Their colorful screen prints make great gifts or tokens of remembrance. This was a gallery well worth visiting.

– Jen Park



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## MEET THE KNITTING COORDINATORS



**Füsün Tuzcu**

I moved to Abu Dhabi one and a half years ago from the USA in the heat of summer. Thank God, in a few months I found AWN. Joining this wonderful organization changed my life to the better in many ways. I met wonderful people, developed friendships, which I hope will last years to come and came across an incredible opportunity of giving back while having fun. Forming the knitting group offered me the chance to share my lifelong passion with friends. We accomplished a lot; while improving our skills we created more than 70 beautiful blankets for charity.

I was born and lived the first half of my life in Istanbul, Turkey then moved to Cleveland. I am a physician with specialization in public health. I have two grown children in US and two cats here with us. I enjoy traveling with my husband whenever he can get away from his work at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

**Tina Outterside**

My name is Tina and I help Füsün run the Knitting Group. I'm from the UK and moved with my husband to the UAE five years ago, living in Dubai then Abu Dhabi.

I have two sisters and my mother taught us how to sew and knit as soon as we were old enough to hold a needle. We always gave homemade Christmas and birthday gifts to family and friends.

Over the years I have continued to sew, even making my own wedding dress, but I stopped knitting. That all changed when I met Füsün at an AWN newcomers' coffee morning. She had the idea of starting a knitting group and I thought it sounded like fun. I was right!

We learn something new every week as she shares her knitting knowledge and it's been a great way to make new friends.

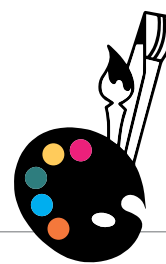
I nearly didn't go to the newcomers' coffee because I felt nervous, I'm so glad I did.



## ART CLUB

The Art Club will meet Mondays at the National Theater from 10 a.m. till noon. There's a 20 AED fee per person each session for the usage of studio.

We currently have openings for new members. Contact Julia at [artclub@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:artclub@awnabudhabi.com).



## SOCIAL BRIDGE

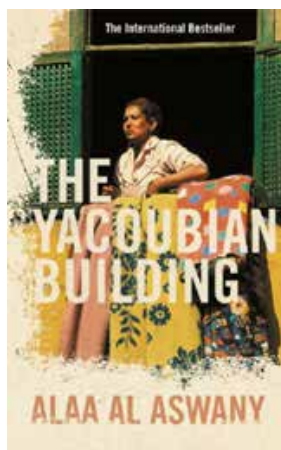
Social Bridge takes place on Sundays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Water Front Suite (below The Vista restaurant) at The Club. All levels are welcome. Please email [bridge@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bridge@awnabudhabi.com) to sign up for play and to receive full details.

Bridge lessons will begin on Monday 5 February, 2-5 p.m., for 6 weeks. Please email Sara at [bridge@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:bridge@awnabudhabi.com) if you are interested in joining the classes.

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## BOOK CLUB



The book selection for **February 26, 2018** is *The Yacoubian Building* by Alaa Al Aswan.

This controversial bestselling novel in the Arab world reveals the political corruption, sexual repression, religious extremism, and modern hopes of Egypt today.

All manner of flawed and fragile humanity reside in the Yacoubian Building, a once-elegant temple of Art Deco splendor now slowly decaying in the smog and bustle of downtown Cairo: a fading aristocrat and self-proclaimed “scientist of women”; a sultry, voluptuous siren; a devout young student, feeling the irresistible pull toward fundamentalism; a newspaper editor helplessly in love with a policeman; a corrupt and corpulent politician, twisting the Koran to justify his desires. (Harper Perennial)

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).

## GOLF



Now offering two clinics per week! Join the AWN lady golfers every **Monday morning at Abu Dhabi City Golf Club**, on 19th Street. Intermediate lessons begin at 9 a.m. for one hour followed by a round of play on the 9-hole course (cost 210 AED plus VAT). Beginner

lessons are held at 10:45 a.m. for one hour (cost 110 AED plus VAT).

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 plus VAT). Beginner lessons are held at 10:45 a.m. for one hour (cost 110 AED plus VAT).

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

*On behalf of the AWN Ladies golf group, I would like to express our gratitude to **Patty Hubbard** for her tireless efforts in organizing the Ladies golf program for the last number of years here in Abu Dhabi. We are very sad that she is leaving the UAE but gladdened by the notion that she will continue her love of golf back in the USA and hopefully have fond memories of all the fun times we have had here both on and off the golf course, made possible by her enthusiasm and good humour. We wish her the best of luck on her next adventure.*

*Much love,  
Deirdre Dudeney  
AWN Ladies Golf Coordinator*

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## KNITTING GROUP

AWN knits for a good cause!

For months we have been knitting like crazy creating beautiful baby blankets to be donated to the Red Crescent. Not wanting to be wasteful we're now having lots of fun using our imaginations and different techniques to use up any leftover yarn, creating a colorful selection of hats and scarves.

If you fancy working on your knitting skills while making new friends, then why not join us. Our meetings are very relaxed with everyone sharing creative ideas and learning new knitting skills.

Anyone who is knitting a blanket needs to complete them by January 29, so that they can be wrapped and ready for planned donation on February 1. All donations will be very welcome.

Meetings are held every Monday, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Bee's Knees Cafe, Nation Towers.

To receive further information please email [knit@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:knit@awnabudhabi.com).



## MAHJONG



The Mahjong group meets at the Slipway Bar, The Club, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We welcome players of all levels, so even if you

haven't played before just come! We would love to teach you.

The 45 AED fee covers the entrance to The Club, sandwiches, fruit salad, cookies, coffee, tea and water. Parking is available either inside or outside The Club. If you want to be included on our list please send an email to [mahjong@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:mahjong@awnabudhabi.com).

*"Suzanne and I would like to thank all Mahjong members for the special time they have shared with us these past three years while being coordinators of Mahjong. The time has come for us to pass on the torch to two incredible ladies who so eagerly have stepped up to volunteer their time to our Mahjong group. So, without further ado we would like to introduce and welcome our new Mahjong Coordinators, **Shivani Wanchoo** and **Colleen Miller**!!!! Thank you ladies and may you enjoy every moment of it as much as Suzanne and I have." – Cleo*

## TENNIS

The next AWN Tennis session will begin the week of January 21 at the Beach Rotana tennis courts. Classes will be available Sundays and Tuesdays; 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. Beginner and advance lessons will be offered.

The session consists of 4 lessons at a reduced rate of 340 AED. This includes your weekly lesson, along with complimentary use of locker facilities, court time immediately following your lesson and use of the swimming pool (following your lesson). Sunday classes will run Jan 21, 28 and Feb 4, 11. Tuesday classes will run Jan 23, 30 and Feb 6, 13.

Class sizes are limited, email [tennis@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:tennis@awnabudhabi.com) to sign up or for more information.



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## AWN IS ALL ABOUT MAKING GIRLFRIENDS!



### Newcomers Coffees

Twenty-one Newcomers to AWN enjoyed getting to know one another at a recent AWN Newcomers Coffee. The AWN Newcomers Coffees gives women new to Abu Dhabi the opportunity to get to know each other, learn about all AWN has to offer and tips for making the most of expat life in this exciting city. If you are interested in attending the next Newcomers Coffee that will take place in March, please email Linda Nagle at [membership@awnabudhabi.com](mailto:membership@awnabudhabi.com).



### Newcomers Tables

Lovely smiles from lovely ladies! Gale Kennel, Pooma Abraham and Susie Wright are part of the Membership Services team and volunteer at the Hospitality Table during our AWN Coffee Morning and Speaker Series.

Don't worry if you don't know anyone yet or if you are new to Abu Dhabi or AWN as these women can assist you to the Newcomers Table where you can meet other women just like you. We hope to greet you at the next AWN Coffee Morning and Speaker Series!

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## SUNSET DUNE WALK AND MEDITATION



Forty-one women enjoyed a wonderful "Desert Walk and Meditation for a Cause" outing January 23 near Al Wathba Cycling Track. In support of two fabulous UAE licensed charities, Operation Smile and Make-a-Wish, we walked, ran, jumped, chatted, stretched, giggled, photographed, inhaled, exhaled, thought deeply, and dug our toes deep in the sand.

A big thank you to **Amy Subaey from UAE Trekkers** and **Randa el Zein of Be You International**. There was a lot of talk about the desire to do another desert walk or 2 while the weather is still so lovely, and Amy is happy to lead us. Please contact [philanthropyawn@gmail.com](mailto:philanthropyawn@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining and we'll try to get a couple more dates on the calendar.



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Volunteer for Special Olympics Abu Dhabi

**Did you know that Abu Dhabi will be hosting the 2018 Special Olympics MENA Games and the 2019 Special Olympics World Games? You can be a volunteer!**

The Abu Dhabi Special Olympics is overseen by a Higher Committee chaired by HE Mohamad Abdulla Al Junaibi, Executive Director of Protocol at the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics benefits not only the athletes taking part, but their families and the community, leaving a legacy of acceptance and understanding of those with intellectual disability.

There are a variety of volunteer roles in all different areas, from technology to operations, events and sports. Volunteers are asked to commit themselves to 5 shifts across the games from 15th-23rd March, 2018 (dates depend on the specific roles) and transport from key locations and food/drink will be provided.

#### Divisions:

**Delegation Services** – perfect for speakers of other languages and those with VIP experience. Potentially the hardest roles of all, as it does require a lot of commitment and you will be the face of the games for our VIPs.

*(continued)*

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## VOLUNTEER CORNER, CONT.

**Operations** – ensuring the Games run smoothly and solve any problems; our very own superheroes! Roles include announcers, stage managers and logistics support.

**Medical** – medical screening and assistance for the volunteers. For this, we need nurses, optometrists, audiologists and other clinicians, plus anyone with an interest in medical care.

**Guest Services** – the friendly face of the games; meeting and greeting, registration and providing general advice during the games.

**Events** – our special events throughout the Games include the Torch Run and Award Ceremonies. Everyone can get involved here!

**Communications** – a great opportunity for journalists, videographers, animators, designers and illustrators to get their name published locally and internationally

**Sport** – with 16 sports in the MENA Games and 24 in the World Games, individuals with a sporting background would be beneficial, but we can train most people in the basics

**Technology** – network, application and desktop support.

Volunteers can sign up by going to [www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics](http://www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics), sign in as a new user and follow instructions. Please make sure to upload copies of your passport, visa, Emirates ID and passport photo as every volunteer will be security checked.

### Be an English Language Facilitator

This is a fantastic chance to meet and discuss topics with women from all over the world and a wonderful venue for cultural exchange.

We are looking for women who are native English speakers to help facilitate an English Conversation Group, and also at least one woman who would be willing to organize the group. You do not need to have a teaching qualification. All you need is a good grasp of English, a love of conversation, an interest in topics from current events, women's issues, children, parenting, history culture and much more. And the love of a good chat!

**When: Sundays 9 to 11:30 a.m. (we do not meet on school holidays or in the summer)**

**Where: Abu Dhabi Country Club**

**About the group:** The English conversation group has been a part of Women in Abu Dhabi – WIAD – (for over 20 years if not more). Originally WIAD was run by British/English speaking women, however the demographic has changed over the last few years, and the group has become much more diverse. Thus, finding English speakers to run the English Conversation group is becoming more challenging, and we are therefore reaching out to AWN!

If you are interested please contact Joan Grant at 050 121 3659 or [joanbgrant@gmail.com](mailto:joanbgrant@gmail.com)

### Operation Smile UAE

Currently looking for a few volunteers in various capacities. In particular they are looking for someone with marketing/IT experience. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Morag Cromey-Hawke, Executive Director of Operation Smile UAE at 02 658 4790.

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